



Surrey Beekeepers Association AGM 1st December 2018

2018 Surrey County Show Report

Once again our team worked brilliantly to produce an excellent bee display at the Surrey County Show on 28th May. The big news for 2018 is that the team received the recognition it deserves when the bee tent was awarded 'Best Major Marquee' by the Surrey County Agricultural Society. We have a splendid trophy to prove it. A well-deserved accolade. Well done all concerned.

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. A new initiative for 2018 was free goodie bags for the first 100 families to visit our marquee. A great idea from Julie Hogarth and Mike Axford to encourage visitors to seek us out. The contents generously donated by Bee Inspired and Flowerscapes.

We had a few minor internal problems this year because sadly the Surrey County Agricultural Show manager died suddenly, 6 weeks before the show. His replacement had a lot to understand in a short time. To the credit of our core team, none of this was apparent 'front of house'.

Michael has decided that it is time to pass on the Chief Stewards baton. He has made many improvements to our show. Apart from the very complicated stewards roster, the show layout and the 'traffic' flow around the marquee has been greatly improved. We are all very grateful to Michael for his efforts and we are delighted that he will still be taking part in the show.

In his place we welcome our new Chief Steward Mike Axford. Mike hit the ground running with a constructive meeting with the new manager of the Surrey County Show during the summer and we have a good working relationship as we start to look at the 2019 show.

This year we also said good bye to our treasurer Jeremy Andrews. Thank you, Jeremy, for all you have done for the show. We are pleased to welcome Keith McMahon who has helped with this year's handover and will be taking up the position for 2019.

We are grateful to Jane Hall and Simon Wellicome for kindly supplying two hives of flying bees and stocking our two observation hives.

The show bench looked splendid with around 150 entries, well over the 100 required to make us a 'Blue Ribbon' event. As usual all ran smoothly thanks to our very efficient Show Bench Secretary Daphne Thomas assisted by Hazel Sharples. Our judges this year were John Goodwin from Cheshire assisted by Sue Carter from Buckinghamshire BKA with Kathy O'Toole as Judges Steward. Peter Dawson won the Blue Ribbon for the best exhibit in the show for the second year running. Yet again the Vincent Challenge Cup for the division with most points in show was won by Farnham.

Other trophy results were:

Golder Memorial trophy for novices – Edwina Wardle

Coleman Cup for cut comb (presented by Jeremiah Coleman of mustard fame) - Peter Dawson

Composite Cup - Rosalind Clague (third year running)

Ken Reed Memorial Trophy for wax - Bob Maurer

Do encourage your division to raise your number of entries in 2019. All you need to do is delegate one member to bring all the division entries to stage on Saturday 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. Every year Elizabeth Knight who runs our straw draw needs hundreds of small honey potlets 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 Elizabeth, Mike Axford or myself.

Hugh Coakley's candle rolling stand was a popular attraction all day. Thanks also to Chris and Rob Chisholm who ran our honey sales so well as they have done for a great many years and to Jill Tyndale for feeding the 5,000 at the taste of honey.

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

One final thank you to Esther Woods who this year filmed a short documentary of the activities in the Bee & Honey Tent accompanied with interviews organised with our members. The film is available on the SBKA website.

I look forward to seeing you all at the next Surrey County Show on Monday 27th May 2019.

Bob Maurer

Chairman – Surrey Beekeepers Association Show Committee

November 2018

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