

BOC NEWSLETTER

An occasional publication from The British Orchid Council

August 2016

Editor: Ian Parsons

Editorial

In this era of Brexit, and not wishing to open a political debate, I hear comments recently about the value of the BOC to our Member Organizations. One such was, and to paraphrase, "...why do we pay a BOC subscription?", and another, "....what does the BOC do for us?".

My response is, and always has been, and to plagiarise John F Kennedy's Inaugural Presidential Speech given on the 20th January 1961 - " And so my fellow Orchid Enthusiasts : Ask not what the BOC can do for you: Ask what you can do for the BOC".

The BOC is an organization that relies on the time, freely given, and with no financial remuneration, by willing volunteers - some of us as Delegates for many years, and others who have served for more than a decade in various posts that assist our Members and others in the orchid growing community. Without a steady stream of new volunteers we will surely decline, and it is with this in mind I ask now for you to step forward and offer your talents to the BOC for the general good of this organization, and for the future well being of the orchid growing community at large.

Just what the BOC does is amply demonstrated in the items in this Newsletter, The BOC Yearbook, and the upcoming BOC Congress. Become a Delegate; attend BOC meetings, and give some time, please.

Editor.



BOC Yearbook for 2017

Chris Barker has issued a notice to remind societies to update their records and diary entries as soon as possible, with a deadlines starting on the 1st September 2016, 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 deadlines are earlier this year because of the need to have the publication ready for distribution at the Congress at the beginning of November.

Photographic Competition 2015

What a great photographic competition we had in 2015! The number of entries are up, and the quality is improving year on year. The results for the Photographic Competition for 2015 are as follows.

1st *Lepanthes* aff. *dodsonii*

by Peter Peeters, submitted by
Orchid Society of Great Britain.

2nd *Cattleya* Chunyeah by Stan Taylor, Solihull Orchid Society .

3rd Joint – *Bulbophyllum annandalei* by Tony Taylor,
Fenland Orchid Society.

3rd Joint – *Bulbophyllum* Sierra Leone by Stuart Meeson,
Orchid Society of Great Britain.

The Gallery for the competition for this year (2016) will open for uploading in September.

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

1st : *Lepanthes* aff. *dodsonii*

by Peter Peeters,
submitted by Orchid Society of Great Britain.

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.

Contact details and publicity are available on the BOC web site.

Registration for this Congress is still open, and details of the programme, and other items are available via the BOC website.

Here are some of the items of interest from the details of the Congress.

Talks :- Johan Hermans – "Orchid people of East Anglia", David Menzies – "Orchids of New Guinea", Scott Barrie – "Sarcophilus Barrita Style", Ian Parsons – "Chinese Cymbidiums", Scott Barrie – "Developing Varicosum Oncidiums", Phillip Seaton – "Orchids of Colombia".

Orchid Traders :- Akerne Orchids, Asendorfer Orchideen, Burnhams Nurseries, Chantelle Orchids, Melcourt Bark, Roellke Orchideen, Royden Orchids, Orchideengarten, Writhlington School Orchid Project.

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Blo Chunyeh #17

2nd : Cattleya Chunyeh
by Stan Taylor,
submitted by the Solihull & District Orchid Society.



3rd : Joint - Bulbophyllum annandalei
by Tony Taylor,
submitted by the Fenland Orchid Society.

Photographic Competition changes...

At the AGM in March it was agreed that when pictures are judged it may be necessary to reduce the number of pictures presented at a meeting. Some have commented that as the number of entries has increased, it is becoming difficult for viewers to make a judgement in the limited time available at a meeting. It was proposed and agreed that only the first few entries from a society might be considered for an award, and to this end it is required that entries should be made in the order selected locally, so that the best picture from a society is the first to appear in the Gallery.



3rd : Joint - Bulbophyllum Sierra Leone
by Stuart Meeson,
submitted by the Orchid Society of Great

The Perils of Copy and Paste...

Yes, it sounds like the title to a Jilly Cooper novel, but No, it is a problem with modern technology in that we rely on what is presented before us without really reading the content thoroughly, and Yes, I fell foul of the dreaded copy and paste. This was evident in the label that I gave for the 1st place award for the 2015 Photographic Competition when I copied and pasted the name of the orchid from the database without checking it, and I forgot again before I sent it for publication at the AGM.

Although the fault was mine, it does raise the issue of incorrect spelling, and this was not the only example - I copied a name of a person that was also spelled incorrectly, and this was not picked up by anyone until that person telephoned to say that she was not "Hary" (note, the spelling was copied...) but "Mary". Spelling is a problem, and I beg you to check the names of orchids (and people) when pictures are posted and when updates are made to the database.

Footnote?....

As to the perversions of the English Language, and following George Bernard Shaw's spelling of "fish" as "ghoti" (don't ask!) I was reminded that I used to open one of my lectures on "Computer Languages : Structure and Meaning" with the statement "Good morning. I have a personal problem - My nose runs, and my feet smell!". This got the students attention, at least for a short while!