



November 2016

Newsletter

COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2016/2017

Mike Benson	CHAIR
Deborah Cosgrove	
Ian Cowdy	
Stephen Greenaway	VICE CHAIR
	SPRAY/SWARM LIAISON
Clive Harris	TREASURER
Kathy Hobson	SECRETARY
	MEMBERSHIP
	SECRETARY
Andy Jones	
Nicola Perrett	
John Woodcock	

2017 MEMBERSHIP FEES

The membership form and fee breakdown are attached. Please complete the form and return to Kathy Hobson as soon as possible together with the relevant fee. Signed scanned copies are acceptable.

You will see that we have not increased our fee this year (as per the last few years).

Please note that your insurance cover expires on 31.12.16

I'm getting older, greyer and the bucket list is getting longer – there's places to visit, things to see, eat and drink, plus activities to engage in. There is still much to do on the list, but where time and money allow I am ticking off a few items with one of these being beekeeping.

I've always had an interest with some of our winged insects, but a greater admiration for bees. This curiosity saw me attend one of the club's courses early this year.

I have been on several courses over the years and delivered a few presentations myself, but the Taster Day was extremely good - insightful, well-paced and good humoured with the experience and knowledge of those delivering the course being evident, and to top it off there was the interaction with a hive and the bees themselves.

I have never been one for learning from books. I am certainly more tactile, more hands-on, so this format worked well and I was intrigued and wanting to know more. No sooner had the course finished than I was hassling Kathy to get involved with more hive inspections.

Kathy was kind enough to let me ride shotgun on her weekly inspections and I have enjoyed being able to help with all the tasks. I have found queens, seen eggs and brood, been stung (several times), build frames, and extracted honey.

Over the weeks I have met with a few other members. They were all different characters and it was interesting to see how they went about their tasks. All different approaches to opening hives, smoking and inspecting. Some cautious and others being a bit more energetic; however, all of them with bee husbandry skills and advice to share.

Over the months I have read a couple of books about beekeeping; however, nowhere did I find any information about dusting with icing sugar. It was only through a conversation with one member at the club apiary that I learnt about this.

How many of those attending the Taster Day have gone on to keep bees or develop their knowledge? Some people might be able to gain their skills through books alone or perhaps use Google and You Tube to get their instruction, but I like the club environment and the safety net that this provides. I am still very much a newbie and eager to learn more. The club apiary is an important part of this educational journey and I am sure many of you have tips and tricks you can share with me.

MARK TOGHER (ASSOCIATE MEMBER)



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

NEXT MEETING

24TH NOVEMBER DVD – THE LIFE CYCLE OF THE BEE

**Don't forget the Skittles evening is on
Thursday 8th December**

**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**