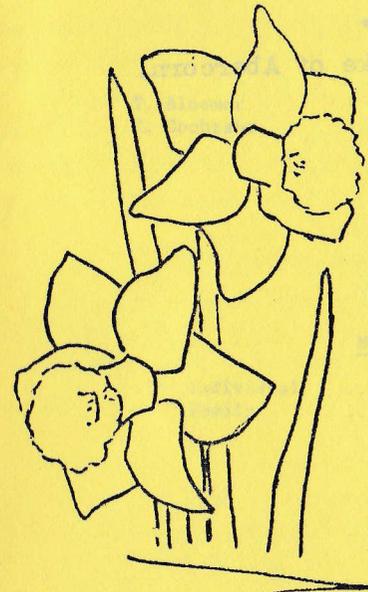


THE NORTHERN IRELAND

DAFFODIL GROUP

NEWSLETTER.

October 1979



THE NORTHERN IRELAND DAFFODIL GROUP

NEWS LETTER

OCTOBER 1979

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 6

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OFFICERS OF THE GROUP

Chairman	B.S. Duncan, Dergmoney, Omagh	2931
Secretary	R. Sterling, 60 Churchill Park, Bangor	65290
Treasurer	A.J. Carlisle, 124 Warren Road, Donaghadee	882527

COMMITTEE

B.S. Duncan	R. Sterling	A.J. Carlisle
S. McCabe	S. Bankhead	R.H. Reade
J. Bownass	W.J. Toal (Ex. Officio)	

T. Bloomer	Convenor to Daffodil Growers
C. Cochrane	Convenor to Ministry of Agriculture

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Individual	£2.00 per year (\$4.00)
Family	£3.00 per year (\$6.00)

Chairman's Remarks

Since the issue of our last Newsletter we have enjoyed a most memorable but chilly daffodil flowering season of such unprecedented lateness that our World Convention visitors, arriving in late April, missed peak flowering by almost two weeks.

The Shows and season will be reported elsewhere but I want to refer to the World Convention. Judging from comments of visitors at the time and in subsequent letters of thanks the Ulster visit seems to have been a success even beyond our greatest hopes - despite the cold weather and the paucity of daffodils. This is not to say that we were entirely free of problems - the hitches at London Airport in getting our visitors transferred from the Amsterdam to Belfast flights caused some last minute changes of plan and meant that we were welcoming some extremely travel weary people. Of even greater concern and disappointment was the eleventh-hour let-down by the Convention Hotel which necessitated the transfer of some visitors to a neighbouring establishment. Difficult but hasty decisions had to be taken and the organising committee was most grateful for the patience and understanding of those poor tired visitors who were reluctantly asked to transfer to the second hotel.

Those of us engaged in the organisation of the Convention know just how much work was involved. I want to thank all who gave of their time and talents so willingly and I hope that everyone found the experience both rewarding and enjoyable. My thanks go also to all the bodies and organisations which gave such tremendous support - both moral and material.

Unfortunately several of our visitors fell victim to a particularly nasty and virulent virus and had to seek medical attention either here or on their return home. It was too bad that Bill and Laura Lee Ticknor, who had given such sterling assistance and advice to the organising committee, should be principal victims. It was our pleasure to try to nurse them back to a state of health sufficient for a belated homeward journey. I am sure members will be pleased to know that they and other victims are now fully recovered.

Numerous letters of thanks have been received from Convention participants. It would not be possible to publish these letters in full but the following extracts give an indication of the extent to which our N.I.D.G. efforts were appreciated. We have obviously made many friends for Northern Ireland and most of us have widened our circle of friends and acquaintances throughout the daffodil world.

"I feel very, very fortunate to have been able to participate, and mere words are inadequate to tell you how much I appreciate all you did to have us wined and dined and entertained so marvellously. Please, therefore, when you reminisce with others about the past week, convey to one and all that this Ohio ADS-er loves the whole bloomin' country of Ulster."

Peggy MacNeale
Ohio - U.S.A.

"The warm and gracious hospitality of the N.I.D.G. will never be equalled! You made the International Daffodil Convention visit the most delightful ever - you thought of every possible detail to assure everyone's pleasure. Getting to judge the shows, present the trophies and receive crests from the Mayors added an extra special note to my trip - it is something I shall never forget."

Louise Hardisan
Tennessee, U.S.A.

"Our world Daffodil Conference was really fantastic. All the arrangements were perfect and we still can't believe you were able to get all those organisations in Northern Ireland to be so kind to us. Without a doubt, the people in your country are the most friendly and hospitable of any we have ever met."

Wells Knierim
Ohio, U.S.A.

"Marvin and I constantly talk about the wonderful time we had in Northern Ireland.

Surely one of life's most pleasant and memorable experiences! I will never forget the hours I spent looking at blooms - in the cold rain, dinner in the castle, judging at Ballymena, the Guy Wilson garden, magnificent views from the bus window and endless numbers of kind, friendly people. I am afraid the next World Convention will surely be second-rate by comparison."

Kathy Anderson
Delaware, U.S.A.

"My special thanks to your industrious committee and your warm and gracious members for a memorable visit to your beautiful land. You are certainly a dedicated lot. I still say there is something magic about the daffodil to bring about such an achievement and you are all to be congratulated."

Grace P Baird
Ohio, U.S.A.

"The N.I.D.G. gave the American visitors a never to be forgotten experience. I shall not attempt to enumerate each lovely tea, dinner - everything done for our pleasure. Please convey my thanks to all in the N.I.D.G."

Ester (Mrs J C) Dawson
Arkansas, U.S.A.

"There is no adequate way to tell you how great the World Daffodil Convention was and more particularly the Northern Ireland part of it.

I remember sitting with the Tom Bloomers at 'Irish Night' and Mr Bloomer singing softly with the music. It was such a delight to meet them and also the Bob Sterlings and the Sam Bankheads. I hope Sandy McCabe has forgiven me for saying his was about the most beautiful face I ever saw as he met that late plane from Heathrow.

Any and all of your group are welcome at my home if you ever come to Virginia."

Virginia Perry
Virginia, U.S.A.

"Nothing but the delightful memories of Northern Ireland and its daffodil people could have made our trip worthwhile during these last three days of catching up on work.

..... I would immediately come back again, even if I had to walk."

Richard H (Dick) Frank
Tennessee

"We had such a delightful time in Northern Ireland and enjoyed all the work you all put out to make the World Daffodil Convention a perfect trip. Thank you ever so much - I'm encouraging everyone I know to visit Northern Ireland."

