THE NEWBURY & DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

OPEN PLOUGHING MATCH

SATURDAY 17 OCTOBER 2026

at

Ramsbury Road, Membury, RG17 7TJ
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ROOKSNEST ESTATE

SCHEDULE

OPEN PLOUGHING MATCH
17 OCTOBER 2026
IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Entries Close: Thursday 8 October 2026

Contact: Nicki Head
Entries address: Newbury & District Agricultural Society (NADAS), Newbury Showground, Priors Court Road, Hermitage, Berkshire, RG18 9QZ
Phone: 01635 247111
Email: competitions@nadas.co.uk

Website: www.newburyshowground.co.uk

Entries on line at: https://showingscene.com/events/newbury-district-agricultural-society-ploughing-match-2026-oct-2026

Entry fees:
Classes 1 – 8: £10 (including VAT)
Prize money: First - £20, Second - £15, Third - £10

Class 9: £5 (including VAT)
Classes 10-18: Free

Prize cards: 4th place

Ploughman's briefing: 8.40am outside the main marquee
Ploughing starts: from 9.00am. Competitors must arrive by 8.30am
Ploughing ends: Tractors by 1.00pm and horses by 2.00pm
Prize giving: between 2.00pm and 3.00pm

All competitors are responsible for the safe working of their machinery. Appropriate insurance must be held by every competitor which must include Third Party Liability Insurance.

Field Layout (subject to change depending on site)

1. Tramlines: Plots will be ploughed at 90 degrees across tramlines where possible.
2. Plot sizes applicable to Vintage
   Length – Max. 100 metres; min. 60 metres
   Width – Max. 16 metres; min. 12 metres
3. Headland width will be a minimum of 15 metres.
4. All classes will be ploughed on stubble.

PLOUGHING MATCH PRESIDENT: Mr C Hartwright

PLOUGHING MATCH COMMITTEE 2026

Mr Julian Plank (Chairman)
Mr Ian Raisey (Vice Chairman)
Mr M Bowden
Mrs M Bowden
Mr C Collins
Mr C Cox
Mr M Denton
Mrs L Harris
Mr C Harwright
Mr S Hiscock
Mrs J Marcham
Mr I Preston
Mr R Price
Mr C Smith
Mrs G Smith
Mrs K Thomas
Mr I Wilson

REGULATIONS FOR ALL PLOUGHMEN

1. SAFETY POLICY

All competitors must adhere to the NADAS policy at all times. Failure to do so will leave to disqualification.

2. PLOUGHING ON THE SITE

a) The plough must not be in the ground on the site other than the competitors plot. Penalty – disqualification.
b) When not ploughing, all mounted ploughs must be lowered to the ground.
c) If any tractor is left unattended, the keys must be taken out and the cab locked.

3. PLOTS

a) The competitor is allowed to clear the plot of straw, stones and other debris but must not have any help to do so. Clearing of stubble is not allowed and will be penalised.
b) All ploughmen must start at the same end, as designated by the organising committee.

4. TRACTORS ON SITE

After completion of ploughing, all tractors must be taken directly back to the Marshalling Area and must not be driven around the site. Failure to do so will be penalised.

5. TIES

Should there be a tie for a place in any class, then the 'countback' system will be used by the scrutineers.

6. ADMISSION TO SITE

Trucks carrying equipment together with the truck driver will be admitted free of charge. Trucks and cars must be parked in the appropriate parking places.

7. INSURANCE

All competitors must hold adequate insurance including Third Party Liability Insurance.

The Society and Landowner accept no responsibility for loss of, or damage to, property on the day. Cars parked at the owner's risk.

HEALTH & SAFETY

All entrants are reminded that current health and safety rules require that a suitable assessment of the risks to the health and safety of all persons is made by the operator of any undertaking. This means that entrants should have considered this, especially in relation to spectators and officials who may not be as familiar with ploughing techniques and tractor usage.

Picture from 2025 Ploughing Match held at Sutton Estates

HORSE CLASSES

Class 1 - General Purpose – horse drawn

Class 2 - Novice – horse drawn – must not have won a prize at a recognised competition.

