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 26 Sept  Autumn Show

* Members may sell plants only at these meetings

Front Cover: Phragmipedium besseae  Photo Colin Carter
Times are getting hard - we are now officially in a recession, so it makes sense to try to make our finances go further. As far as our orchids are concerned how about looking at the greenhouse and check for areas where precious heat is being lost? Repair badly fitting doors and windows and replace broken glass. Consider putting up insulation. This can be as simple as bubble polythene or something more permanent like polycarbonate sheets to double glaze the greenhouse. If you feel putting up bubble polythene inside the greenhouse is just too much trouble then it can always be put on the outside. This would require a method of holding it down that would stop it being ripped off during bad weather. The advantage of this method is it can be taken off during the summer months to allow better light levels when needed.

Also check thermostats on your heating systems are functioning correctly and are not set too high for the type of orchids you are growing, as this is a waste of fuel. On the other hand do not be tempted to lower the temperature too much which will cause plants to be stressed and if too wet they could possibly rot and die. If you only have a small collection of orchids and they are grown in a heated greenhouse you could consider reducing the growing area by erecting a partition using a ‘curtain’ of bubble polythene sheeting and only heat the smaller area. On the other hand if you have room in the home perhaps they can be accommodated on the window-sills. If you find the orchids you grow require high temperatures and you cannot give them the heat they demand then why not look to replace them with cooler growing varieties. There are many lovely orchids which are quite happy wintering at temperatures as low as 10 deg C (50 deg F). The important issue here is to know your orchids and not to deviate too far from their requirements.

When the recession is over, and let us hope that is soon, we will have learnt some important lessons regarding saving energy and this will be of benefit to us all, at any time.

If you have some energy saving ideas please share them with us so we could all benefit.

Any articles for the next edition of Top Orchid should reach me no later than Feb 15 2009.

Allan Burdis
Steven Taylor saw his first orchids at the New York Orchid Show. In 1973 he bought his first orchid, a Cymbidium from Wyld Court Orchids, selling the spike to a local florist. Later he became obsessed with Cattleyas but later became equally smitten with Vandas. He has been involved with The Thames Valley Orchid Society and with both the North Hants and Wessex Orchid Societies. He is a BOC accredited judge. His current project is a vineyard in Beaune, the Burgundy region of Eastern France.

VANDAS

Of the many species of vanda the most widely used in hybridisation is *Vanda sanderiana (euanthe)*. This warm growing species with flat flowers has been hybridised with the wide ranging cooler growing species, *V. coerulea* from Burma, Thailand, Java. The result of this cross is the famous and easily grown *V. Rothschildiana*, a striking cool growing blue hybrid. Also widely grown in cultivation is easily is *V. tricolor* which can give reds. Yellows are provided by *V. deerii* and the spotted *V. dennisoniana*. Vandas have also been hybridised with a number of related genera such as Ascocentrum, Aerides, Neofinetia and Rhynchostylis. The result is a range of hybrids of widely differing sizes and a wide range of colour. The ‘classic’ Vandas, however, are based on *V. sanderiana*. These give flat flowers in blue, purple, red and yellow. As a result of hybridising it is possible to have a range of vandaceous plants in all shapes, sizes and colours, from very small to very large.

We were then treated to a series of slides showing different vandaceous species. Of particular note were: Renanthera with longer looser spikes of narrow-petaled flowers in shades of red; the genus Neofinetia with delicately scented long-spurred flowers in white and intensively propagated by the Japanese.; and the genus Rhynchostylis with large dense pendant or upright spikes of large scented flowers. Also of interest were the cooler growing *Vanda alpina* and Trudelia (Vanda) cristata.

