



OHRG

At some point, the political world will return to the consideration of more mundane issues and the Ornamental Horticulture Roundtable Group (OHRG) is preparing for that day.

The original conclusions published in 2018 refer to the Oxford Economics study that stated:

“... ornamental horticulture’s total contribution to UK GDP in 2017 reached £24.2 billion—equivalent to 1.2 percent of the nation’s total output. The employment footprint of the horticulture industries supported 568,700 jobs, amounting to 1.6 percent of total UK employment. Additionally, the total tax revenues attributable to this sector’s activities reached £5.4 billion...” The considerations upon which these conclusions are based define the importance of ornamental horticulture to the related industries of Tourism and Landscaping amongst others.

Still under the overall leadership of the RHS, the OHRG has taken on the three strands of study to produce further reports to government aimed at obtaining support and funding for expansion of the industry—dealing with:

- * Supporting our industry to grow
- * Educating, training and securing our future workforce
- * Nurturing innovation

The first group is considering the commercial issues involved in government support, under the chairmanship of James Barnes, chief executive of the HTA. The second, studying careers structure and employment, under the leadership of Martin Emmett and the third is led by Dr Alistair Griffiths, Director of Science at RHS formulating a plan for the R&D needs of the industry. BPOA is represented on 2 of these committees at present and offering the growers’ perspective to the plans being made for the next period which are designed to be made available to parliament this autumn.

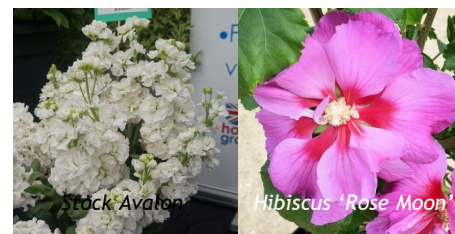


Growing together™

July 2019

‘GYS 2019 Innovation’

The Great Yorkshire Show in Harrogate earlier this month was the venue for another medal winning display which incorporated the technical elements from Stockbridge Technology Centre, STC; as well as the fresh produce from various NFU member companies and the ornamental flowers and plants supplied by BPOA members. This gives the possibility of telling consumers / visitors to the display, the story of horticulture and how products that they see in the grocery store and garden centre get onto the shelves.



The main reason for visiting our stand initially was for young people and their, long suffering parents, to gather up a small collection of stickers which they could

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Spring Conference 2020
14th January-
Peterborough

Chairman's Note

Dear Members

I am pleased to be able to take up the role of Chair of the Association from my former position as deputy and grateful to my company, which has confirmed its support for this change.

I would like to start by giving a general welcome to all and a sin-



James Alcaraz

cere thank you to Tracey and also Kersten for their input over recent years, as they leave the manage-

ment committee.

Recently, we have had meetings with Lee Abbey as Horticulture Adviser for the NFU and he has reaffirmed their strong support for what we are doing in BPOA. This includes the renewal of the MOU agreement and their willingness to accommodate our committee meetings as well as ongoing lobbying on topics such as the extension of the pilot migrant labour scheme recently convened with the government. The BPOA continues to have a place on the NFU Hort. Board, which I will attend to represent the interests of member ornamentals producers. I have also initiated discussions with HTA on their policy regarding plastics in horticulture.

At the management committee and general meeting at the beginning of the month we confirmed the changes in the rules, which allow the modification of the subscription rates (in line with inflation)

and the procedures for verifying the applicable turnover rates. The rules for committee decisions have been agreed to fix the quorum for meetings as proportion of the voting members rather than a specific number. Once ratified by the NFU council, the rules will be posted on the members section of the Home Grown website.

I have also decided to ask the management committee to hold a meeting to take a fresh look at the conclusions of the review. In this way, I am hopeful that we can identify the most important conclusions and set about implementing change where required as soon as possible.

I hope that, like us, you have had a good, busy season so far and that trade continues to run smoothly over the summer.

James Alcaraz

Cut Flower Centre- open day

Once again the Cut Flower Centre open day was favoured with a dry evening and a strong turn-out of growers from around the area. The evening event, organised by AHDB, was also treated to the now traditional hog roast and refreshments, kindly provided by Bulrush.

The reason for the rather early date of the meeting this year was the performance of the late planted Stocks that were producing rather good quality, in particular, a number of new varieties from Japanese breeding. The varieties Avalon, Iron, Venus and Arrow are producing good stems for the end of the season and some of the cream and white varieties are 95% doubles. The coloured varieties from these series have single types that are more difficult to separate out using conventional methods, which



Lyndon Mason, project manager to the cut flower centre, describes the use of new hybrid Stocks from Japanese breeding to growers attending the open day event in Holbeach.

will make the plants more expensive. The trialling of a wide range of new flower 'products' and attention to the new varieties that are

coming onto the market is, together with plant disease and treatment work, making the trials at CFC very attractive to growers.

