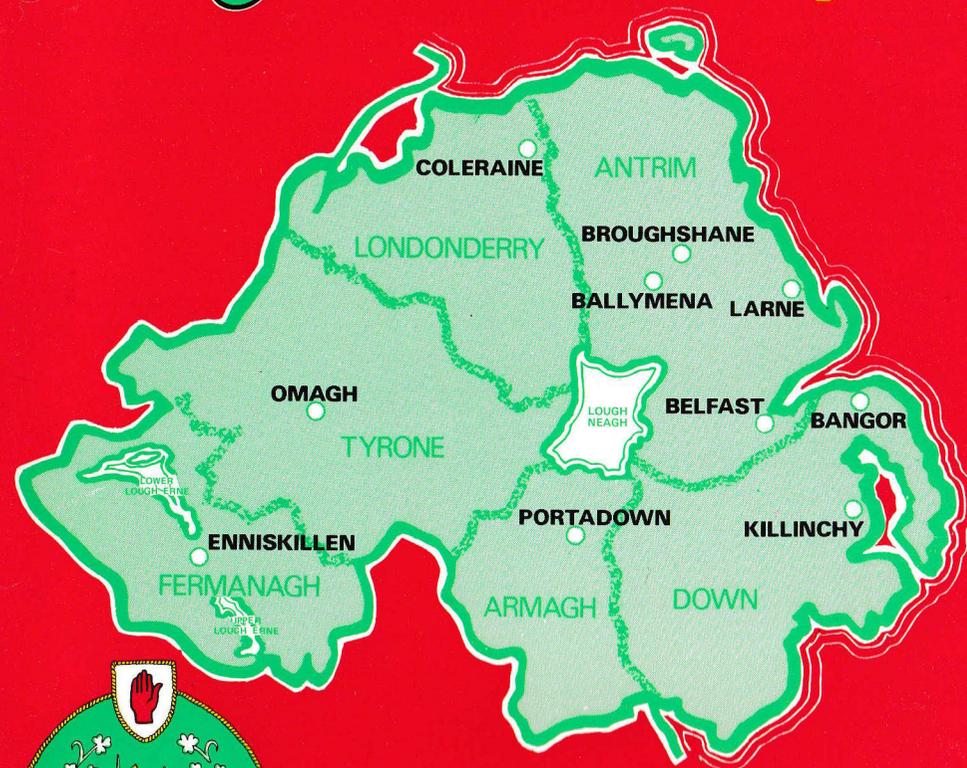


Newsletter

of the
**Northern Ireland
Daffodil Group**



Half-yearly publication of the
Northern Ireland Daffodil Group

OCTOBER 1986
ISSUE

The Northern Ireland Daffodil Group



Objects

The purpose for which the Society is established is the advancement of horticultural education through the study of the genus *Narcissus* and in furtherance of such purpose:

- (i) to promote public participation in the said educational purpose;
- (ii) to promote the establishment of public gardens or of display beds in such gardens which include plantings of *Narcissus* bulbs;
- (iii) to provide bulb stocks for plantings within para (ii) above;
- (iv) to promote, or advance scientific or practical research into the breeding, cultivation, and production of *Narcissus* cultivars;
- (v) to promote, or advance the study of *Narcissus* diseases and pests with particular reference to making Northern Ireland an international centre for the production of healthy stocks of *Narcissus*;
- (vi) to promote, or advance the production of new and improved cultivars of *Narcissus* by hybridisation, and the increase of stocks of the best types of existing cultivars;
- (vii) to publish, or assist in the publication of scientific and practical information and to publish a journal in respect of the activities of the Society;
- (viii) to promote, or advance the holding of shows, lectures, meetings, and displays which include exhibits of material relating to the *Narcissus* and to which the public is admitted, and wherever held throughout the World;
- (ix) to promote, or sponsor the promotion of classes for *Narcissus* at any Horticultural Show including the provision of trophies, cups, or prizes for such classes;
- (x) to provide, or nominate suitable qualified persons to judge classes or exhibits of *Narcissus* at any Horticultural Show or at any Show or display having such a class or exhibit;
- (xi) to provide, or nominate suitable qualified persons to give lectures, or to provide exhibits relating to the *Narcissus*;
- (xii) to aid, and to receive aid from the Departments of Agriculture in Northern Ireland, and for England, Wales, and Scotland, or from any body or person whether incorporated or not and whether carrying on activities in Northern Ireland or elsewhere, which has objects which include the purpose of the Society and which aid will advance the purpose of the Society;
- (xiii) to grant financial aid to meet in whole or in part the travel costs of a person provided or nominated by the Society to act as a judge at a Show within para (x) above, or to give a lecture or provide an exhibit within para (xi) above, or to provide a trophy, cup or prize at a Show within para (ix) above, whether or not such person is a member of the Society;
- (xiv) to accept subscriptions and gifts (whether of real, chattel real or personal assets), devises and bequests;
- (xv) to borrow, or raise, or secure the payment of money by mortgage or otherwise;
- (xvi) generally to manage, invest, and expend all the property and monies of the Society;
- (xvii) to affiliate or associate with any body or person whether incorporated or not, and whether carrying on activities in Northern Ireland or elsewhere;
- (xviii) to do all such other acts which lawfully are incidental to the purpose of the Society.

THE NORTHERN IRELAND DAFFODIL GROUP

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 2 No. 9

October, 1986

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Rules of the Northern Ireland Daffodil Group

1. **Title**
The group shall be called "The Northern Ireland Daffodil Group Society".
2. **Registered Office**
The registered office is 1 Glenholm Crescent, Belfast BT8 4LT.
3. **Objects**
The purpose for which the Society is established is the advancement of horticultural education through the study of the genus Narcissus and in furtherance of such purpose:
 - (i) to promote public participation in the said educational purpose;
 - (ii) to promote the establishment of public gardens or of display beds in such gardens which include plantings of Narcissus bulbs;
 - (iii) to provide bulb stocks for plantings within para (ii) above;
 - (iv) to promote, or advance scientific or practical research into the breeding, cultivation, and production of Narcissus cultivars;
 - (v) to promote, or advance the study of Narcissus diseases and pests with particular reference to making Northern Ireland an international centre for the production of healthy stocks of Narcissus;
 - (vi) to promote, or advance the production of new and improved cultivars of Narcissus by hybridisation, and the increase of stocks of the best types of existing cultivars;
 - (vii) to publish, or assist in the publication of scientific and practical information and to publish a journal in respect of the activities of the Society;
 - (viii) to promote, or advance the holding of shows, lectures, meetings, and displays which include exhibits or material relating to the Narcissus and to which the public is admitted, and wherever held throughout the World;
 - (ix) to promote, or sponsor the promotion of classes for Narcissus at any Horticultural Show including the provision of trophies, cups, or prizes for such classes;
 - (x) to provide, or nominate suitable qualified persons to judge classes or exhibits of Narcissus at any Horticultural Show or at any Show or display having such a class or exhibit;
 - (xi) to provide, or nominate suitable qualified persons to give lectures, or to provide exhibits relating to the Narcissus;
 - (xii) to aid, and to receive aid from the Departments of Agriculture in Northern Ireland, and for England, Wales, and Scotland, or from any body or person whether incorporated or not and whether carrying on activities in Northern Ireland or elsewhere, which has objects which include the purpose of the Society and which aid will advance the purpose of the Society;
 - (xiii) to grant financial aid to meet in whole or in part the travel costs of a person provided or nominated by the Society to act as a judge at a Show within para (x) above, or to give a lecture or provide an exhibit within para (xi) above, or to provide a trophy, cup or prize for a Show within para (ix) above, whether or not such person is a member of the Society;
 - (xiv) to accept subscriptions and gifts (whether of real, chattel real or personal assets), devises and bequests;
 - (xv) to borrow or raise, or secure the payment of money by mortgage or otherwise;
 - (xvi) generally to manage, invest, and expend all the property and monies of the Society;
 - (xvii) to affiliate, or associate with any body or person whether incorporated or not, and whether carrying on activities in Northern Ireland or elsewhere;
 - (xviii) to do all such other acts which lawfully are incidental to the purpose of the Society.
4. **Membership and Subscription**
Membership of the Society shall be open to anyone on the payment of a minimum subscription, for the time being, of £4 per annum or £10 for 3 years due on the 1st January. Any member being twelve months in arrears shall be deemed to have resigned.

- Honorary Members, who shall be elected on the recommendation of the Committee at a general meeting of the Society shall not be eligible to vote and shall not be liable to pay the subscription.
5. **Committee**
The management of the Society shall be vested in the committee of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, an Honorary Secretary, an Honorary Treasurer and four additional members, and the committee shall have power to co-opt, and power also to invite a non-member to attend its proceedings.
A quorum for committee meetings shall be four, with the Chairman having a casting vote.
A record of proceedings shall be kept.
The officers and committee shall be elected annually at the annual general meeting, and may be removed from office only by a general meeting.
No member may serve for more than 4 consecutive years on the Committee.
 6. **Sub-Committees**
The committee shall have power to appoint a sub-committee for any special purpose. A sub-committee shall make a record of its proceedings. The Chairman of each sub-committee shall be an ex-officio member of the committee.
 7. **Annual General Meeting and Other General Meetings**
The annual general meeting shall be held in January each year, and other general meetings may be held at any time directed by the committee. Ten or more members may convene a general meeting if the committee refuses their written request for a general meeting. At least 7 days notice in writing shall be given of any general meeting and shall state the agenda.
A quorum for General Meetings shall be fifteen, with the Chairman having a casting vote.
Any member desiring to propose a resolution shall send the proposed resolution in writing to the Honorary Secretary, to arrive not less than 48 hours before the meeting.
 8. **Amendment of Rules**
Rules may only be amended at a general meeting of which due notice had been given.
 9. **Voting at General Meetings**
Every fully paid up member shall be entitled to vote at a general meeting and the Chairman shall have a casting vote.
A record of the business conducted shall be kept.
 10. **Accounts**
A Bank Account shall be maintained in the name of the Society and cheques shall be signed by the Treasurer and the Chairman or Secretary.
An audited statement of the accounts of the Society shall be submitted by the Treasurer to the annual general meeting.
An auditor, whether honorary or paid, shall be elected at each annual general meeting.
 11. **Disputes**
Any dispute between a member and the committee shall be determined by a sub-committee appointed under Rule 6 and the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Society, the Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer for the time being, shall be members of such sub-committee.
 12. **Dissolution**
On dissolution of the Society the assets shall not be divisible between the members but shall be given to a body, whether incorporated or not which has purposes which are charitable in a manner as nearly as may be resembling the purpose of the Society and which is selected by the Society at its terminal general meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

1986 must go down as a vintage year for Daffodil growers, especially in Northern Ireland. After a very late start, and badly attended shows, the late flowers bloomed as I have never seen them before; most of the flowers had tremendous substance and colour. I think the best flowers of all were to be seen early in May at the late show in Omagh.