CULTURE

Steven then went on to talk about culture. Vandas and their related genera are epiphytes. Their growth habit means that they grow from the top of the plant, occasionally producing an offshoot. Pendent roots sprout from low down the plants and at intervals along the stem. These roots are able to absorb moisture from the air as well as from rain or dew. Flower spikes arise from the interstices of the leaves near the top of the plant. As the plant grows and ages, older leaves are shed from the bottom of the plant. Enough light needs to be provided in culture to reach the bottom of the plant or these lower leaves may suffer and drop. Excessively low humidity can also cause this. Vandas should never be allowed to dry out. Vandas need abundant light, warmth and humidity. In their native counties they are grown by the acre for the cut flower trade.
They are often grown under shade cloth, on slatted floors suspended over shallow water. In this country Vandas need to be grown warm, ideally at a minimum of 18-22 deg C. A minimum of 16 deg C is acceptable but the temperature should never be allowed to drop below 13 deg C. The greenhouse should have a southerly aspect for maximum light. Very light shade should be provided in summer, with good ventilation and humidity. Normally they are grown hanging, in slatted baskets. Pieces of old coconut doormat can be added to retain a little moisture in the case of smaller plants, but traditionally Vandas are watered by spraying with or dipping the roots in warm rainwater. This needs to be done daily or not less than every two days. The plants enjoy high temperatures and are happy in temperatures up to the 30’s C, hung high in the greenhouse roof to catch as much light as possible. Steven stores his rainwater in 2000 litre tanks where it is pumped into 235 litre barrels in the greenhouse. The water is kept ‘sweet’ by adding a small amount of potassium permanganate (K Mn O4). Feeding is at every watering using a 20-20-20 fertiliser at half strength. This concluded Steven’s talk. A vote of thanks was given by the Society’s most enthusiastic grower of terrestrials and loud sustained applause ensued.
Any Phragmipedium containing besseae in its progeny causes difficult decisions when repotting is required.

Due to its elongated rhizome the new growth will appear several inches above the level of the compost leaving the area where the roots form to dry off and this has a tendency to inhibit growth.

The question is:
1. Do you lower the whole plant down into the compost? This allows the new growth to develop a good root system but the old growth will die off and the new growth will take a long time to establish itself.
2. Or do you try to develop a new root formation on the new growth before separating from the main plant and still retain the mother plant?

On a recent visit to the Eric Young Orchid Foundation (EYOF) in Jersey the curator, Chris Purver, introduced us to the way the foundation overcomes this problem.

They cut a small plastic pot in half vertically and wrap it around the emerging new growth and wire this to a stake inserted into the main pot, leaving plenty of room in the small pot for the new roots to grow down into fresh compost, then topped up with more compost.

The EYOF call this procedure ‘the Candelabra Effect’.

This looks very interesting on a large plant with multi growths contained in several small pots sporting new growths.

The plant is watered and fed as normal, including all the new growths in their individual pots. These new growths start to develop a good root system within a few weeks.

If left to mature into good sized growths the whole plant can be lowered and repotted into new compost, or each small pot can be removed from the ‘mother’ plant and repotted on, with careful attention not to disturb the compost around the roots.

You can now either end up with one very large multi growth plant or several new plants and still retain your original plant.
All the Phragmipediums at the EYOF are grown in Rockwool cubes, very lightly tamped down around the roots so not to compress the Rockwool too much. I have tried this method myself with a plant of P. Memoria Dick Clements (sargentianum x besseae) and when the new growth was removed and repotted it grew away strongly with no setback at all. So this is a procedure I will definitely be using again.

*Phrag. besseae* showing its typical growth habit of producing elongated rhizomes which rise several cm’s above the compost. Note the roots emerging from the base of the growths which tend to dry off if not kept watered. This growth habit is often passed on to hybrids made with *P. besseae*.

Photo Allan Burdis
This plant has a well developed propagation ready to cut off from the ‘mother’ plant. On the right the same plant showing a good root system.

*Phrag.* Memoria Dick Clements with two large growths in wrap around pots

Photos Colin Carter
Plans for the 50th Anniversary Show are well on the way and there are a few details worth taking note off:

THE SHOW

The Show will roughly follow the lines of a BOC congress where invited exhibitors, which includes orchid trade and orchid Societies, will put on displays and all orchids on those displays will be judged. As well as first, second and third awards there will be several special Anniversary trophies up for grabs. Your plants will be needed for the Bournemouth display and this will take pride of place in the exhibition hall.

You will need to take your plants to the hall on Friday 20th no later than 11.00 a.m. where the Bournemouth Show Committee will take charge of them and place them on the display. You do not need to decide which classes they should go into as they will all be judged according to the Show schedule, early on Saturday morning before the Show opens.

PREVIEW EVENING

After all the exhibitors have completed their displays there will be a preview evening on Friday at 7.15 p.m. with a buffet and glass of wine. All Bournemouth Orchid Society members are invited to attend this special event and tickets are available @ £9.50.

You can obtain tickets from Christine Carter at one of our meetings or ordered by post at: Little Orchard, Newtown Road, Awbridge, Romsey, Hants. SO51 0GG

Tele. 01794-342380

The Show opens Saturday at 11.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. and Sunday 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. and entry is free to B.O.S members.

