**Floral Art Competition Help Sheet 2014**

**Equipment Needed for Competition**

* Display board
* Flower Scissors
* Tape Measure
* Bin Bag
* Dust Pan and Brush
* Cloth
* White Coat
* Water Spray
* Competition title on some card
* Floristry Tape
* Oasis
* Base for flowers
* Flowers
* Accessories

**Accessories**

* Make sure your container/oasis is large enough to carry the amount of flowers/foliage you intend to use.
* The base should not be seen (if this is possible), unless it is part of the design i.e hat/boot/fruit
* Soak the oasis before taping it in to the base (before the competition)
* Tape the oasis in to the base the night before, it should not move.
* Do not put the tape in the middle section of the oasis, your focal flowers will through the middle.

**Hints and Tips**

* Be strict with your measurements. Make sure you take a few cm’s off the maximum stated on the rules to avoid being penalised by judges for over sizing.
* Remember the exhibit is your interpretation of the theme.
* All flowers and foliage must be displayed in water.
* Your display board needs to be neat and tidy, no water marks/stains etc. To keep it clean put bags over the back and base to transport.
* The condition of the plants and foliage will be taken in to account. Any brown, stained or dead looking flowers and foliage could result in you being penalised.
* You don’t have to have your display sat on the base of the exhibit- you have unlimited height, it could be a stand or attached to an accessory. You can also have multi placements( 2 or 3 smaller arrangements linked together).
* If you are using a glass container remember to cover your oasis- make a parcel with cellophane (acros the bottom and up the sides) so it holds the moisture and wrap in a large leaf i.e aspidistra or fatsia.
* Remember the flowers/foliage must be the dominant feature of the display. Avoid overcrowding with accessories.
* Utilise the space in/on the display board.
* Always have a practice and take a photograph of what you have done to give a better perspective of what the judge will see.
* Always read the County Show rules thoroughly to make sure you will not be penalised on any of your exhibit elements.
* Before the competition, when designing your exhibit, make a list of some of the things you associate with the particular theme given. As an example we will use “A war time poem”. It may be useful in this instance to research a few famous war time poems and pick out some of the key words within the poem to help you design your exhibit. Certain flowers may come to mind such as lilies (flower of death), roses (British). Poppies, although synonymous with war would not work well with the exhibit as they are difficult to source and hard to use in oasis and silk/paper/plastic flowers are not permitted. Exotic flowers would not be appropriate for this theme.

Flags- Colours Red, White and Blue

Death

Barbed Wire

Bullets

Poppies

**War**

Famous War Time Poems

Army Boots

Medals/Trophies

Weapons- Bombs,guns,grenades

Bravery

Soldiers

Love and Hate

Hessian Sack

Helmet

Tanks and Planes

Candle Light/Lanterns

**Flowers/Foliage**

* When arranging your exhibit it may be easier to start with foliage first and then insert your flowers around the foliage.
* When deciding on your exhibit try and have the tallest flowers at the back, working down to the smaller ones at the front. Almost if you look side on your exhibit is a diagonal line.
* Focal flowers should be used in odd numbers and they run down the centre of the arrangement, this gives/helps with visual balance. Actual balance is also needed, if your arrangement is too top heavy it may topple forward hence why the bottom of the arrangement is wider( triangle shape)
* Some popular flowers to use that are quite resilient would be: Roses ( be gentle so they don’t bruise), Lillies, Carnations, Alstromeria and Chrystanthemums.

**Remember you can always refer to NAFAS Competition Manual if you are in doubt on anything. (02072475567)**