



Solihull & District Orchid Society

Annual General Meeting and auction

The AGM took place on the 7th Sept. a good number of members (27) attended the meeting. For the first time, following a suggestion by Stan Taylor, we have a display table and it proved to be a great success as there were some stunning plants on display. We also had a record number of quality plants available for auction, 87 in total and everyone was jostling for position to have a closer look and prepare their bids for when the auction begins later in the afternoon.

Malcolm opened the meeting by thanking all the members for supporting the Society and reported on another very successful year. After a tenure of 5 years, he stepped down as the Society's Chairman and also as a member of the Committee. Earlier in the year, the Committee had decided to replace the role of the Chair with that of a Secretary and Tjin Ong was duly elected as the Secretary. Vote of thanks for Malcolm's contributions to the Society were made by Tjin and Peter White.

Bill Carmen resigned from the Committee and the remaining members of the Committee were re-elected for the coming year. Having lost 2 members, the Committee, which worked very hard and undertake a great deal of work behind the scene is now under strength and members were encouraged to help out and volunteer themselves onto the Committee.

The annual subscription remained unchanged at £12, and £16 for a couple and this will continue to be reviewed over the next 12 months. Members approved minor amendments to the Constitution to reflect the change from Chairman to Secretary.

Tjin explained his role as the Secretary and outlined the minor changes to the way meetings are to be run in the future, i.e. as from October, each member of the Committee has agreed to take turn to preside over and run the monthly meeting. He also outlined the major changes to be made to the Annual Spring Show in April 2020, all activities including Tombola, repotting demonstration are to be held in the Hall, under one roof.

As a decision for the coming year's annual coach trip has not been made by the time of the AGM, members present were asked their views as to whether there continues to be an appetite for such a trip in the coming year. Following a lengthy discussion, there was a strong feeling amongst members that an annual coach trip should be continued and a number of suggestions for future venues were made.

Newton Abbot here we come!!

We were all up very early on a sunny Sunday morning in order to pick up the coach in Knowle at 8.00 am. I am pleased to say that everybody, including our friends from Hinckley, Central and Birmingham & Midland Orchid Society's arrived on time with us heading off to Burnham's Nursery full of expectation for a lovely day out.

As we travelled down the M5 it was obvious that the weather had a twist in store and for much of Worcestershire and Gloucestershire the rain bucketed down, so much so that our planned coffee stop at Michael Wood Services had to wait until Gordano in Bristol.

Fortunately the wet weather had cleared by then so we were able to uncross our legs and enjoy a leisurely cup of coffee. However, just as we reboarded the coach the clouds opened once again but by the time we arrived in Newton Abbot the sunny was shining once more and this was how it stayed until we left.

We were welcomed by Sara Rittershausen and her team and were immediately wowed (if that is a word) by a wonderful display of plants just inside the door of the main entrance.

Not long after the buffet was laid out and like a swarm of locusts it all disappeared in a blink of the eye. This then gave us plenty of time to take a very close look through the amazing quantity and variety of orchids that makes Burnham's such a wonderful nursery to visit



and explore.

Needless to say most of us found one or two plants to bring home although some managed to find numerous specimens to load onto the coach.

Unfortunately, the time soon came when we had to head for home and so just before 4.00 we bade our farewells and with a wave we were on our way back to Knowle.

Within a very short time we were stationary on the M5 only to find out that there was a multi car pile up at Cullompton which we thought would mean getting back much later than planned. After crawling past the accident we made our way back towards home only to run into heavy rain again through Gloucestershire and Worcestershire but am pleased to say that when we arrived back in Knowle, shortly after 7.00, the sun was still shining.

Everybody had a smile on their faces as they transferred their purchases into their cars ready for the homeward journey.

What a lovely trip.

Many thanks to Burnham's for ensuring a warm welcome was extended to us all.

These options will be explored by the Committee and reported back to the members. An appeal was made for volunteers to help run and organise the annual trip.

After a break for tea, the plant auction started in earnest under the "hammer" of Peter White. There were some rare and good quality plants (a few with reserve prices) and biddings for them when started, were fierce, fast and furious. Inevitably there were the victors who made the highest bids and others disappointed, wishing they had bid higher but all in all, everyone went away with some goodies to

add to their collection. I think everyone agree that the plant auction is one of the best and most economical way of acquiring reliable and quality plants, and from trusted members of the society.