TROPHIES

- Lloyds Bank Cup (400a) presented to the Champion Horse Plough Team

RULES FOR HORSE PLOUGHING

1. There will be 4 hours to complete the plot.
2. All horses must be finished by 2.00pm.
3. All plough bodies must be used when ploughing the finish.
4. Extraneous attachments that manipulate the furrows or scratches are not allowed.
5. Competitors to cast towards the next highest plot number.
6. 15 minutes extra time for any cast-off done after the ploughing has commenced.
7. Start to consist of 8, 9 or 10 furrows.
8. Depth to be reached on completion of start and adhered to until commencing the finish.
9. Minimum depth of 13 cm.
10. Finish to consist of 8,9 or 10 furrows.
11. Last furrow to be ploughed toward competitors own start.
12. Penalty for failing to finish plot at finishing signal. **Penalty 10 points per minute or part minute.**
13. All ploughmen must start at the same end, as designated by the organising committee.
14. The first and second runs next to the neighbour's plot will be allowed as straightening furrows and will not be judged.
15. Three sighting poles only (one can be placed in the headland) – assistance to set and remove is allowed. No other assistance is allowed – including no assistance by signal, radio contact, mobile phone or other method.
16. Handling, treading or shaping of furrows is not allowed. Scratches can be handled but not removed.
17. Only the competitor is allowed to clean the plot of straw, stones and other debris. Clearing of stubble is not allowed and will be penalised.
18. Any abuse or dispute by a competitor with an official or fellow competitor is not acceptable. **Penalty 20 points deduction**.
19. Any questions arising and not provided for in these rules shall be decided by the Executive Committee, whose decision is final and binding.

TRACTOR CLASSES

Class 3 - Vintage – trailed

Class 4 - Vintage – mounted

Class 5 - Conventional ploughs. Mounted or semi mounted ploughs.

Class 6 – Reversible Ploughs (National Rules)

Class 7 – Novice Ploughman – not to have won more than one match previously.

Class 8 – Match ploughs – CONVENTIONAL PLOUGHING – WORLD STYLE (2 or more furrow ploughs). For any make of semi-digger conventional plough. Minimum depth of furrow – 20 cm (except at opening and finish). Skimmers must be used. The winner of this class can go forward to the National Championship.

Class 9 – Have a Go (13 – 20 years of age). Competitors must have experience of handling a tractor, but do not need to have ploughed before. Tractor and plough will be provided for this competition.

Note – YFC members may enter any appropriate open class. Prizes will be awarded accordingly.

TROPHIES

- John Day Cup (401) presented to the winner of Class 5 – Conventional Ploughing
- Oakes Brothers Cup (403) presented to the winner of Class 6 – Reversible Ploughing
- Walter Wilder Cup (404) presented to the winner of Class 7 – Best Novice Ploughman (13 – 20 years of age)
- Lister Wilder Cup (406) presented to the winner of the Best Maintained Massey Ferguson
- Farol Challenge Cup (416) Best Work by a John Deere Tractor
- Gerald Fisher Machinery Cup (409) presented for Best Ploughing by a Woman
- P.J.S Cup (410) presented to the Champion Vintage Ploughman
- James Puxley Cup (411) presented to the Champion Novice Ploughman
- Mr & Mrs C Povey Cup (413) presented to the Champion Ploughman
- James & Cowper Cup (412) presented to the Reserve Champion Ploughman
- Harris Bacon Pig Challenge Cup (515) for Chairman's choice for 'Art of Ploughing'

NEWBURY & DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
PLOUGHING MATCH 2026

Saturday 17th October 2026

Closing date for entries Thursday 8th October 2026

Entries via Showing Scene/Newbury & District Agricultural Society Ploughing Match 2026 preferred please.

Alternatively, please complete this form

Entry Form

Class	Ploughman	Make of Tractor	Make of Plough	Number of Furrows	Length of Mould Board	Entry Fee
						£
						£
						£
All charges include VAT. See Schedule for entry fees					**Total Entry Fee Enclosed**	**£**

Name of Exhibitor: _____

Address: _____

_____

Postcode: _____

Email: _____

Contact Number: _____

DECLARATION – I declare that for the duration of this event my entries will be the subject of a Road Traffic Act Third Party Insurance Policy as a minimum £5m public liability. I understand that neither the organisers nor the owners of the land accept any liability whatsoever for and damage or personal injury howsoever caused.

I AGREE TO THE CONDITIONS OF ENTRY TO THE MATCH AND WILL COMPLY WITH ALL SAFETY POLICY

PLEASE SIGN HERE: _____

DATE: _____

Please return form to:

Competitions
Newbury Showground
Priors Court Road
Hermitage
Thatcham
Berkshire
RG18 9QZ

Email: competitions@nadas.co.uk
Tel: 01635 247111

RULES FOR TRACTOR PLOUGHING

1. PLOUGHS
   a) Ploughs to be fitted with skimmers.
   b) Tailpieces are allowed. In reversible and conventional ploughing – the maximum size to be 26cm long and 22cm wide. The end of the tailpiece to be no more than 32cm from the end of the mouldboard.
   c) Plough bodies can be raised or lowered.
   d) All plough bodies must be used when ploughing the finish.
   e) Extraneous attachments that manipulate the furrows or scratches are not allowed.
   f) In vintage hydraulic and classic ploughing, only one plough wheel allowed.

