

**Petersfield and District Beekeeping Association
Honey Show Report
Held on the 14 September 2019
in Buriton Village Hall**

The Honey Show for the 78th year was held in the Buriton Village Hall and which was very spacious for our purposes. The season this year was variable with dry and wet weather which disrupted the season's harvest. Although the Bees worked extremely hard the weather took its toll and dependant on the location some hives achieved a surplus crop, whilst others just managed to get by, resulting in a below average annual crop. Some of the crop although sealed had above a 20% moisture content. Consequently this had an affect on the entries to the Honey Show.

The entries to the Honey Show were down this year but this was compensated by some of the new beekeepers exhibiting. At the closing date for entries there were 170 entries of which 141 qualified for the Blue Ribbon Award. The Blue Ribbon can only be awarded by a Senior Judge if there are at least 100 entries in the Honey, Wax and Confectionary classes. There were a total of 26 people who entered exhibits of which 5 were non-members. The entries ranged from 2 entries to 20 entries. Quite often the Blue Ribbon is won by an exhibitor who enters a large number of classes, but this year the winner Peter Reader only entered 3 classes, which means everyone has a chance to win the Blue Ribbon, but you do need to enter in the first place. It is disappointing that only 21 members entered there exhibits, out of a membership of 150 members.

There were 48 different classes to enter in the Honey Show and entries are required to comply with the criteria set out in the Schedule for the class entered. There were cases where exhibitors had not read the criteria for the particular class and some entries appeared to have been hastily prepared, but were marked down accordingly, which can be disappointing for the exhibitor who has taken the time and effort to prepare an entry. Most exhibitors had entered their exhibit in the correct class; but some exhibitors did check when they brought their exhibit to the Show to confirm that they had entered the correct class, one or two entries were transferred to the correct class. When the Stewards checked the exhibits prior to judging they discovered some sticky jars, which were cleaned. Judges hate sticky fingers.

It is essential that exhibitors follow the Schedule. The Judge will discard entries which do not meet the precise requirements of the Schedule.

A summary of the entries in the Honey Show were as follows:

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Open Honey and Wax Classes	47	48	20	47	39
Other Open Classes	28	42	38	29	30
Display Class	29	23	14	12	12
Members Honey and Wax Classes	61	68	42	70	56
Novice Classes	5	9	3	2	6
Total Entries	170	190	117	160	153

It is always good to see new beekeepers compete as exhibiting honey helps to ensure that they are on the right lines to sell honey. This year Grant Pearce enter honey in classes 1, A and 17A and won first prize in all three classes quite an achievement in his first year. He did not however win the Trevor Stubbs Trophy for the Novice classes, because Dean Gregory who had entered 3 Novice classes and won 2 first prizes to gain the highest points in the novice classes.

This year the Blue Ribbon was awarded to Peter Reader for his exhibit in Class 2 (two jars of Medium Honey).

The Honey show results were recorded by Dave Hall and the Honey Stewards were Brad Davis, Rowan Roberts and Christopher Clark. The National Honey Judge was Hazel Blackburn. Unfortunately the Confectionery Judge had double booked and Kate Gusgott undertook the judging at the last minute for the confectionery classes.

The Honey Show was concluded by the presentation of the Trophies and the Blue Ribbon Award, by Tom Blackburn the Association President.

David Parkinson Honey Show Manager