

# Top Orchid

Summer 2009



BOURNEMOUTH ORCHID SOCIETY

# Programme

## 2008

- Sat. Sept 27    **Autumn Show**    Beaufort Community Centre
- Fri 31 Oct    \*    Andy Philips    *Phragmipediums*
- Fri 28 Nov    \*    Roger Bowden    *Starting from Scratch*
- Sat 13 Dec    \*    **Christmas Dinner**    Marsham Court Hotel 12.30 for 1.00

## 2009

- Fri 30 Jan                                    Malcolm Moodie    *Orchid Nutrition*
- 20 / 21/22 Feb                                **50th Anniversary Show**
- Fri 27 Mar    \*    *Plant Clinic & Brains Trust*
- Fri 24 Apr    \*    Max Hopkinson                    *Catasetinae*
- Fri 29 May    \*    **AGM**            *Followed by Plant Auction*
- June    **Coach Outing**    **Peterborough Orchid Show**
- Fri 26 June    \*    Sally Mill                            *Encyclias*
- Sun 19 Jul    \*    **Garden Party**    Hosted by Nina Gregson; 2.30 p.m.  
3 Ashley Park, Ashley Heath.
- Fri 21 Aug                                    Ray Creek                            *Stop the Rot*
- Sat 19 Sept                                    **Autumn Show**

\* Members may sell plants only at these meetings

Front Cover: *Dendrobium subclausum* in full flower in my greenhouse Ed.  
Photo Allan Burdis

## *Editor's Page*

**T**his edition of Top Orchid would have featured our 50th Anniversary Show held at the Carrington House Hotel, Bournemouth, February 21st - 22nd but due to the report of the Peterborough International Orchid Show and several other excellent articles there would not have been enough room in this issue.

There were so many lovely photos of the 50th Anniversary Show it would have been impossible to select just a few to do it justice and so I thought it deserved an issue of its own. It is not everyday you get the chance to be part of a 'Golden' event such as this! So please enjoy the Special 50th Anniversary Show Edition which accompanies this issue.

You cannot have missed the new style name badges we are all wearing at our meetings. These were designed, printed and paid for by Christine Branson. A very big Thank You for her generosity and time.

Our July meetings are traditionally held outdoors, known as the 'Garden Party', they have, for at least the past four years, been hosted by Nina Gregson at her lovely garden in Ashley Heath. It is no lie that on every occasion the weather has been fine and usually very hot and this year when the forecast was decidedly dodgy the rain kept away and we all had a great meeting.

This was the last time we would meet at Nina's home and the committee would like to thank her for kindly opening her home and garden for the society members to enjoy. Her flower borders bursting full of colourful phlox and the prize winning lemon tree will never be forgotten - thank you Nina. Next year we have a different venue planned and I would advise all members to make a note in their diaries and go along. It is a great event where one can relax, buy cheap plants, chat about orchids and other things, enjoy our traditional raffle and consume delicious homemade sandwiches and cakes. Venue to be announced later.

I must thank all those who contributed to this issue and indeed the Special 50th Show edition. The next deadline for copy to arrive is no later than the end of February 2010.

*Allan Burdis*

## PETERBOROUGH INTERNATIONAL ORCHID SHOW

June 19<sup>th</sup> - June 21<sup>st</sup> 2009

The past eighteen months or so have been eventful ones for the Society, especially for the Show Committee. Since January 2008 we have planned, built and set up no fewer than seven society displays at orchid shows, including our massive but very successful 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Show, so it was not surprising that all of us were feeling somewhat jaded or, as one show committee member put it, ‘\*%\*£\$\$! showed out!’ However, we have a reputation to maintain at Peterborough, having an unbroken run of two Gold Medals and a trophy to our credit, so it was agreed that we would think of something simple and low tech for our display this year. The first decision was to stage the display at ground level. This meant that we would not have to spend a hour or so levelling out all the tables. The second decision was that we would have a ‘dry’ display, i.e., no water feature. That meant no crawling around under the tables or lying on soggy wet grass making sure that the feature was watertight ( a decision warmly endorsed by Colin Carter, our hon. Clerk of Works!) This would save us another two hours, at least. The design finally agreed on was a 12' x 10' ground- based display with a path across one corner, to allow the public to view and photograph the plants closer up. This was larger than originally requested, so Show Sec would need to check that with the PIOS Show Manager, and also check confirmation of our site. We agreed that we would need to go up on Thursday June 18<sup>th</sup> to get the ‘hard landscaping’ sorted out. This would give us all day Friday to place and display the plants. It was agreed that Hon Sec would locate and hire a suitable van – one tall enough for Show Sec to cavort about in. Hon Sec also agreed to drive van. Show Sec unearthed ancient correspondence concerning display site confirming prized end of aisle status and permission were readily granted for extra space. Hon Sec also covered himself in Brownie points by hiring a van with a raisable tailgate. Logistics and a loading schedule were worked out. Plants were offered, coaxed and extorted from members and carefully loaded the evening before departure. Everyone was happy.

The four hour journey up to Peterborough was largely uneventful, though there were ominous warnings that the A43 was lying under the dreaded ‘Curse of Silverstone’ that weekend and would be closed to all sane god-fearing traffic. Fortunately we would not be affected on the way up, though detours would have to be sought coming back. On arrival we set to work and encountered our first snag - our site was on tarmac, not on grass! We were unable to fix our base properly, as rubber mallets do not work well on tarmac. However, Show Sec seized the initiative and he and Hon Sec undertook a perilous journey into the bowels of downtown Peterborough to locate a DIY store. This was duly done and, after many adventures, a hammer and masonry nails were procured and the problem solved. Construction of the hard landscaping proceeded apace and was complete by 4.30. We locked and left the van, piled into two cars and repaired to our digs where Judy, our merry landlady, greeted us and showed us to our rooms.

After rest and recuperation we went to the local where we consumed some excellent steaks, made a moderate amount of noise and then returned back to our digs.

