



Chairman's Report Tom Hulme - Chairman - National Cherry & Soft Fruit Show

Welcome to the Show Programme for the 93rd National Cherry and Soft Fruit Show. We are delighted that this year the NCSFS will be held at a new venue, Brogdale Farm in Faversham, home of the National Fruit Collection.

The show will coincide with Brogdale's annual cherry festival which opens up their orchards over the weekend to the public for educational tours and tastings: https://brogdalecollections.org/event/cherry-trail/

Brogdale Collections, renowned for its National Fruit Collection, provides a picturesque and fitting backdrop for our celebration of British-grown cherries and soft fruits. We believe this new location will not only showcase the high quality and diversity of the fruit grown in the UK but also enhance the overall experience and most importantly, make it more accessible for visitors to see our first-class entries. We are very grateful to Macknades for hosting the show in recent years and expect to retain a close relationship with Stefano and his wonderful staff and business into the future. Our thanks go to them for their support.

Holding the NCSFS at Brogdale is another opportunity for us to evolve how we present and make the most of the opportunity to maximise interaction between the NCSFS, the growers that enter fruit into the competition and the public. We have been delighted by the small change we made in recent years to the protocol for sending fruit to the Royal Family. It has been a tradition of the show to send a selection of the winning cherry exhibits to various members of the Royal Family including the late HRH Her Majesty the Queen on the day of the show. We have instead arranged with the Palace that exhibits by each winning grower of both stone and soft fruit (cherries, raspberries and strawberries) are sent directly in the week following the NCSFS to HRHs His Majesty the King

and Queen Camilla as well as the Prince and Princess of Wales and their children. I hope everyone in the industry will continue to respond positively to this great opportunity to show the world how we constantly strive to increase the quality of the fruit we all grow.

2023 saw another superb entry across both soft fruit and cherries and once again we saw a stunning display of fruit. In general quality and presentation was of the highest standard across the board with the short cherry crop leading to some exceptional calibre fruit. Well done and thank you to all those who continue to support the NCSFS and many congratulations to all the winners. A special thanks to Catherine Joules our tireless Secretary and all those who contribute so much to enable us to put on the Show each year. We are very grateful for all you do. Finally, on behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank all our supporters whose generous donations keep the Show going and in particular Driscoll's, DPS, Norton Folgate and for the first time this year, BerryWorld. I would also like to thank Produce Packaging for providing the punnets and chips. We would not be able to put on this important show piece for the industry without your support so thank you very much.

We remain excited and optimistic in equal measure about the future of our show and look forward to seeing you at Brogdale on Friday 12th July.











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NCSFS Committee

T Hulme (Chairman) R Sands (Vice-Chairman) T Johnson (Chief Steward) C Joules (Secretary) G Cuthbert J Hinchliff R Hinge A Myatt

Drop off Points for Entries

Drop off points for entries (if not being delivered directly to Brogdale Collections). Please call in advance:

Name: Tom Hulme

Address: A C Hulme & Sons, Hoaden Court Farm, Hoaden, Ash, Kent, CT3 2LG Contact no: 07887 936485 Email: tom@achfarming.co.uk

Name: Rachel Sands

Address: Brian Piper Partners, Filmers Farm, Salts Lane, Loose, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 0BD Contact no: 07709 452336 Email: rachelsands@live.co.uk

A courier can be available to deliver fruit coming from other areas in the UK. Please contact the Secretary for further details.





Did you know that the NCSFS has a long standing tradition of sending fruit to the Royal Family?

For many years, the prize winning cherries from the show would be couriered to Buckingham Palace to Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Michael of Kent and Princess Alexandra. Beautiful letters of acknowledgement and thanks would be received and passed onto the respective grower of the fruit.

Since the sad passing on Queen Elizabeth II, we have agreed with Buckingham Palace to send a selection of fruit (cherries, strawberries and raspberries) to HRH King Charles and Queen Camilla and Prince William and Princess Kate and their family. The grower of the fruit will be chosen from each respective winner of the best exhibit of cherry, the best exhibit of strawberry and the best exhibit of raspberry.

The fruit will be couriered a week after the show, and the Secretary will be in touch to organise this with the winning growers.

Here is an excerpt from the letter received on behalf of the King and Queen upon receipt of their fruit:

The King and Queen have asked me to thank you most sincerely for your very kind gift which arrived safely yesterday.

Their *M*ajesties were most touched that you should have thought of them in this way, albeit creating the dilemma of whether it should be th strawberries, raspberries or the cherries which are to be enjoyed first!

