

Top Orchid

Autumn/Winter
2007



BOURNEMOUTH ORCHID SOCIETY

PROGRAMME

2007

Sat. Sept 29 **Autumn Show** Beaufort Community Centre

Fri 26 Oct * *Plant Clinic & Brains Trust*

Fri 30 Nov * Steve Manning “*Masdevallias & Some Other Pleurothallids*”

Sat 15 Dec * **Christmas Dinner**
Noon for 1 pm, Beaufort Community Centre

2008

Fri 18 Jan * Mike Powell “*Cyrtopodiums*”

Sat 23 Feb **Spring Show** Beaufort Community Centre

Fri 28 Mar * Plant Clinic & Brains Trust

Fri 25 Apr * David Menzies “*A Glasgow Miscellany*”

Fri 30 May * **AGM** Followed by Plant Auction

June **Coach Outing** **Peterborough Orchid Show**

Fri 20 June Henry Oakley “*Orchid Hunting in South America*”

Sun 20 July * **Garden Party** Hosted by Nina Gregson; 2.30 p.m.
3 Ashley Park, Ashley Heath.

Fri 29 Aug * Stephen Taylor “*Vandas and their Cultivation*”

Sat 27 Sep **Autumn Show** Beaufort Community Centre, Southbourne

* Members may sell plants only at these meetings

Front Cover Vanda Patchong Blue Phot Roger Russell

Editor's Page

As another year comes to an end it gives one a chance to reflect on how things have gone in the orchid house and perhaps make some changes. I felt this year has been a bit disappointing, not a particularly great summer and the orchids seem to have noticed this as well, they were distinctly slow to get going and it was not until the Autumn that I noticed a change in their appearance. In a few short weeks they were noticeable perkier and much healthier looking. Many people do not realise the Autumn can be a chance to repot certain orchids, such as members of the *Odontoglossum* alliance and *Paphiopedilums*. It is important to have plants in good condition to go through the winter months and if any of these two groups are a bit dodgy with poor roots due to sour compost then they would probably benefit from a repot. It is worth remembering that if you have any plants that are suffering they should be dealt with immediately, whatever the time of year.

One thing I have learnt this year is to increase the feed strength of my *Phragmipediums*. Their leaves were distinctly pale looking and although I fed regularly (200 micro Siemens) they never seemed to look any better. It was at one of the British *Paphiopedilum* Society meetings that I learnt they could take high nutrient strengths, as much as 1000 micro Siemens. With this in mind I therefore increased the feed strength to 500 micro Siemens and lo and behold within a couple of weeks their leaves were dark green and looking great. I will continue with this feed regime until later next spring when I will consider increasing it a little more when the light levels are increasing also.

A problem with bark composts is as they decompose they consume nitrogen in the process and, therefore, depriving the plant of it. So as the bark ages then the feed strength should be increased to compensate, but this should be done carefully and only when plants are growing well. Eventually the bark reaches a stage when it is too far gone and needs to be replaced and this should be done before roots deteriorate.

If there is one thing I have learnt in my 38 years growing orchids is you never stop learning how to grow them.

Thanks to those who contributed articles for this edition - I would like more similar to John Geall's article on page 12. There must be many of you with snippets of information which would be of interest to members.

Allan Burdis

Plant Clinic & Brains Trust Oct 26

The Brains this evening were Graham Smith, Mike Powell and Ken Griffiths

First up was a *Dendrobium Phalaenopsis* type hybrid which was grown in the home and had several keikis . It was mentioned that this name is a Hawaiian word for baby. The panel said that some orchids tend to produce these when they are growing well and the grower was advised to remove them when they have good roots and pot up in as small a pot as possible in Pearlite and sphagnum moss . Place in a plastic bag, seal it to keep in the humidity. Alternatively, place the keiki without a pot in a plastic bag with a pad of sphagnum moss and tie up to keep humid and so encourage root activity. Pot up when roots are active . Certain species are prone to producing keiki's, eg *Dendrobium kingianum* . Watering too much too soon can encourage this (see pages 19 - 20 for more about keikis).

Next up a Cymbidium hybrid. It had brown streak marks on the older leaves, but the new leaves were clear and the owner wanted to know if this was a virus. First of all it was said if any plant has a confirmed virus it should be destroyed, but it was generally felt the marks on this plant were not viral. Keith pointed out that this summer had been difficult for plants put outside and he had noticed his plants were showing the same symptoms. It could be it was temperature related and maybe a sign of a fungal infection. It was suggested to use 'RoseClear' as a precaution, following the manufacturers instructions. The plant was basically OK. It was said that Cymbidiums are not so popular as they once were.