The next day, replete with a very full English breakfast, we returned to the showground and commenced placing the plants. This year, the orchid tent was organised differently from previous occasions, with the societies fenced off at one end so that they could set up uninterrupted by members of the public. The rest of the tent was open to the public with the trade able to sell. The whole show was open to the local public at reduced rates- an arrangement that appears to have benefited everybody. Work on the display proceeded apace with plants being swiftly and dexterously placed following a carefully thought out colour scheme. The quality of plants was better this year than last with no plants having to be rejected and very little extra staking having to be done – a reflection on our members' skill at growing and presentation. About one o'clock two other members of the show committee turned up very cross, having fallen foul of the 'Curse of Silverstone' and been directed across a field liberally sown with cowpats. Labelling could now proceed and was much admired by people from other societies. By 5.00 pm all was complete. Two members stayed behind to participate in the judging, while everyone else went back to their digs.

Saturday saw the committee back at the Showground to see what the judging had brought us. We had a gold medal for the display, a second place in the Phalaenopsis Class, and a First place in the 'Any Other Species' Class. At 11.00 am the Trophy winners were announced and Trophies presented. The Trophy for Best Amateur Display was won by East Midlands Orchid Society. Show Sec was pleased with the ribbons for first and second place, and the Gold Medal, but disappointed not to have won the trophy. The rest of the day and Sunday were devoted to retail therapy. Some members came up by car and were impressed by the display, as by and large were the public. It was nice to see that the path into the display was used carefully to get close to the plants and not as a shortcut. On Sunday at 4.30 pm the show came to an end. Swiftly and neatly the display was dismantled. Members' plants were carefully checked off and carefully packed. It took a day and a half to set up and a hour and a half to break down. By 6.30 pm on Sunday all was packed away and the tent was largely empty. Another Show was over.

2009 has been another successful year at Peterborough for Bournemouth Orchid Society. We were awarded another Gold medal, won a first in the Any Other Species class and a second in the Phalaenopsis Class. In addition there were several Cultural awards, and an award of a Botanical Certificate by the RHS Orchid Committee. The Show Committee deserves praise for maintaining the Society's tradition of high quality displays and thanks is also due to those members who donated such a range of quality plants. What is disappointing is that so few members came to see it! We had so little interest that it was not worth running even a minibus. Some members did make the journey and it's fair to say they had a great time, but you could have counted the total number of members on both hands and a foot and still had toes left over!



The Show Committee had a great deal of fun putting up the display- we always do - but it is not for, or about the Show Committee. It is about ordinary members contributing plants and celebrating and enjoying the achievements of their Society. It is sad that we do not get more support than this and I do hope that more people will take the trouble to come up next year.

The show itself was interesting and the idea of separating all the Societies at one end is a good one as it makes it easier to compare Orchid Society displays and to admire the plants. It was disappointing to see so few trade stands by growers from outside the EU but unfortunately DEFRA's new charges make this even more unlikely. I particularly missed Bela Vista Orchids' usual stand of bare root Cattleyas and Laelias. However there was a good number of traders from the EU and from this country. People who had interesting plants on offer did OK. Others did not do so well.

There were some interesting plants on the Society stands. As a hardy orchid/ terrestrial enthusiast I was generally unimpressed by the quality of the Dactylorhizas on display. People treat these orchids with a lack of care verging on contempt. Slug-eaten leaves heaving with virus, flowers half gone to seed, plants that had clearly not been re-potted for years – such faults would not have been tolerated in an epiphyte. However there were some outstanding exceptions: in particular a pot of *D. fuchsii* on the North of England OS stand that had obviously been treated as something special. The pot boasted six large virus-free spikes, the culture was superb and the whole pot had clearly been worked up from one tuber – the careful work of years! It was however bettered by a pot of *D. praetermissa* on the Southern counties OS stand that was even better. That got a second place rosette. There were some good *Cypripediums* too if one looked: a pot of *C. reginae* with six double spikes but some deformed flowers and a pot of *C. kentuckiense* with four superb blooms but rather poor leaves. There was also a superb *Epipactis mairei* and a fine *Epipactis* hybrid to be viewed on another stand. All these had cultural awards. However the hardy orchid class was won by a superb *Bletilla* hybrid on the East Midlands OS stand. The trade produced only one hardy of note- a majestic pot of *C. reginae* with twelve spikes. There was nothing else even close to it and the judges felt unable to award a second place. The EMOS stand also boasted a superb *Laelia purpurata* 'Delicata' with about eight flowers on three spikes and in immaculate condition. There were also about half-an-acre of very good *Anguloa* species and hybrids that filled the air for yards around with a powerful odour of wintergreen. Clearly their society numbers among its members some talented 'semi- professional' growers. In all, the other society stands had some excellent plants and well repaid a close look.

On our own stand there were several quality plants to mention: Colin Carter was awarded a Botanical Certificate by the RHS for his unusual and very fine *Calanthe transiens* 'Lydia Ruth' with two spikes of creamy white flowers and very pretty striped leaves [ See page 8]. Mike Powell ( aka Show Sec) won the Amateur 'Any Other Species' Class with a fine specimen of *Eulophia guineensis* with six spikes.

Eric Groome's superb *Phalaenopsis* hybrid won a worthy second place in the Amateur 'Phalaenopsis' Class. There were also a number of Cultural awards: Ken Griffiths (aka Hon Sec) won one for an enormous *Paphiopedilum* 'Lynleigh Kooperwitz' with two flowers. Mike Powell was also awarded one for his display of *Ponerorchis graminifolia*, in a wide range of colours. Colin Carter also obtained a Cultural award for his very fine *Phragmipedium Grande*.

I should like to thank everyone who contributed plants and especially so if you took the trouble to come up and admire them. If you won an award into the bargain, then well done! Virtue and industry have been rewarded. I should also like to thank the following people for their generous contributions of time and plants: Allan Burdis for his eye-catching foliage plants, orchids and for masterminding and constructing the display; Ken Griffiths for organising excellent van hire, bark and for driving the van (often in bottom gear); Colin for building the hard landscaping and constructing the display; Graham Smith for inspirational labelling, moss and driving across cowpats and Christine Carter and Pam Miles for ably assisting and numerous deft artistic touches.

