

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



**September Plant of the Month  
Cattleya Love Knot 'Blue Star'**

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**Vacancy**

## Librarian

**Suspended**

# Business

We are saddened to hear of the sad passing of Margaret King a few months ago aged 93. Margaret and her husband, Ted, were members of CaNWOS and also of SDOS and, until Ted became poorly they never missed a Sheffield meeting. After he died Margaret attended while she could and then she became an Honorary Member of SDOS.

We are exhibiting at the EMOS Autumn show in Nottingham on Sunday 11th October. If you have plants for the display then please can you let Ted know by Thursday 8th what you may have. John Garner will produce any labels required. Set up will be on Saturday afternoon, unless you are going down on Sunday morning (very early). If going on Sunday then Ted needs to how much room to leave on the tables.

The treasurer reminds members that Subs fall due in October. The cost stays at £15, and Norman wishes to remind members that a Standing Order is still the best way to make payment without forgetting. A copy of the standing order mandate is attached. However, he will gladly accept cash at the next meeting.

The October meeting is the annual photographic competition. Several entries have already been received, and many more are encouraged. It is mainly a bit of fun, and plants can belong to anyone! Entries should go to Ian Wilson at [Ian@boatsails.com](mailto:Ian@boatsails.com). He has also set up a small website at [wilsonsd.com](http://wilsonsd.com) with details etc.

## **Chatsworth 2016**

Next year we are reverting to our traditional Spring Bank Holiday date which will be Sunday, 29th May 2016. The exhibitors invited are Burnham Nurseries, Chantelle Orchids, Orchid Supplies, Dave Parkinson Orchids, East Midlands O.S., N.East of England O.S., Harrogate O.S. and Lincolnshire Orchid Group. In addition, we are restoring a tradition of many years ago by inviting the Chatsworth Estate to stage a display.

It has already been announced that the September Committee meeting will be devoted entirely to consideration of our publicity efforts for next year. This stems from our review of the disappointing attendance at this year's show and how and if we can improve it next year. Any thoughts, suggestions etc have already been invited. One possibility is that member/members might care or be willing to design a flyer / poster for the show.

So, come along all you artistic and hi-tech wizards and have a go. Just a further thought – there is no reason why it can't be a joint effort i.e. the imaginative artist passing her / his ideas to a computer wizz kid to interpret. Last year's flyer is attached separately with the newsletter.

## **The Table Show**

This month's commentary was given by Silvia who was faced with quite a full table - if we have as many as this for the upcoming EMOS show then we should have a decent display. She started with a decent group of Cattleyas. Walkerinter was a pure white that produced a single flower that was now on the cusp of going over. This is a plant in recovery, and should be much better next year. *maxima* is a species (that wasn't included in last month's talk) which is quite variable. Two different clones were presented - a white one with a couple of pure white flowers on a well grown plant that really should have been more productive, and a more standard pink form with 5 flowers. This was a plant growing strongly, and should improve with more growth(s). Love Knot 'Blue Star' was one of the miniature types - only a few inches tall, and had a couple of good sized pale mauve flowers that were well admired. With 22 points it was the plant of the month (see front cover)

Onc. *Cooksoniae* is a very old hybrid (1909) that was originally an *Odontioda*, and was quite close to *noezlianum* parent in shape, size and colour. There were 3 arching spikes, each with over a dozen smallish orange and white flowers (see back cover). *Habenaria rhodocheila* is a deciduous plant that grows from a 'corm'. This one had 3 strong growths with several bright orange flowers. It will die back once flowering has finished, and they can be tricky to dry off prior to restarting growth. *Stenoglottis longifolia* was a number of plants in a large pot. Four spikes had come into flower with a further 4 spikes just starting to emerge. The plant tends to start to die back during flowering, and it look a bit of a mess at this point. With each spike growing large and twisty, with several tiny pink flowers of little consequence it is a mystery why we even bother growing it...

