



NEWSLETTER – October 2023

STEERING GROUP MEMBERS 2022/2023

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

Website Manager -Christopher Wilkinson

Apiary Notes - Tim Bullock

The weather is finally starting to cool down and become more autumnal, so now most colonies will have started to form winter clusters of about 5-10 thousand bees rather than the 50-60K that would have been there in the summer. Activity will be greatly reduced and, on many days, will appear to be non-existent. Hopefully they have enough stores to see them through, but if you are concerned don't feed syrup as they will struggle to evaporate the water so they can cap it in cells, give them fondant (if you haven't switched already). If you haven't hefted your hives yet I'd do it now, so you have something to gauge against for both whether any colonies are lite now and as the winter progresses. If in doubt, feed!

The equipment sale season is now upon us – the 2 main supplies companies have some very good deals on. Now is the time to see what needs replacing etc. and get it ordered. We then have the winter to get it all assembled and ready for use in the spring, rather than doing it all in a panic when we run out next year!!

SDBKA Honey Show

This took place on 28.9.23 There were 4 classes with entries - Blind Taste Honey, Mead, Photographs and Honey Cake. Members were split into groups and judged each class. After the judging everyone was invited to look at the entries and taste. A great evening was had by all who came.

Results

Class	1st
Blind Taste Honey	<i>Mick Carter</i>
Photograph	<i>Nicola Perrett</i>
Honey cake	<i>Kathy Hobson</i>
Mead	<i>Mick Carter</i>



Mick & Kathy receiving their awards - congratulations!!

SDBKA Annual Subscription

A polite reminder to all members that the annual subscriptions for 2023/2024 are due and should have been renewed as of 1st October 2023. Remember, the benefits of being a member include:

- Bee disease insurance.
- Selling honey and/or bee products insurance. Public liability (£10m). Product liability (£10m).
- Help, advice and guidance from fellow beekeepers with many years of experience.
- Family members may also attend S&DBKA meetings and events.
- Participate in educational courses run by S&DBKA.
- Access to S&DBKA library of books and magazines.
- Loan of branch equipment.
- Receive copy of the S&DBKA newsletter.
- Membership to Wiltshire Beekeepers Association.
- Attend meetings organised by other county branches.
- Receive copy of the British Beekeepers Association newsletter (Full & County members)
- Access to the British Beekeepers Association members' website.
- Discount on tickets to the annual British Beekeepers Association spring convention

Please complete the annual subscription letter and return to Kathy Hobson as soon as possible

Fondant

A member has asked if anyone makes their own fondant and, if so, would be willing to share the recipe. Let Kathy Hobson know if you can help

Club Meetings

Next meeting Annual General Meeting - 26th October 2023

Club Meetings are held on the last Thursday of each month in the Skittle Alley at the Haydon Wick Club, Blunsdon Road, Swindon SN25 1JD, start time 7:30pm. Please come along, all are welcome.

National

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

Site link:

[National Honey Show](#)

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

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