



January 2019 Newsletter

President: Bryan Hopper

Committee members 2019

Mike Benson	
Tim Bullock	Chairman
Ian Cowdy	Editor – Newsletter, AHAT leader
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 the 31st January at Haydon Wick – A DVD titled “A new Introduction to Beekeeping”
This DVD in two parts covers beekeeping throughout the season. The content is biased to beginners but will serve as a useful reminder to those of us who think we know it all.

Wiltshire Honey Show 2019

We need volunteers to help with preparing the next Wiltshire county honey Show. Please contact Kathy Hobson if you want to be involved.

Xmas skittles evening

Another good evening albeit not attended as well as last year! The prestigious trophy (only one of its kind in the world) was won by Andy Jones pictured below receiving it from our new chairman Tim Bullock



Asian Hornet

Can all members please go to the Beebase or BBKA websites and download the available information sheets related to Asian Hornets. We must all have a good idea of what these serious honeybee predators look like!

Over wintered Asian hornet Queens will emerge in February or March to look for suitable primary nest sites. We have 25 Hornet traps with pheromone lures to spread around the Swindon and District area. If you are willing to host one of these traps please contact me, priority will be given to apiaries near garden centres and other places where there is a greater likelihood of hornets being brought into the county. The only condition to accepting one of these traps is that they will require strict regular monitoring.

Swarm collection

If you wish to be listed as a swarm collector, please contact Steven Greenaway asap to be included in the official BBKA swarm collectors list for this area.

Apiary tasks

Continue hefting hives and be prepared to give fondant if necessary. Most of us should have seen flying bees or a quick look under crown boards revealing clusters of bees. It's not too late to carry out a mite count and treat with one of the authorised products.

Twigs and Park Farm apiaries

All four club colonies are alive and have been given fondant.

A Whatsapp social media group will be setup by Andy Jones for the Park Farm apiary. This will enable information regarding swarm control and prevention and other immediate tasks to be circulated quickly as well as informing group members of inspection days etc.

If you would like to be added to this group please contact Kathy Hobson with your mobile telephone number – you will need to download the Whatsapp to your device.

Training and Education

If you are considering any form of training or further education to improve your beekeeping skills then please contact any committee member.

The Basic course will start earlier next year to ensure that at assessment time the colonies are in full strength showing all stages of development.

SHCG (Swindon Honeybee Conservation Group)

Ron Hoskins who runs the above is looking for volunteers to help with running the apiaries. This opens a valuable learning experience to anyone who is interested! Please contact Kathy Hobson who will pass your details on.

Club meetings

Meetings are held on the last Thursday of the month throughout the year except December.
Venue is the Skittle Alley at the Haydon Wick Club, Blunsdon Road, Swindon SN25 1JD.
Start time 1930 hrs

31 st January	DVD - A New Introduction to Beekeeping – part 1 (Mike Benson)
28 th February	DVD – Swarming (Steve Greenaway)
28 th March	Beekeeping from Buckfast to Buckingham Palace (Richard Rickitt)
April	
May	DVD - A New Introduction to Beekeeping – part 2 (Mike Benson)
June	
July	Preparing for a honey show (Clive Harris and Mike Benson)
August	
September	
October	
November	AGM
December	Skittles

Above list will be subject to change depending on availability of speakers.

Twigs

10 th February –	Snowdrop day, thousands of Snowdrops in bloom!
28 th April	Open day
19 th May	Open day
23 rd June	Open day
21 st July	Open day
5 th October	Apple fayre

Any suggestions for talks etc. please pass to Kathy Hobson or Mike Benson

This Newsletter is more than a list of events and needs input from members so If you have anything related to beekeeping or something unusual please send to me so it can be included in future newsletters.

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