

International Meeting of Young Beekeepers



**8th INTERNATIONAL MEETING
OF YOUNG BEEKEEPERS
JULY 6th to JULY 9th 2017
MARLBOROUGH ENGLAND**

IMYB is a unique concept. An international gathering of the young beekeepers who are the future of beekeeping worldwide, who come together in a spirit of friendly competition to test their beekeeping skills but also to enjoy social and cultural interaction. Friends made through IMYB are friends for life, providing a broader vision and wider perspective than just a National view of beekeeping, forage, bee husbandry, bee behaviour and our environment. Each team of young beekeepers is asked to bring accompanying adults with them to ensure appropriate pastoral care; the interaction between the accompanying adults has also established many firm friendships which offer an international dimension to a variety of beekeeping aspects.

Started in 2010 in the Czech Republic, largely through the efforts of RNDr. Jiri Piza, the event has subsequently been held in Germany, Austria, Poland, Slovakia as well as several repeat visits to the Czech Republic. Initially, each National team competed directly representing their country, but in 2016, and after discussion with participants from previous years, a new approach was adopted. Our aim is not to build barriers between the countries but to build connections between them and to teach our young competitors to work in a team together with their foreign friends. Consequently, international teams were formed with no more than one young beekeeper from any country in each team. This has increased the opportunity for participants to learn more about their fellow team members and the beekeeping practices and culture of their respective countries. Feedback from 2016 participants endorsed the benefit of multinational teams and that format will be used again in 2017. Though not the main purpose of the event, the competitive element is maintained through awards for both individual and team achievement as well as awards for cooperation within the teams.

Each team will be assigned a facilitator from amongst our team of carefully selected international beekeepers. Many of these are former competitors in the event; their role will be to work with the team members to provide encouragement, motivation and support in the competition.

Amongst its other objectives, IMYB aims to bring up a young generation of beekeepers who can follow in the steps of older experienced colleagues. By means of this project we hope to enhance their interest and passion for this independent profession, which is beneficial for the whole of society. The project underlines the importance of gaining adequate knowledge of bees and in the skill of keeping bees and understanding their role in the environment.

Each year we aim to introduce several new countries to the event in order to give further opportunity for young beekeepers but we must do so in a manageable way. Our aim is not only to grow regarding the number of participants but also to grow regarding the content.

The event combines a competition for young participants with a rich cultural program where they can meet with other young people who share the same interest and passion. We would also like to maintain good traditions of these meetings from former years and this year, with the event being held in England we will endeavour to emphasise the historic nature of the host country and its traditions through cultural visits and musical entertainment.

Main information about IMYB 2017

Participants:

- Each team consists of 3 young people in the age of 12 to 16.
- On January 1, 2017, team members must not be older than 16.
- Each team has at least one, but not more than two, adults responsible for the group during the stay.

The official language of the event is English. All the competition tasks will be translated into particular language of each participating country.

Disciplines of the competition:

The competition includes the following disciplines:

- Hive management
- Bee handling
- Bee anatomy
- Recognition of beekeeper's tools
- Theoretical knowledge
- Plants providing forage for bees
- Hive products
- Grafting
- Microscopy
- Special regional discipline

Participants are expected to have appropriate experience to actively participate in the competition. Of course, experienced beekeepers will always be at disposal to help when needed.

The organisers of IMYB 2017 are here to prepare an enjoyable programme for the participants – please contact us if there are any further details you require about the event.

Contacts:

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