The King and Queen could not have been more grateful, your gift showing again the extraordinary skill of those involved in fruit growing in the United Kingdom, Their Majesties truly delighted to have been the benficiaries of such endeavours.



Schedule

Open to fruit grown commercially in Great Britain. All entry forms must reach the Show Secretary, Catherine Joules Hope Farm, Bulltown Lane, West Brabourne, Ashford, Kent TN25 5NB Tel: 07976 465035 Email: secretary@ncsfs.co.uk on or before Monday 8th July 2024.

Points

Points in respect of any Class and Trophy are awarded as follows: $1\,st-4$ $2\,nd-3$ $3\,rd-2$ HC -1

Classes

Cherries

Chen	
Class	Classes to Consist of:
1	One 4lb Chip of Karina
2	One 4lb Chip of Penny
3	One 4lb Chip of Regina
4	One 4lb Chip of Kordia
5	One 4lb Chip of Sunburst
6	One 4lb Chip of Summersun
7	One 4lb Chip of Hertford
8	One 4lb Chip of Stella
9	One 4lb Chip of Lapins
10	One 4lb Chip of Vanda
11	One 4lb Chip of Sweetheart
12	One 4lb Chip of any Black Modern Variety
13	One 4lb Chip of any Red Modern Variety
14	One 4lb Chip of any Heritage Variety
15	Two 4lb Chips of separate Black Varieties
16	Three 4lb Chips of separate Black Varieties
17	One 4lb Chip of any White Variety
18	Two 4lb Chips of separate White Varieties
19	Two 4lb Chips of 1 White Variety & 1 Black Variety
20	A Collection of any number of different Varieties (not exceeding 6),
	each Variety to be exhibited in a 1lb punnet
21	A Collection of any number of different Varieties (not exceeding 12),
	each Variety to be exhibited in a 1lb punnet
22	2 x Standard Market 5kg Trays of distinct varieties
23	Novice Grower (no wins in last 5 years) - One 4lb Chip of any Variety



Strawberries

Class	Classes to Consist of:		
30	Four 1lb Punnets of Different Varieties		
31	Four 1lb Punnets of Junebearer		

- 32 Four 1lb Punnets of Everbearer
- 33 Four 1lb Punnets of UK Bred Variety
- 34 Four Ilb Punnets of Non UK Bred Variety

Raspberries

1	
Class	Classes to Consist of:
40	Four 1/4lb Punnets of UK Bred Variety
41	Four 1/4lb Punnets of Non UK Bred Variety
42	Four 1/4lb Punnets of Primo Cane Variety
43	Four 1/4lb Punnets of Summer Fruiting Variety
44	Four 1/4lb Punnets of Different Varieties

Blackberries

- Class Classes to Consist of:
- 50 Four 1/4lb Punnets of Sweeter Eating Variety
- 51 Four 1/4lb Punnets of Any Other Variety

Any Other Soft Fruit

- Class Classes to Consist of:
- 60 Four 1/2lb Punnets of Blueberries
- 61 One 4lb Chip of Plums. Any Variety
- 62 One 4lb Chip of Apricots. Any Variety
- 63 Four Punnets of Any Other Soft Fruit (Raspberries in 1/4lb, any other fruit in 1lb)
- 64 Four Punnets of Organic Soft Fruit (Raspberries in 1/4lb, any other fruit in 1lb)
- 65 One 4lb Chip of Any Organic Stone Fruit



Wholesale Market Packs

The entry must be the normal market pack of the grower. Any number of varieties may be entered but only one entry per variety.

Class	Classes to Consist of:
70	One Wholesale Market Container of Cherries. Any Variety
71	One Wholesale Market Tray of Strawberries or Case of Punnets. Any Variety
72	One Wholesale Market Tray of Raspberries or Case of Punnets. Any Variety
73	One Wholesale Market Tray of Blackberries or Case of Punnets. Any Variety
74	One Wholesale Market Container of Other Stone Fruit. Any Variety

Supermarket Packs

Punneted fruit with lid or film consistent with supermarket requirements.

- Class Classes to Consist of:
- 80 Best Cherry. One Single Layer Case 60cm x 40cm.
- 81 Best Strawberry. One Single Layer Case 60cm x 40cm.
- 82 Best Raspberry. One Single Layer Case 60cm x 40cm.
- 83 Best Blackberry. One Single Layer Case 60cm x 40cm.

Taste of Kent

Any number of varieties may be entered but only one variety per entry.

