



NEWSLETTER – October 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 I write the sun is streaming in through the windows and I can see the bees flying from the hive at home, but no doubt it will return to its usual wet and grey! Even though bees are flying when conditions allow, they 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!

When checking hives remember to check things like are the queen excluders out, can all the bees (including the queen) get to all the same parts of the hive, are hives secured down well enough to survive any storms that hit them etc.?

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 Apiary – Park Farm

Both hives have been Nadired ready for winter as they had nearly full supers and still lots of bees, making it impossible to reduce the hive to one box. The Nuc box has been fed and now is at a good weight.

SDBKA Apiary – TWIGS

Three colonies all doing well and will hopefully make it through the winter. Mick Carter and Barry Roberts are now helping Kathy and Nicola look after the Apiary

SDBKA HONEY SHOW RESULTS 2024

CLASS	1ST	2ND	3RD
Blind Taste Honey	<i>Mike Benson</i>	<i>Christina Aston</i>	<i>Barry Roberts & Mick Carter</i>
Mead	<i>Clive Harris</i>	<i>Mike Benson</i>	<i>Mike Benson</i>
Hive Products	<i>Barry Roberts</i>	<i>Matt O'Dell</i>	<i>Mo Ellis</i>
Photograph	<i>Nicola Perrett</i>	<i>Nicola Perrett</i>	<i>Barry Roberts</i>
Honey cake	<i>Barry Roberts</i>	<i>Kevin Holt</i>	<i>Matt O'Dell</i>



Bryan Hopper Trophy

The Bryan Hopper trophy was given to Mick Carter this year in recognition for all his hard work in respect of the Asian Hornet – not only keeping our members up to date but giving talks to the public making them aware of the potential problem.



BBKA

Club Members planting two trees at TWIGS to mark the BBKA's 150th Anniversary,



SDBKA AGM

This is taking place on Thursday 31st October 2024 at Haydon Wick Club 7.00.

We are looking members to join the Steering Group. We meet 4 times a year for a couple of hours to discuss the running of the Club. Please let Kathy know if you can help the Club by Tuesday 29th October.

Club Meetings

31.10.24 AGM followed by our Annual Skittles Match

28.11.24 Stanton Beekeepers – Ron Hoskins Legacy

No meetings December and January

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.

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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