Next up another Cymbidium, should the old pseudo bulbs be removed? Answer: do not take off too many but keep the plant in balance, that is do not have too many leafless bulbs in comparison to those with leaves. Put any bulbs removed in a plastic bag with some sphagnum moss and place in a airing cupboard for a few weeks until a new shoot is visible and then remove and pot up.

Next up yet another Cymbidium - Is the pot too big? This did not seem to be a problem with this single bulb and growth, even though the pot was a bit too big. The new growth was about 20 cm tall and was growing well. This plant was said to have originated from a Madeira market stall.

Next up was, you've guessed it, yet another Cymbidium , and to think one of the panel mentioned Cymbidiums were not so popular as they used to be. This was an overgrown plant which needed cleaning by removing the old dead leaf bracts as they harbour lots of nasty creepy crawlies. Should be repotted in February into a slightly larger pot when light levels are improving. Keith agreed and advised removing two thirds of the root ball and if possible to stand the plant on a heated matt for a couple of weeks to encourage root activity and then pot up. This should get the plant off to a good start.

Our Chairman, Derek Copley, thanked the panel for their advise and everyone responded by throwing rotten fruit..... No! that should be - by applauding loudly!

Allan Burdis

The Gentle Trap

Part of the fascination of orchids is the unique and often complex ways they have evolved to achieve pollination. This has intrigued botanists from the beginning, even the famous Charles Darwin devoted a complete publication to this subject. In Europe, until the mechanisms were fully understood, nobody knew how orchids were pollinated and so a magical folk law grew up around them. For example, it was thought terrestrial orchids sprung up spontaneously where semen was spilled from copulating goats. The fact that very few people, even now, have actually witnessed an orchid being pollinated in the wild added to this mystery. The story of Darwin seeing for the first time *Angaecum sesquipedale* and predicting it had to have a pollinator with a proboscis long enough to reach down into the nectar tube is well known. (see page 22).

I recall a few years ago a most fascinating television programme which featured an intrepid explorer who had an ambition to capture on camera the actual pollination of *A. Sesquipedale*. This entailed many hours of watching and waiting, mainly at night, which, after nearly giving up, eventually paid off with one of the most incredible wild life sequences I have ever seen. I hope one day this will be shown again. My point is, capturing this 'dirty' deed is very rare and so you can imagine my surprise when I was alerted to one of my orchids by a high pitched buzzing sound. On closer inspection I noticed a hover fly had become well and truly stuck while trying to escape from the amorous embrace of a *Paphiopedilum* flower.



It was still there half an hour later by which time I determined it was not going to be strong enough to overcome the 'super glue' employed by the orchid to stick the pollen onto its back. The interesting thing about this is, the hover fly was obviously not the pollinator this orchid would encounter in the wild, (even though it was a man made hybrid, but you get my drift), but something attracted the fly to drop into the pouch and follow the exact route the true pollinator would follow.



As *Paphiopedilum*s do not have obvious rewards such as nectar there must be more subtle devices at work to lure their pollinators and this must have been good enough to trick this very British hover fly to make a journey he would never have made before. I wonder how many other insects make the same mistake in jungles around the world before they find the right flower?

PS I carefully removed the fly which flew off with no apparent damage, I couldn't bear to listen to his pathetic buzzing any longer.