Leslie Anderson
Mississippi

"I wish that there was some way I could express my enjoyment and my appreciation to each person who contributed so much to our marvellous, never-to-be-forgotten visit in beautiful and hospitable Northern Ireland. My South is quite famous for its hospitality but we'll have to take 'a back seat' to you. Please express my 'Thank you' wherever you can."

Fanita (Mrs F W) Harris
Arkansas

"Thank you for the kindness while in Northern Ireland. I know I am taking back memories of the most wonderful people in this world and I say that from my heart."

Isobel Drearer
New Zealand

"Except for health problems the World Convention was a great and memorable success. The N. Ireland part was the grand finale and most impressive ..."

Bill Ticknor
Executive Director
A.O.S.
North Carolina

"Please express our gratitude to the Northern Ireland Daffodil Group. Never in our wildest dreams did we expect to be so wined and dined and tea'd and coffee'd

All of you were so very hospitable, generous, friendly, interesting, congenial, not to forget hard working on our behalf: we are forever in your debt."

Frances (Mrs La Rue) Armstrong
Virginia

"On behalf of the N. Zealand delegation to the Convention I would like to express thanks and appreciation for the most hospitable manner in which we were received and treated in N. Ireland.

Please convey our sincere thanks to all the members of your Committee for their efforts in making our stay so enjoyable and interesting. Your Group is indeed fortunate to have so many capable, dedicated and enthusiastic members and we wish them well in the future.

Our visit to Northern Ireland was undoubtedly the highlight of our tour and I am sure that we all have very happy memories associated with that visit."

Phil Phillips
President
N. Z. Daffodil Soc.

"Never will we forget your generous hospitality and warm welcome to Northern Ireland. It was pure joy from beginning to end. We hope all who helped with the plans are rested and will have happy thoughts too of our visit."

Bernice (Mrs W Kent) Ford
Virginia

"Roxie and I thank you for a wonderful tour and all our mementos. Only with careful planning and much work could we have had the trip of a life time which could never be duplicated under any other circumstances. Everything was well organised and well carried out and we send our thanks to all who had a part in entertaining us."

Jane Moore
Virginia, U.S.A.

"We write to thank you for the delightful experience you people of Northern Ireland gave us when you brought to pass the 1979 World Daffodil Conference. Long will we remember the green vistas of your land, the people who showed them to us and the brilliant daffodils being bred for the gardens of the world. Truly, you people of the northern land are carrying on the Irish tradition begun by Wilson, Richardson and Dunlop."

Edna & Willis Wheeler
Florida, U.S.A.

These were samples of letter extracts. I apologise to the many other correspondents whose letters could not be used because of limitations of space.

Again, my thanks to all members who did so much to prompt such a satisfying flood of sincere and appreciative letters which help justify what was clearly a worthwhile N.I.D.G. venture.

Brian S. Duncan
20 September, 1979

New Members

Mrs. L. Anderson, Hernando, Miss. U.S.A.
Dr. & Mrs. M.V. Andersen, Delaware, U.S.A.
Mrs. K.B. Anderson, California, U.S.A.
Mrs. R. De La Rue Armstrong, Virginia, U.S.A.
Miss D. Bankhead, Virginia, U.S.A.
Mr. W. Bowers, Blenheim, New Zealand
Mrs. G. Baird, Columbus, Ohio, U.S.A.
Mr. & Mrs. N. Burr, Sussex, England
Father Athanasius Buchholz, Oregon, U.S.A.
Mr. A. Chappel, Christchurch, New Zealand
Mr. & Mrs. W.E. Dukelow, Omagh, N. Ireland
Mrs. I. Dreaver, Owaka, New Zealand
Mrs. Paul Gripsover, Tennessee, U.S.A.
Miss H. Grier, California, U.S.A.
Miss B. Hohn, Virginia, U.S.A.
Mrs. M. Howe, Los Angeles, U.S.A.
Mr. Akira Horinaka, Osaka, Japan
Mr. D. Jackson, Tasmania, Australia
Mr. P. Johnston, Leicester, Mass. U.S.A.
Mr. E. King, Crawley, W. Sussex, England
Mrs. N. Macneale, Ohio, U.S.A.
Mr. A. McNeill, Kilrea, N. Ireland
Mr. S. Martin, Randalstown, N. Ireland
Mrs. W. Perry, Virginia, U.S.A.
Mrs. K. Speer, Lambeg, Lisburn, N. Ireland
Mr. G. Tarry, Merseyside, England
Col. & Mrs. R. Vance, Virginia, U.S.A.
Mrs. M. Winn, Oregon, U.S.A.
Mr. Wellington Wells Jr. New Hampshire, U.S.A.
Mr. & Mrs. M.S. Yerger, Maryland, U.S.A.
Mrs. O. Nichols, Olive Branch, Miss. U.S.A.
Mr. Otis H. Etheredge, Saluda, South Carolina, U.S.A.

THE LATEST AND THE BEST

ALL WHITE TRUMPETS

lw/w

Your Editor's invitation to contribute some comments on Division lw/w prompts me to believe that a noted stone generally assumed to be still in the 'REPUBLIC' has somehow been transported a few hundred miles and is now his personal property! I have heard the growing of white trumpet daffodils, particularly in pots, referred to as 'an art'. This could infer that one either has the gift or otherwise but I incline towards the description or 'art' as 10% inspiration and 90% perspiration.

It can be difficult to persuade some cultivars to produce the type of bulb most likely to give top quality flowers i.e., good single or double nosed bulbs. Many of them seem to grow into large bulbs which then split up into a lot of small pieces which then have to be grown on. This needs time and space and with the former being at a premium space alone is no great advantage. Newly bought in bulbs do not unfortunately give much indication of how a cultivar is likely to behave in the long run so it ends up by being a question of trial and error and often patient waiting - and hoping. Some cultivars seem to have definite 'on' years and this, in addition to the fact that expense can dictate what and how much is grown, makes it necessary to spread one's net as wide as possible so that with a bit of luck a few good blooms will immerge. Also, I am fully aware that my experience of growing daffodils in pots for showing is not extensive so that the following observations can be nothing more than a personal point of view which could well change in another twelve months - and probably will. First of all a few 'old faithfuls' which have done good service and which are likely to come up with a flower or two which could be useful in group classes but which are unlikely to hit the high spots as single blooms at the highest level.

