



BEEKEEPERS

## August 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 | Website manager                         |

### **July's Club meeting**

Thanks to Mike Benson and Clive Harris for taking us through the steps required to stand a chance of winning at a honey show

### **August meeting**

This will take place at Park Farm, probably the last full inspection of the club colonies. Please bring bee suits etc and a bottle if you want to hang about and chat!

Let me know if you don't know the way, I will put signs up approaching the entrance from both directions.

### **Bee keeping in August**

I hope you are in the middle of or finished harvesting honey from your colonies, the abnormal weather patterns we are experiencing are resulting in bees relying on their reserve stores instead of piling in any nectar and pollen still available. Once the full frames have been removed now is the time to assess colony strength ahead of autumn and winter. Small weak colonies should be united to bigger ones or amalgamated to make one stronger colony.

When all the supers have been removed carry out Varroa mite counts and treat if necessary. Start buying sugar to make syrup for feeding.

How many of you have noticed or experienced problems with new equipment? Brood and super frames seem slightly thinner so in some cases you can just squeeze 12 frames into a box instead of 11. Also foundation that is too wide and needs trimming but not long enough to just poke out of the bottom double bars – leading in some cases to the wax sheets popping out of the bottom bars completely. I have had to resort to gimping the bottom wire loops to the bars to prevent this.

### **Swarm collection**

The swarm collectors list is now on our website, if you wish to be added or your names have been missed then please contact Kathy Hobson or Stephen Greenaway ASAP.

### **Wiltshire honey show**

Its not too late to enter or to volunteer to help run the county show which will be held again at Devizes Town Hall.

## Twigs Apiary

The small shed was overrun by wasps and couldn't be approached, I did get inside without a suit to take empty supers to park Farm. It was a somewhat unnerving experience. I returned later that week with wood and tools to mend and seal the window gaps. Successful - as hardly a wasp inside and no hordes hawking outside the windows. Thinking about this it may have been a blessing in disguise as there was hardly a wasp insight around the club hives. Both colonies are doing well and honey is ready to extract.

## Park Farm apiary

Sadly the weakest colony succumbed to massive wasp attacks and we had to unite the survivors minus the queen who couldn't be found anywhere to a stronger colony. Two of the colonies have fully capped supers which will have been removed by the time you read this. I don't have any national equipment to extract these frames nor do I have any spare buckets to store the honey in! Any volunteers?

## 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

|           |                  |  |
|-----------|------------------|--|
| August    | 29 <sup>th</sup> | Park farm apiary, inspection, chat, drink bring a beesuit. |
| September | 26 <sup>th</sup> | Club Honey Show  |
| October   | 31 <sup>st</sup> | Club AGM and Open forum                                    |
| November  | 28 <sup>th</sup> | tba  |
| December  | 12 <sup>th</sup> | Skittles   |

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

## TWIGS

5<sup>th</sup> October            Apple fayre

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

This Newsletter should be 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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