



Introduction to Beekeeping

Have you ever thought about keeping bees, wondered what equipment you will need or what is involved?

This introductory course is designed to give you an overview of keeping honeybees. The two theory sessions will take you through some of the knowledge needed to become a beekeeper. The practical sessions at the club apiary will allow you to look inside a beehive (weather permitting) and also have the opportunity to ask questions about all aspects of beekeeping.



Event Details 2025

Dates:

Theory sessions (x2):

Saturday 26th & Sunday 27th April
9.00am – 4.00pm
Brookfield School, Fouldray Avenue,
Poulton-le-Fylde, FY6 7HE

Practical sessions:

Sundays 11-12 noon at the club apiary,
Poulton-le-Fylde for up to 8 sessions
following the theory course
(bee suits and gloves will be provided)

Cost:

£120 per person
(which includes country membership to the BBKA and membership of Blackpool and Fylde BKA. Concessions for minors.)

Course Content:

- Introduction to the honeybee lifecycle including swarming
- Equipment required for beekeeping
- Purchasing honeybees,
- Siting a hive
- Disease

Booking Information:

You can find a booking form at
www.blackpoolbees.co.uk
(Numbers limited - booking is essential)

For more information, please email
education@blackpoolbees.co.uk

Blackpool & Fylde Beekeepers Association

Introduction to Bees and Beekeeping Course outline

Course Title

Introduction to Beekeeping

Length of Course

2 full days – Saturday and Sunday 26th – 27th April 2025 from 09:00 – 16:00

Followed by 8 practical supervised sessions at our apiary in Poulton

Suitability

This is an ideal course of study for those who wish to become a beekeeper and for those who wish to know more about bees and beekeeping in general. No previous experience of beekeeping practices is necessary

Synopsis

The course centres around the beekeeping environment and will include both practical and theory sessions

Teaching Approach

A variety of teaching methods will be utilised, including short talks, explanation, examples, demonstrations, practical work building frames, opening beehives and group Q&A sessions.

Course Assessment and Qualification

There is no formal assessment although each student will receive feedback from the tutors during the course. However, each student will know themselves how they have progressed and whether they are, or will be, prospective and suitable beekeepers

Course aims

- An understanding of the beekeeping environment
- To introduce appropriate actions and knowledge for each specific task
- To give an awareness of safety methods used when handling bees
- To introduce a perceptiveness of what it means to be a beekeeper
- To give a familiarity of the tools and clothing used by beekeepers
- To give an basic understanding of the pests and diseases affecting honeybees

Objectives

- Understand the life cycle of a honey bee.
- Be able to understand and recognise the basic parts of a hive.
- Build frames and insert foundation
- Gain experience and confidence in handling bees
- Recognise eggs, larva, sealed worker brood, drone cells and queen cells when handling frames
- Understand what is involved in keeping bees.
- Be able to make an informed decision as to whether or not beekeeping is a viable option (for you)

Clothing

Each learner will need to wear normal beekeeping protection to practical sessions around the hives. Some protective clothing will be available for the duration of the session. However, you should bring your own wellington boots and protective gloves, rubber household washing up/cleaning gloves are recommended, Marigolds for example

Blackpool & Fylde Beekeepers Association

Introduction to Bees and Beekeeping

Timetable

Day 1

Coffee from	09.00
Prompt start	09.30
Bees & Hives	09.45 – 10.45
Break	10.45 – 11.00
Beekeeping Year	11.00 – 12.30
Lunch	12.30 – 13.15
Swarm Control	13.15 – 14.00
Diseases & Pests	14.00 – 15.00
Break	15.00 – 15.15
Asian Hornet	15:15 - 15.30
Dancing with Bees	15:30 - 16.00



Day 2

Coffee from	09.00
Prompt start	09.30
Apiary Location	09.45 – 10.30
Break	10.30 – 10.45
Hive Opening or Making frames / hives	10.45 – 12.15
Lunch	12.15 – 13.00
Hive Opening or Making frames / hives	13.00 – 14.30
Break	14.30 – 14.45
Honey and Hive products	14.45 – 15.30
Closing questions & Practical session dates	15.30 - 16.00



Blackpool & Fylde Beekeepers Association

Introduction to Beekeeping Guidance Notes

The course will consist of two full day sessions of beekeeping theory and hands on practical's .

The course will be held at Brookfield School, Foul Bray Avenue, Poulton-le-Fylde, FY6 7HE

The sessions will include

- An introduction to a beehive
 - the frames on which the bees live and work
 - including the brood chamber (where the queen lives)
 - and the super (where the honey is stored)
- Introducing the clothing and tools used in beekeeping
- The lifecycle of honeybees
- The next steps to beekeeping

Bee suits will be provided.

The practical sessions will include

- Building frames and inserting foundation
- An introduction to a working apiary
- Opening a beehive
- Finding the queen
- Looking at the brood (eggs, larvae and sealed brood)
- Differentiating between female and male sealed brood.
- Examining the nectar and any sealed honey

*******Please read carefully*******

Once you have booked the course you will need to forward your remittance. It is easier to do so by BACS (online banking) or you can ask your bank to do so over the counter. The account name, sort code and account number are below:

Account name: Blackpool and Fylde branch Lancs and NW Beekeepers

Sort code: 16-28-22

Account No. 11232248