

THE BRITISH & IRISH CHEESE AWARDS 2026

COMPETITION SCHEDULE

ENTRIES CLOSE 17TH FEBRUARY 2026



HELD AT THE BATH & WEST FOOD & DRINK FESTIVAL 21ST - 22ND MARCH

JUDGING WILL TAKE PLACE 20TH MARCH 2026

VISIT WWW.BRITISHCHEESEAWARDS.COM FOR FURTHER DETAILS

Bath & West Shows Limited

(Registered in England & Wales with Number 8680261)

Friday 20 March 2026

BRITISH AND IRISH CHEESE AWARDS SCHEDULE

ENTRY FEES

£45.00 per entry

QUANTITY TO ENTER

Retailer packs up to 1kg. Two products per entry, one in unbranded packaging and one in branded packaging

KEY DATES

Deliveries to Peter Green Chilled: **Tuesday 17 & Wednesday 18 March ONLY**

Deliveries by hand: **Thursday 19 March (before 2pm)**

Judging & Awards Dinner: **Friday 20 March**

ENTRIES CLOSE:

ONLINE – 17 February 2026

www.britishcheeseawards.com

NO ENTRIES, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THIS DATE

THE SHOWGROUND, SHEPTON MALLET, SOMERSET BA4 6QN

Telephone: 01749 822209



RETAILER COMPETITIVE CLASSES

We hope the following classes provide an opportunity for your company to enter the British and Irish Cheese Awards (BICA), but should you have any queries please contact:

Amelia Battagel

E-mail: amelia.battagel@bathandwest.co.uk

Tel: 01749 822209

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

If you would like to discuss sponsorship for either the British and Irish Cheese Awards or the Food & Drink Festival as a whole, please contact:

Sophia Orttewell

E-mail: sophia.orttewell@bathandwest.co.uk

Tel: 01749 822216

The packages available range from Event Headline Sponsor, Pavilion Sponsor, BICA Category Award sponsor, BICA Special Award sponsor through to a Show Supporter, with some packages offering free tradestand space and tickets to the Presentation Dinner.

BRITISH AND IRISH CHEESE AWARDS DINNER

The British and Irish Cheese Awards dinner and awards presentation will take place on the evening of Friday 20th March 2026.

Individual tickets or a table of up to 10 can be purchased online at www.britishcheeseawards.com

RETAILER CLASSES

For all classes, TWO products per entry must be supplied. One in unbranded packaging for judging and one in branded packaging for display.

Cheeses must be ENTERED and DELIVERED by the Retailer to the Show.

Plant based entries will NOT be accepted.

Class	C91	Fresh / Soft White / Semi-soft
Class	C92	Cheddar [up to 12 months]
Class	C93	Cheddar [over 12 months]
Class	C94	Red Leicester
Class	C95	Other Territorials
Class	C96	Other Hard Cheese
Class	C97	Blues - Traditional <i>Classic Examples: Stilton, Blue Vinney.</i>
Class	C98	Blues - Other
Class	C99	Flavour Added
Class	C100	Reduced Fat
Class	C111	Dairy Products [plain] – Butter
Class	C112	Dairy Products [plain] – Cream
Class	C113	Dairy Products [plain] – Yoghurt
Class	C114	Dairy Products [flavoured] – Yoghurt

CHAMPION PRIZE

SC3	Champion Retailer Cheese Only Gold medal winners from the Retailer classes will be eligible.
SC4	Champion Retailer The retailer with the highest average score.

Results & Awards

Each entry is awarded points as follows:

25 - 35 points = Bronze. 36 - 44 points = Silver. 45 - 50 points = Gold

Judges may award Gold, Silver or Bronze awards in each class.

Only Gold medal winning entries will be eligible for the Champion classes.

How to Enter

- Entries to be made on-line at www.britishcheeseawards.com
- Closing date for entries is 17 February 2026.
- No entries will be accepted after this date.
- Entries to be paid for at time of entry.
- A condition of entry is that exhibitors' names and address will be used in print.

Entries

- Open to any British or Irish Retailer with over 15 stores.
- **Two** products per entry, one in **branded** packaging and one in **unbranded** packaging must be supplied.
- Retailers can request the cheesemaker to enter a cheese, with a unique recipe, on their behalf but full details must be provided.
- Cheese and dairy products must be made in the British Isles **from milk produced in the UK or Ireland**.
- Plant based entries will **NOT** be accepted.
- The same type of cheese may be entered into multiple classes (individual cheeses must be supplied for each class entered for judging purposes).
- Cheeses should not have been **bored or ironed more than once**.
- The organisers reserve the right to **cancel or alter categories/classes without notification**.
- No refunds will be given due to mis-interpretation of regulations.
- Producers agree not to hold the organisers responsible for any accident, loss or damage from whatever cause arising to any exhibit or non-delivery of the same.
- The Show cannot guarantee cheeses will be held at an appropriate or consistent temperature during the complete period of the Show.
- At the end of the Show, cheese deemed fit for consumption will be sold, with all proceeds going to charity.

