

## TIPS FOR ENTERING THE PRODUCE CLASSES

Cookery exhibits are marked on a combination of internal and external standards as follows:-

1. External appearance – colour, shape and uniformity
2. Internal appearance – texture and the even distribution of ingredients
3. Flavour – flavour and aroma as entries must be enjoyable to eat

Flavour is paramount. If entries are neck-and-neck, flavour will dictate a winner.

For all entries, judges will cut the exhibit to display the inside and will taste to ascertain overall enjoyment.

- The judge's first impression will be what it looks like, so try to make your baking look special enough to stand out from the opposition
- This is the time to use a ruler when you are cutting up your brownies, and arrange neatly on the plate
- All exhibits should be clean/hygienic
- Do cover with some cling film to prevent the exhibit drying out
- Cakes should be well risen, even in shape and baking
- Ingredients should be well distributed throughout the cake, well mixed and evenly cooked
- For cakes, texture should be moist, fluffy and velvety, but not undercooked, and a good even texture all through the cake
- There should be no large air holes within the bake
- Flavour should be consistent and balanced
- In general, cakes should have a flat or slightly rounded top. A domed top with slight cracking is acceptable for light fruit cakes.
- Read the schedule carefully to make sure that your entry complies in all components, i.e. size, weight, and numbers in each exhibit as appropriate. If it says 5 pieces of tray bake, 4 or 6 won't do! – You will be disqualified for the wrong number
- Think about the way your exhibit will be displayed and choose a suitable plain plate. You can use a paper or a china plate of a suitable size.
- Some exhibitors choose to use a doily under sweet entries, such as cakes. This is not essential but does enhance your entry but should only be used for sweet exhibits.
- One point to beware: if you enter a number of cookery classes use different plates as the Judge will know which your entries are if you use one sort of plate

Do give yourself enough time to set up on the day. You want to have time to set up your exhibit attractively and you don't want to drop or damage anything because you are hurrying.