*Vanda coerulea* was quite a different plant to that seen last month, and was more like the type that we used to see rather than the improved line bred plants. The flowers were better spaced and paler. Whilst the more recent breeding has created better clones, it is always good to see some plants as nature intended! V. *Sanderiana*-Boonchoo x Tawee 'Suksa' was a well grown plant with 8 large flowers that were held in a fairly tight cluster. The colour was superb with the 2 tone inherited from *sanderiana*, and were pink at the top with almost purple on the lower petals. The flowers have opened flat, and then have recurved slightly. Next to this was V. *Siam Ink* 'Black' which was actually a deep purple with even deeper coloured splashes. The 5 flowers were also quite closely grouped (see back cover for both plants). *Aerangis kotschyana* was a smaller Vandaceous plant with a pendant spike holding 4 white flowers with more than a hint of orange. They each had a very long spur at the rear which was very curly, and its purpose was questioned (with no answer to what might pollinate it).

Paph. Dusty Miller 'Shelley' is a famous old hybrid with a modest sized flower (by today's standards). It is mainly white with tiny freckling. A vinicolour *Maudiae* was a deep burgundy colour, as well as excellent mottled leaves that will be good to look at once the flower has died back. *venustum* is an unusual species that takes a bit of getting to appreciate. This clone was a first flowering seedling with a small flower that would have been better if the plant had grown a bit larger first. Hopefully the plant will be better next time around. *wardii* is another species with interesting mottled leaved. It had 2 spikes with 1 open flower of typical shape and a bud to follow. It should be at its best next month. *barbigerum* is a plain leaved species with a small flower of good shape and colour. It is quite a large clone for the species. Phrag Grande is still a reasonable sized plant with a single spike with 1 open flower

and several others to follow. This hybrid has a tendency to grow into a very large specimen in due course.

A good number of Phals completed the right hand end of the table with a very large plant with a huge number of medium sized white flowers on a multibranched spike having pride of place. Sadly it doesn't have a name as it is a former supermarket plant. It has benefitted from being grown quite warm recently. Surf Song was another with a branched spike, this time with medium sized speckled pink flowers and a lot of buds to follow. Leopard Prince 'Sexy Pink' was seen earlier this year, and had grown a new taller branched spike that was still in the process of opening. The flowers are a strong pink with centres of white with pink speckling. Sogo Yukidan is a hybrid that will develop a very long spike with well spaced large white flowers. This clone thankfully had stopped short, and had flowers of a modest shape. It should be OK next time it flowers. Happy Ending was a tall plant with a mass of pink flowers. Ox Farm was a plant with 2 spikes of small form flowers that were pink with white striping.

Thank you Silvia.

## **September Plant of the Month**

### **Cattleya Love Knot 'Blue Star'**

This primary hybrid (formerly *Laeliocattleya*) together with a number of other Cattleyas were given to me by Richard Baxter earlier in the year. He said that they really didn't suit his conditions and that he also needed the space. The "Love Knot" together with the other Cattleyas is kept in my conservatory which faces north-west. Plants receive shaded sunlight in the early morning and afternoon. The 'Love Knot' is in a position which gets some of the best light. The temperature is generally intermediate but it can rise to warm if I don't open the windows.

The parents of the Love Knot are *Cattleya sincorana* x *Cattleya walkeriana*.

*Cattleya sincorana* is a cool growing lithophytic or epiphytic species from Brazil, where it grows around 1100 to 1500 metres. It normally produces 1 to 4 flowers arising from a new growth. It usually requires a very dry rest in the winter.

*Cattleya walkeriana* has a growing temperature of intermediate to warm. Its habitat is also in Brazil where it can be lithophytic or epiphytic and can survive up to 2000 metres in elevation. It normally produces 1 to 3 flowers which are fragrant.

Both parents are generally purple whereas the 'Love Knot' has very pale blue petals and sepals with a deeper blue lip. It also retains its pleasant fragrance from the *walkeriana*. **Ian Wilson**

# **EOC17 London, April 2015**

## **John Garner**

The most recent EOC was held in the London RHS halls in the weekend following Easter - 11-14<sup>th</sup> April. Originally it had been allocated elsewhere, but due to organisational issues it couldn't be staged, so the RHS stepped in. Previously the EOC was last held at the RHS halls in 2002 (with SDOS exhibiting), and a successful event was held. It is debatable whether this congress would be considered a success. Trade came from across Europe, Asia and the USA, and these were augmented by a small number of UK based Society displays. It was therefore more of a sales based show and with only a low number of registrants and public visitors there wasn't enough business taking place to keep the trade happy.