'CANTATRICE'

This is a truly elegant flower with most of the qualities I prefer in a lw/w. Lovely texture, clean whiteness, good poise but is not easy to grow to any size. This year, however, pot and outdoor flowers were better than I have ever had them. Outclassed now but a good flower that can add distinction to a group.

'GLACIER'

No problem with size here but rather short stemmed before it grows on. Can have an ungainly pose and the perianth twists as it ages. A bit over trumpeted but a strong tough plant and still worth a place as a 'first sub'.

'RASHEE'

Can still come up with blooms good enough for the show bench but can be on the same side. Still a distinct flower and very white in pots. Hangs its head a bit but compensates with a tall stem and one can always look for a gap on the top row of the staging.

'VIGIL'

Super white but rather thin texture and when first opens is small and short. Given time to develop can make a spectacular addition to a group because of its individual pointed petals. 'BIRTHRIGHT' has a similar shape but seems not to have been widely available.

'WHITE PRINCE'

This is a problem one that redeems itself by producing a percentage of good flowers. With me it looks nothing in the open but a transformation in a pot. Makes small bulbs and increases slowly but a good flower can really be good so it gets treated like a talented invalid.

'BURNTOILET'

A really white flower that needs time to develop. Seems extremely consistent but is unlikely to be anything but an exhibitor's flower as it makes no impression until the hooding of the perianth has had considerable manipulation. Only for the dedicated I fear.

'WHITE MAJESTY'

A short acquaintance with this one raises hopes of good things to come. A really white flower with excellent balance. Rather short and small when young but grows on to an acceptable size in both departments. Lovely roll to trumpet. With fingers crossed, I like this one.

'PANACHE'

This one always appears to be about to do great things for me but never quite makes it. In pots grows to a great size but seems to lack substance and the petals have no 'edge' and split easily. However, this season produced some first-rate flowers in the open so perhaps at last it is about to fulfil its promise. Very good flower full-face but the base of the trumpet is too narrow in profile. This is of no consequence in a show vase (perhaps it should be) but most of us spend a lot of time looking at and enjoying our flowers at home.

'QUEENSCOURT'

A very worthwhile flower with many virtues and no exaggerations which means that it does not immediately make an impact. Look harder and it has poise, whiteness, good texture and is consistent. This one improves all the time on acquaintance and is an easy 'doer'.

'ULSTER QUEEN'

A very strong plant but rather short-stemmed when young. Quite adequate when allowed to grow on and this is an advantage in pots. Lacks great breadth of petal but has terrific substance and glistening texture. A distinct flower but with a slight lack of elegance needs perfect axis balance to look its very best.

'EMPRESS OF IRELAND'

If this can be persuaded to whiten and is left on the plant to fully develop then it must be at the top as the most reliable cultivar within reach of everyone. Early, and very amenable to 'juggling' to accelerate or retard development and is a great laster. The enormous breadth of perianth does mean there is a lot more of it to go wrong than in many others but such a comparatively modest price it is sensible to have more of it. Smallish bulbs with me hardly seem capable of producing such huge leaves and flowers but they do. Can be ribby in pots but when it does produce a good flower only something with the edge on whiteness can touch it. Needs a lot of time to mature.

IN THE PIPELINE ARE:'WHITE STAR'

As grown in Ulster appears unbeatable. Tremendous substance and whiteness and seems to have inherited all the good characteristics of both its parents. Can only hope it travels well.

'APRIL LOVE'

This will be a welcome addition - a very clean-cut flower which should take over where 'Cantatrice' leaves off. Does not have the huge perianth of some of the newer ones but it strikes me at times that over exaggeration of shape (or colour) could lead us up the wrong garden path which is where one would eventually look forward to seeing to-day's cosseted hopefuls.

'SILENT VALLEY'

Finally, a passing acquaintance with 'Silent Valley' produced pangs of regret that it has not been included before now. A lovely flower and just about my ideal for smoothness and balance.

Bearing in mind that to put all ones eggs in one rather small and expensive basket could prove disappointing, my top three for anyone keen to 'have a go' with some hopes of modest success would be.

- (1) 'EMPRESS OF IRELAND'
- (2) 'QUEENSCOURT'
- (3) 'ULSTER QUEEN'.

I'd like to think that in ten years time my line up would be.

'WHITE STAR' 'SILENT VALLEY' 'APRIL LOVE'.

At any rate, that is what I am planning for!

AUGUST 1979

WILSON STEWART

SOW A SEED FOR SOMETHING NEW

The Secretary has a quantity of open pollinated daffodil seed collected from top quality exhibition varieties and seedlings. Why not try raising a champion daffodil, distinct, different - and all your very own?

Seeds available, free on request. About 150 seeds can be sown in a box measuring one foot by two feet.

ADVICE ON SOWING

- TIME: Immediately on receipt (early October) or germination may be retarded by a year.
- COMPOST: Free draining. 3/5 loam, 1/5 peat, 1/5 coarse sand.
- LOCATION: Semi-shaded corner to avoid excessive drying out. Open ground, frame or boxes (with good drainage) not less than 10" deep.
- SPACING: ½" apart in rows 1½ - 2" apart. ½" deep.
- PRECAUTIONS: Raised netting wire cover to keep out dogs, cats and feathered friends.
- FERTILISER: Occasional watering with Sulphate of Potash solution.
- GROWING ON: Plant out in beds after two years and leave until flowering at 4 - 5 years old. Select and discard.
- GROWERS QUALIFICATIONS: Interest and patience!
- REWARDS: The pleasure of anticipation; the satisfaction of creativity; the sense of achievement in the production of an original; the fascination of varied form and colour; the chance of 'Best in Show'.
- What more could anyone want - for FREE?

WHITE TRUMPET DAFFODILS

I must admit that of all daffodils my favourite are the all white, particularly in Division One and Two and in my stocks, both of named cultivations and also seedlings, the proportion is approximately 60% white and 40% yellow perianth. My first experiences of growing daffodils were as a child, since my father was a very keen grower and in the 1930's the main white trumpets were Beersheba and Mount Hood. These were followed by Cantatrice which produced practically all perfect exhibition blooms which only varied in size.

The late Mr. Guy Wilson later listed an enormous white trumpet named Askelon, though I'm not sure whether it was actually raised by him. This flower tended to be rather coarse but I believe I am right in saying that from this he raised Broughshane which was rather more refined and an excellent exhibition cultivar at the time. From Broughshane came one of the best exhibition white trumpets namely "Empress of Ireland" and few daffodils have dominated in their own Division for such a long time. Today, for its price and consistency, Empress of Ireland is probably still the best for the new exhibitor and regularly wins in the highest competition. In particular it carries much weight in a collection.

