

**Sheffield & District  
Orchid Society  
Newsletter  
December 2015**



**Dendrochilum *cobbianum*  
Joint Plant of the Month**

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**Vacancy**

## Librarian

**Suspended**

## Business

Once again there will be £6 day tickets available for Malvern in June. If you are interested, please let Carolyn know.

The AGM is main business to follow.

## The Table Show

The festive table show was given by John Garner who started on the left with a tall plant of *Phrag Sedenii*. It was branched, although only carried a single pale pink at the time, but had several buds to follow as well as another spike. Hopefully it will arrive at its best for the show at Bramhope. *Sedenii* is a very old hybrid, dating from 1873 between *schlimii* and *longifolium*. *Phrag. Memoria Dick Clements* had quite a tall spike, again holding just a single red flower, with several buds to follow. When it comes to tall spikes, *Phrag Sorcerer's Apprentice* always takes the prize. This plant was already over 1m tall at the first flower, and it will go on to flower over the coming months getting up to 2m tall. The final *Phrag* was *Silver Rose x schlimii*, which by comparison was very compact. It had 2 flowering growths, each with small pink flowers. This was judged to be joint plant of the month with 23 points (see back cover).

Cymbidium Showgirl was growing well, and was of the compact growing type with lovely pale pink flowers. It was now growing well out of the pot, and would benefit from a repotting session once the flowers have finished. *Coelogyne rochussenii* was a well grown plant with 2 droopy spikes with several well spaced starry pale brown flowers that were better presented than the closely related *tomentosa*. *Dendrochilum cobbianum* had grown into a specimen sized plant and had lots of flower spikes that grow upwards then the flowering portion is droopy (I'm sure there will be a name for this type of habit - Ed.). This is one of the largest of the 'Chain Orchids', and there are above 50 tiny white flowers per spike. This was judged to be joint plant of the month with 23 points (see front cover).

*Aerangis biloba* gets its name from the notched end of the short fleshy leaves. It had 2 short pendant spikes with several starry white flowers. Two plants of *Angraecum leonis* had pure crystalline white flowers on a short pendant spike that are best appreciated in sunlight (see back cover).

An unlabelled plant from the *Oncidium* group was almost certainly *Brassia Rex*, which is a fairly common plant of starry flowers of pale yellow and brown spots and bars. Although still quite small, it was flowering well on quite plump bulbs. They look very impressive as specimen plants. Another unlabelled plant in the same group had quite different flowers - with tiny red ones on short branching spikes. The plant was growing very well with 2 spikes per growth on a small number of blooming growths. Once again, with good culture it will become a specimen in due course. Initial thoughts were that it might be in the genus *Howeara*, where it has a resemblance to *Mini Primi*, although of a different colour. Further research has led the editor to think that it may in fact be an offspring of *Mini Primi* called *Leomesesia Lava Burst* (or maybe even its other parent *Rodriguezia lanceolata*).

*Rossioglossum Rawdon Jester* was a superb plant with a single upright spike holding 7 perfect 'clown' flowers of yellow with brown barring. This is one of the most notable hybrids produced by Mansell & Hatcher (1983). It definitely has hybrid vigour as the flowers are much larger than one of its parents - *grande* which was much smaller, with just 3 flowers - and identical markings. *Rhynchostele vexativum* was a medium sized plant with a number of reflexing flowers of lemon and brown spots. *Zelenkoa onusta* is quite different being mounted on bark with a pendant spike of buttercup yellow flowers like an *Oncidium*. Very pretty! It requires daily misting.

Rlc. Taida Eagle Eye 'All Victory' was a recently purchased plant (Malvern IOS, June) that had shot up since and produced a single large white flower with a yellow centre as well as a slight scent. Hopefully next year it will grow better and produce several flowers. Rlc. Chief Pink 'Diana' AM/AOS had 2 slightly smaller flowers of pink with a whitish lip with a purple splotch (on back cover of the November newsletter).

