

West and Midlands Iris Group Show 29th May 2022 Highnam Community Centre.

It was great to be back at Highnam after our enforced break, a chance to meet with friends old and new and catch up with the world of iris. A first show for 3 years and some members rather busy with Chelsea during the week, it was a chance for others to bring their pride and joy to compete with the other growers. The first months of the year had been warmer and drier than we would expect, which affected the numbers of bearded iris. The sibs and species were still going strong and there were a good number of entries in the appropriate classes. Judging became a little more challenging to organise with so many entrants, however Fred saved the day by judging the Best in Show.

The support given by all helped with the set-up, especially Sheila who provided refreshment to one and all, as well as raising a goodly sum to please our treasurer. A fine selection of plants for sale with a number of visitors leaving with armfuls of pots raising even more to keep Rex happy. The raffle, ably organised by Brenda also improved the coffers and made an entertaining day. After a busy afternoon the prizes were awarded and another show was over. The winners were as follows:

Class 3 Two spikes of tall bearded irises in different varieties.

- 1st Jeremy Handy – displaying ‘Flash of Light’ & ‘Rumor has it’.
- 2nd James Watson with two mauve and white stems.
- 3rd Fern Harden

Class 4 One spike of tall bearded iris.

- 1st Jeremy Handy with a purple and white inflorescence.
- 2nd Brenda Nickels displaying a deep purple stem.
- 3rd James Watson with bright yellow iris.

Class 5 One spike of bearded iris other than tall bearded.

- 1st Jeremy Handy with a purple fading to white unknown iris.

Class 6 Three spikes of bearded iris other than tall bearded.

- 1st Jeremy Handy with some stunning yellow flowers.

Class 7 One spike of an Historic bearded iris pre & including 1959.

- 1st Jeremy Handy with the white with purple veined ‘Mrs Horace Darwin’ from 1888.

Class 8 Six blooms of different bearded iris cultivars in a range of colours.

- 1st Jeremy Handy with flowers arranged from white (‘Winterfell’) through mauve (‘Princess Caroline of Monaco’ & ‘Fit for Royalty’) including deep purple ‘Passing Black to ‘Black is Black’.
- 2nd Fern Harden with yellow tones of ‘Silicone Prairie’, ‘Godfrey Owen’ and ‘Charles Cloud’ to the deep purple of ‘Ebony Angel’.

Class 9 Three blooms of three different bearded iris, in the same colour range.

- 1st Fern Harden with a range of purple blooms including ‘Ravenswood’ and ‘Tempting Fate’.
- 2nd Jeremy Handy with mauve and white of ‘Loop the loop’ plus a seedling.
- 3rd Jeremy Handy with the mustard colours of ‘Dream team’, ‘Spring Madness’ and ‘Reckless Abandon’.

Class 10 A vase containing three spikes of one Siberian cultivar.

- 1st Jeremy Handy with mauve tetraploids.

2nd Jeremy Handy with deep purple tetraploids.

3rd Brenda Nickels pale blue and purple tetraploids.

Class 11 A vase containing up to five spikes of two or more Siberian cultivars.

1st Jeremy Handy with a range of purple and mauve tetraploids.

Class 12 A vase containing up to five spikes of beardless cultivars/hybrids not eligible for classes 10 or 11.

1st Fern Harden with *Iris pseudacorus* which also won Best in Show.

2nd Sue Bedwell with a purple Dutch iris with a golden eye.

3rd Sue Bedwell showing Dutch irises.

Class 14 A vase containing one to three spikes of 1 or more Iridaceae species, bearded or beardless.

1st Fern Harden with *Iris variegata* 'Regina'.

2nd Brenda Nickels showing *Iris graminea*.

3rd James Watson

Class 15 A vase containing one to three stems of an Iridaceae species (other than Iris).

1st Sue Bedwell

2nd Fern Harden showing *Orthrosanthus multiflorus* - morning flag.

3rd Jeremy Handy with a scarlet *Ixia*.

Class 16 The Hereford Trophy A potted plant, any Iris or Iridaceae species or cultivar, bearded or beardless.

1st Sue Bedwell showing a *Tritonia crocata* 'Plymouth Pastel'.

2nd Fern Harden

3rd Jeremy Handy

Class 17 The Shrubland Trophy

A presentation of Iridaceae; with or without flowers and foliage, illustrating some feature of interest of the iris family.

1st Fern Harden with a display of post cards featuring iris from around the world.

Class 18 A flower arrangement in which Iridaceae must predominate

Joint 1st Sue Bedwell & Fern Harden, both with very different floral styles but equally good arrangements which the judges could not split.

Class 19 A photographic image of an iris flower unmounted.

1st Brenda Nickels with a close up of a species iris.

2nd James Watson featuring a potted iris bloom.

Class 20 A photographic image of an iris plant in a garden situation, unmounted.

1st Rex Harden with a Scarlet tiger moth on a *Iris ensata*.

2nd Brenda Nickels with a TB enhanced with dew drops.

Joint 3rd Rex Harden & James Watson both with a TB in the garden.

Class 21 One seedling spike, raised by the exhibitor, bearded iris.

1st Fern Harden with a mauve falls and yellow standard TB.

2nd Fern Harden showing a sturdy bright yellow TB.

3rd Brenda Nickels with a TB with deep purple falls and pink standards.

With the number of placed vases, **Jeremy Handy** gained most points in the Show winning the **Somerset Trophy**.