

SHEFFIELD & DISTRICT ORCHID SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2012



**APRIL PLANT OF THE MONTH
ENC. CORDIGERA X EPI. MABEL**

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

President

John Williams
Whitecroft, 170 Watt
Lane
Sheffield S10 5QW
0114 230 4568

Vice Presidents

Julie Binks
Jeff Wilson
254 Abbey Lane
Sheffield S8 0BW
0114 236 1900

Chairman, Treasurer, Membership Secretary & BOC Representative

Richard Baxter
Hall Farm House
Shelton, Newark,
NG23 5JG
01949 850713
sheffieldorchids@ineedbroadband.co.uk

BOC Representative

Silvia Maunder
14 Whitechapel Close
Leeds LS8 2PT
0113 273 1347

Programme Secretary, & Vice President

Ted Croot
11 Marsh House Road,
Sheffield S11 9SP
0114 236 2283
annette.ted@talktalk.net

Editor and Publicity

John Garner
159 Lightridge Road
Fixby
Huddersfield HD2 2HS
01484 548764
denise.hosker@virgin.net

Librarian

Janet Kirk
Any other member
Jeff Williams
55 Greenwood Avenue
Sheffield S9 4HB
0114 234 0168
Janet.kirk@virgin.net

Administration Secretary

Carolyn McQueen
3, Milton Court,
Swinton,
South Yorkshire,
S64 8RE
01709 587208
carolyn.m.mcqueen@gmail.com

Additional Members

Jeff Bagnall
128, Huddersfield Road,
Meltham,
Holmfirth,
HD9 4AG
01484 318113
jw.bagnall@ntlworld.com

BUSINESS

The meeting commenced with a minute's silence in memory of Cedric Maunder who recently passed away. It was pleasing to see quite a few Society members attending the funeral in Leeds.

The main business concerns our annual show in just a few weeks time. Due to timings, this is the last newsletter prior to the event. Plans are now fully in place, and not too much more will happen until the day prior to the show when setting up commences. The main thing that will be required from members will be plants – of which we are likely to be short of! If you have an orchid in flower, please bring it along. We also require foliage, bromeliads and Spanish moss to recreate the jungle scene. Setting up our display will start from midday Saturday, although help with putting up tables etc will be required from 10.00.

Our catering team also require cakes, preferably on Saturday pm, and in cling film. Sandwiches will be freshly made on Sunday am.

Tickets for PIOS will be available at a discounted rate of £6 per day (normally £15). Orders should be given to Richard prior to the end of May so that they can be made available in time. Please note that the date clashes with our planned date for July meeting, and with most members attending Peterborough it should be noted that the SDOS meeting will be cancelled.

The North of England OS are hoping to run a coach to the BOC at Writhlington School – if they can get sufficient numbers. The coach departs on the Thursday, stays at the Hilton in Bristol and returns on the Monday. Cost looks to be a reasonable £264 for half board. If you are interested, please contact Richard.

THE TABLE SHOW

This month's commentary was given by Charles Ford who started at the left with a couple of Phals. Pebble Beach was well named with small spots on a sandy background. These were medium sized flowers and well spaced. Another fairly similar plant was unnamed. Both had 2 spikes. Chih Shang's Stripes was mainly pink with deeper veining, and Innocence was very white, and a decent size. *Aeranthus virginalis* is a rangy plant grown in a small basket with long spikes of successive flowerings. The flowers are fairly small cream coloured with crossed legs – hence the name.

Calanthe tricarinata is a nice terrestrial that flowers then produces leaves. The flowers are small and downfacing of attractive yellow and red. *Serapias lingua* had 3 spikes of mainly purple tongue shape. This European terrestrial flowers at the end of the growing period when the leaves start to die down so usually looks a little bit untidy. A couple of Disas were next. Unilangley is a small pink that is early flowering and likes being kept damp. *Disa Kewensis* is a bit bigger, but still pink. *Cyp. Gisella* is another terrestrial, this time in the slippers. It had 2 flowering growths of medium sized pink and red flowers. *Pleione Brigadoon* is a strong flowering plant of mainly pink, but can be yellowish as well.

Den. Polar Ice is a good tall spiked plant of red wine and white colour. *Den. Pearl* is a nice white flowered *nobile* type. *Milt. flavescens* is an unusual plant. It is the warm growing type mounted

on tree fern with starry yellowish brown flowers on a long spike. It has tall thin psuedobulbs, and is dunked daily. *Eulophia guineensis* is an African terrestrial that grows rapidly to a metre tall including flowers that are smallish pink and purple. The 3 spikes were just about perfect, and was adjudged Plant of the month (entered for judging). Cym. King Arthur 'Imperial' is a compact type with 3 strong spikes of deep yellow flowers of medium size.

