



# CBKA SHOW NEWS

Available online at  
[www.teesbees.co.uk](http://www.teesbees.co.uk)

Year 30/9  
Pre Show Special

## CLEVELAND SHOW 2016

environment and enable crops to be pollinated.

Arrangements for the Show are well under way and all schedules and entry forms have now been released. The on-line schedule of classes can be found on page 21 of the Show Schedule: <http://www.middlesbrough.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=15879&p=0>. The entry form can be printed off from: <http://www.middlesbrough.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=15878&p=0>.

Please print one out and send it directly to me with the entry fee and a stamped addressed envelope for the return of the entry labels.

Alternatively, if you prefer the traditional method, I have some paper copies of the schedule which will be available at the Association meeting on Sunday 15th May and also at the June meeting.

As was highlighted in an earlier newsletter, Class 1 has been changed from the observation hive class to a blacked out jar taste test. If you choose to enter this option, you will be provided with an anonymising sleeve for your jar on the day of the show. The sleeves will all be provided so that all jars look the same and no distinction between them can be made from the outside, though I still haven't had any volunteers to knit me the colourful sleeves I saw at one show!!

The observation hive class will still continue but it will be an on-going assessment throughout show season. If you wish to enter an observation hive you will need to let me know and entries will be allocated on a first come first served basis. We will still need observation hives as part of our on-going education and awareness programme. The agreed protocol for the observation hive showing programme can be found on the Teesbees website at: <http://www.teesbees.co.uk/PDF/Obshiveprot.pdf> and the marking template for each entered hive can be found at: <http://www.teesbees.co.uk/PDF/Obshive.pdf>

This year we hope to achieve the Blue Ribbon for over 100 entries. The Blue Ribbon is designed as the premier award at honey shows round the country, and has attached to it a voucher, which when completed by the Show Secretary, will entitle the winner to a free entry to an open class at the National Honey Show and free admission to the show. We were so close last year with 98, so we just need a few more entries to achieve our goal.

One last word. Can all cup winners (yes Steve, we know that's mainly you!) from last year, please return all cups to me by 15th July 2016. I would appreciate it if they could be clean/polished where appropriate as it saves me a big job, though it should keep Steve quite busy!

Good luck with all your entries. **Julie Saxton, Show Secretary**

## DISPLAY CASE

Derek Rylander has kindly given me a beautiful display case for a National Super honey frame. I am happy to lend it to a member who hasn't previously entered a frame of honey at Cleveland, Stokesley, Yorkshire or Countryside Live Shows. Please contact me if you have a good frame and want to enter one of the shows. First come, first served. *Sal Mancina*

## HONEY SHOWS

Here is a list of shows with significant honey and beekeeping sections. Our two local shows are given first with other shows by date with an indication of the number of classes

Where possible the closing date for entries is also given.

Cleveland Show 23 July  
Closing date 9 July

Stokesley Show 17 September  
Closing date 26 August (tbc)

Great Yorkshire Show 12 to 14 July.  
Closed 20 May

Ryedale Show: 26 July  
10 classes  
Closing date 4 July (tbc)

Egton Show: 24 August  
17 Classes  
closing date 3 August (tbc)

Countryside Live 22 and 23 October  
22 Classes  
Closing date 16 Sept (tbc)

National Honey Show 27 to 29 October  
114 Classes  
Closing date early October. but  
Mid September for Photo classes

Other local shows may have one or more classes for honey as part of a wider produce section.

### Cleveland Beekeepers Association

Secretary: Iain Makinson Tel 01287 634995

Winter meetings (September to April) are held on the 3rd Monday of the month at 7:15pm in the Middlesbrough Bowling Club, Cornfield Rd, Middlesbrough TS5 5QL (Near the Little Theatre). Visitors and new members welcome.

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## HOW TO WIN PRIZES

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Read the schedule and make sure you enter what the schedule asks for; its no good entering a rectangular cake when the schedule says it must be round!