Once again, the coveted Engleheart Cup came back to Northern Ireland with Brian Duncan — congratulations to him.

The Championship of Ireland went (very deservedly) to our Editor, Sandy McCabe; it was nice to see it going to an amateur. Sam Bankhead, our Secretary, did well in Ballymena, showing some really good new seedlings of his own raising. But my most vivid memories of the 1986 Season will be of stimulating and interesting overseas visitors, all coming to see Ulster Daffodils.

Our thanks to all who made such a success of the stand in Greenmount!

I am now going out to sow a full matchbox of seed with a very international flavour. The pollen was from a capsule Dr. Bender brought from Chambersburg U.S.A. from his prize-winner, 'POPS Legacy'; "POPS" stand for Phillips Open Pollinated Seed, given to Bill Bender by the late Phil Phillips of New Zealand. The pollination was done by Richard Ezell of the United States, assisted by Janis Ruksans from Latvia, onto a seedling bred from 'Sincerity' (raised by the late Dr. Lower in Cornwall) and 'Preamble' (raised by Guy Wilson here in Broughshane). Could any seed have more interesting beginnings?

I hope all our members are having successful lifting, and we look forward to another interesting Spring in 1987.

August 1986

KATE READE

ANNUAL GET-TOGETHER

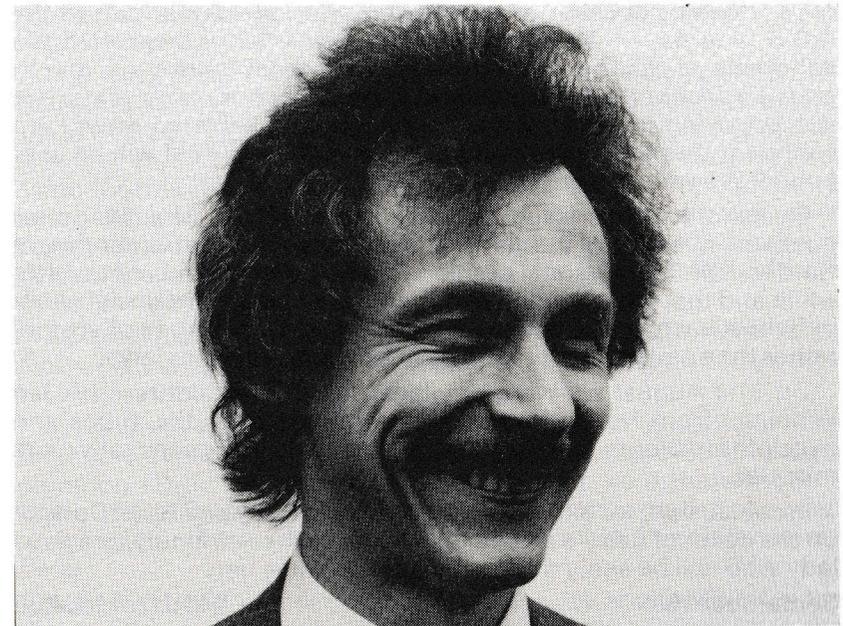
Beach Hotel, Portballintrae, Co. Antrim

Friday, 31st October – Sunday, 2nd November

Book direct with the Hotel – Telephone Bushmills 31214



Dr. Henri Shejbal, Italy pictured with Mr. Tom Bloomer



Mr. Janis Ruksans, Latvia

EDITORIAL JOTTINGS

The 1986 Season will long be remembered in the Province. Not only was it the latest on record but we had the largest and most varied number of overseas visitors for many years.

The only persons missing were Eskimos from the North as our visitors came from the East, West and South. Making his first visit was Mr. Janis Ruksans from Latvia in the U.S.S.R. He proved to be a most popular visitor who displayed a vast knowledge of daffodils.

From slightly nearer home came Dr. Henri Shejbal — a bio-chemist from Rome. I believe that he is the first Italian daffodil enthusiast to visit our shores and he is a great promoter of daffodils in his adopted land.

From the Southern Hemisphere came Harold Cross from Tasmania to whom my first request was for an article. He immediately agreed and his impressions of the Omagh Show appear after these meanderings. My thanks to him and to all other contributors.

The U.S.A. was represented by Delia Bankhead, Richard Ezell, Dr. Bill Bender and Jack Jennings. Our thanks to all of them for their work in assisting to judge our shows and may I say that they did an excellent job at the Championship of Ireland!

On the subject of America, we learn that my counterpart of the A.D.S. Journal — Mary Lou Gripshover — has relinquished the editorship of that august journal. My personal thanks are due to Mary Lou for her advice and encouragement over many years. Her successor is Kitty Frank from Tennessee and knowing Kitty, I am confident that the high standard of the A.D.S. Journal will be continued. We wish her well.

Elsewhere in this issue under the title "MUD" Mrs. M. Jones poses the question of the viability of erecting a stand at Greenmount Garden Fair. My personal opinion is that the exercise is not worthwhile and that we would be better off if we had a provincial show in Belfast each year. I believe it would attract thousands of visitors rather than several hundred. Please let me have your views.

On 31st August we were privileged to have an address by Jan Pennings from Holland. What a treat to see daffodils, tulips and hyacinths in bloom at so late a date. Modern science can really work miracles.

In conclusion, we extend our sympathy to Betty and Brian Duncan on the death of Betty's mother — Mrs. A. E. Orr — a kindly, gracious lady who will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

September 1986

SANDY McCABE

OMAGH 1986

(Through "Down Under" Eyes)

I found the Daffodil Show at Omagh most interesting for a number of reasons. As soon as I looked at the Schedule I was struck by what appears to be a very strong bias against those who sell bulbs "either by catalogue list or advertisement or through an agent". Their exhibits are limited to three groups (1 x 12, 1 x 5, and 1 of 6 x 3) plus six single bloom seedling classes. As if that is not sufficiently restrictive, the group of five is for American raised flowers and the eighteen has to be both Ulster raised and raised by the Exhibitor. Those who do not sell bulbs may enter these classes and in the group of eighteen do not have to raise the flowers themselves. They may also enter the 32 classes for Seniors. (I even glanced around to see if the commercial growers had to sidle in through a separate back door!)

By contrast there are 32 classes for Senior Amateurs; 19 classes for the Intermediate Section and 10 classes for Novices who are defined as "exhibitors who have not won *any* Daffodil section at *any* show in *any* previous year" (My italics). While I support enthusiastically the encouragement of Novices it seems to me distinctly odd that those who qualify under such a severely restricted definition of Novice should have ten classes available to them while commercial growers (who include in their ranks some of the world leaders in this field) have only nine classes available to them.

The next thing I noted was the tremendous concentration on Divisions 1 and 2. There were 30 single bloom classes for Divisions 1 and 2 but only 22 single bloom classes for all of Divisions 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12. In the whole show not a single class was set aside for triandrus — not a single class for Division 12 and, more surprising still, not a single class for split coronas despite their popularity with the general public elsewhere. Or, is there a conspiracy to keep the Irish general public pure and free from the taint of such degeneracy?

As with Tasmanian daffodil shows there were plenty of classes for Floral Art though these classes were not as well supported as they would have been in Tasmania.

In common with all the other daffodil shows in the U.K. in 1986, the show suffered from the lateness of the season. But, to use a common Ulster expression, the flowers that were there made a brave showing and quite a number of them would have been welcomed enthusiastically had they appeared at Show time in my beds.

In at least one respect I thought that those responsible for the Omagh Show deserved special commendation. That was in the attention given to the involvement of children. If each year they

manage to attract just one more child to the cult of the daffodil then in the fullness of time Omagh will inevitably be, and will remain, at the very top of the list of the most important daffodil centres in the world. May their efforts continue and may they be crowned with the success they deserve.

In the Championship of Ireland Class there were five entries and it was most interesting to see that three of those twelve each contained one flower that was judged the best of its division in the Show. As with shows all over the world, presentation does count and I thought that two of the twelve were handicapped by the length of stem of the flowers. In each case the back row of four flowers projected above the backing screen, thereby detracting from their appearance. Had the stems been two or three inches shorter then the overall results may have been affected.

First place in the Championship of Ireland went to Sandy McCabe who staged a very even and beautiful group. I noted that of his twelve flowers four were raised by Tom Bloomer — three of Richardsons — two by Duncan and one each by Board, Lea and Noton. How appropriate that nine of the twelve that won the Championship of Ireland were raised in Ireland!

Of the flowers I had not previously seen there were four that appealed to me very much. Outstanding was Brian Duncan's 4W-P numbered D.898. If it is as consistently good as this flower was at Omagh it will have a long career on the show bench. Also from Rathowen came D.869 — a very smooth 3Y-R. I also liked 'Rivendell' 3W-GYY and a yellow cyclamineus named 'Elphin Gold'.

That brings me to a controversial note on which to end. When is some person or group with expertise on cyclamineus flowers going to be so brave as to attempt a workable and worthwhile definition of cyclamineus? Is simple reflexing all that is required? Or should the definition also refer to the narrowness of petal that appears to be a feature of the species? Or, are there other features that should also be included in the definition?

It does not appear to me to be adequate for a group of highly qualified judges to be content to leave a note asking "Is this flower Division 6 or Division 2?" Are all those slightly reflexed pink-cupped flowers properly enrolled in Division 6? Or are they merely attractive, unusual and interesting poor relations of Division 2 flowers?

