



Surrey Beekeepers Association AGM 4th December 2021 **2021 Surrey County Show Report**

Once again there was no county show at Stoke Park, Guildford but that did not deter us. Mike Axford our Chief Steward and the Surrey Show committee staged our own county honey show. We are grateful to the chairman and committee of Reigate BKA for allowing us to stage the show at their Henfold Lane apiary.

The response from Surrey BKA members was fantastic. The show bench looked splendid with over 150 entries, well over the 100 required to make us a 'Blue Ribbon' event. As usual all ran smoothly thanks to Mike Axford's planning and very efficient organisation by our Show Bench Secretary Daphne Thomas. Our judges this year were Mike and Liz Duffin from South West Hampshire BKA with Judges Stewards Daphne Thomas and Elizabeth Knight from Farnham BKA. The opportunity to be a Judges Steward is a great learning experience. We share this opportunity around the divisions and in 2022 it will be the turn of lucky members from Guildford BKA. Trevor Keast from Reigate BKA won the Blue Ribbon for the best exhibit in the show, (2 jars of soft set honey) the Composite Cup for the individual member with the most points in show and the Ken Reed Memorial Cup for wax. Weybridge member David Parker won the Colman Cup for cut comb. That's Colman as in mustard. Sir Jeremiah Colman was once our chairman. Epsom member Sophia Welsby won the Golder Memorial Trophy for novice entrants. The Vincent Challenge Cup for the division with most points in show was won by Reigate BKA, closely followed by Weybridge and Kingston. For many years the Vincent Cup has been a two-horse race between Guildford and Farnham so it is nice to see a different name on the trophy and other divisions with strong entries. It is 43 years since Reigate last won the trophy. Will they be able to hold on to it in 2022? What will Guildford and Farnham members do about this!

Do encourage your division to raise your number of entries in 2022. All you need to do is delegate one member to bring all the division entries to stage on Friday or first thing on Saturday morning and another to collect them at 5pm. You don't all have to get up early!

Our honey show usually pays the bills by running a straw draw, taste of honey, candle rolling and taking a small commission on the sale of members' honey. With no public visitors this source of income vanished so our 2021 show ran at a loss. We can afford to do that occasionally but not for ever. At the moment we have no idea if the Surrey County Agricultural Society will run a show at Stoke Park in 2022. If they do not, we will run our own show again but we are going to need your help to make sure we cover our costs.

Whatever happens in 2022 we will have another great show.

Bob Maurer

Chairman – Surrey Beekeepers Association Show Committee

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