

SHEFFIELD & DISTRICT ORCHID SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2012



**JANUARY PLANT OF THE MONTH
PAPHIOPEDILUM ROCCO TOWER**

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BUSINESS

Following the AGM in December thanks were due to a considerable number of members for supplying food for the buffet, and also to Joan for supplying the table displays.

Our next display will be at Harrogate OS show at Bramhope. Arrangements will be made at the February meeting.

The April meeting will now be held on Saturday 28th April at 14.00 rather than the original scheduled date of 8th April. The committee meeting will now be held at 13.00. The change of date is to allow us to fit in Chris Purver from the EYOF as a speaker. The planned lecture on the EOC will now be held later this year (either September or October).

NB. Since the meeting we have heard that Dave Parkinson has been awarded **The Westonbirt Medal** for 2011 for the best orchid exhibit seen at an RHS Show in the year - for his gold medal winning exhibit of Disas at the Hampton Court Flower Show, July 2011. Well done Dave & Mary.

THE TABLE SHOW

The first table show of the year was described by Ted Croot. He started at the left with *Prosthechea cochleata*, often called the cockleshell or octopus orchid due to the hooded flower and tentacle like petals. This is a native of the Caribbean and

was a plant coming out of rehab and doing well. A nice blue Vanda was on its third flowering within 12 months, and showed the value of getting plants from home furnishing/DIY stores. Vascostylis Pine Rivers 'Orange' is a plant with 2 growths, both of which have a short spike with small pinky orange flowers.

C. Pastoral 'Innocence' is a regular flowerer at this time of the year, with 2 whitish flowers and growing nicely. *L. gouldiana* had 2 spikes of 7 flowers in total of a light purple shade. It was noted that you don't see many Laelias these days which is a great shame, but they aren't the easiest to encourage to flower, and it may be that a shock is required. Bc. Binosa 'Wabash Valley' is a pale yellow with a mottled pink and white lip that looks very attractive as well as being long lasting.

Den. *intricatum* is a deciduous plant that was growing nicely. It has clusters of pink flowers of medium size. Den. *cerinum* (syn. Den. *sanguinolentum*) was another deciduous type, this time with pale yellow flowers.

Pterostylis *curta* was a little bit earlier this year and was just starting to flower. Other pots of this species in the same greenhouse will be a bit later. Calanthe Tokyo was still in flower since the previous month with pleasant pink flowers. It loses its leaves around Oct-Nov., and then produces flowers prior to restarting growth in warm-intermediate conditions.

Paph. Dusty Miller 'Shelley' is an old favourite and a famous hybrid in breeding white slippers. It is a decent size with a good flat dorsal. An unnamed *spicerianum* hybrid (possibly with *gratrixianum* or *villosum*) was interesting.

Paph. Rocco Tower was a tall hybrid with a roundish flower of pale yellow with tan overtones and a few spots. It was adjudged to be the plant of the month (front cover). Paph. Snow Saint was a first flowering plant of great promise. It has a roundish white flower with a flat dorsal with some pink freckling. Paph. *villosum* var. *boxalii* f. *atratum* is a recent introduction from China and is a darker form than the more normal speckled variety. Phrag. Pink Panther was a smallish plant being a primary hybrid of 2 small parents. The flowers are pink to pale pink with a more purple coloured pouch.

Masd. *tovarensis* is now rarely seen and will grow nicely on a north facing cool windowsill as long as it is kept moist. The plant was quite a pot full with many small white flowers usually produced in pairs.

Dtps. Leopard Prince x Meidar Fantasy was a good speckled pink that had been grown from a flask and will become very good once it gets a bit bigger. Phal. Zuma Camreal x *aphrodite* had an arched spike with several medium sized white flowers which were well spaced. Phal. Brother Sara Gold is an excellent colour being mainly gold turning to pink on the lip and sepals. The final plant was Phal Brother Amadeus, a tall spike of medium sized pale yellow flowers. It is usually branched. Thank you Ted.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This was held at 10:00 a.m on Sunday December 11th 2011 in the Ranmoor Parish Centre.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE, these were received from Cedric and Silvia Maunder, also from Derek and Phyllis Havenhand.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM, held on 12th Dec. 2010. These were signed as a correct record.

