



COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2020/2021

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

Now we're well into July, hopefully, the swarming season has finished (although it could still happen), and colonies are at their peak numbers so they can bring in as much nectar as possible before they start getting ready for winter (sorry for mentioning winter but now is the time to start thinking about it!). When inspecting now it's worth checking varroa numbers. If they are easily found, or numbers on varroa boards are high, it's worth doing a treatment before winter to reduce the load. But remember that not all treatments can be used when there are supers on the colony. In the past I have found that treating with MAQS strips after I've taken the last of honey off has worked well and doesn't stop queens laying for long (if at all) which is one of the main concerns.

Asian hornet- as we come into August any overwintered Queens who have survived will now be in colonies large enough to think about building larger secondary nests. Now until the autumn is when you may find hawking workers in front of your hives – this is the problem period for honey bee colonies as Asian hornet workers can decimate a honey bee colony. Please put out wasp traps baited with smelly protein bait consisting of anchovies, sardines or other stinky high protein substance. The current guidance is that we all spend at least an hour each day observing the entrances to see if Asian hornets are around. I doubt any of us have that luxury especially if you have two or more apiaries.

NEW MEMBERS

We have quite a few new members this year – welcome to you all.
It would be great to see you at Club Meetings.

PARK FARM APIARY- Ian Cowdy

The 3 and 4 framed nucs made up from the huge parent colony have successfully raised new laying queens! All three nucs were initially moved back to Park Farm where the parent colony has survived and expanded to make up for the shortfall in bees that made up the nucs. The other two big colonies at Park Farm were moved to Twigs ready for the garden Open Days. By luck or skill we have recovered the losses caused by the poor quality nucs purchased earlier in the year. Assuming the nucs survive the winter, the club may end up with surplus colonies next spring or carry on splitting and raising more!

Two of these nucs have expanded rapidly and require rehousing in national brood boxes already.

TWIGS APIARY - Kathy Hobson

All colonies doing well except one which may have swarmed and moved into an empty hive on the site that had the floor round the wrong way so bees got in!! The queen in that colony was spotted at the Taster Day on 10th July and Tim managed to mark it. At Saturday's Taster Day we moved a frame from another hive plus queen cells into the queen less hive. At least the people on the Taster Days saw some "action"!!!

TRAINING

Two Taster Days run so far - there will definitely be more beekeepers next year!!! As the government guidelines didn't change on 21st June another Taster Day was added on 7th August (as there were too many people registered for last Saturday). Both the one next week and 7th August are full. Sadly there was no time to run a Starting Beekeeping Course this year but we have six people already signed up for next year,

MEETINGS

Our next meeting on 29.7.21 will be face to face (fingers crossed). This will be an Open Forum and take place at **Park Farm, Lydiard Tregoze, SN5 3NY (7.30pm)** – please bring your own chairs and drinks. Hope to see you there.

We are waiting for a reply from Haydon Wick Club to see if normal meetings can commence in September.

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