

Highland SRGC Show Report 2014



2014 was the third year that the Highland Group has staged a show in Nairn as part of the national circuit. However this was also their 45th show and all this experience was very apparent in the excellent Section 2. This featured many good plants from group members. In fact there were more (107) entries from exhibitors in Section 2 than in the open section (97 entries) though overall the open section had slightly more (142 compared to 137) plants.



The Highland Group has members as far north as Shetland and across to the Hebrides; not all exhibit but Francis and Margaret Higgins from Berriedale in Caithness certainly do and with excellent results. In only their second year competing they won the George Roslyn-Shirras Tankard for most first prize points in Section 2. Their firsts included Class 70 for six small pans (which had four entries compared to two in the open section) and the open 3 pan primula class.



Part of the Section 2 benches

The Higgins' six pan entry

[More photos on the Highland Show – 26th April 2014 [here in the Forum](#)]

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Olive Bryers and Arthur Milnes at staging time.
Below: part of Class 71



Class 71 for two plants was the biggest in the show with nine competitors. Entries included particularly good plants from the Higgins as well as Olive Bryers. Olive has been showing here for years; hers is the first name on the Highland Trophy (for the year 2003). She took the Dunbarney Salver for the best individual plant in Section 2 with a nice *Lewisia cotyledon*. The show of colour in all the *Lewisia* classes certainly attracted the attention and admiration of the visiting public.



Not content with their success in Section 2 Team Higgins won the Weir Shield for the best plant from a Highland or Moray member with a pan of *Pleione* shown in Section 1.

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Other notable Section 2 plants were a large and well flowered *Iberis* in class 72 and several large primulas.



Attracting local gardeners who are not SRGC members is important to the group. Section V is for them. Best out of 34 entries was Hamish Mackintosh's *Primula* 'Drumcliffe' closely

followed by a *Daphne* grown by Mrs Mackintosh.

The show also had well supported classes for cut daffodils and tulips –on the same day as the Banff Daffodil Group had their bulb show further along the Moray coast. Needless to say non-members are then encouraged to join the SRGC.



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In the open section Carole & Ian Bainbridge took Class 1 for six small pans as well as the very competitive Class 2 for three larger pans. Their *Trillium* was undoubtedly the heaviest plant in show! In that class their *Narcissus x cazorlanus* was judged best pot of bulbs so took the Askival Bulb Trophy. This is a natural hybrid between *N. bulbocodium* and *N. triandrus*. The present and past presidents also showed a very nice pot of *Narcissus rozeirii* in the single pot narcissus class.



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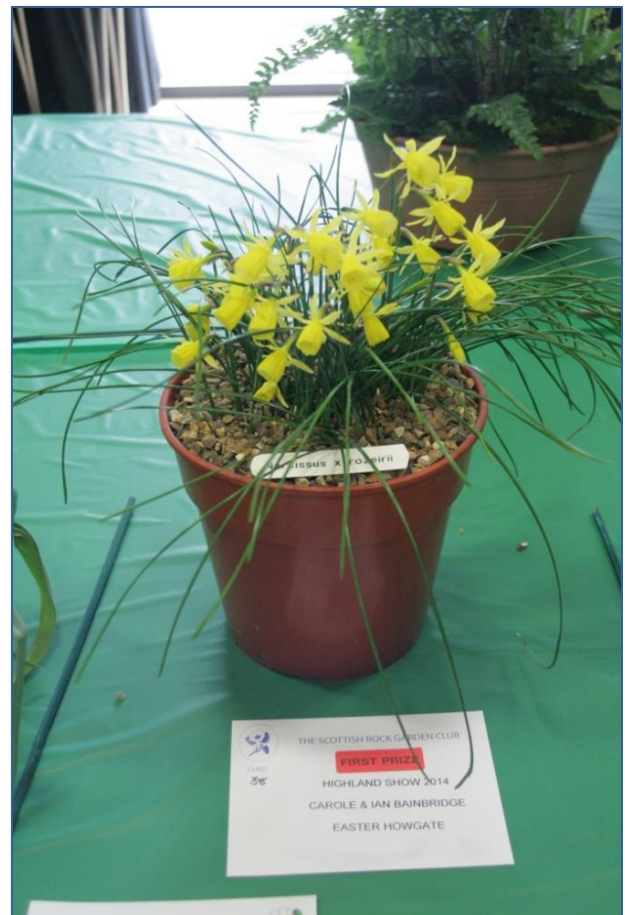
Back in Class 2 Sam Sutherland also had a good entry and his *Primula rusbyi*, which won here a year ago, again took the honours by winning the Culloden Cup for best primula. This plant was also considered for the Forrest Medal. With four strong entries Class 2 was one of the best in the show.



The classes for plants from specific or individual countries can create interesting combinations. A three pan from Japan featured a dwarf larch, dwarf willow and the dainty *Primula yuparensis* which is said to only grow on one mountain, Mount Yubari.



A fine display of hardy succulents filled the end of the first bench then came plants grown from seed. Show secretaries Carol and David Shaw had a nice trio of *Arisaemas*, all from the SRGC seed exchange.



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There were a number of good Ranunculaceae on the bench. The small *Clematis x cartmanii* 'Pixie' moved from being one sixth of a multiple pan entry at Perth the previous week to win the one pan class while Ian Christie showed a pair of impressively large anemones to take the two pan class.



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The relatively early season meant that many bulbs were over but a few good tulips were displayed including two nice examples from the *Batalinii* group sometimes said to be a form of *T. linifolia*. These had avoided the bugbear of the tulip exhibitor that when under cover these plants can easily elongate and fall over.



