

RDBKA Introduction to Beekeeping for Novices' Course 2026

An evening course of 7 x theoretical and practical sessions, from **7.30pm - 9.30pm every other Tuesday, 3 Feb - 28 April 25, at Colburn Church Hall** in preparation for the forthcoming bee season. There are 2 x additional practice handling sessions for Novices at the RDBKA Apiary in May.

Ideally this is for those who have completed the Beginners' Course. **A pre-requisite for this course is that you either have or have had bees, or can demonstrate sufficient knowledge and/or experience, and that you have over-wintered bees for at least 1 season.**

The aim of this course is to develop a deeper beekeeping knowledge and demonstrate practices sufficient to meet the requirements and standards of the **BBKA Certificate of Proficiency in Apiculture** - a relatively straightforward hands-on, practical examination. Those on this course will be eligible to take the Basic exam in season, should they wish. Exam costs are included in the course costs.

Session 1 3 Feb 26	Review	Context The Colony, The Hive, History Beekeeping year Queens, Swarms Bees, Plants and Hive products.
Session 2 17 Feb 26	Equipment	Hive designs, parts Tools Clothing
Session 3 3 Mar 26	Manipulations	Essentials Practical sessions
Session 4 17 Mar 26	Beekeeping	Beekeeping year Inspections Signs of trouble Impact of swarming Feeding Adding supers Uniting colonies
Session 5 31 Mar 26	Natural History	Queens, workers, drones Life cycle Basic anatomy Function of queens, workers and drones Age related duties
Session 6 14 Apr 26	Colony Health	Basic Hygiene Healthy brood Diseased brood

AFB, EFB
Integrated pest management
Testing for resistance
Adult diseases
Statutory requirements
Wasps, hornets, mice, woodpeckers, moles etc

Session 7
28 Apr 26

Beekeeping
and the Public

Swarms, prevention and control
Swarm collection
Stings and First Aid
Setting up and Apiary
Selling Honey

2 x Teaching Apiary Sessions
(dates tbc)

Exam practicals/practice

Cost £90 - (Basic Exam fees will be refunded by RDBKA on completion) Please return completed **Application Form** to RDBKA Treasurer together with payment.