



The Scottish Rock Garden Club Forrest Medal Glasgow 2018 *Cassiope lycopodioides gracilis* Shown by Ian Kidman



Ian Kidman is well known as one of the top exhibitors in the north of England. He has won a remarkable number of Farrer medals as well as Forrests. One of his triumphs north of the border was his win at Alpines 2001 in Edinburgh where he scooped the joint medals with his well flowered *Campanula zoyisii*. His winner this time, *Cassiope lycopodioides* 'BeatriceLilley', was even more floriferous. The species is native to Alaska and Japan. This subspecies 'gracilis' is the lowest growing form, barely rising above the ground, probably testament to the fierce conditions in which it grows. Ian's 12 inch pan was filled to overflowing with thousands of tiny green-topped, white bells completely covering the extremely fine rope-like foliage. Cassiope is in the Family Ericaceae which includes plants like this through heathers up to tree Rhododendrons. Without doubt Ian's plant is the finest Cassiope that we have seen at our shows. Everyone agreed that this was a very well deserved winner. The plant was shown as *Cassiope* 'Beatrice Lilley'

Cassiope lycopodiodes gracilis