POSTERS

It is most important we advertise this event and posters have already been circulated to the trade and other societies but we request members take as many posters as possible and place them in shops, offices, places of work and as many letter boxes in homes where you live. The committee is asking for volunteers who would be available to go out and put leaflets into letter boxes in their area. Ken Griffiths will take names of anyone willing to help and make up a list of areas to be targeted and the volunteers will be chosen to do a particular location and enough posters given to each volunteer to do that area at the January meeting. Please contact Ken if you can help, his details are on page 24.

Encourage all your family and friends to go, they will not be disappointed. There will be posters available at all meetings before the Show and if you require additional supplies please contact Allan Burdis, phone 01425 275251 or e-mail: allanburdis@hotmail.com.

We must all do our bit to make this a successful Show.
Over the years, like everyone else I have been waging war on the armies of pests that keep trying to invade my greenhouse!

The main problems for me have always been slugs and Scale Insect. Fortunately, a good dowsing of the compost with Slug Clear solution keeps the slugs under control. It always amazes me how they manage to find their way in to the greenhouse and then charge up the legs of the staging to get to the pots when my back is turned!

As far as Scale Insect is concerned, there are of course many solutions involving Methylated Spirits or soapy water. However, for those of us with very limited spare time, the wonderful discovery of Provado seems to be a very effective solution and after many years of effort, I feel I am finally keeping those little limpets under control!

This year, I discovered another problem for my poor little plants. From time to time, I often see the odd ant in the greenhouse. They are clearly attracted to the sweet secretions that often occur on flower buds, such as Cymbidiums. However, there appeared to be an increased number of them this year, which made me think that there was more of a problem than the casual opportunist ants I had seen in previous years.
Sure enough, during my annual re-potting process, when I removed the pot from a particularly nice yellow cymbidium, I was horrified to find an ant’s nest in the base of the compost! I use a bark, charcoal and Perlite mix and when I looked on the staging where the plant had been standing, I found some displaced potting mix around the area of the pot.

Of course, it was a ghastly job to remove the bark from around the root ball, with a writhing mass of ants who were clearly not too happy with my intentions! The ants had eaten away all the new root growths and had attached their eggs to the older roots. What I did was to put the plant in an old washing-up bowl and, wearing gloves, knock off as much of the bark/ant mix as possible. I then puffed copious quantities of ‘Nippon’ Ant Powder over the remaining roots and left it for half an hour or so.

When the little so-and-so’s had stopped moving (I felt no remorse), I cleaned off the remaining bark and then removed the roots that were infested with eggs. When it was as clean as possible, I puffed some more Nippon over the roots and re-potted using fresh compost.

As I progressed with my re-potting programme, I found a further two nests! A Phragmipedium ‘Don Wimber’ (where they had nested in the Rockwool that I use with that plant!) and my beloved Epidendrum Prismatocarpum. The latter had to be divided in order to get at all the affected roots.

So – how did they get there in the first place? My guess is that they originated in the Cymbidium as I put my Cymbidiums outside on the ground during the summer. Perhaps a colony moved in during the previous year and hid in the pot during the winter? Then this year, they formed two further nests in neighbouring plants? I don’t know, but I will see next year if I have been successful in eradicating them.

The three plants had clearly suffered from the ant infestation, but I am pleased to report that they seem to have recovered, with no further sign of ants as I type this in October.

So my advice is to keep an eye out for any tell-tale piles of displaced compost around a pot. Also, start to get suspicious if you see an unusually large number of ants in your greenhouse, particularly if you see any carrying knives and forks!

(See page 20 for information regarding a new product Ed.)

The above article is based on the personal experience of the author and the Bournemouth Orchid Society does not endorse any products mentioned in this or other articles.
Please remember all chemicals used for the greenhouse and garden are dangerous and you should always read the manufacturers instructions before use.
## RESULTS BY CLASS

### CLASS 1  ONE CYMBIDIUM SPECIES OR HYBRID

No entries

### CLASS 2  ONE PAPHIOPEDILUM / PHRAGMIPEDİUM HYBRİD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Variety</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Mr Eric Groome</td>
<td>Paphiopedilum hybrid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Mr Howard Roe</td>
<td>Paphiopedilum hybrid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Mr Colin Carter</td>
<td>Paphiopedilum King Arthur</td>
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### CLASS 3  ONE PAPHIOPEDILUM / PHRAGMIPEDİUM SPECİES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Variety</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Mr Colin Carter</td>
<td>Paphiopedilum henryanum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Mr Alan Sapsard</td>
<td>Phragmipedium longifolium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Mr Howard Roe</td>
<td>Paphiopedilum charlesworthii</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### CLASS 4  ONE ONCIDINAE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Variety</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Mr Bob Johnson</td>
<td>Burrageara Stefan Isler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Mr John James</td>
<td>Odontocidium Islers Abendglut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Dr Derek Copley</td>
<td>Burrageara City of Glasgow ‘Langley Pride’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### CLASS 5  ONE DENDROBIUM SPECIES OR HYBRID

