



Somerset Beekeepers' Association



NEWSLETTER

April 2021 no.144



Please send any copy for the July 2021 edition to me by 15th June.
Email: friend.elizabeth@gmail.com.



Notes from the Chair

What a weird and wonderful Spring, to date? Cold and wet for weeks on end, or as somebody put it to me, 'You spend all day looking out of the window at the rain, waiting for it to get dark'. Then we had those glorious warm & sunny days with the hottest March day since 1968, followed by a cool spell. At least it gave us all a chance to check on our 'pets'.

The season seems to have started at different rates in different localities, with some reporting drone brood galore, and others devoid of a single drone cell. The blackthorn seemed to have followed a similar path, with some in flower in January, while in other locations it has still to show its face. Those cold spells put paid to a few colonies with a lot of people having losses on first examination.

The lockdown in two successive Springs has given little chance to hold practical sessions for new beekeepers, and going by the response to Somerton Division's online theory sessions, there are plenty of potential new beekeepers. This has meant that some will have thrown in the towel and others will be relying on the vagaries of American **youtube** videos and questionable **facebook** advice. Don't get me wrong, some are great, but others leave an awful lot to be desired and people with little or no experience can't tell them apart. Many people advise joining your local group, and I watched a **facebook** video the other day in which the person rescuing a colony from a roof, suggested exactly that, proclaiming that his local group was actually a **facebook group**. No practical 'hands on' experience there then.

It would seem that if everything goes to plan, it will be possible to hold practical sessions from Monday May 17th. We should then be able to meet in the open with groups of, no more than, 30 people. Somerton Division will definitely be running sessions as soon as practicable, and although they hosted as many as 90 individuals for the theory sessions, will have to limit the practical sessions to those within their catchment area, who attended the theory sessions.

I would urge all divisions to hold practical sessions wherever possible and give potential new beekeepers the chance to get a physical experience of handling bees and a chance to learn from knowledgeable beekeepers rather than getting their initiation, solely through a computer screen. We all know that it only starts to make sense when you actually delve into a hive for the first time, and it's better to be with somebody with experience and knowledge.

Many divisions now have their own apiaries, and will be able to follow suit, but South East Division has suffered a major setback. During the last week of March their bee shed, at Ansford School, was razed to the ground by a fire, and the complete contents were destroyed, including all their bee suits and beekeeping consumables (frames, foundation, spare boxes etc.). The cause of the fire isn't known for sure, but from personal experience I know that wooden sheds are very easy to ignite. If any division would like to offer a helping hand, I'm sure it would be met with much appreciation.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

SBKA Lockdown Lecture Series Programme.

The SBKA lockdown lectures continue to offer a varied and stimulating series of talks from world class speakers, attracting beekeepers not only from Somerset, but across the globe. If you haven't joined in yet, you are missing a treat!

April - Focus on Swarms and Swarming

This month we focus on Swarms and Swarming, helping you to plan for the season ahead, or perhaps refresh your ideas. From the point of view of practical management, swarm control can be divided into two distinct parts with a clear (biological) threshold between them - which is **when the colony starts queen cells**.

The talk by Wally Shaw on 1 April on **pre-emptive swarm control** has been recorded and is now on the SBKA website for members to view.

April 15th - Wally Shaw - Reactive Swarm Control



This is the second of our talks about swarms and swarming this season and looks at what to do when queen cells appear...

This talk covers the methods of management that can be used to deal with colonies that have started queen cells ie when pre-emptive swarm control has failed. Artificial swarming is the method that can be used if the colony has not already issued a prime swarm. If the prime swarm has already departed there are other methods

that can be used to prevent cast swarming and further loss of bees. The talk includes an explanation of the Snelgrove II (modified) method.

Wally Shaw is an ecologist, experienced beekeeper, speaker and author of *'There are queen cells in my hive – what shall I do?'* and *'An Apiary Guide to Swarm Control'* – both downloadable free from the Welsh Beekeepers Association website

[Eventbrite](#)



May 6th - David Tarpy - Diagnosing Queen Problems

Is it the queen, the colony, both, or neither?! This talk is packed with practical advice based on empirical research

—looking at different symptoms and attributing whether or not the problem is the queen's fault. A lesson in showing how we blame the queen way more often than is actually her fault.

