The BOC Judging Scheme

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1. Introduction

The British Orchid Council judging scheme has now been running for well over 25 years, there is a total of about 135 judges, honorary judges, trainee judges and associate trainees. Overseeing the scheme is a small committee (see BOC website). The role of the different categories of members is outlined below.

The BOC judging scheme very much embodies the principles of the Council; judges firstly work at a local level by organising judging of plants and displays for their own Orchid Society but they also participate in judging at BOC congresses, European Orchid Shows and World Orchid Conferences – the BOC judging qualification is recognised by all national orchid societies and also by societies throughout the world. The BOC Judging Scheme maintains a friendly relationship with the Royal Horticultural Society Orchid Committee but they are totally independent bodies.

Procedures

Individual member Societies propose potential trainee judges, they are normally already knowledgeable orchid growers and are experienced at stewarding at local events. A simple application form needs to be filled in by the applicant. The trainee is also expected to find a suitable experienced judge who can act as a mentor throughout the training. Trainee judges spend an average of four years going through the scheme. Two judging symposia are held per year where judging matters are discussed, together with lectures on judging related subjects and comparative judging sessions. Trainee judges have to pass a rigorous continuous assessment of their skills and have to pass with a minimum 75 % of the marks.

At judging symposia qualified groups of BOC judges assess training tables of plants and select a first, second, third and fourth place plant, meanwhile trainee judges do the same individually and fill in judging slips which are handed in. Each table is then presented to the group and discussion follows. Trainees are encouraged to join in this discussion. Placings by the qualified judges are compared with the trainees' results and a score is given. During the first few sessions mentors are encouraged to discuss plants and guide trainees through the judging process.

Once qualified BOC judges normally participate in the judging of plants and displays at their local society and also take part in judging at BOC Shows. They may also be invited, or may apply, to judge at international events. They are expected to keep up-to-date by attending symposia and congresses. Having achieved accreditation, Judges normally retain their status for life or until they wish to resign for whatever reason. However, quality of judging standards is becoming increasingly important; therefore judges who lose contact with the Scheme or do not keep up a reasonable attendance record will be removed from the list of Accredited Judges after the procedure outlined below has been followed. This does not apply when a valid reason exists such as illness. It is not easy to be removed, but it can happen - to judges as well as trainees. Even if they have lost their accreditation to the scheme judges are still at liberty to judge at local events at the discretion of the organisers. However, national and international events usually require judges to be accredited members of a Scheme.

The normal procedure that the Judging Committee follows in the case of judges who appear to have dropped out of the Scheme is as follows. The Chairmen of the Judging committee will make every attempt to get in touch with judges who appear to be 'dropping out' of the Scheme and warn them of the consequences of not attending symposia or failing to answer correspondence. If there is no change or no satisfactory response, anyone who appears to have dropped out of the Scheme will receive a further warning about the consequences, in writing. If there is no change or no satisfactory response their name may be removed from the list of accredited judges; they can be re-instated after attending and passing a whole judging symposium (using the same calculations and totals required for trainee judges). Any valid objections from the person whose name was removed from the list will firstly be considered by the Judging Committee, or if no agreement can be reached may be presented to the British Orchid Council directly by the person concerned. As always, the Council will hear appeals, if any, at its quarterly meetings, due notice having been given to the Chairman of BOC and the Chairmen of the Judging Committee, and act as the final arbitrator under the powers outlined in the Governing Instrument.

Further information about the judging scheme or application forms can be obtained by looking on the BOC website.

23rd July 2012

2. BOC Judging Methods

BOC judging concentrates on the assessment of both plant culture and the quality of its flowers. Assessments are directly comparative whereby the best plant in a group of related plants is chosen. So plants are judged against others in the same show or judging group at a given time. This is in contrast to the Royal Horticultural Society Orchid Committee award judging where generally intrinsic flower quality takes precedence.

