

# BOC NEWSLETTER

An occasional publication from The British Orchid Council

September 2013

Editor: Ian Parsons

## Editorial

Although a little later this year, this Newsletter brings you news of some of the activities of the British Orchid Council.

We have the results of the 2012 Photo Competition displayed here, and look forward to another bumper set of entries for this year's competition.

The most important item this year is the production of the first BOC Yearbook. This publication replaces the Golden Guide that was produced by BOGA, with contributions from BOC, and distributed by BOC.

Contributions in the form of articles and comments for publication in the Yearbook and Newsletter are always welcome, and Chris Barker (the Yearbook Editor) and I look forward to hearing from you!

*Editor.*

## Photographic Competition 2012

Congratulations to the winners of the 2012 competition; their pictures are presented in this edition of the Newsletter.

After last year's competition, I asked for comments regarding some suggested changes, and after discussion at the AGM in March, it was agreed that the classes should stay the same, that is, no change. This means that we still have the one general class for your best orchid picture.

However, the size of pictures is enlarged further, and this means that although higher resolution pictures can be uploaded, there may be a problem viewing them from the Internet, and this is due to browser standards where pictures are always loaded starting at the top left hand corner. When viewing pictures, scrolling may be required to see the whole picture.

The database is now open again for the uploading of pictures, and the end date for this is 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013. At that date uploading is closed, and voting begins. As in previous years voting closes on the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2014 in time for the results to be announced at the BOC AGM.

## The BOC Yearbook

After much discussion it was agreed that the BOC would produce its own Yearbook. It has been reported in the Minutes of the BOC Meetings over a period of time that there were some concerns about the continued production of the old Golden Guide, and BOC's part in it. This is not the place to reiterate the discussions that took place, and we are most grateful to Chris Barker for taking on the role as editor of the new Yearbook, and to Pat McLean for acting as secretary to the editor.

The format of the Yearbook will follow closely the sample produced for discussion at BOC meetings, and this can be found at <http://www.orchidworld.me/bocymbk.pdf>



### 1st : *Goodyera repens*

by Nigel Johnson

Submitted by the Orchid Society of Great Britain.

## The BOC Yearbook, continued...

The Yearbook will contain information about the member organizations of the BOC, and any shows and events that would normally appear in the Diary of Events.

Members are urged to make sure that the contents of their entries in the database are as up to date as possible, and that future shows planned for 2014 are listed with their prospective dates, even if the arrangements are not yet finalized.

The database can be found as part of the BOC website (at <http://www.british-orchid-council.info>), and requires a password to allow entries to be updated. This year I have received a growing number of requests for passwords because outgoing officers are not passing on the information to newly elected officers. Please be sure to pass on your BOC database access codes to your successors.

The new Yearbook is an exciting development for the BOC. Not only will it bring a broad base of information to the general reader, it will also provide a very good form of publicity for the work of the BOC (see later for the list of services provided by the BOC). Furthermore, because it is an online publication, copies can be viewed (or printed) at any time after its publication.

We look forward to seeing the first edition!

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## 2nd : *Masdevallia Minaret*

by Chris Barker

Submitted by the Darlington & District Orchid Society.

### **The work of the BOC**

It may not be apparent to many readers just what activities the BOC organizes on behalf of its members. As can be seen from this newsletter, the BOC provides this as part of its services to members, and included is the Photographic Competition. Other services include the BOC Judging Scheme where a list of qualified and trainee judges are held, and training symposia take place on a regular basis. The Judging Scheme has published notes, and a Judging Handbook for use by any interested party. The BOC Judging Scheme is recognized internationally, and BOC Judges are valued contributors at international events.

The BOC maintains lists of National Collections of orchids, and these lists are updated regularly and published annually in the BOC publications, in previous years this was the Grower's and Buyer's Guide, and this year the BOC Yearbook. And of course the Yearbook is another service provided by the BOC.

Not only does the BOC produce annually a list of BOC Member organizations, but publishes a list of events organized by these members, some of which are important annual events in the orchid calendar. All this information is updated regularly by the member organizations via the BOC Database – another service.

Lists of speakers are provided, and updated regularly. Along with this the BOC has a photographic library of orchid slides for use by members, and maintains an increasing set of

Cultural Notes. Efforts are made to make this relevant and to include new and popular species and hybrids.

The BOC, through its Members, organizes regular BOC Congresses, and aims to hold these every eighteen months to two years, in various parts of the country.

A list of Orchid Genera is maintained, and published when updated, again, this is available through the BOC website, which in itself is another service.

All these activities do not take place without the involvement of people dedicated to providing them, and to this end the BOC invites more volunteers to help in whatever capacity they can. If anybody wishes to help – and we have vacancies! – then please contact the Editor, or the Secretary of the BOC for further information about the tasks that require your assistance.

### **The next European Orchid Congress**

The next European Orchid Congress will be held in London in April 2015. This will be held in conjunction with the RHS London Orchid Show from Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2015, and includes a preview on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April. The show includes a series of lectures that may be divided between Science, Hardy Orchids, and Horticulture. More details will be published in the near future.

This promises to be a spectacular event, and well worth noting in your diary for 2015.

### **Items of interest**

If you have any items of interest that you feel may be published in this Newsletter, then please contact the Editor.



## 3rd : *Thunia Gatttonensis*

by Rita Wood

Submitted by the Darlington & District Orchid Society.