Thank you all for another good year. Next year we win the trophy!

[Mike Powell](#)

[Show Secretary](#)





Grandchildren, Ruth (left) & Lydia proudly pose with Colin Carter's *Calanthe transiens* 'Lydia Ruth' BC/RHS

## Phalaenopsis at Peterborough

The highlight of the Peterborough International Orchid Show for me was a stunning pale blushed pink phalaenopsis species orchid on Hilmar Bauch of Asendorfer Orchideenzucht display

This was a *phalaenopsis sanderiana* a native of the Philippines, the plant was displayed with the inflorescence arching down which showed the flowers to their best

I tried very hard to purchase this plant but Hilmar would not part with it as he needed it for his breeding programme in Germany

All was not lost as he found me another plant from the same batch just showing the indication of a flower spike

This plant has now settled down nicely in my collection and I am waiting eagerly to see it in flower in a few months time

This species was discovered in 1882 in the Philippines and was named after our famous British orchid nursery Sander & Sons

Christine Carter



*Phalaenopsis sanderiana*

Photo Colin Carter

## Four Men In A Car (Not Quite A Nordic Saga)

Saturday 20 June ,a damp but warm morning and my lift to Peterborough arrived dead on time so of we set, Nick Crab driver Roger Russell navigator Eric Groome and myself chief back seat drivers.The trip was quite straight forward so when we took the wrong exit on theM25 Roger immediately took command with his trusty map and printed route and got us back on course again we sped north at a rate of knots and all was fine until we took the wrong exit to the show ground ,but the show organizers must have known we would do this and had put up signs so that we could find our way back to the show ground .

We arrived in the Orchid Marquee just as the presentations started and I must admit I was surprised at some of the awards. After the presentations we had a look around the society displays and met up with Colin,Christine ,Pam,Ken and Allan and a little later with Derek and Graham.We then decided to go our separate ways after agreeing to meet up at the Bournemouth display later in the day. I then set off looking for plants to buy , but as usual I kept bumping into the boys who were also looking for plants to buy. The problem with a show such as this is that there are so many traders you have to exchange a few words and move onto the next. I was on a mission to find a species or hybrid that I really really had not come across before and I wandered up and down the rows of vendors taking mental notes and after some time settled for Phal. Jia-Ho's Lovely Star, this is *P.stuartiana* var *nobilis* X *P. lobbii* and while there I also got a Phal. *amboinensis*“yellow” my all time favourite. My overall impression of the show was somewhat mixed as many of the vendors were selling similar stuff .The vendors from the Orient had some excellent plants within their particular sphere of interest.

One worrying aspect was the empty spaces where vendors had not taken up their allocated space.

By about 2.15 We had all met up at the Bournemouth display to decide if we were ready to leave ,but Eric had not bought a plant and it was decided that we could not leave until a plant had been purchased ,so a further tour of the marquee ensued without success .As we reassembled at the display, we explained our predicament to Colin who whisked Eric away .While we were waiting it was clear that other items such as moss and charcoal needed buying we meandered around until the chosen vendors were found and purchases made.

It was now about 3pm and a triumphant Colin and Eric appeared with a plant. By about 3.15 we had said our good byes and made our way to the car after some quick refreshments we set off for home ,this time the back seat drivers were in charge as Roger had left his glasses in the boot. Sunshine and showers were the order of the day for the return leg of the journey,no wrong turns and a comfort break at Fleet seemed to add an hour to the trip ,the “boys” dropped me off and still had another hour to drive before they got home.

Glen Jamieson

# Catasetinae

Max Hopkinson  
April 24th

If a schoolboy were to consider collecting orchids he could do worse than consider the Catasetinae. They have everything that the William Browns of this world would find appealing: sticky projectile pollen, bizarre shapes, 'interesting' smells and, in some cases, flowers rude enough to have your maiden aunt reaching for her smelling salts. There is of course far more to these orchids than that, and on Friday April 24<sup>th</sup> we were privileged to have Max Hopkinson talking about these weird but wonderful orchids. Max is the Chairman of the East Midland Orchid Society and the holder of the National Collection of this subtribe. He is also Vice President and Chairman of the British Orchid Council and has over 40 years of growing experience.



Max started, as most of us do, with a mixed collection, but encountered Catasetums on a trip to Florida when he visited the nursery of Jones and Scully (later to be carried away by a passing hurricane). They fascinated him, and he started to collect them. Or tried to. He soon found that they were hard to obtain and that there was little information on them. Identification was also a problem, with a lot of synonymy - the same orchid masquerading under different names. However he persevered and started to build up a collection, in which endeavour he had the help of the 'Catasetum King' aka Antonio Schmidt of Bela Vista Orchids. The rest is history.

## DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT

The Catasetinae, Max informed us, comprised five related new world Genera: *Catasetum* (130 species), *Mormodes* (40 species), *Cycnoches* 'the Swan Orchids' (34 species), *Dresslera* (12 species) and *Clowesia* (8 species). These genera are widely distributed across Central and South America, from southern Mexico in the north to Argentina in the south. The centre of distribution, however, is Brazil and Venezuela. They are generally lowland plants, meaning that they are warm growing and will tolerate high temperatures. A favourite habitat, certainly of the genus *Catasetum*, is dead trees, especially near water, which would indicate that they also like high humidity. They are by preference strongly epiphytic, though if conditions are right they are capable of growing on the ground.

## BOTANY

The genera *Catasetum* and *Cycnoches* are unusual in the Orchid family in having dioecious flowers i.e. separate male and female flowers. These appear to be randomly distributed on a given plant. You may have separate spikes of male and female flowers, spikes of male and female mixed and (to hedge your bets) a few hermaphrodite flowers. The key factor is light. More light means that the plant produces more female flowers. Plants in shade produce fewer or no female flowers. The flowers are easy to tell apart. The male flowers are showy, often bizarrely shaped and individual to each species. They produce no nectar. The female flowers are green, hooded, scented and remarkably uniform throughout each genus.



