

STALHAM FARMERS' CLUB 2020
SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

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Congratulations

For the first time in years, Stalham has clinched the supreme inter-club barley competition.

The two best samples, as selected by Bob King, of the Crisp Malting Group, from Stalham and Holt & District Farmers' Club, were judged.

The supreme champion sample was Laureate grown by a former club chairman George Gay, of Mautby Farms. The reserve championship went to the competition's multiple former winner, William Mack, of Hempstead Hall, near Holt.

In the **potato cup**, there was success for the president, Thomas Love, and his son William, who wrested the Potato Cup from two-time winner, LF Papworth. Both had grown the same variety, Rooster. The judge, Denis Walsh, awarded second prize to Robin Baines for his crop of Innovator.

The result in the **Cantley Cup** competition for best performance by sugar beet growers was exceptionally close. Open to all members, it recognises outstanding overall campaign performance. The winner was R Ellis & Son, of Hickling, fractionally ahead of another former club chairman Kevin Starkings, of Belaugh Green Farm, Coltishall. In third, Andrew Withers, of Edingthorpe.

In the **whole beet crop**, John Tallowin, of Hickling, took the trophy from Alan Beck, of Brunstead, who finished third while LF Papworth took second place. The best two-acre was a very close result with Will Sands, of HBS Farms, finishing just ahead of Hirst Farms. Thomas Love's Walcott Farms was third.

Stalham 2019 competitions

Barley inter-club champion - Supreme - Mautby Farms (Laureate).

Potatoes - 1 Walcott Farms - (Rooster); 2 Robin Baines & Co - (Innovator); 3 LF Papworth - (Rooster).

Judge, Denis Walsh.

Sugar beet

Cantley Cup, best overall 2019/20 crop - 1R Ellis & Son; 2 Kevin Starkings; 3 Andrew Withers.

Whole crop - 1 GA Tallowin & Co; 2 LF Papworth; 3 CN Beck & Sons. Judge, Ken Matthews.

Best two-acre - 1 HBS Farms; 2 Hirst Farms; 3 Walcott Farms. Judge, Sarah Bebb.

Cereals

Wheat - 1 HBS Farms- (Spotlight); 2 Mautby Farms - (Graham); 3 Milligen McLeod - (Siskin).

Barley - 1 Mautby Farms- (Laureate); 2 Milligen McLeod - (Maris Otter); 3 AJ Key – (Laureate).

Prize cards – These will be delivered/ posted in the next few days – thanks to Mary Beck for calligraphy.

Annual dinner and chairman

Your committee, which met in early March, decided to postpone the annual dinner. Our guest speaker, Sir Norman Lamb, MP for North Norfolk between 2001 and 2019, praised the club's officers for a timely decision. Although it was planned to hold the dinner in October, this will not take place because of the on-going Covid-19 situation. Accordingly, Chris Borrett takes the chair in succession to Henry Alston, who should have presided at the March dinner. Thanks to Henry for steering the club through the past two years.

Meetings

Unfortunately, given the official advice and current legal restrictions on public gatherings and indoor meetings, it has not been possible to organise an autumn and winter programme of indoor meetings and visits. It is hoped, however, to plan a number of events/ activities/ visits from early 2021, which will enable members to meet. Any positive suggestions for venues/ visits/ ideas would be gratefully appreciated by the chairman and secretary.

Every effort to keep the membership informed will be made – and the website will continue to play a useful part.

Competitions 2021

Judging of the Potato Cup was carried out last month by Denis Walsh, who was able to “social distance” in eight different fields.

Entries for the whole beet crop, and also the best-two acre, are also invited. Please let the secretary know – with details of the field etc by the end of September. Three entries have been received, to date.

Again, there's no entry fee – and the whole crop will be judged in the first week of October – before Cantley opens around October 13. Ken Matthews, also social distancing, will run the rule over crops.

The two-acre will be judged later in October.

Grain

Entries for barley and wheat are also needed. Given some comments about the quality of barley grown in east Norfolk, there may be some cracking samples. Please let the chairman, Chris Borrett, of Adams & Howling, have them or they may be left by permission of Neal Sands, at Sands.

Lockdown activity

A photographic challenge during the Covid-19 lockdown was the brainchild of our webmaster Tim Papworth. His initial "snaps" of farming, landscape and country scenes encouraged several dozen members to take some memorable, and often funny photographs. And, the club's efforts were also featured during lockdown by the Eastern Daily Press.

Launched in April, more than 60 images were posted that month on the website. In May, another 72 were posted and in all 150 shots were submitted – which can be viewed on "Photo Gallery." Roving cyclist David Faulkner, who also took some splendid images of churches which can be viewed on the Round Tower Churches Society's website, started another theme – village signs. To date, a total of 81 signs are currently featured. Please send more to Tim Papworth.

And finally, our thoughts are with Greg Anderson's family. Details of the forthcoming celebration of the life of Greg Anderson and the tractor and car run on Sunday, September 13, have already been posted on the club's website. A popular farmer and member, Greg also achieved the double in the grain cups by winning the barley and wheat competitions in 2007. His tragic death on Friday, August 14, was a huge shock to the farming community.

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