

THE SCOTTISH ROCK GARDEN CLUB HEXHAM SHOW — SRGC/AGS

1 4 23

Is it tempting fate to hold a show on April Fool's day? Certainly not!... as the show in Hexham proved. The plants were as wonderful as usual, the people as friendly as ever and judging by the crowded restaurant the food was as good as ever. Certain plants are at their best for certain shows each year. This was true at Hexham. Some 'old favourites' were back on the benches. The main difference from year to year is that as the plants get bigger, the pots get heavier. It must be increasingly difficult to keep these superstars in perfect condition. I commend the growers on their skill. Eventually, I think it will be difficulty in transporting them which will mean they might be missing in the future. Are there any conditions such as 'Forrest Medal Back' or 'Farrer Medal Strain'? Hexham attracted a very good entry from lots of exhibitors. Thank you one and all for your contributions. This year the show was held under AGS rules so that the Best plant in Show won a Farrer Medal. Since David Millward's *Narcissus obesus* 'Lee Martin' has won a Forrest medal already, his plant is one of a unique group to have won both top awards. Congratulations Dave!



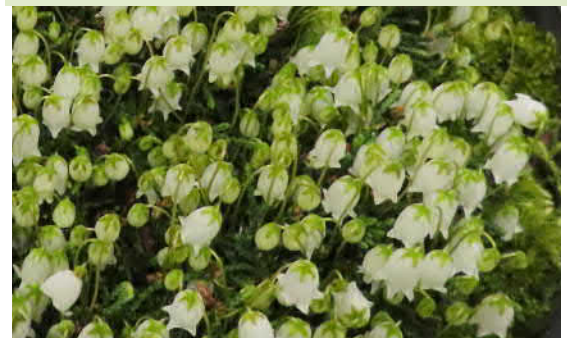




Sometimes a plant demands attention.

Cassiope lycopodioides is one such. Shown and grown by Frank Hoyle. It was one of his 3pan entry along side Saxifraga Coolock Gem and Iris suaveolens. It is probably the lowest growing of the Cassiopes. It grows in the Aleutian Islands and Kamchatka. I think it also grows in Japan. Despite the number of hybrid Cassiopes available plants of the species have a special quality. I like it. A perfect miniature plant from far away grown to perfection in the UK. How lucky are we that skilled growers like Frank can source and grow these plants and bring them to the shows for all to enjoy. Some assiopes have red calices but these green ones are 'cool'.

Another Japanese native shown by Ian Kiman was Viola brevistipulata var hidakana which was awarded a Certificate of Merit. It was joined in its class by Trillium rivale and a nice Primula allionii type.



Pulsatilla vulgaris rubra
Hepatica 'Millstream Merlin'
Anemone seemannii

Pots of Primula march along the bench into the distance



Left Top to Bottom

Primula marginata from Mike Dale

Primula 'Lockey's Blue' from Tom Green

Primula 'Lakeland Rose' from Tommy Anderson

Dionysia iranica JLMS 02 65 from Don Peace

Draba cappadoica from John Richards





Saxifrages

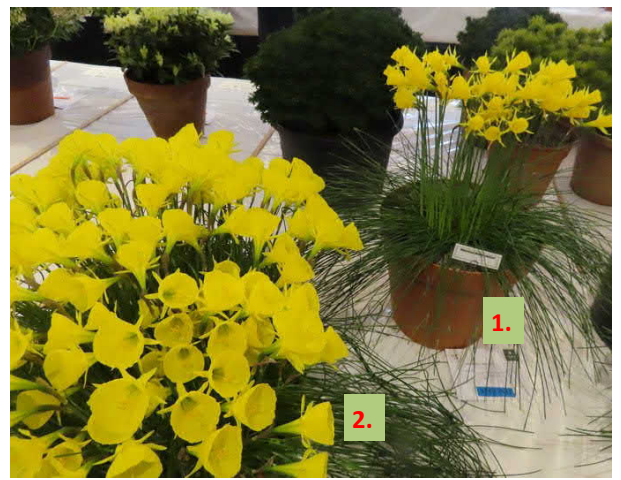
S. 'Bridget'

S. polunanglica

S. 'Charlie Chaplin'

Pleione Ueli Wackernagel 'Enigma' has received an Award of Merit from the RHS Joint Rock Garden Plant Committee. Shown by Don Peace.





1. *Narcissus bulbocodium*
 2. *Narcissus obesus* 'Lee Martin'
 3. Anne Wright's winning 3 pan entry







GOLD MEDAL FOR Tees Swale project