David Tarpy is a Professor of Entomology and the Extension Apiculturist at North Carolina State University.

His research interests focus on the biology and behaviour of honey bee queens in order to better improve the overall health of queens and their colonies. His work has provided

some of the best empirical evidence that multiple mating by queens confers multiple and significant benefits to colonies through increased genetic diversity of their nestmates, particularly through increased tolerance to numerous diseases.

[Eventbrite](#)

Thursday 20th May

Chasing the (other) Asian hornet in North America - Chris Looney



In 2019 multiple sightings of *Vespa mandarinia*, the largest of the true hornet species, were made in British Columbia, Canada, and Washington State, USA. Concern over impacts to beekeeping and the environment led to a frenzied effort to detect, track and eliminate this species before it becomes established in North America. This presentation will describe the collective efforts in BC and Washington to execute that plan, what we learned along the way, and our intentions for 2021.

Chris Looney is the manager of the Washington State Department of Agriculture entomology laboratory in Olympia, WA. The lab provides identification services and entomological research in support of WSDA's mission. Apparently, we can also be called upon to run all over the place looking for giant wasps.

Thursday June 17th



Small hive beetles, past experiences and future perspectives - Jamie Ellis

Overview: Small hive beetles are a pest of honey bee colonies and they have a rapidly growing distribution globally. Many beekeepers consider them major pests while others only consider them a minor nuisance. In this lecture, Dr. Ellis reviews the biology, behavior, and

control of small hive beetles to put the threat they pose to modern apiculture in a proper context

As part of Asian Hornet Spring Awareness fortnight (12 – 25 April) we have been invited by Devon AHAT to join them for

a **talk by Andrew Durham on Wednesday April 14th 7.30pm**
'The Beekeepers Guide to the Asian Hornet'

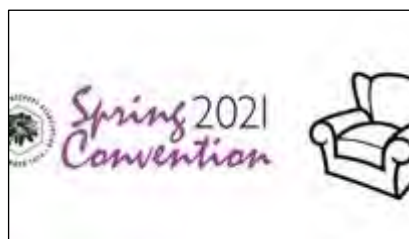
Register [HERE](#)

Andrew Durham is a Cambridgeshire beekeeper who has spent the last 6 years researching the Asian hornet. His research has three main objectives; to understand the effect of the hornet's predation on honeybees, to quantify the threat, and to formulate a defence strategy that builds on the lessons learnt by French beekeepers since the arrival of the hornet in France in 2004. He came to beekeeping in only 2014, as a hobby beekeeper, prior to his retirement in 2016. His focus is on supporting the honeybee as a threatened pollinator and he is particularly interested in the role of the beekeeper working alongside the super-organism that is the honeybee colony.

2021 Spring Convention

Thursday 15th – Sunday 18th April

The BBKA has decided to stage the 2021 Spring Convention as a virtual 'armchair' event which will be held from Thursday 15th April to Sunday 18th April 2021.



The event will include the usual programme of lectures and presentations as well as social events and a virtual trade show.

More information is available on the [BBKA website](#) Registration is now open [click HERE](#)

Somerset and Taunton Honey Show



at Taunton Flower Show

Friday 6th August – Saturday 7th August

Vivary Park, Upper High St, Taunton TA1, UK [map](#)

The Bees and Honey" marquee is one of the most popular at Taunton Flower Show and stages the Somerset Honey Show in addition to Taunton's own Honey Show.

The Royal Bath and West Country Festival

27-29 August 2021



It is hoped that the show will go on as usual albeit with some changes to the normal format. Check the website for details [here](#)

Exmoor Honey Show

Minehead Methodist Church

Saturday 9 October 2021

Contact Lance Moir for details nearer the time

SESBKA Honey Show

Sat 30th Oct

Market House, Market Pl, Castle Cary BA7 7AH,





Annual Spring Equipment Auction

Sun 10th Oct

Ruishton Village Hall, Taunton TA3 5JD, UK

Our annual auction is usually held in the spring but covid-19 restrictions have necessitated holding it in the autumn this year.

