



**Lancaster Beekeepers Club  
Training Programme**

**2024**

We offer an exciting and engaging training programme for anyone wanting to gain essential theoretical knowledge and practical skills in beekeeping. Our training "Beekeeping for beginners", comprising two parts: theory and practical, which cover the syllabus for the BBKA Basic Assessment.

**Theory Training Course (Code BBT - £100)**

6 evening sessions face to face and online and a session of live demonstrations and one Saturday afternoon at our club apiary (see below).

**Practical Training Course (Code BBP - £100)**

4 Saturday sessions.

**Booking a course:**

To find out more please email us ([secretary@lancaster-beekeepers.org.uk](mailto:secretary@lancaster-beekeepers.org.uk))

and to confirm your place on the course please send payment to:

LNWBA Lancaster Branch

Account Number: 01859692

Sort Code: 40-27-02

**Please remember to include your name and the course code with the payment.**

## **Beekeeping for Beginners – Theory Sessions (course code BBT).**

This year, the training sessions are a mixture of face to face and zoom meetings. All the evening sessions start at 7:30pm, aim to finish before 9:30pm and the zoom meetings are recorded so that people who miss a session can see it later.

### **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February** (*Face to Face*)

Face to face meeting at Farmgate Veterinary Services Ltd. J36 Rural Auction Centre, Crooklands, Milnthorpe, LA7 7FP. What three words///movements.victor.offers. This session is a free taster session introducing beekeeping and Lancaster Beekeepers Association covering:-

Why be a beekeeper?

Why join a club?

Introduction of the speakers and the topics they will cover on the course.

Recommended sources of information.

### **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February** (*Zoom Meeting*)

Introduction to beekeeping – History and importance of honey bees. State of the population now, structure of beekeeping in the UK. Different kinds of beekeepers.

What's involved in Beekeeping – Time, Money, Responsibility etc.

### **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March** (*Zoom Meeting*)

Bee Biology – Anatomy, Castes, Life cycle, Jobs during life, Food, Swarming etc.

Food, Forage and what the bees produce.

### **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March Afternoon Demonstrations** (*Face to Face*)

Face to face. Visit to the club apiary to meet the bees.

The attendees will be informed of the club apiary location closer to the time.

Hive parts and the bee space, frame types/spacers.

Tools and Equipment.

Different hive types – the advantages and disadvantages

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April** (*Zoom Meeting*)

The Beekeeping year – what happens when and why?

Inspections – When, How, Why and Recording

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April** (*Zoom Meeting*)

Pest and Diseases of Honey Bees.

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May** (*Zoom Meeting*)

Swarming – why, when, what, who, how?

Swarm collection and housing. Use of bait hives.

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May** (*Zoom Meeting*)

Stings, reactions avoiding getting stung, protection etc.

First aid.

Starting beekeeping – siting apiary, sourcing bees – nucs, swarms, local etc

New Beekeeper's experience – my first year as a beekeeper

Cost of the Beekeeping for beginners – theory course is £100.

## **Beekeeping for Beginners – Practical Course (course code BBP).**

The entry requirements for this course are to have completed the Beekeeping for Beginners - theory course. Bee-suits will be made available to those on the course for its duration but individuals will need to provide their own suitable footwear (wellington boots or similar). Held during the summer when the hives can be opened. Practical procedures will be explained, demonstrated, and then undertaken working with the bees in the apiary. We will open the hives at every session to see how each colony has developed and understand the lifecycle of this super-organism. This provides the candidates with the opportunity to experience part of the beekeeping season and apply the theory learnt previously. In addition, candidates will be able to build their experience and confidence with the bees. Each session lasts approximately 5 hours, and refreshments are provided but please bring your own lunch.

Arrival for the session is from 10:30 and finishing by 3:00. The dates for 2024 are as follows:

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2024

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2024

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Additional practical days may be added at the club's discretion.

On completion of the full practical course each candidate will receive a certificate of attendance.

Candidates must have completed the Beekeeping for Beginners – theory course before undertaking the practical sessions. Children under the age of 16 must be confirmed with us beforehand to ensure that a child sized bee-suit is available for them and accompanied by a fee-paying adult.

This course takes place at our training apiary at Yealand Conyers.

Cost of the Beekeeping for Beginners – Full practical course is £100.