

**Introduction to Beekeeping - Course Structure 2025**

<b>Session</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
1 15 Jan	<b>Introductions The Honeybee &amp; the Colony</b>	Introductions: Course, Members, Tutors The Honeybee: origins, species & structure The Colony: Castes, lifecycles & functions <i>Introductory video: The Honeybee</i>	Maria Heywood Chapters: 1, 2, 4
2 22 Jan	<b>Brief History of the Hive &amp; the Beekeeping Year</b>	The bees' nest The moveable frame hive & its development. The modern hive & its components The Beekeeping Year: Honey harvest & preparations for winter, over-wintering, spring management & inspections, summer build-up & harvesting	Graham Fifoot Chapters: 3, 4, 5
3 29 Jan	<b>Queens</b>	Structure, function, lifecycle revisited Queen & colony temperament Marking & clipping the queen Requeening/queen introduction Making up nuclei Importance of purchasing good quality, local queens	Pam Hatton  Chapter 6
4 5 Feb	<b>Managing Increase – Swarm prevention and control</b>	Reasons for swarms – causes, natural history, primary swarms and casts Swarm prevention methods & links to disease management Swarm control – the artificial swarm Swarm collection	Pam Hatton  Chapter: 7
5 12 Feb	<b>Pests, Diseases &amp; Poisonings of the Honeybee</b>	Pests Diseases & apiary hygiene The Bee Inspectorate Brood diseases & statutory requirements. Adult diseases Managing varroa, tropilaelaps, & small hive beetle Integrated pest management strategy Poisonings: detection, spray liaison, advance warning & colony protection Your interests & queries researched using the internet, beekeeping sites, literature	Chapter: 8
6 19 Feb	<b>Bees &amp; Plants: Forage availability - timing, quantity &amp; quality Hive Products</b>	Pollination, nectar & honey Local forage crops (top fruit, OSR, clover & heather) Forage dearth & supplementary feeding (sugar syrup & pollen patties) Wax, propolis & pollen Other hive products: candles, creams etc. Selling honey	Stuart Hatton Chapters: 5, 9  Pam Hatton Chapter: 9
7 26 Feb	<b>The Bee Inspectorate</b>	The Role of the Bee Inspector. Statutory powers, support services and education	
8 5 March	<b>Getting Started in Beekeeping</b>	Where can I put my bees? Siting your apiary Personal equipment Type and purchase of hives Buying bees – caveat emptor BBKA standard & Fera movement certificate Local & National support Local Association, BBKA membership – fees, insurance & benefits	Training Team Chapter: 10
	<b>The next stage: the Practical Course</b>	Sign up for the Practical Course Pre-course apiary visit can be arranged Syllabus (Practical Record)	Training Team

Your Training Coordinator/Contact is Maria Heywood (maria.heywood@hotmail.com)