



BEEKEEPERS

August 2020 Newsletter

Committee members 2020

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

The Apiary in September

By now you should have taken off any honey that you think the bees can spare. If you are considering feeding already then remove all supers so they do not get filled with syrup – this will not result in proper honey. Treat hives for Varroa if the mite count is above three per day. For those of you who are using Rhubarb leaves please be aware that there is no way of measuring the Oxalic acid content and if the dose is too low you may contribute to Oxalic acid resistance.

Asian hornet

Please inspect your wasp traps for hornets; workers will now be foraging for sugar-based food. I now have stock of Trappit (the Asian hornet lure) for sale at £2.00 per 250 mls. I cannot supply containers so you would need to bring your own. Please contact me if you require any. The money goes back into the club funds. The Trappit has proved extremely effective at attracting wasps by the thousand! It is marketed as a wasp lure.

Club Apiaries.

Park Farm

The SBI visit on the 22nd August found a colony that was sick, outwardly it looked like a very gentle quiet hive but closer inspection revealed dead rotting larva. Alarm bells – after four negative AFB and EFB flow tests one came up with a not entirely negative or positive result. The hive was closed down and a frame of brood sent to the NBU at York. Their tests also were negative and the conclusion was a colony suffering from acute paralysis virus, DWV, chalk brood and sac brood.

The remaining colonies were all healthy!

Of the 5 nucs we purchased from a supplier in Gloucestershire. Only three resulted in viable colonies. Without disclosing pertinent facts, I was told not to or to avoid transferring bees from Gloucestershire. The supplier had already been flagged as suspect

Twigs

The SBI carried out an inspection this morning (Saturday the 29th) and found that the colony transferred from the nuc appears to be “queenless” although the bees weren’t acting as would be expected. They will be looked at in a week’s time to double check. The other colony (from a swarm) is doing well.

Beekeeping in general

On the theme of complacency in beekeeping how many of you have (honestly) lost a colony through swarming? Yes, you can take preventative measures but some bees will swarm anyway. Even in August when you think bees no longer think of swarming it can happen especially if you carry that thought forward into how often should I inspect colonies. I am guilty of this – one colony (very strong) swarmed in early August and then the remaining bees were decimated by wasps and the entire honey harvest which I had estimated at 40lbs was robbed. IF? only I had continued proper inspections.

Future Meetings

Haydon Wick Club is still only open to members so our meetings will remain on hold for now.

Please send me anything odd or unusual to add to the newsletter. Anybody want to post questions about beekeeping?

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