

THE BBKA SHOW JUDGE ASSESSMENT

PROSPECTUS

Aims

The BBKA Show Judge Assessment aims to provide a goal for those beekeepers who have comprehensive knowledge of all aspects of exhibiting honey and honeybee products. It is designed for those who wish to judge at large, national and international honey shows and have gained considerable experience in entering and obtaining awards in these shows. Holders of the Show Judges' Certificate may be asked by the Board to act as Assessors for the Show Judging Assessments.

1.0 *Conditions of entry*

In order to take the Assessment in Show Judging, candidates will need to demonstrate experience in all aspects of management of Honey Shows, including winning awards, stewarding and judging these shows.

- 1.1 The Candidate shall hold the BBKA Basic Certificate.
- 1.2 The Candidate shall have been awarded at least 30 prizes of 1st, 2nd or 3rd in open classes at honey shows at County, or National level, or honey shows where there are at least 100 entries. Awards must be in at least 10 different categories (see 5.0 below).
- 1.3 The Candidate shall have acted as Steward for at least six BBKA Senior Show Judges. (A list of these may be found in the BBKA Year Book). Entries should cover at least 10 different categories.

2.0 *The Assessment*

All requirements shall be carried out and confirmed in the record book within five years after application and will be **in addition** to those required in the conditions of entry. Where requirements refer to different categories, candidates should refer to the notes in Section 5.0 Categories. In essence the Board needs to be satisfied that the Candidate has a wide knowledge of shows and the experience gained is not only of a 'local' nature so the Candidate is experienced enough to undertake judging commissions at any location to which he/she may be invited.

- 2.1 The Candidate shall achieve the BBKA Intermediate Theory Certificate.
- 2.2 The Candidate shall have been awarded at least 75 prizes of third or higher at honey shows in a variety of open classes at County, or National level, or honey shows where there are at least 100 entries. Awards must include entries in at least 10 different categories.
- 2.3 The Candidate shall have acted as Steward for at least four different BBKA Show Judges at separate County, or National level, or honey shows having at least 100 entries.
- 2.4 The Candidate shall have recorded details of at least one other relevant experience. This may be acting as Show Secretary or other tasks involved in setting up a Honey Show.
- 2.5 The candidate shall provide evidence of having judged a minimum of five separate Shows, at least 5 categories must be judged per show. Three of these shows shall be assessed by an approved BBKA Show Judge. (See 2.6 below).

2.6 *Supervised Judging Assessment:*

The Assessor will be a different BBKA approved Show Judge for each of the three shows.

The candidate will be assessed against the criteria detailed in the syllabus. The Assessor will use a standard Assessment Form supplied by the Examinations Board which, when completed, will be returned to the Board Secretary.

Candidates may not refer to the syllabus or any other document during the assessment.

- 2.7 When all other requirements have been completed a final supervised judging and viva voce against the criteria detailed in the syllabus will be held at the National Honey Show, or any other show approved by the Examinations Board, with two BBKA approved Show Judges nominated by the Board. An Assessment Form supplied by the Education Board will be completed by the nominated Show Judges and will be returned to the Board secretary.

3.0 ***Procedure***

- 3.1 Standard application forms shall be accompanied by lists providing details of the entry requirements.
- 3.2 On acceptance of the application, a Record Book will be forwarded to the candidate, to be used to officially record achievement of the requirements for the Show Judge Award.
- 3.3 The candidate shall also be provided with a list of BBKA Show Judges who are approved to carry out the supervised Judging assessment. The candidate should negotiate with appropriate Show Judges to arrange a suitable assessment venue for the supervised Judging assessments.
- 3.4 The Candidate is to advise the Board Secretary, at least one month before the show, the intended date, show venue and approved Show Judge who will supervise the assessment.
- 3.5 The Candidate is to advise the Board Secretary when all the Assessment requirements have been completed in order that the final supervised judging and viva voce may be arranged. At least one month's notice is required.

4.0 ***The Record Book***

- 4.1 Awards achieved shall be recorded as Date, Show, Class, number of exhibits in each class and Award and be signed by the awarding judge or show secretary.
- 4.2 Stewardship shall be recorded as Date, Show, Number of Entries, Judge, Comments from the Judge and the Judges Signature.
- 4.3 Show Judge experience shall be recorded as Date, Show, Number of Entries, Number of Classes, the Category of Class judged (see 5.0 below), the number of entries in each class judged and the name, signature and comments of the Show Secretary or of the BBKA Judge if supervised.
- 4.4 Other experience recorded should include brief details of the role and duties undertaken. It should be signed by a Show Official.
- 4.5 The completed Record Book shall be sent to the Board Secretary.

