

## **Blackhorse Apiaries, Course and Events Summary**

Beekeeping courses are managed and run on a commercial basis by John Hamer, a Surrey bee farmer, using his purpose built facility at Blackhorse Apiaries in St Johns near Woking. The bees have been selected for their quiet handling characteristics and all essential equipment is provided. The tuition has been designed to work with local associations and equipment vendors to provide continual support for beekeepers during the early years. It aims to encourage beekeepers to understand the principles underlying what they are doing, and to develop an efficient, integrated management style, keeping beekeepers in touch with their local environment and enabling them to care responsibly for their livestock. The courses are arranged so that the students can begin as novices learning to handle bees and establishing a colony through the first winter. They can then progress to managing the build up of a mature, productive colony for the extraction of a crop of surplus honey, and to control the number and strain of bees they wish to keep.

### **Ten Week Evening Courses**

Beekeeping for Beginners.

A course for those considering beekeeping for the first time dealing with the life-cycle of the bee, elementary management, setting up an apiary, and basic equipment. The course consists of TEN evenings of theory supported by Course B – Practical Beekeeping, and will run on Wednesday evenings from 7.30 – 9.30pm, starting on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2011, and Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2012. The same course will also run during the day on Thursday mornings from 10.00 – 12.30pm, starting on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2011, and Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2011 £75.00

Practical Beekeeping for Beginners.

Aspiring beekeepers can gain their first experience handling small colonies in the company of the more knowledgeable. More experienced beekeepers will have the opportunity to review their techniques and to experiment with a range of equipment and management styles. The course will consist of TEN evenings of practical work in the apiary, supporting Course A – Beekeeping for Beginners, and will run on Wednesday evenings and Thursday mornings starting 18<sup>th</sup> April 2012. £75.00

Further Practical Beekeeping.

Aimed at beekeepers in their second or subsequent season that wish to extend their knowledge of the practical basis of beekeeping and improve their management skills. The course will cover the management of bees throughout the season, including transfer onto clean comb, swarm control, feeding, making nuclei, and disease control. There will be an additional weekend course on elementary queen rearing. The course will consist of SIX evenings and will run on Tuesday evenings starting 17th April 2012. £50.00

### **Day Courses**

Meet the Bee Day	Saturday, 8 <sup>th</sup> April 2012, 10am-4:30pm	£50.00
Meet the bee day is a one-day introduction to beekeeping. The topics covered include; The honey bee colony and yearly cycle; The beekeeper's year; equipment; where you can keep bees; practical bee handling; individual questions and answers.		
Skep Making	Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> June 2012, 10am-4:30pm	£50.00
This course will cover the techniques and tools required to start and build the two main skep types, using wheat straw.		
Candle Making	Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> October 2011, 10am-4:30pm	£50.00
The collection of beeswax and its preparation for use, the equipment required, and the main candle making techniques. Students will gain practical experience of rolling, dipping, pouring and casting beeswax candles and decorations.		
Queen Rearing	Details TBA	

All courses will be run subject to a minimum number of students attending. All materials and equipment, and tea and coffee, are provided. Day courses also include a ploughman's lunch.