

**Sheffield & District  
Orchid Society  
Newsletter  
December 2014**



**December Plant of the Month  
*Renanthera storiei***

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## Business

There's not too much this month as the AGM is the important business of the day. The programme card should be issued with the next newsletter.

## The Table Show

The festive table commentary was given by Charles Ford who had made the arduous journey from Sydney just for this meeting – or so he said. T'is a tad difficult to understand why anyone would want to swap the warmth of Australia for the usual dank cold of Sheffield in December – but ours is not to reason why...

He started traditionally on the left with a huge plant of *Angraecum Veitchii*, a hybrid dating from 1899. It had 2 strong spikes of 5 + 6 large white starry flowers with long spurs. Truly excellent! Another *Angraecum* was adjacent, and of considerably smaller size. This was *Angcm. leonis*, a species from Madagascar. This had just a single pure white flower of a more modest size. *Renanthera storiei* was a very tall plant at over 1m tall. There was a single branched spike of starry red flowers. This genus has escaped the reclassification of *Vandas* thankfully, and looks much better

for it (although it was once a *Vanda* in 1880). Charles questioned whether this was indeed *storiei* as the leaves were a bit thinner than expected for the species, and more like those of *Kilauea* – a hybrid of *storiei* with *imshootiana*. Both the species are very similar, and almost impossible to tell apart.

Two *Calanthes* were on show, the first was *vestita*, with a large growth and floriferous spike of red and white flowers. Charles commented that these are now growing ‘like weeds’ around Sydney. The second was unnamed, and was from the Chatsworth collection. This was pink and white. *Cymbidium suave* is a little known species, usually with a pendant spike of yellowy green flowers. This was a small plant with only a short spike of tiny yellow and red flowers not yet fully open, but quite interesting anyway. Generally *Cymbidiums* grow cool/cold, but this is one of the exceptions liking warmer conditions.

*Cattleya* C. G. Roebling ‘Blue Indigo’ was on its first flowering, and had lovely pale purple flowers. Rlc. Mahina Yahiro was a specimen sized plant with large pink flowers and yellow centres. *Coel. trinervis* was a huge specimen in a large pot. It had numerous spikes of small pale flowers. It is a common grower outdoors in Australia. Zed. Cheiro Kukoo is a small *Oncidium* with a tall branched spike of tiny yellow flowers.

*Oncostele* (formerly *Odontioda*) Stirbic was a well grown plant with a tall spike of attractive mottled purple flowers. *Oncidopsis* Nellie Isler is now quite a common plant, having been cloned by the million. The large size of this plant really shows it off to its best, and it is still a great plant for any collection. A further hybrid was unnamed, but had good strong flowers of yellow with brown markings and a mainly white lip. It is one of the regular supermarket types, so should be fairly easy to put a name to (it isn't dissimilar to some clones of *Oncostele* Wildcat - Ed.).

*Den. nobile* was a decent size with good flowers. It was a division of a larger plant that was flowering for the first time after previously just producing keikis. This is a fairly straightforward thing to achieve, but you have to let the new canes mature and then be mentally tough enough to avoid watering until the buds can be seen - then start to water again. The dry period usually coincides with winter, so moving the plant off the bench can help.

A few *Paphs* completed the show with *druryi* looking well with 2 flowers of buttercup yellow with brown stripes. In-Charm Mystique was a largish flower that was almost flat. It was pure white with some pink spots. Sadly it had suffered some scorching from its (current) difficult growing

conditions. Hellas is a famous old hybrid, especially the clone 'Westonbirt'. The one on the table was 'Golden West', with a slightly better shape and a few flecks of colour on a tan & white background. This had recently been obtained from the closing down sale of McBeans. Thank you Charles.

## **December Plant of the Month**

### ***Renanthera storiei***

*Storei* is said to be the largest of approx. fifteen species which comprise the genus. It is native to the Far East, the Philippines in particular. If it continues to thrive and grows to anything like the height claimed for it, it will become a problem at some time in the future. The best thing therefore is to enjoy it whilst I can. This is the first flowering so we shall see. It had been in flower for eight weeks at the time of the meeting – a welcome splash of bright colour at a quite dismal time of the year.

This plant was given me about four years ago by Hope Sun and Howard of Water Orchids, Taiwan as appreciation for help I was able to give them with visa – (passport visa NOT credit card) applications. My immediate impulse was to decline as being unnecessary and too much for so little. It was whispered in my ear that refusing a gift might give offence so I gratefully accepted.

It grows under intermediate conditions with the best light I can give it being sited on the south facing side of the greenhouse. Despite that it has, fortunately, not suffered from leaf burn perhaps helped by permanent bubble lining and summer aluminium shading.

Whilst watering and feeding are basically normal the exception is that it is sprayed daily particularly the aerial roots. The plant is situated close to my Angraecum collection which is sprayed daily thus becoming a simple routine. **Brian Woodward**

## **The AGM**

The annual general meeting was held on Sunday 14th December 2014 at the Ranmoor Parish Centre.

**1. Apologies for absence.** There were none.

**2. Minutes of the AGM held on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2014.** It was agreed these were a true record.

**3. Matters arising.** There were none.

#### **4. Chairman's report – 2014**

The year has been rather like the curate's egg - Good in parts but also bad in parts.

Being someone whose glass is always half full rather than half empty, I will deal with the good first.