Fifty percent of the judgement is on flower quality and fifty percent goes to cultivation. Unless local rules preclude this, all orchids in shows are eligible to be judged, assessments are directly comparative whereby the best plant in a group is chosen.

The system has evolved over the years and will continue to be refined by experience and discussion among the judges and trainees involved. The main principles are:

- Plants are assessed through a list of 'points' for different qualities (see the chapter on the pointing system below).
- Judging is strictly on what is seen 'on the day' i.e. unopened buds and dead or dying flowers may represent great past or future spectacle but make little contribution in their present state.
- Linked to the last point is the percentage of flowers open. For most plants the optimum display is when all flowers are properly open, but some plants have a natural successional habit. In the latter case the plant should not be penalised if all flowers are not open. Judges should expect to see a high proportion of flowers that are open and in good condition.
- Damage to the plant must be taken into account unless the show schedule specifically states otherwise. Careful preparation and transport of plants is all part of the art of presentation. For international shows where plants are brought long distances, the organisers will often instruct judges to ignore damage that is clearly caused in transit. Obviously this can only apply where the quality of the plant is not obscured by the damage.
- Where flaws are detected, it must be remembered that plants are being judged against the others in their class. Do not over-react to damage or reduced number of flowers and "throw the plant out" too quickly - it may still be better than other plants present when all factors are considered. While a well grown, multi-flowered plant of award quality is what we hope to see as the winner of a class, in practice we may have to accept something less exalted; balancing faults in each plant to arrive at the best of a not very good group.
- Plants without a proper label should not be judged for training purposes.
- It is important to check for pests and diseases; if plants are infested they should be completely disqualified but a solitary insect could be seen as accidental and removed.
- Every plant should be examined carefully. It may become apparent that a plant, which looked a winner from some distance, is much less good when seen closely. Conversely, close examination may reveal great merit in a plant not standing out from across the room.
- Do not be too influenced by a label proclaiming previous awards, or a famous name, plants can be very much poorer on subsequent flowering. Indifferent culture will greatly reduce the flower quality of even the finest varieties. Judge only on what you see on the day. Labels are important, however; it is necessary to know the breeding of a plant in order to correctly assess its quality.
- Often one has to judge very different plants in a particular class, especially species or mixed classes. The wider experience of orchids one has the easier this task becomes, as each plant must be measured against its own 'ideal' performance so as to provide a notional mark for comparison. In this way it is possible to judge large orchids against small; Paphs. against

Brassias; or hybrids against species. Each one is measured as to its performance against the best of its kind and placed in its correct place in the class. In this way a very good *Restrepia* comes ahead of a poor *Masdevallia*, a mediocre *Cattleya* behind a superb *Odontoglossum* and so on. The particular genus or grex of the plant has no bearing on its ranking - just its quality and culture as seen on this occasion.

- Where two or more plants have identical merit, there is no shame in exercising personal preference, though one must avoid allowing one's preferences to blind one to faults. Always being prepared to explain one's assessment is a good way to ensure a logical and thorough approach.

Judging exhibits or groups of plants.

Assessment should be on three main points: number and variety of plants, quality of plants, and presentation and design. These categories should be given equal weight. In this way a wide range of groups can be correctly assessed against each other. Show schedules should attempt to limit each class to groups of similar size. Excellent guidelines for judging displays have been published by the RHS and are reproduced in Appendix 1.

3. The BOC Pointing System

In the BOC system plants are pointed for training purposes only. Although the structure of the pointing system is always in the background of judgements made, the actual total or breakdown of numbers is never expressed for plants in shows. In the end common sense and individual preferences also need to play a part especially when comparing plants of similar merit. The pointing system is used in a positive way to help the judge assess the plant systematically. At judging symposia a few classes will be selected for pointing, trainees will have to fill in a special pointing slip plus the normal placing slip. The various judging slips are shown in appendix 2 and 3. For guidance, the following table shows the proportions in which the various aspects of a plant are assessed:

