



# WISBOROUGH GREEN BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

APRIL 2012

## Officers and Contact Information:

President Mr Roger Patterson	01403 790637	roger-patterson@btconnect.com
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Hon. Treasurer Mr Murray West	01798 867048	murray@mt-w.co.uk
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## APIARY MEETINGS - DOUNHURST

SATURDAY - 07th APRIL

12.00 noon for Beginners and Intermediate; 2.30 for Advanced only

SATURDAY - 28th APRIL

12.00 noon for Beginners and Intermediate; 2.30 for Advanced only

WEDNESDAY - 09th MAY

6:30 PM FOLLOWED BY A BBQ

## DIARY OF EVENTS

SATURDAY - 14th APRIL

BEE MARKET AND AUCTION - BRINSBURY CAMPUS

SUNDAY - 22nd APRIL

BBKA SPRING CONVENTION - NEWPORT SHROPSHIRE

# PATTERSON IN PRINT



For those of you who think that all they have to do is consult a book and you can pick up beekeeping easily this spring has proved that theory wrong. I am approaching my 49th season and I have never seen a spring like this. Today I inspected the bees at the bottom of my garden. Ten were put into winter and four of those I considered very weak and didn't expect any of them to survive. Having seen the colonies at Dounhurst a week or so ago and emailed a warning to check colonies with a view to supering, I expected to super only a couple of mine. I started by inspecting the four I didn't expect to survive, but ended up supering three of them. All the others were supered apart from one that was put on double brood box with a view to change combs. One was queenless and has been for some time. Some colonies were bursting and were putting pollen and nectar in vacated brood cells. An ad hoc meeting has been arranged to do the work we intended to do at the first meeting, this will include removing mouse guards and woodpecker protection, together with any supering that will be needed.

By the time you read this newsletter the Winter Learning sessions will have finished. These have proved to be very successful and from the emails I have received they have been very useful to members. Some have freely admitted they have a lot more to learn than they thought they had. I know different people learn in different ways, but many have responded well to the methods employed where nobody is shown up for not knowing something. The lunches were made by Maggie Turner at home and transported. The effort involved in providing two courses for so many people at 7 events was a huge commitment and we must thank her for spending so much time on our behalf.

Although it was fixed up at short notice the Bee Improvement Day was well attended with 20 attendees. These varied from quite experienced beekeepers to several who haven't got bees yet. The wide range of questions suggested much interest and understanding. This has resulted in several asking me to join the queen rearing group that is open to all members providing they know the basics of queen rearing and are prepared to make the commitment. This isn't about putting in a token appearance and walking away with queens that others have raised, but we use several methods of raising queens over the course of the season and get them mated in our own queen mating nucs. We do all sorts of things including showing members how to assess colonies and select them for rearing queens and culling when they don't meet the standards. This is how we have developed the good docile and productive bees we have at the apiary and are enjoyed by many of our members. If you would like to join us please email me.

Don't forget the many learning opportunities during the active season including the BBKA Convention and our own events. Some of the latter are arranged at short notice, so check your emails regularly.

The auction is nearly upon us and I suspect it is one of the biggest in the country. Last year I think there were 468 lots sold so there is usually something for everybody. I'm told there are already at least 7 lots of bees entered. I inspect these in front of prospective buyers so if you want to see what they are like then bring a veil. I give a fair appraisal of each colony and as with all the lots I'm prepared to advise before bidding, but speak to me before the sale starts. As always I try to be fair to both buyer and seller.

*Roger*

## BEE NUTRITION

During Roger's recent 'Bee Improvement Day' lecture, mention was made of the Australian document titled 'Fat Bees, Skinny Bees'. This is a well-respected study into the nutrition of honey bees with particular reference to pollen, the variable nutrient contents, and the importance to bees. You may also have heard the document mentioned by Alan Byham, our Regional Bee Inspector.

As promised on the day I have checked the website from which you can download the document. Some places will charge you for it, but if you enter the following it should take you to a free edition. Simply download it, and you can print whatever you want to. Beware, though, before starting your printer – the full thing is 150 pages, and most of it is analysis figures for Australian pollens. The 'useful' part is up to and including page 41. If you have a problem do let me know as I have both a printed copy and an electronic file.

