



# Solihull & District Orchid Society

## Brian Cope

In the Malvern International Orchid Show report there is a reference to Brian's beloved *Sarcochilus* that he managed to grow better than anybody else in the UK.

On Sunday at the show Brian was taken ill and unfortunately, on Tuesday morning he passed away.

He was a very long standing member of Solihull and was an extremely accomplished grower.

He will be missed by members and orchid growers across the UK. As soon as details of his funeral are known I will circulate details.



## Next Meeting

On Saturday July 1st our President Peter White will be entertaining us on the subject of "Orchid Pollination" plus he will be bringing plants for sale.

Peter has been a member of Solihull for decades and is well known within the orchid world as a member of the RHS Orchid Committee and for his business "Orchid Accessories"

[www.orchidaccessories.com](http://www.orchidaccessories.com)

This will undoubtedly be an interesting and enjoyable afternoon.

Look forward to seeing you.

## Name that Hybrid

*Don't forget that you all have a wonderful opportunity to have an orchid named after you. See Heike at July's meeting and purchase a handful of tickets at £1 each with the winner choosing the name.*

## Have you have any surprises in your garden?

Janet James sent in these pictures of orchids growing in her garden. She says: "they don't have any names as they are all probably hybrids from the plants I have grown in pots over the years, as they just appeared and have not been planted."



**You can follow Solihull & District Orchid Society on Facebook and Twitter**



**Chairman: Malcolm Moodie  
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If you have any pictures or information you would like to put on our website please email: [caroline.reid1@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:caroline.reid1@blueyonder.co.uk) or copy and pictures for newsletter: [ballm1@mac.com](mailto:ballm1@mac.com)

# June Table results

## Species:

1st. 30pts Brian Copes *Sarcochilus hartmannii* ; 2nd 29pts - Lina Smalinske *Cypripedium reginae*; 3rd 27pts - Janet James *Dactylorhiza elata*. Joint 4th place 26pts - Janet James *Masdevallia veitchiana* "Prince de Galles" and Lina Smalinske - *Phalaenopsis cornu-cervi*. **Hybrids:** Joint 1st place 28pts each - Tjin Ong's *Phalaenopsis* hybrid and Lina Smalinske's *Phalaenopsis schilleriana* x *stuartiana*; 2nd 27pts - Janet James *Disa Unilangley*; 3rd 26pts - Lina Smalinske *Phalaenopsis equestris aurea* x *cornu-cervi*; 4th 24pts - Monica Johnson's *Phalaenopsis* hybrid; 5th 22pts - Monica Johnson's *Phalaenopsis* hybrid



**Pictures:  
Martin  
Mitchell**



# Australian Orchids by Trey Sanders

Trey started his talk by explaining that his interests (particular regarding species) changes on a regular basis. He used to grow *Dendrochilums* and this interest resulted in setting up an informative website on this genus after noticing that there was not much quality information around and that the majority of species were wrongly named. [www.dendrochilums.com](http://www.dendrochilums.com)

He is now a lot more interested in *Draculas* and has set up another specialised website [www.orchidbotanics.co.uk](http://www.orchidbotanics.co.uk) where you can buy rare and unusual orchid species. Trey was born and grew up in Adelaide, South Australia where as a kid he discovered many native Australian orchids on his walks and fell in love with them at an early age. He told a fascinating story about how his parents gave him a BMX bike for his birthday and within a few weeks had swapped it for an orchid - *Pterostylis nana* and then killed it a few months later - this did not go well with his parents.

There are 12060 orchid species in Australia which is a continent with 3 different climatic zones with many microclimates in between.

There are tropical orchids in the North West which is subject to heavy monsoons; Subtropical orchids in the South West and in the North East - Equatorial orchids with the centre of the continent being desert where it never or rarely rains.

Terrestrial orchids are mainly in the southern part of the continent with less and less the further north one goes.

There are numerous National Parks - Wilson's Prom Victoria State National Park is particularly rich in orchids - Stirling Ranges National Park in West Australia, has 123 species with some of them being almost extinct due to over collection eg. *Caladenia leptochila* (Spider Orchid) and *Sarcochilus australis*.

Some of the terrestrials are quite strange. For example *Corybas unquiculatus* - doesn't like air movement and likes sandy soil.

