TAUNTON & SOMERSET BONSAI CLUB

Somerset Bonsai Society, Tree of the Month critique January 2026

Member name	Tree species and style	Subject		Technique					Total Score	Member votes	Comments
		Overall presentation 30	Pot 10	Roots 10	Trunk 15	Branches & foliage 20	Health & vigour 10	Surface 5	Out of 100		
Advanced											
John C	Chinese Elm	15	5	3	10	10	10	3	56		Interesting display with Ivy accent plant. Pot is a good colour but would suit a cascade/semi cascade tree better. Now is a good time to start selecting which branches to keep and define the overall shape of the future tree.
Richard M	Birch	25	9	9	12	12	10	5	82		Nice pot selection. Good nebari and main trunk. Would benefit from better ramification but as it is a Birch, that may be asking for a bit too much.
Bob	Chinese Elm	30	8	9	13	15	10	5	90	7	Pot is a good colour but could be a bit longer. Nice trunk movement and good branch structure. Now would be a good time to refine some of the branches to encourage ramification. Overall a very nice presentation.
Peter F	Metasequia	28	10	9	13	15	10	5	90	4	Good pot selection, colour and texture. Interesting trunk line and good branch placement. Once it gets a bit more ramification it will be a very nice tree but watch the wheel spoke branches, half way up the trunk. These will need dealing with sometime soon. Good overall display with matching table.
Novice											
Zac	Cork Bark Chinese Elm	25	10	6	13	15	10	5	84	1	Pot size and colour is OK for a tree like this. Trunk line is good and upper branches are good. Lower branches need developing but this is easily done. I look forward to seeing this tree develop.
Roger E	Hawthorn	15	5	3	10	10	10	5	58	1	Pot doesn't enhance the tree and a slightly larger pot may help with branch development at this stage. Trunk has a nice line and the branches have a lot of potential so now would be a good time to start selecting which ones to keep. Branches on the lower right of the tree need to be refined and some wiring done on the lower left ones. Will be a nice little tree with a bit more work.