HAROLD CROSS

EDITOR'S NOTE

The Schedule in use at Omagh is based on a schedule drawn up by the N.I.D.G. **in conjunction with the Commercial Growers.** In the past we found that very few amateurs wished to compete against the commercial growers in an "Open" section. No doubt this was due to lack of success. Since adopting the principle of

senior amateurs, competition has increased immeasurably. We have noticed that more of our senior amateurs who have commenced hybridising are not averse to entering their own seedlings against those of the "Big Guns".

MUD

I have been visiting Greenmount Garden Fair since its inception 15 or so years ago. In the early days it was purely educational and promotional — no trade stands and no food or drink except very milky coffee at the Milk Marketing Board caravan. Even so, there were always crowds there and it was always cold and quite often fairly damp.

The Northern Ireland Daffodil Group first put on a display in 1984. That year the sun shone on Greenmount Garden Fair and it was a very pleasant day. I thought perhaps we daffodil folk had banished the jinx and started a run of good weather for the end of April and beginning of May. But no — in 1985 it didn't rain but it was very cold and the ground was wet and sticky. The smartly dressed ladies in their high heels had problems! That was nothing compared to 1986. I lived in a country district as a child and we used to go rambling through the woods, bogs and fields and scramble across wet, messy ditches but never did I get so much mud on my feet and legs as at Greenmount last April.

It is hard to describe the sight. The marquees were arranged around the sides of a large grass field; some stall holders had their sites in the open in the middle of the field. These people and all the other exhibitors had been setting up the previous day and of course their vehicles had been coming and going and churning up the grass into a sea of mud. People walked as near the tents as possible trying to avoid the mud. Greenmount staff worked hard with tractors trying to create "paths" and they put loads of bark chippings in tent entrances in an attempt to keep the insides clean. It was an incredible sight to come out from the gloom of a tent to be confronted with this vast expanse of mud with little islands of bright flowering pot plants in it.

"What about the daffodils?" you say.

Our Secretary, Sam, erected our stand in the corner of marquee 1 on Tuesday evening. He staged the blooms, most of which had been supplied by Kate Reade. They survived the night (one of the tents blew down) and looked very well when we arrived from Bangor on Wednesday morning. A lot of interest was shown by the public and there were always some people around but I did not see many N.I.D.G. members. We distributed leaflets and chatted but I doubt we gained any potential members. I believe Sam dismantled

the stand himself — I am sure he was glad to get home and get de-mudded.

Is this exercise worthwhile? I do not know. Many other groups in N.I. have stands but most have something to sell which seems to be a link with the public, but of course it means more work. Is there any way we can make a bigger impact and get the public interested in growing better daffodils? What do you think? If we do it again will you, as a member of the Group, try to visit your stand and at least give encouragement if not practical help to the few who do all the work?

MAISIE O. JONES

N.I. SHOW REPORTS

GILNAHIRK and BANGOR

In this extremely late season our shows commenced with that organised by the Gilnahirk Horticultural Society. Old Mother Hubbard's cupboard was better filled than the show benches. Carncairn, however, were able to stage 2 x 12 bloom entries, one of which was drawn entirely from Divisions 5-9. I never did ask Kate Reade how she managed to produce so many blooms in such a freak season.

Carncairn had best Division 1 with a seedling 1/106/79 and best any other division with 'Segovia'. J. P. McCausland, in addition to winning the Intermediate Section showed Best Bloom in Show with 'Park Springs' and in 'Ulster Bullion' had best Division 2. Sam Bankhead continued his winning streak from 1985 and captured Best Seedling Award with a 2Y-Y which came from 'Golden Jewel' O.P.

Many flowers were not up to standard but the judges recognised the difficulties and awarded prizes if only to reward the exhibitors for having coaxed a flower into bloom.

Bangor unfortunately clashed with Coleraine (again) and again flowers were scarce. Gilbert Andrews won 12 bloom class with excellent blooms of 'Dailmanach', 'Aircastle' and his 'Dove Wings' was Best Bloom in the Senior Section. He also won the Senior Amateur Section.

J. P. McCausland salvaged and refrigerated his 'Park Springs' from Gilnahirk to again lift Best Bloom in Show. He also had a fine specimen of 'Preamble'. Reserve Best Bloom went to Mrs. E. Major with 'Kimmeridge' and she also won the Intermediate Section. Mrs. Smith captured the Novice Section and Best Bloom here was her 'Golden Aura'.

JOHN O'REILLY

COLERAINE SPRING SHOW

(The daffodil show that nearly wasn't.)

This year the Coleraine Society held their Spring Show in conjunction with the University of Ulster at Coleraine. Shortly after Christmas the date was arranged for the 19th April in the spacious Diamond on the University campus together with an Open Day of the Guy L. Wilson Daffodil Gardens on the same site. Daffodil growers, local firms and garden centres sponsored classes; publicity was arranged (*Garden News* even got wind of it) and the show committee sat back to await the great day.

Unfortunately nobody told the weatherman. Daffodils that looked to be well advanced in November stood still as winter refused to give way to spring. Frantic phone calls a week before the show confirmed that very few daffodils were out. However members promised to bring every daffodil they could lay their hands on (mostly garden varieties) and present a show for the public who after all would be parting with their hard-earned cash. The outlook for pot plants was much better as most were protected in greenhouses and the late season meant that primulas and even some snowdrops were still in bloom. During the week before the show various methods were tried to persuade the daffodils to bloom. One member placed his pots in a propagator and a thousand watt light bulb was brought into play. An enterprising dairy farmer evicted the new-born calves and placed his potted daffodils under their heating lamp. Pots were placed on window-sills above hot radiators in order to convince the daffodils that spring had arrived. During the week before the show the weather alternated between sunny spells, hail storms, gale force winds and torrential rain.

Come the day of the show there was a reasonable display of daffodils. All classes were represented except for some of the colour codes in Division 3. The important thing is that there were daffodils for the public to see and admire. A trade exhibit by Carncairn Daffodils attracted a lot of attention and showed that quality daffodils are grown and bred locally. The judges, Sandy McCabe and Sam Bankhead were heard to give the odd chuckle and seen to smooth more than a few wayward petals as they came across varieties that haven't graced the showbench this many a year. Fittingly the best bloom was judged to be 'Empress of Ireland', a Guy Wilson variety, shown by your scribe.

Despite the weather (it rained all day) a good crowd (over 200) turned up to see the show. The public were greatly taken by the daffodils. Luckily the general public are interested in clear colours and sharp contrasts in the bicolours rather than ultra smooth perianths. At least three people enquired where they could buy the variety 'Professor Einstein' (2W-O). All in all the show was a success and thanks are due to the N.I.D.G. for their support and the University of Ulster for their help in staging the show. As one committee



Miss Delia Bankhead, U.S.A. with her namesake, Sam pictured at Ballymena Spring Show

Photography by courtesy of Ballymena Guardian

member put it during the post-mortem meeting after the show, "We managed a very respectable show despite the weather. Think what we could do in a good year."

DERRICK TURBITT

BALLYMENA SHOW REPORT

When the Committee of Ballymena Horticultural Society agreed to hold their Spring Show on St. George's Day — 23rd April, 1986 — they must have felt certain that the date would coincide with the middle or latter part of the daffodil flowering season. However, such were the atrocities of the weather that their show was too early. This was evidenced by the scarcity of entries in the Open and Senior Classes.

Carncairn Daffodils had a walk-over in all Open Classes winning the 12 Bloom Class, the Foreign Raised Class and the 6 varieties by 3. Their 'April Parade' was adjudged Best Bloom in the Open Section and two of their seedlings attracted much favourable comment. W.19/11 (2Y-R) was of a really hot colour and W.28 (2Y-YR) was an extremely attractive flower.

The Amateur Championship was the principal class in the Senior Amateur Section. Though it attracted only two entries, both competitors are to be congratulated on the high standard of their entries. Our popular Secretary, Sam Bankhead, got the verdict over Willie Davison who was competing in the Senior Section for the first time.

Sam's achievement was particularly noteworthy in that his 12 flowers contained 9 of his own seedlings. Maybe we have a future Engleheart Cup entrant in the offing! His group contained 1-12-78 (2Y-Y) which was adjudged Best Bloom in the Show — 2-12-78 (also 2Y-Y) and 6-9-78 (2Y-YR). The first two both came from 'Golden Jewel' and 6-9-78 was as smooth petalled as one could wish to see.

Willie Davison's second place entry, though larger and more colourful than the winner, was not as well staged and the individual flowers were not in as pristine condition as Sam's. Nevertheless it was an extremely creditable entry which contained the Reserve Best Bloom — 'Golden Amber' — this variety always seems to do well at Ballymena.

Willie also had the best flower in the Intermediate Section — an excellent specimen of 'Drumboe' and he and J. P. McCausland had a titanic struggle before the latter emerged winner of the Intermediate Cup. J.P. showed an excellent bloom of 'Park Springs' which had really gone the rounds this year. Best Bloom at Gilnahirk, at Bangor and it almost beat 'Drumboe' for its third Best Bloom award in as many weeks.

The Novice Section was won by Christina McCleary and she had the Best Bloom in the Section with 'Preamble'.

Judges for the show were a really cosmopolitan group and it was gratifying to see East and West being united in the love of the daffodil. They included Miss D. Bankhead, Mr. R. Ezell and Dr. Bill Bender from America and Mr. Janis Ruksans from Latvia.

S. McCABE

OMAGH SHOW REPORT

In 1986 the Omagh and District Horticultural Society maintained its reputation of running the best daffodil show in Northern Ireland. In view of the extremely late season none of the other regular daffodil shows was as good as usual this year. Omagh nearly suffered the same fate but a warm sunny day on the Thursday before the show meant there were plenty of blooms available.

The show was held on Saturday, 3rd May. This date was governed by the re-arranged date of the London Show which, in the event, was fortunate though it did cause much worry to the organisers during the winter.

It was Omagh's turn this year to host the Championship of Ireland and its associated classes, the Roese Perpetual Trophy, the Royal Mail Perpetual Trophy, the Northern Bank Perpetual Trophy and the W. J. Toal Award. This, of course, had the effect of attracting most of the serious exhibitors from all over Ireland. It also meant that there were greater numbers of foreign visitors than usual.

We were very pleased to welcome back again Miss Delia Bankhead from America — we are really sorry she lost her very special knife in Omagh. We were also glad to see Mr. Harold Cross from Tasmania, Mr. Janis Ruksans from Latvia, Mr. Peter Fenn and Mr. Jan Dalton from England and Mr. Richard Ezell from America. Many of these visitors performed the onerous task of judging and for this we thank them.