Cultivation 50 %	Plant size & condition	25%
	Floriferousness of plant	20%
	Presentation	5%
Flower Quality 50 %	Flower form	10%
	Flower colour	10%
	Flower size	10%
	Flower Substance & Texture	5%
	Spike habit	5%
	Floriferousness of spike	10%

Cultivation

- Size and quality of pseudobulbs and leaves if present, progressive improvement in size, overall number of growths, number of new leads etc.
- Condition includes damage marks, substance of leaves or pseudobulbs, leaf or pseudobulb wrinkling, number and quality of aerial roots, condition of leaf surface, trimming of leaf tips or growths, etc.
- Stability and anchorage of plant on mount or in container.
- Floriferousness of plant relates to the flower spikes expected from the number of potential flowering leads.
- Presentation includes other items under the grower's control such as staking, minor manipulation, labelling, removal of weeds, removal of fading flowers, tying and cleanliness.

Flower Quality

- Form includes shape, balance, overlap of segments, edge shape, etc.
- Colour includes clarity, contrast, harmony, markings, fading, etc.

- Size includes overall and individual segments, reducing size along the spike, etc.
- Substance should be self-evident.
- Texture applies to the surface and includes hairs, warts, gloss, sparkle, creases, etc.
- Spike habit includes supporting ability, straightness (curving can be normal but kinking is not), arrangement, separation, bracts, etc.
- Floriferousness of spike includes branching, total number of flowers on spikes, buds, etc
- The use of products to enhance leaf-shine is discouraged, excessive use will be considered as a negative point in judging.

4. How to become a BOC Judge efficiently

It usually takes three or four years from starting the scheme to becoming a qualified BOC judge. There is some variation due to how many symposia are held per year and how many training classes can be fitted into each symposium. In recent times, the aim has been to have two training events per year.

Judging requires a considerable commitment; we encourage potential trainees to attend a few symposia as observers or as Associate Judges before they commit to the Scheme.

The pass mark in this scheme is 75% of the available marks available from 31 completed classes.

There are several things that trainees can do to ensure a (relatively) rapid and easy passage:

- **Attend Symposia.** Missing two symposia adds at least a year to your time as a trainee.
- **Make sure all classes are done.** If three tables are set up, but you only actually do two - for lack of time, not knowing there was another, or whatever, then you may well have committed yourself to one more training symposium than would have been necessary without this error.
- **Have a regular and efficient scheme for evaluating the test classes.** Give all orchids careful attention – but do not overdo this: i.e. looking at each orchid in a class carefully once should be enough at this stage. (Time is limited, so it is best to complete your evaluation in good time, using any remaining time for a further check of your results. You must be sure that you, at least, have a stab at every class. Divide them into three groups:
  1. No-Hopers - Diseased, infested, badly damaged, poorly grown, dreadful flowers, etc.
  2. Possible firsts - Good culture, many leads, fine flowers - many per lead, no disease, damage or infestation.
  3. The rest: and also look at the possible firsts group again; make sure that these are as good as you thought.

  If there are no more than four plants, you have finished. If there are more than four, then divide them again into three groups as above; repeat until you have only four plants in your 'best group'. Now ignore all orchids in the class, except these four - all others are irrelevant. All that remains is to place these four in correct order. This may be very easy, or very hard. If hard, you may have to run through a pointing session to place them firmly in order.
  Be sure that you have a valid reason for every choice you have made. This is a check that you have done it right and stands one in good stead if asked to explain things.
- **Keep a record of what you have done.** Although your percentage will be included in our regular communication to you, use the notes on marking (see below) so that you know whether you are progressing or not.
- **Enhance your knowledge of orchids at every opportunity.** Attend orchid events, converse with other growers, judges and trainees. It is expected that trainees and qualified judges will attend a reasonable number of Judging Symposia, prominent orchid events (especially BOC Congresses), and, of course their local orchid society meetings. At BOC Congresses judges and trainees will only be able to participate if they are registrants for that Congress. Visit other collections, amateur and commercial. Look carefully at plants and discuss them. Read all about orchids; books, magazines. The Orchid Review, the AOS magazine 'Orchids', and Awards Quarterly should represent the minimum of regular reading for trainees and judges alike.

5. How to Assess Progress.

To become a judge you will need an overall mark of at least 75%. You will need to have completed at least 31 classes. If the 75% mark is not achieved after 31 classes the trainee will have to continue with more training sessions until the qualifying mark is achieved but after every subsequent symposium the trainee's lowest scored class is removed. There is no shame in doing more than 31 classes; some of the best judges took some time to qualify.

Marking.

Each class is worth 40 points:
20 for first
10 for second
6 for third
4 for fourth

Each place adrift loses one point. So, if you put the first place orchid as second you lose one point. If you have the fourth orchid as first you lose three points. If you have the third orchid as first you lose two points etc.

A 1st placed by the trainee in 4th place = 20 minus 3 = 17points.
A 4th placed by the trainee in 1st place = 4 minus 3 = 1 point.
A 2nd placed by the trainee in 3rd place = 10 minus 1 = 9 points.
A 3rd placed by the trainee in 2nd place = 6 minus 1 = 5 points.
This makes a total of 32 points for that table.

An average of 30 points per class will ensure that you scrape through. This means that if you have the four correct orchids in your group, but all in wrong places every time you still can pass. Clearly it is likely that sometimes you will not have all four winners in your results, and so may have less than 32 marks. Equally you will sometimes have all four, or at least two, correct, and will have more than 32 marks. The odds are therefore on your side.

Your views on orchids will not always match exactly with those who are providing the 'expert' marking. Listen to what speakers at symposia say and try to work out how they mark the classes, they can offer important pointers.

If any of what the speaker says makes sense to you, then try to include that view of things in your own overall ideas of judging. Having thought about this, you may find that you can still 'do your own thing' with integrity, but make some allowance for a wider view. This should result in better marks, while still having a firm, rational aim in your judging. On occasions, you will not be able to agree with an expert and not able to adjust your views to that person's opinion. This is OK. However, try to make sure that you are in line with a reasonable number of other people. One of the aims of BOC judging is to provide some consistency from one show to another and from one part of the country to another. This implies that there will be a degree of agreement amongst judges.

Many of us hold distinct views on some points of judging, and so are at times at variance with colleagues. This is a good thing, judging would be a very boring pastime if we all agreed on every point all the time. Over the years, individual and collective opinion will change on some points. More experience of particular types of orchid, and input from judges in other schemes are among the factors responsible for this.

This is one of the reasons why we insist that those who become BOC judges continue to be active members of the scheme. Those who do not 'keep up to date' are not 'stripped of their badge' but their names will, in time, be dropped from the list of approved BOC judges.

Cheating: This is very rare but trainees should not, confer, listen to the expert group's private discussion, or study other people's result papers. All this could lead to disqualification. In any case this could backfire; information is not always reliable - even from the best sources.

