



THE SCOTTISH  
ROCK GARDEN CLUB.

Publication No. 2

1936.

*Obtainable from*

Mr ERIC P. LAIRD, Hon. Secretary  
PINKHILL HOUSE, EDINBURGH, 12



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## Introduction.

“The Club is serving a very real purpose by cultivating a knowledge of and an enthusiasm for working among these wonderful Alpine flowers, and finding how they can best be persuaded to grow in as near as possible their natural surroundings.

“The Club has a wider purpose than that. It is going to revolutionise the small gardens round Edinburgh. Every day and year there is an increasing tendency for people to want to live on the outskirts of the city and have a small garden of their own. They can put these gardens to no better use than by cultivating the full beauty of Alpine plants. In a small place they can have all the joy of a big garden. Many of the house gardens in Edinburgh are particularly suitable for a rock garden. In every human being there is a very real desire to create beauty. We are all artists by wish, if not by achievement.”

(From Lady Findlay's speech at the opening of the Edinburgh Show, 1936).

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The Scottish Rock Garden Club have established for some time an

### INFORMATION BUREAU

for the use of Members, who are invited to correspond on any subject relating to the Rock Garden. Enquiries to be addressed to

Mr ERIC P. LAIRD, Hon. Secy. S.R.G.C.,  
Pinkhill House, Edinburgh, 12.

## Progress from the Beginning.

THE opening of the Spring Flower Show of the Scottish Rock Garden Club, by Harriet Lady Findlay, D.B.E., at the St. George's Church Hall, Edinburgh, on April 16th, 1936, marks a very satisfactory stage of the Club's development.

The original conception of such a Club is due to Mr. E. P. Laird, and, as our first Secretary, together with, in the first year, Mr. F. Glass as Treasurer, he has given continuous service to its cause. The Club was formed in the belief that there was sufficient interest in the hobby of rock gardening among gardeners in Scotland to warrant it. Preliminary enquiries divulged such interest that at a public meeting held on 14th August, 1933, the Club was created. A. Harley, Esq., of Devonhall, Rumbling Bridge, was elected the first President.

The first two Shows were held in Edinburgh and Glasgow, and two excursions were made to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh. Eight lectures were given in Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Dundee, Glasgow, Kilmarnock, Perth and Galashiels. 303 members were enrolled.

The appreciation of the labours of a famous Scottish explorer in foreign fields to enrich our gardens with plants was recorded by creating a George Forrest Prize Fund. Medals and awards associated with his name and bearing his portrait were with the gracious consent of his wife offered for outstanding exhibits at the Shows.

They were given to *Androsace ciliata*\* shown at Glasgow by Dr. W. M. Buchanan, Kirklands, Bothwell, and to plants of *Omphalogramma vinciflorum*\* shown at Edinburgh by Mrs. and Mr. J. T. Renton, Branklyn, Perth.

At the end of the second year the Committee were able to report:—"The number of members who have joined has now reached a total of 368, which is most encouraging, and great interest has been shown in the welfare of the Club from all over Scotland."

Spring Shows were held in the McLellan Galleries, Glasgow, on the 16th and 17th April, and in the Central Halls, Edinburgh, on the 8th and 9th May. Both Shows were eminently successful, 965 paying for admission in Glasgow and 570 in Edinburgh.

"The 'George Forrest Memorial' Medals were won by:—Mr. E. Darling, The Schoolhouse, Neilston, for *Saxifraga aretioides primulina*, and by Mr. A. Harley, for *Nomocharis aperta*, as being the best plants in the respective Flower Shows, Glasgow and Edinburgh. The Challenge Trophy kindly presented during the year by Mr. K. C. Corsar, Edinburgh, was won at the Edinburgh Show by Mr. A. O. Curle, C.V.O., Ormsacre,

\* See figures in the George Forrest Book.

Barnton Avenue, Edinburgh, for 6 pans of Rock Plants in 6 distinct kinds."

In this year, with the consent and help of Mrs. Forrest, the Club printed a small book on George Forrest, consisting for the most part of his own account of his descriptions of incidents of his collecting work, with some of his photographs incorporated. This was issued as a privilege of membership, and advertised for general sale.\* Mr. Glass had left Scotland, and Mr. W. G. MacKenzie was Treasurer during this period.

The Annual Report reads :—" A publication on the life and work of the late George Forrest was issued during the year. The Committee could not have undertaken this publication had it not been for the generous support of several members who kindly offered to guarantee the cost, and it is extremely gratifying to know that the whole cost has been met without calling upon the guarantors."

The drain on the Club funds was rather heavy, and the intention of issuing works on a subject relative to Rock Gardening in successive years had to be modified for this year to the present publication, which it is hoped will be of more general interest. The original programme will be carried out as the Club's funds permit.

## 1936 SHOWS, EDINBURGH & GLASGOW

THE Club aims at bringing together for their mutual encouragement all who are interested in Rock Gardening. This calls for meetings, excursions, lectures and shows, to assist people who are keen on their gardens and who show their interest in joining, but who are a little hazy on the way to start and carry on the hobby of Rock Gardening.

A Show has two points of value—one lies in the plants which are put up by members in competition—the other, and in some, always the more important one, appears on the trade stands. It is up to members to see that the classes are well supported, if only to provide evidence that the Club fellowship is keen. The reason for not exhibiting, so often given, " my poor plants are so ordinary that I don't like to show them," is not a good one. It takes all grades to make a competition.

The stands of the firms catering for us are set out, not only in a decorative and attractive manner, but they are also full of helping hints, if they can be read aright. Their attendants are not only salesmen, but encyclopedias of information, waiting, with the true club spirit, for the opportunity to advise and help others. Incidentally they, too, are Club members, and if, in

\* This was favourably reviewed by Societies and every Section of the Press. Copies are still available at a cost of 5/- post free, from the Hon. Secretary.

times of sickness and trouble, one goes to a specialist, that same reaction should apply to one's hobby and pleasure. So it is proposed in this note to consider the exhibits first, and then the stands of the Edinburgh Show, 1936, bringing out where possible points which are worthy of attention in the order of the Show Schedule.

It is a pleasant duty to pay tribute to Messrs. K. C. Corsar of Edinburgh and R. K. Gemmell of Glasgow for their assistance as Show Secretaries to the Edinburgh and Glasgow Shows. The success and smooth running of our Shows is due, in no little measure, to their work, and the fullest appreciation of their kindness is recorded.

