



# Newsletter



NOVEMBER 2019

## Christmas Show

Attached to the Newsletter is the schedule which was refreshed in 2018 and mirrors the schedule for the Spring Show.

Once again, there are increased opportunities for everybody to join in with new classes such as "A Windowsill Grown Orchid" and "An Orchid Judged for Foliage Only" and, of course, there is the Novice Class for those who have not won 3 First Prizes at previous Christmas Shows.

If everybody brought along one plant, we would have a marvellous show. It doesn't matter if you are a seasoned grower, or like most of us, a windowsill grower, if you have an orchid in flower, bring it along; it is the taking part and the sharing your labour of love in creating that bloom that matters.

You will also find attached to the Newsletter an entry form which you should complete and send to me by close of day on the 5th December. I only need to know the Class number and the number of plants you are entering in each class. I do not need to know the name of the plants.

You will be handed an entry card for each plant you entered on the day and you will need to fill in the name of the plants yourself. The room will be open to accept your plant entries from 1.00 until 1.45 when the judging will commence. Please email your entries to me at [tjin1@sky.com](mailto:tjin1@sky.com) or phone 01527 597180, preferably during the week leading up to the show but if not please bring along your entries on the day.

## Subscriptions

The subscription for the coming year is due, please pay at the next meeting, or send a cheque directly to our treasurer, Heike Lilley. Membership fee remained unchanged from last year - £12 for a single and £16 for a couple.

Please note that if you wish to receive your newsletter by post please add another £5 to your subscription to cover the additional costs of postage and printing. On payment you will receive your new membership card with the programme for the year ahead and also your copy of the 2020 BOC Year Book.

## Christmas hampers

There is still time to bring along and donate items for the draw for 2 Christmas hampers at the next meeting. If you haven't already have the opportunity to make your donations, please do so generously and bring them along to add to this wonderful prize on the day.

You will receive a ticket for item(s) you donate and if you buy some more tickets you will further increase your chances to win. What a way to kick off Christmas - with a lovely hamper. Please give your donated items to Heike on the day.

## Buffet

Whilst our December meeting contains our Christmas Show, the BOC photo competition and the hampers Draw, it is the Christmas Buffet lunch that we all enjoy the most.

A great opportunity to share food, enjoy each other's company and talk about all sorts of orchid and non-orchid related things. Please bring along cakes, savouries and nibbles for us all to share. It is sure to be a lovely afternoon.

## BOC

## Photographic Competition

At the December meeting we will all have the opportunity to vote for our favourite photographs taken by the members to be entered into the annual BOC photographic competition.

We have a tremendous record to maintain with both Ken Johnson and Stan Taylor achieving high honours in the past.



There is still time for you to get your pictures to Lina Smalinske, please send a maximum of 5 to her at [lina\\_sala@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lina_sala@yahoo.co.uk) no later than the 29th November, this will allow her one week to prepare your entries.

Don't worry about the sizes; just send them as jpeg's and Lina will resize them for presentation at the meeting.

With lots of entries we will have a most interesting meeting, choosing our favourites and hopefully, once again, our choices will result in further honours for a Solihull member.

**Tough decisions by  
your committee**

see page 2



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](mailto:tjin1@sky.com) or copy and pictures for newsletter: [ballm1@mac.com](mailto:ballm1@mac.com)  
Society email address: [www.solihullorchidsociety.co.uk](http://www.solihullorchidsociety.co.uk)

# Implication of recent costs uplift for the Society and actions taken by the committee

The Society recently received notification of 2 significant operating cost increases which will affect its ability to cover its expenses at the end of the financial year. Firstly, Arden school, where we have had our annual Spring show for a large number of years has informed us with immediate effect, the doubling of its hiring charge for the hall for the 2020 Spring Show.

Following negotiations, it reluctantly agreed to offer a staggered increase of the hire charge of 50% uplift for the coming year and a full rate increase the year after. However, even at the negotiated rate, it is still £100 more than we have had to pay in previous years.

Secondly, we were advised by St. George & St. Teresa where we hold our monthly meeting that it will increase the monthly charge for the hall by £5 per month, a total annual increase of £50.

These two known increases alone is equivalent to having to find 12/13 new members or 60 additional visitors to the Spring Show during the coming year.

If we do nothing to address this issue and all things remained equal, we are likely to incur a deficit of at least £150 for the coming year. Membership fees accounts for only 28% of the net income we received and takings from tea/coffee and raffles make up around another 19%.

