



# South Coast Orchid Club of South Australia

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Our next meeting will be held at the Morphett Vale R.S.L. Hall on Tuesday October 14th. at 8 p.m. Please have all plants for competition tabled by 7.45 p.m.

We welcome two new members, Mr. & Mrs. Torment, and we also hope to see several more prospective members resulting from our Marion show.

Mr. Syd. Monkhouse will be talking on the classification of members as used at the Orchid Club of S.A. Inc. The following article is a reprint from the Adelaide Orchid Review, please read it carefully as the committee will be guided by your opinions.

## CLASSIFYING EXHIBITORS - A NEW SYSTEM by Syd. Monkhouse.

Running an Orchid Club, and endeavouring to keep everybody happy is a pretty tough job as any committee will verify.

Problems that arise can take on many different forms but probably nothing causes as much strife as exhibitor's classifications.

Good floral exhibits at monthly meetings and orchid shows are imperative to the successful club and once interest has been lost in these sectors I feel that the Club is on the decline. Participation by as many members as possible in these displays is very much desired and yet, do our classifications of exhibitors really encourage this?

## NOVICE SECTION

Most clubs have such a section which is designed to encourage participation from the absolute beginners and the shy grower. This section must have some form of graduation, with exhibitors eventually becoming ineligible after some success. We have tried many different restrictions based upon successes achieved. We have never considered the quantity of plants grown to be a suitable classification for two reasons - the difficulty of policing it and the obvious anomaly of quality of plants having such a strong influence.

CLASSIFYING EXHIBITORS cont.

NOVICE SECTION cont.

A good grower with under 200 plants of all top award varieties is hardly the type to put against a beginner if the latter's participation is to be encouraged.

INTERMEDIATE SECTION

We had this section for many years when it was found to be reasonably successful without being the ideal. Of course, Novice graduates spent a certain amount of time in this section and after a prescribed number of wins, advanced into the Open Section. We found this section varied considerably in strength from year to year, although it did soften the blow of a novice having to graduate straight into the Open Section.

OPEN SECTION

This was the ultimate destination of all exhibitors if they won their way through all other sections. Anybody could exhibit in this section if so desired. This became by far the strongest section.

What was wrong with the above set up? - Firstly the Novice Section was made easy to graduate from with one win in annual aggregate of monthly points, or in Autumn, Winter or Spring shows, causing a promotion at the end of the year to Intermediate Section. This made the Novice section too weak. Secondly, the name "Novice Section" carried a certain stigma that was undesirable.

Thirdly, the Intermediate Section, requiring five further wins, became quite strong some years, when a good exhibitor qualified and then generally followed a very weak year when this exhibitor graduated to Open Class. The name "Intermediate" was clumsy and not easily recognised. Fourthly, the Open Section became so strong with many big exhibitors that a graduate from the Intermediate Section was often plunged out of his class, when thrown up against these big collections.

To try to accommodate all complaints the Committee briefly created a fourth section - Commercial Section - in which all commercial exhibitors were asked to exhibit. This idea was doomed very early as it became impossible to classify a "Commercial Exhibitor" and many Commercial exhibitors lost interest because of being barred from "Open Competition". However, this latter brief experiment did give rise to what we think is the greatest boost to exhibitors that this Club has formulated.

Originating from a suggestion by a member, the Committee last year formed a completely new concept of classification for exhibitors at Monthly meetings and Shows and this has been so successful that we think other Societies may find it worth adopting. **THREE EXHIBITORS' DIVISIONS WERE FORMED:-**

SECOND DIVISION.

A division of restricted membership.

Any grower who has not won five first prizes at major shows in Australia or won five first placings in Annual Aggregate of points at Monthly meetings, is eligible for the **SECOND DIVISION**. Once he reaches the required wins as listed above he graduates, at the end of the exhibiting year, into the **FIRST DIVISION**.

CLASSIFYING EXHIBITORS cont.

FIRST DIVISION.

This is an unrestricted division in which any exhibitor can nominate. Of course if he nominates for a division at the beginning of the year of exhibiting then he must stay in that division for the rest of the year. It is requested that Commercial orchid growers not nominate for this section although they are not barred from exhibiting here if they wish.

OPEN DIVISION.

This is a class in which anybody can nominate. All Commercial growers are requested to nominate here and in our instance, all have co-operated.

The advantage of the above classifications have to be seen to be believed. Exhibits at our meetings have doubled, and our exhibitions have been split up into three sections that are, numerically, almost exactly equal. Everybody seems to be happy and we now find that in all shows and monthly displays, schedules for each section have to be identical to accomodate the large numbers of exhibitors in all divisions.

