



THE BLACKDOWN HILLS HEDGE ASSOCIATION

"Skills of the Hills" Hedgelaying Competition – Entry Form

Saturday 7th March 2026

Bywood Farm, Dunkeswell EX14 4SS (///chilled.axed.polygraph)

By Kind Permission of Mr Andrew Leach & Family

The 2026 competition will have five classes: Novice, Intermediate, Open, Intermediate Pairs & Novice Pairs. Hedges will be laid in the "Devon" style using crooks to secure the finished length.

Competitors should report at 08:30 to sign in and then attend a safety briefing at 9:00am. The draw for lengths will follow. The competition starts at 9:30am and finishes at 2:45pm.

Please bring sufficient crooks for your own use together with your own tools. A limited number of crooks and BHHA tools will be available on the day for Novice and Novice Pairs competitors without their own.

Hot food will be provided for all those taking part. Each competitor/pair will also get a £20 cutting fee.

Prizes

Open Class – 1st £70 & The Percy Duck Challenge Cup, 2nd £50, 3rd £35, 4th £25

Intermediate Class – 1st £60 & The Dugdale Cup, 2nd £45, 3rd £35, 4th £20

Intermediate Pairs – 1st £50 & Trophy, 2nd £40, 3rd £30, 4th £20

Novice Class – 1st £50 & Trophy, 2nd £40, 3rd £30, 4th £20

Novice Pairs – 1st £50 & Trophy, 2nd £40, 3rd £30, 4th £20

All competitors/pairs winning a cash prize will also get their £20 cutting fee.

- The John Coombes Memorial Shield will be awarded to the best competitor aged under 19.
- A cup will be presented to the best competitor living within the Blackdown Hills National Landscape (AONB as was).
- A cup will be presented to the Best Lady competitor from any class.
- A veteran's trophy will be awarded to the best competitor over 60 years of age.
- The Terry Copp memorial tankard will be awarded to the best placed competitor training with the BHHA for the first time this season.

Judging will be done on a points basis:

Quality of cutting, finish of cut stool and absence of "splitting back".	40 Points
Selection and best use of crooks leading to overall hedge strength.	30 Points
Best use of available material.	20 Points
General appearance of finished hedge. Tidiness of working area.	10 Points

Completed entry forms can either be emailed to richard.hooker@bhha.info or returned by post to: BHHA, Worhams Farm, Shute, Axminster EX13 7QF

The final date for entries is Monday 23rd February 2026 but may be earlier due to the length of hedge available

Our web site www.bhha.info contains a list of the confirmed entries for each class in the competition. Once you have returned this form check the web site and if you haven't appeared on the list after a couple of days then contact us.

You can also download additional copies of the entry form from the site.

CHAINSAWS & SAFETY

Competitors may use chainsaws provided they wear personal protection equipment (PPE): chainsaw trousers, boots, helmet and gloves. The Novice classes are not expected to use chainsaws but may do so if they abide by the conditions above.

Competitors without chainsaws, or those without PPE will be able to call upon the assistance of chainsaw stewards.

The organisers carry public liability insurance but have no insurance for personal accidents and cannot accept responsibility for any such accidents.

Competitors are reminded that by signing in on the day they acknowledge the above and have agreed to comply with current Health and Safety regulations when using a chainsaw.

The use of top handled chainsaws and battery chain pruning saws is strictly forbidden.

ENTRY FORM

Name:

2nd Name(if pairs):

Phone:

Email:

Class Entered

Open

☐

Intermediate

☐

Novice

☐

Intermediate Pairs

☐

Novice Pairs

☐

Tick Any That Apply

Local

☐

(Live within Blackdown Hills AONB)

Under 19

☐

Veteran (Over 60)

☐

YFC Member

☐

BHHA Trained

☐

(For the first time this season)

We endeavour to feed all competitors from our barbecue.

Please let us know if you have any special dietary requirements: