

Foundation

Hedgelaying in the UK began to decline during the agricultural depression period of the 1880's up to the First World War. From the end of the war (1919) there was of course a great shortage of labour and agricultural activities were concentrated on the production of food. The decline in hedge laying continued through the Second World War and into the post war period when advances in agriculture and the by now common use of barbed wire, reduce the need for hedgerow management. During the 60's and 70's hedgerows were being removed at an alarming rate to provide larger fields for the new ranges of agricultural equipment to operate efficiently. Hedgelaying had always been labour intensive and the increasing cost of labour plus the migration of workers from the countryside to more lucrative work in the urban areas meant that the skills were being lost.

The idea of forming a society came from three people at a competition, Miss Valerie Greaves a School teacher, who was also a keen Hedgelayer, Mr Clive Matthew a hedgelayer well known at local competitions, and Mr Fred Whitefoot a true countryman skilled in hedgelaying and Horse Ploughing. It is perhaps worth mentioning that Mr Whitefoot although highly skilled and a keen supporter of the society was not one to be on the committee and so remained somewhat on the sidelines.

The idea was passed around at various events and Farmers Weekly printed a letter asking for anyone interested. There seemed to be many people in favour of the idea and it was decided to call a meeting.

On the 11th November 1978 a meeting was held at the offices of the Royal Agricultural Society of England (RASE) at the invitation of Mr Tuyn on behalf of RASE. Miss Valerie Greaves was acting secretary for the meeting and the following people were present:

W Abbot Lincoln
T Carter Crick Northampton (Proposed as Vice Chairman).
D Davies Llswen Powys
T Evans Pencoed Mid Galmorgan
T Gethin Newtown
B Goodhall Sutton on the Hill Derby
H Groom Matlcok Derby
T Harding Caersws Powys
I A Howell Narberth Dyfed
H S Jeffrey Aston Cantlow Warwickshire
H Johnson Newark Nottinghamshire
E A Jones Bulith Powys
G Jones Welshpool Powys
F Malin Leamington Warwickshire
C R Matthew Lutterworth Leicestershire
R C Roberts Llwythenin Clwyd
H E Samuel Ledbury Herefordshire (Proposed as Chairman)
A.E. Timmins Church Broughton Gloucestershire
Mr Underwood Cirencester Gloucestershire.
T L Ward Morton Morrel Warwickshire

Miss V Greaves Burnt Green, Birmingham

Not at the meeting but had previously agreed to be on the committee:
E F Shields (Proposed Treasurer).

These then were founder members of the National Hedge Laying Society. Many things were discussed at this meeting and many of the problems which continue to exercise the committee were highlighted. E.g. should there be local branches, how do you organise a society where the members are scattered all over the UK. Should there be registers of Judges, Stewards, Instructors, and Hedgelayers. How would a National Championship be organised?

Prior to the formation of the Society it was known that Mr Vesty of Walton Estates in Essex was known to be looking for Hedgelayers to work on his land. It was suggested to him that the Society would be able to hold a competition on the estate and this was how the first National Championship came to be held there.

1979

Administration.

Chairman: Mr Horace. E. Samuel, Secretary: Miss Valerie Greaves, Treasurer: Mr F.E. (Tanner) Shields,

From the very early days the Society was attending shows and exhibitions largely through the efforts of Miss Greaves. The Royal Agricultural Society of England offered a free site at the 1979 Royal Show and Mr & Mrs Les Ward attended to staff the stand. Leaflets posters and a model farm being produced by Miss Greaves.

Mr Tony Carter and Mr Samuel visit Ireland to demonstrate hedgelaying, a technique which had not been seen in Ireland for many years.

The Country Landowners Association (CLA) Silver plated cup was given to the NHLS as a result of approaches to the CLA by the societies chairman. The Cup and prize money amounting to £66 to be awarded to the Midland Class Junior, the cup that year was awarded to Steve Budding. In 1983 and 1984 the cup was won by Ian Alton from Derbyshire but in 1985 due to the donation of other trophies the cup was re allocated to the Welsh Border class, where it has continued to be awarded.

Championship.

Safron Walden Essex

Saturday 27th October, Host – Walton Estates Mr H E Vesty

Originally planned for spring 1979 the event had to be postponed to October due to snow fall at the planned date. The hedge was a double hedge either side of a ditch and Mr Vesty agreed to grub out one side before the competition. The day turned out to be sunny and there were sixty competitors including a contingent from Wales. The overall winner was Bert Clark a man who was to become a ledged in his own lifetime.

Anglia TV spent the day at the competition and as a result generated much interest in hedgelaying.

Classes.

Midland Senior, 1st H. W. Clark, 2nd G. Key, 3rd T. Carter, 4th C. Matthew.

Midland Junior, 1st S Budding, 2nd E Tillett, 3rd T Alton, 4th C. Spendlove.

Welsh Senior, 1st M Davies, 2nd N Davies, 3rd E Davies, 4th J Kewell.

Welsh Junior, 1st G. Davies, 2nd E. D. Davies.

Supreme Champion H. W (Bert). Clarke

1980

Administration.

Chairman Mr Horace. E. Samuel, Secretary Miss Valerie Greaves, Treasurer Mr F.E. Shields.

Championship.

Ledbury, Herefordshire

Saturday 25th October, host – Orlam Farm Mr Horace Samuel

Classes-

Midland Senior. 1st T Carter, 2nd B Goodhall, 3rd H. W. Clark, 4th R. Hawkins

Midland Junior. 1st S Budding, 2nd I Alton, 3rd R Jeffery, 4th P Vint.

Welsh Senior, 1st M Davies, 2nd T Evans, 3rd D Davies, 4th A. Davies.

Welsh Junior, 1st B Powell, 2nd E Davies, 3rd J Jones, 4th R Jarman.

Supreme Champion Tony Carter

1981

Administration.

Chairman Mr Horace. E. Samuel, Secretary Miss Valerie Greaves, Treasurer Mr F.E. Shields.

A carved wood Billhook was made for the wedding of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales and Princess Diana.

Championship.

Dethick, Derbyshire

Saturday 31st October, host - Manor Farm, Mr Harold Groom

A wind got up in the night and blew away the small tent with the NHLS leaflets.

Luckily someone was on site and most of the papers were rescued. Simon Groom from Blue Peter attended with the Dog Goldie

Midland Senior. 1st H.W. Clark, 2nd R. Hawkins, 3rd T. Carter, 4th R.K. Clark.

Midland Junior. 1st I Alton, 2nd A.J. Archer, 3rd C. Spendlove, 4th M. Page.

Welsh Senior. 1st M. Davies, 2nd G. Davies, 3rd D Davies, 4th T. Evans

Welsh Junior. 1st E Davies.

Supreme Champion H.W. Clark

1982

Administration.

Chairman Me H.E. Samuel, Secretary, Miss Valerie Greaves, Treasurer, Mr F.E. Shields.

The BBC was preparing a programme on "Discovering hedgerows" and asked for help and advice, in return they agreed to cover the Championship event. Mr Ward planted Quicks in long boxes to be living model hedges for displaying at the Royal and other Show.

Championship.

Builth Wells, Powys

Saturday 30th October, Host – Dollynwdd Mr D Williams

There was Disappointment at the number of Welsh competitors despite being in the area. It was as a result of the low entries that the committee decided to consider merging and/or reducing the prizes at future events where there were few entries. A dinner had followed the event but this would have to be re considered in future because of the cost.

Midland Senior 1st H.W. Clark, 2nd T. Carter, 3rd G.Key, 4th C. Mathew.

Midland Junior. 1st R. Jeffery, 2nd I. Alton, 3rd M. Page, 4th M. Jack.

Welsh Crop & Pleach Senior, 1st B. Jones, 2nd T. Evans, 3rd E. James, 4th T.D. Herbert.

Welsh Crop & Pleach Junior. 1st P. Arrowsmith, 2nd S Davies.

Welsh Stake & Pleach Senior. 1st G. Davies, 2nd M. Davies, 3rd D. Davies, 4th D. Williams

Welsh Stake & Pleach Junior. 1st B. Powell

Supreme Champion H.W. Clarke

1983

Administration

The first President was elected in recognition of his contribution to the work for the Society in hosting the first championship it was, Mr H.E Vesty.

Chairman, H.E. Samuel, Secretary F.E. Shields, Treasurer, Miss J Tompkins.

Mr Shields (Tanner) took over as Secretary from Miss Greaves due to the increasing work load of the Secretary and visiting shows and exhibitions.

A model built by Miss Greaves was shown on BBC TV from the Pebble Mill Studio Birmingham. Miss Greaves was interviewed by Sue Lawley, the programme being shown on nationwide TV. The Royal Agricultural Society of England once again offered a free site at the Royal Show.

