

SCOTTISH NATIONAL HEDGELAYING CHAMPIONSHIP 2011



The 2011 Scottish national Championship took place at Jamie Scott's Furlong Farm at Ancrum in the Scottish Borders on Saturday 8th October 2011. A grey misty day with off and on light rain saw 15 cutters gathered to cut the beech hedge which had been planted around the big cattle barn. Nine open cutters and 6 novices layed the hedge in four styles – Lancs/Westmorland, Midland, South of England and Yorkshire. The cutting was of a very high standard in all styles, especially as the cutters had to cope with a very steep bank on one side and post and rail fencing on the other. The cutters had come from all over – South of England, Yorkshire, Midlands and Cumbria, Borders and Angus, and our judge for all styles, Phil Strugnall, with National Trophy Secretary, Shirley Strugnall, from Surrey.

The cutters started at 09.30 and finished at 15.00, and only had to slide down the bank a few yards to the barn for Wendy's, now traditional, shepherds pie, soup, cake, tea and coffee. Close scoring resulted in Phil Rowell (Midland) winning the Open, and Phil Hart (South of England) winning the Novice. The prizes were given by Shirley Strugnall and Christine Rowell, and Alan Duckett who donated the Trophy for Regrowth and presented it to Jasper Prachek (Yorkshire).

We thank our Sponsors, Lycetts and The Farm Environment Limited (tonyseymour@farmenvironment.co.uk) for their financial support, without which we could not run the competition. Tony Seymour of The

Farm Environment left his billhook behind this year and stuck to his camera (he probably saw the slope), but has talked Mike and Sue to go to the Isle of Bute to help with hedge instruction there. Report to follow!

Our thanks to Jamie and Sophie Scott and family, who without their enthusiasm and continued support this competition would not be possible.

The full results are as follows:

Open	1 st	Phil Rowell	Midland
	2 nd	Torquil Varty	Yorkshire
	3 rd	Ray Oakden	Midland
	4 th	Peter Gibson	Lancs/Westmorland

Novice	1 st	Phil Hart	South of England
	2 nd	Michael Todd	Lancs/Westmorland
	3 rd	Henry Knowles	Lancs/Westmorland

Border Cutter	Graeme Walker	Midland
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Regrowth	Jasper Prachek	Yorkshire
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Judges Prize for Best Axe Work	Phil Hart	South of England
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