3. MATTERS ARISING, there were none.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT. It has been a varied year but we have moved forward thanks to the committee. We were saddened by the death of Joyce Stewart in January. She had been a good friend to the Society. Ted was thanked for arranging the monthly talks. There were 600 visitors to our annual show and a profit of £863 was made. As a society we didn't win many awards but had an enjoyable day. Our attendance at the Sheffield Fayre was successful in raising the profile of the Society. Classes for the table show annual awards and for Chatsworth are to be reorganized as a lack of entries in some classes mean that trophies have not been awarded. The BOC has requested that people come forward to train as judges.

As it is our 40th anniversary next year it is hoped that our Show will be well supported.

Richard is to relinquish all three of his posts next year. i.e. Chairman, Treasurer and Membership Secretary.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT. After going downhill since 2007 we are now back in the black, and need to keep it that way. The auditors, Ted Greaves and Derek Havenhand were thanked for auditing our accounts.

6. AUDITOR'S REPORT. Ted Greaves said that the accounts were very straightforward and accurate and that he was happy to sign them.

7. ELECTION OF TRUSTEES AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE. Show Co-Ordinator, Carolyn McQueen was proposed by Diana Simpson and seconded by Charles Ford. Following a vote, this was carried. Voting then took place on everyone up for election as Trustees and the Management Committee. All of these were carried.

8. ELECTION OF AUDITORS. A vote to elect Derek Havenhand and Ted Greaves as auditors was also carried.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS. Arrangements for the Annual Show. Julie Binks and Janet Kirk are to oversee the catering. The dates on the signs will be altered. A raffle will take place at regular intervals during the day. This will be a means of obtaining details from the public who could possibly become future members. Charles would still like to obtain a skeleton to use in our display.

2010-2011 PRIZE WINNERS

Cattleya & allied Species	N/A	Bill Holmes Cup
Cattleya & allied Hybrids	Ian Wilson	Edna Williams Trophy
Cymbidium Species & Hybrids	Richard baxter	Bill Holmes Cup
Dendrobinae Species	Ted Croot	Bill Wordsworth Glass
Dendrobinae Hybrids	Ian Wilson	Bill Wordsworth Plaque
Terrestrials	Jeff Bagnall	Disa painting
Masdevallia Species	Ted Croot	Theo Dengel Plaque
Masdevallia Hybrids	N/A	Woodward Trophy
Miltonia/opsis Species & Hybrids	Diane Simpson	Paperweight
Novices	N/A	Ken Gill Trophy
Oncidinae Species	Richard Baxter	Davidson Rosebowl
Oncidinae Hybrids excl. Oncidium	Andrew Cipriani	Maunder Painting
Oncidinae Hybrids incl. Oncidium	Ted Croot	Mrs Gregson's Cup
Paphiopedilum Species	Derek Jackson	David Danks Trophy
Paphiopedilum Hybrids	John Garner	AT Moss Trophy
Phragmipedium Species	Derek Jackson	
Phragmipedium Hybrids	Ted Croot	Denis Taylor Trophy
Phalaeonopsis Species & Hybrids	Val Minogue	Ann Shelley Lloyd Painting
Pleurothallidinae	N/A	BOC Jubilee Cup
Vandaceous exc. Phalaenopsis	Ted Greaves	RA Barker Trophy
Any other Species	Ted Croot	President's Cup
Any other Hybrid	Jeff Bagnall	Basil Nicholson Trophy
Best Individual Plant	Ted Croot	Nunwick Rosebowl

