

British Paphiopedilum Society



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Editor's notes

A better issue this quarter with a return to 20 pages, hopefully the content makes good reading, although there are only 2 articles. I still struggle for articles—as has been the case for several years. It seems even more so that being editor means chief reporter as well. I often ask if anyone has any topics that they would like to see articles about, but with little response, so I assume whatever I think should be good enough.

After a couple of poor flowering winters it does look as if some of my plants are finally returning to a degree of better health as a few buds are now starting to appear at this early stage, so I am hopeful that several more will appear in the upcoming months. It would be good to get some back on the table at Solihull.

Talking of which, The booking form is attached with the mailing, and I would encourage you all to plan attendance, and don't forget to order plants from Sam Tsui for collection. I know from prior experience that his plants are of good quality and settle in quite well. Occasions for buying plants here in the UK are now getting fewer, so please take the opportunity whilst you can.

John

Chairman's notes

Dear Friends,

Well, we approach yet another winter season and I hope your plants are all showing good growth ready for flowering in the next months. 2016 will soon be over and our next meeting is on the horizon. Details later and elsewhere in the Journal. You have all been very quiet over the past months. I have seen a few of you around the shows but not heard your opinions regarding the future of BPS

John Dennis thought he might stir interest by starting a chat forum but gave up because of the lack of support. At least he tried!

At the January meeting you were all told that if there was not more support the current Committee might have to take action about the future.

I will not be continuing as Chairman and Linda and Mary are not carrying on as joint secretaries

One meeting per year is not a difficult commitment but we have been doing this a long time. Personally, now Ratcliffe is closed down my input in the Paph world is minimal

Time to bow out??

The ball is in your court!!

I had quite a problem this year getting a speaker. Some were already booked, others basically were not interested in travelling to UK. Sign of the times with sales so poor!!

Fortunately Sam Tsui is always game to travel and sell!! Please look at his web site and pre-order.

After discussions with others, if at the AGM next January, nobody comes forward then the Committee will propose finishing and making 2018 the last meeting.

There is a reasonable bank balance, maybe we go out with a bang by having a bumper weekend also subsidising some of the member's costs. The Committee would go through regular attendees, those who have really supported BPS. We would need to be firm that only those true regulars were included, meaning if word got out we might get lots turning up.

Having had my moan I cannot close without really thanking those of

you who have put so much into the Society. A very special thanks to John Garner, Treasurer, Editor, Show Secretary/planner/doer plus general Dogsbody!! The Committee in general, especially Andy, who like me has always stepped forward to fill a gap

Thank you too, those members willing to help with lectures. If I start naming names I can guarantee I'll miss someone. You know who you are?

It really is a pity the orchid world, let alone the Slipper world has declined. It is not just the UK. Many company's in the US are gone. Japan, one of Ratcliffe's biggest sales regions too had dramatically altered. Even the newcomers onto the scene, Taiwan, is suffering, 'tho I think from over production!

Here in Europe heating and labour costs are crippling. Those of you who knew the Ratcliffe nursery at Chilton may remember the 2 big 12,000 gallon oil tanks, one of which we always kept full as an insurance against bad weather or problems with deliveries. I seem to remember we paid 9p a gallon then. The annual heating bill there was £50,000. I shudder to think what that converts to at today's prices.

Several of the orchid nurseries in Holland are moving down to the Mediterranean area to make use of better temperatures.

So to close, please absorb what I have asked. You the membership must decide where we go

Thank you all for the great times but please come forward and either help or comment.

Paul

Best wishes to you all

See you at Solihull in 2017

News

It seems that yet another long established UK Nursery is to close. After being rescued a couple of years ago McBeans will finally be closing their doors. Just like Ratcliffes they held a large number of historically important plants of long time UK breeding. Although they are more known for 'Odonts' and Cymbidiums, they do have a lot of Paphs looking for a home.

At the moment details are unknown, but will no doubt come out in due course.

Winter Meeting and AGM 2017

This will once again take place at the Ramada, Solihull on the weekend of 21-22nd January 2017. A booking form is included with the journal. Please let Linda/Mary have these back completed in due course, sooner rather than later please as it makes life a lot less rushed at a busy time of the year. The notice of AGM and details will be included with the Autumn journal in the next month or 2. Bearing in mind the Chairman's notes it should be a lively event.

Sam Tsui is our guest speaker, and will be bringing ordered plants only for sale. If there is something that you fancy then it needs to be pre-ordered, preferably sooner rather than later so that we can get all



the CITES paperwork sorted out. If you are unable to attend the meeting then plants can be posted to UK addresses following the meeting (we would prefer members to attend of course).