The following gentlemen judged at the Shows :—

GLASGOW.—Messrs. T. J. Gray, Edinburgh ; A. Harley, Kirkcaldy ; G. Stuart, Edinburgh.

EDINBURGH.—Messrs. J. Beattie, Bothwell ; W. Donald, Milliken Park ; W. S. Fair, Galashiels.

Through the generous co-operation of members receiving awards, valuable notes on the cultivation of these plants have been presented, and are being incorporated in this Report.

## Edinburgh, 1936

The George Forrest Awards were given at Edinburgh to *Rhododendron repens*, shown by Mr. Renton, Branklyn, Perth, and at Glasgow to *Viola delphinantha* shown by Mrs. Hally Brown, Skelmorlie, Ayrshire.

The K. C. Corsar Challenge Trophy and Silver Medal for 6 Pans of Rock Plants in 6 distinct kinds were won by Mrs. and Mr. Renton, Branklyn, Perth, who showed well-flowered plants of :—

1. *ANDROSACE CILIATA*. A charming Aretian Androsace which hails from the limestone mountains of the Central Pyrenees. It is a typical Alpine house plant, but may be grown in the scree if given glass protection during winter. It forms rosettes composed of tightly compact glossy green leaves. The plant exhibited had 42 rosettes covered with tiny rose pink and yellow eyed flowers. (For culture see note on Androsaces in this Bulletin).

2. *ANEMONE PULSATILLA ALBA*. This Anemone is similar to the type plant but comes into flower somewhat earlier, is more slender in habit, and its white flower petals are narrower. It is perfectly hardy and not fastidious as to soil or situation.

3. *SAXIFRAGA GRISEBACHII WISLEYANA*. This is probably the most striking of the Engleria saxifrages. It has larger rosettes and more brightly coloured flowers than the older type. The plant forms symmetrical silvery rosettes from the centre of which in early spring appear arching crimson stems about 9 inches high, ornamented with tiny leaves and translucent pink flowers. Like all Englerias this variety grows happily in gritty soil or in the



moraine and prefers full sun so long as the roots are not allowed to become dry.

4. *PRIMULA ALLIONII GRANDIFLORA*. This little gem comes from the cliff faces of the Maritime Alps, where it is found in the limestone crevices. It is an easy plant under Alpine House culture, but is more capricious in the Rock Garden. If grown outside a position under an overhanging rock should be chosen, so that the roots of the plant may be cool. When happily placed it forms rosettes of small grey green sticky leaves which are practically hidden by its short stemmed rosy lilac flowers.

5. *GENTIANA VERNA ALBA*. This is an attractive Gentian which grows and flowers freely in the scree and makes a delightful foil for the lovely and well-known *Angulosa* form. It is of quite easy culture in any lime-free gritty soil, and like all Gentians dislikes pot culture.

6. *DRABA POLYTRICHA*. A delightful little plant like a miniature *Androsace villosa*. It forms neat little clumps of minute leaves covered with white hairs, and in spring the broad petalled yellow flower heads form a charming colour contrast. Cultivation has not yet extended beyond the Alpine House, as, like all woolly foliaged plants, it does not relish overhead moisture. It should make a nice scree plant, but would require glass protection in winter.

The second award was given to 6 pans, shown by Mr. W. Archibald, Ogs castle, by Carnwath, Lanarkshire, containing *Fuchsia pumila*, *Lewisia Howellii*, *Nomocharis Mairei*, *Rhododendron valentinianum*, *Saxifraga boydii*, *Soldanella alpina*.

No miniature Rock Gardens were exhibited, and only two stone troughs (Mr. Renton, first; Mr. Jamieson, 2nd) were brought. Both were very effective. Transport for such exhibits and for miniature gardens is a limiting factor.

Few people will face the trouble that the late Dr. W. M. Buchanan overcame when he exhibited a series of stone troughs in the first Glasgow Show of the Club. (Some of these have been presented to the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, and are to be seen on the terrace in front of the Alpine House).

*SAXIFRAGAS*. The best exhibit of 6 pans of *Saxifragas* was that of Mr. Curle: *Kabschias*, *Buttercup*, *Arco-Valleyi*, *Dainty Dame*. (This is unlisted. In colour a good pink, not unlike *Arco-Valleyi*, and with a longer stem). *Engleri-Grisebachii*, with ten spikes, *Westmooriensis*, *Stribnyi*.

The best 3 pans of *Saxifragas* were *Faldonside*, *Myra* and *Suendermannii*, shown by Mr. Gray, with *Faldonside*, *Myra* and *Stuartii*, shown by Mr. Small, a good second. The class for 1 pan of *Saxifraga*, not to exceed 6 inches, was disappointing. Six entrants from all our members! These showed, however, a good range. *S. burseriana crenata* of Mr. Jamieson was given the first award. *S. desoulavii* of Mr. Corsar was a close runner-up.

*PRIMULAS*. The six classes for primulas and auriculas could

have been better supported, and it is to be hoped that the range of species and varieties on the trade stands were noted by members, so that successive shows will have greater numbers of these essential spring plants. The best six pans (not auriculas) were shown by Mrs. De Pree, who added to the general enjoyment of the Show by staging a number for exhibition only. Mr. Small's entry was given the second award.

An exhibit of three pans of *P. denticulata rosea*, Normaniana and x Marven by Mr. Renton was judged the best in its class. Mr. Curle's exhibit was second, Primulas, Linda Pope, x Marven, Allionii.

The best single pan of Primulas was J. H. Wilson, shown by Mr. Renton. *P. Winteri*, shown by Mr. Gray, was second.

The best award for six pans of Auriculas was given to Mr. Curle for Majestic, Prince of Tyre, St. Tudno, Dawn, Lea Milne, and (green-edged) Henry Wilson. The second award was given to Mr. Corsar for Auricula-tinted A. Rosely, Summer Sky, Leo Hunter, Peerless and Seedling S. 20.

The best three pans were shown by Mr. Small: Lanton, Rhoda Maxwell and Mrs. Martin Smith. The varieties A. Bernard, Ravenswood, and Greyling obtained the second award for Mr. Corsar.

The best specimen of Auricula in the Show was "The Buff," shown by Mr. Corsar. A seedling of Mr. Small's was second.