PLANT OF THE MONTH

PAPHIOPEDILUM ROCCO TOWER

This is a plant that I have now had for around 6 years and originated at the EYOF as part of their breeding programme. Sadly it isn't one of their named clones which would command a hefty price tag. However, it is quite a good clone anyway. The cross was registered in 1998 between Saint Ouen and Cotil Point. Saint Ouen is a large complex yellow slipper with a few spots, and Cotil point is a spotted white/red. The progeny is variable with this one more of a pastel shade. It is a strong grower and is grown in coconut chips in an intermediate greenhouse with medium humidity (around 60-70%). **John Garner**

WOC 20 – SINGAPORE

Having a lot of slides to get through (180) a lot of the preamble was dispensed with apart from a display of the area and the huge venue. Lots of other events were taking place at the same time and you had to know just where to go – the exhibition was 2 floors below ground level, and the lectures were upwards. The venue is built on reclaimed land, and contains quite a lot of green areas as well as concrete, and the gardens by the bay will look very impressive when completed in Spring.

The exhibition hall was very large with a high ceiling and this allowed for some tall and large displays. My expectations were to see a huge amount of vandaceous plants and Dendrobiums, and these were everywhere. The floor layout was in large islands in concentric rings with the largest nearer the centre which was a map of the world with a sample of what each continent can produce. In most cases this worked out well, but the more northern climes have fewer plants and become seasonal which are out of step at this time of year. Consequently Europe had more of the cooler growing plants that are popular such as Cymbidiums etc.

Two of the largest displays were in the first ring, and these were also the best display and reserve best display. The first one through the door was the OS of PNG. This had great impact with large wooden carved faces with fire in the shape of red dendrobiums coming from their noses and other dendrobiums for the hair in both orange and yellow. A large wicker bird made up of colourful dendrobiums added greatly to the effect. Vast numbers of antelope dendrobiums 4-5' tall formed a backdrop, and an odd crocodile was surrounded by *Den. cuthbertsonii*. How lucky are people who live in these areas where they are native plants and in abundance all year around.

The Grand Champion display came from the Chaiwathana Orchid Gardens of Thailand. A carefully orchestrated riot of colour is probably an apt description of the exhibit. Red and blue Vandas were present in great quantity with yellow Oncidiums and colourful Tolumnias. At the floor level groups of *Paph. spicerianum*, *concolor* and *charlesworthii* were shown. Groups of red *Renantheras* and orange intergenerics as well as groups of Dendrobiums added to the colour. This was all hemmed in by the largest rope I've ever seen. In the UK we suffer from poor light and low temperatures, and when you see something like this it is almost enough to make me want to give up trying – but I'm not going to! The Indonesian OS had mounted a tall display with a local scene of cliffs, decorated houses, and even a peasant on an ox playing the flute (the peasant that is, not the ox). It was surrounded by thousands of cut spikes of Dendrobiums, white Phals and Begonias, and some intricate starry flowered Vandas.

The Nagayo Show committee had a large display as well, but fewer plants and these were more evenly spaced around tree branches. These included lots of

Cymbidiums, smallish Cattleyas, oncidiums and several very nice orange *nobile* type dendrobiums.

The Orchid Council of NZ had a smallish display of cut spikes of Cymbidiums arranged with large Japanese fans - a different type of display, but quite effective just the same. Purification Orchids of the Philippines had white Phals, Cattleyas and some interesting jewel orchids – both *Ludisia* and *Anoectochilus*. *V. lamellata* was impressive, as was the bright orange clusters of *Den. tongii*. Woon Leng nurseries were from Singapore, and mounted a large display of warm growing plants of Vandas & Dendrobiums as well as some ‘cooler’ plants - *Ionopsis utricularioides* with its floating pink flowers became an instant favourite of mine as well as varied Phals (mainly harlequin types) and Oncidiums. The Singapore Florists association had a good display of tall Dendrobiums of various colour. I was fortunate enough to visit the local Botanic gardens prior to the WOC, and this was the first time I had really seen lots of tropical plants in the wild. The gardens mounted a good display to show what they grew best. Their display featured several clones of *V. Miss Joachim* – the national Flower, and several celebrity hybrids such as the eye catching orange Paravanda Nelson Mandela.

