

## **South Wales Autumn Bulletin 2010**

Dear NCS Member,

The following text represents the correct version of the South Wales Group report which should have been included in the 2010 Autumn Bulletin.

### **SOUTH WALES GROUP Report**

By Brian James

Summer did try a bit harder to make an appearance this year but in the main failed . We had a promising start in June but I can not really say that we had a summer. The weather never settled for more than a few days. I am not sure if it was this weather which gave us less vases on the benches or the lack of early growers in South Wales. There are so few than any problems with only one grower affects our entries. The low number of flowers was also the case at Stafford so maybe the weather was a factor. However although quantity suffered the quality seems to improve every year.

Our top three growers were as last year. John Hobbs stayed in third place but Cyril Powell and Mike Harvey changed places with Cyril finishing top this year.

Cyril won three silver medals, three bronze medals and two certificates. At the Group show he won silver, bronze and a certificate. At the Cardiff show he won silver and bronze. His other silver medal came at the Rhondda show where he also won a certificate. His other bronze was at Neath. To win his awards Cyril mainly showed Wingfield sports. He used Yellow Wingfield, Salmon Wingfield, Peach Wingfield and Pink Wingfield. His other vases in his winning entries were Millennium, Max Riley and Joyce Freida. At the Group show two vases in his 3x5 entry won the silver and bronze medals. Joyce Freida won silver and Salmon Wingfield the bronze.

Mike Harvey won seven awards. Three silver medals, two bronze medals and two certificates. At Ynyswen and Pontypool he won the silver and the bronze medals. In Brecon he got a silver and a certificate. His other certificate was at Rhondda. Last year Mike used several vases of Chempak Rose but the bulk of his vases were Wingfield and sports. This year he showed twice as many Chempak and sports as Wingfields. He showed Chempak Rose, Purple Chempak Rose and Red Chempak Rose. Other vases used in his winning entries were Joyce Freida, Gillette and Millennium.

John Hobbs won his silver medals at Pembroke and Neath. A bronze medal was won at Pembroke and a certificate at Neath. His medals at Pembroke were won with what John calls "bench fillers". From what I have been told about the quality of these blooms we have no chance if John puts up his winners. John showed three vases of Billy Bell, three vases of Millennium and a vase of Max Riley to win his awards.

The ninth silver medal was won by Dowlais in the society class at their show. They showed five very good vases of Southway Sheba. They have showed other good vases of sprays and talking to Phillip Little, their secretary, the society growing will concentrate on sprays next year as it seems to suit the conditions.

Bryn Stonebridge made the long journey from Rhayader to show in two shows and on both occasions went home with a bronze medal . The shows were at Rhondda and Brecon. At

Brecon he used three vases, Candy, Pink and Yellow John Wingfield. In Rhondda he won with a vase of Chempak Rose. Bryn was disappointed that he had no flowers for Dowlais but made the journey to see the show to show his support.

Robert Harries of Newport won a bronze medal at Dowlais with a vase of five Billy Bell and a certificate at Pontypool with the same variety.

Alan Elwell continues to produce some excellent sprays and won two certificates. Colin Harries matched Alan with two certificates for sprays. Alan won his certificates at Pembroke and Neath. At both shows he used vases of Natalie Sarah and Sarah Ann. Colin won his certificates at Pontypool and Cardiff. At Cardiff he showed Yellow Pennine Oriel and Janet Elizabeth and at Pontypool he again used Yellow Oriel paired with the parent Pennine Oriel.

Vic Marchant won a certificate at Pembroke with a vase of Billy Bell The last certificate went to Danny Davies at the Group show with two vases of Chestnut Talbot Parade and a vase of Rose Parade.

I hope I have covered all the award winners and got it correct. Now for some comments on the flowers in the award entries. John Wingfield and sports still provided the most winning vases but the number dropped from 50% to 40% of the total. Billy Bell provided the most vases (6) closely followed by Yellow John Wingfield, Joyce Freida and Millennium with 5 vases. The percentage of Chempak Rose and sports was the same as last year in the total however with the drop in the number of John Wingfield only about half the vases were reflexes compared with 65% last year. This is probably due to the quality of Billy Bell, Joyce Freida and Millennium. It was unusual that there were no Enbee Weddings in the winning sprays. I think there were more single sprays this year with some very good vases of Natalie Sarah, Sarah Ann and Southway Sheba.

As in the last few years we did not have many South Wales entries at Stafford. This year it was left to Ivor Mace to supply our only entry which was second in the Jimmy Draycott for three vases of three blooms. He showed vases of John Wingfield, Yellow John Wingfield and Lemon Rosa Hockeday.

For the third year we held our group show at the National Botanic Garden of Wales. In the two previous years we have had the botanic show on the same weekend. This year the botanic show was dropped. We took the decision to use the venue and it showed to be to the correct decision as we still had a lot of visitors. Although the number was down on last year it is still more than any other venue we have used.

Dowlais show again gave us our end of season get together. Most of our growers free on that day turn up even if they are not showing. We gather to enjoy a wonderful lunch always provided and wind down at the end of the early shows. We also have fun on the snooker tables while judging goes on next door. I must mention the comeback made by the West Wales team of Vic and Terry. They were 30 behind coming in to the home straight but rallied to beat the Ospreys, Cyril and John. Judges are so keen to come to this show that this year's Judge, Graham Clark, washed the secretaries feet with water from a dahlia entry.

Last year I mentioned some of our growers were having a lot of success with carnations. They continued this year with Ivor Mace sweeping the board at Harrogate, some achievement!!

I will finish with a mention of this year's seminars. On the 12<sup>th</sup> of December John Marshall will visit us. I know that several of our growers are very interested in finding out about growing for the late national individual class.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> February next year Ian Rankin will cross two borders to tell us about his growing methods in Scotland.

Both seminars will be at Longford Hall starting at 2pm.

Well that is it until the late season. I hope we have some good late shows and our South Wales late growers do well at Stafford.