Entry Fees

Entry Fee [includes 20% vat] - £45.00 per entry

Quantities

Retailer packs up to 1kg. Two products per entry, one in unbranded packaging and one in branded packaging.

What happens next?

After the close of entries and NOT BEFORE exhibitors will receive:

- Two copies of the list of entries made identifying the catalogue number assigned to each. One copy of this list MUST BE enclosed in the box containing the exhibits to assist stewards to cross check entries received against entries made.
- Labels to be attached to each individual entry showing the class and catalogue number.
- A letter providing full details of delivery of exhibits and subsequent collection (if when entering you indicated you wished to collect your exhibits).
- Vehicle passes to enable access pre-show to deliver exhibits.
- Day Tickets as follows:
 - 1 entry -1 ticket
 - 3 entries – 2 tickets
 - 6 entries and more – 3 tickets

Additional tickets may be purchased by contacting the office (01749 822200)



Delivery of Exhibits

We would encourage exhibits to be delivered to the Reception Centre which will store and deliver the entries to the showground prior to judging.

Entries will **ONLY** be received by the Reception Centres on Tuesday 17 March and Wednesday 18 March. **NO** delivery will be accepted outside of these dates.

Please mark the box(s) clearly, addressed as follows:

BRITISH AND IRISH CHEESE AWARDS

Peter Green Chilled
Leighton Lane
Evercreech
Shepton Mallet BA4 6LQ

Please include a copy of your Entries Summary Form.

Alternatively, exhibits may **ONLY** be delivered directly to the Showground on Thursday 19 March (before 2pm). No exhibits will be accepted at the offices prior to this date.

Delivery details and labels for your cheese will not be sent out until after the 20 February 2026.

Retailers can request the cheesemaker to enter a cheese, with a unique recipe, on their behalf but full details must be provided.

Contact Details

Entries	01749 822209 or amelia.battagel@bathandwest.co.uk
Trade Stands	01749 822230 or lucy.champion@bathandwest.co.uk
Sponsorship	01749 822216 or sophia.orttewell@bathandwest.co.uk

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

ENTRIES

1. Entries to be made on-line at www.britishcheeseawards.com. Payment is taken at the time of making the entries.
2. Every exhibitor or competitor is requested to examine carefully the list of prizes and conditions as he or she will be held responsible for the correctness of the certificate of entry. NO REFUNDS WILL BE GIVEN DUE TO MIS-INTERPRETATION OF REGULATIONS.
3. If an exhibitor or competitor fails, when called upon by the Stewards or Show to prove the correctness of his or her certificate of entry to their satisfaction, the entry may be disqualified and any award made to it cancelled.
4. Products not held at the temperature required by law (Food Safety Act 1990) must not be sold.

RECEPTION AND REMOVAL OF EXHIBITS

5. The carriage of exhibits must in all cases be paid by the exhibitor. No exhibits subject to charges will be received by the Officers of the Show.
6. Exhibitors must make their own arrangements for the return of their exhibits and the containers in which they are packed, as the Show cannot undertake this work.
7. All exhibits will be sold and proceeds donated to charity unless the exhibit is collected between 4pm – 6pm on Sunday 22nd March 2026.

DISQUALIFICATION

8. If it shall be proved to the satisfaction of the Stewards or Show that an exhibitor or competitor has knowingly signed an incorrect certificate, or has attempted to obtain a prize by any other unfair means at this or any other Agricultural Society's Show, the Show shall have the power to decline his or her entries, to cancel all awards made to him or her, to disqualify him or her from exhibiting or competing at futures Shows, and to give publicity to their action in this respect.

INFRINGEMENT OF REGULATIONS

9. All exhibits, and all persons in charge of the same, will be subject to the orders, regulations and rules of the Show, and the Stewards shall have the power to remove from the Ground the property belonging to, and to cancel the admission ticket of, any exhibitor who shall infringe any of the regulations or conditions of the Show, or who shall refuse to comply with any instructions given by the Stewards, without any responsibility attaching to the Stewards or the Shows Company in consequence of such removal.
10. Any infringement of any of these or any other prescribed regulations or conditions will subject the exhibitor or competitor to the forfeiture, by order of the Shows Company, of any prize to which he or she may be entitled (in addition to all other consequences attaching to such infringement).

AWARDS

11. The Show reserves to itself the right to withhold any prize, if, in the opinion of the Stewards, the conditions and regulations have not been properly complied with. Only the signed awards of the judges are accepted as evidence that a prize has been awarded, and the production of the prize card by an exhibitor will not entitle him to the prize.
12. In no case shall a prize be awarded unless the Judge deems the entry to have sufficient merit; and where there is only a small entry in a class and the judge considers the exhibits unworthy of the highest prize offered, it shall be in his/her power to award a lower prize.
13. Awards will be presented at the BICA Dinner on Friday 20 March 2026. Uncollected trophies will not be forwarded by the Show but may be collected from the office after the event. The cost of returning a trophy must be borne by the holder and not the Show.