In all there were over 600 blooms in the competitive classes in the Open, Amateur Senior, Intermediate and Novice Sections, and the standard throughout was extremely high.

The Championship of Ireland attracted 5 good entries and to his very great delight was won by Mr. Sandy McCabe. His beautifully balanced and well groomed entry consisted of 'Rathowen Gold', 'Rimmon', 'Galahad', 'White Star', 'Fragrant Rose', 'Amber Castle', 'Verona', 'Altruist', 'Mill Grove', 'Merlin', 'Loch Hope' and 'Silent Valley'. Sandy concentrates on Divisions 1 to 3 but has selected his stock carefully to get good variety. His blooms were immaculate and it was no surprise that he won one of the "Best Bloom" awards.

The favourite for the trophy — Rathowen Daffodils — came a close second with an entry entirely of their own raising — a self-imposed restriction. The entry contained excellent blooms of 'Rivendell' and 'Mount Angel' as well as some unnamed seedlings.

Third in the Championship was another amateur — Mr. Ian Erskine from Dublin. His entry contained good blooms of 'Bayard' and 'Tudor Grove'. Carncairn Daffodils showed some nice pink seedlings among Lea trustees in an entry which was highly commended.

In the Roese Perpetual Trophy calling for 5 blooms American raised there were only two entries. Carncairn Daffodils seem to know how to grow American varieties to the peak of perfection and won easily.



Mr. Sandy McCabe being presented with Championship of Ireland Trophy at Omagh.

Photography by courtesy of Tyrone Constitution

The Royal Mail Trophy calls for 6 varieties Ulster raised, three stems of each with the condition that commercial growers must exhibit only flowers raised by themselves. This created a problem when Michael Ward on arrival at the show announced that he was no longer an amateur and that he wished to enter this class with his own seedlings. His entry was permitted to stand but it is now obvious that the wording of this class by the N.I.D.G. will have to be amended, if it is not to be restrictive.

There were 4 good entries in the class which was won by Rathowen Daffodils. This entry, all with white perianths, contained good specimens of 'Mount Angel' and 'Rimmon'. It also had 3 'Pink Paradise' some of the few Division 4 at the show. Carncairn were placed second and Michael Ward third.

The fourth entry was one from Rathowen made up mostly of Division 6 and it provided the "Best Bloom Division 5 to 9" with 'Elphin Gold'. It also contained 3 nice Division 9 'Campion'.

In the Open Section for seedlings raised by the exhibitor another serious problem arose in the interpretation of the wording. Some named and registered varieties were exhibited because they were not yet marketed commercially. They were eventually ruled "not as schedule". The wording for these was taken from the N.I.D.G. recommendations and now needs to be clarified by that body.

With the ruling of named varieties "not as schedule" the classes were won as follows:

- Class 4 Division I — Sam Bankhead
- Class 5 Division II — Rathowen Daffodils
- Class 6 Division III — Rathowen Daffodils
- Class 7 Division IV — Rathowen Daffodils
- Class 8 Division VI — Michael Ward
- Class 9 Division IX — Michael Ward

Best Bloom Awards were as follows:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Division I | 'Silent Valley' | A. McCabe |
| Division II | 'Misty Glen' | Carncairn Daffodils |
| Division III | 'Rivendell' | Rathowen Daffodils |
| Division IV | D.898 | Rathowen Daffodils |
| Division V-IX | 'Elphin Gold' | Rathowen Daffodils |
| Unregistered Seedling | | M. J. Ward |

The Best Bloom in the Show went to 'Misty Glen' and 'Elphin Gold' won the W. J. Toal Award.

The Amateur Senior Section was well supported — among the prizewinners here were A. McCabe, Ballymena: G. Marsden, Omagh: J. O'Reilly, Glengormley: I. Erskine, Dublin: R. Newport, Dublin: M. Martin, Dublin: S. Bankhead, Ballymena.

The Cup for highest points in the Multiple Bloom Classes was won by J. O'Reilly and in the Single Bloom Classes by I. Erskine. A. McCabe won the Best Exhibit in this section with 3 very well matched 'Rimmon' and he also won the Best Bloom prize. S. Bankhead won the Northern Bank Perpetual Trophy for the best unregistered seedling with 2/33/78 — one of his own raising.

Flowers of note in the section were 'Amber Castle', 'White Star', 'Burntolllet', 'Rimmon' and 'Broomhill'.

Because of the late season there were no Poeticus exhibited, few from Divisions 4 to 8 and the class for three Division III yellow perianth had no exhibits. However, with 200 blooms in the section the benches looked full.

The Intermediate Section was also well supported from far and near. First Prizewinners were D. Turbitt, Portstewart; J. P. McCausland, Lisburn and M. Donnell from Londonderry. D. Turbitt won the Cup for highest points and also had the Best Bloom with 'Golden Aura'.

In the Novice Section Albert Allen from Omagh almost made a clean sweep of the red tickets, winning seven classes. Mrs. Magowan from Omagh won two classes. Albert also won the Best Bloom with 'Golden Aura' and this bloom was good enough to win the Best Exhibit in the Intermediate and Novice Sections.

George Jordan from Seskinore, who also exhibited daffodils successfully in the Novice Section, easily won the General Flowers Section and a poorly supported Floral Art Section was won by Society Vice-Chairman, Mrs. C. Johnston.

W. J. E. DUKELOW

LATE SHOW AT RATHOWEN

Held on Sunday, 11th May, 1986 in what must be the latest spring on record, the late show at Rathowen proved to be a great success, the best of the season. Coinciding with the show was the Open Day for the gardens under the National Trust and with ideal conditions for exhibitors the visitors were able in bright sunshine to see the blooms in the field and the final product on stage. In Class 1 12 varieties — there were seven entries and Sandy McCabe took the honours with a well balanced entry that included 'Mount Angel', 'Silent Beauty' and 'Gettysburg' repeating his success in the Championship of Ireland. If Brian Duncan had chosen to enter one exhibit the result could easily have been different. Instead he had two entries one of named varieties and one of seedlings.

Seedlings that caught the eye and worth watching out for were 813 (B. S. Duncan) Division 4W-P of nice flat back, very wide bowl cup of deep pink, 1116 (B. S. Duncan) 2W-O, large very good colour, nice orange, 82/2 AY-RR/XXX (Ballydorn) 2O-R, good orange perianth with deep red cup. Others that could have a future were 1/104/79 4W-P (Carncairn), 82/2Y-Y/L (Ballydorn), 4/19/78 Division IX (Carncairn). Interesting to note was that Sandy McCabe and Sam Dukelow, are now showing seedlings of their own raising capable of winning prizes, Sandy with a Division 2 2Y-R 'Bunclody' x 'Shining Light' and Sam with a Division 3 W-G-W-Y.

The 1W-Y, 2Y-Y, 2YR-O and Divisions 3 classes all attracted entries in excess of ten and here the honours went to Rathowen, B. S. Duncan, S. McCabe, G. Marsden and Carncairn respectively with good blooms of 'Chief Inspector', 'Gold Bond', 'Loch Stac', 'Rivendell' and 'Picasso'.

Prominent on display and in the prize list were some good blooms of 'Unique' (the writer's favourite). Other blooms worthy of note were 'Apricot Sundae' and 'Sherpa'.

With only one point separating them Sandy McCabe was just able to push George Marsden who challenged strongly into second place and the comparatively newcomer John McCausland was a

worthy third. (Competition open to Amateurs only.) Excellent trade exhibits were shown by Carncairn and the hosts Rathowen to whom the group owe a deep debt of gratitude.

F. WHITE

REPORT OF THE SCOTTISH DAFFODIL GROUP SPRING SHOW HELD IN BANFF ON 3rd AND 4th MAY, 1986

The ultra-late season had mixed results for our show. On one hand five trade stands called off due to lack of stock and on the other exhibitors from "down south" had an abundance of blooms which had missed the earlier English events.

The fears that daffodils may not withstand the eight hour car journey were unfounded. The apprehension of the organisers about the show arrangements and the standard of local entries were also allayed.

Mr. Jim Pearce who judged the daffodil sections, commented favourably about the show which considering his reputation in the daffodil world was greatly appreciated by the show officials and group members who are now more confident in their work.

The friendly advice given by the more experienced English exhibitors who had to undergo close scrutiny at every stage from the moment of unpacking to staging of blooms was a reflection of the attitude of all exhibitors and made for a most enjoyable event.

The presentation address given by Dr. Bill Bender of U.S.A. who had assisted in judging and had stayed on an extra day to make the presentation on Sunday was the finishing touch to a truly international event. Daffodil associations of England, Ireland, New Zealand and the United States of America were represented in the form of awards. The encouragement given by enthusiasts from the four quarters of the globe to our efforts is most gratifying and, I'm sure, epitomises the good effects of "Yellow Fever".

Miss Muriel Farquharson, Show Secretary, commented on the value of having experienced exhibitors and the services of a judge of the calibre of Mr. Pearce to set a standard of show comparable with those "abroad".

Friendships were formed and enthusiasm whetted which may well see a Scots invasion to some English events next year.

On the week-end after the show Andy Leith and I visited Ireland and enjoyed the hospitality of Robin and Kate Reade at Carncairn. We also met other daffodil experts, Tom Bloomer, Brian and Mrs. Duncan, Sir Frank and Lady Harrison, Mr. and Mrs. Clarke Campbell, Sandy McCabe, Delia Bankhead from U.S.A. and Dr. J. Shejbal from Rome at an Open Day at Dergmoney. The variety and quantity of daffodils was breathtaking with exciting variations in the new seedlings.

The genuine friendliness shown to us has made a lasting impression that daffodil people in general and Irish ones in particular are the best on earth. We'll be back!