The Auriculas are now coming back into favour, and a fresh impetus to their study and breeding has been given by the discovery that relations of the parents of the hybrid Auricula which have only a Continental range, exist in Japan and America. Members who like these plants will be glad to know of the keen interest shown by the exhibitors in these classes.

ANDROSACES. Mr. Renton showed the best set of three pans, as well as the best pan (any size) with *A. carnea*, *brigantiaca*, *Charpentieri* and *A. pyrenaica*, and a note by him on the cultivation of these plants is included. Mr. Small was second in the any size pan class with *A. carnea* and received an award in the small pan class for *A. brigantiaca*.

#### CULTIVATION OF ANDROSACE

THE genus *Androsace*, which belongs to the natural order Primulacea, is one of the most fascinating of our Alpine plant families. The best known group is perhaps the *Chamæjasme* as the plants in this section are of comparatively easy culture in any good free gritty soil in a sunny situation. *A. Sarmetosa* var., *Chumbji* and *A. Villosa* have long been known as good garden plants, flowering happily year after year. *A. Carnea* and its varieties are all perfectly hardy and have established themselves in gardens, but owing to the fact that many varieties have a silky tomentum upon their leaves and are thus liable to suffer from excessive overhead moisture, the family as a whole cannot be said

to be of easy culture. This particularly applies to the Aretians, such as *Helvetica*, *Pubescens*, *Cylindrica*, *Hirtella*, *Imbricata* and *Pyrenaica*, all of which are intolerant of our humid climate and to be seen at their best must be grown under Alpine House conditions.

This note is therefore for the purpose of describing the cultivation in the Alpine House of the more difficult types. At the outset it might be said that the best method is to raise plants from seed. Seeds germinate freely, and the resultant seedlings quickly develop and frequently flower during the first season. Seedlings of *A. Pyrenaica*, *Hirtella* and *Cylindrica* sown in February, 1935, were pricked out in July that year, and although forming only tiny rosettes of less than  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch flowered in spring, 1936, and are growing happily into tight little clumps at this date.

Seeds should be sown in pots or pans of sterilised soil, and prior to germination kept moist and dark. So soon as germination takes place the pots are brought to the light and moisture is supplied by plunging them into a shallow bath to ensure that the pots are moist throughout. Overhead spraying is only given by a fine spray from an Abol syringe. The spray consists of a weak solution of permanganate of potash, only sufficient of the latter to give the water a pink tinge. This spray prevents damping off and also appears to strengthen the seedlings. So soon as possible the seedlings are pricked off into small long-tom pots. The potting mixture consists of one-third fibrous loam, one-third chips (limestone or granite or small size broken pot grit according to the plant requirements), and one-third leaf soil and coarse sand in equal parts. This mixture appears to produce the necessary plant food and gives the quick drainage essential for *Androsace* culture. Before putting in the soil mixture the long-toms are filled to about one-quarter of their depth, with crock covered with moss.

In growing on the plants it is essential to guard against over watering, and this can best be done by plunging the pots when necessary about three-quarters of their depth in water.

During the hot summer season it is beneficial to the plants to give an occasional overhead fine mist spray during the late evening, as this provides just sufficient humidity to keep the plants healthy, but it has to be done with care.

A look out should be kept for greenfly and red spider. These pests are difficult to detect in their early stages, and frequently damage is done before it is observed. When it is found, the best cure is to spray with a weak solution of nicotine, thereafter spraying off with clean water. Regular examination of the plants all through the summer season is advisable, and the use of a magnifying glass will be found helpful.

In the second or third years the plants may require to be potted on, and this should be done into a larger sized long-tom all as before, but care should be taken to disturb the roots as little as possible.

The above describes the method of propagation from seed, as this is considered the best method of increasing stocks of the Aretian varieties; stocks of the Stoloniferus types such as Sarmentosa and varieties, Villosa and varieties, Geranifolia Sempervivoides and several others may be readily increased by striking the thrown out stolons or rosettes as cuttings.

*Ranunculus crenatus* shown by Mr. Jamieson was given the first award in the Ranunculaceæ classes. Mr. Small received the second award for *Anemone pulsatilla*.

The classes for bulbous plants attracted very few entries. This is most surprising, since the spring bulbs are the earliest to give colour in our gardens (rock or plain). However, the trade stands provided plenty of tips for next year's entries.

Strangely enough, the class for *Ramondias*, *Jankæas* and *Haberleas*, which call for much more cultivation than bulbous plants, attracted more entries, Mr. Archibald receiving the first award for *Ramondia pyrenaica*, and Mr. Gray the second with *Haberlea virginalis*.

**SEMPERVIVUMS.** The Sempervivums are an interesting group, and many exhibits were entered and competition was close. The best six pans were shown by Mr. Curle, who has very kindly given some hints on their growing. They were *S. rubicundum*, *ornatum*, *Comollii*, *acutifolium purpureum*, *robustum*, and *calcareum*.

### CULTIVATION OF SEMPERVIVUMS

"The cultivation of Sempervivums need not cause one moment's anxiety to the veriest novice in horticulture. Their very name implies that it is almost impossible to kill them! But to get the best results a little attention to their needs is desirable. In the month of March or April, good well-formed rosettes should be selected. The fringe of dead scales which surround the stem should be removed, and the plants, three, four or five in number, according to the size of the pan, to be used, should be planted in a compost of loam, sand and a little leaf mould or *Sorbex* peat. Though Sempervivums will grow on almost a bare rock, they enjoy kindly treatment. As the habitat of so many species is a rock surface, in the cracks and crevices of which the plants insert their roots, pieces of rock and broken stone should be arranged round them on the surface of the pan, and the effect is enhanced if some attention is paid to the texture and colour of the stone used.

"Until the plants are established, attention should be paid to watering so that they do not dry up. Afterwards the pan should be placed in full sunlight, as the exposure enhances the colour. To obtain large specimens, all offsets should be removed as they form."

Mr. Archibald received the second award with *S. calcareum*,

Hookeri, Baileyi, hirtum glabrescens, ornatum, triste, but put up the best three pans—*S. arachnoideum*, *Pomelii*, *cornutum*, with Mr. Gray second, *S. arachnoideum* Laggeri, *ornatum*, *ruthenicum*.

The best single pan was shown by Mr. Gray—*S. rubicundum*, the second award being given to *S. triste*, shown by Mr. Archibald.