2. TIME ALLOWED
   a) 20 minutes for opening. **Penalty for failure to finish opening on time 2 points per minute or part minute.**
   b) 40 minutes to judge opening.
   c) 3 hours to complete the plot.
   d) **All tractor ploughing to be finished by 1.00pm**
   e) 15 minutes extra time for any cast-off done after the ploughing has commenced.
   f) Penalty for failing to finish plot at finishing signal. **Penalty 10 points per minute or part minute.**

3. OPENING
   a) Conventional and horticultural ploughing – double opening – no land shall be left unturned.
   b) Reversible ploughing – single furrow opening with right-hand bodies.
   c) In vintage ploughing on grassland only – there is no opening.

4. START
   a) Conventional ploughing – start to consist of 11 or 12 furrows.
   b) Reversible ploughing – start to consist of 8, 9 or 10 furrows.
   c) Horticultural ploughing – start to consist of first 6 furrows.
   d) Competitors to cast towards the next highest number plot.

5. FINISH
   a) Conventional & vintage ploughing finish to consist of last 8, 9 or 10 furrows.
   b) Reversible ploughing finish to consist of last 18, 20 or 25 furrows. **Incorrect number of furrows penalty 20 points deduction.**
   c) Horticultural ploughing – finish to consist of last 6 furrows.
   d) In conventional & vintage ploughing the last furrow to be ploughed towards competitor's own start.

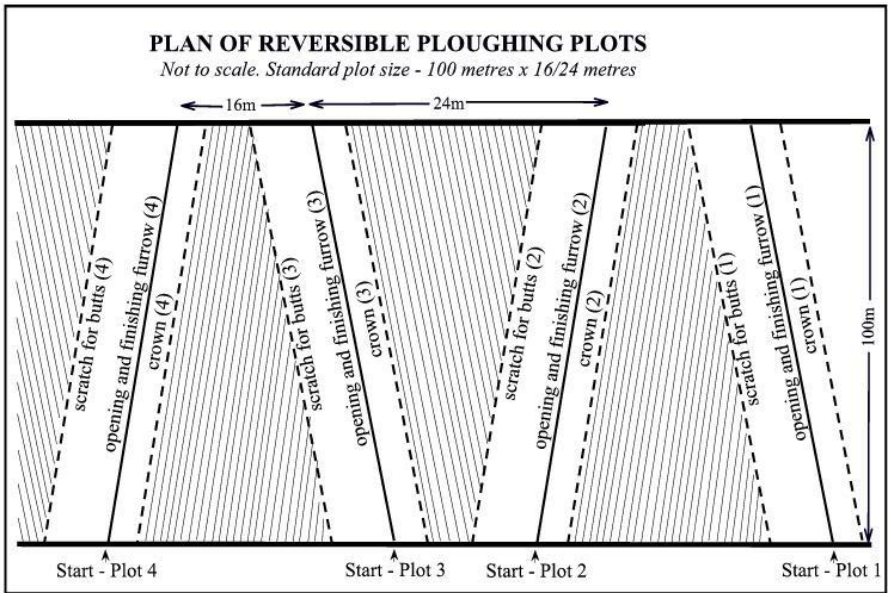
6. DEPTH
   a) Depth to be reached on completion of start and adhered to until commencing the finish.
   b) Reversible and conventional tractor ploughing – minimum depth 20cm.
   c) Classic vintage tractor ploughing – minimum depth 17cm.
   d) Trailing and hydraulic vintage tractor ploughing – minimum depth 15cm.

7. ONE-WAY PLOUGHING – REVERSIBLE PLOUGHS

The competitor should make a scratch for their last 19 or 20 furrows whilst openings are being judged.

a) After the opening split has been judged, the competitor proceeds to:
   i) Plough 8 or 9 furrows toward the lower numbered plot.
   ii) Start at the next highest number and complete their 'butts'.
   iii) Complete the last 19 or 20 furrows
b) Alternate bodies to be used at all times. Each run to be completed before the plough is turned over.
c) The use of sighting poles at the start of the butts is now allowed.
d) When ploughing the butts, competitors cannot travel to the end of the plot to turn.

NOTE: When ploughing the joining furrow, attachments are not allowed, but it is permissible to how one or two full furrows on the first run.



Above is subject to change depending on site

8. VINTAGE & CLASSIC PLOUGHING

a) Plough bodies must be made for the plough at the time of manufacture.
b) Skimmers and tailpieces optional.
c) Tailpieces should not be adapted to manipulate the furrows or scratches.

