

## INFORMATION regarding the Halifax Show on August 9th.

**We are changing how entries are made to the honey show with the intent that we get a lot more entries. You can still enter on the day if you wish (before 10am) but we will also facilitate entries at The Good Shepherd in Mytholmroyd between 6pm and 8pm on Thursday 7th August.**

We will then take your entries to the show. We hope this makes entering easier! You will however need to pick up your entries from the show anytime after 4pm on the day of the show (or ask someone to pick up on your behalf).

Here are some handy tips, bearing in mind the novice class was also the winner of the best honey in the show last year!

### HONEY

- The judge is first and foremost looking for good tasting and clear honey, with no signs of crystallisation or debris. Very small bubbles are less important
- If your honey is cloudy, or when you shine a torch through it and there are crystals at the bottom of the jar, warm it gently either in your warming cabinet, or warm gently in a simple warm water bath, to clear it
  - Ensure your honey is filled to just above the fill line but not too full
  - The surface of the honey in the jar needs to be clear of all detritus such as bubbles and bits of bees! To do this effectively I use cling film on the surface and a cotton bud to ensure 100% contact then remove slowly. It is very effective
  - If you have any 'floaters' such as legs etc try using a straw to remove
  - Polish the outside of the jar and the lid with a dry duster
  - The class your honey is entered in will be advised by the Chief Steward who will be in Mytholmroyd on Thursday and at the show on the Saturday
  - All very easy really!
  - The Novice Class is definitely an easy class to enter and only a single jar is required. This class has its own silver cup and a rosette for the first 3 places.

### WAX

- The judge will be looking at how clean your wax is, so wash your cappings or brace comb well in cold water. Remove any darker wax pieces before you melt your cappings and brace comb. Melt your cappings gently over water, rather than direct heat. Then take care to filter it through a couple of 'J cloths' or lint

- Do not overheat your wax as it melts at 64°C, so try to keep your cappings and molten wax below 85°C. Above this, could turn your wax darker in colour and spoil it
- The judge will be looking for wax and candles with a nice aroma that smells of your honey. So use cappings and wax that is not too old when making your wax blocks and candles
- Moulded candles are easier to make than hand dipped ones. Silicone moulds are the easiest way to release your candles once moulded. Pour your wax slowly and carefully, keeping your moulds nice and straight, remembering not to overheat your wax. If you made your candles a while ago, polish them gently with a cloth to remove any natural white bloom on the surface. Remember to dip your wicks - these are easier to light and the judge will like this attention to detail
- Thornes sell the wax block moulds most likely to achieve the weight target of 1oz plus or minus 10%

Other classes to consider include:

- Photographs: just use your mobile phone. Even older phones produce very good images. Pop into your local supermarket or Boots and generate an A4 print or smaller and give it a go. Close up photos or say a general apiary photo or let your imagination run wild!
- Flowers: a nice bunch of honeybee friendly flowers works very well. Nothing fancy...in your own vase
- Handicrafts: just let your imagination run wild and enter anything which is bee themed
- Home made bee keeping equipment: previously a Horsley board, a skep and a 3d printed Asian hornet trap have won this class. Just be creative!
- The cake! We have changed the recipe this year and the result is a very popular form of a honey cake which will get you plenty of plaudits!

Elaine will be at the BBQ if you have any particular questions.