JIM DAVIDSON
Banff Daffodil Group

1986 SCOTTISH BANFF DAFFODIL GROUP SHOW CULTIVAR RESULTS

Championship of Scotland

- 1st R. Smales, Barnsley. 'Newcastle', 'Stourbridge', 'Empress of Ireland', 'Golden Sovereign', 'Crater', 'Bravour', 'Golden Rapture', 'Rainbow', 'Park Springs', 'Viking', 'Ben Hee', 'Torridon'.
- 2nd W. Akers, Wakefield. 'Golden Sovereign', 'Syracuse', 'Torridon', 'Vigil', 'Balvenie', 'Purbeck', 'Golden Aura', 'Broomhill', 'Sir Ivor', 'Newcastle', Seedling JT2B, 'Loch Garvie'.
- 3rd A. James, Warrington. 'Viking', 'Ben Hee', 'Grand Prospect', 'City Lights', 'April Love', 'Altruist', 'Pitchroy', 'Golden Jewel', 'Loch Carron', 'Golden Aura', 'Karamudli', 'Sammy Boy'.
- 4th J. M. Davidson, Banff.

Sesqui-Centenary Commemorative Competition

- 1st R. Smales, Barnsley. Seedling L/6, 'St. Keverne', 'Doubtful', 'Newcastle', Seedling L/4, Seedling L/3.
- 2nd A. James, Warrington. 'Burntollet', 'Loch Hope', 'Golden Joy', 'Kimmeridge', 'Lemonade', 'Ferndown'.
- 3rd W. Akers, Wakefield. 'Golden Aura', 'Newcastle', 'Purbeck', 'Torridon', Seedling JT2B, 'Broomhill'.

Sesqui-Centenary Commemorative Class. 1 Vase three blooms BRODIE cultivar.

- 1st Mrs. E. Gordon, Banff. 'Kincorth'.
- 2nd E. Powell, Banff. 'Daviot'.
- 3rd Mrs. B. Davidson, Alvah. 'Daviot'.

Best Bloom in Show — W. Akers — 'Torrison'. Also Best Bloom Division 2.

Best Bloom Division 1 — W. Akers — 'Preamble'.

Best Bloom Division 3 — A. James — 'Kimmeridge'.

Best Bloom Division 4 — A. James — 'Tahiti'.

Best Bloom Division 6 — E. Powell — 'Charity May'.

Best Bloom Division 7 — J. M. Davidson — 'Sweetness'.

Best Bloom Divisions 5, 8, 9, 10, 11 — J. M. Davidson — 'Como'.

Best Bloom Miniature — A. Leith — 'Tête-a-Tête'.

Best Bloom American origin — A. James — 'Daydream'.

Best Vase of three blooms — A. James — 'Loch Hope'.

Best Vase of three blooms American origin — A. James — 'Daydream'.

BREEZAND SPECTACULAR

In the middle of February a letter from Jan Pennings of Breezand, Holland arrived through our letter-box which contained a kindly and oft repeated invitation to visit the Netherlands.

Considering that we were in the midst of what turned out to be the coldest and the driest February since the turn of the century it was an almost incredible suggestion that "a good time to visit is the end of this month for we have at that time our Flower Show and if you came on Friday or Saturday you could see the Breezand Show and on Monday morning we can go to the world's biggest auction of flowers in Aalsmeer". Such an invitation could not be ignored. To visit Holland and see the bulbs in flower had long been an ambition but our own daffodil growing, showing and hybridising activities seemed always to take precedence. Though we found it difficult to imagine that there would be much to see at a Flower Show in late February, especially with this year's record low temperatures, the invitation really was all the more intriguing and we just could not resist, especially when it was found we were only 1½ hours from Amsterdam by direct economy flight from Belfast Airport.

On arrival at Schipol we discovered that Holland was in the midst of an even deeper dry freeze-up than at home and that there was widespread concern about "root-full" damage to bulbs in the fields. All canals were frozen with the ducks and water fowl congregating "en masse" in the occasional little "oasis" of liquid water.

To our expressed fears about the show in such cold conditions we were assured that the show would be on and that we would be surprised. More of that later!

Though we were aware of the reputation of the people of Holland for decorating their houses with plants, we were not quite prepared

for the amazingly verdant scene which greeted us on entering the Pennings home. In the entrance hall were numerous foliage plants, a flowering orchid, a pot of the delightful pink and white blend tulip 'Dreamland' and several large pots of daffodils including two particular personal friends 'Limehurst' and 'Camowen'. The rest of the house was the same, only more so! Veritably, the Pennings — Jan, Ans, their delightful and (thankfully) English speaking children live in a garden. I was so intrigued and full of admiration because the whole layout seemed to be entirely natural and did not encroach on living space, that I enquired (much to the amusement of our hosts) if I might do a count! In summary this considerable effort provided the following information:

Flowering Pots	7 daffodils: 5 orchids: 4 hyacinths: 2 tulips: 2 cyclamen	Total 20
Foliage Plants	66 in living/dining room: 26 in kitchen: 15 in hall	Total 107
Vases Cut Flowers	1 daffodils: 2 tulips: 1 nerines	Total 4

Bedroom plants also plentiful were not counted!

In addition there were 4 expertly designed living floral arrangements including hyacinths, nerines and daffodils in which 'Foresight', 'Golden Amber' and 'Festivity' featured strongly. There were also 29 dried flower arrangements in a wide range of beautiful shapes, forms and colours. Ans Pennings is obviously a very talented and a very prolific flower arranger and we discovered that she feeds the plants on left over tea!

I make no apology for these initial, personal notes and impressions in a report which really ought to be dealing more specifically with horticultural aspects of the visit. Let it be said that my impression of the Dutch as a nation of single-minded, hard-headed businessmen has softened. Yes, they are thoroughly professional in everything they do — but they also have time to enjoy their flowers; they have a true love of plants and the beauty they see must not always have a D.fl. sign.

The ominous speed of the Pennings power generating windmill was enough to prompt the donning of coats and scarves on departure for the show — and how they were needed! Temperature about 10°C and a chill factor certainly never experienced in Northern Ireland. To step from this Arctic chill into the magnificent exhibition hall ablaze with the vibrant colours of tulips, hyacinths, daffodils, crocus, amaryllis and the full range of miscellaneous spring flowering bulbs all laid out in deeply concentrated landscape fashion was an experience never to be forgotten. After the first stunned admiration the questions began churning in the mind — how can it be done? Who is responsible for such a display? Where did all these flowers come from at this time of year? Why is a Show held at such an early and seemingly inconvenient time of year? Answers could come in more detailed examination and discussion.



Breezand Spectacular

In a report of this type it is not possible to describe in detail the various individual exhibits. Within the overall "curved" theme which had been determined by the organisers each exhibitor was free to display his artistic skill and the particular plants in which he specialised, to best advantage. As would be expected and as seems appropriate to bulbous plants, most were displayed at ground level, albeit well contoured. The bulbs were growing in pots which were buried in masses of peat. Shrubs, floral arrangements, hard surface features, fountains and even a pond with ducks, swans and cygnets were all there to add greenery, light, architectural background, tinkling sounds and animation. Such was the Breezand Spectacular. Jan Pennings was right — we were surprised and delighted to find such beauty at a time when at home the snowdrops had hardly dared to peer through the chilled and hardened earth of Northern Ireland.

On the daffodil exhibit of Mr. Karel van de Veeck comprising more than 150 daffodil varieties we were pleased to see some of our own. 'Violin' was just opening but its short stem, which has been a concern for exhibition purposes, is a decided advantage for pot forcing and seemingly it attracted some interest as a deeply coloured pink. We thought the pot of Tom Bloomer's 'Standfast' was magnificent but despite its deep colour and good form seemingly its parent 'Camelot' is preferred because of its larger size. Others to catch the eye were 'Shining Light', 'Jetfire', lovely 'Lunar Sea', 'Rosy Wonder' (2W-WWP), little 'Bantam' (2Y-YYR) and the delightful Coleman Triandrus 'Ice Wings' which I remember coveting about 10-12 years ago and hadn't seen since! Now I know the answer — its been hiding in Holland and I predict it will sooner or later land back on the exhibition benches with the same sort of dramatic impact as the now ubiquitous 'Unique'. Mr. Van de Veeck also had the award for the best "Narcis" in the show for a pot of 'White Ideal' which was stately, pure white and of attractive form and style but hardly of exhibition quality. Rather more garish and flamboyant amongst the 150 varieties shown were 'Berlin', 'Colororange' and 'Big Chief' — all of these would certainly provide colour impact in the garden and it had to be admitted that the pot of smallish, if perfect, 'Broomhill' in their midst was likely to pass unnoticed! Seemingly, however, there is a tremendous market in Germany and elsewhere for varieties which we, who favour exhibition types, would consider over-cupped, big mouthed or simply out of proportion. In Holland bulb growing is a business; the customer is yet regarded as being right. So, such varieties still predominate but it was gratifying to find that Mr. Van de Veeck has an eye for our kind of flower, grows them in his trial grounds and presents some of them to the public at shows such as Breezand.

Also, with an eye for real quality is Mr. J. W. A. van de Wereld who was awarded "de Gouden Bolbloem" — the golden bulbflower — which is regarded as the premier award of the show. His display was

truly magnificent both in artistic layout and in the quality of flowers which included over 50 varieties of daffodils (many from Grant Mitsch), tulips and miscellaneous bulbs. Under seedling number were two pots of what we think is perhaps the best exhibition reverse bicolour trumpet yet seen. It certainly had the best, deepest and cleanest contrast; the really pure white trumpet is beautifully and generously rolled and serrated, the perianth was really deep luminous lemon yellow, flat, smooth and there was hardly a nick in the 30-40 flowers on display. I predict a happy future for this flower when it is allowed access to a wider world. It has that extra style and character in addition to the more easily defined qualities which tempts the suggestion that it could some day be as common as 'Carlton' — subject to considerations of health, multiplication rate and plant habit.

Also in Mr. de Wereld's display were lovely pots of brilliant 'Cool Flame' 2W-P; lively looking 'Surfside' and 'Swift' 6W-Y's; deep golden 'Reliance' 6Y-Y and 'Quince' which looks like the best exhibition bet of the trio which includes 'Tête-a-Tête' and 'Jumble'.

Dwarf, species, species hybrids and a full range of standard sized tulips also abounded on this exhibit, each flower in each pot standing straight and strong and to an incredible standard of unblemished uniformity in height and colour. Nature does not provide such unvaried perfection without help — even in Holland exhibitors have their little tricks, some of which ultimately emerged on repeated enquiry!

