This year we decided to hold the competition a little later in the hope that the weather would be better and everyone would be able to enjoy their pints and pies outside with the Elland Silver Youth Band playing in the Bridge Inn car park by the River Calder. It turned out to be quite cold and wet but the band played bravely on.

From 12 noon pie makers began to deliver their pies to be judged. Most of the entrants came from West Yorkshire, but there were entries from Lancashire, Nottinghamshire, Hartlepool and Keswick. Mr Michael from Keswick won 4th place last year and this time he came with a bus full of supporters determined to bring back another prize.

By 2 pm the judging was ready to begin. All the pies had been numbered by Kevin and the judging teams assembled all dressed up in new tee shirts advertising our Sponsors Taylors Brewery.

The wonderful aroma of fresh pies was overwhelming. I was scheduled to judge in the third round and therefore felt safe in eating a pie prior to my official tasting duties. After all if I went into the tasting session ravenous I would be unable to judge effectively. That is my excuse anyway!

As the judges manfully tackled the challenge of tasting the products of 52 pie makers the old Bridge Inn was full of butchers, bakers and pie enthusiasts eating pie and peas and drinking Websters fine ales served by Tim the owner and landlord of the Bridge Inn and his staff. Tension mounted as the judges wittled down the entrants to 12 for the 3rd and final round.