Allan Burdis

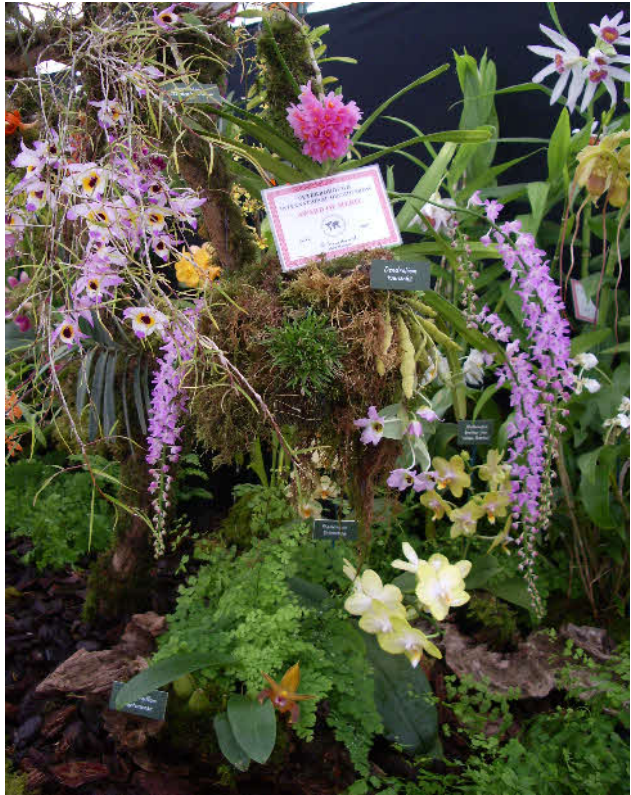
Photos Allan Burdis

PETERBOROUGH INTERNATIONAL ORCHID SHOW 2007



In 2007 for the first time, the International Orchid Show relocated from Newbury to Peterborough from 16-17 June. Bournemouth Orchid Society, determined to repeat their success at Newbury 2005 in winning the trophy for Best Display, sent out a crack show team to do contest. Accordingly on the preceding Thursday 14th June an intrepid advance party set forth laden with show materials and plants. After an uneventful trip we arrived in the early afternoon. The Orchid tent was huge and there was ample parking. I arrived first and was able to find our pitch which was well sited near one of the entrances. We were also provided with a gratuitous water feature in the form of a large puddle that was regularly replenished by frequent thunderstorms. We complained about this and the efficient organisers fairly rapidly filled it in. We spent the afternoon, unloading our equipment and plants, setting up the staging, the water feature and the drippy tree. This was fiddly but had to be absolutely right as everything else depended on it. Finally all was correct and we repaired to our various lodgings to unwind and unpack. The next day work resumed in earnest. Plants had to be placed, 'mossed in' and labelled. Again, this had to be done exactly right, with the aim of firstly, creating a unity for the whole display and, secondly, of coordinating and arranging the colours so as to lead the eye into the display. Fortunately we had some superb material to work with, comprising a number of superb specimen plants and a very strong supporting cast. Among items of note were a collection of *Sophranitis purpurata*, a range of unusual, quality terrestrials and a good range of Phalaenopsis, and some rare dendrobiums. Not only was the quality of plants we had to work with outstanding, but we also had a good number of rare and unusual items to provide further interest and titillate the judges.

Placing the plants and creating the display took a full eight hours and we were still tweaking the display when we were gently but firmly ushered out of the tent so that judging could begin. It is worth mentioning here that a very serious road accident on the A34 delayed some of the show team for several hours so that some activities, such as the labelling, had to be done in less time than was ideal. However in the end all was done aright and we repaired to a local hostelry to unwind and eat. Next morning, Saturday, we rushed to the showground to see how we had done. We were delighted to find that we had been awarded three Firsts: Ken Griffiths for a huge *Miltonia flavescens*, Mike Powell for a superb *Sophranitis Pulcherrima alba*, and Roger Russell for a lovely *Eulophia guineensis*. We also had a



whole raft of cultural awards. The best, however, was still to come, for on arrival I was approached by the Show's Secretary, who asked who had grown the *Sophranitis* (me) and asked me to attend the trophy stand at 11 o'clock and to ensure that Colin our Show Secretary was also in attendance. And so it came to pass that amidst much rowdy cheering Bournemouth Orchid Society were awarded trophies for best Amateur Species and best Society Display. This was two of the three Amateur trophies available. There were also three trophies for the trade.

This is a stunning achievement for our society and reflects both the cultural expertise of our members and the Society's skill in putting on displays. There is no doubt that Peterborough bids fair to be a truly superb orchid show. As part of the East of England Agricultural Show it has the benefits of a permanent well appointed showground and loads of space. The orchid tent was bigger than Newbury with three aisles rather than two. The organisation was efficient, (they managed at one point to track me down so that I could go and unblock my landlady's car!) and from the point of view of an amateur grower it had everything- loads of space and parking, good displays and a wide range of trade stands

Photo Colin Carter



I do not think the trade were so happy. After the initial 'feeding frenzy' business tailed off rather, and I do not think that as many of the general public came as was expected. Also the English trade felt there were too many overseas dealers offering stock at extremely competitive prices, and certainly 'local' dealers were rather thin on the ground. Hopefully things will be more even next year. From our society's point of view it was a dazzling success and reflects very well on our national standing. Our success would not have been possible without the input of a large number of people. I should like to thank Colin and Christine Carter, Allan Burdis, Graham Smith, Ken Griffiths, Pam Miles, Derek Copley and Chong-Yee Khoo for their input of time and skill and plants. I should also like to thank all those who loaned plants and who took the trouble to come up and see the display and celebrate our success, because that after all is what the whole exercise is about!



