



March 2017 Newsletter

Committee members 2017

Mike Benson	Chairman
Deborah Cosgrove	
Ian Cowdy	Editor - Newsletter
Stephen Greenaway	Vice Chairman, Spray and swarm liaison. <i>Stephen@beenucs.co.uk</i>
Clive Harris	Treasurer
Kathy Hobson	Secretary, membership secretary. <i>kathy@waggledancehoney.co.uk</i>
Andy Jones	
Nicola Perrett	
John Woodstock	

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 meetings:

30/03/2017: Robert Carpenter Turner – “Ready for the season”

Robert is the seasonal bee inspector and always gives us a very informative task – not to be missed!!!!

We could do with members suggesting topics for club meetings!

Training:

If you intend to take the Starting beekeeping or basic courses this year please let Kathy Hobson know asap.

Editor's apiary

As there are no submissions from other members I thought I would bore you all by talking about my bees. The apiary is at the top of a sloping field facing south towards Dauntsey, Lyneham is about one mile away as the crow flies so I have ended up becoming a sentinel apiary for APHA carrying out regular checks for SHB and other potential exotic pests.



This year all six colonies have been slow in starting to expand and all suffered badly from the wet / damp conditions resulting in having to remove lots of frames with and without stores that were covered in mould and fungus. As soon as I did this, in some cases removing the second brood boxes, the colony temperatures increased and all are now at least 10C above the outside temperature.

The field is still too wet – if you stand still for more than a minute you end up standing in surface water, it will not drain away! The slabs that the hives stand on have had to be reset twice this year so I suspect the whole hill is slowly on the move.

Looking around I still cannot see what the bees are foraging on but somewhere is orange and whitish pollen being collected in abundance.

Ian C.

Unwanted hive occupants



This month's picture shows a wax moth pupal case found between the top bars of a frame. Wax moth have never been a serious issue in my apiary as the bees seem to deal with them by forcing larva down through the mesh floors. A healthy bee colony is able to tolerate small numbers of either wax moth species.

If you have pictures of 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

**Meetings are held on the last Thursday of the month
throughout the year (except December) in
The Skittle Alley, Haydon Wick Club,
Blunsdon Road, Swindon SN25 1JD
Meetings start at 7.30pm**