



THE BLACKDOWN HILLS HEDGE ASSOCIATION

"Skills of the Hills" Hedgelaying Competition – Entry Form

Saturday 10th March 2018

Cotley Farm, Wambrook, Chard. TA20 3EP (ST 303 068)

By kind permission of Mr Tom Eames

This year's competition will be divided into five classes: Novice, Novice Pairs, Intermediate Pairs, Intermediate, and Open. Each competitor (or pair) will be expected to lay and secure a length of hedge within the competition time limit. The length and difficulty of hedge varies with the class ranging from about 7 metres for novices to roughly 10 metres for the Open.

Competitors should report at 9:00am for instructions and the draw for lengths. The competition will start at 9:30am and finish at 2:45pm. Hedges should be laid in the "Devon" style using crooks to secure the finished length. Please bring sufficient crooks for your own use together with your own tools. A limited number of crooks will be available on the day for Novice and Pairs competitors without their own.

All competitors will get a voucher for hot food to enjoy afterwards. Each competitor/pair will also get a £15 cutting fee.

Prizes

Open Class – supported by Sheamus Machin 1st £60 & The Percy Duck Challenge Cup, 2nd £40, 3rd £25, 4th £15

Intermediate Class – supported by MNR Mowers 1st £50 & The Dugdale Cup, 2nd £35, 3rd £25, 4th £10

Intermediate Pairs – supported by Black Crow Foundry 1st £40 & Trophy, 2nd £30, 3rd £20, 4th £10

Novice Class – supported by Cornish Mutual 1st £40 & Trophy, 2nd £30, 3rd £20, 4th £10

Novice Pairs – supported by Blamphayne Sawmills 1st £40 & Trophy, 2nd £30, 3rd £20, 4th £10

All competitors/pairs winning a cash prize will also get their £15 cutting fee.

- The John Coombes Memorial Shield will be awarded to the best competitor aged under 19.
- A cup will be presented to the best local competitor living within the Blackdown Hills AONB.
- A cup will be presented to the Best Lady competitor from any class.
- A veteran's trophy will be awarded to the best competitor over 60 years of age.
- The Natwest Cup will be awarded to the best YFC competitor.
- The Roger Vickery Regrowth Cup will be presented for the best regrowth of a hedge laid at the 2017 event.

Judging will be done on a points basis:

Quality of cutting, finish of cut stool and absence of splitting.	40 Points
Selection and best use of crooks leading to overall hedge strength.	30 Points
General appearance, quality, and neatness of finished hedge; its effectiveness as a stock barrier and tidiness of the working area.	30 Points

*Note – Crooks must be have been used to secure the finished hedge for these marks to be awarded.

CHAINSAWS & SAFETY

Competitors may use chainsaws provided they wear personal protection equipment (PPE): chainsaw trousers, boots, helmet and gloves. The Novice and Pairs classes are not expected to use chainsaws but may do so if they abide by the conditions above.

Competitors without chainsaws, or those without PPE will be able to call upon the assistance of chainsaw stewards.

The organisers carry public liability insurance but have no insurance for personal accidents and cannot accept responsibility for any such accidents.

Competitors are reminded that by signing the entry form they have agreed to comply with current Health and Safety regulations when using a chainsaw.

Completed entry forms should be returned to: **George Pidgeon, Pound View, Yacombe, Honiton, Devon EX14 9BQ**

The closing date for entries is Monday 5th March 2018.

Our web site www.bhha.info contains a list of the confirmed entries for each class in the competition. Once you have returned this form check the web site and if you haven't appeared on the list after a couple of days then contact us.

You can also download additional copies of the entry form from the site.

ENTRY FORM

Novice Novice Pairs Intermediate Pairs Intermediate Open

Name: _____

Tick one circle

Signed: _____

If you have entered before and none of your details have changed write "SAME" below

Address: _____

YFC Local (AONB) U19 Veteran

Tick any that apply (if you are entering a non-pairs class)

2nd Member of Pair

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Signed: _____

Mobile: _____

Email: _____