

ONION COMPETITION RESULTS 2017

PLACE	NAME	AGE	WEIGH
1 ST	Raith	11	2lbs-4 3/4oz
2 nd	Bobi(winner under10)	6	2-1/2 oz
3 rd	Toby	Adult	2-1/4 oz
4 th	Isabelle	13	1-14 7/8 oz
5 th	Bernard	Adult	1-13 5/8
6 th	Neal/Mary	Adult	1-12 ½ oz
8 th	George	Adult	1-11 ½ oz
9 th	Tommy	10	1-9 3/8 oz
10 th	Alex	Adult	1-9 1/4 oz
11 th	Tim	Adult	1-8 ½ oz
12 th	Peter	Adult	1-4 5/8
13 th	Bob	Adult	1-4 ½ oz
14 th	Edward	2	11 oz
15 th	Rhys	9	9 3/8 oz
16 th	Tomi	2	7 oz
17 th	Owen/Sandra	8	6 ½ oz
19 th	Gavin	Adult	2 1/8 oz
20 th	Evie	7	2 oz
21 st	Liam	Adult	3/8 oz

40 Competitors 21 Presented onions

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Raith Harris, front, and other entrants in the Black Beret onion competition at The Swan
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Raith knows his onions

THE annual Black Beret contest for the biggest onion reached its zenith at The Swan, Inkpen, on Saturday.

For months, entrants had cosseted, fed and watered their prize sets with various potions including, inevitably, beer, to encourage them to grow to outsize proportions.

But to ensure no dodgy growth hormones or banned treatments are used, the winner traditionally must eat a portion of his winning onion with bread and cheese.

For those not in the know, the Black Beret contest is now in its 21st year and is fiercely competitive.

Licensee Bernard Harris, a past

winner himself, said: "As usual we've got around 40 entries but there's more children getting involved this year, which is encouraging."

Indeed, the overall winner and runner-up this year were Mr Harris' own grandsons.

First was Raith Harris, who is aged just 11 and whose prize onion tipped the scales at a whopping 2lbs 4¼ oz.

Second was six-year-old Bobi Harris, whose entry weighed in at 2lbs 1/2oz.

Mr Harris said: "Mary and I were delighted that so many children not only took part but seem to have a genuine enthusiasm for gardening and growing their own food."



From left, winner Raith Harris, 11, Evie Harris, seven, Rhys Harris, nine, Bobi Harris, six, and Owen Harris with their onions
Ref: 36-1017B