



Romford Division



Dates for the Diary

Committee Meeting: 22/01/2026 7.30 via Zoom

Next Division Meeting: Thursday 5th February, 20:00
St Nicholas Church, Woodcote Avenue, Elm Park RM12 4PY

Topic: TBC

January Meeting! A reminder that the venue has now changed, we no longer hold our meetings at Chadwick Hall. The new venue is:

St Nicholas Church, Woodcote Avenue, Elm Park RM12 4PY

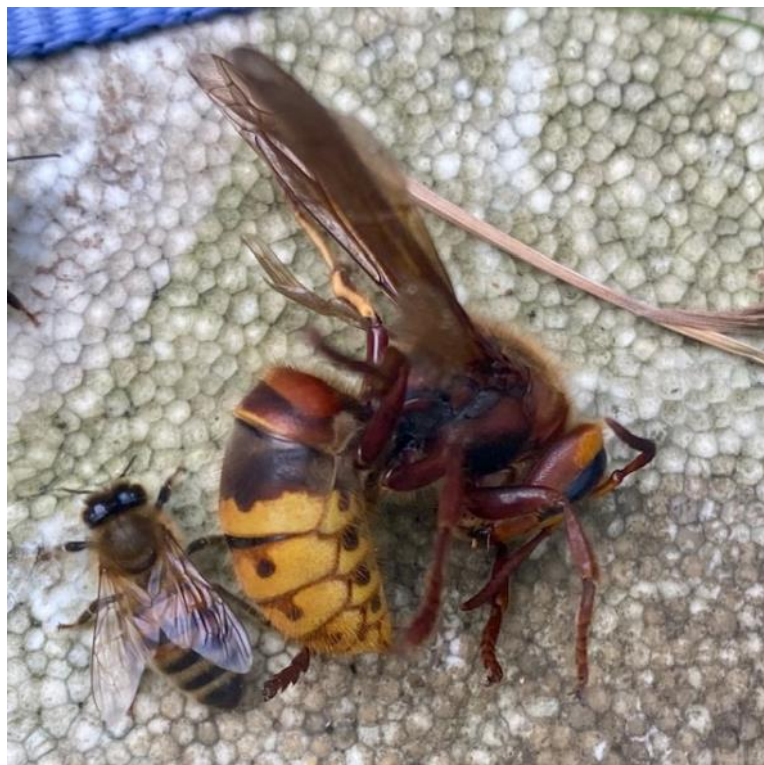
A dead European Hornet

Found inside the lid of one my hives on the last inspection of the year (early October)

The bees were extremely agitated on opening and stung me several times leaving me to retreat and come back, I found evidence of a small nest and I assume she may be a Queen.

How did she get in the lid? I've a lid with an opening that I use when uniting colonies to limit drones found above the queen excluder, I hadn't swapped it out. A very poor end to the year!

Graeme Ellis



JANUARY Beekeeping Notes

This is probably the laziest month for a beekeeper but you can check out the equipment sales if you need anything, and make sure your records and spare equipment are ready for use.

If you think they are running short of stores then do give them some fondant, just above the brood. That's better than letting them starve. But, if you fed them properly last autumn then they really should be OK until that first inspection.

Pat Allen

Yellow Legged Hornet (YLH) Update

Happy New Year to you all. For the first time since early April there has been no official update this week on yellow-legged Asian hornet sightings or nests, which has got to be good news. Hopefully, the cold weather will knock them back.

2026 spring queen trapping update,

In the December 2025 Bee Health Advisory Forum, Defra confirmed that they will not ask APHA's National Bee Unit to carry out Spring trapping activity for yellow-legged hornet (YLH) in 2026.

It's strongly recommended that we put bait stations around the area where they confirmed sightings of the YLH nest . (Fairlop waters, Ilford)

<https://www.nationalbeeunit.com/about-us/beekeeping-news/yellow-legged-hornet-spring-trapping>

Garrie Furnell

Courses

It has been a slow sign up for the 2026 Beginners Beekeeping Course which starts in April. If any member knows of someone who would like to attend, then please contact me for dates, times and fees. Hopefully we will get a full group!

Lindybees.education@gmail.com

Happy New Year to you all!

Linda Dulieu

Romford Division AGM

A little reminder that the AGM will take place on Thursday 15th January at 20:00 at St Nicholas Church, Elm Park. The agenda (attached on back page), minutes from the last meeting, and officers reports will be circulated shortly.

If you would like a paper copy of these documents, please arrange them to print them yourself, as hard copies will not be provided. We are aiming to reduce unnecessary printing and be more environmentally responsible. We look forward to seeing you there .

