

British Cactus & Succulent Society

Southampton & District Branch Newsletter

June 2004



Branch Secretary

D & M Corina
79 Shirley Avenue
Shirley
Southampton
Hampshire
SO15 5NH

(023) 80779057

Newsletter Editor

Vinay Shah
29 Heathlands Road
Eastleigh
Hampshire
SO53 1GU

(023) 80261989

vvshah@clara.co.uk

Editorial.....	1
Announcements	1
Last Month's Meeting	2
Plants of Interest	2
May Mini-Show	2
Committee Meeting	7
Table Show – April.....	7
Snippets	7
Forthcoming Events	8
Next Month's Meeting	8

Editorial

We've finally seen decent spells of weather in May, with some nice, sunny days. Following on from all the rain in April, outdoor plants seem to have put on good growth during May.

Indoors, quite a number of my plants have flowered over the past month. At the weekend, I did a quick check and found plants of *Rebutia*, *Mammillaria*, *Gymnocalycium*, *Neoporteria*, *Lobivia*, *Sulcorebutia*, *Chamaecereus*, *Echeveria*, *Gratopetalum*, *Haworthia* and *Aloe* in flower.

My *Hoya carnosa* is also about to flower – it has been forming flower buds for the last 3 weeks. The umbel of flower buds grows on small spurs which grow from the stem, and these spurs remain active in subsequent years. Indeed I found this advice on the Internet – “*don't prune the plant unless you absolutely must, and never cut off the spent flowers or you could accidentally cut the spur. Because the plant flowers repeatedly on older stems, you can look forward to a hoyo plant bearing more and more flowers as it grows older.*”

Also in flower is an *Abromeitiella* (a bromeliad with small rosettes which looks just like a *Haworthia*). If anyone has grown “Air Plants” (*Tillandsia*) and seen their narrow tube-shaped red, pink or purple flowers, the flower on this plant is similar, but green in colour.

Announcements

Schedules for the Southampton **Balloon and Flower Festival** are now available. The schedule indicates an entry fee of £1/class for exhibiting in our classes, and in return, there are cash prizes for winners. **Please note that we have managed to negotiate a reduction in entry fees to 50p/class.** The festival will be held on the weekend of 3rd/4th July and we would appreciate help and support from members during that weekend. Please check with Ivor Biddlecombe for details of staging, car passes, etc.

The **Branch Annual dinner** was held at the Clump Inn, Chilworth, on 7th May. Fourteen people attended and I think everyone had a good time. Unfortunately, due to staff shortages, the service was a little slow, although in my case it allowed a chance to recover in between courses!

Thanks are due to David Neville, Margaret and David Corina and Ivor Biddlecombe for manning our stands at the Bonsai Show in Bournemouth and also the 3-day Garden event at Whiteley Village. Sales at the latter event almost reached £400, and we distributed a large number of information leaflets. Charlie Dimmock did drop by our stand for a chat and photos of her posing with some of *our* own celebrities are available!

We have received booklets of raffle tickets intended to raise funds in support of the BCSS National Show. The cost is £1 for a book of 5 tickets, please contact Margaret Corina if you would like to support this event.

At the last meeting, David Neville proposed a **vote of thanks** (on behalf of the branch and Committee) to **Margaret and David Corina** for organising the Anniversary Convention and the Prickly Potting at Romsey. Their efforts played a great part in the undoubted success of both events.

At the last meeting, Peter Down mentioned that the late Keith Corbin's wife has donated copies of old journals to the branch. These are available for 25p each, so this is an ideal opportunity if anyone

has any gaps in their collection or wants to get some of the older issues. Please contact David Neville.

We've now entering the traditional Shows season and **Portsmouth Branch's annual show** will be held this coming weekend, at Wickham. Please note that later in the month, Exeter branch have changed the date of their annual show from 12th June to 19th June.

