

RDBKA Educational and Training Support Scheme.

The RDBKA Committee on 24 Apr 2023 agreed that:

1. Subject to the conditions of the RDBKA Educational and Training Support Scheme (ETSS) and sufficient funds, the RDBKA will fund formal BBKA training and examination costs for its Association Members.
2. Implemented as a trial in Apr 23, the Scheme was ratified formally at the RDBKA AGM on 6 Nov 23. The viability of the Scheme will be reviewed annually by the Committee.
3. The approved BBKA Exams included in this scheme are:

Basic Cert Exam	(£30 already paid by RDBKA as part of fee for Novices' Cse)

BBKA Modules	(£45)
Bee Health	(£45)
Bee Breeding	(£90)
General Husbandry	(£90)
Adv Husbandry	(£135)
Show Judge	(£45)
Microscopy	(£90)

4. The approved BBKA training courses included in this scheme are:

Modules' Correspondence Courses	(£75 tbc)
Bee Health	(£35)
Queen Rearing	(£85)
Gen Husbandry	(£175 tbc)
Adv Husbandry	(£350 tbc)
Microscopy	(Beginners £85, Intermediate £165)

5. **General Conditions.**

- a. Open to Full Members of the RDBKA only.
- b. Candidates will have completed at least one of the RDBKA courses or have been a Members of the Association for at least 3 years; this can be waived at the discretion of the Committee recognising other exceptional contributions.
- c. Only 1 x grant per person, per training course and per exam.
- d. For Correspondence Courses payment is on proof of completion.
- e. Funds are to be authorised by the RDBKA Education Officer on proof of payment for, or completion of, an approved course, corroborated by the online eR2 Exam Registration process.

RATIONALE:

7. BBKA, YBKA and RDBKA are registered charities 'to promote and further the craft of beekeeping and keeping healthy bees'. The Scheme satisfies this requirement in full by encouraging the ongoing personal development of RDBKA Members and the raising of standards of beekeeping practice.

8. BBKA is committed to raising the common standard of beekeeping practice, currently measured by the Basic Certificate passes - YBKA was awarded Surrey Shield in 2023 for the most 'Basic Passes'.
9. RDBKA has encouraged taking the Basic examination for many years by refunding examination fees of those applying; it being part of the fee for the Novices' Course. This approach has been instrumental in raising the RDBKA's Basic Certificate profile. Approx 45% of the RDBKA now holds Basic Certificate or above and this is steadily rising.
10. Until now, all practical and financial support ceased at the level of Basic Certificate; further personal development was entirely left to individuals. Efforts to complete further training/exams present a considerable study burden; any incentive for further development will reap practical benefits for the Association: it will foster goodwill and enhance the RDBKA's reputation.
11. The cost of BBKA courses, together with their exam fees, act as formidable *disincentives* for further training/personal development. These disincentives are now lifted.
12. RDBKA has developed and implemented an annual series of progressional courses to raise beekeeping standards of its members: Foxglove, Beginners', Novices' and Improvers' Courses. This has created a steady, yet modest, income stream for the Association; it is only these monies which will be used to underwrite the Scheme. The RDBKA ETSS is the next logical addition to the commitment to raise standards. It is both affordable and an appropriate use of Charitable monies.
13. The Scheme constitutes comprehensive support for those who wish to improve incrementally to 'Qualified Beekeeper' status up to 'Master Beekeeper'. It benefits the Association by increasing the number of Association members holding recognised BBKA qualifications, and gives the Association the ability to 'grow' our own experienced and knowledgeable trainers/RDBKA Committee members.
14. RDBKA can be seen to be entirely committed to help, encourage and support its members to become better beekeepers and improve standards. This scheme is unique within the BBKA.