

## RDBKA Introduction to Beekeeping - Proficient Course 2025/26

An evening class of 10 x theoretical sessions, from **7.30pm - 9.30pm every other Thursday**, from **13 November 2025 - 23 April 26**, at **Colburn Church Hall** in preparation for the forthcoming bee season.

This is for those who have completed the Basic Certificate in Apiculture and with approx 5 years' beekeeping experience. Ideally, you will have previously completed the RDBKA Improvers' Course, and will be working towards completion of Modules or towards the BBKA General Husbandry Certificate.

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 General Husbandry Certificate Certificate and Modules 3 (Pests and Diseases) and 6 (Honey Bee Behaviour)**.

<b>Session 1</b> 13 Nov 2025	Overview	Pests and diseases of the honeybee, Role of the NBU, Bee Health Inspectors, notifiable diseases and statutory requirements, importation of honeybees, Beebase and NBU materials, LFDs, Structure and function of alimentary, excretory and respiratory systems.
<b>Session 2</b> 27 Nov 25	Brood diseases and disorders	Foul Brood: AFB; EFB. Signs, actions and treatments. Chalkbrood, Sacbrood, Bald Brood, Chilled Brood. Examination of combs for brood diseases.
<b>Session 3</b> 11 Dec 25	Adult Bee Diseases	Nosema, Amoeba, dysentery, Acarine, viruses. CPBV(1&2), ABPV, BQCV, Sacbrood, DWV. Other viruses.
<b>Session 4</b> 29 Jan 26	Varroa	Lifecycle, detection, monitoring, treatments. Resistance and test for resistance, IPM, Braula, potential exotic problems: Tropilaelaps, Small Hive Beetle, Asian Hornet.
<b>Session 5</b> 12 Feb 26	Pests	Mice, rats, woodpeckers, hornets and wasps. badgers, livestock, wax moths. Sterilisation of combs, storage of combs. Hygiene, robbing. Routine and disease inspections.
<b>Session 6</b>	Poisoning	Exposure to agricultural/domestic pest control

26 Feb 26

chemicals. Sign, actions and sampling. Spray liaison schemes, Pests and diseases recap, Beebase.

**Session 7**  
12 Mar 26

Colony  
Population, work  
distribution and  
communication

Climate and forage, swarming, genetic makeup, queen's laying behaviour, seasonal nest conditions, organisation and work distribution, communication and orientation, dancing. Functions of hypopharyngeal, mandibular wax Nasonov, sting post cerebral salivary and Arnhart glands.

**Session 8**  
26 Mar 26

Forage

Foraging behaviour, nectar and water, pollen, propolis. Beeswax.

**Session 9**  
9 Apr 26

Swarming

Supersedure, swarming, Behaviour after swarming. Economic and social effects of swarming, prevention and control, artificial swarm, requeening, shook swarm, marking and clipping queens, behaviour of swarms.

**Session 10**  
23 Apr 26

Impetus behind  
brood raising

Factors in the production of brood, caste determination through diet, mating behaviour of queens and drones, drone laying queens, laying workers. Races of honeybees/characteristics.

**Cost £90** - Please return completed **Application Form** to RDBKA Treasurer together with payment.