

## **Halifax Show 2025**

There were 26 entrants for the Honey Show, and 118 individual entries over the 23 classes. This compares with 13 entrants and 45 entries over the same 23 classes in 2023. The number of entrants was double the number for 2024 and the number of entries was the highest recorded by HBKA. The Honey Show judge was Tony Jefferson. The judge's comments during the judging are shown below. Where no specific comments were made by the judge, mostly the non-honey classes, no notes were taken. The standard of the entries continued to be very high.

### **Honey Show Results**

Class 1 – Two jars of light honey. There were 12 entries in this class.

1<sup>st</sup> – Paddy Walker

2<sup>nd</sup> – Elaine Robinson

3<sup>rd</sup> – Roger Pool

*Judge's comments: Any jars that show any debris floating in the honey when a very strong lamp is shone through the jar will not be considered further. Sticky honey between the jar lid and the grooves on the jar rim is undesirable. Jars where the honey contains more than 20% water (as measured by a hygrometer) will not be judged further.*

Class 2 – Two jars of medium honey. There were 6 entries in this class.

1<sup>st</sup> – Alan Bewsher

2<sup>nd</sup> – Paddy Walker

3<sup>rd</sup> – Kay Phillips and Richard Searle

*Judge's comments: One jar was underfilled. One jar had a foreign body on the surface. One jar was starting to granulate. Dust on top of the lids is acceptable, especially if it is a windy day.*

Class 3 – Two jars of soft set honey. There was 1 entry in this class.

2<sup>nd</sup> – Alan Brook

*Judge's comments: For this class the jar can be overfilled initially, as the honey will shrink a bit. The honey should be allowed to set on the level, not on a sloping surface.*

Class 4 – One jar of honey labelled as for sale. There were 9 entries in this class.

1<sup>st</sup> - Elaine Robinson

2<sup>nd</sup> – Roger Pool

3<sup>rd</sup> – John Williams

*Judge's comments: One jar had a lopsided label. One jar had a font size too small. Labels should not have the word 'raw' on the label, this term is still subject to an ongoing debate as to whether it can be used to describe honey.*

Class 5 – Two jars of heather honey. There were 2 entries in this class.

1<sup>st</sup> – Elaine Robinson

2<sup>nd</sup> – John Haigh

Class 6 – One jar of flavoursome local honey. There were 16 entries in this class.

1<sup>st</sup> – Ian Bairstow

2<sup>nd</sup> – Liz Bolton

3<sup>rd</sup> – John Haigh

*Judge's comments: One jar was starting to ferment. One jar was granulating.*

Class 7 – Chunk honey. There was 1 entry in this class.

1<sup>st</sup> – John Haigh

*Judge's comments: Top tip - before putting the chunk in the jar, warm the bottom of the jar, then push the chunk down to the bottom where it may stick. Honey fills the rest of the space in the jar. Any bits of wax on the inside of the jar can be carefully removed. It is acceptable to have honey on the inside of the lid.*

Class 8 – Novice class. There were 4 entries in this class.

1<sup>st</sup> – Sam Bewsher

2<sup>nd</sup> – Marcella Walsh

3<sup>rd</sup> – Alan Bewsher

Class 9 – Cut comb in a clear lidded container. There was 1 entry in this class.

1<sup>st</sup> – John Haigh

*Judge's comments: The comb itself should weigh between 200-340g, lots of honey and a small comb is not appropriate.*

Class 10 – Honey frame suitable for extraction. There were 2 entries in this class.

1<sup>st</sup> – Sue Day

2<sup>nd</sup> – Cathy Hanson

Class 11 – Six identical wax blocks. There were 8 entries in this class.

1<sup>st</sup> – Roger Pool

2<sup>nd</sup> – Elaine Robinson

3<sup>rd</sup> – Kay Phillips

Class 12 – Wax cake between 8 and 16 oz. There were 6 entries in this class.