*Dipodium punctatum* doesn't photosynthesise and is impossible to grow in cultivation and *Gastrodia sesamiododes* grows in compost heaps.

The most common orchid growing in the wild in Australia is *Cymbidium* mostly growing on eucalyptus trees.

## Dendrobiums;

*Den. tertetifolium* needs fast flowing water.

*Den. kingianum* (Trey has never seen in the wild) in winter he recommends to not let them dry out, but one should lower the temperature to 8-11c to make them flower.

*Den. speciosum canes* vary in size depending on latitude although most of them grow in the east part of Australia.

*Den. striolatum* is very common in southern Victoria and can tolerate frost. (It is the most southern epiphytic orchid to tolerate frosts)

*Thelimytra* is the true blue orchid found in the Southern Australia in Wilson's Prom Victoria State National Park. It is not only special for its colour but also because it only opens its flowers when the sun is out. It can self-pollinate but needs temp above 25C. Another important factor in Australia to keep these orchids flowering is fire, with some species only flowering after fire with some waiting underground for many years to germinate as seeds need methane gas to open up their shells.

Crown fires need low humidity, less than 30%, strong western winds and high temp around 40C. These types of fire do the most damage as they travel across tree tops and usually come from the desert in the centre of the continent.

*Caladenia orientis* and *Caladenia dadivera* are very rare and need fire to flower whilst *Burnettia cuneata* although liking swampy conditions also needs fire to flower. It is known for tubers to wait for 30 years underground to flower and then after flowering the plant dies. There are 4 species of *Cymbidium* all needing fire to flower including *suave* which grows on rotting eucalyptus.

In cultivation these Australian terrestrial are grown in: 5 parts sand/gravel, 2 parts perlite, 2 parts fine bark, 2 parts John Innes No. 2.

NB. If growing lime sensitive species one needs to use John Innes ericaceous.

Also, no fertiliser is used in order to not kill the mycorrhizal fungi. Dormancy usually occurs in summer, flowering time in spring and autumn with the growing season being in winter.

In Australia, orchids are grown outside all year round covered only with shade cloth normally next to the house and called a "bush house".

Trey also mentioned that it is hugely beneficial to observe plants in the wild to fully understand their growing conditions.

Lina Smalinske

# Local wild orchids



We found 64 White Helleborines at Oversley Wood the most we have ever seen, and a Marsh Orchid, (top row) at Ufton Fields Man

Orchid and Butterfly Orchids though not as many flowers as usual, and an almost white Common



Spotted, then Sunday we went to Whitacre Heath there were a lot of Marsh Orchids

there in the past but now they are being overgrown by scrub but we did find a few.

Janet and Martin



# Malvern International Orchid Show

## *What a difference a year makes !!!*

Last year it rained for the whole show and especially during set up and tear down.

This year it was unremitting sunshine and at times so hot in the marquee that it was difficult to breath.

The orchids seemed to enjoy the hot and humid conditions although some of the Masdevallias looked worse for wear – not surprising for this cool growing species.

Unfortunately, Solihull did not put up a display this year but a number of members plants were displayed on other stands.

Stan Taylor received two “Awards of Merit” for his plants on Hinckley Orchid Society’s display – *Cattleya tenebrosa* and *Sarcochilus hartmanii*.

Hinckley’s display was glorious and received a Gold Medal. It must have been in the running for best display because it was beautifully conceived and caught the eye of everybody.

The Orchid Society of Great Britain received a Silver Gilt with Brian Cope receiving the Best Vandaceous Rosette for

his *Sarcochilus hartmanii* “Fiona” which was later judged by the RHS Orchid Committee and awarded a CCC (Cultural Commendation Certificate).

Malcolm Moodie was awarded the Best Pleurothallidinae Rosette for his *Masdevallia scitula* which was also awarded the “Ellis Eyre Trophy” for best Pleurothallidinae in the Show.

Our friends from the Central Orchid Society also received a Silver Gilt for their display and all in all the quality of the displays this year was the best ever with more golds presented than at any previous Malvern Show.

We now look forward to next year’s event when maybe the weather will be dry but somewhat cooler.



*Malcolm Moodie*