SEDUMS. The best six pans were put up by Mr. Archibald—*S. album*, *kamtschaticum* var., *obtusatum*, *spathulifolium*, *roseum*, *glaucum*, and the best three pans by Mr. Jamieson—*S. Pottsii*, *sempervivoides*, and *brevifolium*. The best single pan was shown by Mr. Archibald—*S. Sieboldii*.

GENTIANAS. More support could be given to the classes for these plants with advantage, more so that a member of the Club has written a book upon them.\* Mrs. Gallie received an award for *Gentiana acaulis*.

LEWISIAS. The best pan of these was *L. Tweedyi* by Mr. Small, who has contributed a note on his methods of culture:—

“After flowering, the plants were re-potted in a compost of 1 part of old turf, 1 part peat and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  parts sharp sand with a good sprinkling of crushed pot shreds, all passed through a half-inch riddle—a good layer of silver sand was placed round the neck of each plant. The plants were then placed in the Alpine House and watered as required. In the autumn they were transferred to a cold frame and plunged up to the rim in ashes and wintered there. The frames were kept open on all favourable occasions, and no water given during the winter months. About the beginning of March when growth had commenced the pans were removed to the Alpine House and watered freely.

“At the Edinburgh Show, *L. Tweedyi* was just showing colour, but at the Glasgow Show *L. Purdyii*, *Howellii*, *Heckneri*, and *Wells Hybrids* were in full bloom, while *L. Columbiana*, *Columbiana rosea* and *L. oppositifolia* were not yet open.

“In the same compost, with a little more sand, *L. rediviva* has failed to flower.”

A pan of *L. Howellii* of Mr. Corsar was judged next best.

SHORTIAS. A pan of *S. uniflora grandiflora* by Mr. Small obtained the first award. His notes on growing this plant are given:—

“After flowering, plants were re-potted in a compost of 2 parts peat, 1 part lime-free soil, and 1 part silver sand, and wintered in the Alpine House, under the staging, to protect from the sun. *S. uniflora grandiflora* was in bloom, but past its best at the time of the Edinburgh Show, and *S. galacifolia* was just right for Glasgow Show.”

There was only one pan of Rock Garden violas shown, and that was by Mr. Small—*V. labradorica*. Other members will have noticed other violas on the trade stands. But that is not the worst. *Ericas*, which should surely be appreciated in North Britain, were shown with no greater enthusiasm. Mr. Archibald was the

\* Gentians. D. Wilkie. *Country Life Press*.

only exhibitor with *Erica vulgaris* v. *aurea*, and deserved the award for his patriotism if for nothing else. (See note on the trade exhibits). It was a pity that no member could show any other ericaceous plant which had not already had a class allocated for it. The classes of the show which attract the greatest interest are those which include unclassified items. These mean new ideas and plants. Mr. Small brought for our benefit three small plants with attractive possibilities—*Draba Dedeana*, *D. rigida*, and *D. imbricata*, for which he was given a first-class award.

More members had a single plant in a similar class, and *Daphne retusa* shown by Mr. Jamieson, and *Soldanella* x *Ganderi* by Mr. Corsar were judged respectively best and second.

### ROCK PLANTS COLLECTED BY THE EXHIBITOR.

Entries in this class indicate the finest class of member—one who is prepared to go out into the wilds, be it of Corstorphine or Kansu, to hunt for his plants; then, having found them, he brings them back and *keeps them in cultivation*—a collector and a grower!

Mr. Archibald, who gained the first award in this section, has been kind enough to give an idea of the plants and their collecting.

“The plant which secured the prize at the Rock Garden Club Show was known by the popular name of ‘Mountain Everlasting,’ *Antennaria dioica*. It is a plant exactly similar in all respects to the *rosea* variety sold for Rock Gardens.

“It has a small spatulate leaf with a silver fringe, and is well worthy of a place in any Rock Garden. One inch in height, it bears small fuzzy white flowers about two to two-and-half inches in height.

“This plant is found on heathy moorlands all over the country. My particular specimen was picked up on common ground near Carstairs village in Lanarkshire. It grows well in a pot with a compost of loam and peat.

“The other plant was a Club Moss, *Lycopodium clavatum*, which I have found rather a difficult subject to grow at all. I tried it first in the bog and found it did not succeed, but have succeeded in growing it both in the Rock Garden and in a pot with loam and peat.

“This plant is a trailer and the cord-like stem is covered all round with short green needle-like leaves. The flowers are borne on upright forked stems from which, I believe, it derives its name. It is attractive from its rather curious habit of growth, which I think is unique, rather than from its flowers, which are unimpressive.

“In nature, its stems, sometimes several feet long and constantly branching out, creeps along on heathy moorlands and occasionally on a grass slope with a northern exposure. In my opinion it is a beautiful subject for an odd semi-shaded portion of the Rock Garden.

“ There are numerous wild plants which will stand comparison with many of the commoner Alpines and which can be successfully grown if one only takes the trouble to reproduce as far as possible the conditions of their natural habitats.”

Now that we have a “ meet ” during the year it is expected that this class will obtain more entries.

#### DWARF SHRUBS FOR THE ROCK GARDEN.

(Not members of Ericaceæ).

One might be inclined to say that their name is legion, but their representatives were few. Perhaps pot culture is difficult. Mr. Jamieson received the first award for *Daphne retusa* and Mr. Renton an award for *Cupressus obtusa nana*—fine specimens both.

#### ROCK PLANTS WITH SILVER-GREY FOLIAGE.

This is an essential feature for the full scheme of planting and the entries were interesting. Mr. Archibald showed a group of *Sax. brevifolia*, *Sax. longifolia* and *Sax. Aizoon rosea*, and in the class for single plants, *Aubretia argentea*, and was given all the awards for them.

#### DWARF RHODODENDRONS.

At every show an exhibit of flowering twigs has been made, yet enthusiasm doesn't seem to be very great yet. Plants raised from seed flower in three to five years, and cuttings strike with very little trouble. They may not lend themselves to pot culture. Mr. Jamieson put up the best group of three, *Rhododendron ciliatum*, *Keiskii* and *pemakoense*. Mr. Corsar was second with *Rhodo. repens racemosum* and *obovatum*.

The best single plant shown was *Rhodo. repens*, owned by Mr. Renton. This was given the “ George Forrest ” award. *Rhodo. ciliatum* by Mr. Jamieson was second.

