

# Mid Bucks Beekeepers Association

Chairman: Frank Rickett

President: Gill Peacock

Affiliated to the British Beekeepers Association



## Programme for Beginners Course 2010

In 2010 we will be extending the course to run over seven Monday evenings in March and April

Date	Subject	Topics covered
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Introduction	Welcome by members of the Association.
	The Colony	Honey bees, bumble bees, solitary bees and wasps. The honey bee colony. The queen, workers and drones. The bees' nest. Division of labour within the hive. Individual bee lifecycles.
	Association library	Books and videos available for members.
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	The Hive	Brief history of beekeeping. Beekeeper's protective clothing and equipment. Hive components: Brood chambers, supers, frames. Brief description of the different types of hive: National, WBC, Smith, Langstroth, skeps, nucleus.
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	The Beekeeping year	Spring management: inspections, swarming preparations, keeping records. Summer build-up. Preparing for winter. Winter tasks: maintenance, periodic food checks.
	Association apiary	Facilities available in the Association Apiary at Hampden Hall.
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Handling Bees	Defensive behaviour Dealing with bee stings
	Managing Queens	Lifecycle of the queen, mating Finding, marking and clipping queens Introducing a new queen
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> April		Easter Monday – no session
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> April	Bees and plants	What bees bring into the hive: nectar, pollen, propolis, water. Pollination, Local forage crops.
	Hive products	Extracting, preparing and selling honey. Extracting wax and propolis. Other hive products from honey and wax.
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> April	Keeping bees healthy	Preventing disease. Apiary hygiene. Changing brood comb Description and control of varroa. Brood diseases, Adult bee diseases, Pests and poisons.
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	Swarms	Reasons for swarms, causes, primary swarms and casts. Collecting swarms. Swarm control.
	Getting started	Choosing an apiary site and setting up an apiary. Sources of equipment and clothing. Getting your bees. Facilities provided by the local association.
	Conclusion	Feedback session

All sessions will be held at the Wendover Bowls Club, Dobbins Lane, Wendover, starting at 7:30 pm and finishing at about 9:30 pm. Light refreshments will be provided.

The theory part of the course will be followed up by practical sessions at the Association Apiary. Times will be announced later