

“The Patterson unit – a flexible approach to keeping honey producing colonies productive”

We are pleased to announce that while he is in the North East delivering “Bee Improvement for All” days, Roger Patterson will also give an evening lecture on Friday 3rd March, hosted by Hexham Beekeepers Association and open to all.

Roger is a practical beekeeper who started beekeeping in West Sussex in 1963. He is heavily involved in the craft, being a demonstrator at his local BKA since the early 1970s and manager of their teaching apiary. He had a full term as BBKA Trustee, is currently a BIBBA Trustee and Vice President of Bee Diseases Insurance Ltd (BDI). He has experience of dealing with a fairly large number of colonies, in addition to running 130 of his own for about 15 years.

His talk will be

“The Patterson unit – a flexible approach to keeping honey producing colonies productive”

This simple system evolved following several years of problems with queens where I had to interfere with other colonies, often honey producers, to remedy a problem. It is really only a modification of what I was already doing, but is a different way of managing an apiary, treating it as a whole, not as several individual colonies.

It uses small groups of colonies in “units” for honey production, with “support” colonies to help them. It is suitable for all beekeepers, however many colonies they have. Examples are given of some ways of dealing with common situations we all face in a season, such as comb changes and replacing queens. This is a very flexible system that has far more benefits than was originally intended. It uses no specialist equipment, but keeps honey producing colonies productive.

The talk will be at Hexham Community Centre, Gilesgate, Hexham , NE46 3NP Friday 3rd March – doors open 19:30, talk will start at around 19:45.