

General Situation:

- In 2020 had only 2 reported cases of Asian Hornets in Hampshire. The first was found in the Gosport area and was confirmed as a case of a single hornet found within a bate trap, proving that they work. My own personal thought could be that a single hornet had hitched hiked on a ferry and made its short hop from the ship over to the Gosport side of Portsmouth port. Again I stress this is my own personal thoughts and nothing has evidenced this theory. But it also highlights the case of an hornet found on the Barfleur that has departed Poole on route to Cherbourg. The theory of this is that the hornet has boarded in France and had likely made a few crossings before being discovered.
- My understanding is that trapping within the area conducted by the NBU did not find any additional hornets meaning that they had not established a nest. Had it been a lone female worker it would be unlikely a nest would be created. A second sighting was on farmland just north of Southampton which led to a nest find. Hornets had been seen feeding off apples with a fruit orchard. Tracking the hornets led to a nest a short distance away. In line with the NBU policy the nest was destroyed under the cover of darkness to ensure all the hornets were caught. Dorset received a call from the Regional Bee Inspector in relation to the finds and we offered support and resources if they were needed.
- On the 14th of February a paper was released called Not just honeybees: predatory habits of *Vespa velutina* (Hymenoptera: Vespidae) in France. This looked at the diet of hornets in both an urban and rural settings. On the 24th of February the first confirmed Queen AH was in Jersey starting the Hornet season on the island.
- EDBKA undertook a live AH talk in Lockdown via Facebook Live which was a total success with an audience of over 100 on the live show. This was watched as far away as Malaysia, France Spain and Utah in the USA, with an additional 5000 views watched on catchup after the event.
- West Dorset Dealt with an incident of reports of Hornet on the Dorset Somerset Boarder which resulted in the deployment of traps. East Dorset also dealt with a suspected sighting within 1 ½ half miles from the confirmed nest site in 2019.

Meetings:

- Throughout lockdown I have been attending the regional South West Asian Hornet Action team meetings held every two to three months. The team consists Of members of the South West including the Channel Islands. The group has been working on a number of projects and subprojects to look at how as a region we would take on a incursion of Hornets. We have also been working on a number of policy documents looking at the transfer of control from the national bee unit two local associations.
- At the time of writing this report for the association I will have already attended the first regional meeting for 2021 and I've already made arrangements to attend the national meeting put together by BBKA.

Actions from last AGM:

At our last AGM, members mandated me to obtain kits for our associations across Dorset, an equipment list was provided in my last report and had been sent to all officers. The idea was a basic generic kit consisting of:

- A kit box - £10

- 10lt of bait £52
 - 20 traps £50
 - 20 bait trays - free
 - Marker kit £2
 - Information pack free
 - Total amount £114
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- On the AGMs agreement I set to work to locate and source items and by June I had obtained a substantial discount for the two main areas of kit, Traps and Bait. I was able to transfer this discount to the whole of the south west with 17 county associations from Hampshire to Cornwall. It was my intention to purchase 10 5lt bottles of bait for each association to use as they saw fit. It was into question even to the point of quantity per 20 traps with in DBKA. The end result Dorset association didn't take part in the bulk order. Each association ended up buying their own supply from the bulk order.
 - EDBKA purchased 195lts over a ton of bait at over £1600. This was then in turn sold back at cost to the associations
 - EDBKA made delivery drops in Salisbury, Ringwood, Dorchester, Bristol and Cornwall. In relation of the Kits I asked as per the mandate for funding for a generic uniformed kit for the 5 associationS.
 - It was put by members that a shopping list should have been compiled from each association. This was not practical and could have seen some associations benefit over others. A generic kit would allow each association to be equal