



BEEKEEPERS

April 2018 Newsletter

President: Bryan Hopper

Committee members 2018

Mike Benson	Chairman
Tim Bullock	
Ian Cowdy	Editor - Newsletter
Stephen Greenaway	Vice Chairman, Spray and swarm liaison.
Clive Harris	Treasurer
Kathy Hobson	Secretary, membership secretary.
Andy Jones	
Nicola Perrett	
Christopher Wilkinson	

Editor

My apologies to all specially those who turned up for the last club meeting, I screwed up the agenda and expected Robert Carpenter-Turner to give a talk on Varroa. He is in fact coming to the next meeting on the 26th April as planned!

Apiary tasks

At last the weather appears to be behaving more like a normal spring and the bees are getting out to forage. Cut down feeding to a minimum to avoid the brood frames being filled with syrup or fondant – this will curtail the Queens laying pattern and could trigger swarming. First inspections as soon as possible if you think your bees are preparing to swarm and are not sure what to do please contact me or any of the other beekeepers with at least basic experience.

Swindon and district BKA Winter colony loss survey

16 beekeepers responded to this survey, the average colony loss is a staggering 46% (nearly half those who replied had 100% losses). If you would still like to add your apiary data please email me with the number of colonies going into winter and those surviving now! The results so far cannot be analysed in any detail as the respondents are too widely spread and there is no direct correlation to colonies being treated for Varroa and being fed or not prior to onset of Winter.

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If there is a big enough response I will report the results in the May Newsletter.

Training and Education

If anybody wants to undertake the Basic assessment next year (March to April) please contact Stephen Greenaway asap

If you know anybody interested in starting beekeeping we are running Taster and starting beekeeping courses this year. Please contact Kathy Hobson for details.

Club logo clothing:

Nicola Perrett holds a small stock of fleeces, polo and sweat shirts. If you would like to purchase one please contact her at nicola.perrett@btinternet.com

TWIGS Open days

20 May 2018

24 June 2018

22 July 2018

Although these are primarily Twigs days we do open the beekeeping shed so visitors can view the apiary. This requires help from members who are prepared to answer questions related to beekeeping. You can of course sell your own honey at the same time.

Club meetings:

Meetings are held on the last Thursday of the month throughout the year except December.

Venue is in the Skittle Alley at the Haydon Wick Club, Blunsdon road, Swindon SN25 1JD.

Start time 1930 hrs

The March meeting should have been about swarm prevention but because of my error with the agenda list we had an open forum discussing useful topics one of which was the future of the club apiary. Following a suggestion by a member we are going to approach local landowners who are prepared to let the club set up a training apiary instead of/as well as the TWIGS site which has limited access.

26th April	Robert Carpenter-Turner (Seasonal Bee Inspector) – Varroa control
31 st May	Thornes
28 th June	Jenny Hawkins – Bee products and health benefits.
26 th July	Beekeeping video
30 th August	Ron Hoskins – Small hive Beetle
27 th September	SDBKA Honey show and quiz night
25 th October	SDBKA AGM and open forum
29 th November	To be arranged
11 th December	Skittles (date to be confirmed)

Above list will be subject to change depending on availability of speakers.

Any suggestions for talks etc. please pass to Kathy Hobson or Mike Benson

If you have anything related to beekeeping or something unusual please send to me so it can be included in future newsletters.

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