



**Fareham & District
Beekeepers' Association**

HOW TO WIN AT THE HONEY SHOW

21 SEPTEMBER 2024

Why enter the Show

- **Good shop window for your honey**
- **Prize certificates on your stall boost sales and add to the value**
- **Anyone can be a winner**
- **Get your entry form from the Show Secretary now**

RULE 1

**Read the Show Schedule very
carefully**

Colour

Ask for help using grading glasses to ensure your honey is placed in the correct class.



PREPARATIO N

- *Go for the easier classes!* The light and medium clear honey classes are the most popular, and the most difficult to win.
- If the schedule asks for two jars of honey, the jars should match in every respect.



- Honey must be shown in 454g round glass honey jars.
- Check if plastic or metal lids are specified.
- The judge will look for a full jar of honey.
- If there is an airgap between the top of the honey and the lid, the judge will throw out the entry as underweight, without even opening the jar. It pays to slightly overfill the jars.
- You should bring the jars to the Show unlabelled. The Show Secretary will provide you with labels, showing the class and your entry number.

- **Position the labels correctly on the jar.**
- **If the schedule says $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from the bottom of the jar, make a plywood template to set the label correctly.**
- **The label should be positioned halfway between the seams of the jar.**
- **Ensure the lids are clean .**
- **Don't change the lids at the show, it releases important aromas.**



Labels

If entering the class of honey labelled for sale the labels must be fully compliant with the Honey Regulations (England) 2015

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2015/1348>

JUDGING

- **The judge uses a torch to search for bits of wax or pollen.**
- **Honey must be the correct weight**
- **Good aroma**
- **Good flavour**
- **Sparkling clear**
- **Good viscosity**

- **No bubbles**
- **No fermentation**
- **No dust on the surface of the honey**
- **No crystals**

Dark honey

- Only produced occasionally.
- Some less-scrupulous exhibitors drag out the same jars of dark honey year after year.

Granulated honey

- Fine granulation, no frosting against the glass
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- No liquid residue on top of the honey.
- A strong flavoured honey will do well.
- Check that it has not started to ferment.



- **Soft set honey.**
- **No frosting**
- **Very smooth texture**
- **Strong flavour**



Cut comb

- ❖ Cut the pieces of comb carefully and stand them on a grill pan mesh overnight to drain.
- ❖ The judge looks for matching pieces of comb same weight
- ❖ fully capped on both sides
- ❖ no liquid honey in the container
- ❖ no pollen
- ❖ no wax moth larvae or eggs



- ❖ **Chunk honey Very eye-catching.**
- ❖ **You can win Best in Show with this class.**
- ❖ **Cut the largest possible piece of comb to fit in the jar.**
- ❖ **The comb must be the full height of the jar, or it will float upwards, leaving a gap underneath.**
- ❖ **The comb should stand upright.**



- ❖ The glass magnifies the size of the comb, and gives a great appearance.
- ❖ Use a light liquid honey, and use the same colour honey for the comb.
- ❖ No loose bits of beeswax cappings in the jar
- ❖ no pollen in the comb.

Invention

Heather honey

- ❖ The best of all honey.
- ❖ The judge looks for bright amber honey
- ❖ Large suspended air bubbles.
- ❖ Heather honey must be thixotropic, ie. jelly like.
- ❖ No granulation allowed.



Shallow frame of honey suitable for extracting

This is the easiest of all classes. The bees have done all the work.

Select a nice heavy comb with flat faces, fully capped, no hollow spots, no brace comb on the frame, no yellow travel staining on the cappings. Hold it up to a strong light.

Check that there is no granulation and no pollen. Scrape the woodwork clean with a sharp Stanley knife blade. Display the frame in a [good quality display case](#) with clean glass.

Cut comb

Cut the pieces of comb carefully and stand them on a grill pan mesh overnight to drain.

The judge looks for
matching pieces of comb,
the same weight,
fully capped on both sides,
no liquid honey in the container,
no pollen,
no honey on the container lid.

SUMMARY

Anyone can enter

Read the schedule carefully

Pay attention to detail

The bees have done all the work

THERE ARE SEVEN DISTINCT COLORS ON THE PFUND COLOR GRADING SYSTEM