Great Yorkshire Show 2019

Open Days

(Continued from page 1)

then submit to the main NFU stand as evidence of their efforts at learning about the bees, or wildlife or, in our case, the complexities of horticultural production in the 21st century—Their reward was a fridge magnet! (nonetheless, a useful method for motivating young people to visit the show stands)

As the theme for the display was

some hardy plant breeding from Tristram Plants in the form of Hibiscus 'Walberton's Rose Moon' with its lovely large flowers opening very regularly over the period of the show and their variegated Gaura 'Gold Fountain', with its graceful stems of white flowers it made a good backdrop for other brightly coloured displays.

This year, we were again able to present more novelties from the



Simon Davenport and Mike Prest (Yorkshire Growers) discuss the theme for the display, Innovation, with Minette Batters (NFU President)

Innovation, supported by STC, we were questioned about LED lighting, hydroponics, encouraging biodiversity and laser bird scarers. It gives the volunteers on the stand the opportunity of talking to consumers and discussing innovation through plant breeding and a leaflet and banner stand were used to underline this theme. Several new products from members' breeding programmes (here in the UK as well as abroad) including the bushy habit of Sunflower 'Sunfinity' and Campanula 'Spring Bell', interspecific hybrids being introduced to the market by Syngenta and grown at Cobbins Nursery. We also had

trials at the Cut Flower Centre and the very high quality examples of the Stocks, in particular, created a focus for discussion of the cut flower industry and new developments there.

As usual, the display was very well attended in the Garden Show area and combined well with the other exhibits including the garden talks and gardeners question time area.

We had visits from many interested professionals as well and the President of NFU, Minette Batters, who took the time to appreciate the stand and the ideas behind it.

SYNGENTA- Just taking place this week at Jealotts Hill Research Station included a tour of the herbicide screening trials as well as the wheat breeding department.



KERLEY & CO- are kicking off their Open Days soon! There will be more than 1000 different Petunia experimentals to see.



But that's not all! Begonia, Power Daisy Calendulas, Nemesis, Felicia, Fuchsia and *Helichrysum petiolare* also feature. In the outdoor trial there are nearly 500 containers of Petunia with 2020 introductions and potential 2021 introductions undergoing weather resistance testing and the best time for viewing is weeks 32-35. Contact them to book an appointment.

BALL COLEGRAVE- have just started their excellent, 54th Summer Showcase which runs to August 2nd.



Conference 2020

The Technical Committee has recently decided on a theme for the Spring Conference 2020 and will link various topics together with regard to pot plant growing. It was also decided to combine the poinsettia shelf life meeting, normally held at the University of Lincoln in January, with the conference. In order to facilitate these events coming together, a conference facility in the Peterborough area is being

sought.

Early discussions are being held with potential speakers and it is planned that the recent provision of stimulating speakers with a particular viewpoint from outside the UK, will be continued. Full details of the venue and the speaker line-up will be published in the coming weeks.



BPPC Open Evening

The Bedding and Pot Plant Centre Open Evening again took place at Baginton Nurseries during the days of the National Plant Show at Stoneleigh. In addition to the display of the ongoing trials on PGR's

fungal diseases; an evaluation of downy mildew fungicides and powdery mildew in protected crops before Jill England gave an overview of the BPPC trials programme for 2019/20.



Jill England, ADAS, Project Director BPPC: explains the PGR trials to the grower audience

and responsibly sourced growing media, there was a review of the PGR trials of the poinsettia from last autumn.

The audience was also able to hear presentations on the control of

After Chloe Whiteside's talk on the responsibly sourced growing media growers were able to see the trial demonstrated using pot 'mum plants from Double H nurseries.

Automation Study Tour- Holland

16-18 September 2019

Staying at the Ibis Leiden Centre, Stationsplein 240-242 -2312 AR Leiden.

Programme

16 September -19:30 Arrival. Meeting point at Schiphol airport
17 September -08:00 Travel to Beekenkamp, Maasdijk. The business produces over 2 billion young plants every year.

There will be a demonstration of the 'sticking robots'
10:30 Travel to P. van der Haak, Handelskwekerij in 's-Gravenzande. A family-run business dedicated to pelargoniums. The most recent site was designed and delivered by Codema, representatives will be available during the visit.

13:00 Lunch

14:00 Travel to nursery site three.

17:00 Return to hotel for meal in Leiden.

18 September

08:00 Travel from hotel to Kwekerij Wouters, Ens. One of the biggest producers of pot and pack bedding. The 36 ha business features an automated internal transport system.

11:30 Travel to Kwekerij Baas, Ens. Baas Nursery supplies a range of pot and bedding plants in the Netherlands and Europe.

13:00 Lunch

14:00 Travel to Schiphol airport.

Don't Delay- Book Now!



BPOA is a specialist producer group of the NFU

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