Last Month's Meeting

Plants of Interest

Margaret Corina started off proceedings by displaying her yellow-flowered *Clivia*, which was flowering for the first time. This was quite a surprise to me since just four weeks earlier, I had been looking closely over the same plant, and there had been no sign of a flower stalk, although I reckoned the plant was large enough to flower. David Corina mentioned that the flower stalk had developed very quickly, and had shot up in just 10 days.

Margaret explained that the plant (labelled *Clivia miniata citrina*) had been given to her by David Neville, who had bought it 4 years ago on one of his continental trips. At the time, it was only in a 2.5" pot with 3 small leaves which were 3 inches long and ¼ inch wide. [Ed - Both I and Derek Prior are growing seeds of yellow and pastel *Clivias* (imported from South Africa) and we hope to have something to show in a few years' time!]

The other *Plants of Interest* had all been brought along by Derek Prior. He had selected some items of interest to *him*. First was a *Graptopetalum* whose specific name he didn't know. He had got it from Clive Innes many years ago, and it had a lovely star shaped flower.

Next was a plant which he had acquired as a cutting 3 years ago. He had planted three of these, but only one of them had rooted. This year he detected an unusual smell in the greenhouse and it turned out to emanate from this plant. It was an *Oscularia*, a member of the mesemb family. Unfortunately, the flowers had shut because the plant had been transported to the meeting in the (dark) boot of a car. Derek mentioned that the flowers were pink with prominent yellow stamens.

Next was *Gasteria* cv. "Smokey", purchased at one of the New Forest branch meetings. It had a short inflorescence compared to a normal *Gasteria*. The plant had an unusual greyish colour to the leaves, hence the varietal name.

We then saw a *Pleione* orchid. This genus occurs in China and Nepal, and this particular variety was one of the last to flower this year. *Pleiones* flower in early spring and grow in cool conditions, so no heat is needed in the greenhouse. With yellow and pink petals and some brown marks in the throat, this plant was probably derived from *Pleione* cv. "Shantung".

Next was another orchid – this time, a *Laeliocattleya* with orange-red flowers. This is an inter-generic hybrid between the *Laelia* and *Cattleya* genera which hail from central and southern America. It was the first time this plant had flowered for him, and Derek mentioned that he also had a similar yellow-flowered plant. He said that he grew this plant in his greenhouse, and it did not require any heat, provided it was kept dry in the winter.

The final plant was *Auricula*, cv. "Black Jack". This plant was sending up single-flowered stems from the base, but it was also growing additional flowers around the top of these stems. The dark purple flowers were doubles and there were over 60 of them on the plant.

May Mini-Show

David Neville gave a short explanation on judging before the start of the mini-show. He mentioned that there weren't any hard or fast rules, just guidelines on assessing plants. As a result, judging is a bit of a thankless task because there will always be people who disagree with the Judge's choices. There were no black and white answers, and at any show, different judges would probably place the plants slightly differently because of their own preferences. However, there are certain things that all judges will take into account and generally there will be some sort of consensus between the judges.

Firstly, there is the BCSS Handbook of Shows, which is the bible as far as group classifications are concerned. A new (9th) edition came out late last year and copies can be ordered from the BCSS. If you intend to take part in shows, you really do need to have a copy of this.

When judging, the first thing to do is to make sure the entries are eligible for the class. For example in a class titled “Mammillaria Group, 2 plants not exceeding 4 inches”, there must be two plants in the entry, and they must both be from a genus listed within the Mammillaria group. If either plant doesn’t conform, the entry would be declared NAS - Not As Scheduled – and disqualified.

It’s also important to check the pot size. In the old days, this was easy because everyone used standard BEF pots and indeed the show class sizes were closely matched to sizes of these pots. However nowadays, growers use a much wider selection of pots so a judge has to be careful. There is an allowance of an 1/8th of an inch, so some slight stretching of the pot is allowed for.

Once you’ve established the entry conforms to the class, then you can start looking at the plants, and this is where experience comes in. A slow-growing plant in a particular sized pot would score more highly than a fast-growing plant in a similar or larger pot. It’s only from the experience of having grown the plant or seeing lots of examples of it that you’d get to know which plant was more of a challenge. Most of the rating comes down to the plant’s growth rate and maturity. Difficulty does come into it, but not to the same extent.

