

# Proposal to stage BOC Congress October 2012, Writhlington School

## Introduction

I am very keen to host a congress at Writhlington School as I believe it offers a perfect venue for a successful event and we have excellent experience of running events and staging shows. Writhlington's excellent links with amateur growers, orchid societies and scientific institutions will allow us to broaden the range of activities included within the congress framework and we will work hard to develop an inspiring programme that will attract a large number of congress delegates and a show that will attract a large number of public visitors.

I believe Writhlington can deliver a financially viable congress and would commit to giving £1000 raised from the event to the BOC. All monies would be administered through the Writhlington School Finance office as a school fund account and audited by external auditors.

Any other surplus made at the event would be transferred to the Writhlington School Orchid Project (a not for profit organisation) for the benefit of the students of writhlington school and in particular the proposed student visit to Sikkim in April 2013 to work with the secondary schools of Gangtok on the Gangtok schools orchid project. A donation will be made to Orchid Conservation International representing any surplus from the Science Symposium.

## Organisational Summary

Dates. The Congress would run from Friday Oct 26<sup>th</sup> 2012 – Sunday Oct 28<sup>th</sup> 2012 although the school would be open for staging on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> October

Costings

Registration £28 - including preview evening, registrants buffet, Sat/Sun show, Science Symposium, Registrants lounge and Registrants bag. (Joint registrations – husband/wife/civil partner £40)

Science Symposium £10 (Saturday) – Includes Sat Show

Day entry to show £5 (With additional payment for lecture entry)

Congress dinner £25

Trade stand £100

## Events Summary

Thursday 25th October 2012 - first trade will start to arrive. Volunteer team gets the venue set (with caretaker help) tables set to plan in 6th form centre, school atrium and classrooms + road signs  
etc put in place if not done already.

### Friday 26th October

Set up day 8am- 6pm - Orchid trade (plants, sundries) and society displays all in 6th form centre. Non orchid trade and information in atrium (e.g. Bristol Zoo, Bristol Uni BG, Wildlife trust, Somerset Lavender farm, botanical artists)

Delegates buffet and preview evening 6pm-10pm including opening of the event (in theatre), quality buffet in school dinning hall, music from school musicians. (non-delegates can buy tickets for £12). Everyone goes to bed happy and excited about Saturday.

## **Saturday - 27<sup>th</sup> October**

Judging from 7am-9am (with judges breakfast from 6am). Show opens 9am-5pm. Lectures every hour in the theatre given by well known orchid trade or amateurs. All lectures free to delegates or pay on the door for day visitors (£1) Tours of the greenhouse and microprop workshops on as well. Day entry to the show is £5.

Science Symposium (one day) – Under the auspices of Orchid Conservation International. People register for the science day for £10 say which gives access to the show + all the science lectures and workshops held in the open plan business classroom area (so flexible on numbers). Science lounge also in operation. Science posters were down in the atrium link the events together. (target audience is University and sixth form students)

Science symposium is also available in the BOC registrants

7pm Congress dinner (£25 ahead includes some wine on tables) speeches, prizes awarded - a grand raffle

## **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> October Show**

Show open 10am - 4pm (earlier finish than Saturday) Lectures as Saturday  
4-5pm Breakdown and shift of cleaners 5-7pm.

## **The venue**

Writhlington School is brand new build offering outstanding conference facilities along with specialist orchid facilities.

The Post 16 conference Centre – would house the orchid exhibits from societies along with trade stands from nurseries. The centre is an exceptional naturally lit open plan area that will allow plants to be seen at their best.

Main school atrium – An impressive thoroughfare which will house information stands and related craft/art/conservation stalls as well as visitor information.

Main Theatre – Off the atrium is a state of the art 400 seat theatre which will host lectures and congress events such as the opening and closing ceremonies.

Dining area – A modern cafeteria served by chef's facilities for the registrants buffet and congress dinner as well as the cafeteria for daily refreshments.

Classrooms – Especially Business open plan area - for the scientific lecture programme

Orchid Houses – 240m<sup>2</sup> of school orchid houses arranged in five geo-climatic zones where students will give tours and show how a range of orchid species are grown at the school and are found growing in the wild.

Orchid Propagation laboratory – a dedicated laboratory demonstrating the propagation and ex-situ conservation of orchid species.

## **Accommodation**

Writhlington is within easy reach of a Midsomer Norton (3 miles), Frome (7 miles), Bath (10 miles) and Wells (15 miles) with a wide range of hotels, a camp site (8 miles).