

## Preparing for a Honey Show *from Sue Carter*

Sue is a member of Chalfonts Beekeeping Society and was our judge last year. She also gave a really informative talk in February. She wrote the following tips for the Chalfont August newsletter and has kindly agreed for them to be shared, with just a little adaptation to fit in with our schedule.

### Honey –

There are a few important pointers in presenting your honey:-

1. The surface of the honey is clean. If there are surface bubbles, you can skim them off using a teaspoon to pull the bubbles to one side and scooping them out of the jar.



Alternatively, push a piece of cling film onto the surface of the honey and gently pull it off and the bubbles will stick to the cling film.



2. Make sure the jars and lids are clean and not sticky
3. The honey jars are full and there is no visible air gap between the surface of the honey and the bottom of the lid of the jar.



4. Use a torch to look through the honey to make sure there is no debris or particles in the honey



5. In classes needing 2 jars to be entered, the two must be identical in every way, and so must come from the same batch.

### Wax

Wax should be filtered and not overheated. Ideally use cappings wax for showing as this gives the nicest coloured wax.

Choose clean and dry moulds to pour the wax into

Make sure your wax blocks are the correct weight according to the schedule.

For candles, remember the club has a selection of candle moulds you can borrow.

Rolled candles. Look on the internet to find a whole variety of ideas of what can be made using coloured beeswax foundation. The club has some you can buy if you want to have a go.

### Baking.

Anyone can have a go at making a honey cake, as you can use any honey in it, it doesn't have to be your own.

Use the correct sized tin for the cake.

Just be careful as honey burns easily, so be prepared to cover the cake towards the end of the cooking so that the cake cooks through but doesn't burn.

### Miscellaneous

Image – remember the public will be looking at the photos so the judge will be looking for a photo interesting to them. It is fairly easy to take pictures of bees on flowers, so look for an image that is a bit unusual.

Home produced goods – the judge will look for presentation as well as the variety and complexity of making the goods on display.

Frame of honey for display. You will need to borrow a display case for the frame, which should be completely capped and the frame edges cleaned (the judge will take the frame out of the case to examine it, so they don't want to get sticky!).

Make sure there is no evidence of wax moth on the frame.

### Beginners

Please have a go!!

It's great fun and the comments and encouragement you receive will help your beekeeping and sales in future. You will get all your entries back.