Items received from 10.00am

Auction starts at 2.00pm

Refreshments

Raffle

Free Car Parking

West Country Honey Farm Awards

The winner of this years award was announced at the AGM

Citation for Chris Harries



Chris Harries has been a member of Somerset Bee keepers Association (SBKA) since 1974. For many years he has been the Spray Liaison Officer for SBKA, he is listed as far back as the 1991 year book as the spray liaison contact for the county.

He has served as a member of the Taunton & District Beekeepers division (TDBK) committee for more than 25 years. He served as Vice Chairman and Chairman for three years respectively. Chris completed his three-year term as President for TDBK in 2019. He also served as Apiary Manager for the TDBK teaching apiary for two years. He has hosted many visits at his own apiary in Charlton Orchards during the spring bloom.

Chris was the driving force behind the start of the Ruishton Annual Auction which has now been running for more than 28 years. Since it started Chris has been the auctioneer and has helped organise the event. The auction has been a great asset to beekeepers in Somerset and surrounding counties, as it enables beekeepers to sell excess equipment and provides new beekeeper with a chance to buy more affordable equipment. Chris has always been responsible for booking in equipment for the sale and has even picked up equipment in his Land Rover for elderly beekeepers who haven't had suitable transport. Chris holds the British Beekeepers Association (BBKA) Intermediate Certificate for Beekeeping and has carried out numerous educational apiary demonstrations on such subjects as swarm control, queen marking and making up nuclei. Chris holds the BBKA Intermediate certificate for Honey Judging and has judged at many Somerset honey shows. He has given many talks to County Divisions on preparing honey for show. He has regularly helped to stage the County Honey Show in Vivary Park which is a tremendous amount of work in preparation and packing up after the event.

Bee Diseases Insurance and SBKA fund research into a unique strain of EFB

Research has started into the virulent ST2 strain of EFB which is uniquely associated with Somerset and north Dorset. ST2 has been found in this part of the country for at least 10 years with very few outbreaks of other sequence types.



Bee Diseases Insurance (BDI) and Somerset BKA are jointly funding PhD student Hollie Pufel over the next four years. Hollie will investigate this local EFB cluster using modern molecular methods in an attempt to improve the understanding of disease transmission and discover why this disease cluster is so persistent in the area.

A few years ago BDI asked Fera to undertake further research into EFB and funded Dr Ed Haynes to develop a bioinformatics pipeline to sequence genomes of the causal agent, *Melissococcus plutonius*, which revealed that there were different strains of EFB. Hollie will refine this protocol and use it to assess transmission events using Somerset as the case study. She will be working with beekeepers across the county as well as with NBU Bee Inspectors to improve local disease control measures.

EFB is the most prevalent bacterial brood disease in England and Wales with up to 350 cases each year and, in some years, Somerset had the dubious distinction of having the highest number of cases.

Hollie said: “Having worked with plants for the last few years I am new to the bee world, but I am looking forward to learning more about their fascinating behaviours and to a new challenge.”

Hollie is supervised by Professor Giles Budge, co-supervised by Professor Steve Rushton both from Newcastle University, Dr Ed Haynes from Fera Science Ltd as well as BDI.

Whole apiary shook swarm EFB trial

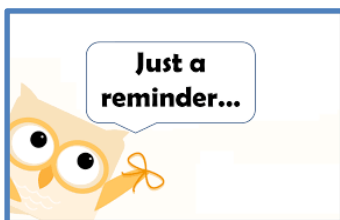
Bee Diseases Insurance Ltd (BDI) and the National Bee Unit (NBU) will launch a two-year pilot scheme this season to encourage the use of whole apiary shook swarm in an attempt to reduce the reoccurrence of European Foulbrood (EFB).

The trial was originally due to start last year but was postponed because of the pandemic. [BBKA News No: 227 – February 2020]

Beekeepers who shook swarm the non-infected colonies in their infected apiary will receive additional compensation on the same basis as for infected colonies; beekeepers who accept the destruction of combs in empty equipment located within the same apiary will receive similar compensation.

The new initiative will apply to apiaries shared by up to three beekeepers if they are all fully insured and agree to participate. Beekeepers will not be obliged to shook swarm non-infected colonies; colonies too small to shook swarm at the time of inspection will be covered if the beekeeper undertakes to shook swarm the colony when it is strong enough and destroys the original combs. There will be no change in cover and compensation rates provided for infected colonies and the pilot scheme will be fully funded from BDI reserves.