We are almost out of the Paph. season, and only 2 were on show. *hirsutissimum* var. *Chiwuanum* is similar to the species, but a bit smaller, less spotted, and less hairy. Charlton Kings is an old complex of yellowy brown with a white halo.

Epi. Joseph Lii is a tall hybrid about 4' tall (but can get much taller as a vine type). It had 3 spikes of small tightly clustered peachy coloured flowers. It is 75% *cinnabarinum*, and 12.5% *radicans* and 12.5% *jamiesonis*. Enc. *Cordigera* x Epi. Mabel is more of a bulbous type with larger flowers of pink white and brown that are well spaced along tall spikes. This was judged best plant on the table (not entered for judging). *C. sincorana* (formerly *Laelia*) had 2 very nice flattish pink flowers. Ctt. Fire Dance 'Patricia' is a largish type, but with a cluster of smaller flowers – in this case of a burnt orange colour from the *aurantiaca* parent. The final plant was unnamed, but is also an *aurantiaca* hybrid with a compact form and a long spike of bright orange spiky flowers. It was a garden centre throw out, and is likely to be Ctt. Chit Chat. Thank you Charles.

PLANT OF THE MONTH

ENC. CORDIGERA X EPI. MABEL

This is a plant that I have only recently purchased, and is unusual for me in the *Cattleya* group that I can struggle with a bit. It has quite attractive small flowers of yellow, pink and brown on a tall spike, and appears to be a vigorous plant that should do well in the future. It came from Chantelle Orchids (who will be at Chatsworth), so was probably raised in Taiwan. I can't find the given name in the Hybrid list, but think that the

plant may be *cordigera* x Epy. Mabel Kanda – itself a *cordigera* hybrid (x Epi. *densiflorum*). If so then it is registered as Epy. Serena O’Neill. The picture on Orchidwiz is slightly different in colour but using different clones and pollen/pod parents will have an effect. The flowers are quite long lasting (so far) inside the house, so I am very pleased with it. It will then go into the greenhouse, get re-potted and be grown in intermediate conditions. JG

HYBRIDISATION AT THE ERIC YOUNG ORCHID FOUNDATION BY CHIS PURVER

Chris is on a whistle stop tour of lectures (hence the change of meeting dates). Chris is the curator of the collection, and is responsible for continuing the work of Eric Young which is for the creation of new hybrids, mounting displays and winning awards – notably at WOCs etc..

The Foundation don’t grow every popular genera (which is a relief to some), but concentrate on a select few, many of which are cooler growing, and don’t require high levels of light (no vandas etc.). A talk on all the aspects of hybridisation would take hours, so this is just a small scratch on the surface of mainly 3 genera.

First is Miltoniopsis. These were originally Miltonias, but are now in a separate group. These are the more showy cooler growing ‘pansy’ type rather than the warmer smaller flowered types. There are 5 species within this genus. Of these 2 are hardly ever used in hybridisation – these are *bismarkii* and *warszewiczii*, and are excluded from further comment. The remaining 3 are;

phalaenopsis – the smallest of the group with flowers around 4cm. The flower is mainly white with purple waterfall markings on the lip. It is sometimes scented.

roezlii – medium sized at 6cm flowers. This is mainly white with some red markings on the inner part of the petals with a yellow centre to the lip. There is an alba form which lacks the red colouration but retains the yellow mask.

vexillaria – is the largest at 8cm. It is the most variable with pink being the most common. It can also be white or red, half pink or alba. The size and variable colours of this species give the hybridisers a range of targets to aim at.

Bleuana was the first hybrid in 1899 between *vexillaria* and *roezlii*. It varies from white to red. Venus (1917) is the cross between *vexillaria* and *phalaenopsis* producing larger waterfall forms in different colours. The 3rd primary (Carl Withner) between *roezlii* and *phalaenopsis* wasn't registered until 1991. All of these were just what was expected, and the first 2 then went on to create more hybrids. Bleuana was crossed back onto *vexillaria* a couple of times creating Jules Hye de Crom. This hybrid had smaller flowers, but an increased count, and is still used as a parent today. Lyceana (1925) is a true complex flower with no waterfall pattern, but was the first almost full red flower. Solfatari (1930) developed into a larger form of *roezlii* (70% *roezlii* & 30% *vexillaria*).