- Class Classes to Consist of:
- 90 Taste of Kent Award for Cherries. One Punnet of Any Variety
- 91 Taste of Kent Award for Strawberries. One Punnet of Any Variety
- 92 Taste of Kent Award for Raspberries. One Punnet of Any Variety



Entries

All entries must be made upon the printed entry form and no exhibit will be admitted for competition unless such entry form has been properly completed and signed so as to reach the Show Secretary, National Cherry & Soft Fruit Show, Hope Farm, Bulltown Lane, West Brabourne, Ashford, TN25 5NB, secretary@ncsfs.co.uk, on or before Monday 8th July 2024.

Packing

All competitors will be supplied identification labels by the Secretary. The correct name of each variety of fruit exhibited must be stated on the label and the label must be clearly visible on the container. One 4lb chips labels must be displayed on the handle. In all classes the names of the exhibitor must not appear on the package, with the exception of the Market Pack. Supermarket Pack to be displayed with name of grower and variety on lid. Fruit to be displayed with the lid placed under the punnet to remove identification during judging. In the case of a film lid the name of grower and variety should be on the base of the punnet.

All exhibits must be packed in the standard packages supplied by the Committee, free of charge, with the exception of the Market Pack/Supermarket Pack Class.

All trays and punnets containing exhibits must be properly filled as near as possible to the rim. A certain amount of overfilling will not be penalised. The Judges will be asked to take into consideration any obvious deviation from this rule. The laying in of cherries is not permitted under this rule. The laying in of any other fruit is permitted, otherwise no fancy packing will be allowed.

Fruits in any one individual container must be of one named and commercially released variety only.

Exhibitors who so desire may have damaged specimens replaced before staging, if they send a small extra supply of each variety, with the exception of the Market Pack/Supermarket Pack Class.

All questions in connection with the identification of varieties shall be decided by the Chief Stewards.



Delivery

All exhibits must be delivered to Macknade Fine Foods, Selling Road, Faversham, ME13 8XF by 8.00am on the morning of Thursday 13th July 2023. The Committee will receive each exhibit and will be responsible for the staging. After delivery to the Committee, exhibits shall not be touched by the competitor or anyone acting on their behalf.

Indemnity

Neither the Committee nor any of their officers or servants shall in any way be responsible or accountable for any loss or damage, no matter from whatever cause, arising to competitors, their servants or agents, or to exhibits brought into the show.

Judging

Competent Judges will be appointed by the Committee. In the event of any of the Judges being unable to attend, the Committee reserve the right to substitute others.

No prize or trophy shall be awarded to an exhibit which does not in the opinion of the Judges possess sufficient merit.

No interference with the Judges while making their decisions will be allowed. Any such interference by a competitor or anyone acting on his behalf will disqualify their exhibit.

Protests

Any protest must be made to the officer in charge of the show before 3.00pm. on the day of the show. The Committee's decision shall be final.

Sale Of Fruit

All the competitive exhibits of fruit will be disposed of as the Committee thinks fit and the proceeds thereof will be placed to the funds of the National Cherry and Soft Fruit Show.

Market/Supermarket Pack Class

The entry must be the normal market pack/supermarket pack of the grower. Any number of varieties may be entered but only one entry per variety. The fruit shall conform to the generally accepted minimum grade classifications for each variety, to be determined at the absolute discretion of the Judges. For Supermarket packs the name of the grower and variety to be displayed on the lid. Fruit to be displayed with the lid placed under the punnet to remove grower identification during judging.

The supermarket awards are for the best UK supermarket case of cherries, strawberries, raspberries and blackberries. The fruit should be free from any external defects and have no organic debris in the packs. Labelling should be symmetrical and in the same position on each pack.



All winners of the supermarket classes are eligible to apply art work to their supermarket punnets for the following season. Pre-prepared artwork is available from Pro Print. Please contact the Secretary for more details.

Packaging and specifications

Packaging: Any supermarket punnet format with top seal or lid

Labels/film: Labelled as if being supplied into depot

Outer case: Cardboard outer 60cm x 40cm single layer with a box end label. 10 punnets per case.

Origin: UK only

Quality specification: Class I

Varieties and Colour (for cherries only)

Variety	Colour	Variety	Colour	Variety	Colour
Korvic	5/6	Sylvia	5/6	Grace Star	5/6
Kordia	6/7	Karina	5/6	Vanda	5/6
Lapins	5/6	Hertford	5/6	Giorgia	4/5
Regina	6/7	Van	5/6	Schneider	4/5
Skeena	5/6	Penny	4/5	Summersun	5/6
Sweetheart	4/5	Stella	4/5		



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The National Cherry & Soft Fruit Show









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