Our host, J. S. Pennings, selected a stepped and tiered ground level layout for his first prize exhibit which included the largest selection of hyacinths in the show. Mr. Pennings is perhaps Holland's best known specialist in hyacinths and there was no doubt even to our untutored eyes that he fully merited the awards for best hyacinth — 'Jan Bos' — a lovely full deep red and reserve best hyacinth 'Blue Jacket' — a beautiful, tall, stately and massive flower of lovely form and colour. 'Pink Pearl' and the white 'Carnegie' were also in lovely form.

Mr. Pennings used Birch, Cupressus, Spruce and several of his wife's beautiful floral arrangements to add impact and height to his exhibit and as he also explained, to demonstrate the many uses of flowers in the home.

Tulips and daffodils (15 varieties) added variety and it was pleasing to see a pot of 'Camowen' and some pots of numbered seedlings with B. and D. prefixes looking well. 'Johann Strauss' 2W-R is a particular favourite of Mr. Pennings and though not of show form it is a bright and cheerful large 2W-R which forces well and makes good bulbs.

It was interesting to meet some of the personalities of the bulb growing industry in Holland and to learn something about the scope and scale of their operation and the structure of the industry.

Mr. Cees Breed, Chairman of the seven member Dutch Daffodil Committee is the specialist in new varieties for HOBACHO — one of two major bulb buying and selling offices for growers and exporters. It is generally accepted that Mr. Breed probably knows more about the whole range of flower bulbs "Bloembollan" than anyone else in Holland and he has an incredible reputation for identification of varieties. He regularly wins the annual Silver Windmill Cup which is awarded to the person who can recognise and correctly name the highest number of varieties out of a total of 275 varieties (100 tulips, 50 narcissi, 25 hyacinths, 50 small bulbs, 50 species). Entrants number between 50 and 100 per year which indicates wide interest and provides yet another useful P.R. exercise for the bulb industry, together with some light-hearted fun for those involved. Mr. Breed is a brother-in-law of Wim Lemmers who is well known in the U.K. and U.S.A.

Mr. Karel van der Veeke is the daffodil specialist of the other major bulb growers buying and selling organisation C.N.B. (Co-operative of Nederlands Bulbgrowers) and is also a member of the Dutch Daffodil Committee.

C.N.B. has 1,500 members who have combined with the object of marketing their bulbs to best advantage. Annual turnover is D.fl. 300 million, operating on a buying and selling commission of 2½% or 6% through the Auction.

C.N.B. produces a booklet containing over 1,500 cultivars of daffodils which are grown on the show garden of Karl van der Veeke. Many of these are more modern kinds imported from England, Northern Ireland the U.S.A. It is gratifying that there is now some interest in examining the new varieties which we exhibitor/hybridists have been producing but we also need to be aware of the qualities required by our friends in Holland if we wish to have our cultivars taken on and made available to a wider public. In the past the mass bulb growers have been slow to take on new varieties but modern rapid propagation methods seem to be giving impetus to greater interest in new varieties. It is reported that there is a Society in Holland devoted entirely to the study of rapid propagation techniques which already has more than 100 members. Holland obviously does not intend to give up its lead in the production of bulbs!

The facts that there are over 4,000 bulb growers in Holland, 500 to 600 exporters and the business is worth over £250M per year clearly illustrates the need for organisations like C.N.B. and HOBACHO to provide professional marketing services. Each organisation has its Bulb Auction similar to the Aalsmeer Flower Auction "clocks"; each has its sourcing specialists organised on Regional and Bulb genus basis. Each organisation produces regular magazines packed with topical information and advice on market, technical and cultural methods, show reports, opinions on new varieties of bulbs, modern



Breezand Spectacular

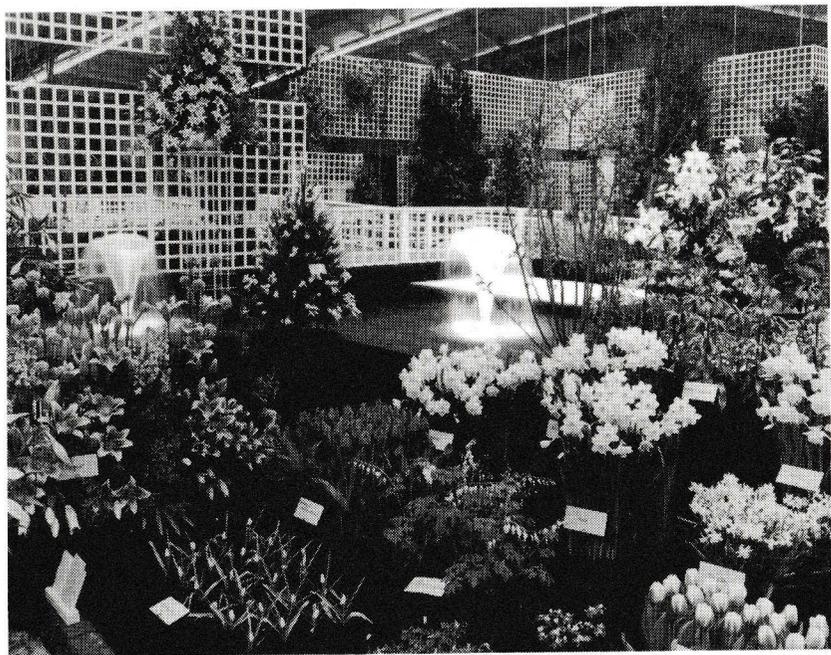
rapid propagation methods and indeed all matters of interest to bulb growers. As an example, the following is a loosely translated extract "Get rid of all Mosaic Virus infected plants before the greenfly flies. When the temperature reaches 16°C we must expect the greenfly and weekly spraying with a systematic or pyrethrum based insecticide should commence".

It was a pleasure to meet again another member of the Dutch Daffodil Committee who is a regular at the R.H.S. Daffodil Show — Mr. J. W. A. v.de Wereld whose exhibit was praised above. He is generally regarded as a man with a "good nose" for finding good new varieties and giving them a trial. He knows what the market wants but I suspect he might even be influencing the future market. It was pleasing to note that many of the new flowers he is introducing to the public come nearer to our ideas of exhibition refinement than most of those seen.

Mr. H. Huyg is a jovial gentleman who has been breeding tulips since 1946 and is famous for that beautiful pink/white single late tulip 'Dreamland' which is of such lasting quality that we were still enjoying his gift of blooms in our hall two weeks after our return. Selecting tulips is an even more arduous task than for daffodils; they also have to be tested for forcing qualities as well as basic form, colour, growth, etc. Mr. Huyg was not to be outdone by the press publicity about the "Black" tulip. He produced his own version and only a single Irishman was fooled! A subsequent visit to his greenhouse and finding a can of black spray paint showed how it was done!! Seemingly after 400 years of trying since Tulipmania the Dutch are no longer very optimistic about the breeding of a truly black tulip and must resort to other means! Mr. Huyg sows about 1,000 seeds every third year and reckons that this is all he can reasonably cope with, considering that each selection must be forced. 'Burning Love' — a red single early and 'Early Glory' — a pink single early are amongst his successes. Future breeding aims include the production of a range of fringed tulips, a new range of forcing tulips and also flowers for garden display and floral art. It is interesting that exhibition qualities are never mentioned and yet there must be great potential for enthusiastic hobbyists. I found myself being "hooked" by the classic beauties of many varieties and seedlings.

Kapiteyn is a well known name on bulb packs throughout the U.K. and elsewhere throughout the world. The family company headed by Mr. Leo is one of the few to combine growing with exporting. They had a wonderful exhibit at the Breezand Show dominated by new Amarylis varieties and we had an opportunity to see their sheds, packing houses and offices. Everything was neat, tidy, clean and well organised. Jan Kapiteyn was Chairman of the Breezand Show which was started 6 years ago by a group of young bulb growers, similar to our Young Farmers' Clubs. A committee of 5 was responsible and they organised their various voluntary work teams

including Design, Construction, Promotional and Take Down. Hans Kapiteyn was our genial exhort around their bulb sheds. He has lived and worked in U.S.A. for the Company and is now U.K. director. The Company employs 27 people and they produce a magnificent wholesale colour catalogue with a very wide range of beautifully presented bulbs for despatch all the year round.



Breezand Spectacular

Mr. G. M. F. Brouwer, another regular to the R.H.S. Halls is Chairman of the 5 member board of C.N.B. and together with his brother grows 25 hectares of bulbs including Hyacinths, Narcissi, Iris, small Gladioli and Lilies. In his C.N.B. capacity he is reputed to be one of the most influential personalities in the bulb growing industry and in true co-operative spirit has a special interest in publicising the industry for the good of all.

Wim Lemmers is perhaps best known to exhibitors and the world's hybridists than any other grower in Holland, with the possible exception of the genial Matthew Zandbergen. He has been coming to the London Shows for years both as exhibitor and visitor. He has also developed a love for American Daffodil Society Conventions and has a keen eye for something special in daffodils. He bought the Jack Gerritsen stocks of split coronas and has purchased many Division 4, 5, 6 and 7 varieties for rapid propagation. He has

developed bulb chipping to a high degree in his secret kitchen and is also experimenting with changing the flowering season of some varieties such as 'Soleil D'or' and 'Erlicher'. In addition to his work with daffodils Mr. Lemmers is an acknowledged authority on tulips and is currently Chairman of the Tulip Committee. In every walk of life there are those with vision, the trendsetters in more modern parlance — despite the calm and modest personality it certainly would seem that Wim Lemmers is such a one, and is respected as such in his own country.

Our host, Jan Pennings is no slouch in bulb growing matters either. In fact he is steeped in bulb growing; his father was one of the largest growers in Holland and he succeeded in his aim to set up his 6 sons in the same line of business. Jan is the eldest son operating independently with about 17 hectares and his 5 brothers farm 125 hectares as a family concern — Th. H. Pennings & Sons B.V. growing mainly popular varieties. Jan is also a bit of an international traveller regularly attending American Daffodil Society Conventions, the R.H.S. Daffodil Shows and has even been to Ireland — on at least 3 occasions. He is currently Chairman of the Dutch Hyacinth Committee, a member of the Dutch Daffodil Committee and on the official Plant Breeders Rights Committee. He is involved with the hyacinth breeding activities of the Plant Breeding Institute of WAGENINGEN. Incidentally this Institute also breeds tulips, iris and other bulbous plants but unfortunately time and season did not permit a visit.