We are fortunate that to date, the Spring Show has managed to produce a small surplus to enable the Society to more or less cover its cost each year, we made a deficit of £17 last year.

In the face of the known costs uplift, the Committee explored ways of increasing its income stream sufficiently so the Society can minimise the level of potential deficits in the future and to allow it to at least, cover its operating costs.

After lengthy and considered discussions resulted in the following decisions:

## Tea/coffee

We all look forward to our after speaker interval for our tea/coffee with biscuits. It has been a number of years when members enjoy the much welcomed refreshment at the cost of 50p. This charge has not kept pace with the cost of living over the past years and we all know from our weekly shopping basket how much materials for tea/coffee have increased.

The Committee has decided it is time to increase the charge to £1, as from January 2020, We hope members will agree that the increased charge still represents good value for money.

The Committee has also decided that there will be no charge for refreshments at the Christmas lunch and they will be served with the compliments and good wishes from the Committee

## Raffles

All societies and clubs relies on the sale of raffle tickets as a way to raise additional funds to supplement its income and to meet expenses. Our members have been generous over the years in supporting us by purchasing raffle tickets at the monthly meeting, special draws for the Christmas hampers and at the annual Spring and we appreciate all your support. The Committee reviewed various options where we can encourage increased sales of raffle tickets and decided on the following:

## Christmas hamper raffles

Committee members were surprised to learn that last year we only received £19 from the raffle income for the Christmas hamper.

We hope members will agree that this is a very small sum in proportion to the value of the items generously donated for the hamper. It became clear to us that the tradition of giving away a raffle ticket for each item donated means we were giving away more tickets than we sold on the day as

there is clearly a disincentive for members who received free tickets to buy additional tickets.

In order to encourage sales, it was therefore unanimously agreed that we will offer only one free ticket for any number of items donated, in the hope that with 2 hampers to be won this year, members will continue to support this special raffle sales on the day.

This decision when put into effect during the last meeting caused some confusion for some members as the previous Newsletters indicated a free ticket will be offered for each item donated. The Committee apologise for causing the confusion and in our defence the decision to change was taken with the benefit of hindsight regarding our financial predicament facing the Society.

## Monthly raffle tickets

Traditionally, the Society's monthly and Spring Show raffle tickets are sold at £1 for a strip of 5 tickets. Effectively, each ticket cost only 20p and £1 gives the purchaser 5 chances of winning a prize. In line with common practice at other societies and clubs, the Committee has decided that as from the next meeting in December, the cost raffle tickets will remained at £1 but only 1 ticket will be issued. This will eliminate the scenario of multiple wins on a single purchase which has happened in numerous occasions. Decisions about increase in charges and making changes the way we used to do things are never going to win votes but it must be stressed that the Committee made these changes with great reluctance and not with an aim of making a profit.

It is important we realise that in order for the society to carry on functioning in the years to come, we need to be realistic and make hard decisions to ensure that our costs can be adequately covered by our income and that we do not incur large deficits.

The Committee will be guilty of gross negligence if, knowing the implications of future unavoidable rising costs and chose to do nothing. The Society celebrated its 50th anniversary a few years ago and with diligent management and support of the members, we hope there will be a 100th anniversary celebration to come, although we doubt few of us will be around to enjoy it. But what a thought, a 100 year old orchid society!!

If any members are unhappy and wish to discuss the changes, please write to me at [tjin1@sky.com](mailto:tjin1@sky.com) and I will attempt to address your concerns individually.

## Annual Trip

There was a lengthy discussion at the AGM regarding the future of our annual trip. Amongst the possible venues discussed were Cambridge Botanical Gardens and Kew Gardens and the general consensus from the members present was that the trip should continue to take place. Volunteer(s) who are interested in organising the annual trip were asked to contact the Secretary and to date no expression of interest had been received. The Committee discussed the future of the trip and came to the view that unless and until the time when we can find a volunteer or a small team of volunteers who are prepared to organise, liaise with chosen venue, arrange transportation and general communication with members, the trip will have to be temporarily suspended. We are hoping that someone will be prepared to take on the mantle and continue the tradition of a summer annual trip.

Any volunteer(s) who is/are interested can please contact any members of the Committee.

## Next meeting

Our next meeting is on the 7th December, there will be no speaker but we will have a Christmas show table, the BOC photo competition, the hampers draw and the Christmas lunch/Bufferet. It will be a fun day and we looking forward to seeing all of you on the day.



