



# Newsletter



JANUARY 2020

## International Orchid Show Malvern, June 12-14th

We are looking for more helpers to man our display, otherwise we will not be able to put on a stand. Please contact Tjin if you can spare a few hours

## OUR SOCIETY - YOUR NEWSLETTER

To help us improve, any feedback, comments, suggestions, content ideas, should be sent to Tjin, or any committee member, please.

We look forward to hearing from you.

### Happy birthday



**Society stalwart, Stan Taylor is 80 year's old on Wednesday, 15th January.**

**Happy birthday Stan, and many more years growing your wonderful orchids.**

## Annual Trip

David and Malcolm have organized a coach trip to Harrogate Orchid Societies Show - Orchids for everyone, which is at Harlow Carr on 2nd August 2020.

As we are affiliated Members of the RHS we would also have access to the RHS gardens, free of charge.

The cost will be £25.00 per person.

Names for the trip are already being taken.

## BOC Photographic Competition

Please take the time to go to [www.britishorchidcouncil.info](http://www.britishorchidcouncil.info) and select the one's you like and send them to Lina Smalinske at [lina\\_sala@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lina_sala@yahoo.co.uk) You are allowed to select 10 photos but top 3 will be ok.



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



**Secretary: Tjin Ong  
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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)

*At our monthly plant table display, we now have a new category for windowsill grown orchids, this was a great success, with six entries, both species and hybrids.  
We hope this will encourage*

*all members who have plants sitting on windowsills to bring them along for judging.  
Plants have to have been in your possession for four months in order to show them.*

# On my Windowsill



**Species Laelia gouldiana 20pts - Tjin Ong**



**Hybrid Vanda christensonianum 24pts - John Choong**



**Hybrid Paph Maudii 25pts - Bill Carmen**



**Hybrid Cattleya 24 Carat Lea 24pts - Graham Jones**



**Species Paph sukhakulii 21pts - Bill Carmen**

In my

# Greenhouse



**Phrag Fritz Schomberg 30pts - Malcolm Moodie**



**Holcoglossum x Flav x Rhy Gig 28pts - Stan Taylor**



**Laelia Amelia 26pts - Monica Johnson**



**Holcoglossum x Flav x Rhy Gig 28pts - Stan Taylor**



**Cattleya cernua 27pts - Stan Taylor**



**Masdevallia tovarensis 35 pts Malcolm Moodie**

## Next meeting



Society president, Peter White will be giving us a talk about a judging trip he made last year to Taiwan.

He has some amazing slides to show us of the visit.

Peter will also possibly take time to explain changes being made to the classification of some orchids, due to advancements in DNA profiling.

This means that labels will have to be changed, and learnt.

He has something else up his sleeve. In May 2021 he has managed to book us a talk by a member of the World famous Eric Young Foundation, from Jersey.

Details to be furnished at a later date.

We will also be notifying other societies to come along as guests.

# Slugs, Snails and Metaldahyde

At the meeting in January I stated that using Liquid Slug Clear or similar was the best method of keeping slugs and snails at bay on orchids but, unfortunately, this has been banned.

This initiated some debate with David Wray suggesting that the ban on metaldahyde, which is the main ingredient contained in Liquid Slug Clear and many slug pellets, had been rescinded.

After further investigation I have found the following:

1. Firstly, I have copied an extract from the DEFRA website initiating the withdrawal of metaldahyde –“A ban on the outdoor use of metaldehyde, a

pesticide used to control slugs in a range of crops and in gardens, is to be introduced across Great Britain from Spring 2020, the Environment Secretary announced today (19 December).

The decision to prohibit the use of metaldehyde, except in permanent greenhouses, follows advice from the UK Expert Committee on Pesticides (ECP) and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) that metaldehyde poses an unacceptable risk to birds and mammals.

There are also alternative pesticides containing ferric phosphate which provide effective control of slugs and snails without carrying the same risks to wildlife.”

I have emboldened the text regarding greenhouses which clearly states that the use of metaldahyde is still ok in “permanent greenhouse”.

As mentioned at the meeting Liquid Slug Clear is still available albeit at a fairly high price.

2. Secondly, there has been a legal challenge to the blanket ban of metaldahyde and so for the moment the use of metaldahyde is still ok. Having read various articles regarding this challenge it

appears that there is still a desire to ban metaldahyde for general use so I suspect that this is only a brief hiatus before the ban is reinstated.

In summary, the picture is not entirely clear but a) it appears use of metaldahyde in all its forms is and will remain ok in permanent greenhouses, b) currently, metaldahyde is ok anywhere else in the garden but I suspect this will be shortlived, c) you can use ferric phosphate preparations which are available in garden centres or as suggested by Peter he has a product - Grazers G2 Formula which is a liquid formulation that doesn't contain metaldahyde and is available.

Hope this provides some guidance to how to deal with the problem of slugs and snails on orchids and other plants.

Malcolm Moodie