The event had been well publicised in RHS magazines (The Garden, Orchid Review, etc.), but there seemed little or nothing around the halls. Many of the public didn't know that the event covered both Halls, and so probably missed out on some exiting plants.

Having the EOC in the RHS halls is really like a breath of fresh air compared to other similar events that I have attended in the last few years as they have almost all been in purpose built exhibition venues with no natural light. Both halls are well lit naturally, and it makes a difference. The exhibits ranged from very good to educational and also ridiculous - with a company called Boskke Cube showing a way to grow Phals upside down. Quite pointless in my opinion, and a large waste of space. Two excellent displays were placed at the front of each hall to create an impact as soon as you walked in - with EYOF in the Lawrence Hall, and McBeans in the Lindley Hall.

McBeans are now under new management, but it seemed business as usual with a very large round display on the floor going up in a cone shape. It was packed with Cymbidiums of all colours, alongside many of their old 'Odont' breeding lines - also very colourful. Their sales plants included some unusual Cym. *erythraeum*, but most of their sales plants were standard fare brought in from the continent.

The British Papiopedilum Society was one of just 4 UK societies to put on a display, and this was in 'conjunction' with Holger Perner (a German based in

the Hengduan mountains in China). He had some very interesting and unusual plants for sale of Chinese species, including a range of Chinese Cmbidiums and slippers, notably some Cyp. *plectrochilum* which were a first for me. These are quite small plants with small flowers, and all were fairly quickly snapped up. The BPS has a table mounted display as most slippers are best seen at eye level. There was the usual range of Paphs and Phrags - species and colourful hybrids. These were augmented by some especially good Cyps, with a huge pot full of *formosanum* 'Highclere Castle' winning several rosettes, including best amateur plant. Sadly the additional heat in the hall meant that all the flowers had gone over by the end of the weekend - which had some members of the public scratching their head as to where the flowers were!

The firm of Sanders from St. Albans is virtually synonymous with orchid sales/auctions and introductions of new species and hybrids. The firm evolved away from orchids many years ago, and the 'last of the line' is Peter Sander who has an enormous collection of old orchid memorabilia. This is the final time he was to attend any conferences as he is retiring, and the collection is going to pass into the library at the EYOF as potentially the start of a museum. An enormous stand of old pictures and press cuttings together with a series of notes and trophies was on display. It was so large that it would actually have taken more than half a day to read the whole lot.

The OSGB had a large display which was staged with their usual degree of diligence, and had a good number of quality plants on a pale/white theme. The pink Masd. Cassiope was a colour exception, and was well grown. Sometimes they tend to pack too many plants on their display, and this time it was just right. Bournemouth OS were the final Society, and they had gone to a deal of trouble to design their display which was modelled on the Shard. A small perspex 'tower' topped the conical build, with lots of smallish plants fastened on the side, with the larger ones around the base. They included several early UK hardy species which are quite dainty such as the white *Orchis provincialis* (which defied my photographic attempts), and *Serapias* species of *lingua* and *cordigera* (quite a deep red).

A bottom corner of the hall was down to education with Writhlington School and the University of Kent. The school had lots of huge plants, with *Coel. holochila* and *cristata* to the fore and large *Dendrobiums* of *thrysiflorum*, *kingianum* and *speciosum*, together with lots of posters on their foreign trips with hopes to reintroduce species and educate the locals on the importance of botany. DICE (Kent University) are concentrating their efforts with orchids at the PHD level, and had a series of posters on the various results as well as examples of in vitro seedlings.

Lucke Orchideen had the final display in the Lindley hall, and had combined with a South American supplier to concentrate their sales on plants from this part of the world such as Cattleyas, Pleuros, Lycastes etc. Their exhibit was well built with several decent Den. *aphyllum*, a good *Rhynchostele rossii*, and a spectacular *Angulocaste Olympus 'Rex'* which is a pink shade of white rather than the more common yellow.