Moving to the more modern hybrids – based from the above, the first 'solid' red was Lingwood AM/RHS in 1938. This was a larger flower of 9cm, but still with some reflexing. Petit Anquette (EYOF 2005) became a non reflexing solid red. Rouge Bouillon 'Mont Millais' AM/RHS is another deep red. Another clone 'Jersey' will leak colour. Bel Croute (1998) has moved to a full deep red with a white mask on a pinkish lip. Gorey (1992) is a nice salmon pink colour, and another similar

one is Cotil Point 'Jersey' FCC/RHS. At 12cm Chris describes it as perfect.

The waterfall hybrids have moved strongly to create large flowers. Many Waters (1960) was quite large. Beaumont possibly has a little too much going on with red dorsal, reflexed petals, and a red/white fall. Portelet (1994) is a better standard with a solid red dorsal with a white mask and red spots. Rocqueberg (2007) is a white with a red fall that looks almost unnatural. Point de Pas 'Jersey' AM is now the largest pink at 12cm with a white/purple waterfall. Avranches is a pink with a white mask and a series of deep purple blotches.

Yellows are more problematic than other colours as they tend to be smaller, reflexed, and often have a disproportionately large lip. That said there are still some decent crosses, mainly of cream. Le Couperon is cream with a red waterfall. There are quite a few future options with crosses to be remade using a recently discovered xanthina form of *roezlii*. Firstly it needs to be line bred to select stronger clones as well as produce some tetraploids, and then remake older crosses as well as some new ones.

In the white hybrids Pontac is mainly white with a bit of red in the centre, and is a large size. Les Landes 'Jersey' AM is 13cm wide and has a flat dorsal. Although it is just about perfect for breeding, commercially it is just too big. Large flowers like these new hybrids tend to have are great for mounting exhibitions such as seen at the Glasgow WOC.

The second genera looked at is the slippers, and Paph. *rothschildianum* in particular. It is the king of the Paphs and comes from Mt. Kinabalu in Borneo. It grows on steep slopes between 600-1200m. It has a large flower up to 12" across, and has a notable staminode like a bee's knee and is covered with warty hairs to look like aphids to attract pollinators.. The foundation is in possession of a famous (wild collected) clone

‘Mont Millais’ which Eric Young purchased as a single growth c. 1958. It took 20 years to flower in 1978, and was awarded an AM in 1983, an FCC in 1985 and became GC at the Glasgow WOC in 1993. Not surprisingly it is highly valuable both in monetary terms and as a parent where the red pouch is a useful asset.

A lot of breeding using *roths* took place at the end of the 19th century and the start of the 20th and these hybrids are still amongst the best ever produced, although many have been remade using superior clones. Prince Edward of York (1898, x *sanderianum*) produces better petals than *sanderianum* and can now be exhibited with just a degree of care – whereas *sanderianum* can be a nightmare as it is easily damaged. Lady Isabel (1897, x *stonei*) has solid and balanced petals unlike *stonei* itself. The spike can reach 3’ high and exhibits well, with ‘Mont Millais’ being exceptional. St. Swithin (1901 x *philippinense*) has produced a classic easy flowering plant.

In the second generations crossing Lady Isabel back to *roths* produces Lady Rothschildianum. This has created stronger striping and darker pouches. Booth’s Sand Lady going in the other direction has reintroduced variable petals. Vera Pellechia (St. Swithin x *stonei*) has also produced some variability, but has a paler flower. Angel Hair (st. Swithin x *sanderianum*) keeps shorter petals as well as a tall dorsal and strong pouch. Bouilly Port combines Angel Hair with *roths* which dominates the cross and has good stripes and colour.

Moving away from the true multiflorals *roths* has had great impact on shape and colour. L’etacq (x Masupi vini) produced a small deep purple multi. Crossing this to Gowerianum produces the smaller and well shaped Les Mielles. Crossing L’etacq to Black Maud produces Noir Roque, which is extremely dark with a couple of flowers. Crossing onto the Parvisepalums has produced some tremendous results.

Dollgoldi (x *armaniacum*) is a well marked yellow, but is sterile. Delrosi (x *delenatii*) is a fairly compact striped pink, that can breed on if *roths* is the pod parent. Gloria Naugle (x *micranthum*) is a deep red with a consistently good shape. This has gone on to produce Du Motier (x *vietnamense*) with better shape and colour, and the clone 'Jersey' won reserve GC at the recent Singapore WOC.