With 87 plants to be auctioned, it is inevitable that the afternoon overran slightly and we were left with 20 minutes to listen to Lina's deliberation on her judging of the show table, to run the raffles and to clear the room ready for the next user group. As the last of us left the carpark, the next lot of users were just arriving, phew, just got away with it.



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



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If you have any pictures or information you would like to put on our website please email: tjin1@sky.com or copy and pictures for newsletter: ballm1@mac.com

Society email address: www.solihullorchidsociety.co.uk

September Table Show



Asconopsis 'Irene Dobkin' Orange - 30pts - Stan Taylor



Bulbophyllum deasii - 33pts - Pat Bussy



Phragmipedium lowii 'Doll' - 34pts - Malcolm Moodie

Phalaenopsis Hybrid - 31pts John Choong (The plant was removed from the show table before picture could be taken)



Phragmipedium St. Swithin - 31pts - Malcolm Moodie



Paphiopedilum Schaetzen - 28pts - Malcolm Moodie



Phalaenopsis Hybrid - 28pts - Graham Jones



Eria thao - 30pts - Lina Smalinske

Birmingham & Midland OS Orchid Show

Come and support Janet and Martin at the last of the table display at reciprocating societies for 2019

Birmingham & Midland Orchid Society will be holding their Autumn Show at Sutton Coldfield on Saturday 19th October, Sutton Coldfield United Reform Church, 1 Brassington Avenue, Sutton Coldfield, B73 6AA.

Once again, Janet and Martin will be putting on a display on behalf of the Society and they will be looking for as many members as possible who are able to make it to the show and support them at Sutton Coldfield, they are also looking to borrow as many show quality plants as possible for the show table from members. So if you have plants that you'd like to show off and share with the public of Sutton Coldfield, please contact Janet and Martin

They have travelled wide and far this year putting on displays as far afield as Bottesford, Hinckley and Perton for the East Midlands, Hinckley and Central Orchid Society's annual shows respectively. They have agreed to continue to do the same for 2020. Well done and thank you Janet and Martin for your time and effort.

BOC Photographic Competition

We are throwing down the gauntlet and challenge you, can you beat Stan and Ken??

Riding on the crest of the waves of successes of the previous few years when Solihull OS has won either 1st or 2nd prize at the annual British Orchid Council photographic competition and with the memory of Ken Johnson's recent 1st prize win in 2019 still fresh in our mind, once again we will be looking to choose 3 best photographs at the Christmas Show to represent the Society in the 2020 BOC competition. All you budding David Bailey (am I showing my age?), please look through your collection of orchid photographs in preparation for December meeting.

More information, details and process will follow in the October issue of the Newsletter.

The Darlington Orchid Show took place at the Josephine Butler College in Durham University on Sunday, 8th September hosted by the Darlington Orchid Society and organised by Chris and Jean Barker.

The show was supported by five visiting orchid societies and three trade stands.

The Scottish Orchid Society won Best Display and Jean Barker won Best in Show with her *Miltonia spectabilis*.

Phoenix Orchids, Dr Dick Warren and A. J. Keeling has a great selection of plants for sale. Good weather and no mention of Brexit made for a memorable weekend.

Ken Johnson

Pictures by Ken Johnson



North of England OS



East Midlands OS



Harrogate OS



Darlington & District OS



Hinckley & District OS



North of England OS



Jean Barker's Miltonia Best in Show



Scottish OS Best Display

Christmas Hampers

Once again, Heike has been kind enough to offer to organise a wonder hamper to be raffled at our Christmas meeting in December.

Please remember to bring and donate items at the next few meetings leading up to December. Everyone who donates will automatically receive some free raffle tickets and of course, all of us will have the opportunity to purchase the raffle tickets from the next meeting.

If previous year's hamper is anything to go by, it will make a wonderful addition to the festive period. Please donate generously, all proceeds from the raffle goes to support the Society's finance.

Message from Maureen

Maureen Jones is our committee member who is responsible for ensuring that the Society's cups that are awarded each year are well maintained, correctly engraved and ready for the next presentation

She is asking all those members who won cups at the last Christmas show to return the silverwares at the October meeting so they could be cleaned and engraved ready for the coming Christmas show in Deember.