ARTISAN CHEESE AWARDS

Instructions for Sending Entries

Judging of the Awards is Thursday 15th May. Cheese must arrive the day before Wednesday 14th May. You don't need to attend the Cheese Fair to enter the Awards.

Delivery of Cheese

You can either deliver the cheese yourself or arrange a courier. Royal Mail also do an overnight delivery. Make sure your cheese arrives on Wednesday 14th May at St Mary's Church in Melton Mowbray. The church will be manned on that day from 9am to 4pm for the reception of cheeses. **Given that it is a church it will not be able to receive cheese before that date.** Address to Artisan Cheese Awards. St Mary's Church, Church Street, Melton Mowbray, LE13 0PN. You can put my name and phone number as well. Matthew O'Callaghan 07894 229499.

Packing the Cheese

Please make sure you use the most appropriate method of sending your entries. For soft, semi-soft and temperature sensitive cheeses these should be sent so as to arrive at a temperature of no greater than 8 degrees. Pack it in ice with a couple of freezer packs, wrapped in bubble wrap in a polystyrene box preferably. If in doubt contact your local Environmental Health Officer or the Specialist Cheesemakers Association.

You must send a separate sample of cheese for each entry even if the cheese is entered for more than one class. So, for a cheese entered for 2 classes we must have two samples of cheese wrapped individually and labelled separately. They can of course be sent in the same box.

For judging we need a sample of around 500g **for each entry**, this is to allow sufficient quantity for judges to appreciate your cheese and in case your cheese wins its class and is selected to be judged for the Supreme Champion. Please don't send more than 1kg of cheese as it will only be wasted. For smaller cheeses please send sufficient cheese to be able to be judged twice eg 3 samples of 100g each.

You will soon be **emailed** your Entry Number which you can use to make your labels. This will give an sequence number and the Class. Eg 12/329 means the cheese is entered into Class 12 and is Sequence Number 329 on our register. Check these carefully as if there is a mistake your cheese will be entered for the wrong class and may be disqualified. Let us know immediately if there is a mistake in the class and/or if there is insufficient time then make your own label by using the entry number provided but changing the class to the correct class.

Wrap the entry and then label the cheese with the Entry Number we sent you which also identifies the class for which the cheese is being entered. Make sure you attach

the right label to the right cheese. Each cheese should be wrapped and labelled separately. You can use your own packing or branded material even if it contains logos as the cheese will be unpacked and placed on a plate with its entry label.

Now pack all your entries securely for delivery. Stick a label of where to send your entries (St Mary's Church) onto the outside of the package addressed to.

Artisan Cheese Awards, St Mary's Church, Church Street, Melton Mowbray LE13 0PN.

You can put my name/phone number as well. Matthew O'Callaghan 07894 229499.

Also stick a label with your name and address on the outside of the package. This lets us know where the entries have come from.

If sending more than one package please indicate on each package the total number of packages being sent. For example if you are sending three packages, then they should be labelled 1/3, 2/3 3/3.

Judging and Results

Judging for the Artisan Cheese Awards will start at 11am on Thursday 15th May in St Mary's Church. You are welcome to watch the judging. Entries must not arrive on this day – as we won't have time to unpack them and enter them for judging.

We hope to send the results of the judging by the following weekend at the latest. You will be sent an email with the results so there is no need to contact us for them.

The awards will be announced and presented at the Cheesemakers Supper in St Mary's Church on Saturday evening 24th May at around 8pm. The dinner starts around 7pm but we will meet for drinks from 6pm beforehand. We will expect winners of classes that are being sponsored to attend the supper. Not all classes are sponsored unfortunately. Sponsors have generously provided funding for the awards and it is disappointing for them if the winner does not attend the awards and in the longer term it reduces our ability to get sponsorship for following years.

Winners of a class will receive a 'silver' cup, rosette and certificate. Winners of Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards will receive a certificate. All winners will be able to purchase stickers to put on their cheeses from 'Inkreadible'. Details later.

If you are not exhibiting at the Cheese Fair (only £24 a day) and wish to attend the supper then you should let us know immediately (and any dietary requirements) so we can modify the catering arrangements. The cost is £12 per person

For further information please contact me either by email matthewocall@gmail.com or by phone 07894 229499

All the best
Matthew
Matthew O'Callaghan