

Training Strategy for Holsworthy Branch of Devon Beekeepers Association 2026–2030

This strategy plan will shape our training and education through to 2030, and set out how we will make a positive impact for our member Beekeepers, the Honeybee and members of the public.

<u>Aims of the Training Strategy</u>	<u>Targets of the Training Strategy</u>	<u>Method</u>
The aims of the Training Strategy are as follows: • Grow the number and diversity of people involved in Beekeeping. • To ensure that members of the Branch follow best practice in their care of bees. • To ensure that all our members are valued and beekeeping educational needs are fulfilled. • To train young people in beekeeping. (HKBA Youth) • To provide accurate information on bees and beekeeping to members of the general public.	The following groups are targeted within this Training Strategy: • People with no experience in beekeeping, who wish to keep bees. • People with some experience in beekeeping, who wish to improve and learn more complex techniques. • Local schools/ youth groups. • Members of the public.	Beginners A combination of class-room based instruction to provide theoretical knowledge to be held during the winter, followed by practical training with live bees at the Branch Apiary on the NT Dunsland Estate. <i>Details are show in the Beginners Training Course outline at Appendix 2.</i> Improvers Improvers are expected to have kept their own bees for at least a year and have achieved sufficient knowledge of beekeeping to pass the basic assessment. Where available, improvers can be invited to 3rd party training e.g. BBKA modules, days out at Honey Farms. Suitable topics for Improvers include: • Queen rearing / Attracting and collecting swarms / Asian hornet control. <i>Details are show in the Example Summer Improvers plan at Appendix 3</i> Schools In the first instance, establish whether the school is prepared to host a hive or whether they wish only to make use of local hives as a teaching experience. In conjunction with the appropriate teachers, arrange a programme to suit the school. This may include, depending on the school the following: • Training teachers to operate the hive / Arrange a series of talks / Arrange visits to the hives for school children. Members of the public Many members of the public have little experience of bees and/or a fear of them. The focus of the strategy is to provide them with accurate information. This can be done via: • Face to face encounters at agricultural shows / Use of Apiary Open Days / Use of Social media (local). Review To be reviewed and presented at AGM annually.

Session 1

- Who we are and what we do?
- What are honeybees and why are they important?
- Overview of honeybee life cycle
- Overview of the honeybee colony and how it works.
- Overview of tools and equipment

Session 2:

- Detailed lesson on hives, what bees require and what beekeepers requires.
- Detailed lesson on honeybee colonies and the lifecycle of workers, drones and queens.

Session 3:

- How to inspect the hive.
- Swarming
- Stings

Session 4:

- What a healthy hive looks like.
- Things which aren't right, but which can easily be fixed or disregarded.

Session 5:

- Causes for concern in the hive
- Pests and diseases
- Action to be taken if you find disease.

Session 6:

- Siting your apiary
- The beekeeping year
- Tools and equipment in detail
- Choice of hive

Session 7:

- Useful techniques
 - Splitting colonies
 - Uniting colonies
 - Clipping queens
 - Introducing a new queen into an existing colony
 - Using spare queen cells
- How and when to do the honey harvest

Session 8:

- Revision: Any topics you would like to revise
- Products of the hive and legal requirements for products if you wish to sell them.

Example of Summer Improver plan.

Date	Focus	Lead by	Notes
29 March	Hammer and Banging.	Paul	
12 April	Basic assessment. Section 1. Manipulation and equipment. Section 2. Natural History and Beekeeping	Andy and Maggie	
26 April	Basic assessment. Section 3. Swarming, swarm control and effects. Section 4. Disease and pests.	Andy and Maggie	
10 May	Basic assessment. Mock assessment	Warwick	
24 May	Bailey comb change – weak Could do a strong change if there is hive that needs it.	Andy and Maggie	
7 June	Bailey comb change – Final week	Andy and Maggie	
21 June	Making up nucs	Andy and Maggie	
5 July	Verroa count methods	Andy and Maggie	
19 July			
2 Aug			
16 Aug	Melting and cleaning wax	Andy	
30 Aug			