During a cold, well wrapped up walk on the frozen canals of the Pennings property we learnt that he grows 4½ hectares of hyacinths, 3½ hectares of narcissi, 3 hectares of tulips — the remainder being miscellaneous bulbs including crocus species, sparaxis, oxalis, etc. We wondered how we would ever find and extract crocus and sparaxis bulbs from our stony heavy clay — that sandy soil of the Anna Paulowna polder was envied — how it must drop from the roots of daffodils during digging!

Jan Pennings is supported by the Ministry of Economic Affairs in conducting experiments on wind energy for agricultural purposes. The tall, slender, steel stemmed windmill ensures that the Pennings homestead can be located from miles around. What a contrast with the ancient and beautifully thatched and timber trussed original bulb shed adjoining more modern massive bulb sheds and temperature controlled stores.

Jan Pennings is one of many growers who has a direct computer link-up with the Brokerage organisations and can immediately check prices, supply and demand of almost any bulb variety. Business sophistication has arrived in the bulb growing areas of Holland.

At £23,000 per acre, is it any wonder that they are making more bulb land in Holland by importing sand from the sea. Good polder land should yield about £10-12,000 from the 90-100,000 saleable daffodil bulbs produced.

Many other pleasant memories and impressions linger which are beyond the scope of these notes. Friendliness, good humour, excellent hospitality and a brief call with our old friends, Matthew and Nell Zandbergen all left us with very warm feelings for the people of Holland. We may also have contracted a little Tulipmania as a further complication to the already acute yellow fever.

BRIAN DUNCAN

Sometimes it is not clear to us
Why some things happen so.
It was not what we planned at all
Nor where we tried to go.
But don't be sad when things go wrong,
Which put you to the test,
For you will find, when looking back,
It happened for the best.

There's a clever young fellow called Somebody Else,
There's nothing this fellow can't do.
He's busy from morning till late at night
Just substituting for you.

When asked to do this or asked to do that,
So often you're set to reply—
"Get Somebody Else, Mr. Chairman, please,
He'll do it much better than I".

There's so much to do in the parish,
So much and the workers are few,
And Somebody Else gets weary and worn
Just substituting for you.

So next time you're asked to do something worthwhile,
Come up with an honest reply,
If Somebody Else can give time and support,
It's obviously true so can I.

THE LATEST AND THE BEST: DIVISION 6

Division 6 is dominated by first generation hybrids between standard cultivars from Divisions 1 to 3 and *N. cyclamineus*, a distinctive specie of trumpet character and miniature proportions. Not surprisingly, crosses between such dissimilar parents have created hybrids showing a wide range of form, poise and size. The survival of such a diverse group of exhibition flowers reflects the liberal interpretation of registration requirements and lack of consensus amongst judges as to what constitutes a good cyclamineus hybrid. I ought therefore to warn readers about the preferences which underpin my comments.

My attitudes towards mainstream exhibition cultivars in Division 6 have been strongly influenced by starting my collection with the late Cyril Coleman's well-known trio of 'Charity May', 'Dove Wings' and 'Jenny' (all raised from 2W-Y 'Mitylene' x *N. cyclamineus*). When such first generation hybrids are crossed with cultivars from Divisions 1 to 3 the characteristics of *N. cyclamineus* often become significantly less predominant. In particular, stem height and flower size increase and the perianth may not reflex very much, if at all. The resulting loss of the 'grace' associated with *N. cyclamineus* can be so extensive that registration in Divisions 1 to 3 would sometimes be more appropriate. At a minimum, whatever their merits as garden and decorative varieties, such large cultivars ought to be penalized at shows for their uncharacteristic form and poise. In this context, I regard Brian Duncan's decisions when registering 1W-Y 'Form Master', 2Y-GYY 'Joyland' and 1 W-GWW 'Snow Gleam' (all raised from 6W-Y 'Joybell' x 1W-W 'Empress of Ireland') as prime examples of good practice.

Other common faults in Division 6 cultivars include lack of balance to over-long trumpets, coronas which are too wide relative to their length, loss of the drooping poise of *N. cyclamineus* and petals which are wide and rounded rather than narrow and pointed. To avoid confusion, I should make it clear that I am not in favour of confining Division 6 to *N. cyclamineus* 'look-alikes' which vary only in size, height and colour. My preferences are, however, biased towards cultivars which can be seen at a glance to meet the registration requirement for Division 6 i.e. 'Characteristics of *Narcissus cyclamineus* predominant'.

At this point, I ought to comment on two groups of attractive cyclamineus hybrids which in my view do not meet the requirements of Division 6. First, there are several cyclamineus hybrids which are similar to cultivars from Divisions 1 to 3 except that they are much smaller. Despite the obvious commercial limitations, I

feel that such cultivars ought to be registered in Divisions 1 to 3 and make their mark as miniatures or intermediates where show schedules permit. The present position is unsatisfactory and it is to be hoped that the example set by Grant Mitsch and Brian Duncan with 1Y-Y 'Sylph' and 2W-YWP 'Rimsky' will be rewarded by a greater provision of appropriate classes at shows, despite the difficulties involved. Second, there are some cyclamineus hybrids which judged by their appearance do not obviously belong to any particular Division (except perhaps Division 12), e.g. 6W-W 'Elwing' and 6W-P 'Foundling'. Many such cultivars are good garden plants, attractive for flower arranging and of sufficiently good form to justify a place on the show bench *somewhere*. Hybridizers have created something 'different' which does not easily fit into the classification system and will rightly go on doing so. The present position, whereby such flowers get on to the show bench because the rules are interpreted liberally, is fortuitous for progress in hybridizing, but is not ideal.

The comments which follow on individual cultivars are not comprehensive. Miniatures have been excluded so as to focus on mainstream cultivars and despite having grown over fifty different hybrids during the past decade, there are important gaps in my experience, particularly of varieties raised overseas. Several older cultivars which are now rarely seen at shows have also been excluded. The framework for my comments is the colour coding now used to distinguish the five single bloom classes for Division 6 at the R.H.S. Show.

ALL YELLOW

'Charity May' (1948) dominates its class and is, I believe, the only cultivar from Division 6 ever to be considered for the Best Bloom award at the R.H.S. Competition and Show. Despite growing competition from more recent introductions no clearcut successor to 'Charity May' has emerged.

Raised by Grant Mitsch from the same cross as 'Charity May', 'Willet' (1966) is a little smaller, slightly earlier flowering and smoother. 'Willet' grows better than its sibling for me and is a more delicately balanced and elegant flower.

Other potential challengers raised by Grant Mitsch include 'Rival' (6W-W 'Jenny' open pollinated — 1976), 'Rapture' (2Y-W 'Nazareth' x *N. cyclamineus* — 1976), and 'El Camino' (5Y-Y 'Honey Bells' x *N. cyclamineus* — 1978). My first bloom of 'Rival' won its class at the R.H.S. Show in 1980. The bloom was very smooth with substance to spare, had a beautifully serrated rim to its corona and was of clear even glowing yellow colouring. Unfortunately, subsequent blooms have been very large and the shape and balance of the petals most

variable. The informal characteristics of the species are clearly predominant in the rather stiffly poised 'Rapture'. Despite its charm, I suspect that 'Rapture' will be a useful, rather than an outstanding Show flower. I have seen 'El Camino' several times and not bought it because of its excessive height.

I looked carefully at Brian Duncan's winning bloom of 'Elfin Gold' (2Y-Y 'Golden Joy' open pollinated — 1983) at the R.H.S. Show in 1983. Strong points included smoothness, substance and clear deep golden yellow colouring. Unfortunately, the bloom was rather large and the shortness of 'Elfin Gold's' cup relative to its width detracted from its elegance by giving a compact and rather heavy impression.

Sir Frank Harrison's 'Charity Fair' ('Charity May' x seedling — 1983) has an attractive bell-shaped corona. Unfortunately, the perianth does not reflex and the tall stem results in 'Charity Fair' looking like a medium-sized 2Y-Y. Hence, my use of 'Charity Fair' in attempts to breed distinctive 2Y-Y's.

'Radical' (Rosewarne E.H.S. 1985) shows clear evidence of *N. cyclamineus* in its parentage, but unfortunately can grow as large as a standard 1Y-Y.

YELLOW PERIANTH: ORANGE OR RED CORONA

6Y-O or R is a weak class.

'Beryl' (9W-R Chaucer' x *N. cyclamineus* — P. D. Williams 1907) has a short bell-shaped cup and long narrow strongly-reflexed petals of dirty white/pale yellow. A useful parent, 'Beryl' is likely to disappear from Shows now that classes restricted to shorter cupped cultivars have been abolished.

'Andalusia' (2W-R seedling x *N. cyclamineus* — Cyril Coleman 1961) is a graceful flower with a longish cup. Though likely to do better than 'Beryl', I suspect that 'Andalusia' will also suffer from recent changes in Show schedules. Having lost 'Andalusia' three times in a decade, I hesitate to recommend it.

Grant Mitsch's 'Jetfire' (2Y-R seedling x *N. cyclamineus* — 1966) is one of the first daffodils to flower in my garden. 'Jetfire' has a longish narrow corona, the colour of which intensifies from gold to orange red as the flower ages. Though rarely able to beat a good 'Charity May', 'Jetfire' is a must for early Shows, should do well in the new class for hybrids with orange or red coronas and is an outstanding garden plant with enormous commercial potential. Unfortunately, Show blooms of 'Jetfire' are often spoilt by yellow blotches which give the corona a mottled appearance.

Raised by Grant Mitsch from a 2Y-O 'Vulcan' seedling x *N. cyclamineus*, 'Itzim' (1982) also develops in form and colour as it matures. 'Itzim' has sufficiently strong cyclamineus characteristics

to make it worth trying for breeding, but is unlikely to displace 'Jetfire'. Despite occasional blooms of Show quality, this conclusion likewise applies to 'Satellite' (1962), and 'Shimmer' (1977), which were also raised by Grant Mitsch.

'Quaint' (P. and G. Phillips — 1975) has broad reflexing petals, a wide shortish expanding cup and strongly contrasting colouring. Blooms as large and tall as standard Division 2 cultivars and uncharacteristic form led me to stop growing 'Quaint' some years ago.

