



Surrey Beekeepers Association AGM 2nd December 2017 **2017 Surrey County Show Report**

Once again our team worked brilliantly to produce an excellent bee display at the Surrey County Show on Monday 29th May. Our Chief Steward Michael Main organised another very efficient rota and made sure that all our stands were well staffed. We have over 40 stewards and it takes a lot to organise them and fine tune duties on the day as required. As usual every steward received a sit-down lunch.

We are grateful to Jane Hall and her colleague, Jonathan Hall (not related) for kindly supplying two hives of flying bees and stocking our two observation hives.

The show bench looked splendid with well over the 100 entries required to make us a 'Blue Ribbon' event. As usual all ran smoothly thanks to our very efficient Showbench Secretary Hazel Sharples and her new assistant Daphne Thomas. Our judge this year was John Goodwin from Cheshire with Dave Charnley (Wimbledon BKA) as judges steward. Peter Dawson won the Blue Ribbon for the best exhibit in the show and Jane Hunter won the Ken Reed Trophy again with another superb wax block. The Vincent Challenge Cup was again won by Farnham.

Other trophy results were:

Golder Memorial trophy Richard Bradfield

Peter Dawson Coleman Cup (presented by Jeremiah Coleman of mustard fame)

Composite Cup Rosalind Clague (who also won last year)

Do encourage your division to raise the number of entries in 2018. All you need to do is delegate one member to bring all the division entries to stage on Monday morning and another to collect them at 5pm. You don't all have to get up early!

Our honey show pays the bills by running a straw draw, taste of honey, candle rolling and taking a small commission on the sale of members' honey. This year we made a surplus of just over £750 which is used as a buffer fund to improve future shows.

This year we are grateful to Mike Axford for producing a new display for our information stand. Every year we need hundreds of small honey potlets (each division can collect their potlets at the AGM from Steve Secker) and very small candles as straw draw prizes. Thank you to all who stepped up and produced a fantastic variety this year. If you can help next year please contact Michael Main or myself.

Jenny Gittins retired from the show this year. The Straw Draw will not be the same without her calm efficiency. Jenny has been a stalwart of the show for over 25 years, an incredible length of service. Thank you Jenny and thank you to Elizabeth Knight who is taking over. Also thank you to Anne Murray who stepped down this year.

Surrey Beekeepers Association founded 1878

www.surreybeekeepers.org.uk SurreyBeekeepers@gmail.com

Registered Charity 1026386

Many thanks to all our hard-working committee and to our wonderful band of stewards for making the day a success. See you again in 2018.

Bob Maurer

Chairman – Surrey Beekeepers Association Show Committee

November 2017

Bob Maurer

07740 707500

bob@maurer.uk.com

Michael Main

michael_main@talktalk.net

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