

# National Honey Show 2016

By Sue Carter, Fiona Matheson and Val Rhenius

*Sue Carter, Fiona Matheson and Val Rhenius present highlights from the National Honey Show 2016.*

In 2016 the world's most prestigious honey show moved to the fabulous, spacious, Sandown Park Racecourse. With membership and attendance growing over the years, and over forty trade and exhibition stands selling a variety of goods, the decision to move to the bigger and brighter venue with its views over London proved popular with exhibitors, traders and attendees.

The main hall looked stunning with rows of honey disappearing into the far distance and plenty of room to display all of the classes. The number of competitive entries, which make such an incredible sight, was almost as many as the bumper 2015 year, reflecting the perhaps slightly less bumper 2016 beekeeping season. The huge hall was big enough to accommodate the traders next to the honey show, with wide aisles, where people could chat, making for a very convivial atmosphere.

Showing is often about team effort. This is most obvious with the Class 10 tiered displays of honey, beeswax and mead. The



Tiered honey display. Photo by Chris Utting, Devon BKA.

four pyramid displays were, as usual, spectacular. North Shropshire's wonderful, inventive exhibit with wax fruit and vegetables was, once again, the talk of the show. The many team contributions from local branches contribute towards a special trophy and those from Buckinghamshire, being the county with the most points, all contributed to this county, once again, winning the Smallholder Shield. The results are listed on [www.honeyshow.co.uk](http://www.honeyshow.co.uk) together with, by popular request, judges' comments for classes 5 and 6.



Honey jar display in the background and North Shropshire's wax fruit and vegetable display. Photo by Sue Carter, Chalfonts BKA, Buckinghamshire.

The thirty workshops, where attendees could learn a variety of skills to enable them to enter new and different classes in the show next year, were well appreciated. It was good to see so many splendid entries in our new skep class, and that past workshop attendees were putting their skills to such impressively good use.

Our lecture halls were also more spacious this year with plenty of seating for all who wanted to come. Our main lecturers, Susan Cobey and Professor David Tarpy, each gave several talks on their research projects. The experiences of the Beekeeping Apprentices' scheme, by Brigit Strawbridge and Philip McCabe were also entertaining and informative. Thanks to a



One of the wax flower displays. Photo by Chris Utting, Devon BKA.

grant from the CB Dennis British Beekeepers' Research Trust, these lectures will be available to view on the National Honey YouTube Channel in due course. The parallel Friday Bee Craft and Saturday 'New to Beekeeping' lectures offered different and interesting topics and were well attended, as always.

The Honey Show is a great place to meet old friends and fellow beekeepers and the food hall proved a popular meeting, chatting and relaxing area.

All in all, the vibrant feel of the show and the feedback from everyone there has made the big step of our move to the new venue well worthwhile. We will, therefore, be back at Sandown Park next year on 26-28 October 2017. See you there.

## Diary Date

*National Honey Show 26-28  
October 2017 at Sandown Park  
Racecourse, Surrey*