

NDB Short Courses for 2012

These two-day, intensive courses concentrate on relatively narrow aspects of the “beekeeping” syllabus and, working in small groups, are intended for anyone who wants to get to the detail! They are particularly suitable for those who are involved in teaching within their local associations; one course dealing specifically with teaching skills appropriate to beekeeping. Led by NDB-qualified tutors in modern, carefully chosen locations, these courses offer a challenging environment in which useful discussion and real learning can take place.

These intensive two-day courses are limited to small group sizes and will be available for £140 per person; this includes all consumables, full course handouts, refreshment breaks and a light lunch on both days.

Students enrolling on the “Teaching for Beekeeping Tutors” course may be eligible for a £115 subsidy from the Fera *Healthy Bees Plan* – further details are available upon request.

The courses are offered in three regional training centres. Full details, including dates, venues, course content and application forms may be found on the NDB website: www.national-diploma-bees.org.uk

A summary of the dates and locations follows, whilst the courses are summarised overleaf.

Cheshire training centre

Course Title	Lead Tutor	Dates
<i>More course dates coming soon!</i>		



Devon training centre

Course Title	Lead Tutor	Dates
Queen Raising & Stock Imp. full	Ken Basterfield	26,27 May
Queen Raising & Stock Imp. filling	Ken Basterfield	9,10 Jun
Queen Raising & Stock Improvement	Ken Basterfield	21,22 Jun
Queen Raising & Stock Improvement	Ken Basterfield	7,8 Jul



Kent training centre

Course Title	Lead Tutor	Dates
Pollen & Nutrition	Bob Smith	15,16 Jun



To apply for any of the courses, please visit the NDB website: www.national-diploma-bees.org.uk

Short course outlines

Adult Bee Diseases

We will develop an understanding of how colony health is affected by Acarine, Amoeba, Nosema, and the common viruses, and how these disorders can be managed. Practical work will complement this by providing field diagnosis and laboratory skills to allow positive diagnoses to be made, supporting timely and appropriate treatments.

Anatomy and Dissection

Studying honeybee anatomy helps beekeepers understand how bees have are able to carry out the many and varied tasks they perform. Honeybees have been evolving for 100 million years and have become superbly adapted to survive and prosper in their environment. The aim of this course is to study, explore and gain an understanding of honeybee anatomy and to learn the techniques required to carry out successful dissection.

Integrated Pest Management

We will cover all aspects of varroa and cover the potential threat from other exotic pests of honeybees. Integrated Pest Management is a widely-used tool in agriculture in order to minimise the use of chemicals for pest control. The techniques help to keep populations of pests at levels below the threshold at which they damage their hosts thus delaying the use of such chemicals and helping to avoid or delay the onset of resistance of pests to effective treatments.

Microscopy for Beekeepers

The microscope is a powerful tool which can provide a great deal of insight into the health and environment of our honeybees. We develop an understanding of both the compound and dissecting microscopes, with clear explanations of optical principles and practical steps to set-up and get the most out of these instruments. Using practical examples of honeybee anatomy, disease diagnosis, and pollen analysis, students will be able to practice many of the skills required of an Association Microscopist or for the BBKA Microscopy certificate.

Pollen & Nutrition

As beekeepers, we watch the comings and goings from a busy hive and have to wonder where they are foraging, what flowers are they visiting and what the resultant honey will be like? We may have a few clues to help us – the colour of the pollen loads on the legs of returning bees or perhaps we have seen a patch of flowers covered in honey bees, but that is about as far as we can go. We will examine all aspects of pollen, from its production by flowering plants to its extraction from honey and microscopic identification.

Queen Raising and Stock Improvement

Queen raising from selected stocks allows us to improve our bees by spreading and encouraging favoured characteristics, not least by ensuring that our bees are healthy and well-adapted to their local environment. This course provides an insight into the establishment and operation of a mid-sized queen raising system, using an operational queen raising apiary as the basis of practical work. Hands-on activities are key to the course and include such aspects as setting up a queen raising system, grafting, preparation and stocking of mating nucs, and queen introduction.

Seasonal Management

Winter colony losses are regarded as a critical measurement of beekeeper success and broader honeybee survival. We view winter preparations as part of the natural seasonal cycle of beekeeping activity, and look to understand how the aims for our beekeeping and the management decisions we take at different times of the year may affect wintering readiness and success. We look in detail at the balance between objectives, aspirations, options, and unplanned events during the active seasons, and how these accommodate or disrupt a colony's inherent seasonal cycle.

Teaching for Beekeeping Tutors

Developed by a qualified and experienced teacher, this is a distillation of the City & Guilds 7303 course, aimed specifically at beekeeping tutors and addressing typical learning situations encountered in the apiary, classroom, and when giving talks. We investigate the different methods by which adults learn, and how to apply this to maintain both interest and attention whilst delivering information more effectively. Through a series of practical and pertinent examples, tutors will improve their confidence and ability to impart their beekeeping knowledge and experience to others.

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