The Host Society (OSSEA) had a display that featured several overseas plants from growers without their own specific display. This allowed people like Bob Fuchs to show off some more advanced vandaceous hybrids. The display was certainly colourful with a wide range of plants rather than a mass of the same species/clone. They simply had too much variety to fully describe here. The Singapore Gardening Society had a sloping display with a lot of blue Vandas and contrasting vivid red *Renantheras* coming down to yellow Oncidiums, *Spathoglottis* hybrids, species and hybrid *Habenarias*, *Paph. spicerianum* and dozens of jewel orchids. The centrepiece was a colourful wall of very good Phals. surrounded by other Vandas – some pink and the speckled Gorden Dillon x *tessellata*). Premium Orchids had a more themed display with arching white dendrobiums above female mannequins in ‘posh frocks’, with a central walkway in between. There was more colour at the entrance with orange Mokaras and pink Dendrobiums. It was made for a photoshoot... Neo Cheng Orchid Farm had several specimen Dendrobiums, and had the honour of having the best Dendrobium in show – no mean achievement. The plant was *Den. lasianthera*. Some of their clones were up to 8’ high. They had a bit more colour variety in the antelope types with *Kim Bora* x *violasceoflavens* being mainly white with a pink lip. Most of their plants were grown just in large chunks of charcoal.

Jason Ong of Singapore is a serious amateur grower, and his exhibit was quite different from the rest in that it contained more of single species/hybrids of named clones rather than 20 of this and 30 of that. Despite the hot climate of Singapore he is able to grow cool plants such as *Masdevallias*. Some may have only had 1 or 2 flowers but that isn’t the point. It wasn’t a large display, and plants were well spaced and labelled – the hybrids also had the parents listed. His

Paph. *philippinense* was quality and won first in class, as did several of his other species and hybrids. He will have been very happy with his efforts. A local College – ITE had a good display. I presume that they could compare with Writhlington School, but with better natural facilities. They had a range of genuses and all colours in the warm & intermediate range.

Nanyang Orchid Association of Singapore had a huge display with lots of plants of the same species/hybrid, but careful and open staging added the character. A large pergola was a focal point with possibly the longest Phal spike I've ever seen. This was Phal. Sogo Yukidian which after going up 2 feet then cascaded 4 feet down with 25 perfect large white flowers very evenly spaced. The plant itself had 8 pairs of leaves, so would be best described as being in rude health. Needless to say it had no rosette whereas in the UK it would probably be 'best in show'. They had several specimen plants such as *V. lamellata* with 6 or so stems and a dozen spikes, but special mention should be made of the 10' wide & 6' tall *Grammatophyllum speciosum* with its huge and heavy spike of yellow and mottled brown flowers. SOGA (Singapore) had a huge display and featured things just a little bit different from the norm. The vandaceous were more yellow and orange, the Dendrobiums more pink, lime green and white. They had a 'hedge' of *V. Miss Joachim* with flowers all over it. *Epi. difforme* had pale green flowers in clusters of about 10. *V. Jub x Ascda Somsri Gold* had flowers of peach with a red lip – it was very attractive, and can we have some in the UK please. *Den. leporinum* was a slender antelope type with pure white flowers, which with hindsight was probably my favourite plant in the whole show (not bad for a slipper fanatic).

Orchidwoods Co of Malaysia had a large display with colours arranged in rising bands with the shorter plants at the front etc. A good range of species was used, although many were to be expected. They did at least have some almost white Mokaras. Another vandaceous plant that I haven't seen before was *Pelatantheira insectifera* with tiny pink flowers held closely to the stem. Another interesting plant was *Liparis lacerata* with a spike about a yard long with very small orange flowers.