The NBU and BDI will analyse the results at the end of the study which will be used to assist in the guidance issued for dealing with EFB in future.



EFB – replacement bees compensation fund

Aware of the possible problem when bees need to be replaced because of an outbreak of EFB, the Council decided in 2019 to set aside a £2,000 fund to support any member who loses all their colonies in all their apiaries to EFB.

Terms and conditions:

1. Must be a fully-paid up and registered member of SBKA, be registered on BeeBase, keep one or more colonies of bees in Somerset and to have lost all their colonies in all their apiaries to EFB in 2019.
2. EFB must be confirmed by a NBU bee inspector and infected bees and equipment destroyed under his/her instruction.
3. The NBU-issued Standstill Notice must be lifted by the bee inspector.
4. Free replacement sources of local bees eg from the member's Division, fellow beekeepers etc, must be exhausted before a claim is made.
5. One nuc/colony per member, irrespective of the number of colonies destroyed.
6. Applications will be taken on a first come, first served basis and the decision to grant or decline an application will be made by the SBKA Executive, whose decision will be final.
7. SBKA has set aside a maximum of £2,000 to support members with EFB in 2019; if claims are received after the fund has been exhausted, unfortunately they will be refused.
8. Replacement bees are subject to availability.
9. Applications to this fund should be made through the member's Divisional delegate.

Follow up to the lecture from Prof. Steve Martin on 'Understanding Varroa resistant Honey bees'

In March Professor Steve Martin spoke to us about his research on 'Understanding Varroa resistant Honey bees'. (You can catch his talk on the SBKA website). He mentioned Westerham Beekeepers, who for the last few years have been working together as a group to translate his (and other bee scientists) work into the reality of everyday beekeeping.

I contacted Steve Riley who is taking the lead on this project, and he is happy to support any groups or branches who would like to do likewise.

He wrote:

"After some 30 years since *Varroa destructor* arrived in the UK from Asia, there are clear signs that our *Apis mellifera* bees have developed strategies to control their mite populations. The project at Westerham Beekeepers attempts to translate the findings of bee scientists, who have studied naturally resistant populations, into mainstream beekeeping.

Dealing with varroa has hit an educational "blind spot", with the focus being on which treatments can be used at different stages of the season. Our discussions, including with first season beekeepers at the Training Apiary, hone in on signs of mite reproduction interruption (eg; uncapping) or bees ejecting infected pupae parts. Traits that are easily observable and effective towards the bees finding a host/parasite equilibrium.

The results to date are encouraging and the project is summarised in Ann Chilcott's "The Beelister" blog (<https://www.beelister.co.uk/beekeeping/developing-varroa-resistant-bees-steve-rileys-quest-blog/>). If you make it to the end, there are some comments from Professor Tom Seeley.

Steve Riley steveriley91@icloud.com

Member of the Lead Breeding Group

Westerham Beekeepers <https://westerham.kbka.org.uk/natural-beekeeping/>



BEE DISEASES INSURANCE LIMITED

For Bees, Education, Protection & Research

Small Hive Beetle (SHB)

28th March 2021

You will have seen publicity in the beekeeping press about a new and urgent threat to the health of bees within the British Isles, as a result of what might be described as 'an unforeseen consequence of Brexit'. You can read about the full details here_

[Beekeeping Associations Statement about Importing of Bees](#)



Images courtesy the National Bee Unit / APHA, Crown Copyright

Historically, BDI has restricted itself to the providing of insurance and the funding of research into maintaining a healthy bee population in England & Wales. However, in this case, we feel strongly that the proposed method by which honey bees are to be imported into Great Britain via Northern Ireland is a serious risk to the health of the honey bees in both Ireland and Great Britain. We are therefore contacting you to ask for your members' support.

[A petition has been started on the Government Website](#) and I urge fellow beekeepers and interested members of the public to sign the petition. As I write this note, the number was over 7,000 signatories, having been running for just over a week. For the beekeeping community to be taken seriously we need this to exceed 10,000 signatures as quickly as possible and force the government to respond to our concerns.