The flowers are scented, some pleasantly to humans, others less so. The pollinators are euglossine bees - as with so many south American orchids - who visit the flowers to obtain fragrances with which to attract a mate ( a sort of 'Brut for Bees'). When the bees visit the flowers of *Catasetum*, *Cycnoches* and *Mormodes* the flowers unleash their secret weapon :projectile pollination. As the bee lands on a flower the pollen masses are fired with some force at the bee and stick to its head. The mechanism will project pollinia up to 60 cm. It does not take a bee to trigger this projectile pollination; any disturbance will do. This can make moving around a greenhouse full of flowering *Catasetinae* rather a sticky experience. This projectile pollination is unique to the sub-tribe. Should the bee visit a female flower, the pollinia are stripped off the bee's head and fertilise the female flower. The genera *Mormodes*, *Clowesia* and *Dresslera* have bisexual flowers.

One way of telling apart the genera *Catasetum*, *Mormodes* and *Cycnoches* is to examine the point where the spike leaves the pseudo bulb. *Catasetums* always spike from the base of the bulb, *Mormodes* from the middle and *Cycnoches* from the top. This would only work with species. Bi-generic hybrids would presumably start halfway between their parents.

In nature the *Catasetinae* are strongly seasonal, as they grow in areas with a marked rainy and dry season. Thus the plants' growth cycle is characterised by marked periods of growth and dormancy. The cycle starts with a shoot breaking from the base of the most recent pseudobulb and then growing. As this grows and matures the stem swells to produce a distinctive spindle shaped pseudobulb and between eight and twelve large thin leaves. When the bulb is mature it produces a flower spike. At the end of the rainy season the leaves fall and the plants survive the dry season as dormant pseudobulbs until the rains come again.

## **CULTURE**

Culture obviously needs to reflect the plants growing conditions. They are warm growing, meaning a minimum winter temperature of about 16-18C, with fairly high light levels during growth though if female flowers are not wanted the light levels can be reduced. They also relish high humidity and good ventilation. Because of the pendent flower spikes the plants need to be hung up or mounted. A compost of 50% sphagnum, 25% Hortifoam and 25% bark is a good mix. Of paramount importance is to respect the plants' seasonality. During dormancy no water at all should be given. In practice this means from December when the leaves fall until about mid-February when growth starts to resume. As always, the plant will tell you when it is ready to receive water. Initially water should be given carefully so as to avoid rotting off the new shoot. Once growth is well under way, water may be given ad lib and a weak feed given weekly alternating between high nitrogen and high potash. Use rainwater. To get good light plants may be hung up high in the greenhouse, but not allowed to touch the glass. Ventilation is important. The *Catasetinae* will tolerate high temperatures. In fact they are typical monsoonal orchids. Flowering will be from August to October depending on species

The flowers of the *Catasetinae* are not long lasting - about four days on average in good condition and so a lot of plants are necessary to achieve a good display. However, a good deal of hybridisation has been taking place in Taiwan, Brazil and the US, both between species and between genera. Crosses have been made between *Catasetum* and *Mormodes* and between *Catasetum* and *Cycnoches*, with the aim of increasing the colour range and also the durability of the flowers.

## PESTS AND DISEASES

Catasetums are subject to the same ills that plague all orchid plants. Good culture will prevent disease. The plants are prone to mealy bug, scale, and, because of their thin leaves, to red spider mite.

After the talk came the slide show. First we saw pictures of Catasetums in the wild. Some of the plants were very large. As mentioned before, they are fond of dead trees, especially those in or near water. Their liking for humidity was indicated by the size of the plants nearest the water. These plants were largest with the plants successively smaller the further up the trunk they were growing. The plants were growing happily in full sun in a temperature of 45C. Plants had many aerial roots as well as the main roots anchoring the plant to the tree. The function of these roots was to extract water from the air. Next we were shown pictures of plants in greenhouses, both the maestro's and those of growers in S. America. Plants were growing in baskets or white 15 cm pots, either suspended from wires or placed on racks. We learned that Max had a 27' greenhouse and had just added an extension. Thereafter we were treated to pictures of his plants. Polysyllabic Greek and Latin names started to fly about like bullets in a hillbilly shootout, but I managed to pick out a few of the more interesting ones.

### ***Catasetum pileatum***

This is horticulturally one of the most important species. It comes from Brazil and Venezuela. The male flowers are large, up to 15 cm across and very showy with a large distinctive spoon-shaped lip borne on long arching spikes. They are typically an ivory white, but golden yellow, green red spotted and even solid red flowers are known. It has been widely used in hybridisation.



*Catasetum pileatum alba* showing both male and female flowers.  
Female flower centre.

Photo Roger Russell

### ***Catasetum expansum***

This is another showy species, with long arching sprays of flowers. These vary from green through white to deep golden yellow, often with varying degrees of maroon spotting. It comes from NE Ecuador. It has been crossed with the previous species to produce the hybrid *x splendens*.

### ***Catasetum tenebrosum***

This dark and mysterious looking species is narrowly confined to SE Ecuador and E Peru. It produces many flowered racemes of dark velvety red flowers with a lip that is variable in colour from green through to a contrasting yellow. This too is used in hybridisation.

### ***Catasetum macroglossum***

This is the one to have if you wish to upset your maiden aunt! It has gynaecologically suggestive flowers in a lurid green with strategically placed red markings. A botanical curiosity!



### ***Catasetum maculatum***

This is the national flower of Costa Rica.

We were then shown some hybrids including the striking 'Pink Lemonade', and the very showy Alex Pardoe 'Celia' in a bright shiny red. It is a pity that these flowers do not last very long.