The members of TOGA had combined together to mount a large and well packed display. It was well laid out in groups of genuses and well presented so that all was easily seen. The centre was a large white boxy tree filled with Phal. Little Gem Stripes – a smallish white with a red lip and pale pink stripes on the petals, and adjacent to this was a white (ski?) slope packed with other Phals of differing colours – probably coming to the UK in 2-3 years time! Another feature was made of Phal. *amabilis*. The base was surrounded by lots of paphs, and other varied plants including the Grand Champion plant *Cychnodes Taiwan Gold* 'Orchis' – more pale yellow than gold. This is a mericlone plant, and other plants were available in the sales areas, and soon had SOLD signs on them – some lucky locals would no doubt be able to claim that they had the WOC champion. *Brassia nodosa* 'El Chuan Hong' was quite an exceptional plant.

Bali OS went to town with their accessories with a 10' long 'dragon' adorned with dendrobiums and huge clusters of cut flower Renantheras and other vandaceous sprays. An unexpected addition was a 6'spike of *Grammatophyllum martae* with dark brown flowers.

Ecuador had a more simplistic display, more advertising the country as they were bidding for the 2017 WOC. They had brought a number of cool growing plants with them and it was good to see some *Restrepias*, *Masdevallias*, and *Cyrtochilums*, as well as some interesting orange *Polystachyas*. South Africa is the host for the next WOC in 2014, and had an introductory display. On its own it looked quite good featuring some of their local plants such as *Disas*, but compared to the Asian displays it was a bit sparse. A South African I know was a bit disappointed with it as it might suggest a lack of plants there – a smaller and more packed display may have been better.

JOGA had a stretched out display of individual items. First was a bowl of bright red *Cattleya coccinea* on a white background to create their national flag. Huge 'vases' of yellow *Oncidiums*, complex *Paphs*, and blue *Vandas* contrasted with smaller 'sacks' of *Dendrobiums* and some very good species *Paphs* with an unnamed flower – possibly *bellatulum* being almost purple/black. I'll be interested to see what may develop from this in the future.

Two UK based growers made the arduous trip to Singapore – the EYOF and McBeans. The Foundation had a big round display split into 3 triangles with a blue background. Their main feature for the event was to showcase their modern *Calanthes* – which were loosely threaded into wooden obelisks themed in their various colours of white, pink, and red. These were surrounded by many of the genres that they are more famous for with tubs of *Odonts* (*Onc. Moulin de Louis* was spectacular, as was *Oncidioda St. Aubin*), *Paphs* (multifloral and complex), *Phrags* (incl. *kovachii* hybrids) and *Cattleya Porcia*. Most notable was *Paph. Du Motier 'Victoria Village'* AM/RHS which was the Reserve Grand Champion plant. The obelisks were draped with fishing nets to give a feel of their island location which worked well. McBeans display looked quite sparse in comparison to the 'locals', but as with the EYOF they were able to display plants that wouldn't survive such hot temperatures. *Onc. alexandrae* (syn. *Odm. crispum*) looked resplendent (the clone 'Barcombe' had 4 rosettes), as did other 'odonts' and 'odontiodas'. Some of their home bred *Cymbidiums* created a good effect as did several slippers. Almost all of their plants were named cultivars. Both should be applauded for making the effort.

Australia (Perth) was bidding for the WOC22, and put on a good display of mainly cut flowers (lots of *Dendrobiums*, *Cymbidiums*, *Cattleyas* and *Paphs*) around a billabong and other antipodean themes. The Thai RHS had a large display with a great range of plants – not just *Vandas* and *Dendrobiums*, but lots of *Oncidiums* (*Gomesa Golden Shower*), and splash petalled *Cattleyas* (*Rlc. Kuwale gem*). The *Vanda & Ascocenda Society of Thailand* had as you would expect a lot of vandaceous plants, however, these weren't just the more common

red or blue, but orange, peach, pink and yellow. Vasco. Janice Allison was white and pink, but sadly they lacked some of the white lines now available from the USA. The Thai OS had a smallish display, but it was tall as they created a long river of Blue Vandas.

