

W&MIG Show at Highnam June 7th 2015.

“Attention all shipping; the met office have issued the following gale warning for sea areas Fastnet and Lundy. Gale force 8 imminent.”

This is not what you want to hear when sailing on the Severn in winter, and definitely not what show secretaries expects four days before the big day of the year for irises, or anyone during the first week of summer.

The weather, as always plays a big part in what class of entries, warm spring, fewer TBs and more Siberians or vice versa.

This spring with blast of heat or more often cold, and a near constant North Easterly wind did not discourage our growers with as large number of entrants as last year and a similar number of entries requiring more table space.



The Irises were enjoyed by the large number of visitors, so many it was causing congestion and queues at the sales tables. It was great reward for contributor's efforts to get so many irises in a range of types, species and colours which was greatly admired by the public.

The crowd judging was led by Jennifer Hewitt pointing out key features of individual flowers to be considered before putting the placings to the vote, with many a split vote testing the secretary's numeracy skills.

Class 1 & Gloucester Cup The novice class **1st** two bronze coloured bearded Iris Malcolm Allison **2nd** Andrea Powell with a Dutch & a versicolour.

Class 2. **1st** & the Worcester Cup, Kat Zalewska with a range of coloured T.Bs **2nd** Judy Pollitt with bearded in the bronze colour range.

Class 3 **1st** Fred Raines with “Here comes the sun” and a strong blue, **2nd** Judy Pollitt with 2 bronze plicatas **3rd** K Zalewska with two deep blue bearded.

A strong entry in **Class 4** with **1st** Fred Raines with

“Magnetism” also won **Best In Show & Shropshire Cup** **2nd** Fred with a much admired blue white “Sorstenique” & **3rd** Kat with a Blue fall & white standards. **Class 7** Difficult to split the difference and it came down to the minor damage on a fall giving Fred Raines **1st** with “Magenetisme” in blue to a deep orange. **2nd** Kat Zalewska with deep blue through to mustard colours.

Class 8 **1st** & the Rainbow Trophy Fred Raines with deep blue to a blue & white plicata “Classic Look” **2nd** Kat Zalewska with yellow colour rang. **3rd** Kat Zalewska with a



range of bearded in smoky mauves.

Class 9 & The Malvern Bowl a good number of entries which was difficult to judge as there were modern and old sibiricans on display, with Gill Eyre showing delicate, pale colour tones **1st**, Pat Jacobsen with a wider selection sibs was placed **2nd**. Joint **3rd** Fern Harden with some modern sibs and Ian Powell with an older variety

A range of Dutch cultivars in **class 11** including "Apollo" gave Fern Harden **1st** while "Eye of the tiger" featured strongly in the **2nd** place also by Fern.

Class 12 gave some the judges some wording difficulties and this will be changed for next year as the Dutch appeared in this class. On the day **1st** went to Fern Harden" again with "Eye of the Tiger" **2nd** with Gladiolus byzantinus, Judy Pollitt & **3rd** Fern Harden with more Dutch iris.

Class 13 a single **1st** to Sue Bedwell displaying the first *Moraea huttonii* at the show for some time, **2nd** with the fragrant plum scented *Iris graminea* was Sue again, & **3rd** *Gladiolus byzantinus* from Judy Pollitt.

Class 14 & The Shrubland Trophy and a pot of the graceful *Iris gracilipes* was much admired from Sue Bedwell, **2nd** was Fern Harden with the delicate *Iris Setosa* 'Baby Blue Eyes'. **3rd** was Judy Pollitt with a striking orange bearded iris.

Class 15 and the display of *Irisana* went to Fred Raines with his yet again impressive display of seed-pod to flowering plant. **2nd** was Fern with s display of how an Iris can be printed on to different media.



Class 16 with Michael Castle carless, there would be an alternate winner of this class since 2008 and **1st**, to Fern Hardens artistic eye, showed in her classic arrangement of Dutch iris & ixias, **2nd** Sue Bedwell with a variety of Dutch varieties & Hosta leaves & **3rd** Andrea Powell with more Dutch & aquilegia

Class 17. A large entry for the photographic competition with the judges split between the framing of the flower or the focussing on the flower> Put to the vote **1st** went to a focused bearded from Anne Milner, **2nd** to a full framed flower from Jill Whitehead, while **3rd** went to a detailed close-up from Alun Whitehead.



Class 18 was for an Iris plant, which was suggested we change to an Iris growing in a garden situation for next year. **1st** went to Jill Whitehead for a photograph of a well grown Bearded with seed heads happily growing in a garden.

Class 19 and a seedling bearded went to Fred Raines which was also judged to be worthy of a seedling commendation for a peachy coloured strongly grown T.B. **2nd** was Kat Zalewska with a seedling.

Class 20 was won by Fred with a blue sibirican with a gold powdered centre.

A very successful and poignant show, as part of this success was down to the number of plants given by Jennifer Hewitt from own garden before she moves out of our area to be nearer her family. These and other plants brought in by members raised a considerable amount expertly manned by Judy and Anne. Jennifer was selling books and much sought after for advice. Gill was an invaluable source of refreshment, nourishment & funds during the day to make it a very fun exciting and rewarding day meeting friends old and new.