All details of Sam's available plants (divisions, plants & flasks) can be found on his

website at www.orchidinnusa.com. Order soon!

Above—Allan Burdis's *Phrag. warszewiczianum* on the BPS display at Malvern (and yes, that is a *Cattleya* on the display...)

Phragmipedium Hybridisation in Unterwössen.

Franz Glanz was the guest speaker at the BPS at Solihull in January 2016, and delivered 2 talks. The first was on his breeding programme, and the second on searching for Phrags in South America. This just the first part of Franz's talk on hybridisation, and covers the smaller Phrag side of things.

Franz has been growing orchids for longer than he cares to remember, from a hobby to large retailer. He is based in the small town of Unterwössen roughly 100Km south of Munich and close to the Austrian border in the alpine foothills. The climate tends towards alpine with around half a metre of snow each winter lying around. He has several different greenhouses for different temperature zones which are limewashed in spring & summer to help keep temperatures down. A surrounding of fir trees and the family house keeps the worst of the weather away.

His hybridisation programme started in the late 1980s, and since then he has registered over 300 hybrids, of which 200 are slippers (He is currently 75th in the all time Orchidwiz list of hybridisers - Ed.). The first hybrids registered were Cattleyas and Phalaenopsis in 1990, with the first Paph registered in 1991 (Wössner Jade). The first Phragmipedium hybrid was registered in 1994 -

P. Wössen was the first of these (*richteri* x *schlimii*). At this time *richteri* had only just been described by one of Franz's closest colleagues Olaf Gruss. Olaf only lives a few miles away and with no growing facilities of his own uses space in Franz's greenhouses to receive plant material from all around the world. Once these plants flower and Olaf is 'at home' then he is able to assess and if right will formally describe new species or varieties. The benefit to Franz is quite obvious as he is able to get pollen or seed at an early stage, which in some cases can result in a commercial advantage. The flower is quite a pale shade of pink. P. Franz Glanz followed in 1994, and it is *richteri* x *besseae* (see front cover). This is quite a nice reddish colour with decent length petals, although it has a tendency to produce colour breaks. As with most *besseae* hybrids it has been remade with the flavum form and this produces an apricot colour. P. Olaf Gruss followed in 1996. This is of course in honour of his great friend and is *besseae* x *pearcei*, another quite nice red, although variable. A word is necessary here to mention that new hybrid lines start with new species. The story of *besseae* is well known and there is no need to cover it again,



however the especially good colour was a far cry from the more common greens & browns. Getting it into production took some time, and the first hybrid was in 1991 with 4 primaries, most notably with Eric Young. Two paths followed – one of early hybrids, and another to replicate and improve the species so that better hybrids could be produced in due course. Franz developed several good clones for use in his programme.

P. Achenal is Hanne Popow x *richteri* and is generally a pale almost washed out colour. Achenal is the name of the local region/county. In the same year (1998) P. Maria Glanz (left) was registered between *besseae* & *wallisii*.

Generally this is a good colour and the shape a little variable in the petal length and angle. P. Wössnergrande is the final hybrid from 1998. It is *longifolium* x *humboldtii*, and has garnered several awards (AMs) from the AOS, and it consistently good in deeper colour and shape with long petals. It is meant to be a better type of Grande, so clearly lives up to its name.

P. Hochgern is named after the local mountain. This is *lindleyanum* x *vitatum* (1999), and has very good petals and a decent shape. In 2000 Wössner Perle was registered between Carol Kanzer & *besseae*. This has blended the colours of *besseae* with the good shape of Carol Kanzer, and has resulted in a consistently good shape and colour. P. Wössner Purple-dance followed (*Lemoinierianum* x *Memoria Dick Clements*) which isn't a good cross. In 2001 Wössner Rose came along. This is a small flowered plant from the 2 smallish parents of Hanne Popow & Olaf Gruss, and is a pleasant colour and shape that has become a parent in its own right. Wössner Twist is quite a different hybrid, combining the larger *richteri* and *caudatum*, quite similar to many other hybrids. P. Wössner Arthur (2002) is a medium flowered hybrid between Arthur and Jersey. Arthur is *vitta-*

tum x longifolium, and adds down sweeping petals to '*besseae*' keeping good shape and colour.



