



# Hobbies

Here's something you didn't know about me...



**Name:** Lee Robinson  
**Club:** Gerrards Cross Golf Club  
**Position:** Head Greenkeeper  
**Age:** 45 years  
**Hobby:** Beekeeping

### How long have you been a Beekeeper?

"I have been Beekeeping for a year now, a short term hobby after a long term interest."

### How would you describe Beekeeping?

"It is a very interesting and extremely relaxing pastime, with fabulous rewards at the end of the season."

### How and when did you get introduced to this hobby?

"I was lucky enough to find a member of Gerrards Cross Golf Club who kept bees. He leant me a hive and then put me in touch with Pinner and Ruislip Beekeepers Association. They sorted me out with some bees and a queen bee to start me off. I have come far since then, I now have six working hives and around 70,000 bees in them."

### What is it about Beekeeping that appeals to you?

"Honey is the only food stuff eaten by man but made by insects. When the pharaoh's tombs were opened, honey was found stored inside and was still edible 2000 years after...so much for use by dates."

"If you eat honey produced in your local area, it is said to reduce allergy problems by giving you small amounts of pollen."

"Each hive is capable of producing an astounding 100 lbs of honey per year."

### How often have you been stung?

"Not as often as you might think. 12 to 14 times, but I have worked with around 200 hives. It's rare and is due to how you behave in the hive – if you behave correctly you can pick up the bees with your bare hands. After the first three or four stings in the season you build up a resistance - it doesn't hurt it just itches!"

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**Tel:** 0800 023 1111 **Email:** [sales@kubota.co.uk](mailto:sales@kubota.co.uk)  
Kubota (UK) Ltd, Dormer Road, Thame, Oxfordshire. OX9 3UN