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Mr Colin Carter</td>
<td>Dendrobium sanderae</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### CLASS 6  ONE CATTLEYA/ LAELIA SPECIES OR INTERGENERIC HYBRID CONTAINİNG LAELIA/ CATTLEYA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Variety</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Mr Ken Griffiths</td>
<td>Potinara Burana Beauty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Mr John Geall</td>
<td>Cattleya Pirates Fortune</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Mr Mike Powell</td>
<td>Cattleya Bob Elliott</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CLASS 7 ONE PHALAENOPSIS SPECIES OR HYBRID OR INTERGENERIC HYBRID CONTAINING PHALAENOPSIS

1st Mrs Hermina Moss  Phalaenopsis hybrid
2nd Mrs Christine Carter  Phalaenopsis Malibu Bistro
3rd Unknown  Phalaenopsis hybrid

CLASS 8 ONE HYBRID ORCHID NOT MENTIONED IN THE CLASSES ABOVE

1st Mr Colin Carter  Vanda Paki

CLASS 9 ONE SPECIES ORCHID NOT MENTIONED IN THE CLASSES ABOVE

1st Mr Colin Carter  Coelogyne dayana
2nd Mr John Geall  Bulbophyllum Levanae
3rd Mr Duncan Mason  Bulbophyllum carunculatum

CLASS 10 THREE SPECIES ORCHIDS, ALL DIFFERENT, INCLUDING THOSE LISTED IN THE CLASSES ABOVE

1st Mr Colin Carter  Pecteilis sagarikii
Dendrobium victoria-regina
Epidendrum diffusum

CLASS 11 THREE HYBRID ORCHIDS, ALL DIFFERENT, TO INCLUDE THOSE LISTED IN THE CLASSES ABOVE

1st Mr Jerry Eve  Phalaenopsis hybrid
Phalaenopsis hybrid
Phalaenopsis hybrid

2nd Mrs Janet Hinchcliffe  Dendrobium Eurostar
Phalaenopsis hybrid
Miltassia hybrid

3rd Mr Howard Roe  Phalaenopsis Brother Amar
Phragmipedium Sorcerer's Apprentice
Phragmipedium Hanna Popov x Sedenii
CLASS 12 THREE MIXED SPECIES AND HYBRID ORCHIDS, ALL DIFFERENT, TO INCLUDE THOSE LISTED IN THE CLASSES ABOVE

1st Mr Roger Russell  
*Psychopsis Kahili ‘Big’*  
*Odontioda Peggy Ruth Carpenter*  
*Masdevallia ventricosa*

2nd Mrs Christine Carter  
*Phalaenopsis Zuma’s Pixie*  
*Phalaenopsis Heverlee*  
*Phalaenopsis cornu-cervi*

3rd Dr Derek Copley  
*Pescoranthes Wyld Court Beauty*  
*Neofinetia falcata*  
*Odontioda Burkhart Holm*