In the 1960's the late Mr. Fred Board purchased a single bulb, representing the entire stock, of a seedling white trumpet and took it home to Derbyshire and there for several years was only seen by his friends and never the exhibition bench. Finally he decided to name this Panache and I was fortunate enough to be given the first four bulbs that he parted with. From these bulbs, grown in pots, I exhibited 6 flowers at the following R.H.S. Show, all in winning exhibits in single bloom and collection entries. One bloom was given the best bloom in the show but was subsequently disqualified from this due to a white band of frost mark on the stem. Unfortunately after this spectacular debut Panache has not lived up to its newly made reputation and apart from a few odd blooms I have never been able to grow them to this quality again. When at its best, however, I consider Panache to be the best white trumpet daffodil in existence.

Since then we have had some very excellent white trumpets from Mr. Tom Bloomer and distributed by Rathowen Daffodils. Of these I think that White Star is undoubtedly the best and certainly with me is the most consistent and is the whitest of white with a pleasing green base in the trumpet. White Majesty and White Empress are other fine white trumpets raised by Mr. Bloomer both being of first class exhibition quality and each with a green base in the trumpet.

Except for Panache at its best I would rate White Star as the best and most consistent white trumpet for exhibition.

There are of course several other very good white trumpets for exhibition mostly raised by the late Mr. Guy Wilson. Queenscourt consistently gives a very large proportion of near perfect flowers but only a small proportion are large enough for exhibition. A large bloom of Queenscourt grown in a pot can compete with the best particularly for whiteness.

Ulster Queen grows with me extremely well although in certain other gardens, I gather, grows somewhat weak and is very slow of increase. It does not seem to do well in a pot and unfortunately does not bloom in the open with me until after the shows are over, but for Southern growers I would rate it very high. I have had no experience of growing Silent Valley, also raised by Mr. Bloomer, but I believe it to be of the highest quality and has received several awards. Burntollet is another white trumpet highly thought of but again I cannot speak from experience although I have seen some very good blooms on the exhibition bench.

White Prince I have not mentioned although its raiser thought very highly of it. Several times I have purchased a bulb of this cultivar and whilst I have had several good blooms I have each time eventually lost it to basal rot. Several good blooms have appeared on the exhibition bench over a period of time. I have seen other good white trumpet seedlings raised by Amateurs and others and no doubt several will find their way into the Catalogue in the near future. I see that Rathowen have a new introduction named Vigilante which gets a good write up and I have one of my own named Hoar Frost which I have exhibited in winning collections including the Bowls Cup and has received several awards when exhibited by a friend of mine at the Daffodil Society's Shows at Birmingham. I suppose that to summarise I should place the various cultivations mentioned in order of preference, although this can only be a personal choice and obviously different cultivations will vary in quality according to the soil in a particular garden. Ignoring price I would put what I consider the six best white trumpets as being Panache, White Star, Empress of Ireland, Ulster Queen, White Empress and Queenscourt. I have placed these according to my own experience and have not included any that I have not grown.

REVERSE BICOLOURS

Almost fifty years ago when Guy Wilson made the cross King of the North x Content and raised Spellbinder he could have no inkling the interest he would arouse in reverse bicolours.

There are good reasons why these flowers have captured so much interest. They are new, they are very popular with flower arrangers and they are very beautiful. Many of today's best flowers have arisen from this cross and the latest novelties are only one or two generations away from it. Most reverse bicolours are very rapid increasers producing excellent bulbs. In spite of giving away a large number of bulbs of the variety Charter this year I had over 500 flowers from the purchase of a single bulb seven or eight years ago.

Although the first reverse bicolours were raised in Ulster it is to America we turn today for most of our exhibition varieties.

'Avalon' (Camelot x Daydream)

The best reverse bicolour from Waterford, producing very large show quality flowers with a circular perianth, the petals being broad thick and smooth, the cup whitening well as the flower matures. In the future I expect to see this flower appearing regularly on the show bench here.

'Charter' (Binkie x (King of the North x Content))

My favourite. Every year in my garden this cultivar produces row upon row of exhibition quality flowers on strong straight stems. It blooms for a long time coming earlier than most reverse bicolours and continuing so that I often have it for the latest Northern Ireland shows. The petals lack the breadth of some varieties but the smoothness poise and balance of this flower appeal greatly to me.

'Chiloquin'

A trumpet which deserves to be more widely grown here. While the flowers lack size they are very smooth and the trumpet reverses quickly.

'Drumabreeze' (Daydream x Moonspell)

The latest from Carncairn, an attractive flower which reverses well but I am doubtful if it can match Gin and Lime on the show bench.

'Gin and Lime'

The best Ulster raised reverse bicolour and must rate one of the best yet raised, a large smooth flower which reverses well producing a superb show flower. It has won numerous first prizes in single bloom Classes and should be in all exhibitors gardens.

'Daydream' (Binkie x (King of the North x Content))

The most popular flower on the show bench. This flower for years has been topping the lists of prize winners in collection and single bloom classes. It has a perfectly formed flat perianth on which a white halo develops and enhances its beauty. The colour like most reverse bicolours is pale yellow but Daydream has a hint of beige or fawn in the yellow which makes it slightly deeper.

'Grand Prospect' (Camelot x Daydream)

The same cross as Avalon but more trumpet like in appearance. A fine show flower with good colour contrast.

'Honeybird' (King of the North x Content)

One of the finest trumpet flowers consistently producing exhibition blooms. It is difficult to get the trumpet white enough but the large smooth wax like flowers are difficult to ignore in a class where opposition is limited. A large number of reverse bicolour cultivars produce blooms of trumpet character but measure large cup.

'Moonspell'

Raised by Sir Frank Harrison. It very seldom appears on the show bench here. A very attractive flower but possibly superceded by newer cultivars, although I have seen flowers which would match any variety.

'Rathcoole'

Raised by Willie Dunlop. It is excellent in pots but in my garden the flowers are very rough and do not reverse well.

'Rushlight'

A large flower, smooth and good poise but I have found it very slow to reverse and for this reason I am seldom able to enter it for shows.

My top three for exhibition are:

- a. Gin and Lime
- b. Daydream
- c. Honeybird.

