



## **NEWSLETTER – August 2023**

### **STEERING GROUP MEMBERS 2022/2023**

<b>Tim Bullock</b>	- Chairman
<b>Stephen Greenaway</b>	- Vice Chairman, Spray and Swarm Liaison.
<b>Clive Harris</b>	- Treasurer
<b>Kathy Hobson</b>	- Secretary, Membership Secretary
<b>Justin Downes</b>	- Newsletter Editor
<b>Nicola Perrett</b>	
<b>Mike Benson</b>	
<b>Mick Carter</b>	

**Website Manager** - Christopher Wilkinson

### **Apiary Notes - Tim Bullock**

As we approach the end of August, now is the time to remove the last of your extractable honey. This will give enough time to feed colonies (where needed) to ensure they've got enough stores to see them through winter. Often colonies will be very defensive at this time of year as no one wants their larder raiding at the end of the season!!

Once supers have been extracted, I'd put the 'wets' back on colonies (ideally the same one they came off) for 24 hours to let the bees clean them up. Putting them above the crown board (vents open obviously) is best practice. If you are going to feed, then I'd remove all supers so that syrup is only in the brood box as you don't want to extract sugar syrup 'honey' later in the year from supers that were still on when you fed.

If varroa is a concern, then I'd treat now if mite counts are above 3 a day. Read the instructions carefully for your chosen method and follow them exactly.....

If you have any weak colonies that may not make it through the winter, then I'd unite them with another colony now rather than trying to get them to survive. It's better to come out of the winter with one strong colony that can be split early in the spring rather than losing 2 weaker colonies.

Please, please, please put out Asian Hornet traps. They are getting closer. Far better that we catch them as they arrive in the area rather than waiting until they become established. If you catch any then please report them either directly to the BBKA or on the Asian hornet app.

### **Website**

Former Club member Chris Wilkinson has been our Webmaster for quite a few years even after he relocated to Somerset. He has now decided that the time has come to step down and we therefore need someone to take over. Can anyone help please? If you can give contact Kathy Hobson asap.

### **Congratulations**

John Dawson and Paul Osborne have passed the Basic Assessment so well done.

### **Help Needed**

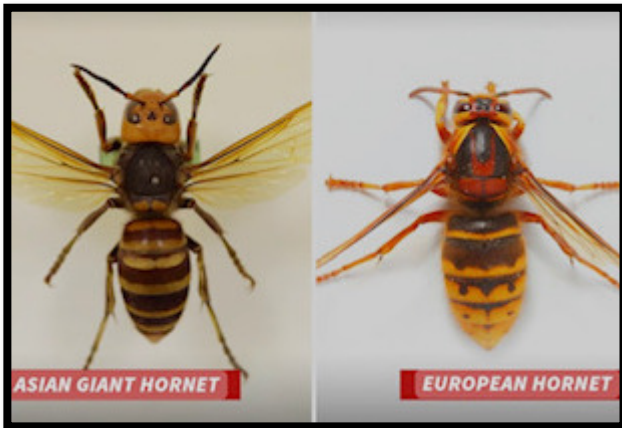
We need some help and hope some of you would be willing to join the Club's Steering Group. We only hold meetings 4 times a year – 3 on Zoom and one face to face so it's not time consuming in that respect. Please contact Kathy Hobson if you want to find out more

### **Club Meetings**

#### **August Meeting**

Please note that August's club meeting has been brought forward. It will now take place on **24<sup>th</sup>** and not 31<sup>st</sup>

#### **Asian Hornet**



The topic for the meeting will be Asian Hornet. We plan to show some videos and have a discussion surrounding the problem, as it is clear they are becoming closer to our area and all members should be prepared. To help members are encouraged to.

1. Go to BBKA website for information - <https://www.bbka.org.uk/help-the-fight-against-the-asian-hornet-invasion>
2. Join the BBKA Asian Hornet WhatsApp group - <https://chat.whatsapp.com/KtHEKzoayn46VwwK0isFco>
3. Download the BBKA Asian Hornet watch phone app available for both iPhone and Android.
4. Make and put out traps - <https://www.bbka.org.uk/faqs/how-to-make-an-asian-hornet-trap>

Up and coming meetings:

28<sup>th</sup> September – Honey show

26<sup>th</sup> October – AGM and Skittles

Club Meetings are held on the last Thursday of each month (except December and January) in the Skittle Alley at the Haydon Wick Club, Blunsdon Road, Swindon SN25 1JD, start time 7.30pm. Please come along, all are welcome.

#### **WDBKA**

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Wiltshire Bee and Honey Show at The Corn Exchange, Devizes, SN10 1HS

#### **National**

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October - National Honey Show at Sandown Racecourse, Surrey.

Site link:

[National Honey Show](#)

### **TWIGS APIARY**

The Club has two colonies both with honey in the supers – although due to the bad weather the bees have been rightfully eating it!!! The last Taster Day of the year was on 19th August and this time the weather was good so we could do inspections



Nicola Perrett has been testing ‘plastic’ supers – and they work!

### **PARK FARM APIARY**

We currently have 2 hives with supers on and they are very strong. There has been a bad wasp problem which resulted in the third hive being robbed out. The remaining brood has been placed into a nuc with some eggs from one of the other 2 hives to see if they can make a new queen. The apiary has been strimmed and a new storage box has been purchased and erected for equipment storage on site.

Should any new members with or without their own bees wish to come and help/learn then please contact Mick Carter by email on

[michael\\_carter32@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:michael_carter32@yahoo.co.uk).

### **NEWSLETTER ARTICLES**

If you feel you would like share anything of note or which may be of benefit to other members, then please let me know. Please remember that this is your newsletter and your voice to share news with other members.

Justin

[justin.downes@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:justin.downes@yahoo.co.uk)