BDI does provide cover against hive destruction as a result of an outbreak of SHB. We have capped the limit that we will pay out at £75,000 per annum – a substantial figure – but one that would have been breached had this cover been available to the beekeepers in Southern Italy when they first found SHB in 2014. Should SHB enter Great Britain, BDI would provide compensation, but ultimately we would prefer that any funds we have available should be directed towards much needed bee research, not compensating beekeepers who have watched their hives and frames be burnt by a bee inspector.

I hope I can count on your support on this important matter and if you have not already done so [sign the petition](#).

Yours sincerely, Martin Smith, BDI President

HONEY ADULTERATION: From Colin Wood, Devon Beekeepers'

I was fortunate enough to view Lynne Ingram's webinar about the issue of honey adulteration and wow, what an issue it is. Her excellent, well-structured presentation illustrated that the problem is more serious than most of us would believe.

LET'S START WITH SOME BASICS:-

- HONEY FRAUD – the overall term for actions intent on defrauding the consumer for economic gain. It is a crime carried out on a massive scale internationally.
- HONEY ADULTERATION – is the addition of another substance - to honey in our case.
- The distinction is worth noting.
- HONEY LAUNDERING – actions to avoid bans or high tariffs by disguising the honey's origins.
- WHAT IS HONEY – copied from Honey (England) Regulations 2015. *In these Regulations "honey" means the natural sweet substance produced by Apis mellifera bees from the nectar of plants or from secretions of living parts of plants or excretions of plant-sucking insects on the living parts of plants which the bees collect, transform by combining with specific substances of their own, deposit, dehydrate, store and leave in honeycombs to ripen and mature.*

These are the benchmarks. If anything doesn't meet the regulated criteria it isn't honey. If there is something else besides honey in the jar it is adulteration. If it was done for profit, it's a fraud.

SO, WHAT CAN THE PUBLIC GET FOR THEIR HONEY or WHAT MIGHT YOU GET FOR 85p?

- It could be harvested early, before it is capped, when it is still nectar, and dehumidified on an industrial scale.
- The bees could have been force-fed sugar syrup to increase the crop of 'honey' even though there is a honey flow on.
- Pollen may have been extracted and replaced with other pollen to manipulate its point of origin.
- It may have been diluted with various syrups.
- It may have been adulterated by the active ingredient for tanning lotions (DHA) - yuk.

These are useful responses when you get challenged by indignant customers outraged at the prices we charge for our pure honey.

WHY IS IT DONE? – Money, of course.

SHOCKING FACTS:

Just enter 'honey adulteration' in your search engine and let your jaw drop. Here's just a few:-

- One-third of the international honey trade is not produced by bees from flowers but by syrups from factories.
- At the Apimondia 'World Beekeeping Awards 2019', 45.2 % of entries were disqualified for failing adulteration tests. (it could have been worse if the tests were more sensitive).
- In 2018, 50% of Asian honey tested positive for adulteration.
- In the UK, a range of honey from the major supermarkets and a well-known supplier was tested by The Honey Authentication Project in 2018 and they all failed. In 2020 more were tested and all failed again. Even when caught out nothing seems to happen, they quickly return to the shelves!
- 1700 tonnes of New Zealand Manuka honey are produced and 10,000 tonnes are sold worldwide. What are the 8300 tonnes of this expensive, miracle cure honey composed of?

- Alibaba (a huge online marketplace) openly advertises fructose rice syrup that can be added to honey, or whatever. It is designed to pass all the current tests. It works out at around 36p per pound. Ideal for cutting honey to make greater profits.

How depressing is that? It puts an old punk like me in mind of the lyric in a Public Image Ltd song – ‘*Do you like the taste of honey - Isn't it best without the bees*’. (Don't Ask Me – great song).

TESTING – There are several tests available to track down adulterated honey. Not one of them can identify all adulteration cases. Each test has its particular strength, so a combination of them all generally yields better results. However, if you applied all tests, some adulterated honey will still slip through the net. This needs to improve and if enough of a fuss is made, maybe Trading Standards will drive this. One participant offered an interesting option of using DNA. It has been used to identify lamb that wasn't from New Zealand, as claimed, so maybe this will become a testing option soon.

SO, WHAT CAN WE DO?