Dendrobium falconeri

Awards

Best Amateur display - Bournemouth Orchid Society

Best Species - *Sophranitis pulcherrima* var alba

The above awards presented by the Bishop of Ely

Any other species - 1st Roger Russell - *Eulophia guineensis*

Miltonia/Miltoniopsis - 1st Ken Griffiths - *Miltonia flavescens*

Laeliinae- 1st Michael Powell - *Sophranitis pulcherrima* var alba

Awards of Merit

Christine Carter - *Phalaenopsis* Alice Woodbridge x Doris Wells

Christine Carter - *Phalaenopsis* Fantasy Musik

Colin Carter - *Aerides fieldingii*

Chong-Yee Khoo - *Dendrobium unicum* 'Weimin AM/RHS

Dendrobium christyanum

Dendrobium pseudoglomeratum

Michael Powell - *Thunia gatttonensis*

Mike Powell
Show Secretary

Photo Colin Carter

Best Beallara



At the October meeting a superb example of the hybrid Beallara Tahoma Glacier "Green" was exhibited by one of our newest members, Bob Johnson. As you can see from the photograph on the left it had two enormous flower spikes. The flowers were equally large and in perfect condition. Bob explained he very nearly didn't take it to the meeting because he felt it wasn't good enough. Well it managed to win the best plant in the points competition for the "Open" class - I bet Bob was glad he took it!

We are all very critical of our own plants but I would encourage everyone to take along their plants to meetings as this is a great way to seek advice from more experienced growers, of which there are many in our society.

Bob was advised not to leave the flower spikes on for too long and to remove them in a couple of weeks. This would stop the plant suffering to support so many flowers. They will last a few weeks more in a vase. He was also advised to wait until next Spring to repot.



Orchids of Southern China

A talk by Philip Cribb 17 Oct

A very well attended meeting on Friday 17th August had the real pleasure and privilege to listen to one of UK's if not the worlds' most pre eminent Orchidologists, Dr Phillip Cribb Deputy Keeper and Curator of the Orchid Herbarium at the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. Phil, with the aid of our new PowerPoint projector, then took us on a journey around Southern China with his experiences of expeditions over several decades into an area where, just 20 years ago, the genus *Paphiopedilum* in China was unknown. China is a vast country being some 5000 kms long by 5500 kms east to west and is home to something like 1300 species of orchids, most to be located in Yunnan province which is in the south close to the border of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. To this date over 20 species of *Paphiopedilum* have been discovered there and an increasing number of *Cypripedium*s. Of the fifty species of *Cypripedium* described so far worldwide, thirty come from China.



Yunnan province is at the extreme eastern end of the Himalayas with both high mountain ranges and deep tropical gorges and valleys which provide an ideal environment for a vast diversity of flora and not only orchids. This area is traversed by three major river systems including the Mekong and Yangtze. In the Gang Ho Ba valley close to the ancient city of Lijiang can be found twelve different species of *Cypripedium* including *Cyp tibeticum* a magnificent maroon coloured flower the size of a cricket ball on a tiny plant. These grow at very high elevation with freezing winter temperatures. They certainly are hardy. George Forrest 1873-1932 (*Pleione forrestii*) and Frank Kingdom Ward 1885-1958 (*Paph Wardii*) were early collectors in this region mainly of hardy plants but that included many orchid species.

The yellow lady's slipper orchid *Cypripedium flavum* is not uncommon throughout south western China and can also be found in this area growing in clumps on crumbling cliffs with dense rhododendron vegetation behind. The form of these flowers can be very variable from pale yellow through to a slide showing a form which was deeply spotted.

This is also Panda country (slides to prove it) so if you are ever lucky enough to accompany Phil on one of his trips then you are in for a real treat. He described that at a comfort break once one of the lady travellers was in the bushes when, at eye level, she noticed what she thought was an orchid of some interest. It turned

This area has a huge diversity of orchids and we were shown pictures of 9/10 species of spotted Cyps. Back in the early 1990's Phillip's wife found what she was convinced a new species of *Cypripedium* which Phil adamantly maintained was a *Cyp margaritaceum* but was proved wrong as this flower was twice as large and later identified as a new species *Cypripedium lichiangense*. Never argue with the missus!!!

