



BEEKEEPERS

November 2020 Newsletter

Committee members 2020

Mike Benson

Tim Bullock

Chairman

Stephen Greenaway

Vice Chairman, Spray and Swarm Liaison.

Clive Harris

Treasurer

Kathy Hobson

Secretary, Membership Secretary.

Andy Jones

Nicola Perrett

Christopher Wilkinson Website Manager

APIARY NOTES Tim Bullock

Beekeeping in December is mostly about checking; are the bees/hives safe and secure, have they got enough feed, are they warm and dry enough, are pests (mice, badgers, woodpeckers etc), being kept out, is your bee suit(s) clean and secure ready for use in the spring, etc. etc. The real key bits are to check that hives are secure enough so they can't blow over or get knocked over and have the colonies got enough stores to see them through. It's worth hefting your hives every couple of weeks to estimate the amount of stores left. **If in doubt strap down hives and give them fondant.**

If spares are stored outside it's worth checking that they are secure, watertight and wax moth free. Do the cleaning of spares now so they are ready for use next spring/summer.

If you're planning on using oxalic acid for varroa treatment, it might get cold enough by the end of the month to treat between Christmas and new year. The key is to treat when colonies are broodless. Follow the instructions to the letter including the use of PPE.

MEMBERSHIP

Thank you to those who have renewed.

I attach the renewal form – **please make sure you return it to Kathy Hobson even if you pay online so the membership records can be kept up to date with the Club and the BBKA.**

BRYAN HOPPER CUP

As you are aware Bryan Hopper donated a Trophy to the Club last year. The Committee award this to a Club Member(s) who have "gone above and beyond" with either helping the club or in any beekeeping matters. It was a unanimous decision this year to award the trophy to Ian Cowdy for all his help with both Apiaries, Starting Beekeeping Courses and mentoring new (and not so new!!) beekeepers. He has also acted since the start as AHAT coordinator.

Thank you Ian.



CLUB APIARIES

PARK FARM/TWIGS

Bees taking fondant All colonies still alive.

ENCOUNTERS WITH HORNETS IN MY GARDEN – Ross Gregory

In recent years I have had several encounters with European hornets in my garden.

Three years ago, I found five hornets in my wasp traps, having seen them hovering close to the hives. For years I have put out wasp traps in my garden apiary. **Photo 1** shows two of the hornets were longer than the other three.

Two years ago, in May, a number of times over several days I spotted a queen hornet investigating my garden. A week or so later when in my poly-tunnel, in which I also store my nuc boxes, I realised a queen hornet was also popping in and out of the tunnel. It was using one of the nuc boxes. However, as the summer developed it could get hotter in the tunnel and the hornet was no longer evident. With a little trepidation I checked the nuc box it had been using. Yes, it had started a nest but had deserted it. I removed the nest from the box and kept it: **see Photo 2**.

The past couple of years in addition to my normal wasp traps I have also used a trap that was issued for Asian hornet monitoring. This year this attracted two European hornets. Again, I collected and have preserved them: **see Photo 3**.



Photo 1: Five hornets from wasp traps.



Photo 2: Hornet nest started in a nuc box



Photo 3: Two hornets from my hornet monitoring trap

FUTURE MEETINGS

Our meetings will remain on hold for now.

Anything odd or unusual (or just anything!!!) to add to the Newsletter will be gratefully received.