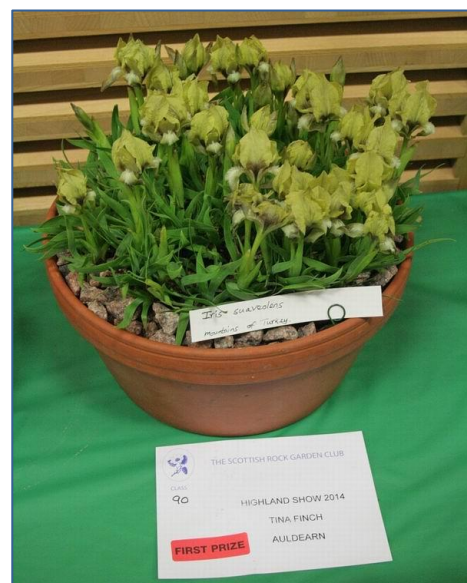
Iris have flowers to rival any orchid. However unlike many orchids these are flowers that are notoriously short lived. This makes them challenging exhibits to get right for the show bench.



Iris lutescens

Iris babadagica

Iris suaveolens



The Shaws won the open Iris class with the dwarf bearded *Iris babadagica* in full flower. Sam Sutherland is someone who enjoys the Iris challenge this time showing his *Onocyclus Iris paradoxa*. Again a Section 2 exhibitor, Tina Finch, showed good growing skills with a nice pan of the dwarf bearded *Iris suaveolens*.

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Among the ericaceous plants *Andromeda* 'Blue Lagoon' took the Forrest Medal which pleasantly surprised this correspondent; see the [separate report on the website](#). It also received the Grouse Salver, a new award this year and appropriately engraved with a covey of *Lagopus lagopus* among *Calluna vulgaris*. Relatively few foliage plants, conifers or ferns were on the benches; surprising as these are plants that are less dependent on the vagaries of the season than flowering subjects.

At this time of year many ferns are at their best as the new fronds unfold. Some apparently delicate species are fully hardy. This applies to several species of *Adiantum*, the maidenhair ferns, although the one most often sold as a pot plant is not. These plants also helped your scribe to retain the Highland Trophy for most first points in section 1.



Gentiana verna from Hannah Macdonald



Ferns from Stan da Prato

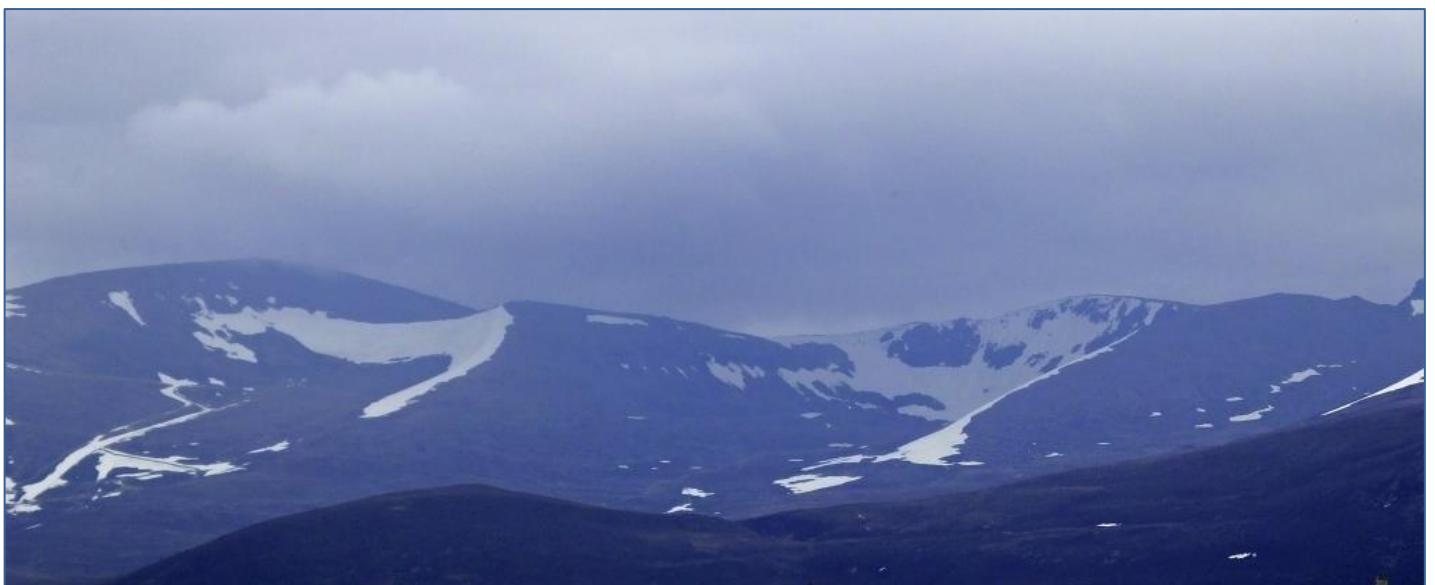
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Miniature gardens are always popular with show visitors and three were on display in Nairn.



A good venue is a great help to any show and the Nairn Community Centre provided an attractive backdrop. Access is also good - important when you are carrying in large pots! The organisation ran smoothly, judging was over before midday allowing the public in early, both nurseries and the club stall seemed to do good trade. Local members were kept busy selling plants, books and tombola tickets too! The organisers reported more people through the door than last year. Having attended all three open Highland Group shows I can recommend the trip and hope even more members from other areas come to Nairn next year. There are many interesting possibilities en route from the south; even if you are pushed for time the view of the high Cairngorms from the new A9 is impressive.

Stan da Prato



Northern corries on Cairngorm seen from the A9, en route to the Highland Show.