



Newsletter

June/July 2023



Committee members needed

As I stated in May's Newsletter things have gone from strength to strength since our very fragile position at our AGM in 2022.

When I took over as Chairman, reluctantly, in April 2022 I expected my tenure to be very short. As it turned out temporary became somewhat more permanent at the 2022 AGM with the Show Secretary's role added, as well but it is time for me to stand down and will do so at this AGM in September.

For the Society to prosper we need a couple more members to step forward and take on roles to share the workload of the current committee.

It is not onerous and besides the existing committee are all there to help and whilst I am standing down, I will still be supporting everything the society does.

So please consider stepping forward as the society cannot function without the committee organising and putting in place all the things that make it such an active and friendly place to be.

August Visit

On Sunday 6th August a host of members will be descending on my garden and orchid collection so let's keep our fingers crossed for good weather. I am sure we will have an enjoyable day.

I will drop a note out to all those attending with details of timing and some directions, nearer the time.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be on Saturday 2nd September where we will review our progress over the last 12 months, elect our new committee and set a course for the year ahead.

In addition, we will also be holding our Auction so if you have plants that you no longer want, please bring them along. I am sure we will be able to find homes for all of them.

See you on the 2nd of September.



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



If you have any pictures or information you would like to put on our website please email: lina_sala@yahoo.co.uk or copy and pictures for newsletter: ballm1@mac.com
Society email address: www.solihullorchidsociety.co.uk

MALVERN 2023

Malcolm Moodie

When we were preparing for the International Orchid Show we were concerned that this might be the last of what has been a very successful Show. Chris Barker has been planning to step down for a number of years but as nobody has come forward, he decided that, finally, this would be his last show.

I am pleased to report that Clive Lloyd from the Devon Orchid Society has thrown his hat into the ring and during the show a formal presentation and handover occurred. So the show goes on much to the relief of the whole orchid community and to the organisers of the Three Counties Show who value our presence. In addition, Nicola Wakely, also from Devon, who organised the distribution tickets for orchid societies this year is also going to support Clive, so it looks like we have a new and robust team to take us forward. Good luck to them both.

We arrived at Thursday lunchtime to set up the Orchid Accessories stand and to deliver my plants to the British Paphiopedilum Society and to the OSGB. The sun was shining and once again we were in the Severn Hall so less affected by the vagaries of the weather. As it turned out the sun shone for every day until Sunday arrived when it was overcast and quite chilly with a forecast that did not augur well for pack up. The forecast turned out to be spot on as at 4.00 pm the heavens opened, and torrential rain beat down on the roof of the hall. So much so that mopping up was soon in evidence as the roof of the Severn Hall was unable to cope with water dripping on orchid exhibits and making the floor very slippery. Numerous staff from the showground appeared to help in ensuring that the walkways remained safe. Fortunately, soon after 5.30 the rain stopped and pack up operations were able to proceed in the dry.

Besides helping Peter White set up the Orchid Accessories stand we also shared a sales area with the Eric Young Orchid Foundation who were bringing over a large number of plants for sale. As it turned out their arrival was severely delayed by administrative problems at Portsmouth where authorisation took considerable time in processing and approving the orchid consignment resulting in Chris Purver working late into the evening getting himself ready for the show opening on Friday morning. When Friday arrived the EYOF stand proved very popular with very few plants being left at the end of the show.

The Show itself was superb with many wonderful plants on display. I am pleased to report that two of my plants on the British Paphiopedilum Society display were awarded "Awards of Merit" – Paph. villosum and Paph. philippinense var. Palawense.

The four plants on the OSGB stand fared even better with 3 being awarded "Awards of Merit" –



Masd. Highland Monarch 'Hayley Suzanne' AM/AOS, coccinea 'Sanbar Red Flare' AM/AOS and Masd. ignea. The other plant Masd. Flying Colours was awarded Best in Show Masdevallia so a very successful show for me.

On the Saturday the RHS Orchid Committee convened to consider the merits of 41 plants that had been submitted for judging and was delighted that Masd. Flying Colours received a Cultural Certificate and is now named after my daughter. (Masdevallia Flying Colours 'Amanda Falin' CCC/RHS)

Hopefully, all of our members that purchased the concessionary priced tickets felt that their £10 was



well spent and enjoyed the show and went home with a few additions to their orchid collection. I know that many of you

did including some purchases from the Eric Young Foundation.

This orchid show attracts growers, orchid societies and Traders from across the UK and from overseas and is a great opportunity to meet up with friends and colleagues, to talk incessantly about orchids and their culture and to enjoy the wonderful camaraderie that underpins this wonderful hobby.

I look forward to many more years of the Malvern International Orchid Show. Our bed and breakfast is already booked and who knows, Colin and Jean who happened to arrive at our B & B this year will also plan to book again in 2024.

Janet's Orchid Walks



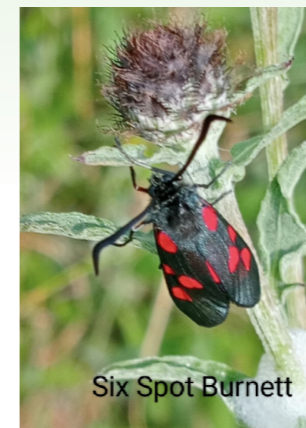
Butterfly Orchids



Bee Orchid



Heath Spotted Orchid, Alba form



Six Spot Burnett



Heath Spotted Orchids



Common Spotted Orchid



Pyramid Orchid



Pyramid Orchids



Marsh Orchid

The Common Spotted and the pale Pyramid were found at Hillfield Park Nature Reserve, growing in the shade, look at the difference in colour to the hundreds growing at Ettington Cutting in the open, where we only found 3 Bee Orchids and a single 6 Spot Burnett Moth. The Butterfly Orchids were at Stockton Cutting, where we also saw Pyramid's. Heath Spotted Orchids and a Marsh Orchid at Shadowbrook Nature Reserve, where the going was extremely difficult.

