



# THE WELSH BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

## CYMDEITHAS GWENYNWYR CYMRU

Established/Sefydlwyd 1943 Registered Charity – No 509929

In November 2005 the WBKA Council adopted the motion to move to a new modular exam system that will be more modern and accessible for Welsh Beekeepers wishing to take their understanding of beekeeping forward. The WBKA have decided to replace the existing system of four three hour essay style examinations with a modular system of written examinations that build up to give a thorough understanding of beekeeping principles. Taken together with practical exams these theory modules build up towards the qualification of Master Beekeeper. The Master Beekeeper qualification, as well as being a significant achievement in its own right, also enables successful candidates to enter the examinations for the National Diploma in Beekeeping which represents the highest standard in UK beekeeping.

There are eight theoretical modules. These cover the following topics

- Module 1 Honeybee management
- Module 2 Honeybee Products and Forage
- Module 3 Diseases, Pests and Poisoning
- Module 4 Intermediate Honeybee Biology
- Module 5 Honeybee Biology
- Module 6 Honeybee Behaviour
- Module 7 Selection and Breeding of Honeybees
- Module 8 Honeybee Management and History

A certificate is awarded to candidates who are successful in each module.

Success in modules 1,2 and 3 plus one other module entitles the candidate to the further award of Intermediate Beekeeping Theory. Success in all 8 modules gives the award of Advanced Theory Award.

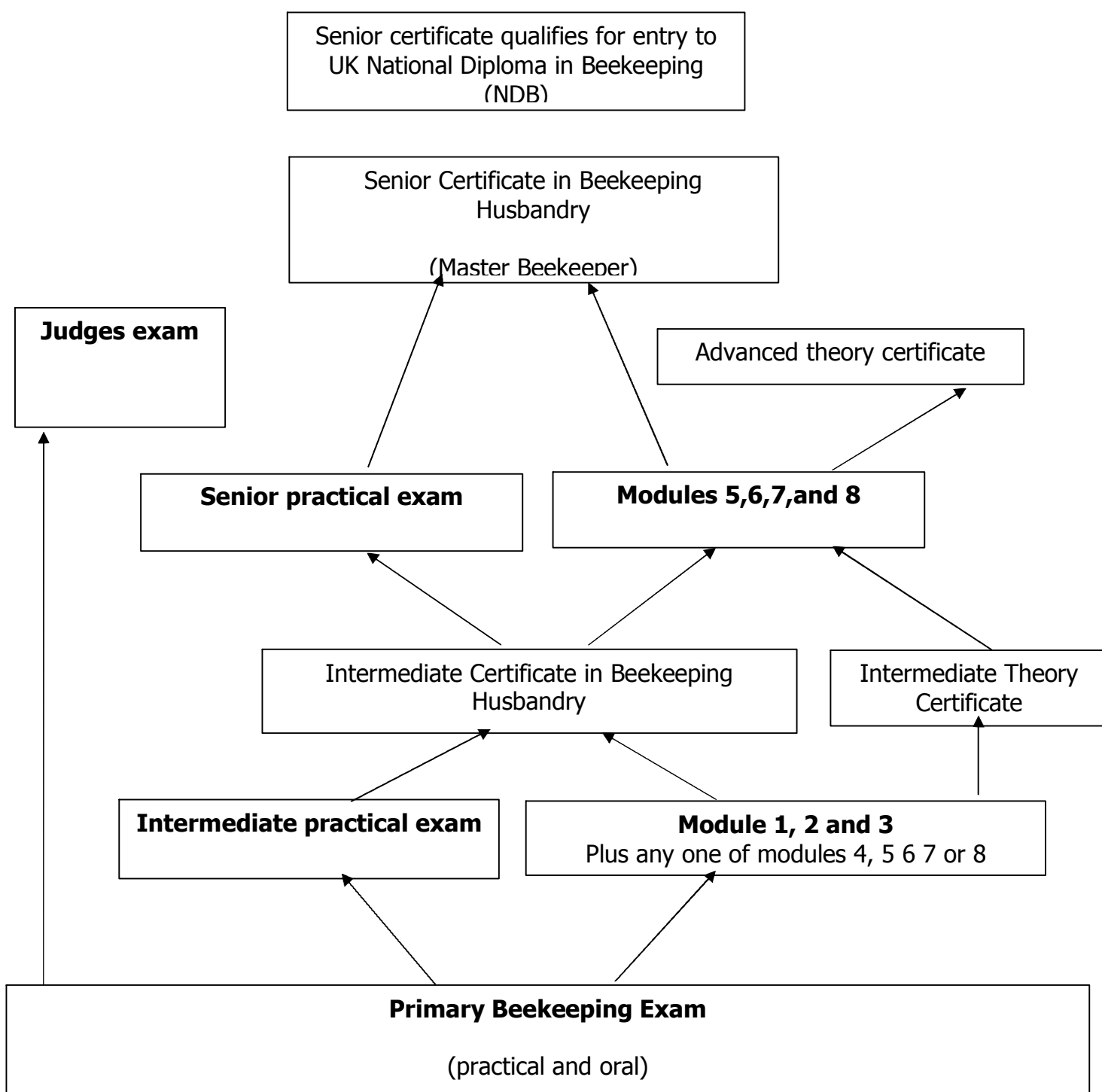
*(Module 4 can be left out if the candidate is confident enough to proceed directly to module)*

The written exams take one hour for each module and more than one module can be taken per year. This last will be determined by the amount of study time candidates wish to put in and the availability of the senior modules. The cost of each module is currently set at £15 although this may be reviewed when the costs of the new system have been finalised. Examinations are carried out at approved 'centres' which are agreed flexibly with local associations and groups depending on numbers of candidates and available invigilators. The examinations will only be held once a year, normally on the fixed date of the third Saturday in March. No other exam dates will be available. Notification of exam entries for examinations including likely numbers and the modules must be made in January. Associations are encouraged to form their own study groups and to keep in personal contact with Pam Gregory who will be available to help and guide groups in the new system. Syllabuses available on WBKA website or from Pam Gregory.

In addition, two practical exams are planned to reflect the intermediate and advanced standards of beekeeping. To gain the intermediate certificate beekeepers would also have to take the intermediate practical exam. Similarly for the Senior (or Master Beekeeper) Certificate beekeepers would have to pass the senior practical exam.

In addition for those who do not wish to take any written examinations but are interested in extending their practical expertise, candidates will be able to enter for the two practical exams and also the judges exam after passing the basic or primary examination.

The exam system is planned to work as shown in the accompanying diagram:



For more information contact Pam Gregory 01570 493210