<https://rirdc.infoservices.com.au/downloads/05-054.pdf>

## BEE HEALTH

We will, as usual, be holding free Bee Health training days during the summer. However, for those who can't wait, an invitation has been extended to our members near to the Surrey border to join a similar training session with Guildford Beekeepers being held at Onslow Village, Guildford at 2.00 p.m. on Friday 27th April. The cost is £3 for the whole afternoon, with instruction by our Bee Inspectors. If this interests you please either email me and I will forward the details, or contact Marilynne Bainbridge of Guildford Beekeepers on 01483 275949 or by email on [m.abainbridge@btinternet.com](mailto:m.abainbridge@btinternet.com) to book a place.

## APIARY SALES

As before we will have good supplies of frames, foundation and other essentials for sale at Apiary meetings this year. A full price list is included in the newsletter.

Prices from other suppliers tend to have risen, and foundation in particular has become a lot more expensive. However, I am pleased to say that due to careful buying we are holding prices for frames and foundation at the same level as for several past years. This means that for foundation we are about 10% cheaper than other sources, which we hope is appreciated by members.

Please remember that meetings are very busy and there may not be time to supply you unless you have emailed your requirements to me in advance on [stone.house@btinternet.com](mailto:stone.house@btinternet.com)

Tom



# AGM 2012

Many thanks to those who came to the AGM on 20th March. Your Committee was re-elected, though there have been some changes. We are extremely sorry to see Judy Knight stand down as Membership Secretary. Everybody knows Judy, as no Members have joined our Association without her dedicated involvement. Roger Patterson paid tribute to Judy's long stint as Membership Secretary and to her times as Treasurer during the last 12 years.

Gordon Allan has moved over to take Judy's place, whilst Murray West has replaced Gordon as Treasurer.

That leaves a vacant seat on the Committee, and we welcome Caroline Drewett, who has already demonstrated superb skills in managing the catering for Beginners Day, as well as being pretty competent in her use of microscopes at our workshop last year.

The full draft minutes are attached.

John

# TRAINING

After the AGM, Daisy gave a very interesting presentation regarding how to take your Beekeeping further.

There are examinations and assessments, all of which can be found on the BBKA Website:

[http://www.bbka.org.uk/learn/examinations\\_\\_assessments/](http://www.bbka.org.uk/learn/examinations__assessments/)

Attached is the BBKA Training Framework - please take a look and see the area that are available.

Also attached are the Application forms, and fees

# BEE HEALTH & DISEASE RECOGNITION 14 JUNE 2012

These sessions have been devised as hands on events to help beekeepers recognise bee diseases, and the exotic pests that are now notifiable. There will be samples to show you (subject to availability). It is most important that all beekeepers are aware of disease and can recognise both EFB and AFB. This is particularly relevant at the present time, as last year several instances of EFB were identified in our immediate area. Around 80% of cases are spotted by the Bee Inspectors. If foul brood is spotted by the beekeeper it is usually in a very advanced state that could have spread infection to surrounding colonies.

Our Regional Bee Inspector, Alan Byham, will provide a morning lecture which is suitable for anybody who has not attended a previous bee health session, but it is suitable for all – whatever your ability level.

The afternoon session will extend to other disease related subjects, but is only open to you if you have attended a previous bee health session.

You should not book on to this if you have not been on a previous session.

Please note that prior booking of a place is essential and if attending, it is important that you read the attachment,

“Bio-Security Precautions for the Bee Health Day”.

To book your place, please contact me, John Glover, preferably by Email [glover.fletchingshollow@gmail.com](mailto:glover.fletchingshollow@gmail.com) or phone 01403 751899. Please indicate “am” or “pm”

The morning session will commence at 9.30 and the afternoon at 1.30, both at The Chapel, Spy Lane, Loxwood..

Please book before 30th April as after then, available spaces will be offered to our fellow Divisions at Chichester and Worthing.

John

## SWARM LIST

We will be updating the swarm collectors list on our website soon. If you would like to go on it please let Roger know.

The intention is for those on the list to be available to take swarms THROUGHOUT the season, NOT just to get up to the number required, then refuse to take any more. Many are notified by the general public who expect experienced beekeepers to swiftly and safely remove swarms, sometimes from quite difficult places. It is not helpful to turn up with little or no experience and make a mess of the job as it will reflect on WG.

As the collector is making the effort it is normal to satisfy their own requirements first then pass on any swarms to those who have a need or WG for teaching/stocking purposes. Details of hiving swarms can be found on the website.