So much for the Show. Our thanks are due to those members who provided the plants. If more members put up plants next year the increasing popularity will be the best tribute to the pioneers.

#### PROFESSIONAL EXHIBITS.

Without the valuable co-operation of the different firms the Show would lose more than half its interest. The amount of care, often unrequited, put into these stands, is seldom fully realised. The stands at the Edinburgh Show brought out in no uncertain fashion the proof that every competitive class can be well supported. Only the main features are mentioned—there are far too many other plants, all well-grown and fairly easy to grow, to mention. Also a most valuable feature, discussion on the plants and the best way to grow them are welcome.

The stand of Peter Aitken showed *Ericas*, Japanese Maples, *Rosa Rouletti*, Dwarf Shrubs, Dog-Tooth Violets, a “ bulbous plant,” and the “ wee crimson-tippet flooers ” of *Bellis acubæfolia* with variegated foliage.

Mrs. J. Laing, Viewfield, Hawick, exhibited more daisies—*Bellis Dresden China*, *Rob Roy*, and *Alice*, as well as a miniature scree in which the spacing of the plants was an object lesson.

The main feature of the Edrom Nurseries (Miss Logan Home) was Himalayan Primulas, many of which have yet to be shown by members.

The Blackness Nurseries Dundee (James Laurie) had two good features. One was dwarf and deciduous conifers, the other included plants suitable for walls. *Hutchinsia*, *Aethionema* and *Aubrietias*. *Anemone fulgens* provides excellent examples for the class of bulbs, etc.

In the centre of the floor was an excellent demonstration in garden assembly by Messrs. Young and Thomson, emerging from woodland with shrubs such as *Magnolia stellata*, into a series of plants among well set Westmoreland water-worn stone.

The Dean Gardens, Longniddry, provided an uncommon sight nowadays—old-fashioned primroses, including Double Blue and Pantaloon Jackanapes, well-established favourites at one time and now returning to favour.

The biggest range of bulbous plants (7 types) including Dwarf Narcissus (minor *minimus* and *nana major*) appeared on the stand of Messrs. Laird & Dickson. Flowering shrubs including *Carmichaelia Enysii* (N.Z. Broom) and *Ericas* (mixed) provided an excellent foil together with a delicate habited Chinese shrub, *Nandina domestica*.

The stand of Castlehill Nurseries, Kippen (Miss Clarke) was an object lesson in the use of small pieces of stone amongst which was *Anemone blanda*. Alpine Primulas and *Saxifragas* were an outstanding feature.

The Alpine Nurseries, Newton Mearns, Renfrewshire (William Carvel) showed bulbous plants in quantity, especially *Tulipa Clusiana*, *dasystemon*, *præstans Tubergen's var* (5 blooms per stem), *præstans Regel's var.*, *Kaufmanniana*, and also rare plants such as *Mertensia pulchella* and *Arnebia echioides*. The range of *Lewisia*s was amazing, including *L. columbiana*, *columbiana rosea*, *Howellii*, *Purdyi*, *Leeana*, *oppositifolia*, *rediviva*, *nevadensis*, and *brachycalyx*.

Photographs are always interesting, and a magnificent range was on exhibition through the kindness of the following members: A. O. Curle, H. B. Kaye, W. G. Mackenzie, and D. Wilkie.

## WILLIAM BUCHANAN, M.B., Ch.B.

**I**N the death of Dr. William Buchanan, of Bothwell, gardening circles in Scotland have lost one of their most prominent and attractive personalities.

As an all round gardener he had few equals, but in rock gardening in particular he stood alone.

His garden of Alpines at Bothwell was the Mecca of enthusiasts from all over Britain, and to walk with him there was a privilege never to be forgotten. By his exhibits at various shows he showed how Alpines could be grown and did pioneer work in laying a foundation for the popularity of these children of the hills.



A favourite saying of his was, "The gospel of the Alpines is spreading," and he lived to see much fruit from his labours. The Scottish Rock Garden Club when founded recognised that in Dr. Buchanan was one who should lead and guide them, and they honoured him by their asking him to be their first President.

Owing to his health at that time, he was unable to accept the honour, but he has been a Vice-President since the formation of the Club, and did much to interest others in its welfare.

It was most fitting that he himself should be the winner of the first George Forrest Medal, the highest honour in Scotland for Alpines.

His genial companionship will be greatly missed by a large community whose deepest sympathy is extended to the sorrowing wife who shared with him in all his labours and nursed him in his last long illness.

## THE GLASGOW SHOW, 1936

MCLELLAN GALLERIES, as in former years, housed the Show. These halls are ideal for the purpose. They are central, well lighted and commodious, and should provide ample scope for expansion in the Club's efforts to make this Spring Show an outstanding feature in horticulture in the West.

Signs are not awanting that this ambition is already near fulfilment. This year there was a gratifying increase in the number of competitors. The exhibits were more varied and better grown, and above all better staged.

Variety of exhibits can partly be accounted for by the change of date from April to May. This year, Lewisias in several varieties were prominent, and the winning three in this class (Purdyi, Howelli and Heckneri) exhibited by J.G. Small, Callander, worthily earned the reward and gave promise of a better display of colour a week or so later. In passing, it may be mentioned that Mr. Small was the most successful competitor in the Show. He won the Silver Medal for the collection of six Alpines, and was prominent in many other classes. The runner-up for the medal was W. Archibald, Oggscastle, Carnwath. He also figured prominently in the other classes, and must be complimented on his circular trough or pan, some 16 inches in diameter, and containing at least 15 varieties of dainty Alpines.

Another successful exhibitor was Mrs. Hally Brown, who this year won the Forrest Memorial Medal for the most meritorious pan in the Show. This was a well grown plant of *Viola delphinantha*, an exquisite little gem from Mt. Olympus and reputed to be very rare. Another outstanding exhibit of Mrs. Hally Brown was her three pans of *Androsaces*, all in bloom and very effective.

Mr. Anderson, gardener to Mrs. Fulton, St. Edmonds, Milngavie, was the most successful competitor in the classes for heaths. The gardens at St. Edmonds will repay a visit. Here you have more or less a natural rock garden. The soil is a peat loam and the hillside is covered with great patches of heathers in many

varieties. The crowning glory of this garden is a bed of *Gentiana sino-ornata*, square yards of it, growing by the side of a stream. By kind permission of Mrs. Fulton, a coloured photograph of this bed was on view.