Quite a gap followed to 2008 when Wössner Orange Twist (left) was registered between *pearcei* & Jersey. This is similar to Ecu-Bess & Petit Anquette - the 2 hybrids with *pearcei* and *besseae/dalessandroi* respectively. Good colour and shape. P. Sabine was registered in 2011. This is Alice x *besseae*. Alice is

sargenteanum x richteri, so the cross is quite tall with variable sized flowers and shape, generally pink. P. Tiroler Ache is Jersey x *richteri*, and produces taller rangy plants with strong open flowers. Ache is the local river (Achtal is the region). Wössner Abendrot (also 2011) is a hybrid between *besseae* & *Lemoinierianum* (an ancient hybrid between *Calurum x Sedenii*). This has a very deep red colour with some gloss. At the same time Wössner Morgenrot was registered of a similar deep red. It is taller and will hold several flowers concurrently. This is Jersey x *sargentianum*, and is attractive.

P. Geigelstein is *reticulatum x besseae* (2012). This combines a green flower with the orangey red of *besseae*. It produces a tall spike with good flowers that can be a bit variable. P. Geigelstein is another local valley mountain. P. Wössner Giant indicates a huge plant, and it probably was at first flowering. It is the small *besseae* crossed with the large and colourful George Shearing (*sargentianum x boissierianum*), and the result is a well structured flower - an orange form was shown. P. Wössner Laubfrosch (*czerwiakowianum x humboldtii*) is a true long petalled type that Franz says is a difficult cross. P. Wössner LeGrande (*Lemoinierianum x Maria Glanz*) is a plant that produces a lot of colourful flowers, usually of a strong red with decent length petals. It shouldn't be mistaken for a variant



Phrag. Wössner Morgenrot

of Grande. P. Wössner Pumuckl (Wössner Supergrande x *richteri*) is named after a gnome. Although a large plant some flowers can be a bit crippled, whereas the best are very good with colourful flowers and long straight petals. P. Wössner Teacup is credited to Olaf as originator, and is a smallish flower from the Carol Kanzer parent with Sedenii being the other. The flower colour is quite pale with a contrasting outer pouch colour of pink. P. Wössner Wolpertinger (Sedenii x Urgandiae) is a relatively plain and ordinary flower of greenish brown with pink petals. P. Wössner Rosenrot (Saint Ouen x Carol Kanzer) is the final

plant from 2012, and is just another small pink, but perhaps not quite as good as some of the others.

In 2013 5 hybrids were registered. P. Orchideenzauber is pearcei x caricinum and produces a green long tailed flower with curly petals. P. Wössner Carivitt (*caricinum* x *vittatum*) is a pleasant and plain long petalled flower. P. Wössner Fuchs is Wössner Supergrande x *warszewiczianum* (form. *wallisii*) and is a large and impressive long tailed multifloral. P. Wössner Grandurgan (Grande x Urgandiae) is a very glossy hybrid with flattish moccasin type pouches and curved pink petals - quite attractive. P. Wössner Schneerose combines *schlimii* and *warszewiczianum* which produces a pale pink flower with longish twisting petals. A rim of reddish freckles around the pouch adds to the effect. The name of 'snowrose' is quite appropriate.



Phrag. Wossner Schneerose

A further 5 hybrids were registered in 2014, and the first was P. Wössner Rotspiel (Leslie Garay x *sargentianum*) a very tall and colourful plant with high gloss with sequential flowering. P. Wössner Grünling (George Shearing x *bois-sierianum*) is another tall spiking plant with sequential flowering, but more likely to have a couple of flowers open at a time. The flowers have a tendency towards green with added colour on the petals. P. Wössner Rose Princess combines the small pink of carol Kanzer with larger orangey red Andean Fire, and the result is a larger plant and flowers of a better size of good shape still of the pink shade

which dominates. P. Wössner Pink (Wössner Rose x Jersey) is another combination of smaller flowered hybrids, but the result is a larger plant with more open flowers on taller spikes. Several flowers will be produced at a time. P. Wössner Feuer sees the introduction of *fischeri* into the programme, this time with Carol Kanzer. Both parents are small flowered pinks, and the result is a deeper pink with better colour saturation. *fischeri* is a hard plant to grow and breed with, but the potential for the better clones of future hybrids looks good.

There are plans for future breeding as well as items in the pipeline - Since the meeting at the start of the year another 2 hybrids have been registered. These are P. Wössner Pinkrose (Wössner Rose x *kovachii*) and P. Wössner Shearicht (George Shearing x *richteri*). I have no data on these 2 as yet, but it does see the introduction of *kovachii* into Franz's programme. *kovachii* lines are yet to be exhausted despite many combinations having

already been made and registered around the world. Different coloured and shaped clones will be the key for remakes. There is still plenty of mileage left with besseae, especially with the Peruvian style. This is said to be a hard plant to grow, but looks



to be a good breeder. A remake of Jason Fischer with the clone 'Peru' has very good shape and colour (Above).