OBITUARYMr. R. W. Lyons

'Robbie' Lyons had planned on making his annual excursion to the London Daffodil Show in April of this year. When I telephoned on the Sunday prior to our departure to confirm travel arrangements it was with great shock and sadness that I learned of his sudden death just a few hours earlier.

I had known Robbie as a trusted colleague and friend for many years during which time our duties were lightened by many lunchtime gardening discussions. We both competed in the rose and dahlia classes at local horticultural shows and Robbie became the best dahlia, gladiola and sweet pea exhibitor in the North West. When he added daffodils to his many garden interests he was immediately successful and won many awards including the coveted 'American Raised' class at Omagh and several times produced the 'Best Bloom' in show. His hybridising efforts were just beginning to show results and apart from several winning seedlings in Omagh and London his 'Greenmount' seedling at the 1978 late show in Coleraine is still remembered as a most promising and beautiful flower.

Though of a quiet, unassuming, almost retiring personality Robbie's friendly presence and his carefully nurtured and beautiful blooms will be sadly missed by all his friends in the Northern Ireland Daffodil Group and local horticultural societies.

B.S.D.

THE R. H. S. DAFFODIL SHOW AND WORLD CONVENTION

APRIL 18th & 19th 1979

Noel and Pamela Burr

At 4.00 p.m. on the second day of the Show we joined the Northern Ireland Daffodil Group, bought draw tickets in support and were promptly talked into providing this report by that silver tongued Ulsterman Sandy McCabe aided and abetted by Bob Sterling. We are still trying to work out why, (in view of the ever increasing number of Ulster exhibitors) this doubtful honour should have fallen upon the two latest British recruits to this august body.

Enough surely by now will have been discussed, detailed and written about the appalling Spring to necessitate our having to go into it again here. Sufficient to say that somehow the two Northern Irish Trade Stands provided a mass of colour and blooms far in excess of any exhibit in the New Hall. Rathowen were awarded a well deserved Gold Medal for their stand which included a central pillar of some magnificent blooms of "White Star", we also noted, and coveted, the new pink double "Pink Paradise". Among the newer coloured flowers we particularly liked "Gettysburg" a 2Y-YR raised by the late Mr. de Navarro, D566 Brian Duncan's own 20-R which had a very good deep orange flushed perianth, and of the white petalled flowers we found "Don Carlos" and "Red Rooster" most noticeable. The outstanding pink crowned flowers were "Violetta" for its vivid colour and "Fragrant Rose" which fully lives up to its name. Carncairn Daffodils were awarded a Silver Gilt Flora Medal for their large and most colourful stand. We thought that this was rather an unjust decision as the size of the exhibit alone warranted a "Gold". The centre was composed of all yellow flowers, flanked with red and whites and along the front of the stand were vases of the smaller hybrids. We were very impressed with a vase of the white trumpet "Iniswood" which is a very elegant flower, another one which caught the eye was seedling No. 24/70, a brilliantly coloured 2Y-R. Among other flowers we especially noted were "Drumrunie", "Avenger" and the new 3W-YR "Birdsong" for which we predict a future on the show bench. There were many "pink" flowers on the stand, the outstanding for purity of colour was "Lisanore" which was a crown of apple blossom pink without any trace of copper. Seedling No. 1/89/60 is a small pink which when plentiful will make a good garden plant.

We feel that congratulations and thanks from both exhibitors and members of the public are due to Rathowen and Carncairn for the hard work in providing such colourful stands in what must have been one of the most trying Springs in memory.

As our brief was to report on the show from a Northern Irish point of view, we shall confine our comments on the competitive classes to those flowers shown by Ulster exhibitors.

In the Englehart Cup Competition, which was once again won by John Lea, Brian Duncan was placed third. His best flowers were the 3W-R "Red Rooster" which has a very white perianth and a deep red crown, "Ulster Bank" a 3Y-R and the double "Pink Paradise" which is probably the best flower of its type yet raised. Kate Reade was awarded a fourth prize with excellent flowers of "Red Cottage", the lovely white trumpet "Iniswood" and a yellow trumpet of real quality which is still under number. Rathowen won the twelve vases, three stems to a vase class with a good group of colourful flowers, outstanding were "Golden Jewel", "Avenger", and "Amber Castle". They also won the three vases of three stems to a vase, Division 4 with the now well established "Unique", "Beauvallon" and "Monterrico". Finally, their bloom of "Kimmeridge" won its single bloom class and was awarded Best Bloom Division 3. Carncairn had a lovely vase of "Ruth Haller" which won them a third in the class for seven stems, one vase from Divisions 5 to 9. This appears to be another good reversed bicour jonquil.

In the Novice classes Sam Bankhead was this year's Northern Irish representative winning the class for six single blooms from three divisions with a well staged collection which included a very good "Loch Stac", "Strines" and a lovely "Broomhill", he also picked up a first for "Daydream", a third and two fourths in the single bloom classes. Our congratulations to him. Who will it be next year? Will the stream never end, is the 1990 entrant already in training? We sincerely hope so.

It must be said that this was far from being a vintage show, most of the prize winning blooms were pot grown. Those of us who prepared for a "normal" spring had very few flowers to show and this was reflected by the scarcity of entries in some classes. Nevertheless, it was one of the happiest shows we can remember. Being hosts for this large "formal assembly" of enthusiastic overseas visitors proved most rewarding and amply compensated for the vagaries of the season. As always when we reflect on the "might have been" of this season we look forward with renewed optimism to the "what could be" of next year.

OBITUARYHis GraceThe Duke of Abercorn

It is with sorrow that we record the death, on Monday, 4 June, 1979 of the Duke of Abercorn, a gentleman who had contributed much to the public, business and social life of our Province.

The large congregation who attended his funeral service in the lovely little church on the Baronscourt Estate heard the Bishop of Derry and Raphoe describe the Duke as a man of dignity, honour and integrity, who will be remembered with pride and thanksgiving.

For many years he had been Patron of Omagh Horticultural Society, was a regular attender at our Shows, and had, on occasions, presided at our Daffodil Dinners. It was much to his delight that a seedling, raised by Tom Bloomer, was selected by popular vote at Omagh Daffodil Show, to bear the name "Duchess of Abercorn". The Duke was also president of the International Dendrological Society, and professed an even greater interest in trees than in daffodils.

As first Chancellor of the New University of Ulster at Coleraine, he was influential in helping establish there, the Guy Wilson Daffodil Garden.

