



BEEKEEPERS

February 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	

NEXT MEETING THURSDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2018

Membership

All members that have renewed should have received their BDI certificate. The form is attached for anyone who wishes to renew. If you are not renewing this year can you please email Kathy to let her know and she will remove you from the mailing list. Details of members will be sent to the BBKA next week and anyone not renewed will be marked as lapsed so the Club only pays the capitation fees to BBKA and Wiltshire for current members.

Apiary tasks

I hope by now you should all have a good idea whether your colonies have survived so far. Are there flying bees on a calm sunny day? Listen carefully while tapping the side of the hive – you should hear a gentle roar! There is still time to feed the bees if you think they are running out of stores. The choice now is fondant or syrup but only in small quantities just enough to keep them going until they can forage properly.

How do we compare to our peers?

Every year Bee Base and or the BBKA run a survey to count colony losses and the quantity of honey we take. The results are split into regions which do not give us a local feel for what is happening. I propose next month to attach a short survey to the Newsletter. The scope will cover our local association members only and ask all the usual questions about losses, Varroa treatment given, winter feeding. Depending on the response we could expand this further. All results will be shown later.

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

Club Apiary:

There will be an email sent out soon requesting volunteers for a work party in March. It would be really great if some of you who have not been in previous years came and helped get your Club apiary ready for the season.

TWIGS Open days

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.

15.4.18

20.5.18

24.6.18

22.7.18

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

22 nd February	Richard Oliver (County Training Officer and Chairman)
29 th March	Robert Carpenter-Turner (Seasonal Bee Inspector)
26 th April	Swarm prevention and control
31 st May	Thornes
28 th June	Jenny Hawkins – Bees and medicines
26 th July	Beekeeping video
30 th August	Ron Hoskins
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.

Ian Cowdy ian.cowdy@btinternet.com