- Expand public awareness of the issue. Those of us with market stalls, online blogs, and social media sites can use them to let our followers know. If they pass it on to more people then maybe we can get the R number above 1 and have a pandemic of knowledge. Provide articles for your local parish magazines so that more people know that they are being hoodwinked and can boycott the offending honey and choose yours.
- Write to the BBKA magazine and make them aware that we care about this issue and would like them to use their national influence to highlight the problem and work with the government to catch the perpetrators and raise the standard and incidence of testing.
- Perhaps we should call our honey ‘raw’ honey? I do, and explain that ‘raw’ is used in the sense of ‘unprocessed’, like raw steel. It opens up the chance to tell what goes on in large factories and why they should buy our honey. If they buy locally and get to know their beekeeper, the consumer is much less likely to get ripped off.
- Could we raise a petition for signatures to get the government to respond?

BUT, HERE'S A CONTROVERSIAL POINT TO CONSIDER:

We must get our house in order. I would like to see the end of the practice of taking all the bee's honey in the autumn and feeding them with syrup for the winter. One questioner took 3 supers from a hive and fed it with syrup. He was worried that the syrup would end up in the honey. Rightly so. As testing improves many could be found guilty and fined for adulteration (possibly fraud) and the high ground will dissolve beneath our feet. Surely, just taking two supers and leaving one for the bees would be better for their health and our conscience? We love our bees and shouldn't treat them like Oliver in the workhouse. In this way, we can guarantee that our honey is unadulterated and easily worth the money we ask for it. (More actually, but that's another story)

This is just scratching the surface of the problem and I would urge you all to visit the ‘Honey Authenticity Project’ website for more things to make you go ‘Grrr’. The 3 pdf sheets accompanying Northern Lights are produced by this initiative.

So, let's make sure we are supplying pure honey and really shout about it to put clear water between us and ‘I can't believe it's not honey...’, or whatever goes on the supermarket shelves.

REFERENCES:

[Commercial Beekeeping in Western Canada \(ontariobee.com\)](http://www.ontariobee.com) – fraud at Apimondia 2019
[Authenticity and geographic origin of global honeys determined using carbon isotope ratios and trace elements | Scientific Reports \(nature.com\)](http://www.nature.com) – manuka and asian honey adulteration & more.

Honey Authenticity Project – www.honeyap.org – access to 3 useful posters.

Monitoring for Asian yellow legged Hornets 2021



Spring (Asian Hornet Spring watch - April 12 – 25)

We are approaching the time of year when temperatures are rising, and any yellow legged Hornet queens will be emerging from hibernation, so **we need to start monitoring for their presence.**

We don't think that any queens have overwintered in the UK, but we need to keep our eyes open for any that may have been accidentally introduced in deliveries or transport from Europe. Research suggests that the South West is an area where incursions are likely to occur, so we cannot be complacent even though last year was a quiet year. We still need to be vigilant.

We would like to suggest that we have Spring Monitoring fortnight (April 12 -26) when we monitor carefully. We strongly recommend the use of **monitoring stations**, rather than killing traps. This allows us to get the evidence of Asian Hornets that we need, without killing our native beneficial insects, in particular European Hornets.

This time of year, Asian Hornet queens will be searching for sugary foods to build up their energy, not preying on your bees. This means that all monitoring stations need to be positioned **where you cannot help but see them** and **where you can easily check them daily** - e.g. outside the kitchen window, or in a sunny spot in your garden. All **beneficial insects must be released** from monitoring stations **daily**.

From mid-May AH queens will be mainly in their nests and so monitoring stations can be removed.

We are recommending the adaptation of Thornes traps to include the wick stations inside. This allows wasps and small flies to escape. (See Instructions below)

Liquid bait – get Suterra (now sold as Trappit wasp attractant) from your AHAT Team leader or buy online.

If you cannot get it due to current restrictions try one of these French recipes:

- Dark beer mixed with 25ml strawberry dessert sauce and 25ml orange liqueur
 - 350ml sweet white wine (or white wine sweetened with sugar) + 20-30ml mint syrup
- Please also observe your flowers where Asian Hornet queens may be feeding. Any trees that may be oozing sap are also very attractive to AH queens in Spring.

Summer

(Asian Hornet week September 6th – 10th)

From August onwards, Asian hornet workers may be found preying on your bees, so monitoring stations may also be hung in your apiaries. Again, we need to be monitoring regularly so that we protect our beneficial insects, and so that we have live samples that could be tracked if necessary.

