



# West Sussex Beekeepers' Association

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### PLEASE HELP US SPOT THE ASIAN HORNET!

#### WHY?

We need to know if there are any Asian Hornets in West Sussex because they:

- are an invasive hornet, originally from Asia
- are highly aggressive predators of native insects and pose a real threat to honeybees and other pollinators
- have now spread rapidly throughout France and into neighbouring countries
- have been sighted in the UK several times, especially near the south coast ports such as Portsmouth



#### Where might I see it?

May be seen on flowering plants, around beehives, around rotting / fermenting fruit and protein, and at street markets attracted by sweet fruit and fish stalls.

Active from February to November across England and Wales.

#### What does it look like?

- Slightly smaller than native hornet
- Dark abdomen, 4th segment yellow / orange
- Bright yellow tips to legs (native hornet dark)
- Entirely brown or black thorax (native hornet more orange)

Asian hornet abdomen

Native hornet abdomen



#### TAKE A PHOTO IF SAFE AND REPORT SITINGS:

# Alert!

- with the iPhone and Android recording app: Asian Hornet Watch
- online at: [risc.brc.ac.uk/alert.php?species=Asian\\_hornet](http://risc.brc.ac.uk/alert.php?species=Asian_hornet)
- by email: [alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk](mailto:alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk)

... OR SCAN:



Thanks to Kevin Breen (Chichester BKA) for modifying the NNSS poster for use by West Sussex Divisions. The Secretariat was consulted to ensure no copyright infringement.

See Page 3 for a BeeBase update on the Asian hornet in the UK.

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## Exam Success in West Sussex

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It's been a busy season for BBKA Assessments. The Bee Health Certificate and the Basic Assessments were taken by five members from West Sussex Divisions.

**Sean Keith** and **Mark Landon** from Worthing passed their Basic Assessment, Sean with Distinction and Mark with Credit.

**Marina Steel** and **Richard Elliott** from Chichester also entered for the Basic Assessment, Marina passing with Distinction and Richard with Credit.

The Bee Health Certificate was successfully taken by **Fynn McBratney**.

***Congratulations and very well done to all.***

For the first time two of the Divisions' teaching apiaries were used for Assessments. Thanks to **Pauline Ford** and **Guy Wheatley** for making the Worthing apiary available, and to **Norman Dingemans** for setting up the Chichester apiary. Assessments were also taken at **Tom Moore's** and **Gordon Allan's** apiary near Petworth. **Gordon** and **Tom** also assessed four of the candidates and **Pam Hunter** assessed Fynn for his Bee Health Certificate.

Grateful thanks go to all as without their support it would not be possible to offer our members these opportunities to advance their beekeeping skills.

Finally, a reminder that the closing date for registering with me for any of the BBKA Modules this autumn is **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September**.

**Sue**

[examsecretary@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk](mailto:examsecretary@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk)

## Des Res for Honey Bees

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Two sites have been offered to experienced beekeepers this month. Each will accommodate a small number of colonies on private land.

The first is in the Henfield area in Horsham District. WBC hives would be preferred and although there is no onsite storage available the proposed site is just 50 metres from the parking area.

The second site is in a very large secure-gated private garden near Loxwood. Storage is available and there are many opportunities for siting the colonies.



If you are interested in knowing more about either site please contact me in the first instance.

**Graham**

[secretary@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk](mailto:secretary@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk)

## Asian Hornet Update from BeeBase

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During the 2021 season, two Asian hornet nests were located and successfully destroyed by NBU inspectors and APHA colleagues, following sightings reported via the Asian Hornet Watch app.

The nest found in Ascot, and destroyed on 11<sup>th</sup> October, was 35 cm in diameter and contained six combs. Results from genetic analyses suggest that all Asian hornets collected in the surrounding area were likely to have come from this nest, and that the nest hadn't reached the stage of producing adult sexual stages.

The nest found in Portsmouth, and destroyed on 31<sup>st</sup> October, was 31cm in diameter and contained 4 combs. Results from genetic analyses suggest that all Asian hornets collected in the surrounding area were likely to have come from this nest. The nest had reached the stage of producing sexual stages but was highly inbred and a large proportion of the offspring were triploid.

The queen and drones for both the Ascot and Portsmouth nest were highly unlikely to be direct offspring of the Gosport nest from 2020.

In April 2022 the National Bee Unit reported carrying out enhanced monitoring and awareness-raising together with local beekeepers after a single insect, confirmed to be *Vespa velutina* was killed at a sentinel apiary, reported by a beekeeper. Laboratory analysis has shown that the Asian hornet was a female but as it was dried out and damaged it couldn't be ascertained if it was a queen or worker. Additionally it is highly likely to be from the European population rather than a new introduction from Asia and is highly unlikely to be the offspring of either of last year's nests in the UK.

### Asian Hornet Week 5<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> September 2022

[www.bbka.org.uk/listing/category/asian-hornet-vespa-velutina](http://www.bbka.org.uk/listing/category/asian-hornet-vespa-velutina)



## National Honey Monitoring Scheme

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With most of us planning to extract our honey in the next week or so there is still time to submit your honey samples to the NHMS.

Samples of this season's honey may be submitted up to 7<sup>th</sup> October. Order your free sampling kit on the website.

