

Western Galloway
Beekeepers' Association
Preparing for the Honey
Show 2026

Preparing for the Honey Show



The Honey Show

- A display of the products we (and the bees) produce
- Demonstrates how best to prepare our products for sale/gifting
- Qualified judges to ensure consistency
- Behind closed doors judging – the judges will explain the process for each class at the prizegiving
- A great way to learn how to perfect our products
- A wee bit of competition – trophies and tickets will be awarded
- Great fun day

Preparing for the Honey Show

What do you need?

- The schedule and rules
- An entry form
- Products you already have which will meet the requirements of the schedule

or

the energy to complete a project before the show

- Enthusiasm to make this another successful show

THE SCHEDULE AND CLASSES

- Read the schedule carefully
- Read the rules carefully
- 8 classes for honey
- 2 classes for wax
- 5 other classes so that every member can enter something!
- 454g jars unless otherwise stated
- Read the schedule carefully
- Read the rules carefully

SUNDAY 29TH NOVEMBER 2026

GLEN OF LUCE HALL, AUCHENMALG

JUDGE – PAUL BOYLE

SHOW SECRETARY – DOUGIE MAJOR

ENTRIES OPEN TO WGBA MEMBERS ONLY – THERE IS NO ENTRY FEE

CLASS 1: 2 X 454g/1lb JARS LIGHT HONEY

CLASS 2: 2 X 454g/1lb JARS MEDIUM HONEY

CLASS 3: 2 X 454g/1lb JARS CREAMED/SOFT SET, OR NATURALLY SET HONEY

CLASS 4: 2 CONTAINERS OF CUT COMB HONEY (EACH WEIGHING BETWEEN 170g AND 225g)

CLASS 5: 2 X 454g/1lb JARS CHUNK HONEY

CLASS 6: 2 X 454g/1lb JARS HEATHER HONEY OR HEATHER BLEND HONEY

SEE RULE 7 RE JARS FOR CLASSES 1,2,3,5 AND 6

SEE RULE 8 RE CONTAINERS FOR CLASS 4

CLASS 7: 1 X JAR OF HONEY TO BE JUDGED ON FLAVOUR ONLY. HONEY CAN BE LIQUID OR SET, ANY COLOUR, ANY QUANTITY BUT NO LESS THAN 225g - *SEE RULE 9*

CLASS 8: 1 X FRAME HONEY READY FOR EXTRACTION – *SEE RULE 10*

CLASS 9: 5 X 1oz (28g) MATCHING MOULDED BEESWAX BLOCKS TO BE DISPLAYED ON A PAPER PLATE WITHIN A PLASTIC BAG (BAG TO BE PROVIDED BY THE SHOW SECRETARY)

CLASS 10: 2 X IDENTICAL BEESWAX CANDLES OF ANY SIZE OR COLOUR, MAY BE ROLLED, DIPPED OR FROM A MOULD. – *SEE RULE 11*

CLASS 11: 1 x JAR OF HONEY RELISH - *SEE RULE 12*

CLASS 12: 1 PHOTOGRAPHIC PRINT, BLACK+WHITE OR COLOUR, MOUNTED ON CARD NO LARGER THAN A4, ON A SUBJECT RELATING TO BEEKEEPING

CLASS 13: A HOMEMADE CRAFT ITEM RELATING TO BEEKEEPING – *SEE RULE 13*

CLASS 14: A HOMEMADE GIFT ITEM REFLECTING BEES

– *SEE RULE 14*

CLASS 15: ONE BOTTLE OF MEAD (SWEET OR DRY)

ENTRIES TO BE IN THE HANDS OF THE HONEY SHOW SECRETARY BY SUNDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 2026

Light honey + Medium honey

- Use grading glasses if you are unsure

What will the judge be looking for

- Matching jars and lids - undamaged and unsticky
- Lids may be metal or plastic
- The honey should be clear with no granulation

Tip – for 1lb jars - gently heat in a water bath 54 degrees for 45 minutes

- No foreign bodies – e.g. legs or wings!!
- The surface free from dust and scum
- Well filled jars - no gap below the level of the lid
- Viscosity, flavour + moisture content using a refractometer

Light honey (or are they?)



