



Romford Division



Dates for the Diary

Committee Meeting: Thursday 21st May 19:30 teams

Next Division Meeting: Thursday 7th May, 20:00

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

Topic: TBC

*An early Live Wasp found in the workshop of Mark Wood.
Having previously found a dead YLH in 2024 Mark remains vigilant.*



APRIL Beekeeping Notes

Colonies that survived the winter will be seriously building up this month, and many may begin making preparations for swarming. Make sure your swarm control plan and spare equipment are ready. And get those mini-nucs prepared for the spare queen cells!

Do you clip your queens? If you do, then this is the month to do it, and mark them (queen colour for 2026 is white). An experienced Romford member will do this for you if you are too nervous to do it yourself.

Make sure the bees have room to expand and space for the nectar and honey. You can put a spare super or two over the crownboard if you are not sure if they need it now. When you see them start to make use of the super you can put it under the crownboard.

Pat Allen

YLH Update

There is nothing new to report, but what I would say is **“be vigilant”**. Keep your eye out for prime nests, make sure that you can set your self up with a monitoring station. I do have traps available if you need one.

If you haven't done so already, would you let me know the location of your bee hives as it will help me notify beekeepers in the event of a YLH nest being found in our area.

Please send the detail to garry.gf89@gmail.com

Please use [What3words](#). THIS INFORMATION IS NOT SHARED, with the exception of the bee inspector

Garry Furnell

Yellow-legged Asian hornet queens Embryo/Primary nests



Photos courtesy John De Carteret

Please check outbuildings Reports need a photo including the insect



REPORT THEM!

Spot Yellow-legged Asian hornets and save our bees!

Use the 'Asian Hornet Watch' app
www.bbka.org.uk

Nests more likely in areas of south east near previous nests

Courses

We're Looking forward to welcoming our new students to their first session of the beginner beekeeping course on Tuesday 14th April. We have a full house. We also have three new tutors joining the ranks, so thanks to everyone who is helping run the course this year.

The closing date for the "Basic" Beekeeping Assessment is 30th April. There is one other applicant apart from myself who will be applying this year. [If you are interested please get in touch ASAP.](#)

Linda Dulieu

Trustee Update

The Ted Hooper Lecture will not be taking place this year as a suitable date could not be found. It is hoped that next year the lecture will follow the EBKA AGM.

There are still 2 vacant posts on the Central Executive Committee (CEC). The General Secretary and Membership Secretary. If anyone is interested in helping with one of these roles, let me know.

Planning is well underway for the 2026 Annual Conference on 15th November where the topic will be Sustainable Beekeeping.

New Web Site Honey Map

Our new web site is going to contain details of where local Honey can be purchased. At present there is a Honey map on the Essex Beekeepers site which is out of date. If you would like members of the public to know where they can purchase your Honey then let us know the following details

Your Name, Address of where to collect the Honey from, Post code, Phone Number and or email.

A few lines to describe your Honey, local flora, spring, summer, woodland or hedgerow etc. If you aren't sure take a look on the [Essex Beekeepers Web Site](#) under Honey for Sale to see what other members describe their honey as.

In order to keep your responses separate and in one place for collating purposes, please use this email address: ebkaconference2024@gmail.com

Roger Honey: 07889785089

After-meeting Surgery Sessions

We are pleased to introduce informal 'after-meeting surgery sessions' following our regular Romford Division Meetings.

These relaxed, drop -in sessions are a great opportunity for members, especially newer beekeepers to ask questions, share experiences, and get practical advice in a friendly, supportive setting. Whether you're dealing with a specific issue with your hive, looking for seasonal guidance, or just want a chat with fellow members, everyone is welcome.

There is no formal structure, just an open space to talk, learn and connect with more experienced beekeepers.

Colleen Manley

Speakers for 2026

Following on from Clive de Bruyn's funny and insightful views on beekeeping which he shared with us at the March divisional meeting. The plan is to have a mix of club member and outside speakers with both live and online "Teams" presentations which provides us the opportunity to have talks from interesting beekeepers throughout the UK. The online "Teams" presentations will be shown on the big screen at St Nicholas's Church as part of the monthly divisional meetings, so please join us for a homemade cake and coffee.

In April we will be holding the auction, which will be followed by a short instructive talk on simple steps to prevent disease and infections, covering how to clean and scorch supers together with how to identify problems at the earliest opportunity.

In May we will have an online presentation, and I will be able to confirm who the speaker is shortly!

Moving forward as the club website approaches completion the intention is to create a link on the website to a club library where the presentations from divisional meetings will be available to be viewed. In preparation for this I'm pleased to announce that the recent talk by Clive and our very own Jim McNeil were recorded.

The website will also show a program diary showing future meetings and events, including key inputs on subjects such as "preparing for the honey show" and "getting ready for winter".

Also, the dates for future club social events will be included. So watch this space for further information.

David Manley

Website Launch

We're delighted to announce very shortly the launch of the Romford Divisions new website.

The site has been created to make it easier for members to stay up to date with everything going on with the division. You'll find details of upcoming meeting events, useful resources for beekeepers of all experience levels, and updates from the committee.

We hope the website becomes a valuable hub for our beekeepers community.

Colleen Manley

Spring Auction

Our auction will take place on the 16th April at St Nicholas Church Elm Park at 8.00

The auction is a great opportunity to pick up beekeeping equipment, clear out unused items, and enjoy a sociable evening with fellow members. Whether you're looking for a bargain, searching for something specific or just want to take part, everyone is welcome.

If you have items to sell, please make sure you fill out the auction form and get this back to me as soon as possible. This helps everything run smoothly in the evening and ensures your items can be included.

Colleen Manley

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Websites:

<https://ebka.org>

<https://romfordbeekeepers.org>