The trade exhibits were more numerous this year than formerly. Messrs. Laird & Dickson had, as usual, a very attractive stand, the chief feature of which was a collection of *Rhododendrons* suitable for a Rock Garden, including *R. hippophæoides*, *R. Cunningham Sulphur*, *R. russatum*, and *R. cuneatum*. They also had a very fine variety of *Gentiana acaulis*. The Arctic bramble, *Rubus arcticus*, appealed to many visitors, as did also *Geum montanum* and *Chrysanthemum hispanicum sulphureum*, the flower of the latter having light lemon petals with a very striking yellow centre.

Peter Aitken of Bathgate was forward this year with a magnificent collection of Alpines in pots, the whole backed by well grown plants of *Acer palmatum atro-purpureum*. From the many good things in this stand, we single out *Pæony tenuifolia fl. pl.*, *Gentiana acaulis alba*, and *Rosa pumila*.

William Carvel of Newton Mearns seldom fails to produce one or two novelties for the keen Rock Garden lover. This year he had *Viola Halli*, *Erinacea pungens*, *Sax. porophylla*, and several species of *Androsaces*. However, the most striking feature in this stand was the varied collection of *Lewisias*, including *Howellii*, *Columbiana*, *Tweedyi*, *Leeana* and *Purdyi*.

Messrs. Austin & McAslan made such effective use of a few well chosen pieces of Westmoreland stone that one felt inclined to leave an order with that well-known firm for the remodelling of one's rockery.

Messrs. R. K. Gemmell & Co. have always an interesting stand, and few can pass their stand without dipping into their pockets. This firm has an excellent strain of *Gentiana verna*, a good doer and unsurpassed for colour. This year they had on view many varieties of Rock *Rhododendrons*, including *Scintillans*, *Ravum*, *Cantabile*, *Racemosum* and *Fastigiatum*. *Trollius Goldquelle* was very attractive, as was also *Rosa Laurentiana Oakington Ruby*. The background was made up of dwarf evergreens and *Berberis* in variety, and *Viburnum Carlesi*.

Newcomers to the Show were the owners of the Dean Gardens, Longniddry, East Lothian. They gave a special display of *Primulas*, *Polyanthus* and *Auriculas*.

The stand of the Castlehill Nurseries, Kippen (the Misses Clarke) was tastefully laid out with Westmoreland stone.

*Aubrietias* in many fine varieties, made a brave show. *Anemone alpina sulphurea* and *Anemone Allenii* must have tempted many to open their purses. Other interesting exhibits were *Arnebia echioides* (the Prophet Flower), *Genista triquetra*, and the lovely scented *Daphne Cneorum*.

The round of the hall was completed when the stand of the

Edrom Nurseries was reached. Primroses in many choice varieties, double and single, and giant flowered Polyanthus attracted the attention of all. Other meritorious exhibits in this stand were Anemone pulsatilla, Anemone ranunculoides, Erythronium White Ladies, and a magnificent species of Rhododendron sanguineum.

It was a happy thought on the part of Miss H. M. Logan Home of the Edrom Nurseries to display several water colour drawings executed by her brother, Col. Logan Home, while on duty on the Indian frontier. These drawings depicted typical Himalayan scenery, and in the foreground of each were drifts of Alpine Flora, Primulas predominating.

This year's Show was definitely an advance on its predecessors and should do much to advertise the work of the Scottish Rock Garden Club in the West of Scotland.

## LECTURE PROGRAMME

THE following Lectures were arranged during the session 1935-36, and courteous co-operation of the local Horticultural Societies is much appreciated and gratefully acknowledged.

Edinburgh.	Miss I. W. Hutchison.	<i>Plant Hunting in Greenland.</i>
Glasgow.	Mr. D. Wilkie.	<i>Gentians.</i>
Falkirk.	Mr. A. Harley.	<i>Plants Growing in a Perthshire Garden.</i>
Ayr.	Mr. W. Carvel.	<i>Alpine Plants.</i>
Nth. Berwick.	Mr. W. G. MacKenzie.	<i>Making and Planting a Rock Garden.</i>
Dundee.	Mr. Eric P. Laird.	<i>Rock Garden Plants Throughout the Year.</i>
Hawick.	Mr. Geo. M. Stuart.	<i>Rock Garden Shrubs.</i>
Dunfermline.	Mr. Eric P. Laird.	<i>As for Dundee.</i>
Aberdeen.	Mr. R. E. Cooper.	<i>The Rock Garden, Edinburgh.</i>
Edinburgh.	Mr. R. B. Cooke.	<i>Plants Mainly for the Rock Garden.</i>

ALL LECTURES WERE ILLUSTRATED WITH LANTERN SLIDES.

An Excursion was made to the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, on Wednesday, April 15th, 1936.

DONATIONS.—Donations have been received from the following ladies and gentlemen towards the Club funds for the year ending 31st August, 1936.

- Mrs. Hally Brown, Craignahullie, Skelmorlie, Ayrshire.
- Dr. W. M. Buchanan, Kirklands, Bothwell.
- Mrs. G. M. T. Conacher, Ann Fharaid, Lawmarnock Road, Bridge of Weir.
- Mr. K. C. Corsar, Rubislaw, Braid Avenue, Edinburgh.
- Miss M. L. Cowan, Woodslea, Penicuik.
- Mrs. A. A. Duncan, Newlands, Dumfries.
- Miss E. S. Dunlop, Shieldhill, Biggar.
- Miss Logan Home, Silverwells, Coldingham, Berwickshire.

Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Renton, Branklyn, Perth.

Mr. Geo. Roger, Millend House, Wiltondean, Hawick.

Miss Thornton, Hermand, West Calder.

Miss I. A. Walker, Pitlair, Cupar, Fife.

In conclusion, after the third year, the Club has a membership of 477. The books show a cash balance in hand of nearly forty pounds on the year's working of a sum of over £200.

## WIGTOWNSHIRE MEET

THE vote that the first meet of the S.R.G.C. was a success was unanimous, and it was followed by a demand for a second next year. That, to those responsible for arranging this first venture, was most gratifying, an ample reward for the work they had done, and, it is to be hoped, to the owners of the gardens who had so kindly received us.

What, I wonder, is the outstanding memory of the district? Perhaps the early summer verdure bursting into the incandescence of *Embothriums*? Again and again a chorus of exclamations arose as, around a bend, we saw yet another dancing flame of the trees, and how enviously we looked at the suckers arising all about them.