Next were a few small Paph. species, with *niveum* showing a very clean white flower with fine spotting. *barbigerum* had a relatively tall spike with a good shaped brown yellow flower. *tranlienianum* is fairly closely related to *spicerianum*, but poorer shape, and is considered a collector's plant. *braemii* is a smaller relative of *tonsum* with a pale flower of a few spots. The final slipper was Paph. World Exploit, a large flowered type. The spike hadn't grown as well as would be expected, but the flower was quite colourful with a spotted white dorsal. Den. *venustum* was quite a small plant that had originally been purchased as something else. Despite that it had a small cluster of 4 pale yellow flowers with a slight frill. It will be interesting to see this plant again in a couple of years when hopefully it will be a bit bigger. *Restrepia filamentosa* (syn. *trichoglossa*) was well grown and tightly clustered with several small glossy yellowy brown striated flowers. *Pleurothallis divaricans* was an interesting miniature species with a number of spikes holding what appeared to be tiny orange balls hardly open. This is how the flowers are produced, but without a magnifying glass it is difficult to fully appreciate.

The final group of plants were *Calanthes* as this is now their flowering season. Baron Schroder was growing well with 2 spikes on 2 growths, however, neither were as tall or spectacular as *vestita* which is a vigorous species producing large bulbs with 2 spikes per bulb. Thank you John.

## The 2015 AGM

1. Apologies for absence. There were none.
2. Minutes of the AGM held on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2014. It was agreed these were a true record.
- 3 Matters arising. There were none.
4. Chairman's Report.

Overall I think it has been a good year, with some less good parts. Our programme has again been varied, and once again we must thank Ted for arranging it. Each year presents its own problems. These are common to all societies not just ours. Five in-house events have been varied and most enjoyable, they included a Forum, talks by members on how they got smitten with orchids, table show judging, John's talk on the EOC and the photographic competition, for which we must thank Ian.

Visiting speakers are not easy to arrange, some like David Menzies travel large distances, they have to remember to bring the correct presentation, Francis did bring last year's intended presentation this year. Steve Manning gave us plenty of information on Pleurothalids, Mike Armstrong demonstrated his photographic skills showing us many Cymbidium and Peter White gave us quite an insight into commercial growing in Holland.

The Duke of Devonshire, once again, visited our annual show at Chatsworth. We really appreciate his attendance. He was well aware that we were down on visitor numbers and encouraged those that were there to spread the word about the show and endeavour to inspire more people to visit. The Duchess, their Daughter-in-law and two house guests also visited this year. Unfortunately we only had half the number of visitors that we had last year, meaning overall we had a loss rather than a profit as in previous years. The committee are having a real push to improve this. Having said that, the show was really enjoyable and the atmosphere was both happy and friendly all day. This was due to Jim Charlesworth's great organisation once again, the catering team who sold almost as much food and drink to half as many people and all the members who helped both setting up and taking down not only our stand but also the tables and chairs in the hall as well as manning the door and the car park.

The society exhibited at three other shows this year, Harrogate, North East of England and East Midlands, achieving varying degrees of success. Once again we must express our gratitude to Ted, helped by Annette, Margaret and Don also John Garner for both setting up and taking down our exhibits at these events. Obviously they need plants to exhibit so thank you also to those who provided them.

Unfortunately the accounts show that we have a deficit once again this year, the committee is doing their best to address this especially Ted who continues to work wonders with the programme. We have also ceased renting a garage which was used to store show equipment. The raffle continues to bring in funds and we intend having a tombola (as in the past) at Chatsworth.

I should like to thank all the committee and the members for the considerable help and support I have received from them during this year. I hope you all continue to enjoy our meetings and shows and please let me know if you don't.

5. Treasurer's Report. The treasurer thanked the auditors for auditing the books and for agreeing to continue to do so. The rental agreement on the garage has been terminated so next year will see an increase in our finances due to this. We are transferring some of our deposit account to one with a marginally higher interest rate, whilst maintaining sufficient in the current account to cover our running costs.