We do not have to keep a concise record of winning exhibitors once out of Second division and complaints have completely disappeared.

For the good of orchid growing, Orchid clubs must continue to thrive. Club Committees have a duty to make sure that members get as much for their subscriptions as it is possible to give. Above all - Committees must be progressive.

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We hope we will be able to show you slides of the 3rd. Orchid Conference held in Melbourne in 1973 and also the latest Conference held in Sydney in September 1975.

As this has been a particularly hectic month, little work (& late) has been done on this bulletin by me.

If time permits we will be discussing the problems and potting to get flowers.

Judging results for September.

NOVICE

Cymbidium	Harry B. IRELAND "Surprise"	Mr. C. Patten	3 pts.
	BUXOM	Mr. G. Weller	2 pts.
	Chinese "Double Dutch"	Mr. & Mrs. L. Carr	1 pt.
Aust.	PTEROSTYLIS 'pedunculata'	Mr. R. Hargreaves	3 pts.
Natives.	" "	" "	2 pts.
	Den. 'gracilicaule'	Mr. & Mrs. L. Carr	1 pt.

POPULAR VOTE

Orchids	JOYCE DUNCAN "Kersbrook"	Mr. & Mrs. R. Gowling.
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OPEN SECTION

Cymbidium	Joyce Duncan "Kersbrook"	Mr. & Mrs.R. Gowling	3pts.
	Epping X Baltic	" "	2pts.
	Pat ANN	Mr. D. Lang	1 pt.
Cattleya	C.Guatemaliensis X C.'charlesworthii'	Mr. B. Hansen	3pts.
Aust. Natives.	Cym. canaliculatum	Mr. B. Hansen	3pts.
	Pterostylis 'Nutans'	Mr. P. Speer	2pts.
	Den. tetragonum	Mr. P.Speer	1 pt.
Misc.Gen.	Den. Bardo Rere	Mr. B. Hansen	3pts.
	Den. Nobile	Mr. B. Hansen	2pts.
	Den. Gracillimum	Mr. P. Speer	1 pt.

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ARE YOUR CYMBIDIUMS "NOT" FLOWERING?

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One of the main questions we are asked is "Do you know why my cymbidiums are not flowering", and to answer this question requires a lot of probing. Naturally the question could be answered more easily if we could see the enquirers growing area, but unfortunatley this is not usually possible.

Most novice growers and a few of the "Oldies" when asked are they doing this or that, will be the reply "yes", "to the letter", and no matter what you suggest, they have already tried and found it failed in their particular situation.

After years of experience with these growers and their problems, I have realized ONE THING and that is interpretation.

Along the line, of what you should do - and what is done, is a distinctly different interpretation of the original suggestion.

For instance - You can say, "Do you water your plants regularly through the summer"?

The answer, "Oh yes", on further analysis of the answer we find this can mean, once a fortnight, once a week, or when they think the plant needs it. Fertilizing again the same. I have even had people say "yes, two or three times a year."

Shading, "Oh yes, they get plenty of light". Then we find out that they are grown between the fence and the house. The plot faces North, so plants get Summer sun from about 10 a.m. over the fence till 2 p.m. as the sun slips over the roof of the house. Or, "Oh yes, we grow them in a shade house". Again is the shadehouse between the house and the fence, or is it under a "Dirty Big Gum Tree". So when people say they have a shadehouse covered with 50% polyshade, go further and find out the situation of the Shadehouse.

Always be dubious when a beginner says he has brush on his shadehouse. I have seen some houses that dark, they needed lights, and others that would burn a "Yucca" and both the answers have been "Yes the plants get plenty of light, they are growing in a shadehouse".

So lets take a look at a few of the basics. Saying that we have just bought healthy strong growing plants in spike, and we are starting from scratch.

#### The Compost.

Should be in good condition if we are not going to repot or pot on when the plant has finished flowering.

There should be approx. a 2" clearing to the edge of the pot to allow for the New Seasons growth.

Don't worry about various mixes in your collection, because if you pay close attention to the plants you may be lucky enough to find out which mix suits your conditions the best.

#### Shadehouse

Needs to be covered with brush, shadecloth or laths. (I would suggest 50% Poly Shade) and be out in the yard where it receives the maximum amount of light ALL DAY (not just morning or afternoon). The earlier the sun gets to the plants in the morning, the sooner that the plants factory starts working, and like all factories should work non-stop till DUSK. (No strikes because of bad light).

