

## West & Midlands Iris Group Show Report Sunday 28th May 2017

"Everybody talks about the weather but nobody does anything about it." The Gilded Age, Mark Twain's collaboration with Charles Dudley Warner. Spring of 2017 was certainly talked about. The severe lack of rain, frosty nights with warm sunny days. Not sure which plants thrive in those conditions but the poor Irises came and went, with thunder storms and wind the week of the show to bash those remaining. Would these survivors make the show, and which iris groups would make their presence felt? The skill of our members has to be congratulated as the number of entries was similar to less trying years with more entrants than for a number of years. If not of the same quality, the variety more than made up for this, to a relieved show secretary.

Newer members made a real impact with keen competition in class one, and new names placed in a number of classes. The bearded classes showed the effects of the weather, but in the sibs, bulbous, species and decorative classes there was keen competition and difficult for the judges to award places.

### Results

Class 1: 1<sup>st</sup> and the **Gloucester Cup** went to Jeremy Handy with a bronze and white & pale blue bearded, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tony Watson with a blue and a mauve Siberian, 3<sup>rd</sup> Brenda Nickels with two blue sibs

Class 3: 1<sup>st</sup> Fred Raines with a peach seedling with orange beard & 'Aurélie'. 2<sup>nd</sup> Fred Raines with the pale blue 'Sliverado' and 'Busy Boy'.

Class 4: 1<sup>st</sup> Clive Hester with a white standards and ginger falls, 2<sup>nd</sup> Fred Raines with the yellow 'Norfolk Belle', and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mauve and copper from Fern Harden.

Class 5: Fred Raines showing 'County Town Red'.

Class 7: 1<sup>st</sup> Jeremy Handy showing 'White City' through blue to deep purple, 2<sup>nd</sup> Fred Raines with modern bright yellow to palest blue bearded, 3<sup>rd</sup> Fred Raines with white copper & deep purple blooms.

Class 8: 1<sup>st</sup> three blooms in white, blue & mauve colour range from Fred Raines winning the **Rainbow Trophy**. A range of blue and white by Fern Harden gaining second.

Class 9: **The Malvern Bowl** went to Fred Raines with four pale seedling sibs, Fred also won second with 'Peter Hewitt' and 3<sup>rd</sup> to Fern Harden displaying a colour range of sibs.

Class 11: Dutch Iris dominated this class with a number of entries 1<sup>st</sup> Ian Powell with five different cultivars including 'Eye of the Tiger' & 'Oriental Beauty', 2<sup>nd</sup> Andrea Powell with 'Yellow Queen' 3<sup>rd</sup> Michael Castle with 'Blue Ribbon'.

Class 12: 1<sup>st</sup> went to Fern Harden showing a lemon *I. fulva*.

Class 13: 1<sup>st</sup> Fern Harden showing a *versicolor*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Christine Duke with a smart *Gladiolus* 'The Bride', 3<sup>rd</sup> Plum scented *I. graminea* from Sue Bedwell.

Class 14: 1<sup>st</sup> and the **Shrubland Trophy** to Tony Watson with 'Fall Fiesta', 2<sup>nd</sup> Tony Watson with 'Al-Lu-We' 3<sup>rd</sup> Fern Harden with a scented yellow Freesia.

Class 15: A clever Irisiana display by Fern Harden of a bearded iris on an iced cake, coaster, card, mug, picture and in the flesh won 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> Fred Raines with an informative display of iris seed to plant, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sue Bedwell with a display of iris on a range of items and a floral display.

Class 16: An impressive display of iris in a picture frame from Fern Harden for 1<sup>st</sup> with a modern display based on Dutch Iris from Michael Castle for 2<sup>nd</sup> with 3<sup>rd</sup> going to Fern Harden with a display of sibs and hosta leaves.

Class 17: 1<sup>st</sup> to Sue Bedwell for an aerial photograph of a bearded iris flower, 2<sup>nd</sup> image of a mauve T.B. from Fern Harden, 3<sup>rd</sup> a photograph of a purple T.B. from Fern Harden.

Class 18: 1<sup>st</sup> to Sue Bedwell with an image of an iris in the garden, 2<sup>nd</sup> a photograph of sibs in water from Fern Harden, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sue Bedwell with a picture of 'Katharine Hodgkin'

Class 19: A range of seedlings presented by Clive Hester with a T.B with white standards and mauve fall taking 1<sup>st</sup> place.

Class 20: a lovely deep purple sib from Fred Raines was first and also won the **Shropshire Trophy** for best vase in show.

The **Somerset Trophy** for most points in show went unsurprisingly to Fred Raines who managed to get both bearded and sibs into show condition despite weather conditions.

Many thanks to the members old and new who showed their growing prowess by getting blooms into show condition in trying times, making the day both colourful and informative. Thanks to the committee who make the show and iris event, Anne on the plant sales, Gill providing much needed refreshments, Fern and Rex with their iris artwork and Jennifer with the book and information table who all made it a successful and enjoyable day.