

Guidance to Show Secretaries on Honey Show Rules & Regulations

The BBKA Leaflet is all-embracing and for a Local Honey Show perhaps too comprehensive. However, by making reference to it in the Show Schedule with a phrase such as *"BBKA Show Rules (1994) apply unless amended by the following:"* will provide most of the information for the exhibitors to prepare their exhibits. The BBKA Leaflet contains some suggested clauses for Show Schedules that are relevant to the efficient administration of the show and handling of the exhibits. These clauses should be tailored to meet individual show requirements. In addition, there will be a need to advise exhibitors of amendments to the BBKA Rules to properly define what is 'custom and practice' at the local show and to be more specific on the presentation of exhibits in certain classes. Every eventuality cannot be covered, but here are a few aspects to consider:

Labels

The purpose of the label is to give a coded identity to an exhibit. The BBKA Rules are quite specific in where the label is to be placed on the various classes and, in particular, for jars a dimension of **2cm** from the base of the jar to the bottom edge of the label. Apart from the fact that the judge needs an unimpeded view across the inside bottom of the jar the dimension is not critical. However, for presentation reasons labels at the same height on the jars create an orderly and efficient impression to the public.

Jars

The different types of the jar and lids in the BBKA Rules are to cover both the jar classes and the display and commercial classes. It is recommended that where a show only has jar classes, the schedule specifies what is required with a form of words as follows:

"Extracted honey must be exhibited in clear 454g (1lb) squat glass jars with gold lacquered screw or twist off lids with flowed-in plastic seals, all of British Standard pattern. Where a class requires more than one item of the same type, the jars and their contents must be matching in all respects. "

Sections

Square sections (approximate weight 454g(1lb)) are a rarity and round sections (approximate weight 227g(8oz)) are becoming more common, if both types are to be allowed in the same class then this should be stated but a weight requirement should not be given.

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Cut Comb Honey

It is usual for the schedule to call for a container (or two containers) of cut comb and then define the weight. The most common size of container in use is 227gm (8oz) and therefore what would be expected from the exhibitor is: *"Container(s) filled with cut comb to satisfy a minimum gross weight of 227gm (8oz) "*. Some shows ask for a higher weight that is unreasonable in an 8oz container. If the exhibitor has very thick unwired comb that would meet the higher weight then the underside of the lid could rest on the cappings and these may become detached when the lid is removed. On the other hand, to meet the higher weight using a standard comb thickness, there will be a temptation to use cut comb that is undrained.

Wax

The BBKA rules specify wax blocks to be displayed in a plastic bag. Although the plastic bag introduces anonymity, a show case will keep out fingernails from damaging the surface! A show case should be allowed. Remember that one label must be affixed to the wax top visible surface and a duplicate on the show case lid. It is usual to give a weight requirement for the beeswax block and there should also be a corresponding minimum thickness requirement. e.g. *"One beeswax block minimum weight 454g (1lb) and at least 25mm thick"*. Other possibilities would be, *"-340g (12oz) and at least 15mm thick" or "-227g (8oz) and at least 10mm thick"*. Alternatively the weight requirement could be as a band, e.g. 400-500g, 325-375g and 200-250g respectively.

Cakes and Confectionery

If a recipe has not been given in the Schedule then the Class instructions should ask the exhibitor to provide one. **Guidance to Show Secretaries on Honey Show Rules and Regulations**

Photographic Classes

The BBKA Rules do not cover these classes, it is advisable to put something in the schedule to stop the same exhibit being used each year and to state how the exhibits are to be mounted to provide them with protection and for presentational reasons.

A form of words could be:

"All exhibits must have been taken, but not necessarily processed, by the exhibitor. The subject should be connected with beekeeping."

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Transparencies must fit in a 50mm x 50mm (2in x 2in) standard mount, glass mounts recommended.

Colour or black/white prints must be mounted on card of any colour, maximum size of mount 250mm x 200mm (10in x 8in). A title is to be positioned centrally below the print.

Transparencies and prints previously entered at _ _ _ Honey Show, whether prize winners or not, may not be entered in the same class."

Additional Guidance to Show Secretaries on Honey Rules and Regulations

In many shows there are Novice Classes to encourage newcomers to exhibit.

However, if the term 'Novice' is not defined in the show rules beekeepers will be unsure if they are eligible to enter. Further, if not defined clearly there may be cause for protests over exhibitors who claim to be novices and this may cause bad feelings and difficulties for the Show Secretary. The situation is easily nipped in the bud by making it clear in the Show Rules who can claim to be novice.

The BBKA Show Rules do not give a definition of a Novice. The reason is perhaps that this would be too prescriptive when set against the variation in the standards of exhibitors at the different levels of honey show across the country and the aims of the show committees.

The following definitions are being used at shows and the Show Secretary should select the definition which meets the aims and standard appropriate to his show:

"A Novice is an Exhibitor who has never won a First prize or trophy at any Honey show."

"A Novice is an Exhibitor who has never won a First prize at an ABKA members show"

"A Novice is an Exhibitor who has never won a First prize at a County Honey Show"

"A Novice is an Exhibitor who has not won more than three First Prizes at any Honey show"

"A Novice is an Exhibitor who has not won more than three prize cards (1st 2nd or 3rd) for honey/beeswax in open classes at a County Honey show"

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Typical classes for beekeepers included in the schedule at local shows

2x454g jars Light/Med/Dark;
2x454g jars Granulated/Soft Set;
1 Cut Comb 227g(8oz) min;
1 Beeswax block approx 227g (8oz) or
6x28g(1oz) beeswax blocks;
1 Bottle Mead;
1 Shallow Comb for Extraction;
3 jars liquid or set honey all same type labelled as offered for sale;
Honey fruit cake to recipe in schedule;
1 Mounted Photograph on beekeeping subject;
1 jar liquid honey(Novice class);
Self produced Honey Label exhibited on 454g jar of liquid honey.

BBKA SHOW RULES (1994)

These are available on both the BBKA web site www.BBKA.org.uk/sales
then go to the header line - "For your association honey show" then
line "Show Rules 12p".

FURTHER GUIDANCE NOTES

Tom Salter is a senior honey judge. He has prepared a set of a further
10 pages of guidance notes for those members who would like to know
more. They are not available on the web but you may request the web
master to arrange for a copy to be e-mailed to you for your own
personal use.