Some consideration was given to training people who would fall outside the scope of the Agricultural Training Board, but after discussion it was felt that although the

society may be able to make some money this way it would be much better to direct people to one of the accomplished instructors.

The society was approach by Farmers Weekly with a view to incorporate the National Championship into their "Boundary Event". There were various meetings with Farmers Weekly. The society was concerned that they would try to take over and would concentrate on machine work rather than hand craft work.

The Charity Commission rejected the first draft of the Constitution.

At Committee meetings there was considerable discussion about the 1983 Championship. Stewards and Judges were agreed, Catering for Stewards and Judges would be at the Sun Inn, 30th Sept would be the last entry date, Car Parking would be 50p per car. Programmes would be 50p. Miss Greaves would do the publicity, Stakes & Binders to be acquired by T Carter & J Hawkins, Gift for the host to be acquired by the Secretary, Cash Prizes for competitors, Signage by Miss Greaves, Trade stands to be organised by local YFC, First Aid by St Johns. Police to be notified.

Championship

Cottesmore, Rutland

Saturday 29th October, host Manor Farm Mr D Hollis
Chief Steward, Mick Haynes.

Catering was at the Sun Inn at a cost of £5 per head. It was generally agreed that the event was a success with a reported profit of £128 on the day. There were of course the usual problems, Stakes and Binders not adequate, some spectators getting in without paying and insufficient entries in some of the classes. For the first time an Overall Growth prize was awarded to D. Evans

Classes:

Midland Senior. 1st T. Carter, 2nd F. Malin, 3rd S. Budding, 4th L. Dickinson.

Midland Junior. 1st I. Alton, 2nd R. Jeffery, 3rd B.J. Allen, 4th M. Jack

Welsh Senior. 1st D. Davies, M. Davies, 3rd G. Davies, 4th D. Harding.

Welsh Junior. 1st G. Sevenoaks.

Derby. 1st J. Redfern

YFC Class. 1st J.W. Stafford, 2nd R. Salt.

Supreme Champion T. Carter

1984

Administration.

President, H.E. Vesty, Chairman, Chairman H.E. Samuel, Secretary F.E. Shields, Treasurer Miss J Tompkins.

The constitution was adopted at the Annual General Meeting on Saturday 11th February. Having been accepted by the Charity Commission the societies number was allocated as 288850

Subscriptions remained at £2 for members and £3 for affiliated organisations.

An "Instructors List" was proposed listing all those members who were qualified to train hedgelayers. The accounts for this year showed a surplus of £13.83. Number of committee members limited to 20. First green enamelled badges produced.

Miss Greaves presented a draft copy of her book "Hedgelaying Explained" and it was agreed to look into ways of producing this for publication by the society. BTCV suggest that Miss Greaves book contains material which has already been published and were therefore not interested in it.

The Countryside Commission gave a grant to the YFC to provide administrative services to NHLS for the next five years.

The first official Newsletter was issued, a single page which carried details of the Championship.

NFU offer a cup for the championship, it was agreed that this would be awarded to the overall winner.

Championship.

Wroxton, Oxfordshire

Saturday 13th October. Host – Mr Hodges
Chief Steward Mick Hayne.

The earlier date was arranged to fit in with the agricultural rotation of the farm. Mr Hodges agreed to pay £7 per competitor. This was the first championship to be combined with the Farmers Weekly "Field Boundaries" event and as always there were lessons to be learned after the event regarding signs, organisation and publicity.

Classes

Midland Open. 1st B. Goodhall, 2nd L. Dickinson, 3rd G. Sumner, 4th I. Lemon.

Midland Junior. 1st I. Alton, 2nd R. Jeffrey, 3rd S. Leslie, 4th D. Brown.

Midland Veterans. 1st R. Fox, 2nd J. Billinge, 3rd L. Binfield, 4th T. Alcock.

Welsh Border Open. 1st M. Davies, 2nd D. Davies, 3rd G. Davies, 4th R. Lloyd.

Welsh Border, Junior & YFC. 1st M. Pritchard, 2nd R. Watkins, 3rd N Powell, 4th R. Powell.

Welsh Border Veterans. 1st H. Samuel.

Derby. 1st T. Batley

Supreme Champion M. Davies

1985

Administration.

President, H.E. Vesty, Chairman H.E. Samuel, Secretary F.E. Shield, Treasurer Miss J Tompkins.

Game Lee Cup. (Silver Plated) This cup was donated by Mr Joe Hill of Game Lee farm Eastmoor, Chesterfield. As this was the site for the 1985 Championship. It was to be awarded for the Midland Style highest score. Concern was expressed at

the excessive amounts of Dead Wood used in the 1984 but it was agreed that this should be left to the discretion of Judges for 1985. A question was raised regarding Health and Safety as to whether competitors who were paid "Cutting Money" were legally employees or not.

Two copies of manuscript for Miss Greaves book were sent to printer for quotes, the printer did not like the diagrams but only returned one copy of the book, eventually returning the second copy after being challenged. The YFC HQ helped to print 30 copies on their office printer.

Geoff Key and Mr John McConnell arrange a sponsored hedge laying in aid of children suffering from Friedrichs Ataxia, and illness afflicting both of the Key's Children.

Championship.

Eastmoor, Derbyshire

Saturday October 26th Host – Mr J Hill
Chief Steward Mick Haynes.

Prizes were presented by Her Grace the Duchess of Devonshire.
The treasurer reported a loss of £500 on the event.

The championship lost £600 due to not taking gate money, poor sales of programmes and the Farmer Weekly being responsible for stand space thus depriving the NHLS of that income. On the other hand Farmers Weekly had combined the Championship with the "National Boundaries" event and was concerned that they had lost £5,000 in 1984 and £1,500 in 1985.

Classes.

Midland Senior, 1st G. Key, 2nd B. Goddhall, 3rd T. Carter, 4th F. Malin

Midland Junior, 1st I. Alton, 2nd S. Leslie, 3rd R. Jeffrey, 4th D. Bowen.

Midland Veterans, 1st R. Fox, 2nd T. Alcock, 3rd E. Weatherall, 4th W. Yates.

Welsh Senior, 1st G. Davies, 2nd T. Evans, 3rd G. Stephens.

Welsh Junior, 1st B. Powell, 2nd P. Evans, 3rd R. Williams

Welsh Veterans, 1st H. Samuel.

Derby Senior, 1st L. Lowe, 2nd A. Archer, 3rd J. Tunnicliffe.

Derby Junior, 1st M. Smith, 2nd K. Sessions, 3rd R. Duckhouse.

S.O.E. Senior, 1st P. Tunks, 2nd L. French, 3rd D. Whittington.

S.O.E. Junior, 1st M. Pallenden, 2nd K. Sessions, 3rd P. Chaffin.

Supreme Champion G. Key

1986.

Administration.

President, The Duchess of Devonshire, Chairman T. Carter, Secretary F.E. Shields,
Treasurer Miss J. Tompkins.

The size of the committee was increased from 20 to 40 and it was agreed to elect a president annually. It was also decided to appoint "Life Vice Presidents" or as they

are now known "Life Members". These were to be members who had given significant services to the society. The first Life Vice President was H.S. Jeffery. Concern was expressed that the BTCV were running an event named "National Hedgelaying Competition". Subscriptions were increase to £5 Members, £5 Affiliates, £2.50 juniors (Under 26) there were 104 paid up members. The South of England Group became affiliated.

A letter from the Health & Safety Executive confirmed that the payment of "Cutting Money" did not in their opinion make competitors "Employees" However it was resolved to become more safety conscious at the Nationals. Health and Safety was becoming an issue. It was agreed to include an accident disclaimer in the championship programme and that competitors would be advised of the extent of the societies cover.

Championship.

Ledbury, Herefordshire

Saturday 25th October. Orlam Farm, Host – Mr Samuel
Chief Steward Mick Haynes.

A complaint made about too much deadwood being put in the hedges. This was to be a reoccurring problem throughout the years.

Classes.

Midland Open, 1st S. Budding, 2nd C. Matthew, 3rd B. Goodhall, 4th E. Tillett.
Midland Junior, 1st S. Leslie, 2nd R Jeffery, 3rd D. Bown, 4th J. Stafford.
Midland Veterans, 1st R. Fox, 2nd T. Alcock, 3rd W. Yates, 4th R. Parton.
Welsh Border Open, 1st T. Evans, 2nd D. Davies, 3rd G. Davies, 4th G. Stephens.
Welsh Junior & YFC, 1st B Powell, 2nd R. Watkins, 3rd B. Price, 4th N. Powell.
Welsh Borer Veterans, 1st H. Davies, 2nd D. Lewis, 3rd H. Samuel, 4th R. Lewis.
Derby Open, 1st A. Archer, 2nd R. Oakdon, 3rd J. Tunnicliffe, 4th J. Redfern.
Derby Juniors & YFC, 1st M. Smith, 2nd K. Smith, 3rd K. Thorley, 4th I. Shufflebottom.
SOE Open, 1st P. Tunks, 2nd L.French, 3rd D. Whittington, 4th T. Leonard.
SOE Veterans, 1st M. Blake, 2nd L. Cranfield, 3rd P. Chaffin, 4th M. Pattenden.