Phillip then moved south towards the town of Malipo still in Yunnan but close to the Vietnamese border. In this area can be found *Paphiopedilum malipoense* and *micranthum*. These are nearly always found along with *Coelogyne fimbriata*. *Paph hirsutissimum* is very common and widespread in this area along with many newly discovered Bulbophyllum species. Phillip also came across *Cypripedium lentiginosum* growing on ridges in amongst ash trees. This was first identified about six years ago and has creamy white flowers with with maroon spots. Ruthlessly collected there are only about forty plants left in the wild. *Dendrobium loddigesii*, *thyrsiflorum* and *Paph concolor* are common in this region as are *Dendrobium nobile*, *lituiflorum* and *aphyllum*.. Unfortunately, rampant over collection of all species of orchids in this region is not to sell to the trade for amateur growers but for Chinese medicine for use as a cough mixture!

Holger Perner who is a German botanist working in China and is setting up a facility to produce slipper orchids from seed once asked Phil Cribb where he could find *Cypripedium debile* in Sichuan province but instead of that he found another new species *Cyp sichuanense*.

Phil then showed some fantastic pictures of the Tiger Leaping Gorge over the Yangtze in the north of Yunnan Province where *Cyp guttatum* and *tibeticum* can be found along with Paph and *Cyp Wardii*. (Watch out for Pandas) Over towards the Burmese border can also be found *Paph bellatulum* yellow form and *armeniicum*, a very hardy Paph species which grows in cracks in limestone rocks. Phil also has travelled to a sacred Buddhist mountain in the most northerly part of Yunnan where there was a colony of *Paph micranthum* of which we were shown three pics to demonstrate the variability of form of this flower even in adjacent plants. In the Gualing region is one of the last surviving colonies of *Paph emersonii* which is virtually extinct in the wild.

Finally we travelled south into Vietnam, a very poor area, where Phil has studied with the well known Russian botanist Leonid Averyanov. Here can be found *Paph henryanum* which only survives in two places growing on sheer limestone rock faces. *Paph dianthum* and the diminutive *P. helenae* can also be found in this area along with the beautiful recently discovered *P. vietnamense* which is also terminally under threat.

Graham Smith a thirty year long friend of Phillip Cribb gave the vote of thanks for a memorable lecture which was a privilege to listen to and beautifully illustrated.

Ken Griffiths



Paph bellatulum



Paph concolor



Dendrobium thyrsiflorum

Slugs and Things

Since my last effort at writing something for Top Orchid, several changes have been made regarding what species of orchids to grow. I had too many plants with such a variation of minimum temperatures I found it difficult to cater for their night time needs, so I sold or swapped those with higher temperatures for some species with lower night time temperatures for example; *Coelogyne fimbriata*, *flaccida*, *fuliginosa*, *mooreana*, amongst others. I also have several Dendrobiums; *kingianum*, *aureum*, *williamsonii*, *densiflorum*, not to mention Bulbophyllum, and Cymbidium, these all live in the greenhouse and seem to be doing quite well (so far!). Of course I also have the obligatory! Phalaenopsis, and of course my Cattleyas which are all kept in doors in our bay window.

Changing the subject slightly, I seem to have acquired a reputation as being an "orchid expert" by some people in the area I live (if only they new!), I sometimes am confronted by "you know about orchids what should I do with this?" and a very crisp or very soggy Phalaenopsis is thrust at me!, well I cannot tell them to put it in the dustbin can I?, it would ruin my "street cred" wouldn't it?. I have learned my lesson resuscitating other peoples plants, doing a favour for one of them was nearly my undoing!. Not long after taking on an unhealthy looking Phalaenopsis there were those silvery trails on some of my plants, "SLUGS"! panic stations, I looked all over the plants, under the staging on the floor of the greenhouse, anywhere I thought the slimy characters might be, but no sign of one, perhaps a few slug pellets in strategic places would do the trick. Go to bed and sleep on it. While in the bathroom it struck me! I had not looked under the pots. Down with the tooth brush. Out in the greenhouse each pot lifted and inspected closely until, finally there it was, up inside the pot through one of the drain holes was the little grey rascal. A pair of tweezers soon sorted him out!. There must be a moral in this story somewhere?.