Borneo Exotics had a display of Nepanthes, but as they are carnivores and not orchids I wondered why they were there. The Sabah Tourist Board had a medium sized display which was very impressive. It featured a jungle scene with birds at the top (eg. Rhinoceros Hornbill), butterflies, and cats & other mammals at the bottom. Native orchids were well spaced around the trees and floor, and these were well labelled, including *Bulbophyllums*, *Paphs* and *Coelogynes*. It was all very realistic (not that I've been to Borneo).

Peruflora had a tabletop display of their cool growing plants which made a refreshing change. Masd. *veitchiana* was a notable plant with tall flowers in shades of red to orange on each flower.

At the back of the hall were a number of wall displays which had been used mainly to showcase artistic talents. Some were difficult to appreciate, some were OK, and some very good. Vacherot & Lecouffle had one that showed the history of their nursery, but sadly their cut flowers were fading fast. Cocoa Orchids used plants such as *Paph. spicerianum* in small moss balls to put on a swing with added legs. It looked very eye catching, and appeared to be helping sales. A separate section was dedicated to Ikebana, and a wall of small orchid displays was actually quite calming. Local flower arrangers had used orchids in a variety of ways to create their own artwork – again, some were very good, and others left me bewildered. Another (and final) section was for paintings. These were generally very good, but didn't draw as much attention as they should have.

It is really quite impossible to describe such a huge exhibition in as few words as I have done. Many, quite spectacular in their own right were just the same as several others and deserved comment but that would just be duplication. There were some disappointments with one bizarre display which I've not mentioned, and sometimes the labelling (eg. white corrugated cardboard) let displays down.

Sadly time ran out for me to look at the new greenhouses at the gardens by the bay, but I'm told they are spectacular.

Several educational displays were present showing how pollination occurred – showing how plants such as *Coryanthes* and *Ophrys* deceive the pollinators. This was supplemented by purple leaf shaped stickers with interesting information about the Orchid family.

Three days worth of lectures accompanied the exhibition, and these covered wide and varied topics from the fairly simple to the downright complicated. I went to several of these, some out of interest from intriguing titles. I was bemused about using double haploid plants for breeding specific traits – especially colours (haploid is a single DNA as opposed to the normal diploid with 2 strands, so isn't double haploid just a diploid? No it isn't!). The scientists are working on introducing blue into Phals using a complex methodology, and eventually could

lead to a range of colours in all genera... OK, it's not as simple as that, and was just beyond my range of comprehension, but very interesting just the same.

At the end of the conference the hosts for WOC 22 was announced. 7 nations had made a bid for the honour, and Ecuador was announced as winners.

All in all an excellent conference and show, and the organisers are to be congratulated for their efforts. The venue was perfect, as indeed was Singapore. It will remain in my memory for a long time as will Miami, and I look forward to the next WOC in South Africa, which I'm sure will combine nicely with a safari....

NB. The organisers have just released a short video of the event which can be found at the link below. As well as the exhibition it also features the Gardens in the bay greenhouses -

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oj8Xc_1pgno&feature=player_embedded

For those of you that do a bit of 'silver surfing' this page on YouTube links to several other videos on the WOC. For info on WOC 21 in Jo'burg, please see <http://www.woc21.org.za> *Angraecum stella-africae* is the official orchid for the event.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

MONTHLY MEETINGS AT RANMOOR – 10AM

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Feb 12th | Gianpiero Ferrari, a Mediterranean Odyssey |
| Mar 11th | Steve Manning, James Bateman |
| Apr 28th | Chris Purver, EYOF, subject tba
Note change of date |

OTHER SHOWS

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| Feb 26th | Harrogate OS – Leeds/Bradford
Bramhope. * SDOS Exhibiting * | Britannia Hotel |
| Mar 16-17th | RHS Orchid Show, Westminster | |



Above: - Just part of the best Exhibit from the Chaiwathana Orchid Gardens
Below: - Ferocious masks from PNG