Supreme Champion T. Evans

1987.

Administration.

President, The Duchess of Devonshire, Chairman Tony Carter, Secretary F.E. Shields, Treasurer Miss J. Tompkins.

An anonymous donation of £1000 given to the society plus a further donation of £1000 from Tarmac Roadstone Ltd to assist with finance. Five Life Members were created, Les Dickinson, Miss Valerie Greaves, Mr Harold Groom, J Hill, G Key. There was an appeal for news worthy information from members so that a Newsletter could be distributed on a regular basis.

Championship.

Finningley, Yorkshire

Saturday 24th October, host – Tarmac Roadstone Ltd
Chief Steward, Mick Haynes.

A Tarmac quarry site sponsored by them and Farmers Weekly Boundary event. All competitors finished their lots despite gale force winds. There was a further call for a reduction in the amount of deadwood used.

Heather Swift won the Best lady and subsequently there was a review printed in "The Lady" magazine.

Classes;

Midland Open 1st G. Key, 2nd S. Budding, 3rd B. Goodhall, 4th G. Johnson.

Midland Junior & YFC. 1st S. Leslie, 2nd J. Stafford, 3rd M. Smith, 4th M. Johnson.

Midland Veterans, 1st F. Malin, 2nd T. Alcock, 3rd R. Parton, 4th W. Yates.

Welsh Border Open, 1st G. Davies, 2nd B. Powell, 3rd R. Bennett, 4th T. Evans.

Welsh Border Junior & YFC, 1st I. Ralph, 2nd R. Williams, 3rd B. Price, 4th N. Powell.

Welsh Border Veterans, 1st H. Samuel, 2nd T. Harding.

Derby Open, 1st I. Alton, 2nd R. Oakdon, 3rd L. Lowe, 4th J. Tunnicliffe.

Derby Junior & YFC, 1st K. Sessions, 2nd J. Clowes, 3rd K. Thorley, 4th A. Smith.

SOE Open, 1st P. Tunks, 2nd R. Moulard, 3rd A. Leonard, 4th C. Moulard.

SOE Junior & YFC, 1st M. Blake, 2nd R. Moulard.

Supreme Champion G. Key

1988.

Administration.

President Mr Charles Novotny, Chairman T. Carter, Secretary F.E. Shields,
Treasurer Miss J. Tompkins.

In July the Farmers Weekly decided to pull out of the National Championship leaving Tarmac Roadstone to sponsor the event. Harry Shutkever and Carl Liebshire suggested the idea of a "Hedgelaying Master Craftsman Certificate".

Two Life Members created, Mr S Archer, J Hutchinson

Report that Bracknell Forest Borough Council had been using the society Logo without permission, to support a hedgelaying event they were running. The secretary was instructed to write to them.

Championship.

Finningley, Yorkshire, Host – Tarmac Roadstone Ltd

Chief Steward, Mick Haynes.

The same site as 1987 but on the opposite side of the road.

Judging of the 1987 Best Growth and identification of each person's length will be made at the 1988 event. This makes even more important the request of the Officers, Committee and Chief Steward that the amount of dead wood used in the hedging be minimised. Judges and Stewards were briefed that the object of the

National Championships is to create an effective growing fence and that use of excessive amounts of dead wood will be heavily penalised.

Classes.

Midland Open, 1st B. Goddhall, 2nd S. Budding, 3rd G. Key, 4th F. Malin.
Midland Junior & YFC, 1st M. Johnson, 2nd J. Stafford, 3rd B. Allen, 4th M. Smith.
Midland Veterans, 1st D. Blissett, 2nd W. Yates, 3rd T. Alcock, 4th E. Wetherall.
Welsh Border Open, 1st T. Evans, 2nd G. Davies, 3rd R. Bennett, 4th G. Richards.
Welsh Border Junior & YFC, 1st E. Hughes, 2nd R. Williams, 3rd N. Powell, 4th R. Lewis.
Welsh Border Veterans, 1st H. Samuel, 2nd T. Harding.
Derby Open, 1st J. Tunncliffe, 2nd J. Redfern, 3rd V. Sessions, 4th A. Wise.
Derby Junior & YFC, 1st K. Sessions, 2nd K. Smith, 3rd A. Smith, 4th K. Thorley.
SOE Open, 1st P. Tunks, 2nd E. Whittington, 3rd L. French, 4th R. Moulard.
SOE Veterans, 1st F. Moulard, 2nd G. Streete, 3rd N. Russell, 4th C. Tunks.
Supreme Champion B Goodhall.

1989.

Administration.

President Mr Charles Novotny, Chairman T. Carter, Secretary F.E. Shields, Treasurer Miss J. Tompkins.

Tarmac Roadstone donated £1600 towards the Championship. The treasurers report showed an income of £1016.22, £500 of which had come from the sale of Miss Greaves book "Hedgelaying Explained", the total expenditure was £387.88.

Championship.

Daventry, Northamptonshire

Saturday 28th October, Host – Mrs Harris-Watson
Chief Steward, Mick Haynes.

Someone stole all the leftover stakes which were supplied by Tarmac. It was intended that these should be sold to members.

Classes.

Midland Open, 1st G. Key, 2nd S. Budding, 3rd B. Goodhall, 4th P. Flint.
Midland Junior, 1st M. Johnson, 2nd K. Sessions, 3rd M. Smith, 4th S. Leslie.
Midland Veterans, 1st F. Malin, 2nd D. Blissett, 3rd T. Alcock, 4th H. Shutkever.
Welsh Border open, 1st G. Davies, 2nd T. Evans, 3rd R. Bennett, 4th G. Stephens.
Welsh Border Juniors, 1st R. Williams, 2nd I. Ralph, 3rd A. Jones, 4th A. Evans.
Derby Open, 1st A. Archer, 2nd D. Barker, 3rd A. Wise, 4th J. Redfern.
Derby Junior, 1st A. Bowler, 2nd K. Smith, 3rd J. Clowes, 4th G. Brandrick.
SOE Open, 1st P. Tunks, 2nd D. Whittington, 3rd G. Truran, 4th A. Humphrey.
SOE Junior & veterans, 1st G. Streete, 2nd N. Russelle, 3rd F. Moulard, 4th R. Moulard.

Supreme Champion G. Key

1990.

Administration.

President C. Shaw of Tarmac Roadstone, Chairman T. Carter, Secretary Miss M.A. Ellis, Treasurer Miss J. Tompkins.

Paper circulated from the H & S Executive regarding safety at shows, exhibitions and other events. Tony Carter appointed Safety Steward for the 1990 championship and all stewards to be charged with monitoring safety.

November sponsored hedgelaying event in Nottinghamshire for Children in Need. G Key

Championship.

Desborough, Northants

Saturday 27th October, Host – Mr A Burnham
Chief Steward, Mick Haynes.

A Lancashire & Westmorland class for first time.

Disappointing number of entries and it was decided that in future prizes would be limited where there were only a small number in each class. Cost of providing catering on site becomes an issue with a marquee costing £400. Concern expressed at the long wait for judging and presentation of prizes.

Charlie Tunks Memorial Pewter Cup was donated by the South of England group to be awarded to for the best SOE re-growth. It was awarded in 1990 to C. Mouland.

Classes.

Midland Open, 1st G. Johnson, 2nd G. Key, 3rd S. Budding, 4th B. Goodhall.
Midland Junior & YFC, 1st M. Smith, 2nd J. Stafford, 3rd K. Sessions, 4th G. Elson.
Midland Veterans, 1st H. Shutkever, 2nd D. Blissett, 3rd W. Yates, 4th T. Alcock.
Welsh Border Open, 1st G. Davies, 2nd R. Bennett, 3rd G. Stephens, 4th H. Samuel.
Welsh Border Juniors & YFC, 1st I. Ralph, 2nd R. Williams, 3rd R. Lewis, 4th R. Crump.
Derby Open, 1st R. Smart, 2nd A. Wise, 3rd D. Barker, 4th J. Redfern.
Derby Junior & YFC, 1st I. Shufflebottom, 2nd J. Clowes, 3rd K. Smith, 4th N. Adams.
SOE Open, 1st P. Tunks, 2nd G. Druran, 3rd D. Whittington, 4th R. Mouland.
SOE Veterans, 1st N. Russell, 2nd F. Truran, 3rd F. Mouland, 4th G. Streete.
Lancs & West Open, 1st M. Robinson, 2nd J. Craig, 3rd J. Prachek, 4th A. Duckett.
Lancs & West Junior & YFC, 1st D. Prickett, 2nd A. Ayerton, 3rd D. Knowels, 4th A. Kirk.