From *Catasetum* we went to the genus *Mormodes*. These have bisexual flowers but share with *Catasetum* the mechanism for firing pollen at their pollinators. They also share a similar predilection for growing on dead trees.

Then we were onto *Cycnoches*, with their curious upside down flowers. This position leaves the long slender, column of the male flowers curving up like the neck of a swan, hence the name 'Swan Orchid'. The male flowers also share with the two previous genera the ability to fire their pollen at the poor little euglossine bees that are their pollinators. This genus shares with *Catasetum* the possession of separate male and female flowers on the same plant, though we were told that in *Cycnoches* the female flowers were more attractive. The female flowers have a short thick club like column equipped at the tip with three broad hooks. These are to strip off the pollen from any bees that come visiting.

### ***Cycnoches loddigesii***

We were shown a drawing and a painting of this species showing the variation in colour. The flowers could be up to 12 cm across. It is found in Colombia, Venezuela, the Guiana's and Brazil.

### ***Cycnoches pentadactylon***

As well as a jaw breaking name, this species also had highly spotted flowers.

### ***Cycnoches herrenhausianum***

Another jaw breaking name this time from Colombia.

This genus has been crossed with *Mormodes*, the resulting hybrid being known as x *Cycnodes*. One selection of this was a very fine deep wine red and was named 'Wine Delight'.

Finally we were shown pictures of the 'junior' genera in the *Catasetinae*. First came *Dressleria delecta* from Costa Rica. This had shiny white flowers with a yellow mark on the lip. The flowers appeared not to open widely and the appearance was of a lot of beetle grubs on a stick. Then we were shown a picture of *Clowesia rosea*. *Clowesia* flowers when dormant and *C. rosea* had pretty fragrant pink flowers with a distinctive frilled edge to the lip. This is a popular species and has been crossed with various large flat flowered *Catasetums* to produce some striking bi-generic hybrids.

The less showy *C. warczewiczii* was also shown. Last of all we saw an unusual hybrid between *Cycnoches* and the genus *Galeandra*.

This was a fascinating talk and hopefully one or two members might be tempted to try their hand at a *Catasetum* or two. A vote of thanks was proposed and enthusiastic applause followed.

Mike Powell

## BOURNEMOUTH ORCHID SOCIETY 51st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2009 MINUTES

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from: Keith Andrew, Nina Gregson, Graham Smith, Ruth Pettit, Pam Miles, Eileen Watson, Nick Fry, Chris Branson.

### 2. MINUTES OF THE 50th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The minutes of the 50th A.G.M. had been published in the June 2008 Newsletter and also circulated to all members with the notification of the A.G.M. so were taken as read.

At the invitation of the Chairman Derek Copley, Dave Walters proposed and Leo Palmer seconded that they were a true and accurate record of what went on and everybody else agreed nem com. (there were no abstentions).

### 3. MATTERS ARISING None

### 4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR SEASON 2003/2004.

Derek Copley gave a very comprehensive report of the societies activities during the current year and the report will be published in full in the Summer 2009 Newsletter. The proposal that this report be accepted was by Mike Powell and seconded by Eddie Kirkwood Lowe. All were in favour.

### 5. HON TREASURERS REPORT.

John James, then presented a very comprehensive set of annual accounts which will also be published in the Summer Newsletter and are attached to the original set of AGM minutes. The main points were that membership currently stands at 134 which again is about the same as last years figures. However, revenue from our bi-annual shows has decreased and speaker fees have dramatically increased so it has become inevitable that our membership subscriptions will have to rise for the Society to stay solvent next year. The proposal that the subscriptions for the year 2009/2010 should be increased to £25.00 per double and £15.00 single membership was proposed by John James and seconded by Chris Broomfield. Discussion ensued but it was generally agreed that these subscription rates are very modest compared with other like Societies and, in particular, as we have such an excellent publication in Top Orchid three times a year. The proposal was nearly unanimously carried with one against. John offered a special thanks to Christine Carter for auditing the A/Cs this year.



## ELECTION OF OFFICERS and COMMITTEE 2009/2010.

Committee nominations: Vice Chairman Ken Griffiths. Proposed by Roger Russell and Seconded by Glenn Jamieson all were in favour (how odd!) Treasurer John James. Proposed by Eddie Kirkwood Lowe seconded by Leo Palmer. All were in favour. Secretary Ken Griffiths. Proposed by Glen Jamieson seconded by Pat Marshall all were in favour. Committee. Colin Carter. Mike Powell. Glen Jamieson. Roger Russell. Pam Miles. Proposed by Dave Walters Seconded by Gwen Ivamy. As there were no further nominations the proposed new committee was elected en bloc.

Vice Chairman, Ken Griffiths, then very briefly took the chair and Dr Derek Copley, proposed by Glen Jamieson and seconded by Gwen Ivamy was then re-elected as Chairman with great acclaim and unopposed.

Hon Auditor. It was proposed by Ken Griffiths and seconded by John James that Christine Carter be re-elected and everybody, not surprisingly, was very much in favour with none against.

Keith Andrew was then unanimously and enthusiastically re-elected President for the ensuing year proposed by Mike Powell seconded by Dave Walters as were Graham Smith and Allan Burdis as Vice Presidents proposed by Graham Coleman and seconded by Colin Carter.

### 7. AWARD OF POINTS COMPETITION CUPS.

Derek thanked all the judges and in particular organiser, Glenn Jamieson, for all the hard work that they had put in over the year in making our monthly points competition so enjoyable.

Open Class : 1<sup>st</sup> Eric Groome 2<sup>nd</sup> Alan Sapsard 3<sup>rd</sup> Nick Crabb

Eric got the little cup, a big cheque for £20.00 and a huge clap.

Experienced Class : 1<sup>st</sup> Mike Powell 2<sup>nd</sup> Roger Russell 3<sup>rd</sup> Christine Carter

Mike received a cheque for £20.00.

8. A.O.B. Colin Carter made an appeal for copy for Top Orchid as lack of content has been a major reason that the numbers of editions has been reduced to three per annum.

