



## **BIFGA NEWSLETTER 154**

**December 2018**

### **NATIONAL FRUIT SHOW – WEDNESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup>/THURSDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2018**

The 85<sup>th</sup> National Fruit Show, held at the County Showground, Detling, Maidstone, Kent, was another outstanding success, perhaps because, with the early season many farms had finished harvesting. It was also “half-term” for many schools, giving the next generation of potential growers a chance to see what our industry has to offer. Several BIFGA members entered the top fruit competition, with Bob Thomson of RD Applegrowers of Marden winning the BIFGA prize. The BIFGA Secretary was most grateful for the help given by those members who helped welcome present and prospective members to the BIFGA stand; also to those members who kindly donated juice for the BIFGA “Juice Identification Competition”.

### **FARM INSPECTION AND REGULATION REVIEW**

Following my letter to Dame Glenys Stacey DBE, Chair of the Farm Inspection and Regulation Review, and a subsequent conference call involving Dame Glenys and some members of the BIFGA Committee, we were delighted that we were able to hold a follow-up meeting with her, and one of her colleagues, on the BIFGA stand at the National Fruit Show. It was a most constructive meeting, and Committee members were able to emphasise some of the negative impacts certain rules and regulations can have on our members’ businesses. Particular concern was expressed about the ever-increasing burden of “so-called” voluntary farm assurance schemes. Concern was also expressed that some retailers are forcing apple-packers to undergo controls and audits that are more appropriate to high-risk foods such as meat products. This is strange, as many retailers presumably must assume that apples are not high risk, because they allow members of the public to have unsupervised access to their apple displays, when making self-selection purchases.

### **BIFGA QUIZ – 24<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2018**

The 16<sup>th</sup> BIFGA Quiz, held at Staplehurst Village Centre, Kent, was attended by more than 70 people, with 9 teams competing for the Trophy. This year’s winners were: The Yongesters, with 82 points; in second place were the Cherry Pickers; and third place was taken by PVS. Over £600.00 was raised for BIFGA funds.

### **NEW MEMBER!**

We are very pleased to welcome the following new member:

615A Joanna Dunmill, Mobitech Trucks, Grandshore Wood Farm, Grandshore Lane, Frittenden, Kent TN17 2BZ

Please remember that we are always keen to find new members – both Full and Associate, and would appreciate any help that existing members can give in encouraging more to join.

### **EMAIL COMMUNICATIONS September – November 2018**

In case you missed these the first time around, the following emails were circulated to members on the dates shown:

08.08.18 – Newsletter 153 and Major Sponsors over the last 15 years

30.10.18 – Creosote approved in the UK for tree stakes until 2021

Continued.....

Continued....

### **BIFGA TECHNICAL DAY – WEDNESDAY 30<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2019**

The programme for the 2019 BIFGA Technical Day, which will be held at Dale Hill Conference Centre, Dale Hill Hotel and Golf Ltd., Ticehurst, Wadhurst, East Sussex TN5 7DQ on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2019, has been sent to members. BIFGA is very pleased to announce that:

**LANDSEER Ltd.** Lodge Farm, Goat Hall Lane, Galleywood, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 8PH Tel: 01245 357109  
Email: [info@lanfruit.co.uk](mailto:info@lanfruit.co.uk) Website: [www.lanfruit.co.uk](http://www.lanfruit.co.uk);

**NEW LEAF IRRIGATION Ltd.**, 1 Bartle Court, Bartle, Preston, Lancashire PR4 0HB Tel: 01772 691896  
Email: [darran@newleafirrigation.co.uk](mailto:darran@newleafirrigation.co.uk) Website: [www.newleafirrigation.co.uk](http://www.newleafirrigation.co.uk);

**SCORPION BUILDINGS, SOUTH EASTERN CONSTRUCTION Ltd.**, Ground Floor, Chancery House, Premier Way, Romsey SO51 9DQ Tel: 03333 208 663 Email: [andre@scorpionbuildings.co.uk](mailto:andre@scorpionbuildings.co.uk) Website: [www.scorpionbuildings.co.uk](http://www.scorpionbuildings.co.uk), and

**ACT Publishing (publishers of The Fruit Grower)**, Lion House, Church Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1EN Tel: 01622 695656 Email: [chris.tanton@actpub.co.uk](mailto:chris.tanton@actpub.co.uk) Website: [www.thefruitgrower.co.uk](http://www.thefruitgrower.co.uk) have all kindly agreed to help sponsor this event.

The BIFGA Technical day is always a very popular event, and members are advised to book their places (and for their guests) as soon as possible. Some members may be interested to know that BASIS and NR0SO points have been allocated for the event.

### **CONGRATULATIONS!**

We were delighted to hear that Richard Edmed has won this year's South East Farmer/RAMSAK "South East Fruit Grower of the Year Award". This is a much deserved award, which recognizes the huge contribution Richard (who farms in partnership with his father, Clive) has made to the growing, storing, and marketing of a wide-range of fruit crops in the south east.

### **SEASON'S GREETINGS**

I, and the BIFGA Secretary, Judi Perry, would like to take this opportunity to send all of our members our very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

J R Breach  
Chairman

## **BRITISH INDEPENDENT FRUIT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION**

Secretary: Judi Perry, Aylsham, Broad Oak, Brenchley, Tonbridge, Kent TN12 7NN  
Tel: 01892 724540 Email: [secretary@bifga.org.uk](mailto:secretary@bifga.org.uk) Web: [www.bifga.org.uk](http://www.bifga.org.uk)