Along with many others I was very sorry to say good bye to Chong -Yee Khoo and his family in their new venture.

The Autumn show was interesting this year, in so much as the numbers of orchids on show were lower, possibly due to the weather, but the plants that were there were up to the usual high standard.

I had a stroke of luck in the "Novice Class" and had a win with my "Cattleya" while I was delighted to win, it was a shame there was so few entries in this class. Anyway, I will now have to enter my plants in the big boys and girls class, and that is going to be really tough!.

John Geall

Autumn Show 2007

AWARDS OF TROPHIES

THE ECHO CUP - BEST IN SHOW

Mr Colin Carter - Holcoglossum kimballianum

THE SOLENT SHIELD - MOST POINTS

Mr Colin Carter

THE SPECIES TROPHY – BEST SPECIES IN SHOW

Mr Colin Carter - Holcoglossum kimballianum

THE DENDROBIUM TROPHY – BEST DENDROBIUM IN SHOW

Mr Glen Jamieson – Dendrobium phalaenopsis hybrid

THE SLIPPER CUP - BEST SLIPPER ORCHID IN SHOW

Mr Alan Sapsard - Phragmipedium Ecu-a-Bess

THE BOB WRIGHT CENTENARY CUP – BEST HYBRID IN SHOW

Mr Roger Russell – Psychopsis Kahili

THE NEW FOREST CUP - BEST GROUP OF THREE IN SHOW

Mr Roger Russell - Psychopsis Kalihi ‘Big’

Odontioda Peggy Ruth Carpenter

Burrageara Nelly Isler

THE RINGWOOD CUP – BEST CATTLEYA IN SHOW

Mr John James – Cattleya Angel Bells

THE PRIORY CUP – BEST NOVICE ORCHID

Mr John Geall – Cattleya hybrid

THE DORSET CUP – BEST ODONTOGLOSSUM IN SHOW

Mr Roger Russell – Odontioda Peggy Ruth Carpenter

THE HAMTUN CUP – BEST PLEUROTHALLID IN SHOW

Mr Roger Russell – Restrepia antennifera

THE DAVE CHERRY CUP - BEST PHALAENOPSIS IN SHOW

Mrs Christine Carter – Doritaenopsis Sorora Delight



AWARDS FOR CULTURAL EXCELLENCE

Mr Colin Carter – Holcoglossum kimballianum
Phragmipedium Grande
Phragmipedium Sorcerer's Apprentice

Mr Roger Russell – Psychopsis Kalihi 'Big'
Mr Eric Groome – Phalaenopsis hybrid
Phalaenopsis Sweet Memory

Mr Alan Sapsard – Bulbophyllum Elizabeth Ann Bucklebury

RESULTS OF ENTRIES BY CLASS

CLASS 1

One Cymbidium species or hybrid

There were no entries in this class.

CLASS 2

One Paphiopedilum or Phragmipedium hybrid

First: Mr Alan Sapsard – Phragmipedium Ecuabess
Second: Mr Colin Carter – Phragmipedium Grande
Third: Mrs Nuala Sterling- Paphiopedilum Schaezchen

CLASS 3

One Paphiopedilum or Phragmipedium species

First: Mr Colin Carter- Paphiopedilum dianthum

CLASS 4

One Oncidinae species or hybrid

First: Mr Roger Russell – Odontodia devassiana
Second: Dr Derek Copley – Odontoglossum povidanum
Third: Mrs Pat Marshall – Beallara Eurostar

CLASS 5

One Dendrobium species or hybrid

First: Mr Glen Jamieson – Dendrobium Phalaenopsis hybrid
Second : Mrs Pat Marshall – Dendrobium hybrid
Third: Mr Colin Carter – Dendrobium thyrsoflorum

CLASS 6

One Cattleya species or hybrid or intergeneric hybrid containing Laelia or Cattleya