Please register your apiaries and monitoring stations on **BeeBase**.



What to use

- Monitoring stations as above
- Open bait stations – plastic tray with screwed up kitchen roll, a stone and your liquid bait. Stand these on something so that they are off the ground. Ideally protect these from rain.



If you think you have seen an Asian Hornet

- Get a photo (or sample)
- If you are not sure or are struggling to get evidence contact your local Asian Hornet Action Team – asianhornet@somersetbeekeepers.org.uk
- If you are sure and you have evidence, then report on the **Asian Hornet Watch App** or on alrtnonnative@ceh.ac.uk and to your local AHAT.

Due to current restrictions please make sure that you keep yourself safe and comply with government guidelines. Check BBKA website for updates on how this relates to beekeepers.

Monitoring stations instructions

This is the new design monitoring stations as used in Jersey. They are designed to allow beneficial insects to escape. The wick pot also prevents all but the smallest flies etc. from getting down the side. They still require **daily monitoring**.

The trap

Drill 3 x 6mm holes in the flutings around the top of the Thornes trap.

The wick station

The wick stations in these pictures are cut down sample pots that when unmodified are 7cm high and just under 5cm diameter. **You can use other similar size small pots.**

The sample pot is cut at half its height i.e 3.5cm and the lower section is fitted through the top section base first. Place a small block of wood or similar over the top of the pot and tap the two parts together. That way you retain the screw top and the modified pot fits snugly into the trap.



A 12mm hole is drilled in the lid to take the wick which is made from paper towelling / Jeye cloths etc. Fill with your liquid bait.

The wick pot prevents all but the smallest flies etc from getting down the side, and the Suterra/Trappit doesn't evaporate so quickly. The holes in the trap allow beneficial insects to escape. **Please monitor regularly.**

Somerset Asian Hornet Team details

Somerset AHAT Coordinator

Lynne Ingram – 0784 616 5877 - asianhornet@somersetbeekeepers.org.uk

Asian Hornet Team Leaders

Burnham on Sea – Tom O'Neill	01278 786036
Central – Paul Harper	01458 210051
Exmoor – Vanessa McDonnell	01278 741225 / 07582813598
Frome – Nicola Peacock	01373830247 / 07492420103
Mendip – Cathy Edge	07986 471627
Quantock – Barry Hulatt	01458 210861 / 07891493709
Somerton – Bernie Perkins	01458 250095 / 07948408770
South East – Lionel Horler	01963 351037 / 07894039933
South West – Bryan Goodman	07816659795 / 07816659795
Taunton – Vanessa Woodford	01460 234426 / 07983118732
Wedmore & Cheddar – Bridget Knutson	01934 742187 / 07952922374
Yeovil – Sharon Blake	01460 242124 / 07907414293

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL HARE

23 April 1943 – 31 October 2020



Michael has been a valued member of Burnham on Sea and District Beekeepers since 1987.

When I joined the division in the mid 90's there were only about 8 members until Michael and his wife Christiane arranged a beginners course at Watchfield Hall and the membership soon increased.

Michael has been a valued committee member and after acting as Chairman for several years became the division President.

He enjoyed attending the Lecture days and other County events and helped Christiane with their exhibits at the honey show where they won the Centenary Bowl in 2006. Also more awards in 2010 at the Bath and West Show. Michael was always willing to help and advise anyone who had problems with their bees.

Many division meetings have been held in their lovely garden, together with Paddy the dog, always ending with delicious cakes to tempt us.

Sadly Michael passed away peacefully on 31 October. He was always a lover of nature and was laid to rest at the Memorial Woodlands in peaceful surroundings.

Our thoughts are with Christiane and her daughters.

Thomas O'Neill

Fred Horne RIP

As you will know, Fred passed away recently. He had been a major part of Yeovil Beekeepers for many years. He was a real gentleman and beekeeper and will be sadly missed. Fred was presented the SBKA Rose Bowl last year to recognise his contribution to beekeeping over the years. The tribute to Fred is repeated below and followed by a personal tribute from Marvin.

I have also included a recent picture of Fred holding the Rose Bowl and some earlier pictures, one with his very recognisable chapeau!

