



Press Release

31 May 2017

Dorset Cider Revivalist Wins Bath and West Gold Medal

The man credited with inspiring a renaissance in Dorset cider-making has been awarded this year's Royal Bath and West Gold Medal for outstanding service to the cider industry.

Nick Poole, of Powerstock, near Bridport, started making cider professionally in 2000, after a successful career in the building industry. In 2001, he organised the first Powerstock Cider Festival in the local village hall, an event which has since gone from strength to strength, raising over £43,000 for the Dorset Air Ambulance in the process.

The success of the Festival has inspired a remarkable revival in cider-making in West Dorset. When Nick Poole started it, there were fewer than a dozen makers. Now, the county boasts over 40 commercial cider enterprises.

Besides organising the Festival, Nick Poole is also a cider-maker of distinction in his own right. In 2015, his bottle-conditioned cider was runner-up as Supreme Champion British Cider at the Bath and West, although perhaps his greatest achievement was to beat the French at their own game, when he carried off the top prize at the Concours de Cidre St Helene Bondeville in Normandy, with his Lancôme Rising champagne-style cider.

Paying tribute to Nick Poole, former Orchards and Cider chairman, Rupert Best, said that he had made "a multi-dimensional contribution to artisan cider-making and its local markets".

He also praised his contribution to orcharding in Dorset, through the DATA project (Dorset Apple Tree Analysis) which he led, which uncovered and catalogued many previously unknown Dorset apple varieties.



ROYAL
BATH & WEST
SHOW

"The outcome, in 2011, was a collection of some 38 varieties that can now be found in a number of mother orchards around the county.

"Countryman, entrepreneur and all-round good egg, Nick Poole is a worthy winner of the Royal Bath and West Gold Medal".

Ends

- *The Royal Bath & West Show will be held from 31 May – 3 June. Tickets are now on sale from www.bathandwest.com*

For further information on the British Cider Championships or media enquiries contact Anthony Gibson on anthony.gbsn@gmail.com

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



ROYAL
BATH & WEST
SHOW

As the Society approaches its 240th 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.

For further information or media enquiries contact Jonathan Hall on 01749 822 210 or e-mail jonathan.hall@bathandwest.co.uk