First: Mr John James – Cattleya Angel Bells

Second: Mr Colin Carter – Laelia pumila

Third: Mr Alan Sapsard – Cattleya bicolor

CLASS 7

One Phalaenopsis species or hybrid

First: Mrs Christine Carter – Doritaenopsis Sorora Delight

Second: Mr Eric Groome – Phalaenopsis hybrid

Third: Mr Roger Russell – Phalaenopsis hybrid

CLASS 8

Any other hybrid

First: Mr John James – Vanda Pakchong Blue

Second : Mr Colin Carter –Vanda Paki Esther Motes

Third: Mr David Walters – Vanda Hobart's Delight

CLASS 9

Any other species

First: Mr Colin Carter – Holcoglossum kimballianum

Second : Mr Ken Griffiths – Vanda sanderiana

Third: Mr Michael Powell – Stenoglottis fimbriata

CLASS 10

Three species

First: Mr Colin Carter - Epidendrum diffusum

Epidendrum porphyreum

Calanthe sylvatica

Second: Mr Roger Russell – Odontoglossum portillae

Porroglossum mucosum

Restrepia antennifera

CLASS 11

Three Hybrids

First: Mr Roger Russell – Psychopsis Kalihi 'Big'

Odontioda Peggy Ruth Carpenter

Burrageara Nelly Isler

Second : Mrs Christine Carter – Phalaenopsis cornu –cervi

Phalaenopsis Riffi

Laelia dayana

Third: Mr John James – Slc Paprika Rimfire

Slc Mahalo Jack

Ascocenda Highland Gem

CLASS 12



Three Species and Hybrids mixed
First: Mr Colin Carter – *Calanthe sylvatica*
Habenaria rhodocheila
Phragmipedium Sorcerer's Apprentice

Second: Me Eric Groome – *Phalaenopsis hybrid*
Phalaenopsis hybrid
Zygopetalum John Banks

Third: Mrs Christine Carter – *Phalaenopsis Ashura Madrid*
Phalaenopsis AllSun Rainbow
Phalaenopsis Malibu Bistro

CLASS 13

Novice Class

First: Mr John Geall - *Cattleya hybrid*
Second: Mrs Pat Marshall – *Phalaenopsis hybrid*

CLASS 14

One cut-flower spike

First: Dr Derek Copley – *Odontoglossum crocidipeanum*
Second : Mr Leo Palmer – *sp. inc.*

CLASS 15

One windowsill orchid

First: Mr Eric Groome – *Phalaenopsis Carmela Stripe*

Show Secretary's Report

This was another successful show and my first as Show Secretary. Visitor numbers were down slightly on last year at 226, but the quality of plants was as usual very high. Pride of place went to Colin Carter's *Holcoglossum kimballianum*. This is a species of terete vanda with pretty pink flowers. John Gealls novice cattleya also showed promise.

It would have been nice to see more people exhibiting plants. Don't be afraid to put your plants in the show. Growers are often too critical of their own plants and are very likely to be pleasantly surprised. Don't forget – it is YOUR show!

Finally, a big thank you to all who gave up time to help with the setting up, who took the trouble to enter plants, or who simply came along. You all helped to make the show what it always is – a success.

Mike Powell
Show Secretary

Show Picture Gallery 2007



Show bench full of top rate plants

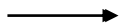


Psychopsis Kalihi 'Big'
Class 11



Dendrobium phalaenopsis hybrid
Class 5

Photos Roger Russell



Show Picture Gallery 2007



Holcoglossum kimballianum
Class 9



Ascocenda Highland Gem
Class 11



Elaine Cherry (left) presents The Dave Cherry Cup
to Christine Carter



No not a bad case of aphid attack, but just as bad as far as judging orchids are concerned, these plastic insect plant clips are a definite no no. So please avoid using them for plants on the show bench. Raffia makes a much neater job.

Photos Roger Russell



Fig 1



Fig 2

At the April meeting a question put to the panel on the Plant Clinic & Brains Trust concerned Keikis (see page 4) Many orchids produce new plants at intervals along their canes and these, at the appropriate time, can be removed, potted up and grown on. Keiki is a Hawaiian word for baby and many orchid collections have been enlarged and indeed started with these plants.

Figs 1,2&3 are all *Dendrobiums*, which is the most frequently encountered genus to readily produce keikis and these reside in the warm house in my collection.

Fig. 1 *D. crumenatum*, an orchid found in India, China and the Philippines produces numerous white, highly scented flowers which are initiated after a drop in temperature anytime throughout the year. I tend to leave the numerous keikis it produces on as it gives the plant a very natural dimension.

As with *D. fimbriatum* I feel this orchid will produce keikis at the expense of flowers if the correct conditions are not provided.