OBJECTIONS

14. Any exhibitor wishing to lodge an objection against an exhibitor or competitor must make the same in writing on a form to be obtained from the Show Office, and deposit the sum of £50. If on investigation the objection is not sustained to the satisfaction of the Disqualifying Committee, the sum thus deposited shall, at the discretion of the Company, be forfeited to the funds of the Show. All objections must be delivered to the Show Office no later than 17.00 on the day of the award or the first day of Show, as appropriate, and no objections will be subsequently received, unless a satisfactory reason be assigned for the delay. The Disqualifying Committee will consider such objections at the Show Office, at which time and place any person making the objection is expected to attend. The Show reserves the right to refer an objection to any Authority or Organisation to adjudicate, wholly or in part, in respect of that objection, on behalf of the Show. The decision of the Disqualifying Committee shall be final. In all other cases, the judge's decision shall be final.

ADJUDICATION OF PRIZES

15. The Judges are instructed as follows, and entries are received subject to this:
 - (a) Not to award any prize or commendation unless the entry possess sufficient merit, or sufficiently fulfils the requirements.
 - (b) To draw the attention of the Stewards to any exhibit which has been improperly prepared for exhibition or is wrongly entered.
 - (c) Immediately after the judging to deliver to the Stewards their signed awards, stating the numbers to which the prizes are adjudged, and noting all disqualifications.
16. Should any questions arise upon which the Judges may desire a further opinion, the Stewards will call upon the referee. If a judge in the British and Irish Cheese Awards finds before him/her an exhibit which he/she has had an interest in he/she shall place all the other exhibits in the class and call in the Shows referee to place the exhibit in question.
17. All prizes offered, at the cost of those organising the Show, shall be open for competition to entries from the United Kingdom, and other such areas as the Shows Board may determine.
18. No person intending to compete for any prize offered at any of the Shows shall be eligible to act as a judge or to have any voice in the selection of judges or to award the prizes in the department in which s/he proposes to exhibit.
19. If it be proved, to the satisfaction of the Trustee Board, that any person has attempted to gain a prize in this, or in any other society, by a false certificate or by misrepresentation of any kind, such a person may thereupon be for the future, excluded from exhibiting at any of the Shows, organized on behalf of the Society and its subsidiaries or others and if a Member, shall lose his membership.

SHOWGROUND NOTICES

20. No person shall be allowed to fix any placard or take down any official placard in the Showground without the written permission of the Stewards.
21. After judging is completed, the Stewards will affix labels on the cheeses denoting variety of cheese. Exhibitors may add promotional material to their entries after judging.

RESPONSIBILITY

22. The Show will not be responsible in any way for any article, plant, machinery or object of any kind exhibited on the Showground. The exhibitor shall assume full responsibility therefore, including liability for all claims arising out of the exhibition, handling or housing of such exhibits and the conduct of the stand generally. The exhibitor shall indemnify the Show against all claims, damages or expenses whatsoever in any way arising out of the presence of the exhibitor or his exhibits on the Showground. Acceptance of the foregoing provisions shall be a condition of entry.



DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

23. In this clause the term exhibitor shall include persons taking part in any competition or display arranged by the Show and the owner of animal, plant, machinery, or other thing involved in any such competition or display or otherwise exhibited on the Showground. Save for death or personal injury caused by the negligence of the Company, its servants or agents, the Show will not be responsible for death, injury, disease, damage or loss caused to any exhibitor or to his or her servant or agent or to any animal, article, plant, machinery or thing or whatever nature brought onto the Showground by the said exhibitor from whatever cause, death, injury, disease, damage or loss arises.

HEALTH AND SAFETY REGULATIONS

24. Exhibitors are reminded that they must conform to the requirements of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 (as amended), the Highly Flammable Liquids and Liquefied Petroleum Gases Regulations 1972 (as amended). Exhibitors must also comply with The Disability and Discrimination Act. The Regulatory Reform Act 2005, Health Act 2006 incorporating the Smokefree Legislation, Environmental Health Officers and Fire Officers will be in attendance at the Show and have their appropriate authority.
25. Smoking is prohibited in all buildings.

INTERPRETATION OF CONDITIONS

26. The Company reserves to itself the sole and absolute right to interpret these or any other prescribed conditions and regulations, or prize sheets, and to arbitrarily settle and determine all matters, questions or differences in regard thereto, or otherwise arising out of, or connected with, or incidental to the Show. Also, to refuse and cancel any entries, disqualify exhibitors, prohibit exhibition of entries, vary or cancel awards or prizes and relax conditions, as the Company may deem expedient.

Chief Executive
Bath & West Shows Limited
The Showground
Shepton Mallet
BA4 6QN

Telephone: 01749 822200
www.bathandwest.com
Company Reg. No. 8680261