Judge inspecting light honey



Medium honey – note position of labels and metal/plastic lids



Medium honey



Creamed/Soft set honey

What will the judge be looking for

- As before re jars, lids, cleanliness, foreign bodies, surface and filling
- No frosting on the shoulders of the jars
- Fine granulation
- Signs of movement when the jar is tilted
- No air bubbles
- Good colour and aroma
- No trace of fermentation

Judging creamed /soft set honey



Cut Comb honey

What will the judge be looking for

- The pieces of comb should fill the containers
- Containers of equal weight
- Level cappings, dry and free from staining
- Little or no run honey in the bottom of the container
- Preferably thin foundation
- Free from brood, pollen or granulated honey

Cut comb honey



Cut comb honey



Chunk honey

What will the judge be looking for

- As before re jars, lids, cleanliness, foreign bodies, surface and filling
- Piece of comb should be as large as possible
- Cells pointing upwards, as they do on a frame
- Level cappings
- Jars filled with run honey
- Run honey contains no debris
- No granulation in run honey

Chunk honey – not the best example!



Heather/heather blend honey

What will the judge be looking for

- As before re jars, lids, cleanliness, foreign bodies, surface and filling
- Contains bubbles (from the pressing process)
- Distinctive aroma and flavour
- No sign of fermentation



A display of
Heather honey

Honey to be judged on flavour alone

Follow the rules re covering the jar

Any jar size but no less than 225g

What will the judge be looking for

- The best flavoured honey! - Simple

Jars covered and ready to be opened for tasting



Frame of honey ready for extraction

What will the judge be looking for

- Depth of comb
- Evenness of comb
- Good cappings on both sides
- No granulation or pollen
- Wooden parts of frame scraped of wax and propolis

Frame of honey – the wooden parts need a little bit of tidying up before showing



Use a display case if you have one, although it is not necessary. We have display cases for members to borrow.



Checking for pollen and granulation



5 x 1oz/28g beeswax blocks

What will the judge be looking for

- All the same shape and size
- As close to 1oz/28g as possible
- Clean, well filtered wax
- Free of fingerprints etc.
- Exhibit on a paper plate



If you don't have a mould
– ask!
Someone will have one
you can borrow

2 X identical beeswax candles, of any size or colour, may be rolled, dipped or from a mould

What will the judge be looking for

- Each candle should be as close to the same as possible
- The correct size of wick in any candles
- Your candles may be lit by the judge – ensure it is stable and won't be a fire risk

The world is your oyster – see the photos for some ideas

But some of these examples are not suitable – can you spot them?







Candles





1 x jar honey relish

What will the judge be looking for

- Honey flavour when tasted
- Use of the recipe in the schedule

Relish – but do these jars meet the schedule?



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Photographic print

What will the judge be looking for

- Eye-catching photo
- May be black/white or colour
- Doesn't have to be a bee on a flower!
- Mounted on card



Some photos from
a previous show



More
examples,
from the
2019 show

A Homemade Craft Item relating to beekeeping

What will the judge be looking for

- A well crafted item
- Relating to working with honey bees in the hive

or

- For harvesting any product from the hive

A Homemade gift item reflecting bees

What will the judge be looking for

- An eye-catching exhibit which is nicely presented
- Think out of the box – it could be a painting, tapestry, cake, the possibilities are endless

Beeswax wraps









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"Bees"
by Amy Crook
antemortemarts.com

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Bottle of Mead – sweet or dry

- The bottle – clear, round-section, punted wine glass (usually 750ml), free of and decoration
- The closure – cork stopper with white plastic flange
- Fill level – no more than half inch below base of cork
- Clarity – perfectly clear and bright
- No sediment
- Colour – can vary but must be natural, appealing and not artificial
- Aroma – honey bouquet, free of chemical off-gases
- Flavour – no after-taste of yeast, mustiness or flatness
- Ingredients – honey water and yeast – no other additives

Mead





We usually have
around 100 entries

Every entry counts
towards a
wonderful display

There is a class for
every member,
even if you don't
keep bees!

There will be prizes and trophies

Points cup

Novice cup

Best photograph tankard

Best honey in show cup

Best wax trophy

Best in show trophy

Mead Mug – new for 2026



- BUT

- It's about taking part and giving it a go

– we all had to start somewhere!

- In the process you will learn heaps about how to process the wonderful honey your bees produce

- using the wax which is a by product of beekeeping

- using honey in your baking

- showing off your creative side with a beekeeping twist

Most of all it's great fun and we continue a show that has been going for almost a century

Let's keep our Honey show alive and kicking

What next?

- Read the schedule and the rules carefully
- See which classes suit you
- Set aside any honey you want to enter (before it is given away/sold!)
- Practice some wax work – a great project for when the days get shorter
- Practice your cooking – and enjoy the outcome
- Get you creative juices flowing and make an entry for Class 14
- Complete your entry form and send it to the Honey Show secretary before the closing date – 15th November