1<sup>st</sup> – Roger Pool

2<sup>nd</sup> – Elaine Robinson

3<sup>rd</sup> – Kay Phillips

*Judge's comments: The colour of the wax should be primrose yellow, and be produced by using cappings only. Propolis makes the wax brown, and pollen can affect the colour too.*

Class 13 – Two identical wax candles. There were 8 entries in this class.

1<sup>st</sup> – Roger Pool

2<sup>nd</sup> – John Haigh

3<sup>rd</sup> – Kay Phillips

Class 14 – Beeswax wrap up to 30cm square. There were 2 entries in this class.

1<sup>st</sup> – Marcella Walsh

2<sup>nd</sup> – Veronica Williams

Class 15 – Bottle of dry mead. There were 3 entries in this class.

1<sup>st</sup> – Alan Brook

2<sup>nd</sup> – John Haigh

3<sup>rd</sup> – Veronica Williams

Class 16 – Bottle of sweet mead. There were 2 entries in this class.

1<sup>st</sup> – John Haigh

2<sup>nd</sup> – Veronica Williams

Class 17 – A snapshot photograph, connected to bees / beekeeping. There were 7 entries in this class.

1<sup>st</sup> – Elaine Robinson

2<sup>nd</sup> – Richard Searle

3<sup>rd</sup> – John Haigh

*Judge's comments: A caption or title must be given to the photograph in this class.*

Class 18 – A macro (close-up) photograph. There were 5 entries in this class.

1<sup>st</sup> – Christine Balshaw

2<sup>nd</sup> – John Haigh

3<sup>rd</sup> – Jacky Brook

Class 19 – Flowers in a vase. There were 4 entries in this class.

1<sup>st</sup> – John Haigh

2<sup>nd</sup> – Hermione Berry

3<sup>rd</sup> – Paddy Walker

*Judge's comments: The vase should be appropriate for the size of the floral display.*

Class 20 – Handicraft or bee product related gift. There were 6 entries in this class.

1<sup>st</sup> – Marcella Walsh

2<sup>nd</sup> – J Aveyard

3<sup>rd</sup> – Cathy Hanson

Class 21 – A piece of home-made beekeeping equipment. There were 5 entries in this class.

1<sup>st</sup> – Alan Brook

2<sup>nd</sup> – Richard Searle

3<sup>rd</sup> – Tim Plant

Class 22 – One jar of jam or preserve. There were 2 entries in this class.

1<sup>st</sup> – Alan Brook

2<sup>nd</sup> – Janine Takhar

Class 23 – Wholemeal honey cake. There were 6 entries in this class.

1<sup>st</sup> – Janine Takhar

2<sup>nd</sup> – Hermione Berry

3<sup>rd</sup> – Chris Dale

*Judge's comments: Be careful to ensure the cake is cooked through in the middle, as the cake will be cut in half.*

Best in Show – Two jars of light honey – Paddy Walker

### Halifax Trophies

The Limetree Apiary Rosebowl (for the most points in classes 1 to 23 inclusive)

John Haigh – 21 points

(Based on the score of 3 points for 1<sup>st</sup> position, 2 points for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 1 point for 3<sup>rd</sup>.)

The Winifred May Badger Challenge Cup (for the most points across all honey classes 1 to 7 and 9 - 10)

Elaine Robinson – 8 points

Northern Bee Books Trophy (for the best exhibit of a photograph in class 17 or 18)

Christine Balshaw

The John Phillips Award for Beeswax (for the most points in the wax classes 11, 12 and 13.)

Roger Pool – 6 points

The Jeff Gill Cup (for the best home-made piece of beekeeping equipment in class 21.)

Alan Brook

Novice Cup (for the winner of class 8)

Sam Bewsher

Best in Show (for the best exhibit selected by the judge across all classes)

Paddy Walker – two jars of light honey.

Peter Nicholls – Honey Show Secretary