9. GENERAL

a) All ploughmen must start at the same end, as designated by the organising committee.
b) The first and second runs next to the neighbour's plot will be allowed as straightening furrows and will not be judged.
c) Rolling with the tractor wheels is not allowed. **Penalty 20 points deducted.**
d) Twin tractor wheels not allowed.
e) Three sighting poles only (one can be on the headland) – assistance to set and remove is allowed. No other assistance is allowed – including no assistance by signal, radio contact, mobile phone or any other method.
f) Handling, treading or shaping of scratches or furrows is not allowed.
g) Only one tractor and plough wheel mark allowed at the finish.

h) The use of Global Positioning Technology (GPS), laser beams, or any other electronic or computerised measuring devices are not allowed.
i) Only the competitor is allowed to clean the plot of straw, stones or debris. Clearing of stubble is not allowed and will be penalised.
j) Any abuse or dispute by a competitor with an official or a fellow competitor is not acceptable. **Penalty 20 points deduction.**

10. FINAL DECISION

Any questions arising and not provided for in these rules shall be decided by the Executive Committee, whose decision shall be final and binding.

JUDGES METHOD OF SCORING

CONVENTIONAL PLOUGHING

OPENING – Well cut, uniform and straight	20
START – 11 or 12 furrows uniform and straight	20
SEED BED – Weed control and soil made available	20
FIRMNESS – Firm well packed furrows, no holes	20
UNIFORMITY – Clearly defined uniform furrows and no pairing of furrows	20
FINISH – Uniform and shallow	20
INS AND OUTS – Neat, accurate and regular	20
STRAIGHTNESS – Straightness of the whole plot	20
GENERAL APPEARANCE – Workmanship and general appearance of the whole plot	20

REVERSIBLE PLOUGHING

OPENING – Well cut, uniform and straight	20
START – 8 or 9 furrows uniform and level	20
SEED BED – Weed control and soil made available	20
FIRMNESS – Firm well packed furrows, no holes	20
UNIFORMITY – Clearly defined uniform furrows and no pairing	20
JOINING FURROW AND BUTTS – Neat, accurate with no dips or mounds	20
FINISH – (last 19 or 20 furrows) Uniform and shallow	20
ACCURACY OF FINAL FURROW – Close to the first furrow with no unploughed or reploughed land	20
INS AND OUTS – Neat, accurate and regular	20
STRAIGHTNESS – Straightness of the whole plot	20
GENERAL APPEARANCE – Workmanship and general appearance of the whole plot	20

DOMESTIC & TRADE STAND COMPETITIONS

Class 10 – Sloe Gin (minimum amount 250ml)

Class 11 – Hedgerow Liqueur (minimum amount 250ml)

Class 12 – Carrot Cake (minimum 7 inch/20cm in diameter)

Class 13 – Pasties (minimum 3 – large)

Class 14 – Lemon Curd

Class 15 – 6 Savoury Muffins

Class 16 – 6 Cookies

Class 17 – Children's Class – 4 x iced gingerbread shapes

Class 18 – Best Trade Stand – trade stands will automatically be entered into this class.

TROPHIES

- Best Beverage (415)
- Vivienne Dann Cup (414) presented to overall winner of Home Produce
- Spencer Challenge Cup (408) presented to the Best Trade Stand

RULES FOR HOME PRODUCE

1. Entries to these classes are free of charge.
2. All exhibits to be delivered to the ploughing match site by 9.30am.
3. Entries to be accompanied by a list of ingredients used.
4. All produce to be covered in cling film.
5. ALL produce will be auctioned off prior to the prize giving on the day, funds donated to the Presidents chosen charity.

The judge's decision is final

Newbury and District Agricultural Society

Newbury Ploughing Match is run by Newbury & District Agricultural Society (NADAS), an incorporated charity, with objectives relating to education and generally raising awareness of agriculture, horticulture, forestry, and rural crafts and businesses.

From our home at Newbury Showground, the Society accomplishes its charitable aims and objectives through various events and programs run throughout the year, including the NADAS educational program delivered throughout Berkshire, North Hampshire and South Oxfordshire, an annual ploughing match, annual agricultural show and local farm competitions.

Get in Touch

Competitions – competitions@nadas.co.uk
Trade Stands – tradestands@nadas.co.uk
Sponsorship & Show planner – Victoria@nadas.co.uk
General enquiries – nadas@nadas.co.uk
Showground Hire – lettings@nadas.co.uk

Telephone: 01635 247111
Website: https://newburyshowground.co.uk/
Charity Number 1003898

Newbury Showground, Priors Court Road
Hermitage, Thatcham
Berkshire
RG18 9QZ

EST. 1909

NEWBURY SHOW

19th & 20th September 2026

SAVE THE DATE