



SRGC / AGS Farrer Memorial Medal BLACKPOOL 2012



**Saxifraga 'Coolock Gem'
shown by Geoff Rollinson**



RETURN OF THE MASTER

For over 30 years the man to beat at the Morecambe / Lancaster / Blackpool show has been Geoff Rollinson. His exhibits are always well grown and beautifully presented. I bet that at least one of his plants has been in contention for the top award at every show for these past 30 years. I asked him how many Farrers he had won and he replied 37! Extraordinary! I think he counts his Forrest medals separately. Geoff himself is something of an alpine, coming as he does from the village of Holmfirth, high in the Pennines, where 'Last of the Summer Wine' and many 'Hovis' adverts were filmed. His superb pan of Saxifraga 'Coolock Gem' has won here before and it just gets bigger and bigger. I sup-

pose it must now have reached the pan size limit set by the AGS as its white blooms were spreading over the side of the pan.

You will never see more flowers in a 12 inch pan, everyone perfect and fighting for space. Coolock Gem is a hybrid raised by Jim Almond in 2001, so it hasn't taken long to produce the magnificent specimen on the bench. Take a close look and you can see each one of them starting to overwhelm its neighbours. The white cup shaped flowers have petals which reflex to reveal a glistening greenish-yellow ovary, with a white stigma at the bulls-eye position and tiny brownish red anthers standing round about like numbers n a watch. You can tell it has *S. georgei* in its ancestry

