Somerset Bonsai Society, Tree of the Month critique January 2024

Member name	Tree species and style	Subject		Technique					Total Score Out of 100	Member votes	Comments
		Overall presentation 30	Pot 10	Roots 10	Trunk 15	Branches & foliage 20	Health & vigour 10	Surface 5			
Advanced											
Richard M	Larch	19	7	8	13	13	10	3	73	1	Branches are too horizontal – sweep them down to get a more mature look. Good nebari. Pot too big!
John C	Scots Pine	19	6	6	11	12	10	3	67		Nice overall image/shape. The loop of root is distracting – remove it when repotting. Remove older needles to give a tidier image. Pot too big!
Mike C	Hawthorn	22	8	8	12	15	10	4	79	3	Nive overall image with a natural branch structure. Roots might look better if they sat a little lower so that gaps don't show.
Bob	Chinese Elm	22	7	8	13	14	10	4	78	4	Pot too big and clunky. Branches are in flat pads like a conifer – would look better if some of the gaps are filled. Scar on lower trunk could be hollowed a little to disguise the cut and make a feature.
Richard P	Ash group	23	9	6	12	10	8	3	71		Nice grouping but overall it leans away from viewer – tilt it forward more. Needs more ramification, which is difficult with Ash. Scale present!
Peter	Hillier Elm	23	9	8	13	15	10	3	81	5	Nice pot and good overall presentation. Branches are in flat pads like a conifer – would look better if some of the gaps are filled.
Novice											
Dave	Cotoneaster	19	7	6	10	12	10	3	67	1	Needs a complete wiring to soften the image which currently consists of very straight lines. Pot too big!