

YHOY Regional Final – Northern Branch

Chartered Institute of Horticulture Young Horticulturist of the Year Competition 2019



Emily Marston from RHS Gardens Harlow Carr near Harrogate, seen here with Faith Douglas, Curator of the Thorp Perrow Arboretum (www.thorpperrow.com), our hosts for the day on March 23rd, along with David George from Stockbridge Technology Centre (www.stockbridgetechnology.co.uk), one of our regional sponsors, has won the CIH Northern Regional Final for the second year in succession and we now look forward to watching her take on the other seven competitors from across the UK and Ireland at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew on May 11th. During the introduction to the audience by the eight competitors, Emily announced that she has been accepted onto the Level 3 / 4 studentship at RHS Gardens Wisley, starting later this year. Elizabeth Mooney, who came a close second, also announced that she has been accepted onto the same course!

The region has had quite a run of success over the last 30 years and our last Grand Final winner in 2014, Chris Parsons, an ex-student from East Durham College, used his Percy Thrower Trust Travel Bursary to help fund a trip to China last summer with a British nursery. You can see his report in the CIH Journal Volume 27 No.2, published in Summer 2018.

Regionally, we have two main sponsors, without whom the Regional competition would not happen. The North of England Horticultural Society (NEHS) (www.flowershow.org.uk) generously provide us with a sum of money each year that allows us to give worthy prizes at the first two stages of the competition. In addition, we are provided with a sum of money each year from Stockbridge Technology Centre (www.stockbridgetechnology.co.uk) near Selby that allows us to provide each of the eight Regional Finalists with a copy of the Collins Guide to Pests, Diseases and Disorders of Garden Plants – these are presented as the Bruce Rigby Memorial prize at our **Regional Final**. In addition, nationally, Bulldog Tools (www.bulldogtools.co.uk) provide a spade and fork set for each of the eight Regional Final winners.

Our eight competitors for the 2019 Northern Branch Regional Final were:



Emily Marston (RHS Gardens Harlow Carr) 1st,

Elizabeth Mooney (Northumberland College, Kirkley Hall Campus) 2nd,

Owen Hayman (Askham Bryan College) 3rd,

Cailean Iain Stewart (Open heat winner) 4th,

Thomas Willey (Askham Bryan College) 5th,

Bethan Collerton (Northumberland College, Kirkley Hall Campus) 6th,

Louise Fearn (RHS Gardens Harlow Carr) 7th,

Tara Mason (open heat second place) 8th.

For over one hundred years, the NEHS has supported a range of organisations such as the Chartered Institute of Horticulture through profits made from the twice-yearly Harrogate Flower Shows. **Nick Smith, Show Director**, said:

“Today’s students are tomorrows horticulturalists, gardeners, designers and botanists. The CIH Young Horticulturalist of the Year Competition offers a unique platform for showcasing student’s horticultural knowledge across a wide range of subjects. As a charitable organisation, the North of England Horticultural Society is proud to be able to continue its annual sponsorship of the competitions Northern Branch Heats and Regional Final, ensuring that horticulture remains both relevant and exciting to future generations.”

Graham Porter FCIHort, the Northern Branch Regional Organiser said *“after nearly twenty years of running the Regional competition and helping to organise the national competition, it never ceases to amaze me that such young people can have such advanced knowledge. It is proof, if ever it was needed, that our industry is in good hands for the future.”*

Are you a young horticulturist interested in travelling the world? Or do you see the YHOY competition as a valuable sponsorship opportunity? Email yhoy@horticulture.org.uk or visit our website www.horticulture.org.uk for more details.

We are indebted to our national sponsors, The Shropshire Horticultural Society, for their continued support of the Grand Final, with an impressive £2500 Grand Final First Prize, in the form of a travel bursary. This year, the Grand Final will be at **The Royal Botanic Gardens Kew** (www.kew.org) on **May 11th**.

