

RDBKA Introduction to Beekeeping for Beginners' Course 2025/26

A comprehensive evening course of 10 x 2hrs sessions, from **7.30pm-9.30pm every other Tuesday, 11 Nov 25 - 21 Apr 26, at Colburn Church Hall**, in preparation for the forthcoming bee season. There are 2 x additional practical handling sessions in May at the RDBKA Teaching Apiary.

This is a course primarily for those without bees, who are new to beekeeping and who are serious about becoming a knowledgeable, responsible and proficient beekeeper.

Everything a new beekeeper needs to know in order to establish and maintain healthy colonies in a controlled way.

Session 1 11 Nov 25	Introduction	What is a honey bee? Importance of Beekeeping Local and national support Equipment
Session 2 25 Nov 25	The Colony	Queen, workers, drones Division of labour within the hive Individual lifecycles
Session 3 9 Dec 25	The Hive	The bees' nest Hive components Supers Making Frames
Session 4 27 Jan 26	History	Origins of bees Honey hunting, skeps, Langstroth WBC, Smith, National, and Nucleus
Session 5 5 Feb 26	Beekeeping Year	Preparation for winter Spring Management Summer build up Harvesting
Session 6 24 Feb 26	Queens	Queen rearing Mating process Marking and clipping
Session 7 10 Mar 26	Swarms	Reason for swarms (causes, natural, history, primary & casts) Swarm control Swarm prevention Swarm collection

Session 8 24 Mar 26	Pests/Diseases	Pests Brood diseases Adult diseases Varroa Statutory requirements
Session 9 7 Apr 26	Bees, Plants & Hive Products	Pollination, nectar, & honey Local forage crops Wax, propolis and pollen Selling Honey
Session 10 21 Apr 26	Getting Started	Association membership Sources of equipment and clothing Setting up an Apiary What happens next?
2 x Teaching Apiary sessions (Apr/May tbc)		'Putting it into practice!'

Cost £102 - This cost includes the £12 'Friend' Membership of the Association. If you are already a Friend or Member of the Association the cost is £90. Please return completed **Application Form** to RDBKA Treasurer together with payment.