**Bottled honey classes:** Jars and lids must be spotlessly clean and, if there is more than one jar in the class, match. Check to make sure that there is no wax left on the seal of the lid, this can deposit a dusty looking powder on top of the honey when the judge removes the lid. Matched jars should be all from the same manufacturer, mould numbers if present do not need to match, but check for imperfections in the glass which may look like problems with the honey after bottling e.g. air bubbles or hair like mould marks. Jars should be well-filled, with no air gap showing below the lid and if there is more than one jar in the class make sure the honey is from the same batch so that the two jars are matching.

**Lids** should be of matching colour and not dented, scratched or showing any sign of rust. (Lids from the same manufacturer sometimes come in slightly different shades.) Check the schedule it may specify colour and whether the lids must be screw top or twist-off.

**Show labels** should be placed as in the schedule. The bottom of label must often be 10-15 mm from the base of jar. If you want to be certain make a ring out of card as a template. The label is best placed away from any mould marks and central between the side mould marks.

**Filtering** show honey is needed to get rid of any particles of wax and bits of stubborn bee and all liquid honey (other than in a 'blacked out' class) should be crystal clear and bright. This should be done hygienically in a clean room. There should be no scum on the surface of the honey. This can be removed about a day after bottling by using a wooden coffee stirrer or lollipop stick. Alternatively cut a piece of cling-film just bigger than the jar, place over the surface of the honey ensuring it is in good contact with the honey and then remove, the scum will come away with the cling-film. (It's a good idea to over-fill the jars so that they are still full after doing this.) After filling ensure that the screw threads and the top of the jar are wiped clean. You can also carefully wipe the inside of the jar down to the level of the honey with a spotlessly clean, damp cloth or piece of kitchen towel. The judge will use a powerful torch which will show up bits of bee, wax or other extraneous matter. It will also show up the beginnings of granulation if present and tiny air bubbles. Granulation can be removed by placing the jar in hot, not boiling, water for a few minutes. Tiny air bubbles can be removed by placing the jar in a warm place for a few days to allow them to rise to the surface and then remove any scum, if present as above.

**Light, medium or dark** – make sure it's in the right class. The Association does have a set of grading glasses so you can check, but a guide is also available on our [website](#).

**Soft set honey** should be just set with very small crystals which have a good texture on the tongue. If you get large bubbles after bottling these will gradually rise to the surface if left in a warm place. Check on a daily basis, and pop any visible bubbles with a cocktail stick, until the honey is set. This may require the jar to be topped up with extra honey. Check for spots of Propolis around the sides and bottom of the jar (the judge will). These can be moved into the centre of the honey using a skewer or similar before the honey sets. (They are not harmful, just unsightly and a reason the judge has for downgrading your honey.)

**Naturally granulated honey** should be naturally granulated and set hard. Ideally with small crystals which have a pleasant texture on the tongue. Minimum amounts of frosting are OK, but excessive frosting looks unsightly and will give the judge a reason to downgrade your honey.

**Honey comb** should fill the container and be drained prior to placing in the container. Comb should be well sealed on both sides. Thin foundation should be used and the foundation should be in the middle of the comb. There should be no sign of granulation.

**Frame of honey for extraction** should be evenly drawn on both sides and well sealed. It should be flat and proud of the frame so that uncapping will be easy. There should be no signs of granulation or pollen in the frame. The judge will use a powerful torch to look for this. Frames should be cleaned of all Propolis and other extraneous debris including cobwebs. The class is for a frame of honey so the frame will be judged as well. It is good practise to ensure that the glass in the show case is sparkling, although the case will not be judged it allows people to see what a fantastic frame you have produced. **Shirley Bond**

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## IF IT'S GOOD ENOUGH TO SELL, IT'S GOOD ENOUGH TO SHOW!

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### BUMBLEBEE CONSERVATION TRUST

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The Bumblebee Conservation Trust has just launched a delightful clothing range with generic bee artwork. A £5 donation to the trust is made with every item purchased. The items range from cotton hoodies and sweatshirts to tea towels and Tote bags, with a separate kids' range. All of the clothing range is made from extra soft organic cotton and the accessories are made from 100% cotton in an ethically accredited, wind-powered factory, low carbon, GM Free and hand finished in the UK. Details are available on BBCT website at: <https://bumblebeeconservation.teemill.co.uk/> **Jim Turnbull**