## Minutes

### Of the 2012 Annual General Meeting of Wisborough Green Beekeepers Association, held on 20th March 2012 at the Emmanuel Fellowship Chapel, Loxwood, at 7.30pm.

**Members present** – Roger Patterson, Judy Knight, John Glover, Tom Moore, Gordon Allan, Lesley Day, Ray Noakes, Mike Bunyan, Maggie Turner, Graham Elliott, Richard Flenley, Chris Peach, Murray West and 36 others.

**Apologies for absence** from Diana Briault, Rachel Boxall, Jane Footer, Teresa Lee, Anita Moseley, Suzanne Tilley and Astri Sharp, who expressed thanks to the committee members for their work.

**Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting** had been previously circulated and they were passed and signed by the President.

**Treasurer's Report** – Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011 together with a Financial Report had been previously circulated, and these form an attachment to the Minutes.

John Murray proposed and Daisy Day seconded the adoption of the report and all were in favour.

**Chairman's Report** - had been previously circulated and forms an attachment to the Minutes.

Tom Moore expressed thanks to the committee and all members who had supported the activities of the association during the preceding year and in particular to Gordon Allan, Judy Knight and Graham Elliott. Also to Chris Peach for producing the monthly newsletter. Special thanks were accorded to Roger Patterson who had done so much to benefit the association and individual members.

Roger Patterson thanked Tom Moore for his support and the numerous things that he undertook between apiary meetings.

Richard Flenley proposed and Judy Knight seconded the adoption of the report and all were in favour.

#### Election of Officers

The present holders were prepared to stand for re-election, with the exception of Gordon Allan who would succeed Judy Knight as Membership Secretary. Murray West had agreed to act as Treasurer if elected. There were no other nominations. John Glover had notified his wish to stand down as Secretary at the AGM in 2013.

	<b>Nominee</b>	<b>Proposer</b>	<b>Seconded</b>
President	Roger Patterson	Maggie Turner	Graham Elliott
Chairman	Tom Moore	Keith Kinsbrook	Mike Bunyan
Vice Chairman	Lesley Day	Murray West	Judy Knight
Treasurer	Murray West	Chris Edwards	Tom Moore
Secretary	John Glover	Lesley Day	Derek Ready

#### Committee

Roger Patterson expressed thanks to Judy Knight who had given loyal support to the association for over 12 years during which time she had twice acted as Treasurer and subsequently Membership Secretary, as well as running the library and organising the supper. Caroline Drewett had been nominated as a replacement committee member'

All other members were prepared to stand for re-election as follows: -

<b>Nominee</b>	<b>Proposer</b>	<b>Seconded</b>
Mike Bunyan	John Glover	Derek Ready
Richard Flenley	Tom Moore	Caroline Drewett
Ray Noakes	Derek Ready	Gordon Allan
Chris Peach	Tom Weston	Murray West
Gordon Allan	Tom Moore	Judy Knight
Graham Elliott	Maggie Turner	Chris Edwards
Maggie Turner	Mike Bunyan	Sue Elliott
Caroline Drewett	Judy Knight	Graham Elliott

All were in favour.

**Appointment of Accounts Scrutineer** – Andrew Riley had stood down during the year and had been succeeded by Stephen Boyce who had agreed to continue to act and was proposed by Gordon Allan and seconded by Caroline Drewett. All were in favour. There were no other nominations.

**Any Other Business** – None

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.55pm

President..... Date.....

