

BOC NEWSLETTER

An occasional publication from The British Orchid Council

September 2015 Editor: Ian Parsons

Editorial

Often the middle to late summer is a quiet time for orchid growers, but it is changing. I have noticed that the breadth and depth of orchid growing now means that we can look forward to having orchids in flower during this period. Of course, we have always had a colourful range of Phalaenopsis, plus Dendrobium, Paphiopedilum, Phragmipedium, and others in flower. This year, my local society entered a display with sales stand in our local annual flower show (which just happens to be the oldest in Europe), and something that we have done before, where we managed to stage a display that contained a remarkable range of orchids, and winning us a Silver-Gilt Medal. At this event we sold 110 orchids - mostly Phalaenopsis, but several other types also. This brought in a surplus of cash to swell our funds, and I can recommend it as a means to raise funds, and advertise for new members.

Time is rapidly approaching when updates for the BOC Yearbook are required, and the deadline is soon! See the section for this on these pages.

As always, a call for items of interest, articles and pictures is made; so if you have anything to say, here is your chance!

Editor.

Photographic Competition 2014

The results for the Photographic Competition for 2014 are as follows.

1st *Cattleya Dinard* 'Blue Heaven', with 184pts
by Ken Johnson, submitted by
The Solihull & District Orchid Society.
(Note: shown as *LaeliaCattleya*).

2nd *Thelymitra nuda* by David Pearce, with 132pts
submitted by The Hardy Orchid Society.

3rd *Dactylorhiza cordigera subsp. bosniaca* by Sam Hurley, with 111pts, submitted by The Orchid Society of Great Britain.

The spread of votes was very wide, again falling in to two categories – photographic excellence, and personal choice of orchid.

It would be good to have more societies submitting pictures (48, 57 and 79 pictures this year), and voting, nine the previous year, eleven last year, and fourteen this year.

Please remember that the Photographic Competition can be used to fill two winter meetings!

1st : *Cattleya Dinard* 'Blue Heaven'

by Ken Johnson,
submitted by The Solihull & District Orchid Society.



LC Dinard 'Blue Heaven'

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by David Pearce,
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BOC Congress 2016

The BOC Congress in Norwich will take place over the weekend of the 5th and 6th November 2016 at The Holiday Inn, Norwich North.

Please make a note of the dates in your diary for 2016, and further information will be issued in due course. Contact details and publicity are available on the BOC web site.

Registration for this Congress will start in the new year, and further details of the programme will be published in the near future.

Photographic Competition changes...

At the last BOC Meeting in July, it was agreed that the closing date for voting for the Photographic Competition will be changed back to the last day in February. Several comments were received that indicated that most people wanted the competition results to be available at the BOC AGM, and that to wait until July is delaying the announcement for too long a time. Therefore it was agreed to change back to the old arrangement where pictures are submitted by the end of the year, and voting takes place between 1st January and the end of February.

No change has been made to the classification of the photographs - remaining as always as one single class, it being "The best photograph of the best orchid".

BOC Yearbook for 2016

Chris Barker has issued a notice to remind societies to update their records and diary entries as soon as possible, with a deadline of the 30th September 2015, before going to print with the next issue of the Yearbook. This can be done through the BOC website at www.british-orchid-council.info and log in to the database.

The BOC Website

The website has undergone extensive changes over the last year, and will continue to be extended during future months.

The online views of pictures in the Photographic Competition have been rewritten with additional features for resizing the pictures, and making the whole facility more user friendly. The old problems with high resolution pictures have been resolved, and these pictures are displayed at a suitable size for viewing, but leaving them in their original format should anyone wish to see them full size.

The BOC presentations

Chris Barker has provided presentations (in PowerPoint) that societies can use as an alternative to the slide library. We have four presentations at the moment, with more in the pipeline – if you have anything suitable please tell us, and we can prepare CDs of these for distribution.

The BOC Speakers List

This list (published on the website) is updated regularly. If you know of any good speakers that are not on the list, then please ask them if they are prepared to have their names added before contacting Betty Barber (Speaker List coordinator).



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by Sam Hurley,
submitted by the Orchid Society of Great Britain.