In the Lawrence Hall the first display was from the EYOF, and they had a huge display of excellent plants. Firstly visible was a large number of colourful complex Paphiopedilums of all colours (any of which I would gladly find space in my greenhouse for). A series of *delenatii* and Ho Chi Minh filled in under a tree trunk. Next to these were several tall multifloral hybrids (mainly Lady Isabel and Bel Royal), all looking their best with several open flowers. Behind these were an array of branch mounted Miltoniopsis, mainly of shades of pink. Several were waterfall types. Several white and cream hybrids had colourful centre masks. A good selection of Cymbidiums filled a lot of space, with a series of floor based pinks and a striking yellow in Cym. Patsy Bauman. Part of the display was an arched branch that you walked through, and atop this were a couple of plants of Cym. Plush Canyon 'Trinity' which had pendant spikes of nicely striped orange flowers. On a corner spot was a plant new to me in *Aphrophyllum giganteum* which was over a yard across with tall and elegant 'candles' containing hundreds of tiny purple flowers in tight spirals (it comes from Central America). Behind this were over half a dozen perfect plants of Paph. *rothschildianum*, and a cluster of colourful Phragmipediums behind these. A tiered slope of Odonts followed with them being mainly white based with all sorts of colourful spots and blotches. Another corner had a group of Lycaste About First spring which were pale pink with a red blotch on the lip. Lots of other orchids such as Masdevallias, together with bromeliads and other foliage completed a brilliant effort.

The Jardin de Luxemburg from Paris had a large round display at floor level built up with large twigs. They are well known for their collection of paphiopedilum species and antique hybrids, and many of these were on the floor which was a bit difficult to fully appreciate. These included large groups of *delenatii*, *phillipinense*, and the rarely seen *exul* - as well as a varied selection of others. A couple of very tall Schomburgkias added some height, and a huge plant of *Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii* completed it all.

Burnhams had their usual display in their usual corner. Whilst it was well presented and colourful it is all 'stuff' that we have seen before - Vandas, Phals, Cymbidiums etc... Much the same can be said for Lawrence Hobbs.

KJ Orchids from Denmark had his customary mix of oddments, perhaps a bit more modest than we are used to seeing at eg. Malvern. Using eggshells for labels is a neat idea. Akerne tend to present the unusual and unexpected, and they did so again this time. Dockrillia *schoenina* is a series of leafless canes (a member of the Dendrobium) with very pale spiky type of flowers - which are 'upside down'. Lots of Masdavellias, Pleurothallids and terrestrials were amongst their many other plants.

The bottom half of the hall was almost all for the eastern Asian producers, mainly from Taiwan. Yih Cheng Pom Orchids put on a decent display, with picture frames surrounding their plants. It is a style used by many Societies, and still looks effective with the right plants 'inside'. These were plants of warmer Oncidiums and Cattleyas, and some good *Catasetum pileatum*s for sale at reasonable prices. Joseph Wu put on a strong display using coloured ceramics to show off mainly Pink Phals. Jumbo, In-Charm and Nagato Engei shared a sales area and had small but impressive displays of their wares - some very good slippers, and a lovely dark red Lyc. Alan Salzman 'Bordeau' as well as the lovely yellow Arashiyama. Water Orchids and Orchis Floriculture had most of the standard range that we see each year at Malvern.

Chantelle had a lovely display with some very interesting plants, although most were Cattleyas, with *skinneri* f. *alba* just about perfect. Her top plant was a cascading *Trichoglottis rosea* var. *berviracema*. It was over 1m long with clusters of tiny white flowers. It won GC Species, and Best Plant in Show.

Vacherot & Lecoufle had a large display that was very well put together, and stuffed with plants. It was a round cylindrical effect on a large square base. Phillipe had a 'tower' of phals, with Ackers Sweetie 'Dragon Tree Maple' being a real eye catcher with large white flowers with strong symmetrical pink blotches. Oncidiums, Brassia, and Paphs made up most of the rest with stone chippings on the floor. Very well done, and for me it was second best only to the Foundation.

