

### Much deliberating ...

Caroline and Margaret hard at work on judging duty at February's show table



## Malvern International Orchid Show 12-13<sup>th</sup> June

This is the best orchid show in the UK with dozens of British, European and Overseas Traders alongside fabulous displays from many of the UK Orchid Societies including Solihull. Once again a special concession ticket will be available but only if you pre-order. The normal price is £17.50 per day with the concessionary tickets priced at the fantastic price of £6 per day. You can use the tickets on any one of the three days so if you haven't made up your mind as to which day you will be attending it doesn't matter. All I need is your £6 to guarantee your ticket. If you can let me know and pay no later than the May Meeting – Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> I can ensure that a consolidated order is placed for the required quantity of tickets.



Brian Cope's award-winning Sarcophilus at last year's show



### ...well I think that's how to spell it!

Stan's busy filling in his entry forms for the February table

## Chinese Cyripediums

David Ridgeway came to our meeting on February 7<sup>th</sup> to give an illustrated talk on his trip to China made in the first three weeks of June several years ago. There are 30 species of Cyripediums found in China but the rare *C. wardii* is found in only two locations. Wilson, the plant hunter, brought hundreds of plants of Cyripediums into cultivation from China.

The party, which was led by Phillip Cribb and Holger Perner, flew to Chengdu to see the South West of China and from there visited Lidjang, a World Heritage Site, in the foothills of the high plateau that goes into Tibet. Joseph Rock has written about the plants and people there. *C. flavum* which has been used for breeding some hybrids was found in the area and is the most widespread Cyripedium in China. *C. margaritaceum* and *C. tibeticum* (or *froschii*) were also growing there. Leaving the mountains, David travelled North-West to the Yangtse River area. The purple and white *C. guttatum*, *C. plectochilum* and *C. yunnanense* were common in this area. Many Rhododendrons, Roses, Hydrangea and Berberis now in cultivation in Britain, grew in the region and also *Cephalanthera*, related to Hellebores.

The trip then took David back to Chengdu, which is generally covered in a cloud of pollution, and on to Luding. There, Holger Perner, who has written articles about Cyripediums and has great knowledge of where they grow, took them to see *C. wardii*. A local man, Mr J., is paid to show visitors where the plants are so that they are kept in the wild and not dug up.

Hongyuan, another World Heritage Site, had *C. bardolphianum*, *C. micranthum*, with hairs along the sepals, dark purple *Dactylorhiza* and *Calypso bulbosa* growing here. On the steep slope of the valley *C. farreri* was found. This is where Holger Perner, the orchid consultant to the park, is based. He runs a nursery, cultivating the orchids in shade houses with the seedlings growing in beds of pine needles. He also has a nursery and laboratory in Chengdu.



At the end of his beautifully illustrated and fascinating talk, David mentioned that Anthura, the nursery in Amsterdam, is growing and selling Cyripediums.

*Margaret Dale*

## Change of date for your diaries

Unfortunately, the June 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting has had to be brought forward to Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May. There will be a special religious event at the Church and so we cannot use the Hall on the appointed day. I am pleased to announce that Andrew Bannister is still able to talk to us on the earlier date so please change your diaries.

**June Meeting now will be Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May.**

# February table

Pictures: Ken Johnson



**Blc. Summit View "Primero" – Stan Taylor**



**Dinema polybulbon Stan Taylor 30 points**

**Epidendrum escobarianum – Malcolm Moodie**



**Clowisia rosea – Monica Johnson**



**Cymbidium yellow – Stan Taylor 30 points**



**Dendrobium nobile Stan Taylor 32 points**



**Ascocentrum christensonianum Stan Taylor 29 points**

**Burrangera Stefan Isler Martin Mitchell 31 points**



**Paph Macabre 'Black Magic' Malcolm Moodie 32 points**