

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