Tonn (Germany) had a long display with an oriental theme. Tall arching Phals looked well, and there were lots of slippers - on the display and for sale. Orchideen Garten had a large display interspersed with large bamboo canes. They had several specimen plants including a recently opened Phrag. *richteri* 'Anja' with 8 spikes, Phrag, *nitidissimum*, and Den. *thrysiflorum*. Rolke had a lot of nursery raised small plants, and an interesting display inside a tented roof. *Trichopilia Evaline* was an interesting member of the Oncidiums - with a trumpet shaped lip, some very good Angraceums, and *Cynorkis calanthoides* with flowers that really resemble a pinkish *Calanthe*. The DOG display was huge, and appeared to be mainly down to the effort of Franz Glanz as many of the plants appeared to be his. He has a lot of quality plants to pick from of

course, and there were a lot of excellent ones there. The display was a half pyramid shaped against a side wall, and you needed to look all around it. The short plants were at the base, with the taller ones higher up. Several *Paph. armeniacum* were large flowered ones, as were some *micranthums*. All the varied slippers were good especially Phrag Jason Fischer. I really liked *Ascocentrum christensonianum* which is a tall growing plant with 5 short spikes of tightly clustered pink flowers

Equatorial Plants (Dick Warren) had a display of small plants with mainly *Den. cuthbertsonii* showing great variety of colour. Sam Tsui had brought a lot of bare root Slippers and a few multiflorals in flower for the display - which sadly was made up of Dutch complex Paphs. Sales plants were very good, and not overly expensive. Jerry Fischer is another American slipper grower, who had mainly plants from orders, but a few extras, which looked quite expensive. Bob Fuchs brought a decent small display of cut flower Vandas over from Florida.

Orquidas del Valle from Columbia had an excellent smallish display with lots of colourful Masdevallias, cut flower Dendrobiums, and a range of other genera. Their fillers were very good, and it was topped off with a couple of cloth parrots. Ecuagenera and Peruflora also made the trip from South America, and had lots of bare rooted plants from their own part of the world.

EMOS is a Society that I would have expected to mount a display in their own name, but sacrificed it to an exhibit by the BOC. With so few Societies represented there was little by way of allowing the amateur grower to show their best plants, as well as present them for judging at such a prestigious event. A BOC display allows for just that situation, and they used the EMOS wooden framework to mount plants from all over the UK. A few of them were from EMOS, but the majority were from elsewhere. Some were from SDOS from Charles Ford's collection (sadly no EOC awards for him though). There were some excellent plants from the smaller Masdevallias to a huge Phrag. Don Wimber 4N with 7 large growths completely out of their pots (a tricky repotting effort will be required once flowering is over). A large Eric Young had a single spike with 5 open flowers which were all of a very good shape and colour. Lots of Cattleyas, Cymbidiums, Oncidiums and Paphs filled out the remainder.

This being an event hosted by the RHS, then it is (probably) necessary for them to put on their own display, which was annotated as Wisley rather than Kew, which is down to it being the more commercial side... They had a decent display with mainly 'common' plants (many of which looked to be straight from the continent) rather than some of the oddments that can be seen at Kew.

The final 2 exhibits were of UK hardies, with Laneside having the start of a few Cyps in flower, and sales plants just starting to get going for summer flowering. Jacques Armand however had the benefit of getting plants straight from Anthura in the Netherlands. This made half the display full of multigrowth Cyps in full flower, and sales plants of the same size in bud. Lots of Pleiones filled out a large table height round circle.

The flower show is of course just a part of the Congress, and a 2 day scientific symposium was held prior to the start at Kew, whilst there were 2 lecture streams at the Lawrence Hall on all sorts of varied topics. Not too many people had registered, and attendance at the lectures was fairly thin. Altogether I think that the show itself was pretty good, with some decent plants for sale at reasonable prices. The public attendance was poor, and I can only guess as to what the reasons for this were, but this probably makes it a disappointing congress.

The next congress will be in Paris in 2018, and I am already looking forward to it. During the closing speeches it was announced that the 2021 congress is now pencilled in for Copenhagen. Never having been to Denmark before I shall look forward to this one as well...

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

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

Oct 18<sup>th</sup>                      Photography competition.  
**NB. note the changed date**

Nov 8<sup>th</sup>                        Peter White

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

Oct 11<sup>th</sup>                      East Midlands OS – Radcliffe on Trent  
\*\*\* SDOS Exhibiting \*\*\*

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



Above - *Oncidium Cooksoniae*

Below - (left) *V. Sanderiana*-Boonchoo x Tawee 'Suksa', and Siam Ink 'Black' (right)