We have had an interesting and varied programme of events and talks arranged once again by Ted to whom, as ever, our thanks are due. I won't go through the full programme but will mention two which, based on observation of members interest and reactions seemed to be thoroughly enjoyed. Firstly the forum at which members brought plants, problems and questions. Time seemed to go quickly and it was so popular that I received several requests for a repeat in the future. Secondly was the talk by our hyphenated Spaniard Francis Queseda-Pallares. He "accidentally" brought the wrong presentation but the one he did on growing in his restricted environment seemed to be thoroughly enjoyed.

Two other events stand out – Chatsworth and Garden-Up. Chatsworth was an outstanding show being generally regarded as our best for some years. Thanks and congratulations are due to Jim Charlesworth for organising things so well, to those who looked after our display and – as ever – to the catering team who do an arduous job so well.

The second event was the inaugural staging of Garden-Up at the Botanical Gardens. The pre-show publicity was rather "over-hyped" talking about the Chelsea of the north but it does have the potential to become a very good event.

Now for the bad!!! The society continues to lose money – now over £4000 in six years. We still have reasonable funds but we must try to stop the outflow and thus be able to continue operating in the way we all want – speakers etc. Reasons numerous – reducing membership, subs & tax refund on gift aided subs - treasurer may wish to say something – increasing costs e.g. speakers £100+, reducing Chatsworth attendances thus profits. For example this year's profit of £259 in no way reflects or does justice to the hard work and effort involved.

With this in mind, two processes have been initiated:-firstly, a review of our income and expenditure. Various possibilities are being looked at and conclusions will be reported in the hopefully near future. Secondly was the recently conducted questionnaire. This showed satisfaction with the activities of the society and the balance being achieved by Ted in the programme between "in house" and visiting speakers.

There was unanimity on the wish to continue exhibiting at outside shows and also continuing our own annual show – at Chatsworth. The committee and office holders also want to do likewise but if members are unanimous in this, they must also allow their wishes to be carried out. There are two principal needs – people and plants. To be able to handle these events we need more of each so please back up your views stated in the questionnaire here ends the commercial and it only remains for me to say a personal thank you to committee and all members for all the help and support they have given me.

**5. Treasurer’s Report.** The treasurer thanked Ted Greaves for auditing the books and for agreeing to continue to do so in the future. It has been agreed to increase the entry fee to our show to £2.50 and to dispense with the garage (that we rent and use for storing show equipment). Both of which should increase our finances. We will continue to improve publicity to attract new members. Charging postage for newsletters and payments for partners who attend meetings have been suggested but will not be implemented. Poor interest rates continue nationally and have not helped our financial situation.

**6. Auditors Report.** Ted (Greaves), thanked Norman for all his work and signed the accounts as a true record. The members voted to accept the accounts.

**7. Election of Trustees and Management Committee.** As there was only one nomination for each position the nominees were voted in en bloc. The position of secretary remains unfilled; the position of librarian is suspended (see prior agenda for names).

**8. Voting on Amendments to the Constitution.** Both amendments, to rule 9b and rule 14, as per the agenda, were passed.

**9. Any Other Business.** There was none.

**10. Presentation of Trophies.** Following the presentation of trophies the proceedings were brought to a close.

## Cups and Trophies

Cymbidiums	Bill Holmes Cup	<b>2013- 14</b> T. Croot
Cattleya Species	Miss Turner’s Tankard	Ford/Woodward
Cattleya Hybrids	Edna Williams Trophy	I. Wilson
Paphiopedilum Species	David Danks Trophy	D. Jackson
Paphiopedilum Hybrids	A.T. Moss Cup	J. Garner
Phragmipedium Species	Denis Taylor Trophy	C. Ford
Phragmipedium Hybrids	Mrs Gregson’s Cup	D. Jackson

Oncidiinae Species	Davidson Rosebowl	T. Croot
Oncidiinae Hybrids	Maunder Painting	T. Croot
Pleurothallidinae	BOC Jubilee Tankard	B. Woodward
Masdevallia	Theo Dengel Plaque	T. Croot
Dendrobinae Species	Bill Wordsworth vase	C. Ford
Dendrobinae Hybrids	Bill Wordsworth Plaque	C. Ford
Vandaceous	R.A. Barker Trophy	B. Woodward
Phalaenopsis	Ann Shelley Lloyd Painting	V. Monogue
Terrestrial Orchids	Disa Painting	T. Croot
Novices	Ken Gill Cup	P. Watson
Any Other Species	President's Cup	B. Woodward
Any Other Hybrid	Basil Nicholson Cup	B. Woodward
Best Individual Plant	Nunwick Rosebowl	C. Ford

The final award was made (sadly without trophy) to the winner of the photographic competition held earlier during the year. This was won by Ian Wilson. Congratulations to all the winners, and encouragement to those who didn't this time around.

The AGM was followed by the buffet, and thanks are due as usual to the ladies who carefully put the whole thing together.

## **Dates for your diary...**

### **Monthly meetings at Ranmoor – 10am**

**Jan 11<sup>th</sup> 2015**      **Forum.** Our highly educated and knowledgeable panel will attempt to answer any query that you may have!!!

### **shows/exhibits/conferences etc**

**Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>**      Harrogate OS Annual show, Bramhope  
 \*\* SDOS exhibiting \*\*

Society website - [www.sheffieldorchids.org](http://www.sheffieldorchids.org)



Above - *Angraecum Veitchii*  
Below - Rlc. Mahina Yahiro

