

# **The British Beekeepers Association**

**Examinations Board**



**Standards in Honeybee Husbandry**

**A Route towards Beekeeping Excellence**

**SYLLABUS**

for the

**Show Judge Certificate**

**EXAMINATIONS BOARD**  
**THE BBKA SHOW JUDGE ASSESSMENT**  
**SYLLABUS**  
**Applicable from January 2020**

***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 honey bee 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 BBKA Examination Board to act as Assessors for the Show Judging Assessments.

**1.0 *Stage 1 applying for the Record Book:***

In order to take the Assessment in Show Judging, candidates will need to demonstrate experience of basic beekeeping, winning awards and stewarding at major honey shows.

- 1.1 The Candidate must hold the BBKA Basic Certificate.
- 1.2 The Candidate must have been awarded at least 30 prizes of 1st, 2nd or 3rd in open classes at major honey shows where there are at least 100 entries. Awards must be in at least 10 different categories (see 4.0 below).
- 1.3 The Candidate must have acted as Steward for at least **four** BBKA Show Judges. Entries should cover at least 10 different categories (see section 4.0 below). It is recommended that these are different Show Judges but some duplication is acceptable.
- 1.4 Standard application forms must be accompanied by a list providing details of the entry requirements. A form for this purpose is in Appendix A.
- 1.5 On acceptance of the application, a Record Book will be forwarded to the candidate, to be used to officially record achievement of the assessment requirements for the Show Judge Award.
- 1.6 The candidate will also be provided with a list of BBKA Show Judges and a list of those who are approved to carry out the supervised Judging assessment. See stage 2.

**2.0 *Stage 2 completing the log book:***

All assessment requirements should be carried out and recorded 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 4.0 *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 must achieve/hold the BBKA Module 1 and Module 2 Examinations or the BBKA General Husbandry Certificate before the Show Judge Certificate can be awarded.
- 2.2 The Candidate must be awarded at least 75 prizes of third or higher at honey shows in a variety of open classes at major honey shows where there are at least 100 entries. (This is an additional 75 over and above the 30 needed to get your Record Book)

**If the candidate has in excess of 30 awards prior to commencing the assessment, awards in the previous 5 years may count towards the 75 awards and are to be recorded in the log book.** For example, if you had 40 awards prior to getting your Record Book you could use the 10 extra ones to count towards the 75 target. Awards must include entries in at least 10 different categories.

2.3 The Candidate must act as Steward for at least **six** different BBKA Show Judges at honey shows having at least 100 entries. It is recommended that these are different shows but some duplication is acceptable.

2.4 The Candidate must record 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 must provide evidence of having judged a minimum of **5** separate Shows.

**At least 5 categories (see section 4.0 below) must be judged per show. Overall categories 1-10 must be included plus two from categories 11-14.**

Three of these shows must be assessed by an approved BBKA Show Judge and each assessment has to be of a standard that the approved BBKA Show Judge can recommend a pass. Therefore, in order to get three passes you may well have more than three assessments in the five year period.

### 2.6 *Three Supervised Judging Assessments:*

- The candidate should negotiate with Show Judges from the approved list to arrange a suitable assessment venue for the supervised Judging assessments.
- 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. An email to this effect is acceptable.
- 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. Should the assessment not reach the required standard the approved BBKA Show Judge will convert the assessment to a tutorial session and the candidate must make arrangements for an additional assessment. As stated above you may well do more than 3 assessments.
- Candidates may not refer to the syllabus or any other document during the assessment.

2.7 The completed Record Book must be sent to the Board Secretary.

### 3.0 *Stage 3 the Viva Voce:*

3.1 When all the Assessment requirements have been completed the final supervised judging and viva voce will be arranged by the Board Secretary. At least one month's notice is required for arrangements to be made.

3.2 The final supervised judging and viva voce will be held at a suitable venue, with two BBKA Show Judge Assessors nominated by the Board. The focus of this final assessment will be based on the criteria detailed in the syllabus, the contents of the record book and the Assessment reports.

#### 4.0 *Categories*

- 4.1 The candidate is required to provide evidence of judging experience gained in categories 1 to 10 and two other categories from the remaining four.

- 1 Liquid Honey**
- 2 Granulated Honey and Soft Set Honey**
- 3 Heather Honey**
- 4 Composite Classes**
- 5 Comb Suitable for Extraction**
- 6 Cut Comb and Sections**
- 7 Mead**
- 8 Wax**
- 9 Candles**
- 10 Honey Cakes and Honey Sweetmeats**
- 11 Displays
- 12 Slides and Photographs
- 13 Observation Hives
- 14 Nuclei

#### 5.0 *Results*

- 5.1 The Examination Board Secretary will notify the Candidate of the Board's decision.
- 5.2 If the candidate is not successful the Examination Board will provide feedback and indicate which part of the assessment has to be repeated.

# THE SHOW JUDGES' ASSESSMENT

## SYLLABUS

### 1.0 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).

### 2.0 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" – available to purchase from the BBKA.
- 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.

### 3.0 Legal Requirements

*The Candidate shall:-*

- 3.1 be aware of the current UK 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 food hygiene requirements governing the preparation of honey and hive products

#### **4.0 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.

#### **5.0 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.

#### **6.0 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.

#### **7.0 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.

## **8.0 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.

## **9.0 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.

## **10.0 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.

## **11.0 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.

## **12.0 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. A form for this purpose is included at Appendix A

### **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,  
Stoneleigh Park,  
Kenilworth,  
Warwickshire.  
CV8 2LG

Price £1.00

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