



NEWSLETTER – June 2024

STEERING GROUP MEMBERS 2023/2024

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	
Mick Carter	-AHAT Leader
Website Manager	-Christopher Wilkinson

APIARY NOTES - Tim Bullock

After a couple of weeks of limited flying weather many colonies have been very short of stores and, at the time of writing, are short of stores. This week has seen much better weather so that has alleviated the issue but if the weather becomes wet again or cold things could easily revert to how they were. If in any doubt feed colonies – use a little and often approach so there's a bigger chance of bees using the syrup rather than taking it down to use as stores. Nectar flow seems to have been good, so I don't think there has been a June gap this year but as I've already said the weather meant that bees weren't able to capitalize on this.

As we go into July the risk of swarming is hopefully reducing but is still a real possibility so keep up the inspections. Don't be afraid to split very strong colonies or double brood them as lack of space is a key driver for swarming.

As the weather dries and warms up, don't forget that colonies will have high water requirements at this time of year. Once puddles, streams and rivers dry out again where will the bees get the water from. Plant saucers filled with pebbles (or a sponge) and water are a great source and the local hedgehog(s) will thank you for it too!

If you have Asian hornet traps out, please keep checking them. Hornets keep being found in the Kent area, so it looks as though they have managed to overwinter in the UK. It is likely that they will spread this year which meant the risk is getting higher. Please do join the Asian hornet team for the club and if you can please volunteer to be the leader of our team. Many hands make light work.

BBKA - 150 years

You may be unaware that this year marks 150 years since the BBKA was formed. The British Beekeepers' Association - known as the BBKA - was established as a London-based beekeepers 'club' in 1874 and within a decade had evolved into a national organisation. By 1943, Ireland, Scotland and Wales had developed their own Associations, while the BBKA represented beekeepers in England and Northern Ireland. After many years with no fixed abode, in 1982 the BBKA moved to offices at Stoneleigh in Warwickshire. Today, the BBKA represents around 30,000 beekeepers across the country, and works to support education around honeybees, while actively campaigning to raise awareness of threats to pollinators.

SDBKA Apiary – Park Farm

Hive 1 is growing stronger and filling a super. Hive 2 has been so strong that it has been split twice with one split added to twigs apiary last month, and a Nuc was made in May. The last inspection saw eggs and larva. We are now waiting for the Nuc to build enough to transfer to a full-size hive.

SDBKA Apiary – TWIGS

The Club now has three colonies at TWIGS. There was already one established and one that was brought from Park Farm (a split). This one has now been split and is settling in nicely in a nuc.

As mentioned in the last Newsletter Kathy needs some help with the next two Taster Days (13 July and 10 August). The day is from 9.30 until 4.30 but if anyone can just help in the afternoon with the handling part for an hour or so that will be great. Please email her asap if you can help.

The Starting Beekeeping Course was very successful. Thanks to Barry Roberts for running the Course ably assisted by Mick Carter.

Club Meetings

The next club meeting is on 27th June where we will be discussing queen issues followed by an Open Forum.

The following meeting will be on 25th July 24. This will be at Park Farm and Chris Rimming will be talking to us about the farm

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 7pm. Please come along, all are welcome.

Dates of note:

Beekeeping Taster Days

July 13th 24

August 10th 24

Honey Jar Bulk Order

Last year Mick Carter arranged a bulk order of honey jars. This revolves around a delivery of 32 boxes or multiples of 32 for free delivery. Orders must be of full boxes of any size jars.

Mick has proposed to use the same format as last year with members giving him their provisional orders and he will then collect the money and final order before placing the final box order and making the payment. He will then start distributing the boxes with most people picking them up from his place. If you are interested, then please contact Mick direct on michael_carter32@yahoo.co.uk

The prices are listed in the attached document below.



beekeepers prices
2024.pdf

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.

Justin

justin.downes@yahoo.co.uk