The plant’s condition is also very important. If a plant is scarred or damaged, it will not get a prize even it is a rare or difficult species. So to do well, plants must be mature, and in good condition. Some classes only require one plant in an entry and that’s straightforward to judge. However, many classes require 2 or plants in an entry, and judging becomes more difficult because you then have to assess groups of plants against each other. In our annual show, we have some classes which require 6 or 9 small plants per entry!

David then asked the members to make a start on their judging of the 10 classes. Each person was asked to judge the classes and record their choice of 1st – 2nd – 3rd and any NAS plants.

During the break, with Ivor’s help, I entered the audience’s choices into a computer program which calculated the average of their results and also compared these results against David’s choices.

After the break, David went through each class, explaining the reason for his choices, and also commenting on the audience choices.

Class 1 - Mammillaria Group (2 x 4")

	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	NAS
Audience	B	I	H	G
Judge	I	L	H	G

David mentioned that in this class, there were some differences between his choices and those of the audience. It had been difficult to judge this class since there were no strong entries. His choice for 1st was entry I - *Mammillaria albilanata* and *Mammillaria morganiana*. The first was very old, and it’s a slow growing plant. The dull looking *M. morganiana* is harder to cultivate than the similar looking *M. parksinsonii* or *M. geminispina* and it is a much smaller growing plant. This specimen was not a fantastic plant, but it was undoubtedly many years old.

The audience choice for 1st was entry B and this contained *M. candida* and *M. saboae*. David commented that the specimen of *M. candida* was not a mature plant and it grows larger although it is more difficult than many of the other mammillarias. The *M. saboae* looked a bit tired and there were gaps in the growth which suggested that some heads may have been removed, although Ivor said this was not the case.

David’s choice of 2nd (entry L) consisted of *M. huitzilopochtli* which is quite slow growing and *M. humboldtii*, which was only a small plant but which is one of the most difficult of all the Mammillarias, and hard to grow well for any length of time. There was another *M. humboldtii* in another entry, but that one had been paired with a poorer *M. geminispina*.

David and the audience had agreed on the choice for 3rd place – entry H, which consisted of well grown plants of *M. hahniana* and *M. ginsaumae*.

A final point of note - there was a NAS plant in this class. Entry G was *Notocactus buiningii*. It was clearly labelled so this should have been easy to spot. David mentioned that in the Judge’s course, a missed NAS cost penalty points, but if you placed a NAS plant, that was liable for massive penalty points – it’s one of the worst things a judge can do. There were also penalty points if you incorrectly marked an eligible plant as NAS.

Class 2 - Parodia Group (2 x 4")

	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	NAS
Audience	A	I	B	-
Judge	I	A	B	-

This class also included Notocactus, which has been merged into Parodia recently. David's choice for first was entry I, and this had been placed 2nd by the audience. One of the plants in this entry was *P. penicillata* but he was not sure about the name of the other. Both plants were underpotted - they were in 4" pots but the bodies were touching the side of the pots, and the plants would have been more at home in 5" pots. Some judges would mark down a plant if it was underpotted, because it wouldn't be considered as fair competition to the other entries.

He had given 2nd place to entry A, which the audience had placed 1st. These were two much smaller plants - *P. escayachensis* (also known as *P. maassii*) and *P. schwebsiana* which had copious white wool.

David and the audience agreed on 3rd place – entry B, which consisted of *Parodia commutans* and a white-spined *P. penicillata* – these were nothing really special but they were the best of the remaining bunch, most of which were either too small or marked.

Class 3 - Gymnocalycium Group (2 x 5")

	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	NAS
Audience	B	C	M	G
Judge	B	M	C	G

Entry G was an immediate NAS. Only one plant had been submitted in this entry, whereas the class called for 2 plants.

The choice of 1st by both David and the audience was entry B. One of the plants was a *G. mihanovichii* – it was fully mature and very attractive, and the other plant was *G. bodenbenderianum* which is a flatter, slow growing plant – this specimen was probably 20 years old.