6. Guidelines & Rules for judging at BOC Shows and Congresses

- Judging schedules and lists of judging teams will be posted in various prominent locations around the show well before judging starts. There normally will be an alphabetical list of judges and stewards, a list of teams and a list of people who are invited to judge for trophies and higher awards.
- It is important that show secretaries liaise with traders before the show starts to ensure that trade displays and their sales area are distinct.
- Before judging starts there will be a short briefing, it is important that all participants attend this.
- A clipboard for each team containing lists of plants and judging sheets will be provided for stewards before judging starts.
- It is recommended that judging groups follow the following procedure. Early access to the show has been allowed, so all judges and stewards should spend as much time as possible looking at plants before actual judging starts. After meeting, the judging team should initially make an informal tour of the show with all members making note of those plants within the group's remit that catch the eye. At the end the Team should have arrived at an agreed list of noteworthy plants. A further circuit can then be made to examine these plants formally and agree on a shortlist. Final ribbon placing should then be agreed. Finally any Trophies to be awarded can be noted.
- Every plant should be examined carefully. It may become apparent that a plant that looked a winner from some distance is much less good when seen closely. Conversely, close examination may reveal great merit in a plant not standing out from across the room. Do not be inappropriately influenced by a label proclaiming previous awards, or a famous name, plants can be different on subsequent flowering. Mediocre cultivation will greatly reduce the flower quality of even the finest varieties.
- Team Leaders are there to moderate and inspire the Team and should only vote if the votes by the team are tied.
- Whatever method is actually used, it is vital that Teams keep accurate records of results. These should be written on the result sheets provided and signed by the Team Leader. The sheets should be passed to the Judging Committee as a batch. Team Leaders should ensure that place ribbons are correctly placed. Stewards should write the name of the plant and its class on the back of any ribbons.
- It is important that judging teams adhere to the timetable. If a particular team is unable to complete judging because of indecision, members of the Judging Committee may lend a helping hand.
- Made-up plants (group of plants in one container) cannot be judged as a single plant but individual plant from such a group can be considered in their own right.
- Although comparative judging is used, if no plant of adequate quality can be found for a place in any class it is permissible not to award that ribbon.
- Should any member of a judging Team have an interest in a plant that might be judged by that team then that member must declare that interest and remain aloof from any judging that may affect that plant. If a Team Leader should be in this position the Team must agree a temporary leader to take charge while the affected class is judged. If no suitable member can perform this function, a member of the Judging Committee can be co-opted.

- Use the Schedule and lists for guidance on which species or genus to include in a particular class. Judges may re-identify or re-classify plants if there is solid reason to do so, any changes must be cleared with the Judging Committee first. Classes should however not be subdivided.
- All discussion should be conducted courteously and democratically.
- Where errors or confusion cause problems please refer to a member of the Judging Committee.
- If exhibitors feel the need to discuss any decision by the Judges they should speak to the Judging Committee Chairmen, other judges are not at liberty to divulge any discussions or decisions made during judging.
- If there is any doubt over the status of any plant on display it is advisable to select a reserve winner.
- Normally all orchids specified in the show schedule or by the show secretary are eligible to be judged in their appropriate classes, plants on sales tables cannot be judged.
- Judges or stewards may not change teams without permission of the Judging Committee.
- Plants which show active disease or infestation will not be eligible for judging, the exhibitor may be asked to remove the plant. This decision is entirely that of the Judging Committee and its advisors.
- Plants that show clear evidence of being recently wild-collected are excluded by the Show Rules and are not eligible for award. All plants on display should comply with current CITES and Plant Health regulations.
- Where inadequate or incorrect labelling of plants prevents knowledge of the plant's breeding or provenance, the plant may be excluded from judging. Inadequate labelling will always be rewarded in a judgement. The Organizers will exercise all appropriate caution in securing the exhibition and conference facilities at all times; however, exhibitors and other participants are solely responsible for the safety and security of their possessions before, during and after the show. The organisers will not be liable for any loss or damage however caused. Exhibitors and judges are strongly advised not to leave their goods unattended. No one may hold the Organizers, sponsors or supporters, the Show or its Committees and workers (volunteers included) responsible for loss of, or to, plants, flowers, or any other item brought to the show by a participant, visitor or any person.
- Plants put in displays after judging has started will not be eligible for judging.
- All plants must remain on the display until the end of the show; otherwise any ribbon or trophy may be withheld.
- Deliberately disbudded and overly manipulated plants will be disqualified.
- Normally a Final Judging Panel, appointed by the Judging Committee, will review all judging results for the specific purpose of ensuring uniformity in the quality of awards (Ribbons and Trophies). Although this will be kept to an absolute minimum, the Committee has the right to change decisions made by the judging teams. Thus, no results are official until this Final Judging Panel has completed its deliberations and all decisions of judging teams should be seen as recommendations.
- In the event of any dispute or failure to reach a conclusion on any point, the Chairmen of Judging will, together with the Judging Committee, ensure that a decision is made. Such decision will be final and binding for the purposes of the event.
- The Chairmen with the members of the Judging Committee have the sole right to settle any disputes. Their decision is final.
- All discussions during judging are confidential.