It was typical of the Duke's generosity and warm hearted friendliness that he opened his delightful home to the members of Omagh Horticultural Society and their Overseas visitors, at the time of the World Daffodil Convention last April. That enjoyable evening was the highlight of the Daffodil week-end, and happy memories of the occasion will linger long with all of us who were privileged to be present.

The passing of the Duke of Abercorn has been a great loss to the Omagh Horticultural Society, to the Country, and to the Province which he loved.

G.R.C.

SOME DAFFODILS SEEN IN 1979

I saw John Lea's new IY-Y Gold Convention both at Vincent Square and growing in the open at Dunley Hall. Gold Convention has the most rounded perianth I have seen in this sub-division. Other plus features were great substance, smooth texture, clear deep colour, large size and a good stem and neck. However, I must admit to a personal dislike of the rather unusual trumpet profile.

In my note on bicolor trumpets in the March issue of the News Letter, I said that IW-Y Cristobal 'has a smooth white perianth and primrose trumpet which does not fade, but tends to lack impact on the show bench'. Having seen Wilson Stewart's Arkwright Cup entry at the Solihull Show I must revise this assessment. Despite its primrose trumpet Cristobal attracted instant attention, with its large bloom of superb form perfectly presented on a tall strong stem. In this instance, Cristobal had sufficient 'impact' to be considered for the best bloom award. However, as with so many varieties raised at Prospect House shortly before trading ceased, the major problem for potential growers of Cristobal is to track down a bulb.

At the R.H.S. Show I was surprised and delighted to obtain my first red ticket in the open single blooms classes with 2Y-O Estremadura. Despite a nick in the cup the same bloom was placed third at Solihull the following week-end.

Estremadura has a good record at Vincent Square, having won its class at the 1974, 1975 and 1978 Competitions when shown by Tony Noton, Rathowen and John Blanchard respectively. Though lacking the refined form and bright colours of 2Y-R Lock Hope, Estremadura's very large blooms of immense substance are well poised on tree trunk like stems. Above all, Estremadura is consistent and unlike many exhibition flowers a good garden plant, which will I suspect replace 2Y-O Armada in the mass market a couple of decades hence.

I was impressed by 2Y-YYR Gettysburgh exhibited on Rathowen's stand at the R.H.S. Show. Raised by the late Mr. J.M. de Navarro from Richardson seedling 2929 (Tehran x Ceylon) x Majorca, Gettysburgh has stronger colouring and more substance than other flowers in this Cinderella sub-division. As usual there is a snag - Gettysburgh is unlikely to be introduced for some time yet. Helped by the very late season the Daffodil Society's Late Competition was an outstanding success. Of the many good blooms on show three particularly interested me. Before the Competition I inspected my pot of 2W-P Melbury. There were two blooms, one with a deep pink cup but a damaged petal and the other perfect except for the cup colour which was a muddy mixture of yellow and pale pink. I took a gamble and exhibited the latter bloom. I need not have worried, the cup colour clarified during the next three days and intensified until almost red rather than pink. Coupled with form similar to its pollen parent 2W-P

Romance, the intense cup colour and smooth texture enabled the medium sized bloom to win its class. Melbury's breeding potential is obvious but hybridizers may need to build up a stock as this years blooms had very little pollen. Best bloom in the Competition was 2W-W Dover Cliffs. Raised by the late Mr. F.E. Board from Riber x Cantatrice and shown by Jim Pearce, Dover Cliffs has retained some of the distinctiveness of Cantatrice and has now proved at least twice that it can beat more recent high quality introductions. In a doubles class noted for the wide range of varieties shown, the red ticket went to 4W-R Andria, shown by John Blanchard. A Richardson reject registered by David Lloyd, Andrea was not quite as strongly coloured as 4W-R Acropolis, but on this showing was of even better form. Both Dover Cliffs and Andria underline the debt we owe to exhibitors who back their judgement and rescue varieties which might so easily never have been seen by other enthusiasts. At the R.H.S. Competition I was impressed by Wilson Stewart's bloom of the Mitch raised 6W-Y Ibis. Though lacking the deep trumpet colour of 6W-Y Perky, the star like perianth and delicate poise make Ibis a most distinctive and attractive flower. However, for me, the outstanding division six flower of 1979, was shown under number by Mr. G.W. Fearn at Solihull, where it won the award for the best seedling. The seedling has a good swept back white perianth and a short flat cup with green, yellow and red bands. Despite the short cup the cyclamineus character came through clearly in a very useful addition to this popular division.

September 1979.

Malcolm Bradbury.

"We are still talking here of the wonderful hospitality of the Northern Ireland Daffodil Group. I have my blazer all done up with your embroidery, and would especially like to wear it as a member and not as an imposter. Meantime, thanks for a wonderful visit to your country!"

Reginald Vance
Virginia, U.S.A.

"Daffodils in Ireland" I shall cherish to re-read. It is full of so much information!"

Virginia Perry
Virginia, U.S.A.

PEOPLE FROM MANY PLACES

The year of 1979 will be remembered as the year the Northern Ireland Daffodil Group sprouted to maturity through its part in the "World Daffodil Convention". We are always on the doorstep to welcome daffodil growers from any part of the world - we have always sought to look after them irrespective of their size - status - thirst or appetite. They may be installed in a five star hotel - perhaps in a detached residence with a few acres of daffodils as a back yard or in a ordinary little semi detached house with a postage stamp sized garden but the warmth of the welcome is there for all to enjoy. Each year we are fortunate to have a visit from one or two daffodil enthusiasts from overseas and it is difficult to share their company around, but this year with eighty visitors it was quite something to enjoy. I didn't get to know each and everyone - that was the sad part. The nice part was in meeting and getting to know such people as:

Marlyn Howe, Los Angeles, U.S.A. Our pin-up girl and television personality has the knack of drawing shy people like myself into conversation. She looked radiant on the evening of the farewell dinner - Shh! I spent half an hour in Marlyn's bedroom that night just before the reception but - she was only assisting Sam Bankhead and myself to prepare the surprise gifts to Brian Duncan and Bernie McAleer. We record our appreciation for her help in many tasks and we enjoyed her company.

Bonnie Hohn and Virginia Perry, Virginia, U.S.A. It was great fun to "sit-in" on a discussion about America and its Presidents - especially in the selecting of the President who had justified his selection and fulfilled the requirements demanded by this powerful post - Who? Now that would be talking out of school! I hope to meet both again - I enjoyed their easy relaxed conversation, not forgetting that both have a very sound knowledge of daffodils and enjoy the company of 'daffodil people'.