Placed 2nd by David and 3rd by the audience was entry M, which contained another *G. mihanovichii* (this one was more wrinkled and not as vibrant as the other one but it was a different form) and *G. quehlianum* which was another flat bodied plant and probably 10-12 years old.

Placed 3rd by David and 2nd by the audience was entry C, which consisted of *G. schickendantzii* – a lovely plant, shining with health, paired with an immature *G. mostii*, which eventually can get quite large.

The other unplaced entries were weaker. *G. saglionis* was immature and *G. gibbosum* was let down by its partner. Another *G. mostii* was not big enough. *G. pflanzii* was nice but it can grow much larger. There was another anemic-looking *G. pflanzii*. Finally, a pairing of *G. ragonesei* and *G. mihanovichii* would normally have made a strong entry for this class, but both the plants in the entry were looking a bit dusty and tired.

Class 4 - Rebutia Group (2 x 6¼")

	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	NAS
Audience	I	M	B	-
Judge	B	A	I	-

David's choice of 1st was entry B and this had been placed 3rd by the audience. This was a *Mediolobivia* which is a slow growing plant, and hard to grow well for any length of time since it is easily marked or attacked by red spider.

David choice for 2nd was *Weingartia riograndensis*. The plant had developed a bit of a "waist" but with nicer presentation (e.g. using some grit to cover up the waist), it would look better. It was quite an old plant – Weingartias are slower growing than the other genera allowed in this class.

David's choice of 3rd had been placed first by the audience. This was a *Sulcorebutia rauschii*. The plant look impressive but David said it needed to be larger – it was much younger than the other two plants he had placed.

The plant which the audience had placed second was entry M - *Rebutia heliosa*. David mentioned that the central head had starting to display some unusual growth. On the back, there were lots of flower buds forming. The plant was Philip Clemow's who stated that the plant had grown normally at first, but had started going strange in recent years.

David mentioned that cristates are allowed in any class as long as the plant is of the correct genus. Cristates do tend to grow faster because they have more growing points.

Of the other entries, *R. albiflora* was a nice delicate plant, but it grows much larger; he has seen 18"+ clumps. A *R. narvaecensis* hybrid was not large enough. And a plant of *Sulcorebutia candiae* was a very open looking clump – it should be a tight mass of heads.

Class 5 - Echinopsis Group (2 x 5")

	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	NAS
Audience	I	A	B	-
Judge	A	I	H	-

David's choice for 1st (and the audience's choice for 2nd) was entry A, *Lobivia famatimensis*. (Echinopsis now includes Lobivia). The plant did have some waisting, but it was looking better than last year. According to David, it is by far and away the slowest and most show-worthy of all the lobivias, and *the* lobivia to grow for showing.

David's choice for 2nd (and the audience's choice for 1st) was entry I, *Echinopsis ancistrophora*. David mentioned that on a single headed (solitary) plant, any marks or damage are hard to hide – it's difficult to keep a single headed plant looking good because there are no offsets or new growths to cover up any damage. This plant isn't difficult to grow, but this specimen was in good condition.

David's choice for third was entry H, *Acanthocalycium violaceum*. The plant was a bit underpotted but it was coming on well. It was nothing special but it was better than the rest of the entries. The audience's choice for 3rd was entry B, *Lobivia aurea* (also *L. leucomalla*). David had not placed this plant since one of the heads was an odd shape – perhaps in two or three years' time it might look better.

Of the other plants, there were examples of a young *Chamaelobivia* and a small *Echinopsis* (Lobivia) *arachnacantha*. Since Lobivia has been merged into Echinopsis, Lobivias are now found under listings of Echinopsis.

Class 6 - Any cactus (no size limit)

	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	NAS
Audience	A	B	L	-
Judge	A	L	E	-

Both David and the audience agreed on their choice for 1st – entry A, which was an impressive *Opuntia invicta*. David mentioned that this plant

was just a baby – it grows much larger in the wild where it can be several feet across. The impressive looking plant was covered in buds, but it doesn't tend to make many new heads.