We were too late, of course, for the great display of *Rhododendrons*, for which the district is famous, but even so we saw many beautiful trees, among them *R. chlorops* (at Loch Inch), a large and shapely bush laden with creamy flowers, one of Forrest's collecting and blooming for the first time. Lord Stair has won an award with it this year. *R. cyclium*, *crassum*, *Souliei* were outstanding in flower, with surprising masses of the very tender *R. megacalyx*, *fragrantissima*, and others, usually relegated to greenhouses. A big tree of pink-flowered *R. decorum*, dear to Sir Herbert's heart, was a fragrant glory at Monreith, while at Corsewall we saw the "Elephant Park," in other words a fenced-in plantation of *R. sino-grande*, growing luxuriantly. Fencing-in is necessary in the district, both against rabbits and roe deer. The latter used to concentrate on the small-leaved *rhododendrons*, but of late they have developed a taste for *R.s. sino-grande*, *fictolacteum*, *Falconeri*, and other large-leaved species. and do terrific damage. One of the outstanding *Rhodo. hybrids* which we saw was *Vanessa*, promptly noted down in my book, but not yet traced in commerce. That is one of the drawbacks of visiting such super-gardens; again and again one blithely writes "order such and such," only to find no trace of it in a whole drawerful of catalogues. Those climbing *Bottle Brushes* and *Asteranthera ovata* on the trunks of the *Corydalis australis* at Logan, for instance—can one get them? No, none—and many of the most admired *Rhodos*: they are to be had (except *R. chlorops*), but in so small a size as to be useless to those who have left most of their gardening days behind them.

However, there are other treasures, many of them, which do not require long years of waiting for blossom time, an embarrassing list of them. Perhaps, for those who did not take notes, I might append a list of those which most appealed to me, and which I thought might have a chance of survival here, by the coast of North Ayrshire.

The great lesson we learned in the gardens was the value of shelter belts, high hedges (up to 15 feet), walls equally high, belts of trees, all sheltering the shrubs. Another lesson was that our Rock Garden plants, many of them, make very lovely borders to kitchen gardens. *Ericas*, instead of box, make excellent low hedges for the cabbage patch, and will any of us forget that border in Lochryan's walled garden of *Papaver umbrosum*? Yet another surprise—the seedling *Lilium giganteum* among the onions at Loch Inch!

The patience of the garden owners, and their gardeners, in answering the questions of thirty-five enthusiasts was worthy of the beauty and interest of their gardens, and we were as grateful for their kindness as we were for the privilege of seeing the places. In only two did we miss seeing the owners; Mrs. Buchanan of Corsewall was away, but she came to one of our evening discussions to apologise for her absence and to assure us that we would be in good hands with her head gardener, as indeed we were. Lord Stair was garden-visiting himself at Bodnant, and had taken his head gardener with him, so there we were under the charge of a young foreman who, however, was most attentive. At Loch Inch the sheer beauty of the whole place was enough in itself, it was almost difficult to concentrate on its rich and varied flora.

Through the happy wilderness of Loch Ryan, Mr. Wallace himself led us, along hillside paths, through sheltered glades, up the glen which leads far into the hills (and down which the deer come for exotic feasts!) and finally into the house itself, to see heirlooms of the bygone Wallaces. That garden, sowed and loved for many generations, was a contrast to the next one we visited, Viscount Inchcape's Glenapp, a beautiful, weedless place, kept immaculately by the head gardener and his staff, but lacking the tangled loveliness and the botanical interest of Loch Ryan.

At Corsewall we found, I think, the greatest collection of plants, rare and beautiful; perhaps they were all to be found in the other gardens, but at Corsewall they are more concentrated, and notebook pages got filled rapidly that morning. One feature which gave us all pleasure was the "Miniature Garden" made by Mrs. Buchanan's young daughter—lawn, paved and walled garden, lily pool, rock garden, woodland—all in a space of about 20 feet by 10 feet. It was exquisitely done, most skilfully planted—a fairy garden.

Of Logan it is difficult to write, for it is overwhelming in its varied interest, its rarities: the two wonder-working brothers were kindness itself to us, infinitely patient about questions, and

not only did they feed our minds, but our bodies, for refreshments were served to us in the garden (and very welcome they were !) before we walked down the half mile of Primula Glen to the famous fish ponds.

The final visit was to Monreith, and Sir Herbert Maxwell, who led us himself about his beloved place, pointing out giant rhododendrons which he had raised from seed and whose flowers he has enjoyed for many years, and telling of plans for future planting. A rare and wonderful old man, whom it was our very great privilege to have met—the finest flower of them all !

So the days passed, with a few spare hours for wandering along the cliffs near Portpatrick to revel in that natural rock garden all abloom with *Armeria*, *Scilla maritima* and *Silene maritima*, or up exquisite Dunskey Glen, thanks to the kindness of Commander Orr-Ewing.

The evenings were devoted to lectures and discussions, Mr. Laird in the chair. Dr. Roger Smith gave us a talk on Plant Collecting in the Pyrenees one evening with colour slides, which was most enjoyable and made many of us long to go and do likewise. And another night Mrs. Milford lectured, with magnificent slides of landscape, flora and people, on her expedition to the wild Drakensburg Range of Basutoland. In this case I doubt if any of us wanted to emulate her, but how we enjoyed hearing of her experiences !

Our "discussions" brought forth plenty of talk, from that hardy perennial, "What is an Alpine?" to "Meta" versus "scissors" for slugs. The last night came all too soon, and it brought unanimous cries of "More !" and a very hearty vote of thanks from all of us to Mr. Goudy, the manager of the Hotel, who had been extremely kind to us throughout.