Mrs. Kerr, Dallas, Texas, U.S.A. Such a pleasant person - good company and always ready to join the fun. A little shy and terrified that she may offend anyone. I offered to give her a "Hair-do" but she declined with a pretty little smile. I know that we now have a good friend in Dallas, Texas.

Isobel Dreaver, Owaka, New Zealand This lady earned her trip the hard way - spent a lot of time shooting "Possum" to raise cash for the sundry items. Now she is known in endearing terms as "Possum" to every member of the N.I.D.G. It was enthralling to listen to "Possum" describing work and life on the farm - shearing time - lambing time - milking cattle each day plus the usual housework

and of course her daffodils. I, with all who had the pleasure of her company sincerely hope that she enjoyed the tour - we enjoyed "Fossum."

David and Robin Jackson, Tasmania, Australia A big boy, now known to his friends in Northern Ireland as the gentle giant - a commercial grower of known repute. Carrying on the business since the death of his father dovetails it is with a normal job as supervisor in a timber mill - a family man and the proud possessor of the loveliest flower in Tasmania - Robin his wife - good mixers and enjoy talking about daffodils and family. What more is there? They will be very welcome visitors to Northern Ireland at any time.

Fred Coles, Mitcham, Australia A dedicated secretary - always seeking ways and means to improve the fellowship and news exchange for the daffodil fraternity. Easy going - good natured - good tempered and a man who I have the greatest respect for the work that he has been responsible for as Secretary of the National Daffodil Society of Australia. Fred, I know that the job is a labour of love, but take a leaf out of my book - blow your top now and then, and if necessary be rude - after all, no-one will want the job. My very best wishes for many fruitful and rewarding years in office.

Betty and Wally Bowers, Blemheim, New Zealand I had the pleasure of meeting them in London - lovely people, but I still can't understand how Mr. Bowers got christened "Arthur". They were looking forward to seeing 'farm life' in Northern Ireland. I hope they enjoyed their trip - maybe I will have the pleasure of meeting them again in 1982 when the Bankheads, the McCabes and the Sterlings plan to see the flowers and renew friendships in New Zealand.

Alf Chappel, Christchurch, New Zealand The male half of our T.V. personality team in Northern Ireland and with Marlyn succeeded in arousing terrific interest in daffodils through their appearance on television with the flowers. Alf got so fond of our country that he returned for a few days before leaving for home. An enthusiast if ever there was one - a perfectionist at staging flowers - he proved this by staging a display for the N.I.D.G.'s late show in Omagh that anyone would have been proud to equal. Very attentive to the company that he was in - Georgie (my wife) and Florence Bankhead declare that if it hadn't been for Alf, they at times would have starved to death for all the interest that their husbands had in them. New Zealand had no better Ambassador than Alf - he praised his country at every opportunity including the daffodils. He declared that they grew their daffodils much larger than we do - maybe so Alf, but its a bit far fetched to say that you could exhibit "Charity May" in our yellow trumpet class! We look forward to continuing our discussions on flowers, people and countries when we meet again so in the meantime Alf, what about a "Hot Toddy". (Black Bush, Hot water and sugar).

Kathy Anderson, Delaware, U.S.A. A lady with a very professional approach to growing, showing and knowing daffodils. I will always carry a picture in my mind of Kathy coming in from the bulb fields at Rathowen, suitably attired in protective clothing complete with labels, notebook etc. This young lady does an enormous amount of work as secretary to the A.D.S. plus everyday duties as housewife - administrator - cook - lectures etc. plus recording her own results and aims that my mind boggles at the time that is involved. The "Kathy Andersons" of the daffodil world are always in demand and rarely appreciated for the amount of work that they do. I would simply say "Thank You" to Kathy and her counterparts for a mountain of work that a few of us do applaud. A job well done just for the love of doing it! There are many others that I would dearly have loved to have spent an hour or two chatting about everything and anything but, it is always something to look forward to in the future. My best wishes and kindest regards to one and all with a toast "Bon Accord". ("We meet - we part - till we meet again").

September 1979.

Bob Sterling.

"I think I speak for all the New Zealand party when I say how much we all enjoyed our visit to Nt. Ireland. The warmth and friendliness shown by everyone made it really something to remember. I would like to thank the members of the N.I.D.Group who made my return trip so enjoyable. I hope that one day some of you will visit our lovely country and we have the opportunity to return the wonderful hospitality!"

Alf. Chappel
New Zealand.

"Bought your groups "Daffodils in Ireland" last week. Have read it through fully four times and still carry it to bed for night reading. Wonderful!"

Otis Etheredge
Saluda. S.C.
U.S.A.

SPRING SHOWS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

- 1979 -

BANGOR - 7 April, 1979

With the wettest, coldest spring ever, the entries were down considerably on previous years. What blooms exhibited were of a very high standard - a tribute to the growers.

<u>Best Bloom in Show</u>	"Beu Hee" wW/W	Gilbert Andrews
<u>Best Seedling in Show</u>	W6/4 1WW	Carncairn
<u>Highest Points in Open Classes</u>		A.J. Carlisle
(Best Flowers included "Cantatrice" and "Joy Bell")		
<u>Highest Points in Intermediate Classes</u>		Mrs. M. Jones
(Good flowers - "Snowdream" and "Golden Amber")		
<u>Highest Points in Novice Classes</u>		D. Todd
His exhibits included "White Prince" 1WW which was reserve Best Bloom in Show.		

GILNAHIRK - 14 May, 1979

A slight improvement to the weather induced an increase in exhibits compared to Bangor, but still a reduction on the previous years.

<u>Best Bloom in Show</u>	"Bird Song" 3W/YR	Gilbert Andrews
<u>Championship Class</u>	12 Blooms	Gilbert Andrews
His best blooms being "Broomhill", "Rio Rouge", "Knockstaken" and "Ben Loyal".		
<u>Highest Points in Open Classes</u>		Gilbert Andrews
Best Flowers - "Beu Hee", "April Message", "Premeier"		
Other exhibits of note were "Hawaii", "Newcastle", "Daydream" "Beryl", "Charity May", "Sweetness", "Woodland Prince".		

By Mrs. M. Jones and
Ross Workman

Newcomer Mr. David Todd won the Novice Section and Reserve Best Bloom in Show with "Cantatrice".