5.0 ***Categories***

- 5.1 The candidate is required to provide evidence of experience gained in all the following categories:

- Liquid Honey
- Granulated Honey and Soft Set Honey
- Heather Honey
- Composite Classes
- Comb Suitable for Extraction
- Cut Comb and Sections
- Mead
- Wax
- Candles
- Displays
- Honey Cakes and Honey Sweetmeats
- Slides and Photographs
- Observation Hives
- Nuclei (optional)

6.0 ***Results***

- 6.1 The final Supervised Judging and Viva Voce Assessment Form will be sent to the Examinations Board Secretary for consideration by the moderator if necessary.
- 6.2 The Board Secretary will notify the Candidate of the Board's decision.
- 6.3 If the candidate is not successful the Board will indicate which part of the requirements for the Show Judge Award has to be repeated.

THE SHOW JUDGES' ASSESSMENT

SYLLABUS

General Information

The Candidate shall be aware of:-

- 1.1 the need for procedure on being invited to act as Judge (including reference to the show schedule and rules)
- 1.2 the use of his/her judging equipment, (grading glasses, tasting rods, etc.), with particular reference to points of hygiene
- 1.3 the various methods of arriving at a decision (points or comparison)
- 1.4 the procedure at the show bench and in particular systems or sequences of operation, and the "weighting" given to flavour, viscosity, cleanliness, etc.
- 1.5 the requirement to demonstrate in each of the categories a logical process for judging
- 1.6 the importance of time management in respect of judging the individual classes in the whole honey show scenario
- 1.7 "natural faults" of section honey, cut comb honey and combs suitable for extraction (wax moth, braula)
- 1.8 possible faking. e.g. loose cappings put on open cells, overheating or "cooking" of honey in preparation of samples of honey for the show bench, caramelising of honey, bleaching and adulteration of beeswax
- 1.9 the necessity of good food handling hygiene by Judges, Stewards and Exhibitors
- 1.10 the necessary procedures to put into place when 'open judging' (in the presence of an audience or the general public).

Honey Show Schedule and Rules

The Candidate shall be aware of:-

- 2.1 the contents of the BBKA Booklet "A Guide for Judges and Exhibitors of Honey and Bee Produce"
- 2.2 the implications of studying the show schedule and show rules before they commence judging the honey and bee products at the show, particularly with reference to the type of jar, weights, sizes, numbers, area of exhibits for displays
- 2.3 the necessity to use standard colour grading glasses
- 2.4 the rules concerning multiple entries where these are permitted
- 2.5 the general rules concerning the award of challenge cups, trophies and special awards.

Legal Requirements

The Candidate shall:-

- 3.1 be aware of the current legal requirements for the labelling of jars of honey. Where labels are required to be put on jars of honey e.g. commercial classes and some gift classes, the labels shall be in accordance with the latest legal requirements
- 3.2 give an account of the regulations governing the preparation of honey for sale including the suitability of the premises and equipment.

Liquid, Granulated, Soft Set, Heather and Composite Classes

The Candidate shall be aware of:-

- 4.1 the different types of honey
- 4.2 the correct use of standard honey grading glasses
- 4.3 the difference between naturally granulated honey and soft set honey and the requirement for the honey to have dry tops with no scum and that fine granulation is preferred to coarse
- 4.4 the difference between ling heather honey and bell heather honey and to be able to demonstrate a method of judging Ling Heather indicating the means of determining its quality and characteristics
- 4.5 the requirement for all exhibits to be scrupulously clean, and to downgrade or disqualify as necessary
- 4.6 the advisability of using the comparative system of judging, except in the composite, cakes, and honey sweetmeats classes where a points system may be preferred.

Comb Suitable for Extraction, Cut Comb and Sections

The Candidate shall be aware of the need for:-

- 5.1 cleanliness in all comb honey, especially in cut comb and sections where there will be no signs of Braula, Varroa or wax moth
- 5.2 no granulation or fermentation in all comb honey
- 5.3 complete cleanliness of the woodwork of comb honey, the woodwork of sections and the plastic container of cut comb honey

- 5.4 checking that sugar syrup feeding has not been used to complete the filling of combs. If detected the exhibit shall be disqualified.

Mead

The Candidate shall be aware of:-

- 6.1 the details in the show schedule concerning the type of bottle and cork, and the permitted ingredients used in the preparation of mead
- 6.2 the difference between dry mead and sweet mead
- 6.3 the mead being clear with virtually no sediment in the bottom of the bottle and having no secondary fermentation
- 6.4 other "meads" such as melomel, metheglin, cyser and pyment
- 6.5 the alternate methods of judging mead classes.

