

Forrest Medal Glasgow 2010

You can't keep a good man down!

Cyril triumphed once again at Glasgow with *Androsace vandellii*. Rivals for the top prize were his own plants, indeed, for a while, I thought his *Cypripedium* had won the medal and he questioned me, 'Are you sure?'. 'Oh Aye!', said I but I was wrong. The result was that I now have a photo of Cyril with his *Cypripedium* just in case it wins next year. The fabulous *Androsace* was presented in a 12" pan, which was just big enough to leave a margin of gravel round the edge. I wonder, how old is this plant? Since he has a few *Androsace* domes I don't know whether this is the same plant which won the Forrest in Edinburgh in 2007. One thing this does show is the variation in flowering time as the Edinburgh show was 4 weeks ago and the relative dates don't really change over the years.

Cyril not only grows his plants to perfection he is a master at presentation. The care he takes reminds me of that taken by the late Duncan Lowe. Duncan was a good grower and an artist who captured many wonderful plants in his work. If he were to have painted Cyril's *Androsaces*, I am sure he would have become demented trying to represent so many flowers. Well done again Cyril for bringing plants of unparalleled beauty to our show.

