



NEWSLETTER – August 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	- TWIGS Open Day coordinator
Mick Carter	- AHAT Leader
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!! I wouldn't leave supers with clearing boards under them for too long as the wasps will find any small hole/crack in rooves to gain access and rob the honey. In most cases clearer boards will do their job in a day. If you can remove supers in the evening, you're less likely to attract bees/wasps etc to the supers when removing them.

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.

SDBKA 'WhatsApp' Group

Members may or may not know that there is a SDBKA 'WhatsApp' operating. This is a good place to chat, exchange information and ideas or pose questions. If you would like to be added to the group, please contact Mick Carter on email address given above.

michael_carter32@yahoo.co.uk

SDBKA Apiary – Park Farm

The are currently 2 hives and a Nuc in the at Park Farm. Hive 1 – The queen had unfortunately found herself in the super while we were inspecting the previous week. This was realised when no eggs or larva was found in the brood box during a following weeks inspection. After 2 visits she was finally located and returned to the brood box. We now must wait for the brood to hatch before extraction of the super box can happen. This shows how easy this can happen and she wasn't marked. Always check your removed parts for her majesty. Thanks to Barry Roberts for his perseverance in finding her. Hive 2 is queen right and will have a super to extract shortly. The NUC was made from a split on hive 2 a number of weeks ago. A new queen has been placed inside and she was seen and laying with eggs and larva. Supersede Queen cells were seen. These were removed and have not been replaced. May have been while they were getting used to their new queen.

SDBKA Apiary – TWIGS

Three colonies doing well. Thank you to Pat and Colin Gordon for helping with the Club's honey extraction and to Andy Phillipson for helping with the August Taster Day

Club Meetings

The next club meeting is on 29th August where we will be discussing Autumn Jobs. The next two meetings are:

September 26th - Honey Show – this will be informal as last year – details to follow

October 31st – AGM (followed by Skittles)

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 7pm. Please come along, all are welcome.

WBKA – Honey Day

Members are invited to attend and enter classes in the WBKA Honey Day which takes place on 12th October 2024. Further information will be sent out regarding this.

National Honey Show

The National Honey Show takes place on 26th October 2024. Some members have already expressed an interest in going. This is being coordinated by Mick Carter, if you would like to go please contact him 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.

Justin

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