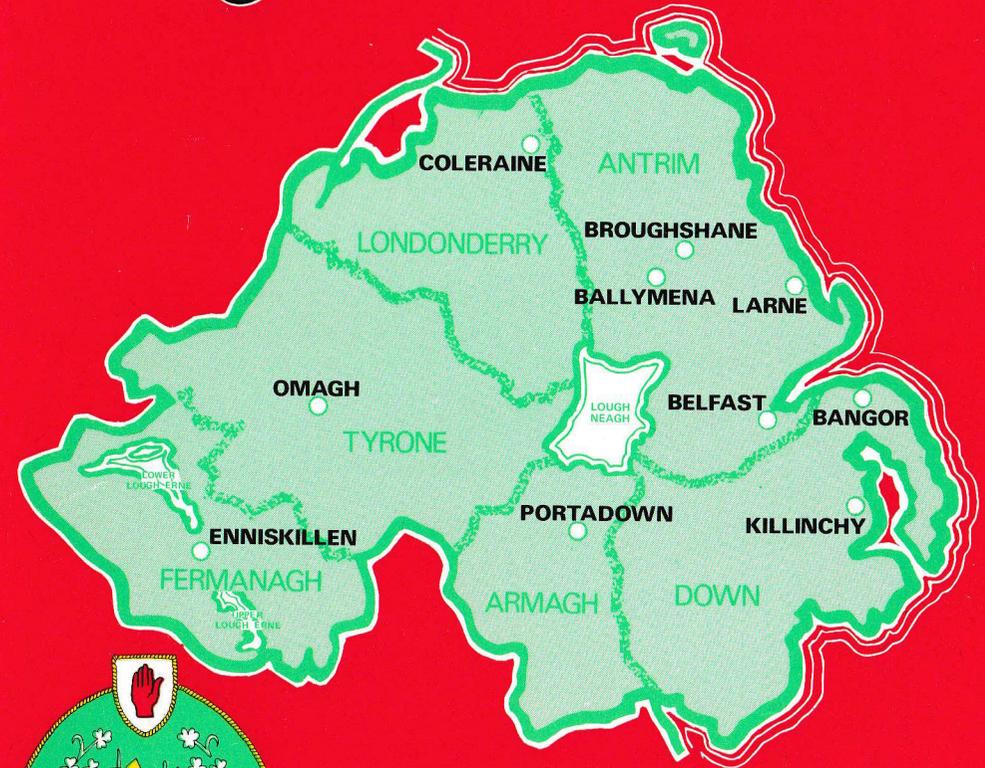


# Newsletter

of the  
**Northern Ireland  
Daffodil Group**



Half-yearly publication of the  
**Northern Ireland Daffodil Group**

APRIL 1993  
ISSUE

## System of Classification

1. The classification of a daffodil cultivar will be that which is submitted by the person registering the cultivar, or will be based on the description and measurements submitted by such person.

2. The classification will consist of a division number and a colour code (for example, 1Y-Y, 2YW-Y, 3W-WWR, or 4Y-O).

3. The numbered divisions in which a daffodil cultivar may be placed are defined on inside back cover.

4. Measurements taken in determining between Divisions 1, 2 and 3 will be those of the flower at maturity. The length of the perianth segments is the measurement from the tip of one segment when flattened out to the base of the corona. The length of the corona is the measurement from the base of the perianth segments to the furthest margin of the corona.

5. a) The colours and equivalent code letters which may be used to describe a daffodil cultivar will be those of the flower at maturity. They are:

White or Whitish	W
Green	G
Yellow	Y
Pink	P
Orange	O
Red	R

In distinguishing Orange from Red in daffodil classification, borderline colours including and on the yellow side of RHS Orange Group 29 are said to be Orange; those including and on the purple side of Orange-Red Group 30 are Red.

b) The colour code will consist of two letters or two groups of letters separated by a hyphen: the letter(s) before the hyphen will describe the perianth segments (the "petals"); the letter(s) following the hyphen will describe the corona (the "trumpet" or "cup").

c) For purposes of description the perianth segments will be divided into three zones: outer zone, mid-zone and base; and the corona into three zones: eye zone, mid-zone and rim.

d) If the perianth segments are substantially of a single colour, a single code letter will describe them; if they are of more than one colour, either two or three code letters will be used, describing the outer zone before the mid-zone and/or base.

e) If the corona is substantially of a single colour, a single code will describe it; if it is of more than one colour, three code letters will be used, describing the eye-zone before the mid-zone and rim.

f) In double daffodils the code letter(s) before the hyphen will describe not only the perianth segments but also any extra perianth segments (being of the same colour), even if they are interspersed with the corona at the centre of the flower; the code letter(s) following the hyphen will describe the corona or the segments of the corona. Multiple letters before or after the hyphen will in doubles as in all other daffodils indicate that there is more than one colour from outer zone to base of the perianth segments or from eye zone to rim of the corona or the segments of the corona.