David choice for 2nd was placed 3rd by the audience – it was entry L, a *Mammillaria perez delarosae*. The plant was Jim Roskilly's and David mentioned that this was the largest plant of this species he had seen. It was offsetting all over the central body, and in a year or two, the plant might be capable of being "best in show".

David choice for 3rd was entry E, *Mammillaria geminispina*. This was not one of the best he's seen – the heads were small and the plant seemed to have been grown hard from a young age – but it was still an impressive plant.

The audience's choice for 2nd was entry B, Ivor's *Ariocarpus fissuratus*. David said the audience had probably been swayed by the name and the fact that the plant looked very old. However the plant in its present condition didn't have much going for it – it was just not growing and wasn't the green colour that one would expect. The plant was alive but appeared to be dormant.

Of the others, the next one that he would have considered for a prize was a beautiful *Ferocactus macrodiscus*. It grows flat in the wild and is one of the smaller growing Ferocacti which always remains small and solitary. It's one of the few to flower at a (relatively) young age.

Entry H (*Mammillaria elongata*) led to an interesting debate. Along with the main plant, there was a sizeable (1 inch diameter) seedling growing at the back of the pot! David had not noticed this when judging the class. A seedling growing in the pot may or may not lead to disqualification. Technically, one would be entitled to NAS the entry, but the rule about "only one plant in a pot" is really there to stop people cheating by planting two plants to make a clump look bigger. Some judges would not consider a rogue seedling as a problem.

Class 7 - Crassula Group (1 x 6¼")

	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	NAS
Audience	B	D	A	-
Judge	B	A	D	-

Both the audience and David had placed entry B (*Echeveria tolimanensis*) 1st. This species is common in our region, but rare in the rest of the

UK. It is easy to grow as a young plant but you don't tend to see any larger plants. The farina on the leaves also seems to break down over time. Ivor wondered whether this was due to the flowers rubbing against the leaves.

David's choices for 2nd (*Echeveria lilacina*) and 3rd (*Echeveria* cv. "Perle von Nurnberg") were the reverse of the audience's choices. Both these plants were well worth growing, there were just slight differences in the leaves and flowers but overall the plants are very similar. Both these species featured amongst the plants we gave out at the prickly potting sessions at Broadlands.

Class 8 - Haworthia Group (2 x 4")

	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	NAS
Audience	E	A	D	-
Judge	E	B	H	-

David and the audience agreed on the choice of 1st - entry E - *Harowtha springbokvlakensis* and *H. sordida*. These are two of the slowest growing miniature haworthias which you can grow.

David choice for 2nd was entry B, *H. nigra* and *H. truncata*. The audience had chosen entry A as 2nd - another *H. springbokvlakensis* paired with a *H. maughanii*. David said the former had a gouged leaf and the maughanii looked a bit pale with the outer leaves not looking too good.

The audience's choice of 3rd was entry D, a nice *H. truncata* and a *H. pumila*. David thought the latter was damaged at the growing point, and hence not really a show plant.

In this class, the 1st prize entry was obvious but the other entries were too immature. This made it a difficult class to judge - apart from 1st place, nothing really stood out. In a full show, life would have been a bit easier since there would have been better entries.

Class 9 - Euphorbia Group (1 x 5")

	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	NAS
Audience	I	E	K	-
Judge	I	E	A	-

The audience and David again agreed on the choice of 1st place – entry I was a nice looking *Euphorbia meloformis*. There was also agreement on 2nd place – entry E was the choice *Euphorbia*

cylindrifolia. For 3rd place, David had chosen an *Euphorbia obesa*. Despite having a brown mark on the back, it was one of the better plants amongst the remaining entries. The audience had placed entry K, *Euphorbia pugniformis* 3rd. In David's view, this plant looked very tired, and the stems seemed very soft. The plant was just not growing well.