Hospital orchids

Photos:
Hazel
Clarke



A small group of wild orchids suddenly appeared on a patch of waste ground at the local hospital in Nuneaton. Hazel Clarke managed to take some photographs before, unfortunately, being mown by contractors.

Pleiones

Maren Talbot

Pleione is an orchid distributed in high mountain areas across the Hengduan Mountains (HDM), Himalayas, Southeast Asia and South of China with a vast range in elevation. Pleione has a deciduous bulb that last for one season and flowers for two weeks in spring or autumn. These plants are generally classed as cool growing and they need to have a dry winter rest. Usually in situ, you can find them growing in deciduous forests in leaf litter or pine needles, in a slightly acidic rhododendron type of soil, and the epiphytic ones grow in pure moss on tree branches.

Pleiones are divided in two groups by their flowering cycle: those flowering in spring are flowering at the start of their growing season, and autumn flowering ones – flower at the end of the growing cycle. However, the cultivation of both types is the same in general with only one major difference: the autumn ones need slightly warmer winter temperatures. General cultivation rule is to plant your bare overwintered bulb into slightly damp compost and to only start watering once the first leaf has fully formed, then the normal watering and feeding season can start. At the end of the summer the leaves will start to yellow and you will need to reduce watering and feeding to prepare them for the dormancy. Pleiones do generally overwinter at around +2C and the autumn flowering ones do have to be kept in +15C.

The first ever man-made Pleione hybrid was made by the French man Georges Morel in

1966. He crossed Pleione formosana with Pleione limprichtii. He called the new cross Pleione Versailles. No further hybrids were made until 1977 when David Harberd made Pleione Shantung (Pleione formosana x Pleione x confusa). Ian Butterfield registered his first cross a year later and went on to be the most prolific breeder of Pleione to date with 132 under his name to date. Maren has a long-time friendship with Ian and being his neighbour she had lots of help and advice growing her Pleiones for many years. When Maren started considering retirement, she has spent 3 years volunteering one day a week at the Kew gardens helping Philip Cribb translate old Orchid Hunter letters to F. Sanders from German. When she fully retired she focused on Pleiones fulltime and in particular try winning a gold medal for her displays at the London Orchid show. This has taught her many lessons and gave huge insight in Pleione growing to their full potential.

Maren has a rented Victorian greenhouse where she grows her beautiful Pleiones and also repairs the historic greenhouse. She feeds and grows her Pleiones during summer in her greenhouse, and then all bulbs go into winter storage before they are cleaned and sprayed with fungicide. She stores her bulbs sorted by size in little draws in a shed that has a dehumidifier and does not fall down below 0C in temperature until the next season comes and everything repeats all over again.

Lina Smalinske

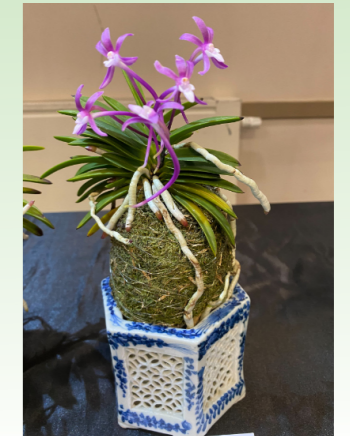
JUNE TABLE SHOW



Phalaenopsis NoID 24pts Pat Bussy



Phalaenopsis Artisto Neo 28pts John Choong



Neofinetia Benikuroi 31pts Lina Smalinske



Phalaenopsis Bolgheri 30pts John Choong



Lycaste aromatica 29pts Lina Smalinske



Neofinetia Shutenno 28pts Lina Smalinske

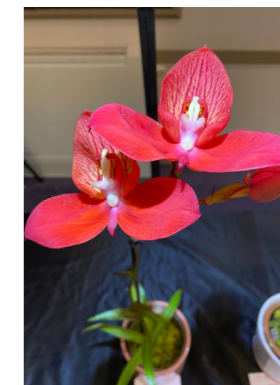
PHOTOS: LINA SMALINSKE



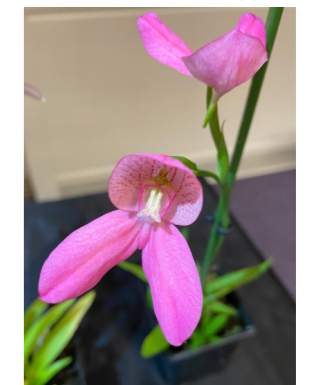
Vanda NoID 34pts Graham Jones



Pagonia ophioglossioides 31pts Pat Bussy



Disa riette 24pts Pat Bussy



Disa Unifoam 24pts George Mayes

JUNE TABLE SHOW



Prosthechea Green Hornet
28pts John Choong



Disa Unifoam Langley
28pts George Mayes



Paphiopedilum phillippinense var. Palawanense 30pts Malcolm Moodie



Masdevalia Highland Monarch Hayley Suzanne
32pts Malcolm Moodie



Bulbophyllum bicolor 29pts Pat



Neofinetia Onami
Seikai 34pts Lina



Promenae Yellow Gold 29pts Pat Bussy

PHOTOS:
LINA SMALINSKE



Rhynchiolaeliocattleya Little Majician Bob Grove



Paphiopedilum delantii 32pts Malcolm Moodie



Dendrobium Victoria Reginae 28pts Pat Bussy