Supreme Champion G. Johnson

1991.

Administration.

President C. Shaw of Tarmac Roadstone, Chairman John McConnel, Secretary Miss M.A. Ellis, Treasurer Miss J. Tompkins.

Subscription rates increased to £7.50 for members with £5 for OAP and Juniors.
Tony Carter created a Life Member.

Championship.

Shrewsbury, Shropshire

Saturday 26th October, Host – Montford Bridge Mr A Vernon

Chief Steward Mick Hayne.

D Blissett Bottle of Scotch offered as a prize to the Oldest Competitor won by F.Malin.

Tarmac Sole Sponsors also providing a Marquee

Classes.

Midland Open, 1st B. Goodhall, 2nd S. Budding, 3rd C. Matthew, 4th G. Key.

Midland Junior & YFC, 1st K. Sessions, 2nd M. Smith, 3rd I. Shufflebottom.

Midland Veterans, 1st F. Malin, 2nd J. Tunnicliffe, 3rd S. Leach, 4th D. Blissett.

Welsh Border Open, 1st G. Davies, 2nd T. Evans, 3rd R. Bennett, 4th W. Harding.

Welsh Border Veterans, 1st T. Harding, 2nd J. Preece, 3rd A. Evans, 4th A. Vaughan.

Derby Open, 1st K. Thorley, 2nd N. Adamas, 3rd A. Wise, 4th V. Sessions.

Derby Junior & YFC, 1st A. Smith, 2nd J. Clowes, 3rd R. Wilson, 4th K. Smith.

SOE Open, 1st D. Sands, 2nd P. Tunks, 3rd T. Leonard, 4th D. Whittington.

SOE Junior & YFC, 1st S. Turner, 2nd N. Russell, 3rd G. Street, 4th F. Moulard.

Lancs & West Open, 1st J. Craig, 2nd P. Chippendale, 3rd D Peacock, 4th J. Prachek.

Lancs & West Junior & YFC, 1st A. Kirk, 2nd S. Hull, 3rd T. Carr.

Supreme Champion G Davies

1992.

Administration.

President C. Shaw of Tarmac Roadstone., Chairman John Blake, Secretary Miss M.A. Ellis and Guy Lock, Treasurer Miss J. Tompkins.

Staff at YFC no longer able to cope with administration and therefore each committee members would be responsible for their own administration.

November a sponsored Hedge Lay for Children in need at Twyford G Key raised £5117.

Championship.

Stone, Staffordshire

Saturday 24th October, Host – Norton Bridge Mr & Mrs Bright

Chief Steward, Mick Haynes.

D Henry appointed Safety Officer and all competitors instructed to abide by the Chainsaw Regulations.

Classes.

Midland Open, 1st S. Budding, 2nd G. Johnson, 3rd G. Key, 4th N. Carter.

Midland Junior & YFC, 1st S. Sessions, 2nd A. Geary, 3rd P. Geary, 4th p. Abbott.

Midland Veterans, 1st F. Malin, 2nd D. Blissett, 3rd J. Tunnicliffe, 4th H. Shutkever.

Welsh Border Open, 1st G. Davies, 2nd G. Smith, 3rd R. Harding, 4th G. Stephens.

Welsh Border Veterans & YFC. 1st T. Harding, 2nd J. Preece, 3rd P. Hughes.

Derby Open, 1st M. Sessions, 2nd R. Oakham, 3rd A. Wise, 4th R. Walker.
Derby Junior & YFC, 1st J. Clowes, 2nd K. Smith, 3rd A. Smith, 4th R. Hotchkiss.
SOE Open, 1st P. Tunks, 2nd D. Sands, 3rd R. Moulard, 4th D. Whittington.
SOE Junior & YFC, 1st G. Streete, 2nd B. Hickman, 3rd (Joint) W. Truran/N.Russell,
4th F. Mouldnad.
Lanc & West Open, 1st R. Robinson, 2nd T. Carr, 3rd J. Crag, 4th D. Peacock.
Lancs & West Junior & YFC, 1st A. Kirk, 2nd R. Dixon, 3rd S. Hull.

Supreme Champion S. Budding

1993.

Administration.

President J. Glaves, Chairman John Blake, Secretary Miss M.A. Ellis and Guy Lock,
Treasurer Pam Shields.

Present Membership 253 although many of these were in arrears with their
subscriptions.

Second reading of the hedgerow Protection Bill. Miss Greaves and Mr Wilson
attended a House of Commons hearing at Grassington Town hall in 1998 to give
evidence.

Championship.

Gaydon, Warwickshire

Saturday 23rd October, Host Mr & Mrs Hirons
Chief Steward, Mick Haynes.

Of the 95 entrants only 9 were juniors.

Classes.

Midland Open 1st S. Budding, 2nd N. Carter, 3rd H. Goodyear, 4th G. Johnson.
Midland Junior & YFC, 1st J. Clowes, 2nd K. Smith, 3rd A. Geary, 4th P. Geary.
Midland Veterans, 1st T. Carter, 2nd F. Malin, 3rd J. Tunnicliffe, 4th W. Yates.
Welsh Border Open, 1st G. Davies, 2nd G. Stephens.
Welsh Border Veterans, 1st J. Preece, 2nd E. Hughes.
Derby Open, 1st V. Sessions, 2nd R. Oakdon, 3rd R. Walker, 4th A. Wise.
Derby Juniors & YFC, 1st A. Smith, 2nd R. Hotchkiss.
SOE Open, 1st P. Tunks, 2nd D. Whittington, 3rd A. Ashby, 4th P. Hallam.
SOE Junior & veterans, 1st N. Russell, 2nd G. Streete, 3rd F. Moulard, 4th B.
Hickman.
Lancs & West Open, 1st R. Bell, 2nd J. Craig, 3rd D. Peacock, 4th T. Carr.
Lancs & West Junior & YFC, 1st P. Gibson, 2nd A. Kirk.

Supreme Champion P Tunks

1994

Administration.

President M. Whittle (Tarmac Roadstone Ltd), Chairman John Blake, Secretary Mary
Ann Beaty (Nee Ellis), Treasurer Pam Shields.

Membership 254. 100 Ties ordered at £5 each. Royal show stand damaged by rain. Complaint re lack of information in the Newsletter. 1994 Sponsored Hedge Lay 4th Nov at Elvaston for Children in Need. £1900 raised. G Key. Les Ward was no longer able to staff the Royal Show stand and Frank Malin and Mick Haynes would take over.

Championship.

Reigate, Surrey

Saturday 21st October, Host – Nutfield Surrey County Council
Chief Steward, G. Johnson.

Classes.

Midland Open, 1st S. Budding, 2nd N. Carter, 3rd J. Stafford, 4th G. Key.

Midland Junior & YFC, 1st J. Clowes, 2nd A. Geary, 3rd P. Geary.

Midland Veterans, 1st T. Carter, 2nd D. Blissett, 3rd J. Tunnicliffe, 4th F. Malin.

Welsh Veterans, 1st J. Preece, 2nd G. Stephens.

Derby Open, 1st K. Smith, 2nd R. Oakedon, 3rd R. Walker, 4th N. Goodwin.

Derby Junior & YFC 1st A. Smith, 2nd D. Spencer, 3rd R. Hotchkiss, 4th S. Downs.

SOE Open, 1st D. Sands, 2nd R. Graham, 3rd A. Ashby, 4th S. Turner.

SOE Junior & Veterans, 1st N. Russell, 2nd G. Streete, 3rd F. Moulard, 4th B. Hickman.

Lancs & West Open, 1st T. Carr, 2nd R. Bell, 3rd D. Peacock, 4th H. Swift.

Lancs & West Junior, 1st P. Gibson, 2nd A. Kirk.

Supreme Champion T Carter.

1995

Administration.

President, Ian Finlater, Chairman John Blake, Secretary F.E. Shields, Treasurer Pam Shields.

Mr Ward steps down from running the display at the Royal Show and Mr D. Blissett and Mr F. Malin take over. There was a write up of the Society and hedgelaying in the National Geographic magazine.

Three new Life Members created, Mr Mick Haynes, L Ward, Mr John Wilson.
Mr Whitefoot one of the founder members of the society dies..

Championship.

Fakenham, Norfolk

Saturday 20th October, Host James Spencer-Ashworth
Chief Steward, G. Johnson.

It was agreed that from this year onwards the Society would supply all Stakes and Binders for competitors. After the event the SOE Society complained that the size of the hedge was too large. It was agreed that in future it would be the responsibility of the Chief Steward to decide the suitability of the hedge.

Classes.

