



Romford Division



Dates for the Diary

Committee Meeting: Thursday 21st May 19:30 teams

Next Division Meeting: Thursday 4th June, 20:00

Venue: TBC

Topic: Summer Social

An opportunity for members to chat, bring your own drinks and food to share.

Queen Cell with Larva.

Photo, Garry Furnell



MAY Beekeeping Notes

There have been many colony losses this winter it would seem, but the survivors are building up very quickly now that the weather is warmer. I am sure that **May will be a significant swarming month** (in fact it has already started), so make sure your plans and equipment are ready!

Make sure you do a **dedicated disease inspection** this month, that is, inspect the combs even more carefully than usual. This means the bees need to be removed so that you can clearly see the brood. However, do make sure you are not shaking a frame that has a queen cell on it that you want to keep. If you do, the queen larva will get dislodged and will not recover, so brush these bees off instead. Use your

Healthy Hive Guide to check anything you think is not right and ask for help if you need it. Remember that European and American Foul Brood are both notifiable diseases. All members who have bees should be **registered on BeeBase** - this is an EBKA membership requirement. There is an enormous amount of information on BeeBase to help the beekeeper, and you will get alerts if bee disease has been found in your area, so it is greatly to your advantage to be registered.

Pat Allen

YLH Update

The Animal and Plant Health Agency's National Bee Unit (NBU) informed us that they had received a report of Yellow-Legged Hornets in Sawtry, Cambridgeshire made on 13th March 2026. The person who reported the sighting found several dead hornets which have been dispatched to the NBU. From the additional information supplied, it seems likely that there was a YLH nest in the area in 2025 which went unreported.

They have received 3 further credible reports of YLH;

10th April a householder found a YLH in Sandwich, Kent in their home.

11th April a beekeeper found a second YLH in a trap in Nonington near Dover, Kent.

11th April a householder found a YLH in Kingston, Kent in their shed.

Specimens will be sent to Fera Science. These are reported as single hornets, and due to the time of year unlikely to be associated with a nest, so we are not planning to take any further action.

Don't forget to send me the location of your beehives. Postcode or what 3 words.

Garry Furnell, YLH Coordinator



2026 Beginners' Beekeeping Course, Now started

We are pleased that we have 12 new students on our course which started on Tuesday 14th April.

The first three sessions are in the Education Room at Thames Chase, where the Teaching Apiary is situated. After the Bank Holiday the students will then get out into the Apiary, to get to know the bees!

The second session is learning how to manage your own hive. Please give our new members a warm welcome when you see them at the meeting on Thursday.

Basic Assessment

Five members have signed up for the Basic Assessment this year. We are now waiting for the date of the assignment. Wish us luck!

Linda Dulieu, Education Secretary



From a teaching colony this April.

A very pleasing frame of mainly sealed brood from a strong colony.

Photo Pat Allen



Auction Of Bee Keeping Equipment – 16 April 2026

A large number of members attended the auction, which had dozens of items for sale. Items were displayed on the screen from members who were unable to attend in person, or the items were too big to bring to the auction venue.

A whole myriad of items were available for purchase, ranging from a single brand new syringe for applying varroa treatment, to large spinners and even complete hives with stands.

Some items had a reserve price against the sale, but most items had no reserve price placed upon them and as such a high proportion of the items were sold. The items that were sold went for an eye wateringly small amount of money – definitely a buyers' market! A hand operated spinner was sold for £5.00!! With equally staggeringly low prices for all manner of items.

Jim did a good job as auctioneer and Graeme 'stepped up to the plate' as auction porter, explaining the smaller details of each item. Dawn and Terry organised the administration side of the auction.

Everyone enjoyed the evening with lots of laughter too, and of course a time for socialising with refreshments including Julie's first-class cakes.

Jilly Speakman-Bell.



Spring Auction

The recent auction was a great success, with strong participation and plenty of interest across lots. Thank you to everyone who contributed, helped organise, and took part—it made for a smooth and enjoyable event.

Emails will be sent out this week with details for payment collection. Please keep an eye on your inbox and follow the instructions provided.

We appreciate your continued support and look forward to the next event.

Colleen Manley

Romford Division Contacts:

Secretary: Colleen Manley

01708 381900 / 07971 957333. EBKASecretaryRomfordDivision@gmail.com

Chair: Julie Mugglestone

07852 224262. julie.mugglestone@gmail.com

Divisional Voting Member/Trustee: Roger Honey

01245 523245 / 07889785089. rogerhhoney@hotmail.co.uk

Membership Secretary: Pat Allen

07958938427. pat.allen7@icloud.com.

Taster Bookings: Garry Furnell

07866 430079. garry.gf89@gmail.com

Education Secretary: Linda Dulieu

Lindybees.education@gmail.com

Newsletter: Graeme Ellis

07814 814844. graemeellis@hotmail.co.uk

Disease Liaison officers: Jim McNeill, Simon Perchard

jimandliz44@aol.co.uk 07743 310143, sjp6242@icloud.com 07712 194488

Websites:

<https://ebka.org>

<https://romfordbeekeepers.org>