



**SRGC / AGS
SHOW REPORTS
BLACKPOOL SHOW
2012**



**FARRER MEDAL
Best Plant in the Show
Saxifraga 'Coolock Gem'
shown by Geoff Rollinson**

There is always a tinge of excitement about the Blackpool show for Scottish members. No matter what the weather has been like in preceding days you never know what conditions you will meet either going down or on the return trip. Normally one expects better warmer weather in Blackpool than in central Scotland because it is further south and on the West coast, at sea level but there is often a biting cold wind whipping around corners.



This year I encountered fog, sunshine, rain and hail on the way down the M74 / M6. The return was bright and dry. Because of its geographical position and because it is a joint SRGC AGS show, Blackpool attracts members from a wide part of the country. As soon as you enter the grounds of the school where it is held you feel the enthusiasm of members and see tangible effects like car boots in the air, members in deep discussion as they swap plants or look at one another's most recent acquisitions.

Inside the show hall there were just as many different species and varieties to interest us for hours. This year total entries might have been a little down as some classes seemed to have less competition than usual. Nevertheless the plants were splendid and the judges must have difficulty choosing the recipients of the special awards.





Show secretary Lionel Clarkson and the grounds of the Collegiate High School, Blackpool.



Peter Cunnington relaxes after a hard morning judging and SRGC Past President Glassford Sprunt above Derek Pickard's *Dionysia bryoides*, which gained a Certificate of Merit and was Best Plant in a 19cm pot. [Below] Enjoy the colour of the *Corydalis* flowers





Duties nearly over, some of the judges have time to take a careful look at parts of the show which they did not judge





Ivor Betteridge's entry in the 3 pan bulb class was excellent. Along with *Iris willmottiana* he had *Ipheion Rolf Fiedler* and *Fritillaria gibbosa*. As the morning light percolated through the flowers and foliage their beauty was evident to all. His *Ipheion Rolf Fiedler*



was very well grown and shown. Very often a pan of this is much more lax and the leaves can overwhelm the flower. This pan is wonderfully compact with the flowers in a nice dome. The *F. gibbosa* was bold and strong; a proud plant in delicate shades of green and pink. One of my favourites in the show



'Normal' *Narcissus cyclamineus* at the top is a deep yellow colour, Anne Wright's hybrid *N. triandrus* x *cyclamineus* 'Andy' retains the beautiful soft butter yellow of *triandrus* but intriguingly the form of *cyclamineus*. A super new hybrid which I hope will soon be spread around. Andy was awarded a PC by the Joint Rock Garden Plant Committee



Frank & Barbara Hovic's entry in class 46 was 'spot on' - colour full, well presented and made up of 3 quite different plants. Each of which would have merited a 1st on its own.

Crocus dalmaticus & Erythronium multiscapoideum from Mike and Christine Brown

Pterostylis australis from John & Clare Dower





Wilma & Jim Wright have worked hard as stewards at all the Blackpool shows for many years. One advantage of being a steward is that you get time to admire the plants in the show when it is still quiet. Their wonderful *Asarum campaniforme* was a show stopper. Everyone agreed that it was good to be able

to see right into the strange flowers. You could imagine they were all eyes watching you and following you about.



The Joint Rock Committee recommended the *Asarum* for a Preliminary Certificate.



Mala Janes pictured below with Alan Furness took first prize with this entrancing *Primula marginata* 'Mrs Carter Walmesley'. It is a nice airy change from all the cushions in the show.