As there was no other appropriate business the A.G.M. finished at 20.03 hrs.

Ken Griffiths Hon Sec.

## CHAIRMAN'S AGM REPORT 2008-2009

In view of this being our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, you deserve a very long chairman's report, with endless reminiscing. But, I am going to disappoint you! Let me ask a question of those old enough to remember 1959. What were you doing that year? I was a student studying to be a famous nuclear physicist. I did become one, but was never famous.

So how have we celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup>? I must start with the amazing Spring show with its near 900 attendees, in addition to our members, its many trade exhibitors and the fact that in spite of heavy outlays, we did not make a loss. For this show and all our other displays, we owe a huge debt of gratitude to the hard-working Show Committee, led by its Chairman Mike Powell. The hours of work they do on our behalf are phenomenal. In the OSGB magazine there was a quotation 'there was a lovely atmosphere in very good surroundings. Those who couldn't manage a visit missed a good treat'

And that is not the end of our celebrating! We still have the special edition of Top Orchid, and the celebration meal in December at the Dudsbury Golf Club.

Last year I reported that we had never experienced better times in our long history. I can report the same again this year. When you read journals like the Orchid review, you become aware of the awards our members have received and the publication of major articles by our members continues.

Although we did not get the Peterborough Trophy last time, we did get a gold for our stand. Our many friends, who are undoubtedly experts in displays, all said 'you was robbed'. Excuse the English! The thought that we ought to have won, lifted our spirits somewhat. It is my hope that Society members will again come to Peterborough to support our display, and to enjoy what is a fabulous showground.

While we did say goodbye to our Beaufort Christmas meals, we were delighted with the food and facilities at Marsham Court, and they have agreed to host us in 2010 for only £1 more than we paid in 2008.

It is quite impossible to thank every person individually who has worked hard for the Society, but I will pick out just a few names. One thing that has encouraged us on the committee is the growing number of non-committee members who are showing their support for our society by taking on responsibilities. It would be easy to leave it all to the committee, as happens in many walks of life.

I would like to thank George Lucas for his many years of running the raffles, using his own unique style. We can rest assured about the future of raffles, as the task is now in the capable hands of Terry Eve. Also, we have all enjoyed the cups of tea and coffee each month, and are grateful to June Bell and Fred Kitcher for their quiet work behind the scenes. Once more, their replacement, Nicole Burns, will look after us well. And of course we thank Christine Carter, who laid down her responsibilities as Honorary Treasurer last year, has handed over to John James, our former auditor. Christine has now taken on that role.

And what can I say about the committee? They are a great bunch, if a little unruly at times. Yet they do respond well to shouts of "order!" from me. You will find most of us at all the major orchid events in the UK and overseas. Last year was Florida for the World Orchid Conference, and in September we shall be in Dresden for the European Orchid Congress. I am grateful for the 1000's of pounds they spend out of their own pockets to represent us.

We had what I affectionately termed a State Visit 2 weeks ago, from Chong-Yee, Irene and Weimin. The committee hosted a celebration meal for them in Romsey. They had hoped to be here tonight but sadly for us it did not work out.

Finally thank you to all the members of the Society, arguably the best in the UK, so they say. Our Society is only as strong as its membership and its leadership. But I would like to make a plea for us to encourage the attendance of a younger age group, to whom more mature members may pass on their expertise, gained over many years. So I wish each of you another happy year of enjoying your orchids and each other.

## Results of Experienced Class 2008/2009

NAME	May		June		August		October		November	
Derek Copley	15	17	10	10	14	15	11	12	13	15
Christine Carter		16	14	16			13	14		16
Colin Carter	16	16	13	14			15	15	12	14
Roger Russell	16	18	16	18	15	15	13	16		
Mike Powell	15	17	16	17	13	15	14	15		15
George Lucas										
Ken Griffiths						15				
Geoff Hands							15	17		
Joy Eng						16				

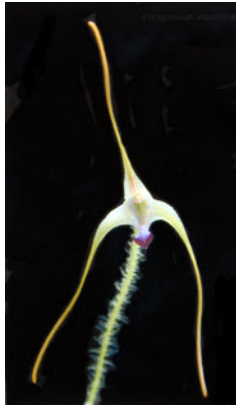
## Results of Open Class 2008/2009

NAME	May		June		August		October		November	
David Walters		18	8	8						
Alan Sapsard			9	11		13		17	14	15
Leo Palmer						12				
Nick Crabb		14		12				14	12	13
Eric Groome		17		13		16		16	14	16
Grahame Coleman										
Chris Broomfield										
Ruth Slaughter		14								
Nina Gregson										
Pat Marshall		11			13	13	14	14		
Colin Aitken		15								
J. Hinchcliffe										
John Geal								14		15
Nuala Sterling										12
Bob Johnson		14		14				13		
Drina Forester										
Chris Jarvis		14								
John James										

December		January		March		April		Total	F/score	Place
	12	15	17	10	14	10	11	221	123	
	17	15	16		15	14	16	182	126	3
	16	15	15		16	14	16	207	122	
15	16	11	14	15	16	12	14	240	127	2
	14	14	16	14	15	15	17	242	141	1
					18			32	32	
			16					31	31	
15	18							65	35	
								16	16	

December		January		March		April		Total	F/score	Place
				10	11		16	71	53	
			14		16	13	16	139	102	2
							13	25	25	
		12	15		13		13	130	94	3
		12	15	14	15		18	176	126	1
		13	13		13			39	26	
					10			10	10	
					15			29	29	
					15			15	15	
13	14		13					105	65	
		15	16					46	31	
		12	13					25	13	
								29	29	
								12	12	
								56	42	
								17	17	
								27	14	
			13		13			26	26	

# Kidnapped



Photos Roger Russell

**T**he genus *Porroglossum* is part of the Pleurothallid family and some of them look quite like *Masdevallias* but they have a unique feature which puts them apart from all other orchids. The photographs are of *Porroglossum muscosum* which itself differs from other *Porroglossums* in that it has a very hairy flower stem and yes the two photographs are of the same flower.

