

The British Beekeepers Association

BBKA – supporting bees and beekeepers



Improving Beekeeping Skills 2025 – prospectus

We offer a hands-on course over 3 separate days for beekeepers who wish to achieve a higher level of skill and knowledge in the main areas of practical beekeeping. Ideally, applicants would already hold the BBKA's Basic (or be intending to take it this year), and have four or more years beekeeping experience, but these criteria are not absolute. This will be our eleventh year running these courses. Places are limited to twelve. Early application would be wise.

Practical sessions:

- Finding the queen, clipping and marking.
- Health checks.
- Bailey comb change.
- Swarm prevention and methods.
- A method of raising queens.
- Nuclei for different purposes.

Talks & demonstrations:

- Swarm control
- Dealing with aggressive colonies
- Stings and first aid
- Taking the BBKA's General Husbandry Assessment • How to produce soft-set honey and clean wax blocks.

Weather permitting, for much of the time, we will be actively working with bees. This course requires experience and confidence in handling bees and the drive to improve still further. Participants should have an interest in testing their methods, learning about alternatives and sharing expertise and knowledge.

If there are more applicants than places, preference will be given to those intending to take the BBKA's General Husbandry Assessment in 2025, 2026 or 2027. ***If you cannot be sure of attending all 3 days, please do not apply.***

Tutors: Jane Corcoran, Chris Milton (RBI), Peter Langford, Barry Crabtree, Dr Jon Tuppen and Jeremy Quinlan.

Cost: £50.00. For this you also get some queen-raising equipment.
If you can't afford the fee, please ask - discounts and waivers are possible.

Dates and places: 26th April and 4th May in Dallinghoo IP13 0JX and 27th April in Westhall, Halesworth.

For further details *and before registering or sending any money*, please contact: Jeremy Quinlan; JeremyQ@tiscali.co.uk; or 01473 737700. **Please don't assume there are places available, check first.**

Once assured that there is a place available, go online and complete the [application form](#) then make bank payment for £50.00 to the Suffolk Beekeepers' Association with your surname as reference. Our sort code is: 09-01-55, a/c 99245182 - or send a cheque for £50.00 payable to The Suffolk Beekeepers' Association to Ian McQueen, Hon Treasurer, SBKA at 643 Foxhall Road, Ipswich, IP3 8NE.