Natural hybrids are often overlooked as they tend to be remade with different names, but many natural hybrids can have interesting colour and shape rather than the more sanitised man made versions. These are of more interest to botanists such as Olaf, and *x colombianum* was described in 2011 between *manzurii* & *schlimii* (below). This is small flowered pale pink with a deeper coloured pouch and a notable yellow staminode, and very impressive. As mentioned earlier in this article the described plant

had a high chance of arriving at Franz's nursery... A selfing has taken place - with poor germination, but those that survived are growing on, and there is hope that the first may flower in 2017 (sadly this doesn't mean that plants are available for sale) and depending on quality the best are





likely to be used for other hybrids. At the start of the article P. Wössen was listed as the first hybrid. This cross is now over 20 years old, and the clone 'Franz' (above) is now a huge specimen plant. It had earlier won an SM/DOG, and has recently won a prestigious GM/DOG. The final plant (shown) that Franz is proud



of is his specimen plant Eumelia Arias 'Wössen' (left) which has so far won an SM/DOG. The picture shows the plant with 8 spikes, and has good even colour.

Slippers at Malvern 2016

The 2016 Malvern International Orchid show took place on the weekend of 17-19th June. I arrived on site early on Thursday afternoon just about as it started to rain, which it continued to do for a few hours afterwards. Shortly after it started little rivulets started creeping into the tent making setting up an interesting exercise, and an hour later a stream ran through the marquee leaving several large puddles. Thankfully I had travelled with boots, but many were in trainers and had to search out wellington dealers who were happy to enjoy some unexpected pre-show sales. Comparisons with the last show at Peterborough were made, but hopes were that this would clear up better. Fingers crossed! The showground staff were very busy as you would expect, and it was the next morning (when the show was open) before some mopping up could begin. Instead of the usual straw they used shredded bamboo which is a bit stronger, but it was very dusty, and left many with a tickly throat if too close to the workmen as well as some dust on plants that were unfortunately in a damp area. Friday stayed wet, whilst thankfully it kept mainly dry for the remainder of the weekend -

apart from the start of breakdown time, and most of the drive home. Oh, well, I think we all enjoyed the weekend despite this.

The BPS display was quite central within the tent, and we shared a 12' display with In-Charm. This was double the size that we have usually used, and was on this occasion too large for the joint display - despite BPS using a 6' alone in 2015. Hsiao had his usual



Phrag. Sunset Glow & Grande

number of plants, but BPS members had little in flower to add bulk to our display. BPS used the left half with Hsiao having the right side. The paucity of plants together with light green (BPS) labels and hand-written pink (In-Charm) labels meant that only a bronze medal was earned, and to be honest I felt that was almost more than was merited. The small matter of forgetting the Society's logo meant that we could be easily missed - oops! It wasn't all bad of course as the plants that we do get are all of high quality, and generally an impressive size. The best Paph was *rothschildianum* with 3 flowers, alongside an excellent niveum and a tall *appletonianum* var. *hainanense*. In the Phrags, *warszewiczianum* had 3 flowers with petals about 1m long which fully deserved 2nd place in class, and the rare



brasiliense 'Matrix' was widely admired. Grande & Desormes 'Paul's Pride' both won show AMs and the branched Sunset Glow was very good. Oddly we had a couple of Phals and a Cattleya that won awards. My thanks to Ian Dorman, Hilary Hobbs, Allan Burdis, Pat Hollings and Ted Croot for the loan of plants.

On the In-Charm side *godefroyae* 'Tod#69A' was very good for a small plant, but failed to get an RHS award. It was well balanced and mid colour. Prince Edward of York 'Gentle Six' (left) was exceptional and had 5 open flowers with a bud still opening. As expected it was the plant that the public all pointed at, but sadly we just don't seem able to grow this type of

plant to their full potential in the UK. it won 2nd in the trade class despite some transport issues of opening whilst en-route. By Sunday the flowers were looking better with longer petals. Several large Lady Isabel were to the back of the display. These would be best described as very large seedlings in smallish pots with leaf spans over 1m and 3 flowers each - quite a sight. They displayed some natural variation in striping and petal orientation. Tristar Rainbow 'In-Charm' (Vanguard x *micranthum*) (below) was a



plant with a very large triangular flower and a bud still opening on Sunday, but overlapped the main flower on Thursday when judging took place. A week later as the spike grew a bit more with 2 open flowers it would be perfect. The sales plants covered a wide range of

species and hybrids and ranged from decent prices for seedlings to quite a bit more for the display plants. Many of the seedlings were of the small white or cream types, several in bud. *calosum* and vinicolors were quite cheap, whilst in the multis *roths x anitum* (a variant on Johanna Burkhardt) looks very promising, and Prince Edward of York looked very tempting. These are older & larger plants, so are more expensive. Flowering size *sanderianum* are at the top of the price range.