The recent introduction into the Phrags of *kovachii* has caused a great stir of excitement. The Foundation's home bred clone 'Trinity' has been awarded an FCC/RHS with a spread of 16.5cm. It is a deep red colour, and doesn't reflex like most of the others do. It is the largest of the Phrags, and *andreettae* - the smallest will fit comfortably inside the pouch. Chris is sceptical over the value of many of the hybrids as to whether they will add real value or not. Eumelia Arias (x *schlimii*) has produces a nice colour – almost with a hint of blue, but is an awful shape (large flower x small flower). Memoria Mariza Rolando (x Hanne Popow) has done the same. Peruflora's Cirila Alca (x *dalessandroi*) is better using a larger flower, but is still pink having suppressed the yellow parent. Les Varines (x *sargentianum*) is producing larger flowers on long spikes, but the flowers are still disappointing. La Vingtaine (x Memoria Dick Clements) has so far been the best of the hybrids, with 'Victoria Village' winning an AM. It has 13cm width, and is a strong pink rather than purple. The foundation hopes to soon have a tetraploid form to work with, and this may help to produce purple hybrids – which is the object of the exercise.

Phrag. Besseae is still the best parent for breeding with, especially with the yellow form. This is helping to produce peach colours such as in Havre le Pas which is branched and very good. The best of the *besseae* offspring is Jason Fischer. The clone 'Corbiere' won an AM/RHS in 2003, and an FCC/AOS in 2005. It is possibly the best in the world!

Another clone 'Victoria Village' won an FCC/RHS in 2000, and has very deep petals on a 13cm spread, and is well proportioned.

The final group in the lecture is the Oncidiopsis. This name may appear unfamiliar, but it is the reincarnation of Vuylstekeara. This grex was made famous by the clone Cambria 'Plush' which has been mericloned by the million. It is made up these days of *Oncidium* x *Miltoniopsis* (formerly *Cochlioda* x *Miltonia* x *Odontoglossum*). They are relatively cool growing, and suit the Jersey climate. St. Aubin 'Elizabeth Castle' is the foundation's flagship plant. Registered in 2002 it is Mps. Avranches x Onc. Moulin de Fliquet, and is a great combination of parents with a strong lip coming from the *Miltoniopsis* parent which is far better than a standard 'odont'. The flower is a lilac colour with purple markings (see back cover). It has proved to be a good parent. Mont de la rocque (x Faldouet) has been awarded as has La Robeline (x Mont a L'Abbe) and La Marquanderie (x Moulin de Louis) with different shades, and larger flower counts. A slightly different line has produced Val de la Mare (Mps. Avranches x Onc. Val du Bec) with a flamboyant lip, but is smaller and well marked with black spots.

Some other 'minor' genera that the Foundation are working on are *Calanthes*, with Beresford (2007) being an exciting hybrid. The clone 'le Don le Broguille' winning an AM. It has a pink tint on opening that fades to white. One of the parents is Brandywine (1934) which is award winning in itself as well as being a great parent. Five Oaks is another noted offspring and is bi coloured.

Anguloas, *Lycastes* & *Sudamerlycaste* are also a new area for the Foundation, and we can expect to see some great results in the next few years once improved clones (incl. tetraploids) are used in the breeding programme. They have great hopes for

Sud. *ariasii* – a small floriferous white as yet unbred, but should breed well. Lyc. Anneville (Lyc. Mont Mado x Lyc. *locusta*) has been registered in 2009 and has an open green flower. The plan is to cross these 2 to produce lots of open lime green flowers. Ang. Blanche Pierre (Ang. *cliftonii* x Ang. Victoire) is another EYOF cross, and has closed pale flowers. Angcst. Cotil Point ‘Fort Henry’ is a pale red spotted part open flower that is very good. Lyc. Shoalhaven is an older plant, but can be solid red, pink or white with large flowers 6” in size. The Foundation bought a single flask some time ago from a noted Japanese grower, and have won 3 AM/RHS’s from it. The final plant shown was Angcst. Noirmont ‘Isle of Jersey’ AM which is a large open white. After just a few questions a good round of applause was given.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

MONTHLY MEETINGS AT RANMOOR – 10AM

May 13th Bernard McDonald – Bulbophyllum revisited

OTHER SHOWS

May 20th SDOS annual show at Chatsworth.
NB. **Plants required**

June 24th NEOS show at Tatton Park

July 6-8th Peterborough International Orchid Show.

Society website - www.sheffieldorchids.org



Above: - *Miltonia flavescens*

Below: - *Oncidiopsis Saint Aubin* (as seen at the Singapore WOC)