- Exhibitors may not rename plants already possessing a valid recognised name and any wilful disregard of this will be taken into account in judgement.
- The standard reference for names of orchid species is the Kew, Monocot Checklist (www.kew.org/wcsp/home.do) and for hybrids the RHS list (www.rhs.org.uk/plants/registration_orchids.asp).

- **7. Key tasks**

General:

The British Orchid Council

- To be responsible for and finance the BOC judging scheme.
- To appoint Chairmen of the judging committee.
- To communicate with the judging committee regarding all judging matters.
- To receive an Annual Report from the Chairman of the Judging Committee.

Chairmen of Judging Committee

To organise and oversee the BOC judging system.

- To appoint members of the judging sub-committee and keep them informed.
- To organise Judging symposia: select speakers, topics, locations etc.
- To circulate members with event programmes.
- To report on progress of the scheme to BOC.
- To receive applications and nominations to become a trainee judge and check through application, liaise with mentors and member societies.
- To calculate points totals and keep up-to-date percentages, to adjust percentages after completion of sufficient classes.
- To report suggestions and progress to the committee, judges and trainees.
- To check for improprieties.
- To monitor progress of trainees.
- To monitor attendance of Judges and propose withdrawal of accreditation if necessary.
- To keep an up-to-date list of accredited judges, trainees and associate trainees.
- To produce a list of judges for the BOC website once a year.
- To confer with other judging schemes and show organisers on the qualifications of currently BOC accredited judges and trainees.

Members of Committee

To help to organise and oversee the judging system.

- To suggest good venues, topics and speakers etc. for symposia.
- To approve trainee judges' applications.
- To ratify qualified judges.
- To ratify withdrawal of accreditation of judges.

Honorary Judges.

Honorary judges are people who have not normally been through judging training but who can offer other valuable experience to the judging scheme. The Committee from time-to-time appoints them; their status is that of an accredited judge.

Judges and Trainee Judges

- To keep up with current developments in orchid growing and judging.
- To attend shows, lectures and other orchid events.
- To attend BOC judging symposia and Congresses.
- To judge at their local society as much as possible.

At Training Sessions:

Chairmen of Committee

To organise and oversee the judging symposium.

- Prepare judging panel lists.

- Decide on number of classes to be done and which groups are to be pointed.
- To receive result slips and decide on timing.
- To announce which judges have qualified, to introduce new trainees.
- To ultimately adjudicate in controversial matters, to annul results, classes or decisions but only in very rare and extreme circumstances where an obvious error has occurred or where proper procedures and rules were not followed.
- To make sure new trainees are guided by their mentors, if not, to assign a mentor.

Members of Committee

To help to organise and oversee the judging symposium.

- Work with the Chairmen to prepare the right number of classes, variety, classes to be pointed and judging panels.
- Select plants for the groups with input from the panel if necessary.
- To discuss results, controversial matters etc.
- To propose annulment of classes in extremes.

Judging Panel.

Chosen by the Judging Committee as a group. The Panel elects its own speaker, but all members need to be available at the presentation for discussion etc. They judge the table that was assigned to them.

- Before judging commences, check that all plants are correctly labelled and check that they are free of pest infestation and obvious disease.
- Carefully analyse the plants and discuss their various merits and shortcomings, making sure trainee-judges do not overhear them.
- Select 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th and use the pointing system if appropriate.
- Prepare reasons for this choice and a detailed justification.

Panel Leader.

Chosen by the members of the judging panel to be their spokesperson

- To mediate between the members of the panel and make sure all opinions are considered and everyone is involved.
- To present the panel's conclusions and justify them in detail and as constructively as possible.
- Clearly state the plant names and numbers of the classified plants.