6Y-O or R offers considerable scope for hybridizers, both in terms of general improvement and the breeding of later flowering cultivars than 'Jetfire'.

WHITE PERIANTH: YELLOW CORONA

6W-Y is a strong class with a lot of interesting flowers.

'Pepys' (P. D. Williams — 1927) has the most elegant flower of any cyclamineus hybrid I have seen so far; a well-coloured long narrow-waisted trumpet is delicately balanced by long narrow petals which reflex so strongly as to almost touch at their tips. Shown with considerable success by John Blanchard, 'Pepys' could perhaps be criticised for a slightly short stem and petals which look difficult to whiten. This said, my only reason for not recommending 'Pepys' is its long absence from commerce. PLEASE will somebody build up a stock and re-introduce 'Pepys' to commerce?

Though the least successful of the Coleman trio as a parent, 'Dove Wings' (1949) has an outstanding Show record and is a very good garden plant.

'Joybell' ('Jenny' open pollinated — J. L. Richardson 1969) has a most attractive bell-shaped cup and its flat smooth perianth is of a very waxy texture. Unfortunately, 'Joybell' is rather tall and its cup is the only obvious characteristic it shares with *N. cyclamineus*. Although 'Joybell' is sometimes successful at Shows, I feel that it ought to have been registered in Division 2.

'Perky' (1970) and 'Ibis' (1972) were both raised from 1W-Y 'Trousseau' x *N. cyclamineus* and are much closer to the species in form than 'Dove Wings' and 'Joybell'. 'Perky' has the strongest colouring of any 6W-Y, whilst 'Ibis' has cleaner but paler colouring. After being unavailable for some years, 'Perky' is again in commerce. Though not a very vigorous plant and despite the time and care needed to whiten its perianth, 'Perky's' success at early Shows fully justifies its place in my collection. Conversely, I bought 'Ibis' after seeing Wilson Stewart's superb winning flower in 1979, but my blooms have had a starry perianth and I have yet to grow a flower worth showing.

'Surfside' (2W-Y 'Oratorio' x *N. cyclamineus* — 1972) was also raised by Grant Mitsch and has similar form to 'Dove Wings'. Although 'Surfside' has been successful at major Shows, its flower is large and heavy relative to the stem height and the petals are rather short and broad for Division 6.

Out of Mavis Verry's famous trio; 'Tracey', 'Trena' and 'Tinkerbelle' (2W-W 'Assini' x *N. cyclamineus* — 1971), only the latter has survived in my garden. 'Tinkerbelle' has produced some attractive, clean, moderately coloured blooms, which though unsuccessful at Shows, have been good enough for me to feel justified in exhibiting them. I hope to try again with these famous New Zealand varieties shortly.

Notwithstanding the introduction of 'Phalarope' (6W-W 'Titania' x *N. cyclamineus*) by Grant Mitsch last year, the absence of significant new cultivars since the early 1970's is surprising. 6W-Y's offer considerable scope for hybridizers both to refine form and colour using line breeding and to create late flowering cultivars.

ALL WHITE

The all whites are a weak class on the verge of major changes.

'Jenny' (1943) has narrower, longer and more strongly reflexed petals than its siblings. A bicolor on opening, 'Jenny' only becomes all white shortly before the flower dies. The least successful of the Coleman trio at Shows, 'Jenny' has been given a new lease of life by the recent creation of the single bloom class for all whites. Though likely to be displaced as a Show flower in the near future, 'Jenny' is for hybridizers, Cyril Coleman's most important contribution to Division 6. As a parent 'Jenny' usually passes on some of its cyclamineus character whilst producing seedlings with the colour of its mate. The existence within Division 6 of almost every colour combination available in daffodils is primarily due to 'Jenny'.

'Titania' ('Trousseau' x 'Jenny' — J. L. Richardson 1958) opens white, but has a large flower on a tall stem and shows few of the characteristics of *N. cyclamineus*. I feel that 'Titania' ought to have been registered in Division 2.

Of similar form to its siblings, Grant Mitsch's 'Ocean Breeze' ('Trousseau' x *N. cyclamineus* — 1969) opens a pale bicolor but fades rapidly to all white. I have used 'Ocean Breeze' several times in collection classes and regard it as a useful but not outstanding cultivar.

Of similar form to 'Dove Wings', Grant Mitsch's 'Cazique' (1982) opens with a pale yellow corona which fades rapidly to ivory white, has lots of substance and is very smooth. Raised from a pink seedling crossed with *N. cyclamineus*, 'Cazique' is the best 6W-W I have

seen and ought to make a big impact at Shows when grown more widely.

Brian Duncan's 'Elrond', 'Elwing' and 'Sextant' were all raised from 2W-W 'Stainless' x 6W-P 'Foundling'. These very beautiful pure white flowers of intermediate size and proportions have inherited the short expanding cup of their seed parent and have perianths of good form and substance which reflex very little. Readers who do not share my doubts about Division 6 hybrids where few of the characteristics of the specie are evident, will want to evaluate these attractive mid-season flowering cultivars closely, in the expectation that they will do well at Shows.

WHITE PERIANTH: PINK CORONA

Unless scientific tests are performed, it is difficult to be confident about the parentage of hybrid daffodils. The practice of basing registration on the raiser's description of the appearance of a cultivar can, therefore, be regarded as a matter of common sense. My doubts, which are at their greatest with the 6W-P's centre on the practice of registering in Division 6 hybrids where arguably only one characteristic of *N. cyclamineus* is present. Often, the characteristic in question is a reflexing perianth. To me, the short broad petals of many 6W-P's look much closer to those seen on some cultivars in Division 9 than to the long narrow petals of *N. cyclamineus*. Particularly when combined with a short cup of Division 3 character, the end result can be most attractive, but bears little likeness to the specie. For me, the case for including such flowers in Division 6 seems to rest primarily on the uneasy proposition, that these creations of the hybridizer's art have no better slot to occupy. This said, it is time to return to the flowers.

'Foundling' (2W-P 'Irish Rose' x 'Jenny' — Carncairn 1969) has an outstanding exhibition record, particularly at mid and late season shows. Strong points include deep pink colour, intermediate size, good balance between the short cup and short reflexing petals, garden vigour and good seed setting. Despite the drooping poise for much of its life and reflexing petals, I remain unconvinced that the characteristics of *N. cyclamineus* are predominant in 'Foundling'.

'Waif' and 'Stray' ('Foundling' x 6W-GPP 'Lilac Charm' — 1983) have longer coronas than 'Foundling' and look interesting to breed with. However, given the strength of the competition, I do not expect them to make much impact on the Show bench.

Of unknown parentage, 'Little Princess' (Mrs. J. L. Richardson 1983) is a large flower with broad moderately reflexing petals on a short stem. Of Division 2 character, 'Little Princess' has a very distinctive pink colouring which it passes on to its progeny, but is

unlikely to succeed at Shows.

The most prolific breeder of 6W-Ps to date is Brian Duncan.

'Lavender Lass' and 'Lilac Charm' (2W-P 'Roseworthy' x R562 x 2W-P 'Rose Caprice') — 1976 and 1973, cannot prove their descent from the specie, but certainly look like mainstream Division 6 hybrids. Both have pale lilac-pink colouring. Although 'Lavender Lass' is slightly more robust in appearance, it is the delicate looking 'Lilac Charm' which has been most successful at Shows. Now that 'Lilac Charm' can be bought on demand again, I expect it to re-establish some of the Show bench form it demonstrated in the early 1970's.

I have not grown 'Delta Wings' (2W-GWP 'Interim' x 'Joybell'? — 1977) but have noted considerable variation in height in the examples seen at Shows. 'Nymphette' ('Roseworthy' x ? — 1978) has an attractive waisted cup, smooth texture, and flowers a little after 'Foundling'. Unfortunately, 'Nymphette's' petals do not reflex very much and are not quite pure white. Though a little smaller, 'Nymphette' often reminds me of what 'Joybell' would look like if it had a pink cup.

I have lost count of Brian Duncan's more recent 6W-P seedlings, whether named or under number. These seedlings include almost every permutation of characteristics seen in Division 6. Thus coronas range from acorn cups through half-length narrow cylinders to trumpets, in colours from copper-orange through pink to lilac-pink. Likewise, perianths include those which do not reflex at all, through to petals which curl back like a lily. On the whole, these seedlings are of mainstream Division 6 height and size. Apart from the obvious scope for line breeding in the longer term, this seedling explosion offers enormous promise for mainstream 6W-P's, intermediates and distinctive new cultivars which do not fit easily into the existing classification system. I have found it difficult to decide what to buy, if only for fear that even better flowers may be available shortly. This said, I like the deep pink half-length cylindrical cup of 'Diane' ('Roseworthy' x 2W-P 'Rosedew') x 'Foundling' — 1983. I also await with interest the introduction of 'Mary Lou' ('Lilac Charm' x 'Lavender Lass' — 1984), a most distinctive cultivar in the 'something different' category.

I much regret not having seen Grant Mitsch's 'Cotinga' (1977) and 'Carib' (1980), or any 6W-P's from Australia and New Zealand.

OTHER COLOURS

Though not yet in commerce, almost every colour combination known to the daffodil hybridizer exists within Division 6. Unfortunately, I have not yet seen either Grant Mitsch's 6Y-W's or Ballydorn's 6W-O 'Dove of Peace' (2W-O 'Buncrana' x seedling — 1980).

Unusually, despite a few promising seedlings having been exhibited, multi-coloured rimmed varieties have still to make a significant impact in Division 6.

CONCLUSION

The Editor's remit asked for four cultivars to be chosen to form the basis of an exhibitor's collection. Those who rely mostly on past Show results when choosing cultivars, will have no difficulty in deciding to buy 'Jetfire' for early Shows, 'Charity Bed' and 'Dove Wings' for mid-season Shows and 'Foundling' for later Shows. As I like them better, I would substitute 'Willet' for 'Charity May' and 'Lilac Charm' for 'Foundling'.

However, four cultivars does not now cover all the single blooms classes at the R.H.S. Show and is restrictive for collection classes. I would therefore add 'Perky' to give distinctiveness to early season choices and 'Cazique' because it has an outstanding future and would make it possible to enter the 6W-W class.

MALCOLM BRADBURY

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