## **Bio-Security Precautions for the "Bee Health Day"**

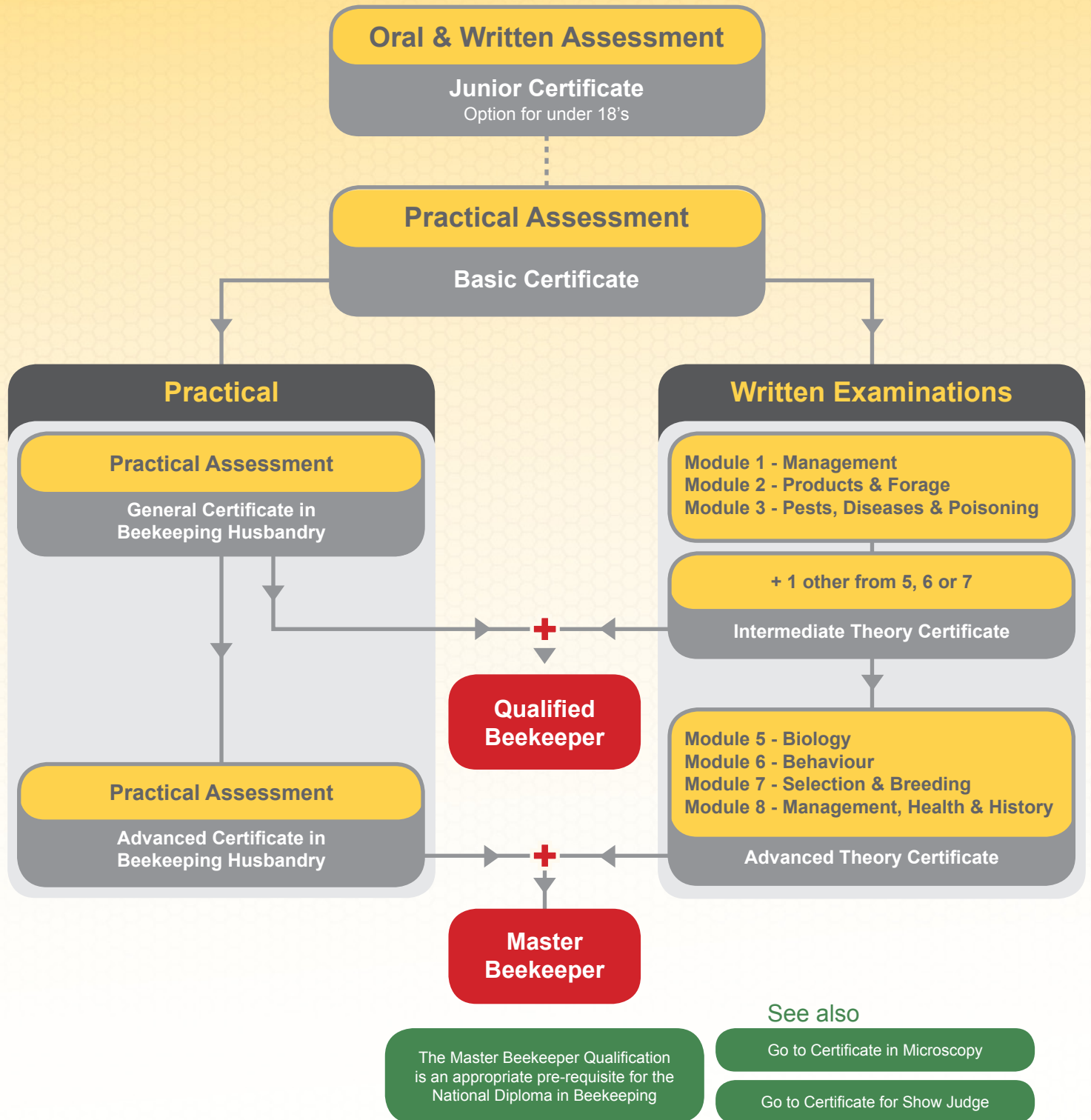
Because we will be handling brood frames containing 'live' brood disease organisms, the following specific procedures will be adhered to in order to minimise the risk of contaminating healthy colonies - especially those close to the chapel, at Wisborough Green Apiary or your own bees.

- 1 Participants must leave all their own personal protective bee clothing i.e. bee suits, veils, gloves, boots etc. in their vehicles and not bring them into the hall.
- 2 Please listen carefully to the advice given by the Bee Inspectors when handling the infected brood frames and only handle them according to any specific instructions.
- 3 When handling and examining frames with infected brood, disposable gloves and aprons must be worn. These items will be provided for your use.
- 4 After use disposable protective gloves and aprons must be placed in the bags provided.
- 5 Examination of infected combs can only take place in a 'bee tight' room. Care must be taken to ensure no bees enter whilst combs are on display. . Please do not open windows, and make sure you close doors behind you.
- 6 Following the inspections all participants must wash their hands thoroughly.

*PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THESE ARE INFECTIVE AGENTS AND HANDLING PROCEDURES MUST BE STRICTLY FOLLOWED*



# BBKA Examination & Assessment Framework





# BBKA Examination & Assessment Framework

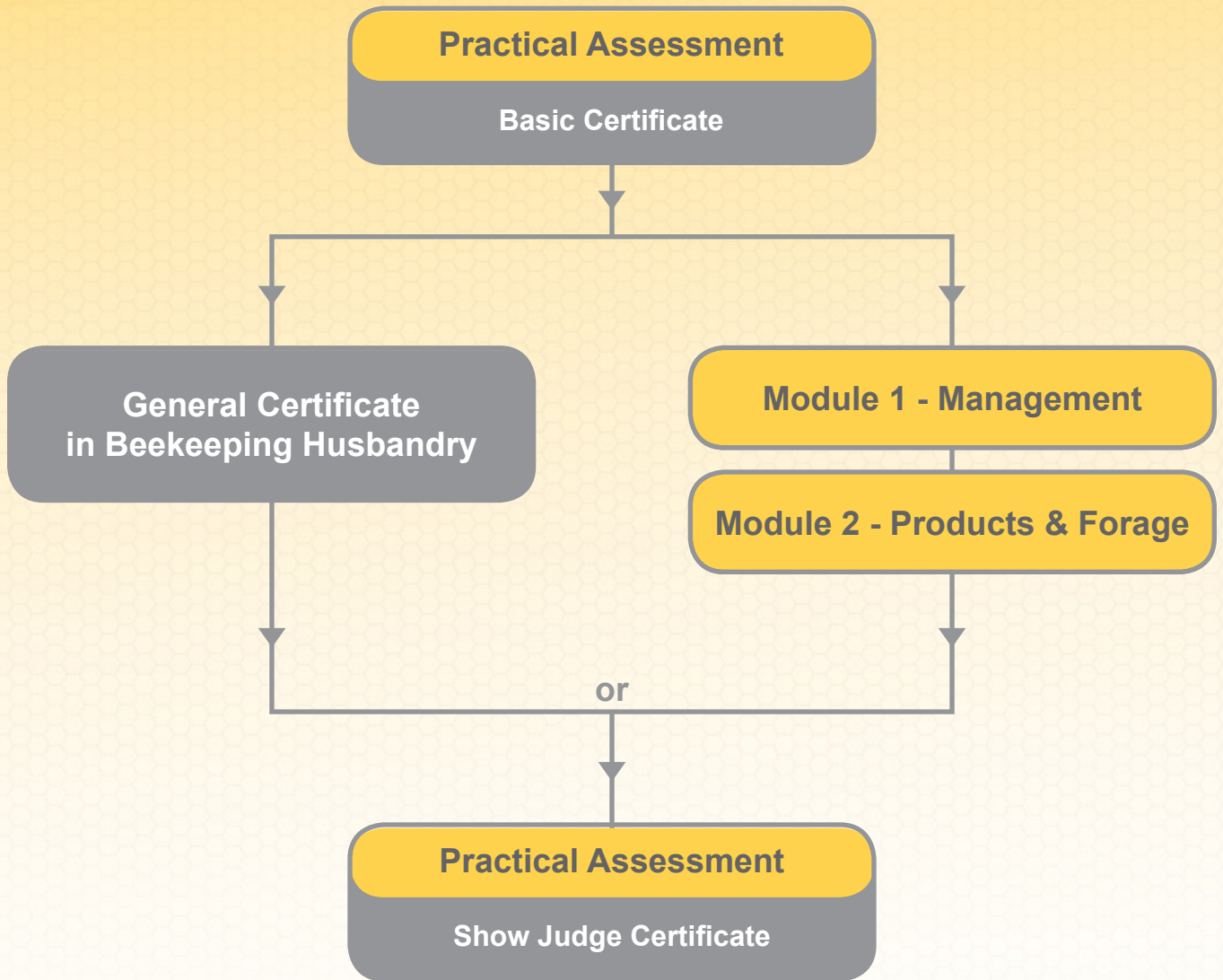
## Certificate in Microscopy





# BBKA Examination & Assessment Framework

## Show Judge Certificate



# British Beekeepers' Association - Examinations Board

## Application to Enter for an Examination/Assessment

(Please complete with block letters)



**Surname**.....**Title**.....Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ms other

**Forenames**..... (to appear on certificate) **Tick if under 18**

**Address**.....**Town**.....

**County**.....**Postcode**.....**Telephone**.....

**BBKA Membership Number**.....**Email address** .....

Please circle the Examination(s) / Assessment(s) you wish to enter:

**Junior Basic Modules: 1(March) 1(November) 2 3 5 6 7 8**  
**General Husbandry Advanced Husbandry Microscopy Show Judge**

**Date of passing Basic Certificate** ..... (mandatory except for Basic and Junior applicants)

A cheque/P.O. payable to the BBKA for £..... is enclosed with this application.

