



Registered Charity: 212025
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British Beekeepers Association

MODULE 8

HONEYBEE MANAGEMENT, HEALTH AND HISTORY

SYLLABUS

Aims

The Modules are designed to give beekeepers who have passed the Basic Assessment the opportunity to study the craft of apiculture further with the goals of obtaining an Intermediate Theory Certificate and an Advanced Theory Certificate.

Conditions of Entry

The Candidate shall have passed the BBKA Basic Assessment or an equivalent Examination approved by the Board. The date when this certificate was obtained shall be entered on the application form.

The Candidate shall have kept and managed bees for at least 2 seasons. A statement to this effect, on the application form shall be signed by someone who is familiar with the Candidate's beekeeping.

Modules can be taken in any order with the exception of Module 8, which shall be the last module to be taken.

A completed Application Form and fee shall have been received by the Local Examination Secretary at least six weeks before the date of the Assessment and this shall be received by the Secretary to the Board at least five weeks before the date of the Assessment.

A maximum of FOUR modules can be taken at any one session

Award of Certificates

A BBKA Certificate will be awarded for each module passed and the pass mark will be 60% for all modules. (Credit 70%, Distinction 80%)

In addition:

- The BBKA Intermediate Theory Certificate will be awarded when modules 1, 2, 3 and one other from 5, 6 or 7 have been passed.
- The BBKA Advanced Theory Certificate will be awarded when all modules been passed.
- The BBKA Master Beekeeper Certificate will be awarded to a beekeeper who has obtained a BBKA Advanced Theory Certificate and the BBKA Advanced Certificate in Beekeeping Husbandry.
- In order to qualify for either a BBKA Intermediate or BBKA Advanced Theory Certificate the necessary modules must be passed in a time period not exceeding 12 years.

The Examination

Each module examined consists of a written paper. There will be three sections to the paper; Section A requires one or two word answers, Section B (4 questions from a choice of 5) requires short answers in note form, Section C (1 question from a choice of 2) requires longer essay style answers. Candidates will be expected to use scientific nomenclature where applicable.

The Examiners may include in any Module examination any topic from the Basic Assessment syllabus. Candidates' papers will be retained by the Examinations Board. The candidate is able to request a résumé of their paper on payment of the appropriate fee.





MODULE 8

HONEYBEE MANAGEMENT, HEALTH AND HISTORY

The Candidate is expected to have a broad based knowledge of beekeeping.

The Candidate shall be able to give a detailed account of:-

- 8.1 the assessment and management of the quality of a colony for honey production;
- 8.2 the management of colonies for the production of oil seed rape (*Brassica spp.*) and ling heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) honey, the techniques involved in overcoming problems associated with extracting these honeys;
- 8.3 the management of colonies for the production of comb honey (sections and cut-comb) and its preparation and presentation for sale;
- 8.4 the properties of honey including specific gravity, refractive index, viscosity, hygroscopicity, electrical conductivity, reactions to heat and ageing;
- 8.5 the process of honey crystallisation including factors that affect its speed, crystal size, and the texture of the final product;
- 8.6 the preparation and bottling of liquid honey and set honey, including the requirements of the current UK statutory regulations relating to hygiene, handling, bottling, composition, labelling and weight of packs of honey;
- 8.7 the identification of pollen grains by their colour, size, specific shape and structure, using named examples, and an outline of the technique of melissopalynology to determine the floral source(s) and geographic origin of honey samples;
- 8.8 the nutritional value of honey to the honeybee colony;
- 8.9 the main constituents and physical properties of beeswax and propolis;
- 8.10 the commercial manufacture of wax foundation;
- 8.11 the production and use of pollen supplement and pollen substitutes;
- 8.12 the assessment of the qualities of a queen and her colony and their subsequent management for queen rearing;
- 8.13 the structure and changes in function of the exocrine glands throughout the life of the castes of a honeybee colony, and the implications this has for the management of a honeybee colony;
- 8.14 the management of colonies used for migratory beekeeping for both honey production and pollination services;
- 8.15 the use of honeybees as pollinators in orchards and fields of seed crops including arrangements to be made with the farmer/grower;
- 8.16 the management needed to cope with geographic localities, weather conditions and the timing of the flowering of forage plants;
- 8.17 methods of swarm control suitable for use in small and large beekeeping enterprises;
- 8.18 the setting up, and management throughout the season, of an observation hive, and the uses to which it can be put;





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- 8.19 the preparation of a risk assessment and safety policy relating to the handling, demonstrating and showing of live honeybees;
- 8.20 methods of monitoring and seasonal management of the health of colonies;
- 8.21 the signs of disease and pest infestations of honeybees; the potential impact on bee health, the economic effect and how these diseases and pest infestations impact on the management of the colony.
- 8.22 procedures related to good hygiene practices on matters of personal clothing, manipulations and equipment to prevent the spread of disease between colonies and between apiaries
- 8.23 the development of hives and beekeeping equipment used in the United Kingdom (refer to list in Appendix);
- 8.24 the life histories of one selected species of each of the following found in the United Kingdom: solitary bee, social bee (other than *Apis mellifera*), solitary wasp and social wasp, and their interaction with honeybees.

The Candidate will be able to give an outline account of:-

- 8.25 the history of beekeeping through leading contributors (listed in Appendix) to the knowledge of honeybees and beekeeping practices;

Arrangements

The Assessment venue and the Invigilation are arranged by the Local Examination Secretary. Approval for these arrangements shall be obtained from the Secretary to the Board at least five weeks before the date of the Assessment.

Application to Enter

These should be made through the Local Examination Secretary of the County Beekeeping Association or directly to the Secretary of the Board at the address given below. Applications are required at least six weeks before the date on which the Assessment is to be taken. Available dates for the Assessments will be announced in the Bee Press or may be obtained from the Board Secretary.

Application Form

Every application must be accompanied by a completed Application Form together with the Assessment Fee. Cheques should be made payable to BBKA. The dates when any relevant certificates were obtained must be entered on the Application Form. Certificates should not be sent.

Ensure that the Certificate of Qualification on the application form is completed. This is not necessary for re-sits.

Assessment Fees

The current fee for any Assessment may be obtained from the Secretary to the Board or the Local Examination Secretary.

AUTHORITY

The above is issued by the BBKA Examinations Board and all communications in respect of the Assessments should be addressed to:

The Secretary
BBKA Examinations Board
National Beekeeping Centre
Stoneleigh Park
KENILWORTH
Warwickshire
CV8 2LG

major revision April 2010





Appendix to module 8

A guide to help candidates prepare for 8.23 and 8.25

History of beekeeping

Hives	Names
Collateral hive Leaf hive Stewarton First moveable frame hive in UK First Double walled hive WBC Langstroth and bee space Dadant Commercial (16x 10) Smith Catenary British National and Modified National	Rev Stephen White 1756, Thomas Nutt 1832 Huber (Switz) Robert Ker 1819 T.W.Woodbury 1862 T.W.Cowan W.B.Carr 1890 Rev L.Langstroth 1851 Dadant Simmins Smith Bill Bielby Evolved from various sources
Introduction of Beekeeping Equipment	Names
Queen excluder Smoker Bee escape Frame spacing Wax foundation Wired frames Extractor Feeder Queen introduction cage Swarm control board	Abbe Collin (Fr) Moses Quinby, T.F. Bingham E.C.Porter 1891 (US) W.B.Carr (metal ends), Hofmann, Manley J Mehring 1857 (Germany), E.B.Weed 1896 (US) Capt Hetherington Major Von Hruschka, T.W.Cowan Miller, Ashforth Dr Colin Butler Snelgrove
Introduction of bee strains to UK	Name
Intro of Italian Bees Intro of Carniolan Intro of Cyprian Development of Buckfast strain	T.W Woodbury 1859 W.C.Cotton 1870 T.B.Blow 1887 Br Adam
Development of Beekeeping methods	Name
Swarm control Queen rearing Two queen system Bailey comb change Moveable bar combs Bee Space	Snelgrove, Taranov, Pagden Miller, Doolittle G.Wells 1894 Dr L Bailey George Wheeler (introduced idea from Greece) Rev. L. Langstroth





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Founding of important organisations	Name
Founding of BBKA Founding of BBJ Founding of E.H.Taylor Ltd Founding of I.B.R.A Founding of BIBBA	T.W.Cowan, C.N.Abbott, W.B.Carr, T.W.Cowan, C.N.Abbott T.B.Blow Dr Eva Crane Beowolf Cooper

Research Areas	Name
Swarming, spring feeding Bee behaviour Mating outside hive Parthenogenesis Pheromones	J. Simpson Ribbands, Rosch, Von Frisch, Lindauer, Gould Huber, J.Janscha, Beowolf Cooper J.Dzierzon Dr C.Butler, Dr J Free

Influential Author	Texts
Rev Charles Butler Rev W.C.Cotton 1842 F.R.Cheshire 1886 Dr T.W.Cowan 1881 W. Herod-Hempsall A.I Root (US) 1977 Rev L Langstroth Dr J Free Brother Adam Dr Eva Crane. E.B Wedmore R.O.B Manley Ted Hooper Dr M Winston K von Frisch M Lindauer J Gould and C Gould	The Feminine Monarchie My Bee Book Bees And Beekeeping British Beekeeping Guide Book British Beekeeping Guide Book + Other texts ABC Of Bee Culture The Hive And The Honeybee Several Texts In Search Of The Best Strains Of The Honeybee + other texts Several Major Texts A Manual Of Beekeeping Honey Farming Guide To Bees And Honey, Encyclopaedia The Biology Of The Honeybee The Dance Language and Orientation of Bees Communication Among Social Bees The Honey bee

