



APIARY NEWSLETTER

HONEY SHOW SPECIAL



Founded in 1913



Once again, as the yearly beekeeping cycle draws to its closing stages, and we have done all we can to ensure our bees are healthy and in a strong position to make it through the upcoming winter. Our thoughts turn to other things....and so it rolls around to the annual association Honey Show once again.

An opportunity to gather together, swap stories of the triumphs...and occasional misfortunes of the closing season...to pass on valuable knowledge, hard won in some cases, but most of all it's a time for all our members to gather together and showcase their skills in all things bee related.

This years show was held, as usual at the Northfield Centre in Magnolia Avenue, off Cooperative Street in Stafford.



Members gathered to show off their produce and expertise in a large number of wide ranging, and diverse classes this year. Ranging from the ever popular Honey Classes to the more unusual 'Bee related invention' class.

There really was 'something for everyone' in the show this year including classes to involve the

younger members of the association.... from decorating cakes, to biscuits and poetry.

As is now becoming an established format, entrants were invited to bring in their entries on Friday evening and Saturday, prior to an 'Open Judging' session by Mr John Goodwin.

John is a BBKA National Honey Judge and a BBKA Honey Judge Assessor. He judges numerous honey shows every year. As well as being a published author he is a Director of Nantwich Show and also manages



Cheshire Beekeepers' annual honey show.



Judging commenced at 10:00 am with John working his way through the many entries in the various honey classes. Each receiving a running commentary on the merits and also areas which could be improved upon to make show winning entries. This was a constructive narratory with



some very keen insights into the requirements for 'national' level exhibits. The honey



classes judging ran through until lunchtime when proceedings were temporarily

called to halt for an excellent lunch prepared by the staff at the Northfield Centre. Giving time for members to discuss comments and suggestions made by John and also taste the honeys entered into Class 21, *Honey for Tasting - Members Vote*.



Judging resumed after lunch with John, once again giving an excellent commentary and suggesting little tweaks and adjustments to entries in the various classes, which would raise the **standard to national status.....however he was heard to comment...in a quiet voice and quite frequently ...on how high the standard has been this year.**



Judging continued through the various classes.....



...including two very remarkable entries in Class 16 - 1 x 75 cl Bottle of Mead. In fact they were judged to be so good that special sub-classes were created so



that a First Prize could be awarded to each one. John then concluded his



judging proceeding through the remaining classes which included Honey Fudge, some beautifully made cakes,

decorated cupcakes , the Young



persons class and finishing with Class 25 - A poem about Bees and /or Beekeeping.

After a short break, to collate the results, the prize giving commenced.....the results of which are shown in their entirety on the next page.....

