

NEWSLETTER #219 – September 2016

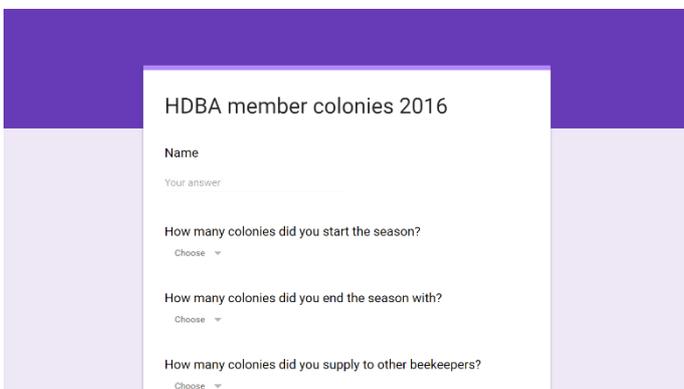
Next meeting: 22nd September: Honey judging and a members' review of the season

The first meeting of the winter period is on the 22nd September. Mike Thornley will give a talk about the process of honey judging and we'll discuss the past season with its ups and downs. There's still time to send photos and anecdotes to andrew.shaw24@gmail.com.

What's happening in the hive?

Now things are winding up for the winter. Brood levels are low and many of the drones will have been thrown out – and those remaining don't have long to go. From the beekeepers perspective it's a case of ensuring that there is sufficient stores for the colony to last the winter – a rule of thumb is a minimum of 40lb. Most common for feeding is a 2:1 mix (mass:volume) of sugar syrup. Fondant is an alternative, but will be taken down much slower. The second job is Varroa treatment. For this season the association recommended Apivar, which should be added as soon as the honey crop is removed so that it can have maximum effect whilst the weather remains mild. Please note which Varroa control methods you have used on the colony survey form.

Members' colony survey



HDBA member colonies 2016

Name
Your answer

How many colonies did you start the season?
Choose ▾

How many colonies did you end the season with?
Choose ▾

How many colonies did you supply to other beekeepers?
Choose ▾

Hopefully you have received an email with a link to an online survey. Please fill this out (it should take a matter of seconds) so that we can make a record of how things stand. Hopefully there will be some results to discuss at the upcoming meeting. Of course, there is always the option of paper and pencil at the meeting.

Club Apiary

I make no apology for making this a regular post until fulfilled. We need to find a replacement for Neil as apiary manager. Neil has done a fantastic job and it is completely right that a successor takes up the reins. Please think about whether you can take over the apiary management and, if so, please contact one of the committee. By now there should be no need to remind you of the importance of the club apiary.

Link of the month: <http://elephantsandbees.com/>

This was posted on the HDBA Facebook page, but for those who haven't seen it this is quite an interesting way in which people are using bees. At the end of the day, it's not just about honey.