Midland Open, 1st M. Johnson, 2nd S. Budding, 3rd S. Leslie, 4th B. Goodhall.
Midland Junior, 1st D. Randle, 2nd P. Geary, 3rd A. Smith, 4th A. Geary.
Midland Veterans, 1st T. Carter, 2nd F. Malin, 3rd P. Ashmore, 4th V. Sessions.
Welsh Border Open, 1st G. Smith, 2nd R. Bennett, 3rd G. Stephens, 4th J. Preece.
Welsh Border Juniors & YFC, 1st T. Prothero.
Derby Open, 1st J. Clowes, 2nd R. Oakdon, 3rd N. Goodwin, 4th R. Walker.
Derby Junior & YFC, 1st M. Crichlow, 2nd D. Spencer.
SOE Open, 1st P. Tunks, 2nd A. Ashby, 3rd D. Whittington, 4th R. Graham.
SOE Veterans, 1st G. Streete, 2nd B. Hickman, 3rd N. Russell, 4th F. Moulard.
Lancs & West Open, 1st R. Bell, 2nd T. Carr, 3rd H. Swift, 4th A. Kershaw.

Supreme Champion Malcolm Johnson

1996

Administration.

President Mr Ian Finlater, Chairman John Blake, Secretary F.E. Shields, Treasurer Pam Shields.

Championship.

Kynnersley, Shropshire

Saturday 24th October Host – The Wall farm Mr N Dobson
Chief Steward, G. Johnson.

Classes.

Midland Open, 1st N. Carter, 2nd B. Goodhall, 3rd G. Key, 4th S. Budding.
Midland Junior & YFC, 1st D. Spencer, 2nd A. Geary, 3rd P. Holmes, 4th R. Hill.
Midland Veterans, 1st T. Carter, 2nd F. Malin, 3rd M. Haynes, 4th D. Blissett.
Welsh Border Open, 1st G. Davies, 2nd G. Smith, 3rd G. Stephens, 4th W. Harding.
Welsh Border Junior and YFC, 1st T. Prothero.
Welsh Border Veterans, 1st D. Evans, 2nd R. Bennett, 3rd T. Harding, 4th J. Preece.
Derby Senior, 1st K. Sessions, 2nd B. Hughes, 3rd J. Woolley, 4th R. Walker.
Derby Junior & YFC, 1st R. Hotchkiss, 2nd J. Hool, 3rd F. Mollatt, 4th R. Barker.
SOE Senior, 1st P. Tunks, 2nd R. Moulard, 3rd K. Agate, 4th A. Ashby.
SOE Veterans, 1st N. Russell, 2nd G. Streete, 3rd N. Sands, 4th J. Wilson.
Lancs & West Open, 1st G. Bell, 2nd R. Bell, 3rd H. Swift, 4th J. Dubrey.
Lancs & West Junior & YFC, 1st P. Gibson.
Shropshire Local Class, 1st F. Jones, 2nd B. Morris, 3rd D. Chester Mater, 4th P. Davies.

Supreme Champion T. Carter

1997.

Administration.

President Mr Ian Finlater, Chairman John Blake, Secretary Mrs Mary Ann Beaty (Nee Ellis), Treasurer Pam Shields.

Agreed to increase subs £10 Members £7.50 for OAP & Juniors. Out of a membership of 150 only 21 members turned up at the AGM. Somerset hedge Group founded. Two new Life Members created, Mr John McConnell, H Snowden.

Championship.

Downham Market, Norfolk

Saturday 25th October Host- Royston Estate Denver Mr Pratt
Chief Steward, G. Johns.

Agreed to have a "Local Style" class. Tarmac had agreed to provide lunches for approx 120 Officials and Guests. John McConnell safety Officer.

Classes.

Midland Open, 1st B. Goodhall, 2nd G. Key, 3rd S. Budding, 4th M. Johnson.

Midland Junior & YFC, 1st D. Spencer, 2nd A. Geary, 3rd P. Geary, 4th R. Hill.

Midland Veterans, 1st F. Malin, 2nd R. Oakdon, 3rd M. Haynes, 4th P. Flint.

Welsh Border Open, 1st G. Smith, 2nd G. Stephenson.

Welsh Border Junior, 1st T. Prothero.

Welsh Border Veterans, 1st R. Bennett, 2nd J. Preece.

Derby Senior, 1st K. Sessions, 2nd R. Walker, 3rd S. Down, 4th K. Smith.

Derby Junior & YFC, 1st R. Hotchkiss.

SOE Open, 1st P. Tunks, 2nd A. Ashby, 3rd R. Moulard, 4th P. Strugnell.

SOE Veterans, 1st N. Sands, 2nd J. Wilson, 3rd A. Agate, 4th G. Street.

Lancs & West, 1st T. Carr, 2nd G. Bell, 3rd R. Bell, 4th R. Hogarth.

Local Class (Norfolk), 1st M. White, 2nd R. Paton, 3rd T. Montgomery.

Supreme Champion G Smith

1998.

Administration.

President Mr Ian Finlater, Chairman John Blake, Secretary Julie Hallam, Treasurer Mick Haynes.

John Savings Miniature hedges made their first appearance at the Royal Show and won the Royal Agricultural Societies Silver Merit awarded for the display. The YFC office at Kenilworth was no longer able to provide Admin services and so the NHLs HQ moved to Julie Hallam's house. Four new Life Members created, Mr John Blake, Mr John Hawkins, Mrs P Shields, Mr Piers Pratt.

Championship.

Clitheroe, Lancashire

Saturday 24th October Host- Pendleton Hall Mr R Whitwell
Chief Steward, G. Johnson.

Yorkshire Style included for the first time.

Terrible weather conditions. Marquee blown down.

Classes.

Midland Open, 1st B. Goodhall, 2nd M. Johnson, 3rd S. Budding, 4th C. Matthew.

Midland Junior & YFC, 1st P. Geary, 2nd A. Geary, 3rd M. Ashman.

Midland Veterans, 1st F. Malin, 2nd M. Haynes, 3rd R. Oakdon, 4th D. Smith.
Welsh Border, 1st G. Stephens, 2nd G. Smith, 3rd T. Prothero.
Welsh Border Veterans, 1st R. Bennett, 2nd J. Preece.
Derby Open, 1st G. Key, 2nd R. Walker, 3rd M. Airey, 4th A. Hollins.
Derby Junior & YFC, 1st T. Hall, 2nd E. James, 3rd R. Barker.
SOE Open, 1st P. Tunks, 2nd P. Strugnell, 3rd R. Moulard, 4th A. Ashby.
SOE Veterans, 1st N. Russell, 2nd M. Agate, 3rd F. Moulard, 4th B. Hickme.
Lancs & West Open, 1st G. Redmayne, 2nd H. Kirkwood, 3rd T. Carr, 4th R. Hogarth.
Lancs & West Junior & YFC, 1st P. Gibson, 2nd A. Kirk, 3rd J. Stott, 4th E. Booth.
Lancs & West Veterans, 1st J. Newsham, 2nd D. Tattershell, 3rd A. Holt.
Yorkshire, 1st K. Walmsley, 2nd J. Prachek, 3rd D. Peacock, 4th C. Walmsley.

Supreme Champion B Goodhall

1999.

Administration.

President Bill Bolsover, Chairman John Blake, Secretary Julie Hallam, Treasurer Mick Haynes.

Mr John Wilson and Kevin Agate travel to Parc de Brotone France to demonstrate Hedge Laying. Frank Firth was appointed Web Page editor to design and construct a web page with assistants from Nigel Adams.

Championship.

Maltby, Stainton, S. Yorkshire

Saturday 2nd October, Host- Holm Hall Quarry, Tarmac Roadstone.
Chief Steward, Mick Haynes.

Although the championship was a success the number of competitors was well down on previous years. The phrase "True to Style" to be included in future schedules.

Classes.

Midland Open, 1st M. Johnson, 2nd D. Spencer, 3rd G. Key, 4th C. Matthew.
Midland Junior, 1st D. Brooks, 2nd P. Geary, 3rd M. Ashman.
Midland Veterans, 1st F. Malin, 2nd T. Carter, 3rd G. Johnson, 4th P. Ashmore.
Welsh (Mongomery), 1st R. Harding, 2nd B. Harding, 3rd T. Jones, 4th J. Jones.
Welsh (Brecon), 1st T. Prothero, 2nd G. Smith.
Welsh Veterans, 1st G. Stephens, 2nd R. Bennett, 3rd T. Harding, 4th M. Bebb.
Derby Open, 1st R. Walker, 2nd I. Whieldon, 3rd R. Oakdon, 4th P. Yeomans.
Derby Junior, 1st S. Archer, 2nd R. Baker.
SOE Open, 1st P. Tunks, 2nd A. Ashby, 3rd J. Savings, 4th R. Moulard.
SOE Veterans & Junior, 1st N. Russell, 2nd J. Wilson, 3rd M. Agate, 4th M. Fennell.
Lancs & West Open, 1st R. Lee, 2nd R. Bell, 3rd P. Gibson, 4th H. Swift.
Lance & West Veterans, 1st G. Newsham, 2nd J. Newsham, 3rd D. Tattersell.
Yorkshire, 1st K. Walmsley, 2nd J. Prachek, 3rd D. Peacock, 4th A. Leonard.