KJ Orchids had a good number of very large *rothschildianums* (that had just been delivered) that showed small variations, and each had 4-5 flowers. The judges apparently had a hard job to decide the best one for 1st place. *lowii* was a very well grown plant with several flowers. Phrag Grande with 4 spikes was impressive and took 2nd place. Sales plants

were fairly good, with roths in particular being fairly expensive.

Laneside had a poor selection of Cyps as a result of the weather - both on display and for sale. Roellke had some nice slippers with several large David Ott to the fore, flanked by Gary Romagna and Prince Edward of York. Several small flowering plants of Wössner Goldsuk (*helenae* x *sukhakulii*) were pleasant and quite consistent.



Asendorfer had some notably good plants and slippers in particular. Phrag. Boul-ey Bay 'Amanda' AM/RHS was tall and displayed lovely colours of yellow to red. Paph. Wiertzianum (left) really caught my eye with 3 large attractive flowers. When I checked the parentage (*roths* x *lawrencianum*) I saw that it dates to 1898. It has all the height and vigour of modern hybrids - although this is probably a remake - and I can only wonder why it isn't more widely grown. Equally tall were the well flowered St. Swithin and *supardii* with a high

flower count. We see the well flowered *bellatulum*, *dayanum*, *hangianum*, *leucochilum* and *esquirolei* most years, and they still impress. A 3 spiked Clair de Lune never fails to impose its presence.

Both Peruflora and Ecuagenera had made the long trip from South America, and both had various Phrag seedlings for sale with the accent on *kovachii* breeding lines - especially from Peruflora. Some of these were 'flatpacked' deflasked seedlings that look odd, but will grow well once



Paph. Bellatulum on Asendorfer's display

potted up (from personal experience). Ecuagenera had some lovely flowering sized plants of the new hybrid Ingrid Portilla (*kovachii* x *warszewiczianum*, 2015) that looks to have long red petals, and it will be interesting to see how this looks when in flower.

The North of England had several good slippers with a poor dorsal on 1 of 5 flowers preventing St. Swithin from winning best Amateur Paph (removing it would have left a gap). The remaining flowers were high quality. Phrag. Ouaisne was a strong plant with a decent flower. The 'yellow' form of Don Wimber (using *besseae* f. *flavum*) showed what wonderful colour variations are available in modern hybrids.

OSGB had only a few slippers with Cyp. *reginae* looking well as was the tall Phrag. Richard Lemay (*pearcei* x Sorcerer's Apprentice). Varied unnamed Paph. hybrids were well placed. Solihull OS once again displayed a strong Paph. *lowii* with deeper coloured flowers, and *tigrinum* is now making a very strong plant with a medium sized flower with well balanced patterns. Paph. David Ott is a notably good hybrid. Wessex OS displayed a very good Phrag Eric Young that wasn't just quite at its full potential despite having 4 branched spikes in flower and 2 others in bud. Cheltenham OS had several decent paphs with a 3 flowered philippinense winning 1st in Amateur species. *lowii* was very nice and Hung Sheng Red Apple was a good vini with a strong flat dorsal. Sakaki was an interesting cross between *bellatulum* and *wenshanense*.

EMOS as usual had the largest display with many outstanding plants, but not too much in the way of slippers. paph. Bel Royal was very impressive with its usual large leaves. David Ott had only a couple of large well

shaped flowers. Whilst it was nice to see *sanderianum* in flower this one was only modest with fairly short petals.



Above—Cheltenham & District OS's winning Paph. philippinense

Although not involving slippers in any way, Helen Millner's poster display on the evolution of the Black Country and Wren's Nest deserves a mention for helping to pass some time whilst it rained. This is now a nature reserve with several native orchids present.

Not a vintage year for slippers, especially for Cyps which this year either made an early start or were delayed by the cold and wet February. There was a shortage of top quality amateur Paph species, down to either single growths or lack of flower count and/or mis-shapes. The overall show was very good with some spectacular plants, and not all huge with the best species award going to *Schoenorchis fragrens* about the size and shape of a tennis ball with tiny pink flowers all around it - and it is over 30 years old!

The 2017 show will be 16-18th June, and we will be exhibiting as usual.

Right—Wossner Pinkrose

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Dates for your diary

BPS Annual Meeting & AGM
Jarvis Ramada Solihull
January 21-22nd 2017
Guest Speaker—Sam Tsui



Paph. Rothschildianum on KJ Orchids display at Malvern

Society Website—WWW.Paphiopedilum.org.uk