

# Oxford & District Federation of Allotment Associations

Founded 1919

Wendy Skinner Smith Chair

Terry Wood Vice Chair

Tim Treacher Treasurer

Committee members Richard Barrett

Juliet Blackburn

Reg Curnock Linda Kimber

March 2011

Dear Member,

## 2011 Allotment Competition

This is the third 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 again 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 – winners in the last 2 years have even had a few annual weeds!

We have made a few changes this year, based partly on the experience of judging in the last 2 years, and also in response to comments from individual associations. There is a new class for entrants aged between 35 and 59 years. The Standingford Shield will revert to its original designation as the prize for the best entrant under 35 years. Some changes in the Judging Criteria and Marking Scheme for both the individual and the allotment site competitions are set out in the enclosed sheet. There are no entry fees this year.

All individual entrants compete for the Challenge Trophy for the best plot, and there are 4 separate sections: for seniors aged 60-69, and over 70 years, *for 35-59 years*, and for under 35 years.

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 prizes for the best kept allotment site and for each category within the individual plot competition will be: *1<sup>st</sup> prize £50, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize £15, 3<sup>rd</sup> prize £20 (subject to confirmation by the meeting held on 19 April)*. Highly Commended certificates are awarded to runners up in the Challenge Trophy competition.

The individual competition for 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 Tim Treacher (details below).

Each allotment site on the day of judging may recommend new plot holders to receive a certificate for special effort.

The Timetable for the competition is:

Final date for entries: Friday 27 May

First round of judging: 6 & 7 June

Second round of judging: 5 & 6 September

Presentation of prizes and awards: Thursday 13 October

Entry forms are enclosed with this letter, together with the judging criteria and marking schemes. If you require any further information please contact Tim Treacher (details below). These details will also be sent by email to enable easy distribution to your members if you use email. A poster is enclosed for your notice board.

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

Yours faithfully

Reg Curnock

David Mead

Tim Treacher

ODFAA Competition Sub-committee

c/o 51 Western Road, Oxford OX1 4LF Tel: 248577 Email: [treachers@phonecoop.coop](mailto:treachers@phonecoop.coop)

### 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 below.

<b>Cultivation and cropping</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Judging	2 <sup>nd</sup>
<b>Judging</b>		
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	0
4. Herbs (¼ 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
3. One mark is given for each soft fruit type, including rhubarb

##### **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.

## ALLOTMENT COMPETITION 2011 - INDIVIDUAL ENTRY FORM

**Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms**

Please use Capital Letters

**Name/s:** .....

**Address**.....

.....

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

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

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

**Age Category entered** (please tick)

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

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

Please send this form to Tim Treacher at 51 Western Road, Oxford OX1 4LF

**Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms**

Please use Capital Letters

**Name/s:** .....

**Address**.....

.....

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

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

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

**Age Category entered** (please tick)

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**OXFORD AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION OF ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATIONS**

**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. Individual and communal compost bins well maintained: 10
- 4. 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: 10
- 3. Notice Board: 5

**OXFORD AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION OF ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATIONS**

**2011 ALLOTMENTS COMPETITION**

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

Name of Association: .....

Secretary: Name: .....

Address: .....

.....

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

Telephone: .....

Person(s), with phone numbers, who will guide the judges:

.....

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

**Please send the entry forms by 27 May to:**

Allotments competition, c/o 51 Western Road, Oxford OX1 4LF  
or by email to [teachers@phonecoop.coop](mailto:teachers@phonecoop.coop)

If you would like more information contact Tim Treacher on 01865 248577

**Oxford & District Federation of Allotment  
Associations**

working with

**Oxford City Council**

## **2011 Allotments Competition**



Details are available from your association secretary  
or direct from Tim Treacher at

[treachers@phonecoop.coop](mailto:treachers@phonecoop.coop) or phone 248577

**Final date for entries: Friday 27 May**

**First round of judging: 6/7 June**

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

**Presentation of prizes and awards: 13 October**

The 2011 Judges are John Alcock and Mike Kent