Full details on the NHMS website:  
<https://honey-monitoring.ac.uk/>

# Chairman's Chat

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Chairman, Roger Patterson writes for the County News.



Those who have just entered the craft are coming to the end of their first summer, even though it might only be a partial one. Your chosen BKA should be your best source of learning, as all WSBKA Divisions have their own teaching apiaries. You can read books and watch as many videos you can lay your hands on, but in my opinion the best way to learn beekeeping is to get your head stuck into a beehive as often as you can. If you are observant, the bees will teach you, but only if you carefully watch them and interpret what they are telling you. Some new beekeepers seem to think they are experts after a season or two, but although the 'basics' of beekeeping are the same, whatever the conditions, there is considerable variation between years, so your learning will never

stop: [www.dave-cushman.net/bee/basics.html](http://www.dave-cushman.net/bee/basics.html).

The theory is important as it helps you understand what the colony is trying to achieve. This can be learnt from reliable and trusted sources such as the NBU/BeeBase website: [www.nationalbeeunit.com/](http://www.nationalbeeunit.com/), although many find it difficult to navigate; Dave Cushman's website: [www.dave-cushman.net/](http://www.dave-cushman.net/); The National Honey Show videos: [www.honeyshow.co.uk/lecture-videos.php](http://www.honeyshow.co.uk/lecture-videos.php); and the many videos on the BIBBA website: <https://bibba.com/>. These all have information relevant to UK beekeeping. In addition, there is the well-known Randy Oliver's Scientific Beekeeping: [Scientific Beekeeping - Beekeeping Through The Eyes of a Biologist](#) that has masses of information, though as it's American, there may be some filtering needed.

Many of you will be approaching your first winter, so it may be helpful to see my video 'Dead Bees Don't Buzz': [www.youtube.com/watch?v=OYY7Anefgq8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OYY7Anefgq8), that I approach from the angle of what bees need, rather than from what humans think they need.



If you haven't already done it, get organised now by thinking about mouse and woodpecker guards. I suggest that beginners treat for *Varroa*. I know there is a temptation not to treat, but there is a much greater risk of losing a colony, that can be disappointing for a beginner with only a hive or two. I think feeding is best done slowly to allow the bees to collect pollen that is much needed during the winter. If you feed quickly with large feeders, the bees don't have time to collect much pollen.

In October there is the National Honey Show at Esher, where there will be lectures throughout, with a Beginners' Programme on the Saturday and many trade stands where you can purchase equipment including hive 'seconds', that I think are tremendous value.

I hope you beginners have enjoyed your short time in the craft and continue to learn so you can manage your bees in a caring manner in the future.

**Roger**

[chairman@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk](mailto:chairman@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk)

## Around the Divisions

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All Members are welcome to attend any Divisional meeting, but please advise the organiser if you plan to attend.

### Central Sussex Division

Full details of the Division's activities from: [secretary@centralsussexbka.org.uk](mailto:secretary@centralsussexbka.org.uk) or the Division's website: [www.centralsussexbka.org.uk](http://www.centralsussexbka.org.uk)

### Chichester Division

Details of the Division's activities from: [secretary@chichesterbeekeepers.co.uk](mailto:secretary@chichesterbeekeepers.co.uk) or the Division's website: [www.chichesterbeekeepers.co.uk](http://www.chichesterbeekeepers.co.uk).



### Wisborough Green Division

Details of the Division's activities from Martina Hendry, [secretary@wgbka.org.uk](mailto:secretary@wgbka.org.uk) or website: [www.wgbka.org.uk](http://www.wgbka.org.uk). The Division's Newsletter may be viewed or downloaded here: [www.wgbka.org.uk/Newsletters.html](http://www.wgbka.org.uk/Newsletters.html)

### Worthing Division

Details of the Division's activities from: Debra Edwards, [dmcd.edwards@gmail.com](mailto:dmcd.edwards@gmail.com) or the Division's website: [www.worthing-beekeepers.org](http://www.worthing-beekeepers.org)



*'Share your Division's activities with readers of the County News'*

## ...and Dates for your Diary

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September** - Asian Hornet Week

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September** - Worthing Division's 'Honey Show' at the Findon Sheep Fayre, Nepcote. <https://findonsheepfair.co.uk/>



**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September** - 'South of England Honey Show', with the Autumn Show & Horse Trials. Ardingly Showground, RH17 6TH. Details in last month's Newsletter.

[www.seas.org.uk/info/competing/competing-autumn-show-horse-trials](http://www.seas.org.uk/info/competing/competing-autumn-show-horse-trials)



**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October** - '91<sup>st</sup> National Honey Show'. Sandown Park Racecourse, Esher, Surrey, KT10 9AJ. Details on the Show's website: [www.honeyshow.co.uk/](http://www.honeyshow.co.uk/)



*We are on facebook so if you would like your events featured please send details to the Editor.*

...and finally



Thanks to Bristol Beekeepers via ebees



#### MEMBERS' COUNTY NEWSLETTER

Thanks to this month's contributors. If you don't have access to the internet and want further details of anything in this newsletter, please contact the Editor & County Secretary. Likewise, if you would like to contribute to future newsletters please send articles and photographs to:

Graham Elliott, Editor & County Secretary, no later than the 20<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.

[secretary@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk](mailto:secretary@westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk)

**We're on the web:**  
[www.westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk](http://www.westsussexbeekeepers.org.uk)



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