Colleen Manley

Wax Moth damage to polystyrene hives

Earlier this year I discovered that my polystyrene hive was extensively damaged by wax moth. I converted the crown board to an eke by removing all but the plastic frame and repaired the brood box and floor with food-safe epoxy resin painted with white masonry paint. For small holes or cracks in polystyrene use Abelo Polystyrene Hive Filler (400g) that is safe when cured. Next year it will be better!

Ken Shutt

Supers, Protection against wax Moths

Stored supers are vulnerable to wax moth damage but may be protected by enclosing them in under-bed storage bags from IKEA. All frames are stored hanging in their supers and the polypropylene bags fit them exactly and are zipped shut. The zips are plastic and therefore would not be corroded by acetic acid if it were necessary to apply it. In the Spring they can be folded away until the Autumn.

The cost £1.50 each. Reference: Morley, E 2025, 'Scandinavian Storage Solutions', *BeeCraft*, November 2025, pp.39.

Ken Shutt

Insert the supers into this end first



Then pull the bottom tight and lift up the opposite edge - where the flap is.



Then zip up the flap, an easy fit to a poly or wooden National Super.



Christmas Party, 4th December 2025

Twenty-five members and friends came together for the Christmas celebration. An atmosphere of great fun and laughter was enjoyed whilst we all wrestled with the answers to the questions on the quiz sheets, followed by the usual delicious, plentiful spread. A Secret Santa wrapped present was given to everyone at the party. Everyone enjoyed themselves and we all went home full of Christmas food and clutching our Christmas presents.

I hope everyone enjoyed a Happy Christmas, and I wish everyone a Healthy and Safe New Year.

Jilly Speakman-Bell

Liz McNeill was thanked for her many years of service making tea in the kitchen and was presented with flowers and biscuits



Membership Renewal for 2026

Membership renewal falls due on Thursday 1st January for those who were members through 2025. Anyone booked on to the 2026 Beginners Course have already been registered as members for 2026 so they are not involved in the renewal process.

For the rest of us, renewal is achieved by responding to the 'invitation to renew' message sent to you from the membership system, eR2. This message often ends up in the mail junk or spam box and gets ignored. The email message will have 'membership services' in the address and will contain a link that will take you direct to your record on the membership system.

To renew, just check the details shown, and correct as necessary. Select (from the drop-down list) the subscription for your membership category, and enter other details such as apiary rental if you have hives in a Divisional Apiary.

The Bee Disease Insurance (BDI) information is **most important**. You need to be covered for the maximum number of hives you may have in the height of the season, don't just default to the minimum mandatory 1-3 hives. This is especially important for hives in a shared apiary, because if any one beekeeper in the apiary is underinsured, then this means that ALL the beekeepers in that apiary are uninsured! What's more, the number insured should cover your **total** number of hives, **wherever** they are.

The total subscription due will be shown at the bottom of the screen. Check this and then press the submit button. You will receive a confirmation email and this will tell you how to pay.

If you have any queries about the process, do email me (pat.allen7@icloud.com).

Pat Allen

Romford Division Contacts:**Secretary: Colleen Manley**

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Websites:

<https://ebka.org>

<https://romfordbeekeepers.org>

EBKA Romford: Annual General Meeting 15th January 2026

A G E N D A

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Signing of the Minutes of 2025 AGM
(Minutes approved by members in February 2025)
- 3 Correspondence relevant to the AGM
- 4 Officers' Reports (*tabled*)
- 5 Presentation of the 2025 Divisional Accounts
- 6 Elections to Committee **Holder in 2025**
 - DVM/EBKA Trustee Roger Honey
 - Chair Julie Mugglestone
 - Treasurer Rose McCarthy (*standing down*)
 - Secretary Colleen Manley
 - Programme Secretary (*vacant*)
 - Show Secretary Angela Mander
 - O/A Wardens:
 - Havering David Manley
 - Hornchurch Norman McDonald
 - The Chase & Bee Garden Rob Hyde
 - Teaching Apiary *Nomination: James Walding*
 - Lay Committee: Dawn Doyland, Liz McNeill, Lorna Pattle, Terry Watson, John Whittard, Paul Wiltshire
- 7 Date & Venue of Next Committee Meeting
- 8 Elections to Other Posts **Holder in 2025**
 - President Jim McNeill
 - Education Secretary Linda Dulieu
 - Membership Secretary Pat Allen
 - YLAH Co-ordinator Garry Furnell
 - Bulk Buys Secretaries Alan Sansford, Julie Mugglestone
 - Disease Liaison Contacts Jim McNeill, Simon Perchard
 - Independent Examiner Paras Shah
- 9 Other Posts:
 - Equipment Secretaries Pádraig Floyd (*standing down*)
Norman McDonald
David Manley
Pat Allen, Rob Hyde
- 10 Any Other Business relevant to the AGM
- 11 Date of next AGM: Thursday 14th January 2027 (tbc)

(Minutes of this AGM will be reviewed for accuracy at the February 2026 members meeting.)