



# Oxford & District Federation of Allotment Associations

Founded 1919

**Chair** Wendy Skinner Smith **Vice Chair** Ian Shepherd **Treasurer** Caroline Duffy **Secretary** Richard Barrett  
**Committee members** Tim Treacher Juliet Blackburn John Lardner

30 April 2013

Dear Member,

## 2013 Allotment Competition – Change of judging dates

In view of the late start to spring growth this year, the O&DFAA Annual General Meeting on April 23<sup>rd</sup> decided to delay the first judging of the Competition. **The first judging will now take place on Monday and Tuesday 15 and 16 July and the final date for entries is extended to Monday 3 June.** As not all associations appear to have received all details in April, it is included here.

This is the 5<sup>th</sup> year that Oxford's Allotment Competition has been organised jointly by the Oxford and District Federation of Allotment Associations and the Parks Department of Oxford City Council. The judges will be John Alcock and Mike Kent. They will be looking for plots that grow a wide range of vegetables all year round, together with seasonal soft fruit. The emphasis is strongly on the quality of the crops and the overall productivity of the plot, and not on having immaculate plots.

For a second year we will have a section for polytunnels and greenhouses, which will be judged separately from the plot they stand on. Plot holders can enter this class even if their plot is not being judged.

All individual entrants compete for the Challenge Trophy for the best plot. There are 4 separate age categories: for seniors aged 60-69, and over 70 years, for 35-59 years, and for under 35 years. The individual competition is open to all plot holders in Oxford, including those on sites that are not members of the Oxford Federation of Allotment Associations. Entrants do not have to cultivate a full sized plot to enter. Plot holders can enter directly, if they wish, by contacting Jennie Rudman (details below). Please let your association secretary know as they organise entry to the site. Again there are no entry fees this year.

Entries for the Alderman Knight award for the best kept allotment site are restricted to associations that are members of the Oxford and District Federation of Allotment Associations. **The sites will only be judged once this year, in September.**

The prizes for the best kept allotment site, for each age category within the individual plot competition, and for the polytunnel and greenhouse class will be: 1<sup>st</sup> prize £25, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize £15, 3<sup>rd</sup> prize £10. Highly Commended certificates are awarded to runners up in the Challenge Trophy section.

Each allotment site may recommend new plot holders to receive a certificate for special effort when they send in their entries.

The Timetable is: **Final date for entries** to Jennie Rudman (details below): **Monday 3 June**  
**First round of judging: Monday & Tuesday 15 & 16 July**  
**Second round of judging: Thursday & Friday 5 & 6 September**  
**Presentation of the awards** at the Town Hall, to which all entrants and their partners are invited: **Thursday 31 October**

Entry forms and the judging criteria and marking schemes are in attached files with this message. There is also a file with a new poster with the revised dates. We are happy to receive entries by email but *please make sure that you include the full address, including the postcode, and, if possible, an email address of each entrant.* If you require any further information please contact Jennie Rudman.

After the presentation of prizes and awards on 31 October, the Competition Sub-committee will send the full results of the competition to all associations that have entered.

Yours faithfully,

Reg Curnock David Mead Jennie Rudman Tim Treacher ODFAA Competition Sub-committee  
**Jennie Rudman, Allotment Competition, c/o 67 Donnington Bridge Road, Oxford OX4 4BA Tel: 247487**  
**Email: [dean.rudman@btinternet.com](mailto:dean.rudman@btinternet.com)**

**Oxford & District Federation of Allotment  
Associations**

working with  
**Oxford City Council**

## **2013 Allotments Competition**

**Open to all plot holders in Oxford  
Entry is free again this year**

**1<sup>st</sup> prize £25**

**2<sup>nd</sup> prize £15**

**3<sup>rd</sup> prize £10**

**Highly Commended certificates**

### **Categories**

- **under 35 years**
- **35 – 59 years**
- **60 to 69 years**
- **70+ years**
- **Best kept Polytunnel or Greenhouse**
- **Best Kept Allotment Site for ODFAA members only**

Details are available from your association secretary or direct from Jennie Rudman, Allotment Competition, Tel: 247487 Email: [dean.rudman@btinternet.com](mailto:dean.rudman@btinternet.com)

**Final date for entries: Monday 3 June**

**First round of judging: 15/16 July**

**Second round of judging: 5/6 September**

**Presentation of prizes and awards: Thursday 31 October**

The judges are John Alcock and Mike Kent



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## Allotment Competition 2013 Judging Criteria and Marks for Individual Allotment Holders

The aim of the competition is to encourage the growing of fresh vegetables all year round, and soft fruit in season.