Fig. 2 *D. chryseum* Found throughout the Himalayas, Thailand, Southern China and Vietnam this *Dendrobium* has 5 cm yellow flowers with a finely fimbriated lip. With pseudobulbs the thickness of a pencil has several keikis which I am also prepared to leave on as they do not seem to be a problem. Of course I will remove any I wish to propagate.

Photos Allan Burdis



Fig. 3 *Dendrobium fimbriatum* v *oculatum* is an orchid from India, Burma and Thailand which produces very long, thick canes and my plant has over twenty averaging 2 meters in length. If this species does not get a cool rest then few or no flowers are produced but in their place keikis are often produced. If left on the plant, as with all keikis, they will continue to grow and can form very large plants. If they remain on the plant, however, they could grow too large and heavy and may well fall off, by which time they would have become distorted and difficult to pot up. Fig. 3 shows a large keiki hanging



down with numerous white roots at the top. Figs 4 & 5 illustrate this keiki before and after it had been removed and consequently repotted. Note how the growth had started to bend towards the light, if left any longer this would have been difficult to pot up. After potting it will eventually straighten as it grows upwards.

Always choose as small a pot as possible, big enough to comfortably hold the roots without damage. This plant was potted in a 7.5 cm pot,



Allan Burdis

Photos Allan Burdis



The Jim Binks Memorial Medal



Paphiopedilum Clair de Lune 'Edgard Van Belle' FCC/RHS

At the winter meeting of the British Paphiopedilum Society held at the Ramada Jarvis Hotel in Solihull, West Midlands, 17th and 18th November Allan Burdis won the top award, the Jim Binks Memorial Medal, for his plant of *Paphiopedilum Clair de Lune 'Edgard Van Belle' FCC/RHS*.

The plant had three large flowers on 45 cm spikes emerging from a pot full of the most attractively tessellated leaves and was voted by the members the best in Show.

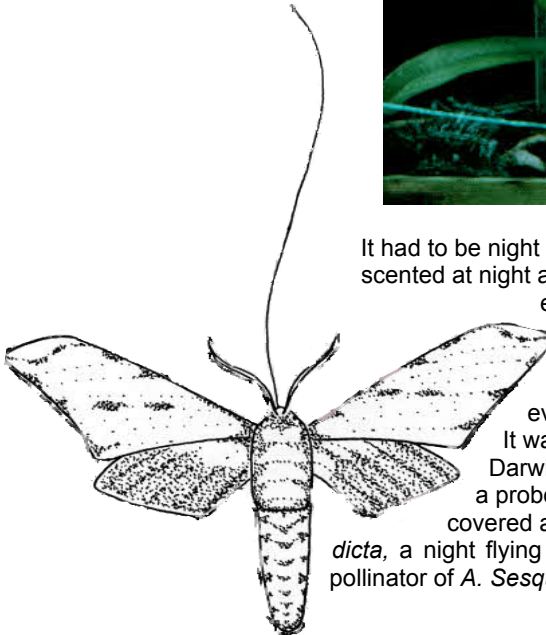
The British Paphiopedilum Society meet twice a year, summer and winter, to enter plants in several competitive classes, listen to top class speakers from all over the world, buy top rate plants, enjoy superb meals and meet interesting and like minded slipper orchid nuts.

If you think you might be interested in joining the BPS have a word with Colin Carter, Allan Burdis or Ken Griffiths the three biggest Paph. nuts in the Bournemouth Orchid Society!

Photos Allan Burdis

Angraecum sesquipedale

A *ngraecum sesquipedale*, the Comet Orchid, also known as the Christmas Orchid due to the time of year it flowers in the northern hemisphere, is a spectacular orchid and once seen is never forgotten. The story of Charles Darwin's encounter with this plant has been well told but for anyone who has not heard it a brief description would not go amiss: Darwin observed *A. Sesquipedale* growing in Madagascar and noted the very long green spur emerging from the back of the flower which contained, at its lower end, sweet nectar. He therefore postulated that this orchid must be pollinated by a night flying moth which had a proboscis long enough to go down into the spur to reach the nectar below.



It had to be night flying because this orchid is only scented at night and as the flower is white would ensure it is more easily located in the moonlight.

At the time Darwin's theory was ridiculed as no such moth had ever been seen let alone identified. It was not until forty years later, after Darwin's death, that such a moth with a proboscis of about 30 cm's was discovered and so, *Xanthopan morgani praedicta*, a night flying moth, was proved to be the pollinator of *A. Sesquipedale*.

Xanthopan morgani praedicta

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