



Newsletter

September 2023



A very successful year for Solihull

The AGM took place on Saturday 2nd of September with a completely different atmosphere to the AGM last year.

The meeting kicked off with the Chairman's Report which highlighted how successful the year has been. 10 new members have joined the Society helping to get the membership back to what it was before Covid and has bolstered our financial position.

We had a full programme of talks and activities thanks largely to Grace who took over as Programme Secretary at the meeting. This left her precious little time to get everything in place but looking back over the last year we have had a full and very enjoyable programme.

Our Spring Show was once again held at Bentley Heath and proved to be even more successful than the year before.

The changes we made to the refreshments worked out well making a better experience for our visitors and increasing revenue by a large margin.

Stan Taylor donated his orchid books which attracted a lot of attention and generated a good income for the Society – many thanks to Stan.

All the members pulled together on the day by donating foodstuffs for the kitchen, carrying out various duties on the rotas and generally making the experience a great one for our trade, visiting displaying Societies and the close to 100 visitors who attended. The Show is already booked at the same venue for 2024.

This was the first year we reduced the calendar of events to 8 and this worked well and reduced our costs accordingly.

The Treasurer's Report echoed these sentiments showing that the financial position is much healthier than before, bolstered by the generous donation from BMOS following their closure.

Malcolm had already indicated that he wished to stand down as Chairman, only taking over in April 2022 as a stop-gap measure.

I am pleased to report that Grace Mayes was elected as Chairman with George re-elected as our Treasurer. Lina, David and Liz agreed to stand for another year with Bob Grove and Shirley Diaper agreeing to join the committee for the year ahead.

This means we have a full committee for the first time in many years.

Thanks to all the committee for their hard work over the last year and every success to the new committee for the year ahead.

Malcolm was elected as your President with Janet continuing in her role as Vice President.

Subscriptions were maintained at their current level (£15/Single and £20/Joint Membership) as our financial position had strengthened over the last 12 months.

There was one special motion placed before the AGM – that a £10 donation would be sought from all winners of Trophies to assist in the cost of engraving.

If no donation was received the trophy would not be engraved but a record of the winners for each show is and would continue to be maintained on the Society's website.

This was carried unanimously.

We look forward to an exciting year ahead with a new committee in place with the future looking assured.

The afternoon concluded with our Auction where many members went home with some very nice plants.

Next Meeting Saturday 7th October

The next speaker is not as published in the calendar.

However, Trey Sanders who had planned to be with us in May but broke down on the motorway will be giving his talk

"Orchid Hunting in Sumatra"

In addition, November's meeting on the 4th will welcome Philip Seaton whose talk is titled

"Orchid Conservation in the Americas"



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

SEPTEMBER TABLE



Stenoglottis woodii 'Kloof' 32pts Janet James



Paphiopedilum Katja Kastrup 36pts Malcolm Moodie



Coelogyne marrelii 27pts Pat Bussy



Masdevalia Highland Monarch Hayley Suzanne 34pts Malcolm Moodie

SEPTEMBER TABLE

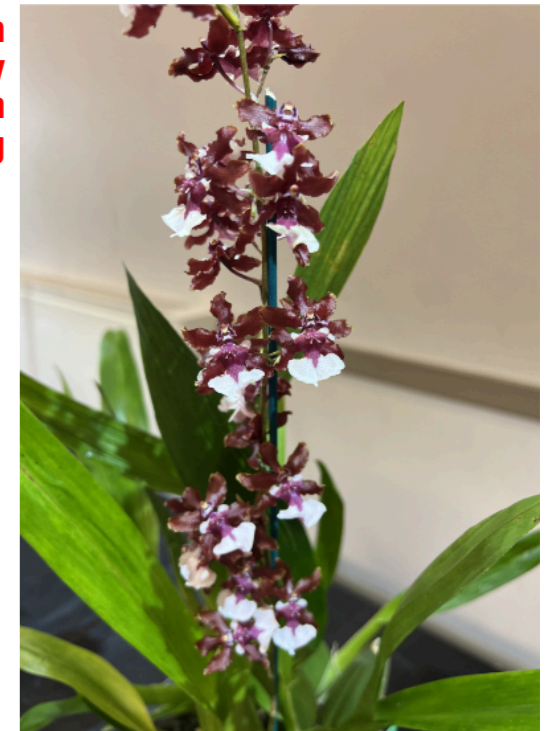


Phalaenopsis hybrid 27pts Pat Bussy



Platystele misera 29pts Janet James

Oncidium Sharry Baby 27pts John Choong



Elite Orchids

On 23rd September 2023, George, Grace and Fred went to an open day at Elite Orchids. Elite Orchids is a small specialist open day run by long-time orchid grower Mark from his home in Gloucestershire. Mark specialises in growing Phragmipediums and Paphiopediliums and he had individual greenhouses dedicated to growing each of these species.

There were also two further greenhouses to view and Mark was on hand to answer any orchid growing queries.

Fred attempted looking in the greenhouses but was soon eagerly eyeing up all of the orchids to pull over so it was decided that a safer and more orchid-friendly option was to crawl around on the grass outside instead.

Mark's wife provided a lovely array of cakes and tea where it was lovely to meet fellow visitors and discuss all things orchid.

Various orchids were available to purchase and so we did not come home empty-handed. Elite Orchids typically host two open days a year. We really enjoyed our visit and would thoroughly recommend it.