Mentor.

Helps newly appointed trainee judges with their first few sessions and generally guides him/her through the training process.

- Introduces the new trainee to the key-people in the judging scheme.
- Makes sure the trainee knows the various procedures followed at symposia.
- Explains what to look for in a plant and explain how comparative judging works
- Helps the trainee with the first few tables, discusses plants, points out good features and defects and helps with decision making (therefore the mentor should not be part of a judging panel).
- Explains the plant pointing system and the way results are calculated.
- Gives general encouragement.

Judges not part of a Panel.

To participate in the judging process.

- To judge individual groups independently.
- During judging, to answer questions from trainee judges if they are reasonable and will not influence the result unduly.

- To take part in the general discussion.

Trainee Judges

To complete the training sessions and learn about plants and how the judging process works.

- Assess the different classes independently and select the best 4 plants (general advice can be sought from judges not involved in a particular panel, at your own risk and without actually conferring about results).
- Classify this selection and fill in the judging slip, clearly stating which class was judged and the trainee's name, hand in the slip to the committee chairmen before discussion starts.
- Take part in the discussions, as constructively as possible.

Associate Trainees

To further their knowledge generally, and learn about plants and how the judging process works.

- Assess the different classes independently and select the best 4 plants (general advice can be sought from judges not involved in a particular panel, at your own risk, and without actually conferring about results).
- If so desired classify this selection and fill in the judging slip, hand in the slip to the committee chairmen before discussion starts. The results will not be taken into account but will be given to the Trainee if wanted.

<u>At BOC Shows (or BOC associated shows)</u>

Organisers of the Show.

- To ascertain that there is access to the premises at agreed times.
- To make sure all trophies are available at the Show.
- To supply ribbons according to a list provided.
- To agree on catering arrangements and supply catering if necessary.
- To agree on a timetable.
- To supply a list of judges and trainee judges that has registered.
- To publish a list of class and trophy winners.

Chairmen of Committee

- To organise classes.
- To select and list judging teams and leaders.
- To provide lists of class winners & trophy winners.
- To agree a timetable.
- To adjudicate where necessary.
- In collaboration with the Committee to rescind or moderate any awards that were given in error or in violation of the current rules.

Members of Committee

- To check lists of trophy winners.
- To help with enquiries and adjudication.

Team leaders

- To look at the displays and plants to be judged beforehand.
- To make sure all members of the group know each other and know which classes they are judging.
- To explain the time schedule and proposed procedure.
- To guide the group, ask their opinion and make sure all members contribute.
- To moderate if there is difference of opinion.

- To make sure all relevant plants have been seen.
- To supervise voting without participating, the leaders will only cast their vote if there is an equal split.
- To check the group stays within the time schedule.
- To raise controversial matters with the Chairmen.
- To ascertain that all relevant judging sheets are filled in correctly, sign the sheets and return to the Chairmen.
- Verify that all ribbons are correctly labelled and placed.
- To make sure all deliberation is confidential.
- If a trophy is available for their classes: together with the judges recommend a winning plant to the Final Panel of judges.
- To make sure all results are kept confidential until all ribbons have been verified and distributed. For judging of trophies confidentiality remains until the Final Judging Team and the Committee have ratified the results.

Judges

- To look at the displays and plants to be judged beforehand.
- To evaluate all the plants, discuss them with other group members.
- To participate in voting and discussion.

Trainee Judges / Stewards

- To look at the displays and list plants to be judged beforehand.
- To keep a list of plants that was selected for consideration by the Team.
- To help the leader with making sure all relevant plants have been seen.
- To ascertain that relevant plants are labelled and free from pests and disease.
- To make sure all ribbons are endorsed with the name of the plant and owner where possible.
- To place all ribbons by the correct plant.
- To fill in the judging form, correctly and legibly.
- Not to participate in the Team's discussion unless asked by the Leader.