Supreme Champion M Johnson

2000.

Administration.

President Bill Bolsover, Chairman John Blake, Secretary Julie Hallam, Treasurer Mick Haynes.

Society approached by Neil Foulks of Ireland re possibility of training.

NHLS Mug and Calendar produced. Irish demonstration at the Championship

Championship.

Oxford (Eaton)

Saturday 21st October, Host- Hill Hall Farm Appleton, Gow & Nickleson

Chief Steward, Mick Haynes.

Classes.

Midland Open, 1st M. Johnson, 2nd S. Leslie, 3rd J. Stafford, 4th T. Jones.

Midland Junior, 1st P. Geary, 2nd M. Ashman.

Midland Veterans, 1st P. Flint, 2nd G. Johnson, 3rd D. Blissett, 4th F. Malin.

Welsh (Montgomery), 1st R. Harding, 2nd W. Jones, 3rd T. Jones.

Welsh (Brecon), 1st T. Prothero, 2nd G. Smith, 3rd J. Preece.

Welsh veterans, 1st G. Stephens, 2nd R. Bennett, 3rd T. Harding, 4th T. Jones.

Derby Open, 1st R. Thompson, 2nd R. Oakdon, 3rd A. Hollins, 4th R. Walker.

SOE Open, 1st A. Ashby, 2nd T. Carter, 3rd D. Truran, 4th K. Agate.

SOE Veterans, 1st R. Moulard, 2nd J. Johnson, 3rd G. Streete, 4th N. Russell.

SOE Juniors, 1st M. Fennell, 2nd A. Agate, 3rd M. Agate.

Lancs & west, 1st R. Hogarth, 2nd T. Carr, 3rd R. Bell, 4th R. Tattershall.

Yorkshire, 1st T. Leonard, 2nd P. Rowell.

Supreme Champion M. Johnson

2001.

Administration.

President T. Carter, Chairman John Wilson, Secretary Julie Hallam, Treasurer Mick Haynes.

Tarmac Roadstone donate £2000 to the championship, a record sum.

Devon style included in the championship for the first time. Mr F (Tanner) Shields created a Life Member.

Championship.

Woolsthorpe, Lincolnshire

Saturday 27th October, Host – Manor Farm, V H Robbins & Trustees

Chief Steward, Mick Haynes.

£2 per Yard offered by the Host for the hedge.

A serious outbreak of Foot & Mouth disease placed the championship in jeopardy, but it was finally clear in time for the competition. Demonstration by Dutch hedgers.

Classes.

Midland Open, 1st D. Spencer, 2nd S. Budding, 3rd J. Stafford, 4th N. Adams.
Midland Intermediate, 1st G. Lock, 2nd A. Geary, 3rd P. Palmer, 4th A. Hollis.
Midland Veterans, 1st G. Johnson, 2nd P. Flint, 3rd D. Smith, 4th F. Malin.
Welsh Open, 1st T. Prothero, 2nd G. Smith, 3rd R. Bennett, 4th G. Stephens.
Derby, 1st A. Hollins, 2nd R. Thompson, 3rd R. Walker, 4th R. Oakdon.
SOE Open, 1st J. Savings, 2nd D. Truran, 3rd M. Wade, 4th G. Moore.
SOE Intermediate, 1st R. Whittaker, 2nd P. Matthews, 3rd A. Agate, 4th I. Johnson.
SOE Veterans, 1st I. Johnson.
Lancs & West, 1st R. Hogarth, 2nd F. Gibson, 3rd H. Kirkwood, 4th R. Atton.
Lancs & West Junior and Veterans, 1st P. Swindlehurst, 2nd J. Newsham, 3rd D. Wilson, 4th G. Newsham.
Yorkshire, 1st J. Prachek, 2nd K. Walmsley, 3rd T. Leonard, 4th J. Tyson.
Devon, 1st R. Parris, 2nd C. Risdon, 3rd N. Fowler, 4th T. Coombs.

Supreme Champion T. Protheroe

2002.

Administration.

President Mr Gwilt (Tarmac Roadstone Ltd), Chairman Tony Carter, Secretary Mick Haynes, Treasurer Mick Haynes.

2002 Visit to Ireland March 14th, demonstrations of four styles, John Savings showed his mini hedges, a success, another visit expected in 2003.

Mike Ellis demonstrates Hedgelaying at the Lairgs Crofters Show where it had not been seen before. John Savings goes to Highgrove to train HRH. Video "Laying it on the Line" Produced by Nigel Adams.

Championship.

Shipton Moyne, Tetbury, Glos.

Saturday 26th October, Host – Cranmore Farm, Mr S Tomlin & Son
Chief Steward, Mick Haynes.

Complaints about Cutters continuing after time, one person brought dead wood to insert in the hedge. Discussion on subjectivity of judging a supreme champion, Host withheld payment for hedge as he considered it was left in a poor state.

Classes.

Midland Open, 1st M. Johnson, 2nd R. Jeffrey, 3rd C. Matthew, 4th S. Budding.
Midland Intermediate, 1st A. Geary, 2nd A. Hollis, 3rd D. Brooks, 4th P. Geary.
Midland Veterans, 1st D. Blissett, 2nd G. Johnson, 3rd P. Flint, 4th T. Heard.
Welsh Border Open, 1st T. Prothero, 2nd G. Harding, 3rd W. Jones, 4th R. Lewis.
Welsh Border veterans, 1st G. Stephens, 2nd G. Smith, 3rd R. Bennett, 4th J. Preece.
Derby Open, 1st A. Hollins, 2nd R. Oakdon, 3rd R. Thompson, 4th R. Walker.
SOE Open, 1st P. Tunks, 2nd R. Graham, 3rd D. Truran, 4th G. Moore.
SOE Intermediate, 1st P. Matthews, 2nd W. Daniel, 3rd C. Gilligan, 4th M. Agate.
SOE Veterans, 1st R. Moulard, 2nd D. Whittington, 3rd I. Johnson, 4th N. Russell.
Lancs & West Open, 1st R. Hogarth, 2nd P. Gibson, 3rd H. Kirkwood, 4th A. Kirkwood.
Lancs 7 West, 1st A. Duckett, 2nd G. Newsham, 3rd J. Newsham, 4th O. Coupland.

Yorkshire, 1st K. Walmsley, 2nd J. Prachek, 3rd A. Leonard, 4th P. Rowell.
Devon, 1st T. Copp, 2nd R. Vickery, 3rd G. Pidgeon, 4th N. Adams.
North Somerset, 1st T. Vowels, 2nd P. Gulliford, 3rd M. Jones, 4th P. Smith.
Supreme Champion R. Hogarth

2003.

Administration.

President (Vacant), Chairman Tony Carter, Secretary & Treasurer Bruce Maley.

Tarmac Roadstone donate £6,500 to the Society.

HRH The Prince of Wales visited the Country Landowners Association Game Fair and discusses the miniature hedge display with J Savings. His Royal Highness agrees to be Patron of the Society. There were complaints about the quality of workmanship of hedgers listed on the web site and so it was agreed that in future only members would be listed. There was an invitation to send someone to the Buckingham Palace Garden Party, John and Gill Savings nominated to attend.

The Secretary resigned during the championship and temporary arrangements had to be made to continue the administration.

Championship.

Barton, Cambridgeshire

Saturday 25th October, Host – Mr M Retford
Chief Steward, Derek Smith.

Classes.

Midland Open, 1st M. Johnson, 2nd S. Leslie, 3rd S. Budding, 4th A. Ashby.
Midland Intermediate, 1st P. Geary, 2nd B. Bakewell, 3rd D. Walker, 4th R. Markham.
Midland Veterans, 1st C. Matthew, 2nd P. Flint, 3rd G. Johnson, 4th F. Malin.
Welsh Open, 1st T. Prothero, 2nd G. Stephens, 3rd R. Lewis.
Welsh Veterans, 1st G. Smith, 2nd W. Lane.
Derby, 1st J. Stafford, 2nd A. Hollins, 3rd R. Oakdon, 4th D. Barker.
SOE Open, 1st M. Agate, 2nd R. Graham, 3rd P. Tunks, 4th K. Agate.
SOE Intermediate, 1st C. Gilligan, 2nd W. Daniel, 3rd P. Vaughan.
SOE Veterans, 1st D. Whittington, 2nd M. Ryan, 3rd J. Wilson, 4th M. Wade.
Lancs & West, 1st H. Kirkwood, 2nd R. Bell, 3rd A. Duckett, 4th H. Swift.
Yorkshire, 1st J. Prachek, 2nd D. Peacock, 3rd T. Leonard, 4th P. Rowell.
Devon, 1st N. Fowler, 2nd C. Ridsen, 3rd M. Jones, 4th T. Copp.

