



National Judges Committee

PAM FLEMING-WILLIAMS	Cheshire
MARGARET RUMENS	S Midlands
PAT HUTCHINSON	North East
JAMES BURNSIDE	NIGFAS
DELYTH PRICE	3 Counties & South Wales



MODULAR

TRAINING

After full discussion by Instructors and Adjudicators, a Modular Training Scheme has been formulated and will be used to train candidates for future Area Judges Tests.

The Scheme consists of 4 compulsory training days, a mock test and a final test. Each day will have a specific subject, such as the written paper, but will also include a section on horticulture and the candidate's own exhibit.



Additional days can be put on as necessary.

It is hoped that neighbouring Areas will get together to spread costs and share Instructors.



WHAT IS PLANT MATERIAL? AND WHAT IS NOT?



The National Judging Committee have gathered a long list of what might be considered to be plant material from suggestions made by judges and competitors. This is the process of being finalised and will appear on the new NAFAS website. We hope it can be used as a guide for all competitors and judges to encourage creativity in future competition work.

Let us have your views!

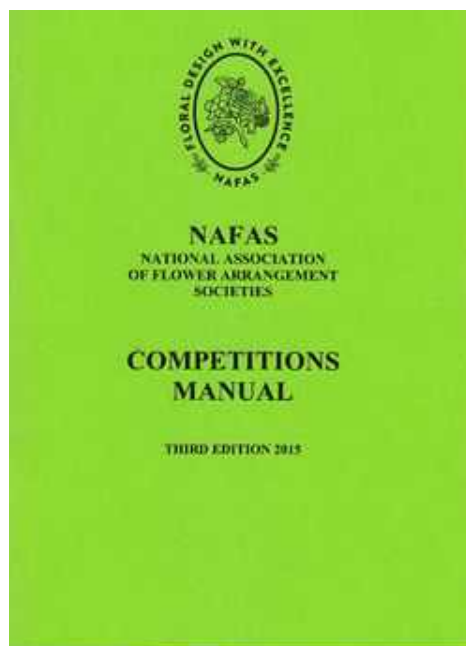
Training for National Judges Test



Training is underway for candidates from all over the UK for a National Test to take place later this year. A training day will take place at Osborne House on April 21st when everyone will be practising their written, spoken and practical skills.

Several Committee members will be there to encourage and support and we wish everyone a constructive and successful day.

NEW COMPETITIONS MANUAL



With any system of rules/regulations/schemes of work, it is advisable to reassess after a certain period of time. This is just what the National Judging Committee have done after a six-year span.

The new Competitions Manual was launched at the Festive Flower and Food Show in November and should be used by Judges, Competitors, Shows and Teachers from now on.

Our organisation is about using and enjoying plant materials. With this in mind, the Aims of Competitive Work have been amended to uphold the principles of conservation as stated in the Wild Life and Countryside Act 1981 by **not using** rare and protected wild plant material, preserved animals, birds, insects, coral, sea fans and pernicious/invasive plants.

An Exhibit is now defined as being composed of natural plant material *in all its forms*, to allow use of materials such as kyogi and midelino to encourage creativity and dispel worry that they are not allowed under NAFAS rules. Items such as corn dollies and wooden figurines are now classed as plant material.

Natural plant material **must** predominate in any class. This now includes Still Life classes which had sometimes been a mystery to the competitor as to the percentage of plant material expected. The focus will now be on the skill of the arranger in the restrained use of inanimate objects.

Competitors, Shows and Judges had, for a long time, struggled with how much pre-prepared work could be included in a competitive exhibit. There was no definitive ruling on this; it was up to each individual show, steward or judge. This created a lot of confusion. The advice given on page 15 of the new Competitions Manual Third Edition 2015 is that any amount of pre-done work may be included;

“Many techniques, whether contemporary or traditional, require a great deal of time to complete. Pre-done work of this type is acceptable in any class, unless specifically excluded by the Show Schedule.”

It is now the remit of each schedule writer/competition secretary/show committee to include, should they wish to, specific classes in which no pre-done work may be included.

For a number of years, it has been questioned as to why the dimensions for miniature and petite exhibits were based on a cubic space. This frequently led to overbasing. In the new edition of the Competitions Manual dimensions have been amended to create better proportions for these types of small exhibit, e.g.

Petite (Small Scale Design)

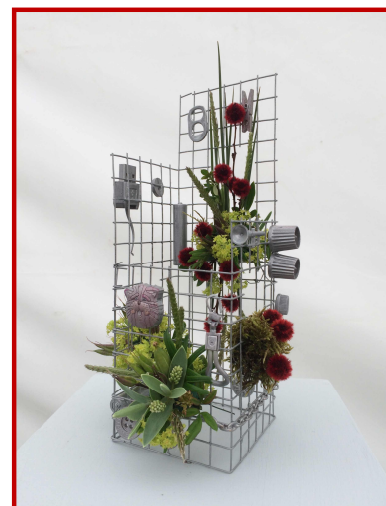
An exhibit not exceeding 25cms in width and depth.

Height, if stated, should be good proportion, e.g. width 25cm, depth 25cm, height 37cm or width 17cm, depth 17cm, height 25cm

A few other tweaks have been made to clarify terms and styles.

This article first appeared in Insight

HAVE YOU GOT YOUR COPY?



PRE-DONE WORK



Question of the moment:

What's the difference between pre-done work and crafted items?

Pre-done work is most consistently a very time-consuming technique such as weaving, pinning, stringing, knotting, gluing, etc, used to create a contemporary exhibit (though not exclusively), as opposed to a **crafted** item such as a piece of floral jewellery, a handbag or a collage backing which is a stand-alone piece incorporated into a design, as an accessory might be.

For those people who object to/do not wish to have anything to do with pre-done work, then it is up to the schedule writers to get on board and give competitors classes where this is specifically **not** allowed.



Please let the National Judging Committee have your feedback.



The Show season is about to begin.

National Judges - Don't forget to get your comment cards from Sylvia at HQ.

Good luck in your judging and have fun!