



Angus Federation SWI

Show Guidelines

Hints & Tips for entering the Annual Show.

With thanks to the ladies of Perth and Kinross Federation on whose "Hints and Tips for entering Shows" these Guidelines are based.

General Comments for Showing

1. Read the show schedule very carefully and present what has been asked for i.e. if asked for 3 pancakes then judges expect 3 not 2 or 4. No judge likes to have to write 'not according to schedule' on any item.
2. Make sure your entries are submitted on time. Only one entry per person per class is accepted
3. Each Institute is allocated 45 minutes to display member's entries and Co-ops. 2 – 4 members for each Institute
4. If measurements are stated keep within the limits.
5. All entries must have labels attached securely- sew or safety pin them on handcrafts. Sew or staple on paper plates for housewives entries, and attach to jars with a rubber band round the neck of the jar for preserves. Labels for bulbs will be available from the Convenor on Thursday morning. Close labels with tape, not staples.
6. Choose items that you know you will enjoy doing and will be able to finish in time for the show
7. Judges DO turn everything outside in, so make sure the inside is as good as the outside
8. It is advisable not to wash articles unless they are extremely dirty
9. In community work where an own choice is asked for please stipulate that article
10. It is advisable to use a variety of crafts in Co-operative Displays.
11. Doilies should NOT be used under any items that require to be cut.
12. Housewives items should be displayed on white paper plates unless otherwise stipulated in the Schedule.

Show Schedule

Paper copies are available by e mailing the Convenor at angusfedshow@gmail.com or by phoning Frances Smith on 01356 660245.

Scoring

Places are awarded up to 6th place, 6 points for 1st, 5 for 2nd and so on, although 1st prize may not be awarded if Judges consider the standard not to be high enough. Co-op entries receive marks for each item and for overall display. Cups, as detailed in the Schedule, are presented at the Prize Giving ceremony on Saturday afternoon.

Helpers and Stewards

The Show needs many helpers to function. The Show Convenor and Federation Executive Committee cover Wednesday and Thursday morning. Stewards are needed for Thursday afternoon for the judging. On Friday morning the Display Team set out the items. Friday afternoon and all day Saturday, helpers are required for admission, raffle, baking table, sales table, tea room admission and stewarding the show. In addition helpers are needed in the kitchen to bake. If you are able to assist, that would be very welcome.

Housewives

In general, where appropriate, housewives' items are judged on appearance, flavour, recipes (when asked for) and preparation.

It is advisable not to use loaf tins for cakes i.e. sultana cake

When turning out sponges turn onto cloth covered cooling tray to avoid dents on the base of sponge. Liners not advisable for competition work.

Gingerbread must taste of ginger

When testing use a hot skewer to avoid making a hole in cake.

When making empire biscuits cut using a plain cutter. Cover edges with icing. Place tiny piece of cherry on top

All pastry must be handmade not bought

Enamel plates are advisable for baking pastry. A good tip is to heat a separate baking tray in the oven to place your prepared plate upon.

Tart should lift cleanly off plate

For apple or rhubarb tarts cook fruit first to avoid lumpy appearance on top.

Use fluted tin for sweet pastry and plain for savoury

When making scones do not twist cutter as you cut dough

Scones should be evenly risen and of a similar size and shape. Brush flour from bottom of scones before baking.

When asked for shortbread fingers these should be cut then cooked

Preserves

Jars should be filled to the top

Labels must be applied with type of jam and date clearly printed on label

Jars should be clean and well-polished

Waxed circles should be properly applied using the right size for the size of jar with no air bubbles underneath. When it is removed, it should be clean and leave a shiny set underneath it. Paper cover should be tight.

Jam should be an attractive colour and have a bright sparkle.

Jelly should have a set suitable for spreading on bread not sitting like a lump of rubber on the top.

Marmalade peel should be soft and make sure you boil it long enough before adding the sugar.

Chutney should be cooked until no liquid remains it should be mellow in flavour and neither runny nor stodgy.