CLASS 13 NOVICE CLASS

1st Mr Bob Johnson  
*Beallara Tahoma Glacier ‘Green’*

2nd Mrs Ruth Pettit  
*Phalaenopsis hybrid*

CLASS 14 ONE CUT ORCHID FLOWER SPIKE IN VASE

1st Mrs Christine Carter  
*Phalaenopsis hybrid*

2nd Mr Ken Griffiths  
*Phalaenopsis Elegant Cascade*

3rd Mr John James  
*Yellow Cattleya hybrid*

CLASS 15 ONE WINDOWSILL ORCHID

1st Mrs Christine Carter  
*Phalaenopsis leucoalia Lava Flow*

2nd Mrs Janet Hinchcliffe  
*Phalaenopsis hybrid*

3rd Mrs Hermina Moss  
*Phalaenopsis hybrid*

AWARDS FOR CULTURAL EXCELLENCE

ERIC GROOME  
PAHIOPEDILUM HYBRID

ERIC GROOME  
PHALAENOPSIS HYBRID

ROGER RUSSELL  
PSYCHOPSIS KAHILI

ROGER RUSSELL  
OCTOMERIA SPECIES

BOB JOHNSON  
BEALLARA TAHOMA GLACIER
### LIST OF AWARDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Winner</th>
<th>Plant Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Echo Cup</td>
<td>Mr. Roger Russell</td>
<td><em>Psychopsis Kahili</em> ‘Big’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best In Show</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Species Trophy</td>
<td>Mr. Colin Carter</td>
<td><em>Calanthe sylvatica</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Species</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Dorset Cup</td>
<td>Mr. Bob Johnson</td>
<td><em>Burrageara Stefan</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isler</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Odontoglossum</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Dendrobium Cup</td>
<td>Mr. Colin Carter</td>
<td><em>Dendrobium sanderianum</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Dendrobium</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Solent Shield</td>
<td>Mr. Colin Carter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most Points In Show</td>
<td></td>
<td>19 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Bob Wright Centenary CUP</td>
<td>Mr. Roger Russell</td>
<td><em>Psychopsis Kahili</em> ‘Big’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Hybrid</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The New Forest Cup</td>
<td>Mr. Roger Russell</td>
<td><em>Psychopsis Kahili</em> ‘Big’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Group Of Three</td>
<td></td>
<td><em>Odontioda Peggy Ruth Carpenter</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><em>Masdevallia ventricosa</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Ringwood Cup</td>
<td>Mr. Ken Griffiths</td>
<td><em>Potinara Burana Beauty</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Cattleya</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Priory Cup</td>
<td>Mr. Bob Johnson</td>
<td><em>Beallara Tahoma Glacier</em> ‘Green’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Novice</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. Potinara Burana Beauty
2. Paphiopedilum henryanum
3. Phal. leucolia ‘Lava Flow’
4. Psychopsis Kahili ‘Big’
5. Beallara Tahoma Glacier
SHOW SECRETARY’S REPORT

This was a more successful show than the previous year's. Although at 197 numbers were down by about 30 from last year, receipts were up due to an increase in the admission charge. Attendance was steady with people turning up all through the afternoon. The trade did well with Burnham’s recording their best ever sales at one of our shows. There were more plants on the show bench, with several new members exhibiting plants. The quality was better than last year with a wider range of species on show, in particular Colin Carter’s Donald Duck Orchid, pecteilis sagarikii, a warm growing terrestrial with yellow and white flowers, and his superb Coelogyne dayana with four spikes of pendant brown and white flowers. What was especially encouraging was the quality of exhibits from new members, in particular Bob Johnson’s lovely Burrageara Stefan Isler, and his excellent Beallara Tahoma Glacier, which won the awards respectively for Best Odontoglossum and Best Novice. Mina Moss’ Phalaenopsis Hybrid won the Dave Cherry Memorial Cup. It was good to have our President Keith Andrew with us again to do the judging after a long spell away from the show bench due to ill health. We hope to see more of him at future shows.

A couple of important reminders to members: please remember to register your plants and ensure each of your entries has a ticket with your name on it and do not leave before doing so. Please also ensure that your plants are free from pests. It is a show for orchids, not for stud mealy bug! Plants carrying pests will run a serious risk of being disqualified and removed from the show bench out of consideration for other members’ plants. You should check your plants the night before. If your eyesight is not good ask a friend to help. We hate to disqualify plants, but we have to where pests are concerned.

We have managed to create a good impression with the Trustees of the Community Centre. I had a long conversation with the Events Secretary who marveled at the organization, layout and attendance at our show, so much so that she would seriously consider suggesting opening the kitchen and offering a range of hot and cold beverages and pre-packaged snacks. This would be to our mutual benefit, as we could guarantee steady use for most of the day, and it would encourage attendance at our Shows, as well as bringing in revenue for the centre.

I should like to thank Pam Miles for running the Tombola and the Terrys for organizing and running such a brilliant raffle and ruthlessly eliminating undesirable and tasteless prizes. Thank you to all those who turned up on Friday to set up and stayed behind to clear up on Saturday. And finally a big thank you to all those who entered plants, whether or not you covered yourselves in glory. Remember it is your Show and it is your plants that make our Show the success that it is.