Supreme Champion M. Johnson

2004.

Administration.

President Mrs A Walker (Tarmac Roadstone), Chairman Tony Carter, Secretary Vacant, Treasurer Mick Haynes.

Championship.

Deene, Corby, Northamptonshire

Saturday 23rd October, Host- Manor Farm, Mr B Reading
Chief Steward, Derek Smith.

Classes.

Midland Open, 1st S. Leslie, 2nd M. Johnson, 3rd D. Smith, 4th G. Key.
Midland Intermediate, 1st G. Lock, 2nd D. Walker, 3rd P. Palmer, 4th T. Cox.
Midland Veterans, 1st C. Matthew, 2nd G. Johnson, 3rd P. Flint, 4th F. Malin.
Welsh Open, 1st T. Prothero, 2nd G. Davies, 3rd E. Davies, 4th M. Vaughan.
Welsh Veterans, 1st G. Smith, 2nd G. Stevens, 3rd R. Bennett, 4th J. Preece.
Derby, 1st S. Archer, 2nd A. Hollins, 3rd R. Thompson, 4th R. Walker.
SOE Open, 1st J. Savings, 2nd K. Agate, 3rd A. Agate, 4th R. Graham.
SOE Intermediate, 1st R. Champions, 2nd C. Okelly, 3rd W. Daniel, 4th M. Histed.
Lancs & West, 1st P. Gibson, 2nd R. Lee, 3rd R. Bell, 4th A. Kirkwood.
Yorkshire, 1st J. Prachek, 2nd D. Peacock, 3rd T. Leonard, 4th E. Kyrke.
Devon, 1st N. Fowler, 2nd R. Parris, 3rd M. Jones, 4th G. Pidgeon.

Supreme Champion S. Leslie

2005.

Administration.

President Mrs A Walker (Tarmac Roadstone), Chairman Tony Carter, Secretary Allan Portas, Treasurer Mick Haynes.

In 2005 there was a change major change of management at Tarmac and despite negotiations with Allan Portas the then Secretary they were no longer able to continue with sponsorship. Largely through the efforts of Nigel Adams and Emily Ledder Natural England were able to sponsor the championship for £2000

The Contractors list was revised; there were many non members and variations in the information provided. In future there would be a charge for the service £15 and the information shown would be standardised.

At the AGM it was agreed to form a review group to examine the societies needs and administration. The chairman selected the members of the review group and Allan Portas was appointed Chairman of that group. It was agreed that the Review group would begin work on an Accreditation Scheme.

Mark Thornton became editor of the Societies Newsletter, Later that year the committee congratulated him on the production.

Championship.

Tetbury, Gloucestershire.

Saturday 29th October, Host – Broadfield Farm, His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales.

Chief Steward, Derek Smith.

Horse ploughing was included in the event. A bus was stuck in the field and had to be towed out. As a result of the towing the bus was damaged and an insurance

claim was made against the society for damages. The Society rejected the claim which was eventually withdrawn.

Classes.

Midland Open, 1st M. Johnson, 2nd N. Carter, 3rd S. Budding, 4th A. Ashby.
Midland Intermediate, 1st M. Page, 2nd A. Hollis, 3rd R. Markham, 4th P. Palmer.
Midland Veterans, 1st P. Flint, 2nd C. Matthew, 3rd A. Hollins, 4th G. Johnson.
Welsh Open, 1st E. Davies, 2nd T. Evans, 3rd G. Davies, 4th W. Harding.
Welsh Veterans, 1st G. Smith, 2nd M. Price, 3rd J. Lane, 4th R. Bennett.
Derby, 1st R. Thompson, 2nd J. Stafford, 3rd S. Archer, 4th R. Walker.
SOE Open, 1st G. Moore, 2nd B. Whittiker, 3rd J. Savings, 4th P. Tunks.
SOE Intermediate, 1st C. Okelly, 2nd S. Mockford, 3rd P. Blissett, 4th T. Gallow.
SOE Veterans, 1st C. Gilligan, 2nd M. Wade, 3rd D. Truran, 4th P. Vaughan.
Lancs & West, 1st P. Gibson, 2nd M. Robinson, 3rd M. Close, 4th J. Craig.
Yorkshire, 1st C. Calvert, 2nd D. Peacock, 3rd P. Rowell, 4th T. Leonard.
Devon, 1st S. Drew, 2nd T. Coombe, 3rd C. Riden, 4th M. Jones.
North Somerset, 1st P. Guilliford, 2nd T. Vowles, 3rd W. Gray, 4th C. Clutterbuck.

Supreme Champion E. Davies

2006.

Administration.

President Tony Carter, Chairman Robin Dale, Secretary Allan Portas, Treasurer Phil Rowell.

Natural England donated £2,000 for the Championship. Proposals were adopted at the AGM for an Accreditation scheme to be introduced at the 2006 Championship. Clive Matthew was appointed Accreditation Officer. There was an appeal for National Standards for Hedgelaying Styles.

Championship.

2006 Stourhead, Wilts

Saturday 28th October, Host- National Trust
Chief Steward, Derek Smith.

Charges for the host increased to £3.50 per Metre.

North Somerset Class introduced.

Safety declaration required from Competitors.

Classes.

Midland Open, 1st N. Carter, 2nd S. Budding, 3rd S. Leslie, 4th A. Ashby.
Midland Intermediate, 1st M. Page, 2nd A. Hollis, 3rd P. Palmer, 4th H. Davies.
Midland Veterans, 1st C. Matthew, 2nd P. Tunks, 3rd P. Flint, 4th G. Johnson.
Welsh Open, 1st G. Davies, 2nd E. Davies, 3rd M. Vaughan, 4th R. Lewis.
Welsh Veterans, 1st G. Smith, 2nd J. Lane, 3rd G. Stephens.
Derby, 1st R. Walker, 2nd J. Hooley, 3rd S. Archer, 4th D. Hale.
SOE Open, 1st G. Moore, 2nd J. Savings, 3rd R. Graham, 4th P. Matthews.
SOE Intermediate, 1st T. Bryant, 2nd S. Mockford, 3rd T. Gallow, 4th G. Pitt.
SOE Veterans, 1st D. Druran, 2nd C. Gilligan, 3rd R. Moulard, 4th M. Wade.
Lancs & West, 1st P. Gibson, 2nd A. Kirkwood, 3rd J. Craig, 4th R. Bell.

Yorkshire, 1st D. Peacock, 2nd C. Calvert, 3rd T. Varty, 4th T. Leonard.
Devon, 1st T. Coombe, 2nd N. Fowler, 3rd T. Copp, 4th C. Ridsen.
North Somerset, 1st T. Vowles, 2nd P. Galliford, 3rd C. Clutterbuck, 4th w. Gray.

Supreme Champion C. Matthew

2007.

Administration.

President Tony Carter, Chairman Robin Dale, Secretary Allan Portas, Treasurer Phil Rowell.

Natural England once again donated £2000 for the championship, they also agreed to fund the conversion of the video "Laying it on the Line to DVD format. Sir Anthony Bamford of JCB also donated £2000 to the society.

Bert Clark 1925 – 2007 Bert was perhaps one of the greatest Hedge Layers ever. With a reputation built up in the 1950's he was able to take part in the NHL's Championship winning Supreme Champion no less than 11 Times out of 19 Competitions. Bert raised the standards of hedgelaying both in his competing and later in judging. In total he won some 158 competitions, truly a great hedger. Also this year marked the death of Mr H.E. Vesty who hosted the first National Championship.

Miss Greaves book on the History of the NHL's was published, the society agreed to purchase 25 copies. A meeting took place with the DSWA to discuss ways of working together although there was no positive outcome other than to exchange minutes of meetings it did create dialogue between the two organisations.

Prince of Wales Cup (Carved Wooden Goblet) was donated by His Royal Highness to be presented as required. It was agreed to award this to the Supreme Champion.

By the AGM in February 26 people had been accredited and a further 16 awaiting assessment.

Championship.

Wanlip, Leicestershire

Saturday 27th October, Host
Chief Steward, Derek Smith.

Due to an outbreak of Foot & Mouth disease disinfectant mats had to be purchased and used at the entrance to the Car Park. Charges were £5 Car Park, £2 Programmes. Profit on championship £127

Classes.