Chutney should be made well in advance

Fit with wax disc

Seal with layer of paraffin wax or melted candle wax

Metal lids are now acceptable.

Bread

Should be handmade and not made by machine for competitions.

Handcrafts

Workmanship, finish and presentation is where you gain most of your marks in all crafts and judges are also looking for design and use of colour, suitability of materials and degree of difficulty. If you put in that bit of extra effort it will be reflected in your marks.

Knitting

Use as good quality of yarn as you can afford. It is a waste of time doing an intricate pattern in a yarn that is of poor quality.

Socks

Have a nice elastic top	2x2 Rib is nice but not essential
Even Tension	Socks the same size
Graft Toe	Do not leave ends

Do not have knots anywhere

No joins. If you have to join yarn do so at the heel if possible
(A join or knot on the sole would be very uncomfortable)

Do not have a hole at the heel, pull yarn nice and tight

Cardigans and other articles

Join the yarn in at the end of a row

Knit the first and last stitch of every row or slip the first and knit the last

This will give a little bobble up each side which you can match up for easy sewing up of garments.

If you require to backstitch a garment keep stitches very close to edges for a seam that is neat and not too bulky.

When knitting your cardigan band do it all in one i.e. no seam at the back neck, this will make a nicer finish

Make sure all ribs have the same number of rows.

Watch edges when sewing ribs together- take the first stitch right to the bottom/top.

It is a good idea to graft shoulders of a top when using cotton yarn.

Cover your own buttons for a nice finish.

Use flat seams on baby garments

Keep buttons and ribbons the same colour unless theme states differently!

Increase by picking up loop to avoid a hole and come in one stitch before increasing/decreasing

Take pattern up fronts as far as possible and make sure you do the same on both sides of a cardigan or jumper

If your knitting has been left for a while take back a row or two before commencing again

Follow pressing instructions on your ball band and please be careful not to over press. Less is best.

If a cord is required twist your own. 4 times the finish length required.

Again, in all knitting tension is very important. If you find you do one row slacker than another you may need to use two different sized needles.

Toys

Clothes must be made so that they can be taken off

Pram toy should be small

Use a smaller sized needle than stated on the pattern to keep work firm. Knitting stretches when stuffed.

Stuff toy and leave to settle for 24hrs before sewing up. You may find you need to put in a little more stuffing, but do not over stuff as this will make the toy very heavy.

Ladder stitch seams

When making fur fabric toys pull out fur from seams and give a good brush

Watch position of eyes- no cross eyes

Make sure highlights go the same way

Use a strong thread for sewing up

Make sure heads are well fixed. Don't have wobbly heads

Good idea to make a collar and sew to body then sew head to collar. This gives a neck and firms up the head. Put a little stuffing behind felt eyes or use safety eyes

Crochet

More or less the same as knitting

Watch you do not have holes on the sides. You may need to do fewer turning chains.

When displaying mats make sure they sit the right way up.

Do not display on a paper bag. Preferably use nice tissue paper to compliment the crochet.

Don't work too open a design for baby garments as little fingers can get caught.

Patchwork

Plan design

Choose fabrics carefully. Do not include too many fabrics. 3 is good.

Hems on white fabric show through-use a lining

Be very accurate when cutting templates.

Cover card templates carefully and press well

Use a small needle and thread to match your darkest fabric.

Stitches should be small and even but not too close.

Judges like to be able to get inside any cushion.

Line if possible.

Put a zip in. Judges do not like any use of Velcro.

(Easier to insert the zip down the centre of the back)

Once all the patches are sewn together give this piece a good press on the wrong side before you take the cards out. Never press once the cards are removed- If necessary only steam.

Boxes

Use two weights of card. One for the outer box and one for the inner pieces.

You must be very accurate with the cutting.

Drawers should open and close easily and lids should fit well.

The inside is as important as the outside.

Choice of material is important for the purpose of the box

Never use glue for a show or competition box.

