



NEWSLETTER - May 2023



Congratulations to Sheila Yates on her *Trichoglottis rosea* var. *breviracema* which gained a Cultural Commendation at Rixton (Class 19)

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Dates for your diary:

Saturday 3rd JUNE 2023 – North of England monthly show

HOGHTON VILLAGE HALL

Blackburn Old Road, Hoghton Nr. Preston

SPEAKER : ARTHUR DEAKIN

‘The challenges and rewards of growing a mixed orchid collection’

The full list of speakers and events at this year’s monthly meetings can be found, along with directions to each venue, on the North of England Orchid Society website: www.orchid.org.uk

Please note: Where we are invited to attend **shows other than our own NEOS monthly shows**, we request that you support your society by lending your plants for our North of England displays at these shows. The show team will carefully look after your plants and will, if necessary, collect plants from you where possible, but it makes life easier if you could deliver them to one of our addresses or perhaps bring them to the show in time for setting up.

Friday 16th to Sunday 18th June 2023 - Malvern Orchid Show - the largest annual orchid show in the UK!

Build-up on Thursday 15th June

Please inform George and David if you have any plants for the North of England display at Malvern.



Malvern International Orchid Show

**Fri. 16th, Sat. 17th & Sun. 18th
June 2023**

The Show is part of the
Royal Three Counties Show
Three Counties Showground
Malvern, Worcestershire, WR13 6NW

Over 30 Specialist Exhibitors

For more information contact
Chris Barker, Tel: 01642 654748
email: cjbandjb@ntlworld.com
Or visit the website at -

www.malvern-ios.org

The showground is 10 miles from the M5
(Junctions 7 and 8)



Saturday 8th JULY 2023 - North of England OS Annual Show
(Please note: Build-up starts Friday 7th JULY)
BARTON - LANCASHIRE - BARTON VILLAGE HALL
Barton, A6 north of Preston

Thursday 17th – Sunday 20th AUGUST 2023 - Southport Flower Show
(Build-up starts Wednesday 16th AUGUST)



North of England OS Show, Saturday 13th May 2023

Community Hall, Rixton with Glazebrook

In the absence of our President George Barnes and Vice President David Crook and Lynda who had gone to Glasgow to stage a display of NEOS plants there, Ian Eastwood and Philippa Illsley made sure everything was in place for our monthly show to take place at Rixton.

In some classes, the number of plants was down - not surprising, given the Glasgow show - but, as the photographs show, there were some fine plants on display. Some large Dendrobiums shown by Betty Bray made a great impact and a magnificent Trichoglottis gained a Cultural Commendation for Sheila Yates.

Trevor Crook is grateful to members for donating quality prizes for the raffle.

Thanks go to Muriel Harrison for serving refreshments, and to Chris Burrows for assisting.

After lunch, Philippa Illsley gave an interesting talk: **Growing orchids in the house. 'Things I haven't killed.'**

Philippa began by stating that no orchids are suited to the conditions found in our modern, centrally heated houses. She then showed photos of the wide range of genera which she has managed to cultivate, through experimentation with the choice of container, potting mix and the siting of plants, especially in relation to windows and radiators, whilst being attentive to their watering and humidity requirements. Philippa sprays her plants with her tap water which has a TDS (Total Dissolved Salts) level of 30-40ppm. This led to a lively discussion about water quality, some members who have a much higher level of dissolved salts recommended using rainwater which they find to be purer if gathered off the greenhouse roof and not roof tiles. Philippa recommended that a hand sprayer should be dark to prevent the growth of algae.

Philippa keeps a journal which she says helps her to learn the names of orchids.

She reckons her first attempt at deflasking failed due to a lack of humidity.

Some plants grew in the house but didn't thrive, such as Coelogyne Mem. William Micholitz which seemed to find it too warm there. Having been moved to the concrete floor of the greenhouse, it has grown well and produced flower buds.

She places her cymbidiums outside from May to October, in baskets high up to avoid slugs. She feeds them with a high nitrogen feed after flowering.