## Birmingham & Midlands Orchid Society

At the crack of dawn on the 19th October, the intrepid four from the Society set off for the last of the year's reciprocal visiting societies' table display at the Royal Town of Sutton Coldfield.



My journey to Sutton Coldfield with Rob can't be said to be uneventful as travelling along a dual carriageway in emu darkness at around 0645, we came face to face with another vehicle speeding towards us, driving up the wrong way on the same side of our carriage way..... All well that ends well and after nearly soiling our pants, we arrived at Sutton United Reform Church to find that Janet and Martin and Phoenix Orchids, the trader have beat us to it.

We were the first Society (apart from the host, Central and Hinckley also put on a display) to finish our set up and it was then a waiting game for the visitors to arrive.



There was a steady stream of visitors throughout the day and the event was deemed to be a success by the host. Monica Johnson's *Dendrochilum magnum* won best species and her *Cattleya Astraea* won best hybrid. Well done Monica.



## In the mountains of Brazil – visit to Rio Atlantic forest Trust

Iain Wright

Iain has travelled to Rio Atlantic forest orchid expedition with a group of orchid enthusiasts in 2013. He also has noted, that unfortunately, the trip was one of the last ones the trust has organised as shortly after the trust was closed.

The Rio Atlantic forest reserve was spread on 101.73 ha area near Rio de Janeiro. The reserve established in 2009 and was closed 2017. However, there are many various other similar trusts like REGUA that are working right now in the area and across the Atlantic forest region. The Atlantic Forest is a complex of remarkable biodiversity, high plant and animal concentrations that crosses Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay. However, only 30% of wildlife and vegetation is located inside protected areas, of which 9% are strictly protected and 21% are allowed for sustainable use, the remaining 70% is covered by Brazilian law which allows intervention and deforestation in specific situations. Many of these forests were considered an obstacle to development up until 2001. Therefore only 16% is left due to human activity of what once was covering one tenth of the South American continent.

The camp that Iain and his companions stayed was established at a 4500ft altitude with 20 km away from the nearest town. It was specifically established to enable scientific researchers to come from all over the world and stay for prolonged periods of time to do research. The Atlantic Forest, although also a rain forest with an average rainfall of 2000 mm pa, is not as hot as the Amazon, with average temperatures that vary from 14 – 21 C. However, Iain specifies that in the altitude they have stayed, it was not reaching high temperatures with only 15 C on average and it was mostly wet with 0.5 m of rain in July and less than 5cm in winter.

On their daily travels the common sighting was *Oncidium marshalianum*, many various *Cattleya* plants unfortunately, not in flower. They have also seen *Scuticaria hadwenii* growing on trees. *Phymatidium hysteranthum* growing on a small branch less than 2cm across. *Eurystyles cogniauxii* was a new discovery to Iain on this journey. They have seen a lot of *Promenaea xanthena* and *Gomesa handroi*. *Pabstia jugosa* - growing in a very low light and therefore, very hard to photograph. *Bifrenaria atropurpurea*, *wedlandiana*, *vitelina* was very popular sight however, most of them were not open fully yet, to enjoy the flowers.

*Bulophyllum campos-portoi* with the twisted flowers dangling from the trees and *Saphronitis coccinea* was a showy sight growing on the trees fully covered in moss and masses of flowering bright orange red flowers. *Cyclopogon candidus*



knowingly a terrestrial orchid and a very small plant, was also spotted growing on trees. Iain has noted seeing lots of *Epidendrum denticulatum*, *armeniicum* and *Laelia crispa* with tall big seed pods, all trees covered in full.

The most comprehensive book that was written by the fellows of Iain that have travelled together is "Orchids of the High Mountain Atlantic Rain Forest in South Eastern Brazil" written by David Miller, Richard Warren is known to be the best description of orchid species and conservation that is happening in this area. **Lina Smalinske**

# November

# TABLE



**Lepanthopsis astrophora 36pts SP Lina Smalinski**



**Phrag Eumelia Arias 34pts HY Pam Eden**



**Paphiopedilum Coco Bell x Belatulum 34pts HY Lina Smalinski**



**Pleurothallis dilemma 36pts SP Stan Taylor**



**Epidendrum porpax 35pts SP Stan Taylor**



**Dendrobium Hibiki 35pts HY Stan Taylor**



**Epidendrum peperonia 37pts SP Anne Haines**



**Cattleya Astraea 36pts HY Monica Johnson**