



## Ivor Dough visits the local show: Huddersfield & District, Saturday 2 February 2013



Early in 2012 whilst I was attending one of the Agricultural Shows a couple came to me and said I should go to the Huddersfield show as it was 1st Class, then gave me all the details of the web page and that I could enter and get the details on line.

Due to commitments I was unable to go, but I now appreciate what they were saying,

Arriving at the Sowood Community Centre I thought: "This is going to be just another of those shows." I could not understand why they had over 70 cars in such a small car park – it must have something to offer – and yes, it had.

On entering, someone who spotted that I had not been before came up and said:

"Everyone in an Orange sweat shirt is an official and if you want any help, just ask one of them."

What a good idea, a great way to start.

The Centre consisted of a main hall that housed the club show and a smaller room for the Netherland Dwarf stock show – 250 entries in all.

I also noticed the hall had all new pens and someone remarked that they cost around £1500; how can a small club afford this sort of money?

In the main hall the pens were stacked three-high all around the outside with two judging tables in the centre, together with lots of 6 foot tables and chairs. I thought: what a waste of space, but came to regret my words later.

There was also a kitchen room. The third room was kept purely for the committee, as the Computer heart of the show was running from there – and what a magic heart it was.

The book steward sent the slips into the committee room, then all the details immediately appeared on a TV screen in the hall area, displaying class results, the 1st, 2nd & 3rd winners names and pen numbers. Also the screen was split in two, giving one part for the club show and one part for the stock show.

Also running at the bottom of the screen were all the previous show results. This was only part of it as Secretary Howard explained: it printed all the prize cards, so you did not need to get your prize money as it was all worked out for you.

So even if a prize card got lost the exhibitor still received the prize money. He even had a print out for the kitchen staff telling how many different types of meals were wanted.

The system Howard used is called iShow – you secretaries need to go to Huddersfield to see the system working, it's brilliant!

Lunch time came round and then I could see why they needed all the tables. I have never

seen so many fanciers taking lunch and found out why, the choice was between Meat & Potato, Shepherds pie or Lasagne from £2.50-£3.50. Really fresh and homemade top class Yorkshire Grub, I loved it.

Walking around the rooms they all had details on the walls of the rabbit club shows, and a painted board outside giving details of the show inside.

Had they been reading Ivor Dough's reports? No, I think they are one step ahead of me.

This in my opinion is a club moving into the next era, ahead of the rest of the pack and very forward in thinking. The hospitality was first class.

Huddersfield, it is credit to you and well worth my first 10/10 for a 2 star show

Ivor DOUGH

# 10/10

