



Survey Comments - A Response

Dear members, we take your feedback seriously and wanted to respond to some of the comments which were made during the survey process. It has come to our attention that although the association has certain information and activities, some of our newer members have not been signposted to it. If you are new to the association, please make sure you explore the Association website at www.barnsleybeekeepers.org.uk as there is a wealth of knowledge that was compiled pre-facebook and pre-whatsapp.

Comment	Response
Beekeepers Month by Month	Please see our association website: https://barnsleybeekeepers.org.uk/index.php/keeping-bees/beekeeping-year The BBKA magazine also has an "In the apiary" article each month.
more specific tuition by demonstration of queen rearing and introduction	In Summer 2019, Charles Austin led a queen rearing workshop in the association apiary. Members grafted into queen cups and were shown how to prepare a starter/finisher colony. Due to CoViD-19, we were unable to meet at the apiary this year. Next year we intend to run a queen rearing programme which members can be as involved in as much as they like. In the meantime, here are some videos to whet your appetite: Video1 Video2 Video3
Bee rearing	
To support new members to source local starter colonies. Some associations do this on the basis that in following years the favour is passed on to a new member.	Lots of our members have the ability to supply queens and bees. A message on the facebook page or Whatsapp group will usually return a list of people who can supply. We hope to develop a queen rearing programme at the association apiary next year to produce bees and queens for members.
How to find more time!! A beekeeping refresher course for very part time keepers like me. I can't get to many meetings because of a clash of commitments but would like to be more up to date.	All of our Zoom meetings have been posted on facebook and are available through the members section of the association website. CoViD-19 saw our beginners course (Run by Ivor, Val & Mark from Wakefield Association) being cancelled this year, but we hope next year will allow for this to take place.

<p>Wax and wax products ie soap</p>	<p>Good idea. We have had speakers in previous years (Mark, from Wakefield, came last winter and talked about wax preparation and showing) but we will look out for a speaker for next winter, particularly around soaps and cosmetics. In the meantime, Dr Sara Robb has worked closely with BBKA to provide workshops at the Spring Convention on cosmetics using hive products. She presented "Same day soap: a quick and easy recipe" at the National Honey Show this year. The recipe is here.</p>
<p>Occasional practical hands-on session. Named mentors for new members.</p>	<p>During a normal year, we hold weekly association apiary meetings for members to attend. We also run a beginners course when we aren't plagued with CoViD. There are many experienced association members who are happy to support/mentor beginners. A message in the Whatsapp group or on the Facebook page you will usually find a helping hand. This is not something that we can force members to do but we will continue to persuade experienced members to support our new beekeepers.</p>
<p>Building up and managing strong production colonies</p>	<p>Yep. Sounds like a nice talk topic. We will try and arrange.</p>
<p>Have a stock of good quality equipment available to hire/borrow.</p>	<p>Not too sure what you mean? The association has books and two extractors that can be borrowed. Could you let us know what other equipment you would like to borrow? Beekeeping equipment such as nucs or hives is not something that we would look to hire out because of disease risk.</p>
<p>I have very poor close range eyesight. If there are hints/tips/schemes for visually impaired to be able to recognise what I am looking for in terms of eggs / larvae, disease or other problems that would be really useful.</p>	<p>Mobile phones are a useful tool. Take a picture and use the screen to zoom in on the photo to make parts of the image clearer. Some beekeepers carry a magnifying glass to help see eggs and young brood. Also a torch fitted to a head band may help, particularly in poor light. Your optician may be able to advise on glasses suitable for extra-close work.</p>
<p>Could apiary meetings be moved to an evening</p>	<p>We have our apiary meetings on a Saturday because the weekend sees the majority of our members free to attend. Evening meetings are difficult because of the light but this is something that the committee will discuss.</p>
<p>I just found it a little difficult this year to get my first bees - In the end attracted a swarm at the end of May. I am conscious that several other new starters have spent a lot of money on both colonies and equipment - some of it excessive. I think a new member on the Committee might help in making the Association responsive to the needs of our new starters.</p>	<p>One of our Zoom sessions talked about the equipment that is essential for a beginner. There is also a section on our association website (https://barnsleybeekeepers.org.uk/index.php/keeping-bees/equipment). We can only advise members on the equipment that they should buy. The beekeeping suppliers are in the business of selling equipment. Really like the idea of a new member being on the committee, however I would hope that you would think that we are responsive to the needs of all of our members. We hope that they feel that they can approach the committee with ideas and suggestions. We have shown from this survey that we want to know what our members want so that we can respond to their needs. We will look to have a new members' member on the committee from 2021/22.</p>