Wax

The Candidate shall be aware that:-

- 7.1 the weight will be in accordance with the show schedule
- 7.2 the wax may be polished or unpolished
- 7.3 adulteration or bleaching will be heavily down graded
- 7.4 if the Exhibitor uses wooden show cases that the aroma of the wax may be effected by the aroma of the wooden show case and to downgrade as necessary
- 7.5 the top of the wax will have an even flat surface, achieved by cooling at the correct temperature
- 7.6 the wax will be perfectly clean and that there shall be no foreign bodies and to downgrade or disqualify as necessary.

Candles

The Candidate shall be aware that:-

- 8.1 the candles will be made of pure beeswax and be prepared, moulded, poured, dipped or rolled in accordance with the show schedule
- 8.2 the Judge will light one candle to check the candles burning, indicating the correct sizing of the wick, unless specifically required not to do so by the show schedule
- 8.3 there shall be no smoke when the candle is burning
- 8.4 the "weighting" to be given to the method of production
- 8.5 the importance of wick size and the effect that a wrong size wick may have.

Displays

The Candidate shall be aware that:-

- 9.1 this is the class in any honey show that is the least defined and that he/she will check very carefully the details in the show schedule
- 9.2 he/she will check all items for cleanliness, purity, aroma and flavour, and the mead, beeswax, honey and comb honey as detailed in the sections on these items
- 9.3 there are particular methods of judging that may have to be employed in this class.

Observation Hives and Nucleus Hives

The Candidate shall be aware that:-

- 10.1 the welfare of the bees is of paramount importance and if any distress is visible through overcrowding in observation hives this must be rectified immediately
- 10.2 they will be judged for educational purposes
- 10.3 all items in the hive shall be labelled with up-to-date labels placed on the outside of the glass or Perspex of the hive
- 10.4 the Queen will be marked
- 10.5 water must be available and not just honey or sugar syrup for the bees
- 10.6 there must be adequate ventilation built into the observation hive construction

- 10.7 the bees shall be allowed to fly if this is permissible
- 10.8 the presence of any notifiable disease will disqualify the exhibit
- 10.9 there are alternative methods of judging the observation hive.

Additionally, Nucleus Hives shall:-

- 10.10 demonstrate brood in all stages of development
- 10.11 have up to 5 combs covered with bees, including drones
- 10.12 have adequate sealed food
- 10.13 have combs of good condition
- 10.14 have written records of the colony details
- 10.15 have bees of good temperament.

Honey Cakes and Honey Sweetmeats

The Candidate shall be aware that:-

- 11.1 the cake and sweetmeats will be in accordance with the show schedule
- 11.2 the cake should not have sunk in the middle, and if fruit is used in the recipe it should not have fallen to the bottom
- 11.3 the cake will be cut in half with a suitable knife to check its texture
- 11.4 the cake and sweetmeats shall be tasted for honey flavour and the aroma noted
- 11.5 an ingredients list and recipe is required if not in the show schedule.

Slides and Photographs

The Candidate shall be aware that the following points need to be considered when judging classes of slides and photographs:-

- 12.1 sharpness of focus of the subject of the photograph
- 12.2 composition of the photograph
- 12.3 subject of the photograph
- 12.4 originality
- 12.5 contrast
- 12.6 any narrative if applicable
- 12.7 sizes of print and mount to be as defined in the Schedule.

APPLICATION TO ENTER

Application to enter.

This should be made through the Local Examination Secretary of the County Beekeeping Association or directly to the BBKA Examination Secretary at the Address given below.

Application Form.

Any application must be accompanied by a completed Application Form together with the Assessment Fee. Cheques should be made payable to BBKA. The dates when any relevant certificates were obtained must be entered on the Application Form. Certificates should not be sent. A list of awards and experience as required by the prospectus shall be included with the application.

Ensure that the Certificate of Qualification on the Application Form, is completed.

Candidates may not certify their own application.

Assessment Fees.

The current fees for the Assessments may be obtained from the Local Examination Secretary or the Board Secretary.

AUTHORITY

The above is issued by the BBKA Examinations Board and all communications in respect of the Assessments should be addressed to:

The Secretary,
BBKA Examinations Board,
The British Beekeepers' Association,
R.A.S.E.,
Stoneleigh Park,
Kenilworth,
Warwickshire.
CV8 2LG

Price £1.00

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