HILLSBOROUGH - 21 April, 1979

A further improvement in the weather produced a higher turn-out of exhibitors.

<u>Best Bloom in Show</u>	"Tudor Minsträl"	D. Todd
<u>Championship Class</u>	12 Blooms	G. Andrews
"Shining Light", "Ramada", "Pontresina", "April Message", and a Ballydorn Seedling 69/2B being his best blooms.		
<u>Highest Points in Open Classes</u>		A.J. Carlisle
His best exhibits - "Pennine Way", "Aircastle", and "Wedding Bell"		
Other outstanding flowers were "Artic Gold", "Ramada", and Tahiti" (T. Gibson)		
"Empress of Ireland", "Verona" and "Rathowen Flame"		D. Todd
"April Tears" and "Silver Chimes"		Mrs. M. Jones

OMAGH - 28 April, 1979

This was easily the outstanding show - our overseas visitors could not fail to be impressed by the high standard. Nor by the quantity of exhibits entered - over 800. It was good to see exhibits from Eire and England, as well as entries from all parts of N. Ireland.

<u>Championship of Ireland</u>		<u>Rathowen Daffodils</u>
<u>Outstanding Blooms</u>	"White Star", "Unique", "Strimes", "Parbeck", "Estramadura", "Loch Navar" and B.396.	
<u>Best Bloom in Show</u>	"Parbeck"	<u>Rathowen Daffodils</u>
<u>A.D.S. Ribbon</u>		<u>Carncairn Daffodils</u>
"Aircastle", "Glad Day", "Anilogun", being best flowers		
<u>Royal Mail Cup</u>		<u>Ballydorn Bulb Farm</u>
with lovely flowers of "Golden Sovereign", "Firestorm" and seedling 72/2A/1 (Ballydorn).		

Evelyn Bell Cup

Varieties of note - "Amber Castle", "Verona", "Dimity", and "Misty Glen".

Open Classes

"Fiji" Lea Seedling 17/7 - Unique	B. Eakins
"Misty Glen" "Daydream" "Silent Cheer" Seedling 67/91	S. McCabe
Sweetness and Matapan	M. Ward, Dublin
	A.J. Carlisle

BALLYMENA - 1 May, 1979

Another good show with a lot of outstanding flowers

Best Bloom in Show "Inverpolly" B. Eakins

A very good "Loch Stac" by the same exhibitor must have been in close contention.

Championship Class 12 Blooms Rathowen Daffodils

With good flowers of "Irish Light" Seedlings D.434 and D.110

"Sunsynd and White Star.

Open Classes

"Loch Stac", "Rose Royale", "Unique", "Ringmaster"

"Woodland Star" and "Highfield Beauty" B. Eakins

"Altrust", "Newcastle", "White Star", and "Unique"

S. Bankhead

"Avenger" - S. McCabe "Lancaster" J. Bowness

Seedlings 2/65 - W1/1/19 - W/15/4 and Seedling (Merlin x Corofu) (Carncairn)

N.I.D.G. Late Show

Ballydorn 72/3W - GYO A lovely round white perianth with green eye - yellow/orange red wire rim to cup.

"Ireland's Eye" The best poeticus yet seen!

Carncairn 8/22/64 - 2W/70 A flat perianth and strong orange crown.

1/75/OR - Vulcan X A strongly coloured flower which would do well in collections.

Rathowen Daffodils

B.S. DUNCAN D. 588 "Easter Moon x Knowehead" - Beautiful form with $\frac{3}{4}$ cup.

D. 362 X Violetta - 2W-WP

A very delicate pink cup and good white perianth.

D.286 - R3329 X Viking - 1YY

Very deep yellow with spade shaped petals.

T. BLOOMER

B.306 - 3W-GY A bloom of quality, smooth perianth and good yellow cup.

B.222 - 2WP Passionale x (Interim x Rose Caprice)

B.218 - 2W - GYO Round flat perianth with multi-coloured cup.

 "I thoroughly enjoyed the book "Daffodils in Ireland" and I'm glad you used so many pictures. It's nice to be able to put a face with a name."

Mary Lou Gripshover
 Tennessee, U.S.A.

"We left part of our hearts in Northern Ireland and we hope we may see the friends we made there, again. Now we have heard about the happenings in your country, I feel I want to send my sympathy. Victor and I hope peace and happiness will come again to the land and people who made our stay in your country so very enjoyable.

Isobel Watts
 Arkansas, U.S.A.

"Wally and I would congratulate you all on the arrangements for your magnificent World Daffodil Convention. We have always wanted to visit Ireland but never expected to do it in such style. We will never forget the wonderful and exciting luncheon, dinner, daffodil greens and the trip around the coast from the Guy Wilson Mem. Garden, and the visit to Baronscourt Castle with the Sherry, Irish Stew, Apple Tart and the Irish singing. Thank you for an unforgettable holiday.

Betty and Wally Bowers
 Houston, U.S.A.

'DAFFODILS IN IRELAND'

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South Island National Daffodil Show, New Zealand.
British Raisers Cup-----18 Varieties, 3 of each.

1st. Miss Mavis Verry.

Olympic Gold.	Air Marshall.	Verona.
Rameses.	Avenger.	April Flame
Spanish Gold.	Hawaii.	E.O.I.
Killaloe.	George Leak.	Camelot.
Bayard.	Irish Minst.	Acropolis.
Rockall.	Hotspur.	Sun Gleam.

2nd. Mr. Alf Chappell.

Galway.	Majorca.	Pinza.
Drumboe.	Rameses.	Rockall.
Ringmaster.	Loch Hope.	Dancing Fl.
E.O.I.	Ariel.	Orion.
Torridon.	Viking.	Court Mart.
My Love.	White Prince.	Ave.

3rd. Mr. Darwin Hayes.

Newcastle.	Avenger.	Rameses.
Mikado.	Unique.	Carrickbeg.
E.O.I.	Bayard.	Royal Reg.
Gay Song.	Border Chief.	Safari.
Flaminaire.	Hotspur.	Acropolis.
Oriana.	Rainbow.	White Prince.

National Premiers.

Lenz.	Lod.	Vahu.
White Empress.	Gold Script.	Daydream.
Orater.	Edition.	Fiji.
Welcome.	Arndilly.	Unique.
Trelay.	Verona.	3wy x72
Arish Mell.	Trena.	Gin & Lime.

Champion.

Seedling 70/24 2w/w Mr. Len Chambers.

I.D.