**Signature**.....**Date**.....

We are committed to helping all people access our examinations including those who have a disability, learning difficulty, dyslexia or a health problem. If you think you will need special consideration such as additional time or other support when taking an exam please tick the box:

Your data will not be passed on to any third party.

### CERTIFICATE OF ENTRY QUALIFICATION

I certify that the above named Candidate meets the Conditions of Entry as stated in the prospectus for this/these Examination/Assessment(s).

**Print name:**..... **Position:** .....  
e.g. Branch committee member or course tutor

**Signed**..... **Date**.....

**Forward completed form plus remittance to your  
Area/County Association Examination Secretary/Secretary**

Applicant, please enter your name and address in the box below. Receipts will be sent to the **Area Examination Secretary** to ensure they have a confirmed record of your entry.

### British Beekeepers' Association - Examinations Board Receipt of Application Form



Enter your name and address in this box:

Assessment/Examination .....

BBKA Office Use

Receipt:

Date:

# EXAMINATION AND ASSESSMENT FEES 2012

EXAMINATION/ASSESSMENT	FEE	CLOSING DATE	NOTES (also see appropriate syllabus)
JUNIOR	£2	N/A	Aged under 18 only in small groups. Refund for successful candidates.
BASIC	£15	1 month prior to taking the assessment	May be held at any suitable apiary. Normally small group of candidates examined on same day
MODULES	£20.00 each	10 <sup>th</sup> February 30 <sup>th</sup> September	Must hold Basic Certificate. Modules 1,2,5 and 7 held on <b>24<sup>th</sup> March 2012</b> 1,3,6 and 8 held on <b>10<sup>th</sup> November 2012</b>
GENERAL CERTIFICATE in BEEKEEPING HUSBANDRY	£40	28 <sup>th</sup> February	Must hold Basic Certificate. Held at Apiary of Candidate.
ADVANCED CERTIFICATE in BEEKEEPING HUSBANDRY	£50	28 <sup>th</sup> February	Must hold General Certificate in Beekeeping Husbandry To be held at Stoneleigh on <b>16/17<sup>th</sup> June 2012 or 30 June/1<sup>st</sup> July 2012</b> depending on numbers
SHOW JUDGE	£40	N/A	Must hold Basic Certificate. See entry requirements in Prospectus
MICROSCOPY	£40	28 <sup>th</sup> February	Must hold Basic Certificate. Arrangements with Examination Board Secretary. Assessment takes place in Autumn
CORRESPONDENCE COURSES	£45 each	N/A	Available for the Basic, all seven Modules and Microscopy theory

**Further information including Examination/Assessment application forms and syllabi** are available from the web site [www.bbka.org.uk](http://www.bbka.org.uk)

## Refunds and deferrals

- If there is a valid reason for not taking an examination or assessment, a refund can be given.
- Generally, there will be an administration charge of £2.50 deducted from the refund except:
  - no refunds will be given after the closing date for modules, or Advanced Husbandry;
  - no refund will be given for Microscopy or General Husbandry if withdrawal is within one month of the assessment
- Deferral of an exam or assessment is allowed, as an alternative to a refund, provided due notice is given. This is for one year only and there will be £2.50 administration charge, payable on re-application. After 1 year the full fee will be payable.
- Juniors (under the age of 18) get a refund of the entry fee if they pass their assessment whether it is the Junior Certificate, Basic Assessment or higher.

## Non Members

- For the Basic Assessment, BBKA Membership is not required
- For higher examinations and assessments non BBKA members must pay an additional fee of £33 for each year examinations are undertaken.

## Sales

Past year Exam Papers : from BBKA Website or National Office, Stoneleigh	£1.00 each
Syllabi: all free to print from the BBKA website	
or from Exam Secretary, see plus	
Junior Certificate	Free
Basic Assessment	50p
Microscopy	50p
All others	£1.00 each
A Guide for Judges and Exhibitors of Honey and Bee Produce	£1.00
Replacement certificate	£5.00
Badges for Basic, General Husbandry and Master Beekeeper	£2.00