



## Introduction to Beekeeping Course 2021

### **Classroom sessions**

- Session 1. Introduction to Bees and Beekeeping.
- Session 2. The Honeybee colony.
- Session 3. Summer management.
- Session 4. Honey extraction and Bottling.
- Session 5. Honeybee pests and diseases.
- Session 6. Preparation for winter.
- Session 7. Hives, frames, and equipment.
- Session 8. Course Review and Revision - 'The Beekeepers' Year'.

### **In the Apiary, hands-on sessions.**

Based on a hive inspection routine. Protective clothing - suit, veil and gauntlets are provided.

- 1. Using hive tool and smoker
- 2. Handling the bees
- 3. Identification of Worker, Drone and Queen
- 4. Identification of sealed brood, unsealed brood, and eggs
- 5. Identification of Queen cells (if there) & swarming
- 6. Pests and diseases
- 7. Stores - pollen, nectar, and honey
- 8. Supering
- 9. Artificial Swarm
- 10. Use of clearer boards

(Note: Classroom topics will not necessarily be delivered in this order.)

### **Session 1. Introduction to Bees and Beekeeping.**

1. History of beekeeping
2. Types of bee
3. Value of honeybees / relationship with flowers
4. The bee colony
5. Bee products
6. Apiary selection and layout

### **Session 2. The Honeybee colony.**

1. Identification of worker, queen and drone.
2. Marking the queen. Why and how.
3. The colony - what maintains the correct balance in the colony?
4. Use of smoker, hive tool. Technique of opening and closing hives
5. Preparing hives for transportation.
6. Re-siting / transportation of stocks of bees

### **Session 3. Summer management.**

1. Record keeping
2. Supering - top / bottom. Use of supers or brood boxes, types of foundation and the queen excluder.
3. Making divisions / uniting stocks
4. Swarms
  - a. Control
  - b. Signs of swarming
  - c. Action to prevent swarms
  - d. Catching transporting and hiving

### **Session 4. Honey extraction and Bottling.**

1. Removing the honey from the hive
  - a. Clearing the bees from supers - types of clearer board
  - b. Precautions to prevent robbing
  - c. Transporting the supers
2. Uncapping and extracting
  - a. Use of uncapping knife (hot, cold or electric) or fork
  - b. Extractor - Radial or tangential
  - c. Filtering and storage
3. Bottling
  - a. Hygiene
  - b. Labelling
  - c. Selling?
4. Cut comb and sections and problems with heather honey

***Session 5. Honeybee pests and diseases.***

1. Varroa treatment - integrated pest management
2. Other bee diseases and their treatments.
3. The future & Exotic Pests!!!

***Session 6. Preparation for winter.***

1. Feeding - types of feeder, time of feeding, type of feed
2. Pest and diseases - treatment (particularly treatment for Varroa)
3. Condition, weather-proofness and security of hives, mouse guards, etc
4. Storage of equipment
  - a. Storage of combs - wet or dry?
  - b. Spare hive parts, feeders, etc.
  - c. Wax moth
5. Beekeeping and the Law

***Session 7. Hives, frames and equipment.***

1. Types of hive
2. Frames and spacing
3. Making frames (practical)
4. Difference between brood box and super
5. Use of queen excluder, crown board, clearer board.
6. Hive tool, smoker
7. Protective equipment - choice, care and use.
8. Wiring frames, unwired and drone base foundation

***Session 8. Course Review and Revision - 'The Beekeepers' Year'.***