Nice to have a surprise inside (i.e., a little piece of embroidery or something relating to what is on the top of the box)

You can show your skill with the addition of handmade buttons, tassels etc

Canvaswork

Always use a frame to keep work tight

No need to insert a zip as it will not require to be washed

Pads should be 1" larger than the cushion

Use a good quality tapestry wool

Make sure you use enough strands to cover your canvas threads.

Start with a knot on the right side of work just a bit away from where you are to start sewing. Work towards the knot and then cut it off.

Same applies to finishing off a thread. Take it away from your work and through to the right side.

Again, work towards the end and snip off.
Running your wool/thread through stitches can distort them.
When doing something like satin stitch in rows, stagger the rows rather than working in a square.
Errors in tension will be less noticeable.

Cross stitch

Start and end your thread as in canvaswork
Make sure stitches all cross the same way
Take care not to turn your material when working as this will make crosses go the wrong way.
In all embroidery, you will get extra marks if you have done your own hem.
Watch sizes of articles ie compare the size of a tray cloth with a place mat.
You can use a silk thread for highlights but NOT if you are asked for wool embroidery only.

Free style embroidery

Transfer lines must be covered
Embroidery thread- 6 strands- separate the number you require and put these back together. This will give a smoother result.
Use a ring or frame and ring should be bound
Stem stitch and chain stitch are not easy to sew in frame- be careful if not using a frame – do not pull stitching too tight
Not a good idea to wash embroidery unless very dirty.
Keep everything clean- use a towel on your lap- wash hands frequently
Check linen for flaws and if it has been folded, iron out creases
Also make sure the grain of your material is straight in the frame.
Make your own hems on linen if possible.
Neatness of stitches is very important.

Dressmaking

Choose material and pattern that suit each other
Use good scissors
Use of iron and ironing board important
Thread to match, if not exact choose a shade darker rather than lighter.
Cut out pattern neatly
Tack and fit
Make sure there is enough thread on your reel and spool to do all your sewing- do not join in the middle of a seam.
PRESS AS YOU GO
Finish edges either with an over locker or with zig zag stitch and make sure the edges are not 'hairy'.
Keep seam allowances all the same width.
If top stitching make sure it is the same distance from the edge all the way.
If something is to be bound make your own bias binding- make sure it is cut on the true bias otherwise it will wrinkle and when joining bias do it on the cross not straight- when you round a corner mitre the corner.
On blouses, children's wear, nightwear or anything to be washed a lot make French seams.
When inserting zips sew both sides in from the same end-they lie flatter.
Make sure buttons fit buttonholes
If making dolls clothes make sure they can be taken off easily.
The finishing of dolls clothes should be the same as any other garment i.e. no raw seams.
When making a cushion cover if piping is being used make sure it does not pull tight round the corners. Always line a cushion as stated previously.
Lastly when you are finished your garment or article go over it inside and out to see there are no

loose stitches or ends of thread hanging
Do not leave in any tacking
Do not leave in any pins- it has been known!

Beadwork

Tension and design is of great importance in this work and good quality beads should be used. There are many coloured beading threads on the market now so always choose one in tone with your beads. Fastenings should be well attached where appropriate

Papercraft

This is a craft where imagination, neatness and accuracy are extremely important. Choose prints wisely. No glue marks should be seen

Co-op Display

Think of a theme if not given one in the schedule. If possible all items should coordinate in colour. A variety of size in articles make for a better display i.e. not all large, not all small. Table coverings should be well laundered- no creases and colour again should complement the items in the display. Do not clutter the table with unnecessary items. Use just one or two relevant props. Cover stands unless they are decorative and enhance the display. Hide all labels. Arrange articles at different heights - all flat on the table makes an uninteresting display.

It is hoped that these notes will be of some help but please do not hesitate to contact the Show Convenor for further assistance. angusfedshow@gmail.com or 01356 660245.

Please do not be put off entering a show or competition - you will learn so much from seeing what other people do!