The judging criteria differ between the first and second judging as set out below.

Cultivation and cropping	1 <sup>st</sup> Judging	2 <sup>nd</sup> Judging
1. Number of Crops (½ point per crop)	15	15
2. Number of Winter/Spring crops (1 point per crop)	0	10
3. Soft fruit (1 point per type)	5	5
4. Herbs (½ point per type)	5	0
5. Companion planting and flowers	5	5
6. Quality of crops	15	15
7. Overall productivity	15	15
<b>Husbandry</b>		
1. Compost	10	10
2. Freedom from annual weeds	10	10
3. Freedom from perennial weeds	10	10
4. Freedom from rubbish	5	5
5. Neatly maintained paths and edges around plot	5	5

## Comments on Judging Guidelines

### **Cultivation and cropping**

1. Half a mark is given for each vegetable crop
2. One mark is given for each vegetable crop harvested from November onwards at the second judging
3. One mark is given for each soft fruit type, including rhubarb. At the second judging one mark for types in fruit at the time.

### **Husbandry**

1. Compost - the quality and quantity of compost will be assessed
2. A clear differentiation will be made between annual and perennial weeds and the two types are therefore judged separately. Annual weeds are a less serious, short-term problem, which can be eradicated by hoeing
3. Perennial weeds are a long-term problem that may also be a nuisance for adjoining plot holders. Couch grass, bindweed, buttercups, dandelions and docks etc. are indicative of poor husbandry
4. Freedom from rubbish - materials stacked tidily for future use will not be penalised
5. Paths - neatly maintained and free of weeds.

## **Judging Criteria and Marks for the Best Kept Site Competition**

### **Cleanliness of Site**

1. Tidiness and Freedom from Rubbish: 20 marks
2. Freedom from Weeds: 15
3. Overall level of lettings/management of unlet plots: 10

### **State of Repair**

1. Paths and roadways well maintained: 10
2. Fences, hedges and walls sound and tidy: 10
3. Buildings sound, suitable and maintained: 10

### **Site General**

1. Site entrance: 10
2. Plots numbered and clearly demarcated: 5
3. Notice Board: 10

Communal and additional facilities – 2 marks for each

for children, Barbecue area, Waste management, Bees (others facilities can be added)  
For example: Shop, Toilet, Orchard, Communal seating, Communal compost area, Facilities

## **Judging Criteria and Marks for Polytunnels and Greenhouses**

Condition and upkeep of the Structure: 10

Layout within the structure: 10

Provision of water: 5

Quality of crops: 10

Productivity: 10

Continuity of cropping: 5

Innovations: 5

Propagation: 5

### **Restriction of entry by last year's winners**

***The winners of each section of last year's competition are not eligible to enter the same section this year. The same rule applies in the best kept allotment site section.***

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## ALLOTMENT COMPETITION 2013 - INDIVIDUAL ENTRY FORM

**Names:**

*Please use Capital Letters* .....

**Address:**

.....

..... **Postal Code:** .....

**Phone Number:** ..... **Email address:** .....

**Allotment Site:** ..... **Plot Number/s:** .....

**All entrants automatically compete in the Challenge Trophy**

**Age Category entered** (please tick)

Under 35s	35 – 59 years	Senior Citizens 60-69 years	Senior Citizens 70+

**Do you want to enter the separate class for Best Kept Polytunnel or Greenhouse? YES/NO**

Please send this form to: Allotment Competition, c/o 67 Donnington Bridge Road, Oxford OX4 4BA  
Or email full details to: [dean.rudman@btinternet.com](mailto:dean.rudman@btinternet.com)

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**OXFORD AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION OF ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATIONS**  
**2013 ALLOTMENTS COMPETITION**

**Entry Form for Alderman Knight Award for the Best Kept Allotment Site**

Name of Association: .....

Secretary:      Name: .....

                    Address: .....

                    .....

                    ..... Post Code: .....

Telephone: .....

Email: .....

Person, with mobile phone number, who will guide the judges:

.....

..

**Number of entry forms for individual entries enclosed** .....

**Please send the entry forms by Monday 3 June to:**

Allotment Competition, c/o 67 Donnington Bridge Road, Oxford OX4 4BA  
Or email full details to: [dean.rudman@btinternet.com](mailto:dean.rudman@btinternet.com)

If you would like more information contact Jennie Rudman on 01865 247487