



Lancashire Pork Pie Appreciation Society  
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The British Pie Awards  
c/o The Melton Mowbray Pork Pie Association  
PO Box 5540  
Melton Mowbray  
Leicestershire, LE13 1YU

17<sup>th</sup> February 2017

Dear Organising Committee Members,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Lancashire Pork Pie Appreciation Society. We wish to congratulate you all on the hard work you have put in to organising this year's British Pie Awards. As fellow pie aficionados you have our best wishes, and we sincerely hope that the event is successful.

There is, however, one issue that has caused our membership concern. That is the under representation of Northern judges on your panel. While we recognise that there are strong regional traditions for pies throughout Britain, we believe that Northern England is the natural centre of gravity for lovers of British Pies. It is therefore disconcerting that the North is so badly under-represented amongst your judging panel. Of 89 judges, 8 are directly associated with Melton Mowbray itself. Many other judges are associated with the East Midlands – e.g. East Midlands Airport, Nottingham, Leicester, Mansfield and so on. There are also a high number of national (London-based) journalists. Meanwhile Lancashire has only two representatives – Martin Tarbuck (Life of Pies) and John Smith (Cookery School Co-ordinator). Other than Hull, Yorkshire does not appear to have any representatives, and nor do any of the other Northern English Counties. Finally, Scotland is represented by only one judge.

In our opinion, this is more than just a lack of representation. The regional character of pies will mean that judges from different regions will have grown up with expectations of how pies should look and taste. This will inevitably lead to scoring that will be biased against under represented regions of the UK. When some of those regions are the hotbeds of British pie making and eating, this will inevitably undermine your noble attempt to judge fairly pies from across Britain.

We recognise the short time period available to remedy this situation for this year's awards. Even so, we would appreciate any efforts that you can make to introduce a more representative panel of judges. For the future, we ask that you acknowledge and address this imbalance. Only in this way can you be sure that the award winning pies are truly representative of Britain's unrivalled pie making cultural heritage.

Yours faithfully,

Carl Abbott  
President LPPAS