



March 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 29 March 2018 7.30pm

Robert Carpenter Turner, Seasonal Bee Inspector, is coming to talk to us. Robert always gives us an informative talk and we always go away learning something "new". A meeting not to be missed!!

Apiary tasks

Still banging the gong about feeding, especially now the weather is exhibiting its usual wild swings. Small cold snaps can catch the colonies out, those where the queens have been increasing laying rate can suddenly be forced into clusters again so a close source of food will help them get through.

Swindon and district BKA

Attached to this newsletter is a short survey asking about colony losses this winter. I am carrying this out because of the number of people who have already reported losses. If you want a snapshot of how we are doing locally then please complete the form and return to me: ian.cowdy@btinternet.com 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 – course dates are shown on our website

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

Membership

This Newsletter is also being emailed to members who have not renewed this year. The committee would be really grateful if you could email Kathy Hobson to let her know the reason why you have not renewed – unless you have already done so. If any of you wish to carry on receiving the newsletter please let Kathy know as the distribution list will be amended after this mailing

Club Apiary:

Sadly all three colonies at Twigs have died, one from Nosema. The other two are a mystery but as it did not look like starvation it must have been weather related.. As an association of beekeepers we now have to decide on the future of the club apiary so please give us your thoughts.

Many thanks to all those who came and helped at the apiary the other Saturday. Although it was tinged with sadness at losing the colonies a lot was achieved. There is still more work to do so another “session” will be arranged shortly.

County Honey Show

The first meeting of the steering committee has taken place and various jobs allocated. As this will be the first of the new combined format it was decided that there will no longer be separate displays for each local group but one main display aimed at attracting new beekeepers. Would anyone like to volunteer to oversee the setting up of this, your responsibility would be to direct a group of volunteers NOT to do all the work. Let Mike Benson or me know if you are interested.

The following vacancies are still open and it would be good to see some Swindon members volunteering!

The Honey Show coordinator
Exhibition liaison
PR coordinator
Marketing
Venue liaison

TWIGS Open days

15 April 2018
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

February	Richard Oliver (County Chairman) gave a very informative and interesting talk about the functions and responsibilities of the County Association. A very good attendance to this meeting, thank you to all who came!
29 th March	Robert Carpenter-Turner (Seasonal Bee Inspector) – Varroa control
26 th April	Ian Cowdy - Swarm prevention and 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.

Ian Cowdy ian.cowdy@btinternet.com