

Perth Show 2009

Perth promotes itself as The Gateway to the Highlands, so it is not surprising that the thriving Perth Group run an excellent alpine flower show. Perth itself is almost at sea level and the River Tay is tidal right up to Perth. It is this long river [Scotland's longest, if you consider The Dochart, which flows into Loch Tay as part of the Tay] which connects Perth with the very heart of highland Scotland. Its tributaries drain the southern Highlands and Breadalbane. The peaks of Schiehallion, Ben Lawers, Ptarmigan, Ben Alder, Ben Lui and Ben More are in its drainage area, the largest of any British river. Impressive River Tay statistics apart, my maternal grandfather, whose family roots were in Crieff and Comrie always maintained that Crieff is the 'Gateway to the Highlands' and, I believe, told Perth so! I wanted to mention The Tay and its mountains so that I could show you a picture of Schiehallion taken from Kinloch Rannoch.



Barry & Cathy Caudwell spent a long time counting up points to see who would win the various trophies.



They could be very proud of this 6 pan entry were it not for the facts that there are only 5 plants and they don't belong to Barry & Cathy.

The Forrest Medal for the Best Plant in the Show, was won by Cyril Lafong with a fabulous plant of *Iris suaveolens*.



Here I am judging with Maggi & Ian Young...and Yes they did gang up against me. I was mostly unable to get them to disagree. The other judges are below



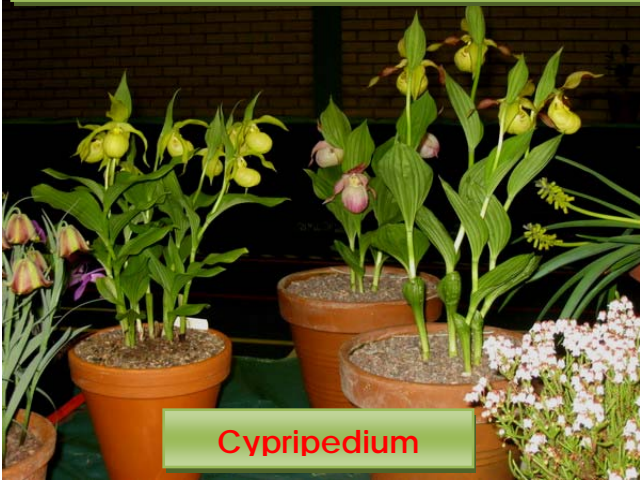


Show secretary Julia Corden looks quite relaxed once all the plants are on the benches and the judges are doing what they are told. Ian has word in Ian's ear behind the rhodies. While judging is going on, the exhibitors and friends can enjoy an early morning breakfast, mid morning breakfast and brunch before settling down for afternoon tea

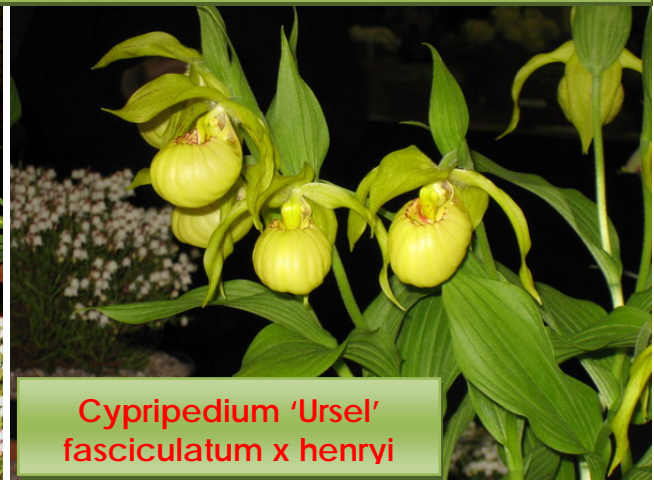
Who forgot the dominoes?



Cypripediums delight all show growers, not only the orchidophiles. Patience is needed plus a few bob?



Cypripedium



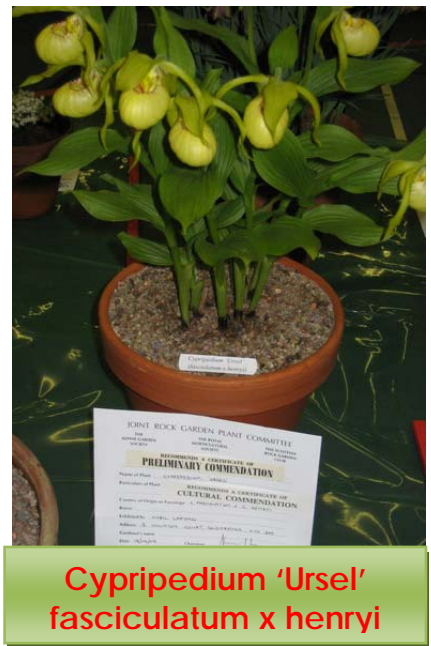
Cypripedium 'Ursel'
fasciculatum x henryi



Cypripedium 'Sunny'



Cypripedium



Cypripedium 'Ursel'
fasciculatum x henryi



Cypripedium 'Holger'



Cypripedium 'Aki'



Cypripedium

Display by Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh



The snake climbing up the wall is an *Arisaema*!



Scilla amoena



Viola pyrenaica



Cyrtanthus flanganii





Fred Hunt with John



Andrew Radley's pan of *Muscari macbeathianum* was much admired, especially by Ron and Susan MacBeath. Ron collected it in Turkey



Lewisia tweedy is a Perth favourite. *Erythronium helenae* also hails from western





Erythronium helenae won the Joyce Halley award for the Bet Pant Grown from Seed. Ian & Carole Bainbridge grew it from SRGC seed sown in 1998.

Primula stenocalyx was grown from seed collected in China by local member Jens Neilsen



The white Narcissus is labelled Whit tete a tete. It is new to me and a cool cousin for the commoner bright yellow N. Tete a tete.



Best Primula in the show was Margaret & Henry Taylor's hybrid P. szechuanica x maximoniczii. I relly hope it gets a hybrid name that is even more unspellable

Primula auricula is well known as the parent of many *Primula* hybrids. It is a joy to find it growing in the European mountains

Primula yuparensis is a different kettle of fish. It grows only on Mount Yubari in Japan. Daid and Stella Rankin inform us that it is related to the European *P. farinosa*. You have to love its notched petals. The American *P. ellisiae* is a great plant. It was still in good fettle at the Glasgow show.

The species received an AM from the RHS Joint Rock in 1967, so this plant couldn't get another AM but the Committee awarded the growers [Ian & Carole] a Cultural Commendation in recognition of their growing skills.

Tulips can be



Carole Bainbridge with her beautiful pan of *Saxifraga andersonii* which was given a Certificate of Merit. It comes from Bhutan, Nepal and Sikkim.

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Is its name in Chinese!

Corydalis wilsonii is another old favourite from China.

As always it is nly possible to skim the surface of plants and people at a show. The only way to see them all is to go there! For those who can't get to a show I hope these pictures give you a flavour of the day. Thanks to Julia, Susan and their team for great day out. Thanks again to Jean for the food!

A doggy song was heard towards the end of the show.