#### Watering

Winter - only when the plants begin to get dry.

Summer - Depending on how hot, but a normal hot week, I water heavily Saturday, with overhead Sprinklers and hand fertilize Sunday. The rest of the week a few minutes (5 - 10) with the overhead sprinkler perhaps 2 to 4 times a week depending on just how hot or whether there is a North wind drying out the pots.

#### Fertilizer

I fertilize approx. 1/3 to 1/2 strength once per week with an occasional miss in the summer and once a fortnight depending on rain during the winter. Any fertilizer can be used but I do recommend you change the brand and alternate. I use fish emulsion and Grolush alternately.

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There are a few other factors like "Old Mother Nature" who has a hand in this and we often say, "This is a good or bad year", but even in the worst of years people should get some spikes, so we always have to look to the growers interpretation of basics and then we should hear "Are your cymbidiums flowering as well as mine"?

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The following article is a paper that is given to each Associate Judge when they become a member of the Judging panel at the Orchid Club of South Australia Inc.

Why judge orchids ? This question is often asked and orchid judges should be able to answer it.

Orchids are judged to give recognition to outstanding orchids. An outstanding orchid is one that stands out from its brothers for some reason or other. For better or worse we live in a world where the outstanding is important in every field. The rare, or unusual, is sought after by mankind, the commonplace is taken for granted and the weak is despised.

Thus the rare and outstanding in the orchid family is important, and sought after and therefore very valuable.

The orchid judge is a specialist in his field and it is his solemn duty to indicate to less trained orchid enthusiasts which orchids are truly outstanding, rare and thus valuable. This he can do by granting awards to meritorious clones, and, if the judge is suitably trained and knowledgeable his decision will be respected all over the world.

This is why a budding judge must realise the responsibility of his position and understand why a very great amount of basic orchid knowledge and experience is necessary before he can even think of passing judgment on any orchid.

Certainly personal preferences will influence a judge somewhat - there is no intention to produce a race of orchid judging robots - but a judge must suppress his personal fancies to the extent where they do not dominate his judgment.

No orchid judge in the world can be completely capable on all types of orchids, therefore, a judge must not only strive to increase his knowledge at all times, but must also be able to honestly withdraw if confronted with a genus that he feels incapable of assessing.

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When starting to learn how to judge orchids it is most important to realise what you are letting yourself in for. If you aspire to be successful in this field you will have to devote a lot of spare time to the study of many aspects of orchidology.

- A. - Become familiar with:
1. The Botany of orchids from floral structures and plant structures, to habitat and history.
  2. The current hybridising trends of many different genera - especially the more frequently encountered ones.
  3. The identification of species - we should all endeavour to enlarge our mental encyclopaedia of species orchids.

JUDGING ORCHIDS cont.

- A.
4. Correct pronunciation of orchid botanical names and terms.
  5. An appreciation of the ideal forms to be expected in modern hybrids and species.
  6. The cultivation of many different genera.
- B.
- Talents that you will need to develop are:
1. Public speaking ability.
  2. Confidence but not over-confidence - A judge must know what he is looking for but he must not become dogmatic.
  3. Reasonable success in growing at least one genus, but preferably more. Practical experience with growing is a very important prerequisite.
  4. Complete impartiality coupled with honesty.
  5. A thick hide.
- C.
- Associate Judges must understand their duties.
1. Be prepared to help with staging, sorting, and any other tasks connected with organisation of a show.
  2. Assist judges by doing steward duties at all judgings. At such times ask questions of judges and discuss exhibits, however, remember that the Judge makes the decision.
  3. Subscribe to some or all of the following publications:  
The American Orchid Soc. Bulletin, The Orchid Digest, The Orchid Advocate, The English Orchid Review. The Australian Orchid Review, and read them - particularly latest awards.
  4. Develop a clear understanding of the points of an orchid as listed in the Australian Orchid Council Awards Booklet. A hesitant and unsure judge is both erratic and a poor judge.
    - (i) Much confusion is encountered in interpreting 'texture', 'substance', 'stem' and 'raceme'. These are very important in judging and often decide the award to be given. Shape, colour, size and floriferousness are simpler to assess.
    - (ii) Become familiar with all rules of shows and judging.

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This month's selection.

Graham:- Why do you always wear dark glasses?

Bernard:- I can't bear to see my wife work so hard.

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Note:- You had better ease off a bit Lois