



BEEKEEPERS

May 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	

GDPR (Data Protection)

As you may be aware new rules came into force on 25th May 2018. All members gave permission on the 2018 membership form for personal details to be shared with the BBKA and the WBKA for entries in their year books and for SDBKA to hold the details. If you wish to be removed from this arrangement please email Kathy Hobson as soon as possible. If no instruction is received by 25 June 2018 then it will be assumed you agree to the arrangement,

Apiary tasks

The most important job this month is to inspect your colonies to see whether they are expanding as expected and to look for queen cells to avoid swarming. Very strong colonies could be split to make increase.

Training and Education

Its not too late to join the courses run by the club, please contact either Steve Greenaway or 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

The committee decided to purchase new colonies for the apiary, if possible sufficient colonies will be bought so we can set up a secondary apiary at another site in Lydiard Tregoze. Members will be canvassed to agree on this second site which would allow us 24 hr access and the opportunity to hold Club meetings during the summer at an apiary with practical demonstrations and hands on beekeeping!

TWIGS Open days 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

April	Robert Carpenter Turner gave a very informative talk about Varroa control resulting in lots of questions and discussion.
31 st May	Swarm control – The Pagden method by me.
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	tba
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

Swindon and district BKA Winter colony loss survey

The latest figures now show a 39% colony loss for this area, 25% of our active members supplied data for which I thank you all. The results without names are shown on the last page. Each member who replied was assigned a letter followed by a number if more than one apiary.

SWINDON AND DISTRICT WINTER COLONY LOSS SURVEY

No Colonies

Reply No	2017	2018	Losses	% losses	V treated	Fed 2017	Fed 2018
A1	6	0	6	100	N	Y	Y
A2	1	0	1	100	N	Y	Y
B	2	1	1	50	Y	Y	Y
C1	4	0	4	100	Y	Y	N
C2	2	0	2	100	Y	Y	N
D	3	0	3	100	?	?	?
E1	2	2	0	0	Y	Y	Y
E2	2	2	0	0	Y	Y	Y
F	4	3	1	25	Y	Y	Y
G	4	3	1	25	N	Y	N
H	1	0	1	100	Y	Y	Y
I	1	1	0	0	N	N	Y
J	2	1	1	50	Y	N	Y
K	1	0	1	100	N	Y	N
L1	4	2	2	50	Y	N	N
L2	3	3	0	0	Y	N	N
L3	4	4	0	0	Y	N	N
M1	2	0	2	100	N	N	Y
M2	2	2	0	0	N	N	Y
N	2	2	0	0	Y	N	Y
O	4	2	2	50	Y	Y	Y
P	3	3	0	0	N	N	N
Q	1	1	0	0	?	?	?
R1	2	2	0	0	?	?	?
R2	2	2	0	0	?	?	?
S	6	1	5	83	?	?	?
T	3	1	2	67	Y	Y	Y
U1	11	9	2	18	?	?	?
U2	11	9	2	18	?	?	?
U3	12	9	3	25	?	?	?
30	107	65	42	39			

There were 21 replies out of 65+ active members.

The 21 members had 30 apiaries between them.

Going into winter these 30 apiaries contained 105 colonies.

Only 65 colonies survived the winter.

8 individual apiaries suffered 100% losses

Only 11 apiaries came through without any loss!

The average loss rate based on data above is 39%

The loss rate appears to be similar to other areas in the Wiltshire region.