

End of Season Roundup 2009

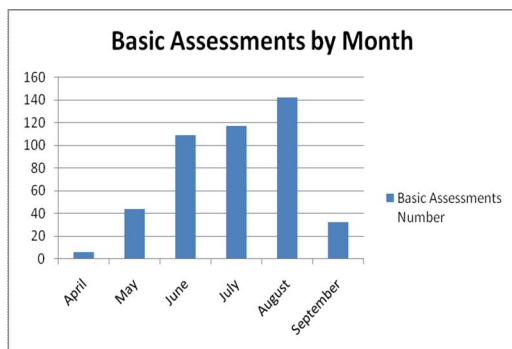
Dear All,

Thanks once again for all your hard work. 2009 was an excellent year for Module entries, they have been creeping up a few at a time over the last few years but this year they were up by 60! Basic entries held the same level but the number of assessments was up - I'm hoping we can crack the 500 barrier in 2010. It was also good to see the increase in General Husbandry candidates.

Here's to an even busier 2010 - we can do it! Happy New Year. Regards Val

Feedback from Basic Assessments

- Some poor answers on swarm control this year
- plus the usual difficulties with disease
- Advice for new Exam Secretaries – please try to arrange Basic Assessments as near to midday as possible to give the bees chance to get out (weather permitting) I know this is sometimes difficult when you have several to fit in but try and wait until 10am at least. Assessors, please help secretaries with advice on assessment arrangements.
- I thought you might like to see the yearly spread of Basic Assessments. 32 took place in September, with the last one on the 24th. The warm Autumns mean some colonies are sufficiently active for the Basic later in the season but it does give me problems getting the Certificates prepared and delivered, So I would appreciate it if you could try and keep the assessments no later than the first week in September.



- A number of Basic Assessors did more than 20 assessments each this year with one taking 34! Too many. Please try and keep to no more than 20 per assessor. You can bring in assessors from a neighbouring area if necessary. Contact me if you're not sure.

Examination Dates 2010

Module Examinations – 20th March 2010
(Applications in by 10th February 2010)

Advanced Certificate in Beekeeping Husbandry
– 19th June 2010
(Applications in by 28th February 2010)

General Certificate in Beekeeping Husbandry
in middle of beekeeping season and
Microscopy usually in October - dates arranged
with the Examinations Board Secretary
(Applications in by 28th February 2010)

Basic and Junior Certificate date by
arrangement with the County Examinations
Secretary
(Applications 1 month before assessment)

ALL CHEQUES TO HEAD OFFICE PLEASE

Any communication which includes a cheque should be sent, addressed to the Exam Board, to Head Office in Stoneleigh. The cheque can then be processed and the communication will be sent on to me. So this includes all Application Forms, requests for reports, certificates, badges etc

Sending cheques to me will delay the processing.

Feedback from Discussions for the Exam Board in 2009

The exam Board held extra meetings this year to work on reorganising the module syllabi. Module 4 will be dropped as of 2011 and its contents have been redistributed. All of Module 4 has always been covered in module 5 but the Board has taken the opportunity to make some sensible modifications to the other modules. Hence for example, some essential bee anatomy has been put into Module 3 Pests and Diseases. All the new syllabi are available on the BBKA website.

In addition, the Board has decided to make more significant changes to the Module 8 syllabus for 2011. See the article on syllabus changes overleaf for more details.

The ability of beekeepers to take the Basic assessment using unconventional hives (such as a top bar hive) was discussed. The outcome was that should this prove difficult for the examiner, the examiner should examine the candidate on a conventional hive. However, as long as the candidate was able to do all the practical exercises there was no reason why the candidate should not be examined on their own hive. It is reasonable to refuse to conduct the examination on a hive where the frames are not removable (skep beekeeping etc.).



Advanced Husbandry Certificate

Guidelines similar to those for the General Husbandry, will be available for the Advanced assessment sometime in February. All applicants will automatically receive a copy.

Change to the entry requirements for the Basic Assessment

The entry requirements for the Basic have been a matter of some debate on the Exam Board for a number of years. Each year, one or more Basic Assessors raise concerns about the lack of experience of some candidates, despite some excellent courses. The Exam Board has reviewed the situation and feels that in order to maintain a minimum standard, all candidates should have a minimum level of beekeeping experience. Hence the entry requirement has been adjusted to:

- The Candidate shall have managed at least one colony of bees for a minimum of 12 months.**

Changes to the Application Form

I've included a copy of the revised Application form with this Newsletter. It includes a new receipt section to try and stream line the process and ensure Exam Secretaries catch up on any stray applications. I've also reverted to just the one signature to confirm the candidate meets the entry requirements!

General Husbandry and Basic Assessor Training

This will take place on May 9th and 10th 2009 respectively. Invitations will go out shortly to invitees. We also include some Basic and General Assessors who did the training some time ago and may be in need of a refresher. If you are an assessor and would like an update please get in touch with me.



Syllabus Changes

There have been a number of changes to the **Module** syllabi in preparation for the removal of Module 4 in 2011. These are all on the Website. If you get the opportunity please make sure your candidates have an up to date copy of the syllabus marked as Revised April 2009

Advanced warning: Changes to Module 8 in 2011

The new syllabus for Module 8 is due to be published in April 2010 in time for the Spring Conference. It will be renamed Honeybee Management, **Health** and History and will be of a more synoptic nature. As such it will incorporate important aspects of the other modules. The reasoning behind the changes is the need to ensure that beekeepers with the Advanced Theory Certificate have up to date knowledge of bee health matters. A lot can change in the 12 years allowed for completion of the modules.

Fees in 2010

EXAMINATION/ASSESSMENT	FEE
JUNIOR	£2
BASIC	£15
MODULES	£18 each
GENERAL CERTIFICATE	£35
ADVANCED CERTIFICATE	£40
SHOW JUDGE	£30
MICROSCOPY	£35
CORRESPONDENCE COURSES	£45 each

SUMMARY OF ALL EXAMINATION RESULTS 2009

2009(2008)	Applied	Assessed	Modules	Passed	Pass rate
Modules	205(148)	183(133)	264(204)	189(154)	72%(75%)
Basic Certificate	497 (481)	450 (419)		441 (402)	98% (96%)
General Husbandry	28 (15)	24 (14)		20 (10)	71% (71%)
Advanced Husbandry	5(4)	5 (4)		2 (2)	40% (50%)
Microscopy	16 (21)	7 (18)		7(14)	100% (78%)
Junior Certificate	1 (2)	1 (2)		1 (2)	100% (100%)

Module	Candidates	Pass	Credit	Distinction	Fail	Pass rate
1	71(59)	21	15	5	30	58%(83)
2	51(38)	17	19	3	12	76%(68)
3	53(31)	14	17	5	17	68%(77)
4	9(9)	1	1	6	1	89%(67)
5	29(25)	7	7	8	7	76%(64)
6	14(24)	7	3	3	1	93%(71)
7	21(9)	5	9	4	3	86%(100)
8	16(9)	7	2	3	4	75%(78)
	264(204)	79	73	37	75	72%(75)

2008 Figures in brackets

Other Certificates Awarded 2009

Intermediate Theory Certificates	15
Advanced Theory Certificates	16
Master Beekeepers	3

What did the bee say to the naughty bee?

Bee-hive yourself!

Sample Module Paper

Although the Board feels publishing module mark schemes would not be desirable or feasible – the value of a sample answer paper has been agreed. This should become available on the Website in January 2010.