Midland Open, 1st M. Johnson, 2nd A. Ashby, 3rd S. Budding, 4th S. Leslie.
Midland Intermediate, 1st W. Foss, 2nd A. Hollis, 3rd H. Davies, 4th D. Walker.
Midland Veterans, 1st C. Matthew, 2nd P. Tunks, 3rd P. Charity, 4th P. Flint.
Welsh Open, 1st T. Evans, 2nd E. Davies, 3rd G. Davies, 4th R. Lewis.
Welsh Veterans, 1st G. Smith, 2nd G. Stephens, 3rd J. Lane.
Derby, 1st A. Hollins, 2nd R. Oakdon, 3rd R. Thompson, 4th R. Walker.

SOE Open, 1st J. Savings, 2nd G. Moore, 3rd B. Whittaker, 4th P. Matthews.
SOE Intermediate, 1st B. Daniel, 2nd M. Moor, 3rd P. Wheele.
SOE Veterans, 1st M. Wade, 2nd D. Truan, 3rd P. Vaughan, 4th R. Moulard.
Lancs & West, 1st R. Bell, 2nd P. Gibson, 3rd A. Kirk, 4th D. Kownacki.
Yorkshire, 1st C. Calvert, 2nd J. Prachek, 3rd D. Peacock, 4th T. Leonard.
Devon, 1st R. Parris, 2nd C. Risdon, 3rd S. Drew, 4th G. Pidgeon.
North Somerset, 1st C. Clutterbuck, 2nd P. Gulliford, 3rd T. Vowles, 4th W. Gray.

Supreme Champion M. Johnson

2008.

Administration.

President Tony Carter, Chairman Robin Dale, Secretary Allan Portas, Treasurer Phil Rowell.

Subscriptions changed to Anniversary rather than annually, this made the administration easier by spreading the workload over the year. Launch of Hedgelink and association of charities connected with hedgerows, with visit by HRH The Prince of Wales to NHL Stand at the Royal Show.

A total of 57 members are now accredited

Championship.

Sandringham Estate, Norfolk

Saturday 25th October, Host- Sandringham Estate, Her Majesty The Queen
Chief Steward, Derek Smith.

Classes.

Midland Open, 1st S. Budding, 2nd M. Johnson, 3rd S. Leslie, 4th N. Carter.
Midland Intermediate, 1st G. Robbins, 2nd A. Hollis, 3rd A. Crow, 4th H. Davies.
Midland Veterans, 1st A. Hollins, 2nd C. Matthew, 3rd P. Flint, 4th P. Tunks.
Welsh Open, 1st G. Davies, 2nd E. Davies, 3rd G. Smith, 4th Rita Jones.
Derby, 1st A. Holding, 2nd R. Thompson, 3rd S. Redfern, 4th R. Walker.
SOE Open, 1st J. Savings, 2nd R. Graham, 3rd G. Moor, 4th S. Mockford.
SOE Intermediate, E. Wilkinson, 2nd G. Pitt, 3rd M. Skinner, 4th C. Leeke.
SOE Veterans, 1st R. Moulard, 2nd D. Truan, 3rd C. Gilligan, 4th I. Johnson.
Lancs & West, 1st R. Bell, 2nd J. Hulbert, 3rd A. Kirkwood, 4th P. Gibson.
Lancs & West YFC, 1st H. Knowels, 2nd J. Park, 3rd M. Todd, 4th J. Carrice.
Yorkshire, 1st C. Calvert, 2nd D. Peacock, 3rd J. Prachek, 4th T. Leonard.
Devon, 1st T. Coombe, 2nd S. Drew, 3rd R. Parris, 4th A. Young.
North Somerset, 1st C. Clutterbuck, 2nd M. Jones, 3rd P. Gulliford, 4th T. Vowles.

Supreme Champion T. Coombe

2009.

Administration.

President Tony Carter, Chairman Robin Dale, Secretary Allan Portas, Treasurer Phil Rowell.

Constitutional review committee was set up to revise the constitution first adopted in 1984. Questions regarding Associate and Affiliation were discussed and agreed. Affiliation giving the right of an organisation to benefit from the Societies Insurance and Logo. The term "Association" would be dropped. A technical report on Wildlife hedging published by the society. Derrick Hale was appointed training officer and a "Master Craftsman" status was proposed. Two Life Members created, Mr Clive Matthew, Mr John Savings.

The Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE), helped to finance the accreditation scheme by producing leaflets etc.

Stella Artois

The society was contacted in n2008 by Inbev the brewers of Stella Artois who were considering a promotional campaign called a "Hedge Fund" in which they would pay for the planting of hedges in the UK. Negotiations took place under a veil of secrecy and because of the size of the campaign the Tree Council agreed to administer the fund. As a result the NHLS was given £8000 towards the championship with a further £12,000 for the general funds.

Championship.

Turnastone, Hereford

Saturday 24th October, Host- Countryside Restoration Trust, Rob & Chrissey Fraser Chief Steward, Derek Smith.

Stella Artois donate Packs of Beer to be consumed at the event. Bill Pullen (Folk Singer) attended and sang his song "The Last of the Hedging Men". Condition were rather wet on the day and several vehicles became stuck in the gateway. There were some concerns expressed when for the first time the Safety Officers decided to penalise some competitors for failing to wear appropriate protective equipment when using a chainsaw.

Classes.

Midland Open, 1st S. Leslie, 2nd D. Smith, 3rd M. Johnson, 4th R. Thompson.
Midland Intermediate, 1st A. Hollis, 2nd G. Robins, 3rd D. Walker, 4th R. Payne.
Midland Veterans, 1st A. Hollins, 2nd P. Tunks, 3rd C. Matthew, 4th C. Smith.
Welsh Stake & Pleach, 1st G. Davies, 2nd E. Davies, 3rd M. Prichard, 4th J. Lane.
Welsh Crop & Pleach, 1st A. Evans, 2nd T. Evans, 3rd K. Lawrence, 3rd L. Bowen.
Welsh YFC, 1st B. Prichard, 2nd R. Gethin, 3rd J. Christopher, 4th D. Ford.
Welsh Montgomery, 1st r.C. Gethin, 2nd R. Lewis, 3rd C. Jones, 4th R.G. Harding.
Derby, 1st A. Holding, 2nd S. Redfern, 3rd P. Hardy, 4th D. Hale.
SOE Open, 1st J. Savings, 2nd P. Matthews, 3rd G. Moor, 4th S. Mockford.
SOE Intermediate & Veterans, 1st D. Truan, 2nd R. Moulard, 3rd I. Johnson, 4th M. Bently.
Lancs & West, 1st R. Bell, 2nd P. Gibson, 3rd M. Close, 4th D. Knownaki.
Lancs & West Junior, 1st H. Knowles, 2nd M. Todd, 3rd C. Proctor, 4th J. Caradice.
Yorkshire, 1st J. Prachek, 2nd M. Howard, 3rd D. Peacock, 4th B. Thompson.
Devon, 1st A. Young, 2nd C. Gibson, 3rd M. Turner, 4th S. Drew.
North Somerset, 1st P. Gulliford, 2nd W. Gray, 3rd C. Chivers, 4th M. Jones.

Supreme Champion A. Holding

2010.

Administration.

President Andrew Adams, Chairman Robin Dale, Secretary Allan Portas, Treasurer Phil Rowell.

The Secretary felt that he could no longer organise the championship but was prepared to continue as secretary until a new secretary was found. Robin Dale the Chairman organised the Championship. Allan Portas was created a Life Member.

Championship.

Rutland Water, Rutland

Saturday 23rd October Host- Anglian Water & Mr Nelson.
Chief Steward, Derek Smith.

Anglian water assisted with the organisation. For the first time Competitors using Chain Saws Certificates were required to verify that they were in possession of an appropriate certificate.

Classes.

Midland Open, 1st D. Smith, 2nd J. Stafford, 3rd R. Thompson.

Midland Intermediate, 1st W. Foss, 2nd G. Robbins, 3rd D. Walker, 4th

Midland Veteran, 1st P. Tunks, 2nd C. Matthew, 3rd C. Smith, 4th

Welsh, 1st R. Lewis, 2nd T. Evans, 3rd G. Davies, 4th

Derby, 1st S. Redfern, 2nd D. Hale, 3rd P. Yeomans, 4th

SOE Open, 1st J. Savings, 2nd R. Champions, 3rd B. Daniels, 4th

SOE Intermediate, 1st D. Dyer, 2nd S. Damant, 3rd M Hudson, 4th

SOE Veterans, 1st R. Moulard, 2nd C. Gilligan, 3rd D. Truran, 4th

Lancs & West, 1st R. Hogarth, 2nd P. Gibson, 3rd M. Close, 4th

Yorkshire, 1st J. Prachek, 2nd C. Calvert, 3rd T. Leonard, 4th

Devon, 1st C. Risdon, 2nd M. Turner, 3rd S. Drew, 4th

North Somerset, 1st P.Gulliford, 2nd M. Jones, 3rd C. Clutterbuck, 4th

Supreme Champion D. Smith