As to which is the best genus for windowsills, Philippa said she has found vandas quite easy. Vandas, she finds, can be grown in glass jars with a little water in the base.

To maintain humidity when she is away from home, she places plants in a second pot on large pebbles or glass beads with water around the base.

We are grateful to Philippa for sharing her experience and her tips on orchid culture.

Judging results from Rixton

Class	Exhibit	Grower	Award
1	Group display 15 or more plants	John Gay	1st*
4	Dryadella zebrina	Trevor Crook	1st
5	Epidendrum medusae	Sheila Yates	1st
7	Cymbidium Arthur Medellin Padilla	Phil Howard	1st
9	Phragmipedium Jason Fischer	Pat Hollings	1st
11	Brassia verrucosa var. majus	Phil Howard	1st
12	Oda Prince Vultan X Odm (pescatorei X Quistrum)	Phil Howard	1st
13	Phalaenopsis wilsonii	Sheila Yates	1st
14	Dendrobium kingianum alba	Betty Bray	1st
15	Oncostele Catatante	Ian Eastwood	1st
17	Miltonia spectabilis	Trevor Crook	1st
19	Trichoglottis rosea var. breviracema	Sheila Yates	1st**
22	Masdevallia wagneriana	Trevor Crook	1st
23	Cattleya	Mark Anders	1st
* Large Silver medal			
** Cultural Commendation			

Class winners:

Class 1 Large Group



Class 4 *Dryadella zebrina*



Class 5 Epidendrum medusae



Class 7 Cymbidium Arthur Medellin Padilla



Class 12 Oda Prince Vultan X Odm (pescatorei X Quistrum)



Class 9 Phragmipedium Jason Fischer



Class 11. *Brassia verrucosa* var. *majus*



Class 13 *Phalaenopsis wilsonii*



Class 14 *Dendrobium kingianum alba*



Class 15 *Oncostele Catatante*



Class 17 *Miltonia spectabilis*



Class 22 *Masdevallia wagneriana*



Class 23 Cattleya



Also at Rixton:

Mark Anders's *Schoenorchis scolopendria*



Antonia Black's *Miltoniopsis* Princess Diana



Trevor Crook's *Maxillaria longipetala*



Philippa Illsley's *Coelogyne taronensis*



and *Masdevallia coccinea* Grandiflora



Betty Bray's *Chysis bractescens*



Chas Field's *Phalaenopsis*



The Glasgow Botanic Gardens Orchid Fair Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th May 2023



The Orchid Fair took place in the Kibble Palace over the two days of Saturday and Sunday, thus coinciding with our own May monthly show at Rixton. David and Lynda Crook and George Barnes erected the North of England OS display on the Friday afternoon. The show was supported by the North of England OS, the North East of England OS and Helen Millner. Trade included Burnham Nurseries, Trey Sanders of Orchid Botanics, the Scottish Beekeepers Association and a cactus specialist.





The award for Best Display went to the Scottish OS.

Individual plants on the NEOS stand which took awards:



Philippa Illsley's *Dendrobium atroviolaceum* – Best Dendrobium and Best NEOS Display Species



David Crook's *Clowesetum Creative Copper Gold* – Best NEOS Display Hybrid



Richard and Dorothy Rhodes's *Cattleya intermedia* 'Rio' – Best Laelinaeae



Phil Howard's *Cymbidium* 'Magic Devon Maisie' – Best Any Other Hybrid

We are very grateful to George, David and Lynda for flying the flag for the North of England OS in Scotland.

We also thank Richard and Dorothy Rhodes, David Crook, Philippa Illsley and Phil Howard for lending plants – 35 in total.

George reports that they were well looked after at the show, with even complimentary snacks and drinks brought round several times to stands.

We look forward to welcoming our Scottish OS friends once again to our annual show at Barton in July.