#### NOTEWORTHY PLANTS SEEN IN FLOWER.

*Rhododendron* *Valentinianum*, *villosa*, *Souliei*, *Gill's Triumph*, *crassum*, *chrysodoron*, *Vanessa*, *chlorops*, *cyclium*, *megacalyx*, *decorum*, *decorum* pink form, *cinnabarinum* var. *blandfordiaeflorum*, *Embothrium* *coccineum* *longifolium*, *Fraxinus* *Ornus* "Manna Ash," *Rodgersia* *pinnata* *superba*, *Rodgersia* *sambucifolia*, *Romneya* *Coulteri*, *Romneya* *trichocalyx*, *Solanum* *crispum*, *Papaver* *umbrosum*, *Verbascum* *phœniceum*, *Prostanthera* *rotundifolia*, *Hydrangea* *scandens*, *Philesia* *buxifolia*, *Olearia* *floribunda*, *Fosteri*, *Argyrophylla*, *Colensoi* *nitida*, *Viburnum* *utile*, *tomentosum* *Mariesii*, *Lonicera* *pileata*, *Myrtus* *obcordata*, *Cestrum* *Newelli*, *Diosma* *capitata*, *Hymenanthera* *crassifolia*, *Zanthorhiza* *apiifolia*, *Asteranthera* *ovata*, *Meconopsis* *punicea*, *Spiræa* *ariæfolia*, *Pittosporum* *exigeata*, *Leucothœ* *Keiskei*.

*The preceding article is contributed by our Vice-President, Mrs Hally Brown, who was our perfect hostess for the week, and in appreciation was appointed at our General Meeting Hon. Director of Re-unions. E.P.L.*

## Constitution and Rules.

1. The Club shall be called "THE SCOTTISH ROCK GARDEN CLUB," and is formed for the purpose of creating an interest in Rock Garden Plants; to encourage their cultivation, and to hold meetings and exhibitions for this purpose.

2. The Management of the Club shall be in the hands of a Committee consisting of at least 12 members, with the addition of a President, 6 Vice-Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer, who will retire annually but will be eligible for re-election. Four members shall form a quorum.

3. In the election of Office-Bearers, at least 3 Vice-Presidents and 6 members of Committee must be residents outside the County of Mid-Lothian.

4. The Committee shall have powers to elect Hon. President, Hon. Vice-Presidents, and Hon. Members, and to fill any vacancy on the Committee which may occur during the year.

5. The Annual General Meeting of the Club will be held in the beginning of September of each year, when a duly audited Balance Sheet will be submitted, and when the election of Office-Bearers will take place. Ten members form a quorum.

6. The Annual Subscription shall be Five Shillings or any other sum or a Life Membership of Five Pounds or any other sum, as a General Meeting shall from time to time determine. This subscription entitles the members to all privileges. All subscriptions shall be payable to the Treasurer on the first day of September in each year. The subscription of any new member enrolled after the first day of July shall be deemed to cover the succeeding year.

7. A Special General Meeting may be convened by the Secretary at any time upon the requisition in writing of any ten members of the Club, who shall give at least 21 days' notice. The special business for which the meeting is convened shall be stated in the requisition, and also in the notice calling the meeting, and no other business shall be transacted at such Special General Meeting.

8. Not less than 7 days' notice of each General Meeting shall be given or sent by post to all members of the Club.

9. An Auditor shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting, who shall audit the Annual Statement of Accounts and Balance Sheet, and certify the same before the Annual General Meeting.

10. The investments of the Club shall be vested in three Trustees to be appointed at a General Meeting of the Club. The Trustees shall deal with the same in such manner as any General Meeting or the Committee shall from time to time direct. The Committee shall have power to fill up any vacancy which may occur by resignation or death during the year.

11. The Committee may make Bye-laws and Regulations consistent with these Rules, as may be considered necessary for the proper management of the Club's affairs and for the conduct of their own proceedings.

12. No Rule shall be altered or repealed, and no new Rule shall be made, except by a majority of at least two-thirds of the members present and voting thereon at a General Meeting, and notice, in writing, of any resolution to alter, repeal, or add to the existing Rules shall be given to the Secretary, not less than twenty-one days before the meeting at which it is to be dealt with.

## Office-Bearers for Year 1936-37.

### *Hon. President.*

Professor Sir WM. WRIGHT SMITH, Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh.

### *President.*

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 Wilson, Mrs., St. Phyllans, Skelmorlie, Ayrshire.  
 Wilson, Mrs. D. M., Woodstock, Largs, Ayrshire.  
 Wilson, Miss Jessie A. R., 46 Stamperland Drive, Clarkston, Glasgow.  
 Wilson, J. B., Dunag, 2 Cranshaws Drive, Polmont.  
 Wintersgill, —, c/o Messrs. Austin & M'Aslan, Mitchell Street, Glasgow.  
 Wolstencroft, Miss, Florence Drive, Giffnock.  
 Wood, Major J. L., Oakwood, Rosslyn Castle, Midlothian.  
 Wood, Mrs. D. M., 25 Douglas Crescent, Edinburgh.  
 Wylie, J. B., Hazeldene, Ayr Road, Prestwick.  
 Wylie, R. H., 3 Mulberry Road, Newlands, Glasgow, S. 3.  
 Young, Bert Cecil, Almond Cottage, Newbridge, Ratho.  
 Young, Mrs. E. S., Glenbryde, Seamill, Ayrshire.  
 Young, John, Braid Nurseries, Braid Avenue, Edinburgh.  
 Young, John M., 176 Main Street, Lennoxtown.  
 Young, Mrs. T. S. H., 22 Firhill Avenue, Airdrie.  
 Younger, Lady Vivian, Easter Park, Davidson's Mains, Edinburgh.  
 Younger, Mrs., Harmeny, Balerno.  
 Yuille, James, 27 Wellington Street, Kilmarnock.

# THE SCOTTISH ROCK GARDEN CLUB.

## FORM OF PROPOSAL FOR MEMBERSHIP.

This form may be sent with a remittance of 5/- minimum as a subscription for one year, or £5 for Life Membership.

To Mr ERIC P. LAIRD (Hon. Secretary and Treasurer),  
Pinkhill House, Edinburgh, 12.

Mr

I, Mrs .....

(Please write in Block letters)

Miss

Address .....

enclose the sum of ..... being my Membership Subscription  
for the year .....

Date ..... Signature .....

(Cheques may be crossed "Union Bank of Scotland").

## BANKER'S ORDER FORM.

To .....

Please pay to Mr Eric P. Laird, Pinkhill House, Edinburgh, 12, on receipt of this Form, \* the sum of Five shillings, my Subscription to The Scottish Rock Garden Club for the year 19....., and a like sum on the 1st of January in each succeeding year until otherwise ordered, \* or the sum of £5 being the Subscription for Life Membership.

2d.

Stamp

If you decide to use this Form, kindly send it completed to the Club Treasurer.

\* Delete item not required.