Thank you

Mike Powell
Show Secretary
Andy started his talk by explaining how he became interested in Phragmipediums. It was after he experienced a heater failure in his greenhouse of mixed orchids and noticed of all the orchids to survive was a batch of Phrag. seedlings and so he began to collect more of this genus until after 27 years he has amassed many hundreds of plants. His greenhouse is heated with a gas fired boiler and topped up with the aid of a pot bellied stove which he keeps fuelled with wood. Andy believes in good air circulation in the greenhouse and employs several fans to achieve this. High humidity is important and aims for 80 to 85% or as much as possible for Phrags. To achieve this he employs the use of a fogger unit and a ‘Wet Pad’ system and Andy demonstrated an easy DIY version of the latter, using a large plastic container such as a baker’s bread tray which is filled with straw. The tray is placed on its narrow edge so it stands upright in a reservoir of water which is pumped over the top to allow the water to trickle through the full height of the dampened straw. A fan is situated behind the wet tray and blows air through it. The air is cooled by the wet straw and circulates through the greenhouse, thereby cooling and humidifying at the same time. The wet pad can be as large as is necessary which is dependant on the area to be cooled. Sometime the whole of the gable end of a greenhouse can be converted into a ‘Wet Pad’ system.

Andy uses RO water (reverse osmosis) to water his plants and stores a thousand litres which he adjusts to a slightly acid PH. He explained that Phrags are heavy feeders and with the use of his purified water he can give the maximum feed of 1000 ppm for every watering. He explained he does not flush through with pure water at intervals but prefers to feed at every watering as does the EYOF (Eric Young Orchid Foundation).

*Phrag*. Memoria Dick Clements ‘Catherine’ AM/AOS a cross between *P. sargentianum* and *P. besseae* first registered in 1992. This hybrid was crossed back onto *P. besseae* giving us *P. Jason Fischer* which has produced some of the most intense and deepest reds.

Photo Colin Carter
The theory being, the plants are constantly being flushed through with water to keep them very wet and the salt concentration is, therefore, never allowed to get higher than the 1000 ppm. Because of the high feeding program organic composts such as bark would soon decompose and he finds growing in Rockwool gives him superb results. He does not use clear pots.

Shading is kept up all year and finds this does not affect the growth or flowering of his plants. An added bonus is the shading acts as insulation during the cold winter months which saves on heating costs. Andy recommends the use of cinnamon powder to dry out any rots that might occur.

Andy completed his talk by showing slides of his superb plants and many members must have been encouraged to try growing these exceptional orchids. He has achieved many accolades for his plants and is a past Chairman of the prestigious British Paphiopedilum Society. He is also famous for his Orchids in Glass and examples of his handy work now grace the display cabinets of many homes throughout the orchid community.

Ken Griffiths gave the vote of thanks.

*Phrag. Schroderae (P. caudatum x Sedenii)*
This second generation cross was raised by John Seden at the Vietch nursery in 1881 and has always been a popular cross with many cultivars gaining awards.

*Phrag. Grande (P. caudatum x longifolium)*
This hybrid was made in 1881. The best of these hybrids have petals which can reach 60 cm's (2 feet) long. This well grown plant is owned by Colin Carter

Photos. Allan Burdis
A new product brought to my attention recently called SB Plant Invigorator has come onto the market and has some big claims. I must confess I had not heard about this until an e-mail from Roger Russell alerted me to its existence.

It has a long list of claims and among these are:

- Biodegradable
- Non-toxic
- Plant stimulant foliar feed
- Controls pests such as: Whitefly, Aphids,
- Spider Mite and Mealy bug
- Pests will not become resistant
- Can Control mildew
- Helps to prevent chlorosis

and more........

If you Google “Plant Invigorator” you will be able to read some of the user comments and find sites to purchase it. I have seen a price of £16.99 for a 500 ml bottle from Amazon.co.uk. There are smaller quantities available, you just have to look. I have not seen it available in the larger garden centres but I guess it will soon be more widely available.

**Goodness knows we have too few weapons in our armoury!**

As with any new product for the garden I would advise caution when first using it, especially regarding our precious orchids. If you have an insect infestation I would suggest you try it out on one plant first and choose a plant you would not shed too many tears over if it was adversely affected by the treatment. Always read the instructions carefully before using.

If it does turn out to be as good as it claims then it will be a great asset to us in our battle against orchid pests. Goodness knows we have too few weapons in our armoury to battle against the little critters!

If you have used this product then please let me know what results you had.

Allan Burdis
Christmas Dinner 2008

Saturday 13th December

12.30 for 1.00

New venue

Marsham Court Hotel
Russell Cotes Road
Eastcliff
Bournemouth
BH1 3AB

See Pat Marshall for bookings.

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