Associate Trainees

- To assist the Clerks and observe the judging process.

Final Team of Judges

- To discuss and ratify proposals from Team leaders for trophy winners.
- To discuss any problems during judging.
- To vote on major trophy winners.

Appendix 1

RHS General Guidelines for Judging Displays

1. Judges should assess both the quality of the plant material and the quality of the way it is presented as a group. They should assess the overall impression and how this has been achieved both in relation to its horticultural content and its artistic effect.
2. The following may be regarded as positive features in assessing a group: -
   - 2.1 that the plants are of good quality and are in good condition, free of any pests, diseases or disorders. They should also be free of any signs of damage by pests and diseases.
   - 2.2 that the stand is well filled without being overcrowded.
   - 2.3 that the finish of the exhibit is good and it has an overall freshness.
   - 2.4 that the labels are accurate and well presented.
   - 2.5 that the group includes unusual plants or plants that are difficult to grow.
   - 2.6 that a group confined to a single genus contain a wide representation of the variation shown by that genus in cultivation.
   - 2.7 that the design of the display enhances the appearance of the plant material.
3. The following may be regarded as negative features in assessing a group: -
   - 3.1 that the exhibit does not conform to the rules for exhibiting as published in the relevant Manual or Show Schedule.
   - 3.2 that the plants are of poor quality are in poor condition or are affected by pests, diseases or disorders.
   - 3.3 that the stand is either overcrowded or conversely too thin.
   - 3.4 that the exhibit is poorly finished and lacks freshness.
   - 3.5 that the labels are inaccurate or are of poor quality.
   - 3.6 that in a group presented as a garden the pots have been inadequately hidden or that the plunging medium is only partly covering or otherwise detracting from the plants.
   - 3.7 that in a group presented as a collection in pots, insufficient attention has been given to the presentation of the pots.
   - 3.8 that in an exhibit containing plants in pots the plants are not well established.
   - 3.9 that the particular attribute for which a plant is being shown (be it of bud, flower, foliage, fruit or form) is not properly developed, e.g. a plant grown for flower is presented still in bud.
   - 3.10 that the design of the display detracts from the appearance of the plant material.
4. The following should be regarded as neither positive nor negative features in assessing a group: -
   - 4.1 that the group consists of plants produced out-of-season or contains mixtures of plants for different seasons.
   - 4.2 that the group is confined to a limited variety of plants.
   - 4.3 the size of the stand should not itself determine the grade of any award, although some consideration should be given to the effort involved in the staging of the group. A small stand need not preclude a high award.
   - 4.4 The source of plant material contained in a group should not concern the judges.

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Appendix 2. Examples of judging slips used at symposia.

A judging slip

Name:		
Session:		
Table:		
Class:		
First		
Second		
Third		
Fourth		

A Pointing slip

BOC-Judging. Pointing		**Name:**					**Session:**					
		Table:					**Class:**					
		Plant:	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**
Cultivation	**Plant Size & Condition**	**25pts.**										
	Floriferousness	**20pts.**										
	Presentation	**5pts.**										
Merit	**Flower Shape**	**10pts.**										
	Flower Colour	**10pts.**										
	Flower Size	**10pts.**										
	Flower Substance/Texture	**5pts.**										
	Spike Habit	**5pts.**										
	Floriferousness of spike	**10pts.**										
Total												
Position												

Appendix 3. Example of judging sheets used at shows.

Devon Orchid Weekend – 2005

Group: I

16. Vandeae species (not including Phalaenopsis)

see attached list

Leader: **Joyce Stewart.**

Judges: Sheila Barnes, Tony Braund, David Johnston, Brian Woodward.

Stewards: Geoff Dicks, Simon Powers.

Class: 16. Vandeae species (not including Phalaenopsis)

Winner

Plant name:
Owner:
Stand:

Recommendations for Trophy:

……

……

Signed by Joyce Stewart as a true record: ……