Who is it that said plants cannot move? Well this one does, not quite in the same way as a *Triffid* perhaps but move it does. The name *Porroglossum* comes from the Greek for "Far off" and "Tongue" and has evolved another of the fascinating systems of pollination.

The unsuspecting insect (which must be small as the inner part of the lip is about three mm wide in this case) which is attracted to the flower alights upon the lip, of the flower on the left, then starts to move up toward the flower centre, whereupon the lip snaps shut and assumes the position of the right hand flower.

There is no escape for the little creature crawling about inside but the plant will hope that it will pick up its pollinia. To ensure the insect has plenty of time to achieve this the lip will not open again for about half an hour, thus releasing a rather relieved little chap and, hoping it has a very short memory, be lured to the flower of another *muscosum*, be caught again but this time deposit its load of pollinia. Hopefully the little insect does have time to stop for a gulp of nectar while endeavouring to escape from at least two terms of porridge. As they like to keep their nether regions dry and warm and their pollinating insects aren't around at night the lip closes as dusk falls and stays shut until dawn breaks, when all is opened up awaiting a little friend. Magic, don't you think!

Ecuador seems to be the *Porroglossum* centre as 15 species are found there at heights of 1.6 km to 2.7 km in the montane cloud forests. They are also found from Venezuela and Colombia, south to Peru and Bolivia, there being twentyseven species in all. In order to grow these little gems they prefer shady humid conditions all year round and never drying out completely, with temperatures from 12C to 20C being optimum and will grow in a cool to intermediate condition.

While I was writing this I suddenly thought "I wonder if the hairy stems are to deter ants from plundering the nectar? An ant of course could get trapped loaded with pollinia but it would be most unlikely the ant would visit another flower and even less still have the pollinia attached.

If the lip closes as the light fails I wonder if the pollinating insect covers a light sensitive patch when it alights on the lip? [this theory could be tested! Ed.]

## Encyclias (and Prosthecheas) and their Cultivation

**S**ally Mill gave us a talk which had that much-appreciated balance of obvious expertise and that humility which makes us feel that we are not so inferior at all when things go wrong! With her collection of about 70 species there is ample room for both success and failure.

Before her lecture, I certainly could not spell Prosthechea, nor did I know the difference between it and Encyclia. The answer is, Prosthechea flowers are 'upside down', having their lip uppermost. Simple isn't it? Now we never need confuse them again.

[ This cannot be strictly true as the flowers of Prosthecheas and Encyclias can be both resupinate (lip down) and non-resupinate (lip uppermost). Most orchids have non-resupinate flowers early in the bud stage but the bud twists so when the flower opens the lip is in the lower position (resupinate). Ed]

We all have our reasons for growing our favourite plants. Sally's are:-

- \*They are small to medium size plants
- \*Most can be grown in pots-easier to look after
- \*Many are scented
- \*Several flower in the summer when little else flowers
- \*The flowers are long-lasting, 4-8 weeks
- \*Since she has visited Central and Latin America they come from a familiar region

### Cultivation

Larger plants:-1 part each medium bark, fine bark, chopped cork and giant Perlite

Smaller plants (thus need wetter conditions):-2 parts fine bark, and 1 part each of chopped cork, giant Perlite and sphagnum moss.

**WARNING-Hydroleca** is toxic to these plants, and Perlag (a kind of pumice) is better for crocking, and more closely resembles properties of the places on which some plants grow lithophytically (on rocks) or terrestrially (in the ground)

Like other orchids, they need water and feed when in full growth, otherwise they need a rest, but need a little water if the bulbs shrivel. They do not suffer too much from pests and diseases, as slugs and snails find their leaves too tough. The most serious problem is scale, but Provado deals with that. Like other families of orchids, there is spotting at the tips of leaves, and this is remedied with a pair of scissors.

Sally has been using a new technique to prevent scale, and that is to water with made up Provado about 3 times a year, so that it gets take up by the plant and this protects it. (of course this only works if you have live roots, otherwise the Provado cannot be taken up-note from Derek)

### Natural habitat

In the greenhouse they enjoy intermediate bright conditions, as they come from very mixed forest areas.

For example *E. linkiana* is from Mexico at 500-2500m, and *E. parviflora*, also from Mexico, but lower at 200-1200m. Some even grow in the dry coastal regions of western Mexico, where there is no rain for 4 months, and so need a complete rest in the greenhouse. Others, like *E. ceratistes* come from more densely forested areas in Central America at 500-2000m.



Some of the higher altitude ones, like *E. brassavolae* grow at 1500-2500m and need a shadier spot in the greenhouse. The high altitude ones which grown in the cloud forest, like *P. vitellina*, need a bright spot in the greenhouse and a complete rest.

The northern Latin American ones are below cloud forest level and accordingly like intermediate bright conditions (eg *E. diurna*)

Not all are from high altitudes however, and many come from the lowland areas of Latin America, particularly Brazil, where they enjoy warm bright conditions. (such as *E. oncidoides*)

Some, like *E. amicta* come from such warm sunny areas, and may be grown in a south-facing window on heated trays which never drop below 18C

All in all, a fascinating group of species, many of which could be grown by any of us, provided we choose the plants appropriate conditions. Thank you Sally.

Derek Copley



1. *Prosthechea vitellina*
2. “ *mariae*
3. *Encyclia bacculus*
4. *Prosthechea citrina*

## Nice Plant - shame about the legs!

At a recent meeting I was in discussion with some members about a plant of *Thunia bensoniae* which had been placed on the monthly points table. This plant belonged to Mike Powell who is well known for his superb growing of these plants and other terrestrial orchids. The conversation concerned this plant and others that Mike took to the Peterborough Show and how good they looked, and Alan Sapsard commented on how much bigger, and dare I say, better his was. I made the comment that it is strange how people always have a better plant at home and so challenged him to send some photos of this plant. This he did and the results speak for themselves.



