

Press Release

1st June 2017

Royal Bath & West Show recognises rural stalwarts in Long Service Awards

Farm and rural workers with 251 years' experience between them were recognised at the Royal Bath & West Show in the annual Long Service Awards.

Sharing the longest service of 57 years apiece were Michael Taviner from West Harptree, Bristol, and Christopher Reeves from Kilmington, Wiltshire. Mr Taviner spent 33 years working with the Lyons family and another 17 years with the Gibbons family milking cows, ploughing, combining and hedge laying. He still enjoys winning ploughing matches with his 1959 Massey Ferguson tractor.

Mr Reeves is the fourth generation to farm at Cote Farm, gaining tractor driving experience from the age of five. He milked cows from the age of 14 and now farms store cattle and cereals as well as being a school governor, church warden and parish councillor.

Taking loyalty to a truly commendable level is Malcolm Hallet, who with 45 years' experience has worked for the same family since 1977, at Messrs Elworthy's Manor Farm in Dorset.

The Royal Bath & West Society also recognised two of the hard-working show organisers without whom the event would not run so smoothly. Pete Richards has spent the past 50 years arranging and collecting ponies for the shoeing section, as well as providing sheep for shearing and demonstrations and transporting show jumps for BSJA competitions.

His colleague Diz Errington spent 42 years running and organising the show jumping, which despite her recent retirement is still going from strength to strength.

“The rural sector is so lucky to have such hard-working and dedicated individuals doing everything from day-to-day farm management to organising agricultural shows and supporting the church and wider community,” says head of shows Alan Lyons. “We are delighted to be able to recognise these stalwarts of society, with each winner receiving an engraved tankard and lifetime membership of the society.”

- The Royal Bath and West Show takes place from 1-4 June, 2016, at the Bath and West Showground, Shepton Mallet, Somerset. Visit www.bathandwest.com for more information.

About the Royal Bath & West of England Society

The Society was founded in 1777 in Bath by a group of philanthropists led by Edmund Rack. We are a registered charity organisation (Registered Charity Number 1039397). The Society was formed with the aims of encouraging agriculture, arts, manufacture and commerce.

Our charitable activities provide:

- Agriculture, veterinary, educational and art scholarships
- Technical events and Seminars
- Practical farming advice and conferences
- Countryside Education
- Diversification advice for farmers
- Education for children
- A market place for countryside products

As the Society approaches its 239th year it continues to deliver a wonderful mix of established traditional exhibits through to the latest energy technology and contemporary entertainment.

The entertainment and features around the 242-acre site ensure enjoyment for every member of the family and include attractions that are spectacular to watch, educational, inspirational, “hands on” or just plain fun.

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