The Genus *Miltoniopsis* by John Gay

(Photos: All the plants featured were grown by John)



Mps Hativels

Today's *Miltoniopsis* were formerly lumped into the genus *Miltonia* by the English botanist John Lindley in 1837. It was only later, in 1889, that it was described as a separate genus, but not generally accepted until 1976, following a publication by Leslie Garay and G.C.K. Dunsterville.

To me, the most amazing aspect of *Miltoniopsis* is the fact that, until fairly recently, the great diversity of flower colour and patterns in the hybrids has been developed by continued crossing of hybrids originally obtained from three Colombian species: *Miltoniopsis vexillaria*, *Miltoniopsis roezlii* and *Miltoniopsis phalaenopsis*.

Miltoniopsis vexillaria is endemic to the Andean highlands of Colombia and Northern Ecuador, growing in cloud forests at 4,000 – 6,500 feet. The flowers come in various shades of pink to pure white and can be 4 inches across.

Miltoniopsis roezlii is endemic to western Colombia. It is found at a much lower elevation to *Mps. vexillaria*, at 1000-2500ft, and plants are smaller than *Mps. vexillaria* as is flower size. There is a pure white form and a beautiful pure yellow form of which I have a very nice plant.

Miltoniopsis phalaenopsis is endemic again to Colombia and grows in shady, humid locations at 4000-6500ft. The plants are quite small, with the flowers measuring 2-3inches across - smaller than *Mps.vexillaria* and *Mps. roezlii*.

There are a few more species in the genus, namely: *Miltoniopsis santanae*, *Miltoniopsis warszewiczii*, and the more recently discovered *Miltoniopsis bismarckii* ; however, these have been used very little in hybridising.



Mps. Hourette

Miltoniopsis Hybridising

Early hybrids concentrated on using the species *Miltoniopsis vexillaria* and between 1973 and 1930 there were 48 different cultivars of *Miltoniopsis vexillaria* awarded by the Royal Horticultural Society.

The first hybrid registered was *Miltoniopsis Bleuana* (*vexillaria* x *roezlii*).

The pinnacle of *Miltoniopsis* breeding was the interwar period, from 1918 to 1940, when approximately 250 new hybrids were registered. The greatest breakthrough was the development of a large red hybrid. *Miltoniopsis vexillaria* has no red pigmentation and the red colouration was from the inner portions of the species *Miltoniopsis roezlii*.

It was during the period between the late 1930s and the early 1970s that the interest in hybrids waned and it was not until the 1980s that the breeding took off again. Both in the USA and Europe, during and after the 1980s, some fantastic hybrids were produced. I well recall the famous firm of Mansell and Hatcher in Leeds producing some stunning Miltoniopsis hybrids and it was always a pleasure visiting their nursery to see them when they were in flower; simultaneously, in the USA they were also making some fantastic hybrids.

Today, the leading hybridiser in the world of Miltoniopsis is the Eric Young Foundation in Jersey. It was there that they learned how to change the ploidy of orchids by treating them with colchicine, a *Carcinogens* chemical. The result was larger flowers with a greater substance and today all of their new hybrids are tetraploids (4N).



Mps Gennestière

After the discovery and availability of the yellow form of *Miltoniopsis roezlii*, the Foundation have used this species to produce some delicate, stunning yellows.



Mps Bleuana



Mps Hocquarderie

Popular and very attractive hybrids have a 'waterfall' patterning which creates great variation in colour. Nowadays, many colour variations and patterning are available for everyone to enjoy.



Mps Belmont

Culture

I should say that the genus is not the easiest to grow, unless you can create the specific conditions that these plants require. In the wild, the species grow mainly in moist, humid mountain cloud forests.

For all species there is generally little variation in maximum and minimum temperatures throughout the year. Ideal temperatures are 60F (15.5C) at night and 75-80F (24-26.8C) during the day, with humidity around 60-80 percent.

The plants need to be almost pot bound to promote superior culture, since they do not tolerate decomposing media and need to be repotted every year. Small 9cm plastic pots are ideal except for all but the largest specimens. Since most hybrids flower from late winter to early summer, they tend to make new growths in August and September and this is the ideal time to repot, I grow in a mixture of 70 percent Grodan (Rockwool) and 30 percent perlite.