Of the other plants in the class, another *E meloformis* was too immature. It was just a couple of years on from a single headed plant, and not as old as the other plants which had been placed.

Class 10 - Any succulent (no size limit)

	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	NAS
Audience	E	B	C	H
Judge	B	E	L	H

Discussions on this class started with a debate about whether a zonal geranium (entry H) was eligible. Geranium is in the peperomia group. But just because a genus is listed in the Handbook does not mean all plants in that genera are allowed – BCSS Shows are meant only for truly succulent species. So it was deemed as NAS by David.

David's assessment of 1st place went to entry B, which was a large specimen of *Haworthia bolusii*. Some might consider the plant to look a little untidy but it is perfectly natural for the plant to retain its old leaves. The plant was old and mature. David though it looked a little lost in a deep pot, and that it would look better in a dwarf pot or a pan.

David's 2nd placed plant was entry E, *Dorstenia foetida* and this had been placed 1st by the audience. This was superficially an absolutely cracking plant but the main growing point seemed to have stopped growing and this was why he didn't give it a first.

Third place, in David's view went to entry L, an *Aloe peglerae*. This was the best of what was left. David mentioned that this plant very rarely flowers in the UK.

The audience's choice of 3rd place was entry C, a Gasteria. David considered this an easy plant to grow, although a few in the genus are difficult. It would have had to be much larger to win a prize, and it really is not one of the best plants to enter in a mixed class like this.

Of the others, *Euphorbia obesa* had a brown mark, *Agave toumeyana* just looked a bit tired, and was perhaps scorched on one side. Another *E. obesa* was marked with tinges of brown on the ribs and was also in the process of growing a new rib which spoiled the plant's symmetry. A nice-looking *graptopetalum pentandrum v. suberbum* was an ISI distribution plant.

This marked the end of the evening. Overall, the persons with the closest matches to David's marking were Bruce Beckerleg, Ivor Biddlecombe, and Glenn Finn. Perhaps this comes as no surprise since these people tend to play a large part in supporting our Shows with entries!

Overall there were 78 entries in the show, and 16 people participated in judging. Thanks are due to everyone who took part in the evening – those persons who brought plants along as entries, and those who took part in the marking, and of course to Ivor, for organising the classes and prize cards and David for judging and sharing his knowledge.

Vinay Shah

Committee Meeting

A committee meeting was held on May 17th.

The Anniversary Convention made a profit of £21 which was an excellent outcome, since we were expecting a loss. A CD of pictures taken at the convention by various members is being assembled and will be available soon.

At the Easter show at Broadlands, plant sales resulted in a profit of £155, and after accounting for prickly potting, we made an overall profit of £241. Thanks are due to all those people who provided donations of plants and seeds for sale. The April 16th edition of the Romsey Advertiser featured some pictures from the event.

The branch website was resurrected at the end of February and it seems to be attracting a number of visitors and enquiries. Copies of Newsletters can be downloaded from the website.

Arrangements for forthcoming events were discussed. Some discussions were also held about the possibility of getting some branch logo shirts made up. These could be worn by members at shows, etc.

Vinay Shah

Table Show – April

There was no table Show at the May meeting. However, in the last newsletter, I had forgotten to update the names of the winning plants. [This error was corrected in later copies of the newsletter]. Below are the correct results for April:

	Cacti – Opuntia Group	Succulents – Aloe Group
Open	(1) J Roskilly <i>Opuntia dinteri</i>	(1) J Roskilly <i>Aloe erinacea</i>
	(2) I Biddlecombe <i>Tephrocactus pentlandii</i>	(2) I Biddlecombe <i>Aloe longistyla</i>
	(3) -	(3) –
Intermediate	(1) I Biddlecombe <i>Opuntia pachypus</i>	(1) I Biddlecombe <i>Aloe cv. 'Doran Black'</i>
	(2) J Roskilly <i>Opuntia molinensis</i>	(2) J Roskilly <i>Aloe pachygaster</i>
	(3) P Clemow <i>Opuntia microdasys</i>	(3) -

Ivor Biddlecombe

Snippets

As we were beginning to despair of being able to control mealy-bug and other pests by chemical means (although the environmentalists amongst us would shun any synthetic chemicals!), along came 'Provado'. This has proved effective against many pests, including mealy bug and whitefly (but not red spider mite or Tortrix moth caterpillars!). The active ingredient was imidacloprid and the material was supplied as granules. One drawback was that the material was not very soluble in water and tended to form a suspension which had to be stirred constantly.