Fred's contribution to SBKA has been considerable both at county and divisional levels during his 43 years of SBKA membership. Fred joined the Yeovil Division of SBKA in 1976 when it was then known as the Southern Division. Within two years he became the Divisional Treasurer, held the post for three years before taking on the role of Divisional Secretary for seven years. At SBKA level he was vice-chairman in 1985 and 1986 before election to Chairman in 1987, 1988 and 1989, finally a vice-President in 1990. For almost his entire period of membership he has been a valued and loyal member of his divisional committee. His most recent office was that of Divisional President 1999 to 2017 and in recognition of his service to SBKA he was elected an Honorary Member in 2010. This long period of service in the County is commendable.

For all the current membership Fred has always been there. Modest of mind and the epitome of a skilful mentor, Fred offers a masterclass example of how to communicate. Good mentors, like good teachers are rare to find but he certainly fits the category well. His empirical knowledge of bees, inspires, encourages and motivates. Not one for gaining qualifications and post nominals, Fred made you think logically, rationally and reminded us that bees are doing what they want to do (usually for good reason) and that we need to sometimes just watch and listen and sometimes leave them to it. Fred, like some other rare individuals has clearly mastered the art of communicating during his career as a teacher and is able to effectively impart his knowledge at a level commensurate to both the individual and the complexity of the question.

Many of the Division's new members now realise the value of having Fred as their mentor and have appreciated the knowledge and passion that he has been able to transfer. Many inexperienced beekeepers have learned much, and more importantly, limited the potential damage that could have done to their precious bees by seeking his council. By having this sound knowledge base available, either



in person, or at the end of the telephone their beekeeping has improved considerably.

To quote a relatively new member:

“It has been a privilege to know and seek the President's advice at times when apiculture was proving demanding and each and every time, his wise and thoughtful words made sense and clarified the mire. The value and importance of a skilled mentor should never be underestimated.”

Fred could always be relied on to understand a beekeeping situation and share his 'reading of the bees' and thereby make sense of the chaos perceived by the beginner. He would suggest a plan of action that usually worked and left the beginner much wiser. His ability to articulate and reassure instilled confidence and trust in all who he mentored.”

Malcolm Blake

I find it difficult to improve or add to Malcolm's eloquent tribute paid to Fred. Also, to add anything to the quote by a relatively new member of our Division is challenging.

However, on a personal level, I would like to say that Fred was not only my mentor when I first took up the craft of beekeeping some 14 years ago, but remained my first 'port of call' for assistance and knowledge, right up to the last week before Christmas. Reflecting back – I had phoned him on 15th December to tell him that my bees were out. He was so interested and wanted to know how many and what they were doing. He enquired about my plans for next year and advised me not to forget my Oxalic Acid, if I had not already done so. Fred still maintained his interest and passion in all bee matters.

Fred was not only my friend, mentor and motivator and through his encouragement, I go forward.

Recently, another member sent me a text – and I quote :- 'No question was considered too trivial, no question went unanswered and no answer was cut short.'

Many of us will miss Fred and I already do, beyond words. In saying this, we must not forget to pay our respects to Fred's wife Julie and their Family and send our heartfelt condolences in their loss. We should thank them all for loaning Fred to us all – his beekeeping family, many of whom they did not know and had not met.

I was humbled to be invited to Fred's Private Funeral by his family and was proud to represent the Yeovil Division of the S.B.K.A. at the Crematorium .

Marvin Collins





painting of Neil by Jacob

Neil Trood: 2 December 1932 – 26 January, 2021

Neil Trood had kept honey bees since 1978 and played an important part in the life of Somerset Beekeepers' Association.

He was a driving force behind the County Honey Show - he was Show Secretary for many years and even in his 'retirement' was an invaluable part of all subsequent honey shows.

He was a Vice President of SBKA and won the West Country Honey Farms Award in 2000 in recognition of his outstanding contribution to beekeeping in Somerset.

For Taunton he had been at the heart of the division; he served as Chairman, President, represented the division on the Taunton Flower Show committee, and was the division's delegate on SBKA Council and a member of the committee.

Neil, who was 88, and his late wife Jenny, lived in Long Sutton. Their son Tim and artist grandson Jacob are Somerset beekeepers.

The family invites donations towards a bee research project into European Foulbrood initiated by Somerset Beekeepers' Association and started last year.

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/inmemoryofneiltrood>