Winners by Name

Class #	Class	1st	2nd	3rd	Commended
1	Class 1 - 1 jar 454g (1lb) clear honey	Martin Davis	Gill Knight	#N/A	#N/A
2	Class 2 - 1 jar 454g (1lb) set honey	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
3	Class 3 - Frame of capped honey ready for extraction in a suitable bee proof display box	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
4	Class 4 - 2 jars 454g (1lb) light honey,	Alan Brewin	Jane Davis	#N/A	Wendy Woodward
5	Class 5 - 2 jars 454g (1lb) medium honey,	Alan Brewin	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
6	Class 6 - 2 jars 454g (1lb) heather honey	#N/A	Keith Stratton	#N/A	#N/A
7	Class 7 - 2 jars 454g (1lb) dark honey	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
8	Class 8 - 2 jars 454g (1lb) set honey,	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
9	Class 9 - A frame of capped honey ready for extraction in a suitable bee proof display box	Keith Stratton	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
10	Class 10 - 5 jars of honey ready for sale, fully labelled with all legal requirements,	Alan Brewin	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
11	Class 11 - Own design honey label to fit 454g (1lb) jar displayed on empty jar. (Must comply	Paul Mann	#N/A	Alan Greenman	#N/A
12	Class 12 - A photographic image, taken by entrant. Subject, bees or beekeeping. (Size: A4	Paul Mann	Gerry Round	Alan Greenman	Christopher
13	Class 13 - Beeswax 1 piece weight 200-255g (7-9 oz) - to be cast in plain mould	Gerry Round	Alan Brewin	Wendy Woodward	#N/A
14	Class 14 - Decorative use of beeswax,	Gill Knight	Gerry Round	#N/A	#N/A
15	Class 15 - Beeswax candles 3 pieces,	Gerry Round	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
16	Class 16 - 1x 75cl bottle of mead either dry, sweet, or Melomel (flavoured) with white plastic	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
16a	Dry	Alan Greenman	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
16b	Sweet	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
16c	Melomel	Alan Brewin	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
17	Class 17 - Honey fudge own choice, recipe to be displayed, 6 - 8 pieces,	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	Gerry Round Gill Knight Rob Philpott
18	Class 18 - Honey biscuits own choice, recipe to be displayed, 6 biscuits,	Wendy Woodward	Gerry Round	Rob Philpott	Gill Knight
19	Class 19 - Decorated honey cup cake, recipe to be displayed, 4 cakes,	Gerry Round	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
20	Class 20 - Honey cake following the same recipe as outlined	Gill Knight	#N/A	Rosie Kent	Keith Stratton
21	Class 21 - Honey for tasting - members' vote - Supply 1x 454g (1lb) jar of honey - no label,	Alan Brewin	Alan Greenman Martin Davis	Keith Stratton	#N/A
22	Class 22 - Young persons class - Three decorated Rich Tea biscuits with a beekeeping theme	Eleanor Kent Elizabeth Bennett Nancy Bennett Christopher Kent	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
23	Class 23 - Bee related invention or beekeeping gadget with detailed explanation	Barry Crossley	Rob Philpott	#N/A	#N/A
24	Class 24 - Three home-produced items containing honey or beeswax. This could include Chutney, Conserves, Honey drink (not mead), Sweets, Cosmetics, Polish, Furniture cream and wax wraps.	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A
25	Class 25 - A poem about bees or beekeeping; no more than 100-words, word count should be stated	Eleanor Kent Elizabeth Bennett Nancy Bennett Wendy Woodward	Gerry Round	Rob Philpott	#N/A

Prizes this year were presented by Chris Shaw and Alan Greenman.....



Concluding with the annual presentation of the 'David Battersby' shieldthis year awarded to Alan Brewin for the remarkable achievement of four 1st's...well done Alan !!



All that remains is to thank the committee and everyone who gave their time doing such an outstanding job in organising the event...and look forward to seeing you all at next years show....

RANDOM THOUGHTS FROM THE APIARY



- “Common sense is like deodorant. The people who need it most never use it.” — Anonymous
- “My wife says I only have three faults, I don't listen ...and two other things....?? - Definitely Anonymous
- “I have reserved two tickets for the opening night, bring a friend if you have one” - George **Bernard Shaw**
- “Sorry can't make the first night, will come to the second one ...if you have one” - Winston Churchill
- “The thing about quotes on the internet is you can't confirm their validity” - Abraham Lincoln

If anyone has a 'Random Thought' they would like to add to this article..... maybe something you would like to share.... Or even something you would like to get off your chest...then please send it to: ssbka-mail@southstaffsbeekeepers.com
All submissions will be credited to the author unless specifically requested otherwise ..
In which case it will be marked 'Anon'

Kurling & Supper Evening

**Saturday 25th November
2023**

**Shareshill Village Hall, 1 Elms
Lane, Shareshill, WV10 7JS**

7pm for 7.30pm start.

**Tickets £2.50 (payable in advance
through BACS)**

Tea/coffee/soft drinks available for a donation

Bring your own alcohol drinks.

Tickets: Contact Penny Twibill on 07758 161744