Recently, I found a new source of supply for labels (both for ourselves and the sundries sales) and pots for the 'Prickly Potting'. The firm also offered Provado at a very competitive price, but in conversation with the owner on the phone it became apparent that Provado has now changed. The product is now marketed as a milky suspension, enough to make the same total amount of drench as the old 70g drums. On close inspection, I noticed the supermarket slogan 'new, improved' and that the active ingredient is now called thiacloprid. The original granule packs

seem to have disappeared from garden centres, to be replaced by the new formulation.

So I have bought some packs for sale on the sundries table as from this month. In the garden centres I have visited the cheapest I have seen the new pack is £8 and in some it was just under £10!

The sundries table is offering the packs at just £6 each.

The Provado aerosol containing the original imidacloprid is still available in the shops, the small print shows that the aerosol also contains methiocarb, which is claimed to clobber red spider mite and thrips. This is fairly expensive for extensive use. Another Provado product is the Ultimate Bug Killer, again a concentrate but in a blue plastic bottle. This appears to contain 'natural fatty acids' also, and past experience of these types of products (e.g. Phostrogen Friendly Insecticide) has shown that they work reasonably well on cacti but can be lethal on leafy succulents. I think the pores in the leaves get clogged up! Many of my plants did not like it, they sulked and in many cases lost their leaves. Some died, most eventually recovered. This is just a word of warning! Anyone with other more positive experiences of this type of insecticide - Vinay would be glad of a Snippet!

David Corina

Next Month's Meeting

Next month's meeting will feature a talk by Eddie Harris, titled "A Walk on the Wild Side". I have no idea what this refers to, so you'll just have to turn up and find out more! Eddie is a well known speaker and he has spoken at our branch on a number of previous occasions.

The July Table Show will feature the Lobivia Group (cacti) and the Haworthia and Gasteria Groups (succulents).

The **Lobivia** group contains 12 genera, including *Acanthocalycium*, *Chamaecaereus*, *Echinopsis*, *Mila*, *Lobivia* and *Pseudolobivia*. (strictly speaking, in the 9th edition of the Handbook of Shows, Lobivia has been amalgamated into Echinopsis.)

The **Haworthia** and **Gasteria** groups contains 5 genera: *Astroloba*, *Chortolirion*, *Gasteria*, *Haworthia* and *Poellnitzia*.

Forthcoming Events

Sat	5 th	Jun	Portsmouth	Portsmouth & District Summer Show - Wickham Community Hall, Dairymoor, Wickham
Fri	18 th	Jun	Isle of Wight	"South African Bulbs" – Terry Smale
Sat	19 th	Jun	Portsmouth	"Around the Four Corners" – Terry Smale
Sat	3 rd	Jul	Southampton	Cactus & Succulent Show at the Southampton Balloon and Flower Festival, The Common, Southampton
Sun	4 th	Jul		
Tue	6 th	Jul	Southampton	"A Walk on the Wild Side – Part 1" – Eddie Harris
Fri	16 th	Jul	Isle of Wight	"Our Collection" – Tony and Suzanne Mace
Sat	17 th	Jul	Portsmouth	Zone 11 Quiz
Tue	3 rd	Aug	Southampton	"Colour in my Greenhouse" – Colin Jewell
Fri	6 th	Aug	Isle of Wight	Buffer Supper and Open Evening @ Robin Goodredge
Sat	21 st	Aug	Spalding	BCSS National Show, Springfields Exhibition Centre, Spalding, Lincolnshire.

Branch website: <http://www.southampton.bcsc.org.uk>