6. Auditors report. Brian thanked Norman for all his work and signed the accounts as a true record.

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, again, as does that of the second BOC rep. and Additional Committee Member. The position of librarian remains suspended for a second year.

8. Any Other Business. There was none.

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

Cups and Trophies		2013- 14
Cymbidiums	Bill Holmes Cup	T. Croot
Cattleya Species	Miss Turner's Tankard	C. Ford
Cattleya Hybrids	Edna Williams Trophy	I. Wilson
Paphiopedilum Species	David Danks Trophy	D. Jackson
Paphiopedilum Hybrids	A.T. Moss Cup	T. Croot
Phragmipedium Species	Denis Taylor Trophy	N/A
Phragmipedium Hybrids	Mrs Gregson's Cup	C. Ford
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	T. Croot
Dendrobinae Hybrids	Bill Wordsworth Plaque	C. Ford
Vandaceous	R.A. Barker Trophy	B. Woodward
Phalaenopsis	Ann Shelley Lloyd Painting	V. Minogue
Terrestrial Orchids	Disa Painting	C. Ford
Novices	Ken Gill Cup	T. Turner
Any Other Species	President's Cup	B. Woodward
Any Other Hybrid	Basil Nicholson Cup	B. Woodward
Best Individual Plant	Nunwick Rosebowl	Ford/Woodward
Photography	Trophy	Ford/Charlesworth

## December Plants of the Month

### Part 1 - *Dendrochilum cobbianum*

An epiphytic species from the Philippines where it is said to grow in full sun. Mine doesn't !!

I bought the plant in 2008 from Richard Warren (Equatorial Plants) as a very young plant/seedling. Perhaps, more by accident than design, I seem to have found a spot in the greenhouse which suits it as it has just grown and grown steadily. It is on the bench on the north side of the greenhouse in a quite densely packed group of plants thus being a little shady. Further shading is provided by a couple of largish plants hanging to the front of it. So – definitely not in full sun. Minimum temperature is around 56F. Routine watering and feeding (every

second watering) using anything I have at the time – Akerne Rain Mix, Tomarite, Phostrogen etc. It seems happy enough with whatever it gets.

It was repotted as recently as August of this year in a bark/large perlite/foam mix so it is pleasing that it has flowered so well, so soon afterwards. It has something like 30 spikes with say 100 flowers per spike. Whilst the individual flowers are not particularly outstanding, the number of spikes with the number of flowers per spike make it a quite impressive plant. **Brian Woodward**

## **Part 2 - Phragmipedium Silver Rose x *schlimii***

Silver Rose is several lines of breeding involving just 2 species - *schlimii* and *besseae*, and then this is crossed back to *schlimii*. Obviously the first cross is from the 2 species, which creates Hanne Popow, itself a very pleasant hybrid halfway between the 2. This is then crossed back onto *besseae*, creating St. Ouen, another lovely small flower with a stronger influence of *besseae*. If you then cross St. Ouen with Hanne Popow you get Silver Rose. The final product is made up of 69% *schlimii* and 31% *besseae*, and the final influence is of course towards *schlimii*.

I obtained this plant from Malcolm Perry 2 years ago when he last spoke at Sheffield (Nov. 2013). It was growing quite vigorously with 3 leads which soon became four. It was divided just over a year ago into 2 halves, and has continued to grow at pace ever since. The first flower spike started flowering in October, and is now on its third and final flower alongside the second flower on the second spike. It is grown in rock wool with a sphagnum topping in intermediate conditions and is dunked in mineral water at least twice a week, and fed very infrequently. **John Garner**

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

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

**Jan 10<sup>th</sup> 2016**

Table Judging. What to look for, and how to score plants using this month's table show.

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

**Feb 28<sup>th</sup> 2016**

Harrogate OS annual show at the Britannia Hotel, Bramhope. \*\* SDOS Exhibiting \*\*

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



Above - Plant of the Month - part 2. *Phragmipedium Silver Rose x schlimii*  
Below - *Angraecum leonis*