As far as watering is concerned, I generally use rainwater, which in my area has a low salt reading of around 25ppm. As a general rule, I water twice a week in Summer and once a week in Winter.

I am just in the process of changing (for a trial period) to a feed of Peters Excel Cal Mag (15-5-15) at a rate of 350ppm. Previously I used Akerne's Rain Mix. I will be feeding on two consecutive waterings, with a third watering of plain water, with a full flush through.

Fortunately, Miltoniopsis will tell you when they are unhappy. Pleating or wrinkling of the leaves occurs when they are not receiving enough water; this could be due to infrequent watering or lack of roots.



Mps Hubaut

Fortunately for me, the light requirements are very similar to those for my phragmipediums which share my greenhouse: around 80 percent shading. This is moderate light, and signs of good culture are a slight reddening of the leaves and plants that make two new growths from the last pseudobulb.

Most hybrids stay in excellent flower condition for four to six weeks. Finally, the plants like a consistent high humidity of around 60 to 80 percent which is where the investment in my automatic greenhouse fogger comes into its own.

Whilst I have not tried growing them in my house as windowsill plants, I suspect they would struggle due to lack of humidity.



Mps Fauvellerie

Sheffield & District OS Annual Show - Sunday 28th May 2023

St. John's Church Hall, Sheffield

Societies present: Sheffield and District, Harrogate, East Midlands, North of England, North East of England and Hinckley & District.

Orchid trade:

Laurence Hobbs.

The show team comprised George Barnes, David and Lynda Crook, Antonia Black and Phil Howard.

Thanks go to Richard and Dorothy Rhodes, Philippa Illsley, David Crook, George Barnes and Phil Howard for lending their plants for the NEOS display.

There was no award for best Society display. In the individual classes where there was strong competition from the other societies, the North of England managed to gain one Best in Class and two Runner-Up rosettes.



Best in class: Richard and Dorothy Rhodes's **Lycaste luminosa**

Runners-up:



David Crook's *Dryadella zebrina*



Phil Howard's *Brassia verrucosa* var. *majus*

The North of England stand





Other Society displays



Our hosts: Sheffield and District OS



East Midlands OS



Harrogate OS



North East of England OS



Hinckley and District OS

A few of the many plants that caught the eye at Sheffield

On the Harrogate stand:



Ian Dorman's *Cymbidium tigrinum*, a difficult to grow and rarely seen species



Hilary Hobbs had three Best In Class plants, of which *Phragmipedium Mont Fallu* was adjudged Best In Show

Just some of Bacchus Paulescu's Phalaenopsis



Phal. Ariadne



Phal. Ever Spring Fairy



Phal. Taida Pearl 'Fire'

On the East Midlands stand:



Masdevallia ignea



Schoenorchis gemata



Polystachia pubescens

On the Sheffield and District stand:



Oncidium naevium



Cattleya (Laelia) purpurata var. *russelliana*

On the North East of England stand:



Oncidium cooksoniae



Dracula roezlii, kept cool with an ice pack either side

And finally...

Cattleya Memoria Sarah Jayne

(C. The Friendly Third x C. Memoria Stewart Knox)



At the heart of John Gay's large group display at Rixton shone this beautiful, fragrant Cattleya, shown in pristine condition having opened just a few days earlier.

John explains, *"I received a selected plant from a good friend Stewart Knox after he passed away; the cross was Cattleya Friendly Third x Cattleya (Bob Betts x Ruth M Johnson). The plant was purchased from America and was never registered; I, therefore, had to firstly register Cattleya (Bob Betts x Ruth M Johnson) which I called Cattleya Memoria Stewart Knox. I then registered Cattleya (The Friendly Third x Cattleya Memoria Stewart Knox) and named it Cattleya Memoria Sarah Jayne after our beloved deceased daughter Sarah"*.