*Thunia bensoniae*

Alan with his plant and this time I have to agree it's a wopper!!  
Nice plant, shame about the legs!

# ORCHID WORLD - BARBADOS

Having notched up two score years of marriage we decided, my wife and I, to cruise around the Caribbean and, in doing so, spend some of the kids' inheritance.

We joined the M V Oceana in Bridgetown, Barbados and soon settled into shipboard life which you may know involves a lot of sitting and chatting while the last meal is digested .One such session produced information about an orchid garden which it might be possible to reach on our last morning.

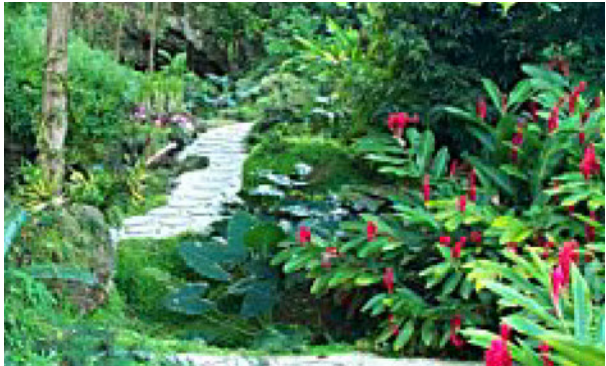
That day arrived and we berthed at 8 am. By 9 am. we were able to leave Oceana, walk the jetty and find the Captain of Taxis. He told us that he had just the driver to take us to Orchid World between Gun Hill and St. Johns Church and, most importantly, get us back to the boat and then the airport in time to fly home. His name was Howard and he lived and breathed cricket, so much that he insisted on taking us to the Kensington Oval, home ground to Barbados, where legends are born. Yes, of course, but we had to see the orchids and rejoin the boat by a certain time .He drove like the wind and within about 20 minutes we were at the ticket booth.

I believe that the gardens owe their existence to a lady who had been headmistress of the senior school and had thought this would make an ideal retirement project. She obviously carried some clout because no less than the Prime Minister of Barbados, the Rt. Hon. Owen Arthur, opened Orchid World on December 5<sup>th</sup> 1998.

Situated 841 feet above sea level, the garden lies in the high rainfall sector of Barbados, with an annual rainfall of 80 inches .

The orchid collection is varied and ever increasing. Some orchids require full sun, others shade .They try to give each orchid the ideal growing conditions, using rain water for irrigation whenever possible .

This is provided by collecting all the roof water in a specially constructed 30,000 gallon tank beneath the deck of the building. All the water features have been designed so that the water can be recycled as much as possible.



Orchid World Tour Path

You come across the first group of plants immediately on entering. Towards the back are Vandaceous orchids and at the front, ground orchids (spathoglottis – grown in soil). Matting is placed below the Vanda group to stop the roots growing into the ground. Going down past the waterfall, attached to the Mahogany trees, are Schomburgkia and Oncidiums, as well as an attractive display of Dendrobiums alongside the pathway .

On the right is a group of Vandaceous orchids, and a bed of ground orchids. At the bottom of the slope, on the left, is Vanda Miss Joaquim, the National Flower of Singapore . Ahead is the grotto - natural coral limestone rocks with many small caves, some of which contain Maidenhair Fern.

Leaving the grotto you find yourself on the lower level where many different species of orchids are exhibited. Most of these require full sun, and in their natural state would grow above the leaf canopy of the rain forest. Orchids of this type are called air plants or Epiphytes (they do not grow in soil). To simulate the correct conditions for



growth they have been attached to wire frames. In the first house the orchids, which are suspended, are mainly Ascocendas. These plants do not like full sun- the netting has a shade factor of 40%. As you leave this house you enter the courtyard. This area contains a fine collection of Vandas and Epidendrums. The conditions are ideal for these- sheltered from the wind but exposed to full sun. The second house is a general one. Here seasonal orchids are exhibited-



mainly Phalaenopsis, Cattleya, Oncidium, Calanthe. The roof structure here is different - it is completely waterproof. This house frequently contains scented orchids, as do some of the other houses, easily identifiable by the special "scented" tags.

Photographs John James



Next, go to the strap - leaf Vanda house, a very important group of orchids, many with large multicoloured flowers. The stream running through the building adds moisture to the atmosphere and gives a pleasant sound of running water. This “stream” in its original state was a concrete channel designed to remove effluent from pigpens. With clever use of the coral stone rocks it has added a most pleasing feature to these houses.

As you leave the Vanda collection you pass the water feature on the right and continue up the slope –orchids on the left, Bougainvillea on the right. As you reach the higher level you have a magnificent view across sugarcane fields, an area known as Sweet Vale. During November and December this is a waving sea of cane “arrows”.

Before entering the Dendrobium house note the beds of ground orchids on the left and Heliconias on the right. These have benefited from a rich mixture of chicken manure. The last two houses held hundreds of chickens- now more attractively replaced by hundreds of colourful orchids. The final house is called the “Show House” - Dendrobiums in trays and Ascocendas hanging above the fountain.

We enjoyed our visit to Orchid World for its colour and “differentness”. Oh, yes, and Howard’s driving.

John James



Phot. John James

# For Your Diary

## Autumn Show

19th September 2009

(Note: this is not the last Saturday of the month)

Start to prepare your plants now  
by staking and tying flower spikes,  
cleaning leaves and pots.

Ask your family and friends to go along

## 50th Anniversary Dinner

The Dudsbury, Ferndown

12th December 2009

£21.50 (3 course)

12.00 noon to 4.00 pm

This will be the final celebration of the  
Bournemouth Orchid Society  
50th Anniversary year

So please don't miss out.

Life President Keith Andrew Esq.

Life Vice - Presidents Graham Smith & Allan Burdis

Officers

Chairman Dr. Derek Copley

Vice - Chairman Ken Griffiths

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