*Continued inside back cover*

## THE NORTHERN IRELAND DAFFODIL GROUP

### NEWSLETTER

VOL. 4 NO. 2

APRIL 1993

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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 £5 per annum or £12.50 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-Committee

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

It is now mid February (as I pen these lines) and the majority of my daffodils have emerged after one of the wettest planting seasons on record. Here on the Seven Mile Straight we have had more than average frost though other parts of the Province have had much less and are beginning to worry about an early season. However nature has its own way of balancing things out over the whole season.

The Belfast Show moves back to Maysfield where lighting and staging facilities are much better. Last year I asked for your comments on the experiment of staging without daffodil leaves. To date I have had no replies. Last year I felt that the mixture of leaves and other foliage did not look nearly as well as when daffodil leaves were used by everyone.

May I take this opportunity to thank all those who give of their time at the Autumn Horticultural Fair at Balmoral. I would like to thank those who donated bulbs or provided them at a reduced rate. I would ask members to plant up small cuttings of garden plants (especially autumn flowering) which can be sold at Balmoral this September. Daffodil bulbs from divisions 4 to 9 are particularly sought after.

Last November we had our first of hopefully many meetings at Ballance House and I look forward to our early Show there. Special thanks go to Mrs. McIvor and her team for their generous hospitality.

Another highlight of the year was the meeting in Omagh where Mr. Frank Parkinson gave an enlightening talk and showed us some wonderful examples of his skill at photographing daffodils. I can say without contradiction that we saw some of the best slides of daffodils ever shown at a group meeting.

And so to the future. The turnout at some of the meetings has been somewhat disappointing – especially the Annual General Meeting. I know not everyone could be there but an Annual General Meeting is a very important meeting in that you elect your Officials and have your say. This year we intend to have a couple of meetings during the Summer.

I would also like to make an appeal on behalf of the Editor for some copy for the Newsletter. Photographs are also extremely welcome. I urge you make a special effort to attend the Show Dinner. We hope to have an enjoyable evening in the company of our overseas visitors. Finally support as many Society Shows as you can and I hope the weather is kind. Good Showing!

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Coming to the end of my first year as Secretary let me apologize for any shortcomings that may be evident. It has been quite an exhausting task following in the footsteps of Mr. McCabe. My first

task is to thank certain people. A special thanks go to our Chairman and his wife Heather who made us so welcome at their home for our committee meetings.

When I look back over 1992 it was not the daffodils that first spring to mind. It is the ordeal undergone by our long serving members Robin Reade. Every Show I attended saw people enquiring after his welfare. We all wish Robin a better 1993. However a little sunshine shone through the clouds for Kate because in 1992 she was awarded the Gold Medal of the American Daffodil Society for her services to the Daffodil. Congratulations Kate once again!

The London Show did not result in the Engleheart Cup coming to this side of the Irish Sea, but don't forget that the winner was one of our mainland members. Congratulations Clive. However the Northern Ireland contingent didn't come home empty handed. Brian Duncan took back once again the Guy Wilson Trophy for white daffodils as well as about 15 firsts in other classes. On top of this Brian also won a Gold Medal for his Trade Stand.

One of the top awards for amateurs namely The Richardson Trophy was won by Sandy McCabe. Sandy had an outstanding entry and he also won two open classes with 'Lennymore' and 'Pink Silk'. Thank God I got a bulb of 'Pink Silk' last year – this year the price goes up! Well done both of you.

Tyrone Daffodils chose to go to Gateshead and their journey was not wasted. They took back a large Gold Medal as well as winning a number of classes. Congratulations Clarke and Desmond.

The Belfast Show posed the usual problems. Three days was a long stretch. The weather did not help either. We have been promised more bench space in Maysfield. Make sure you fill it. Remember the Show is for everyone and every little help in appreciation.

Last year we made a special effort to attract new members. The fact that some are here today demonstrates its success. Make sure they are well inoculated with Yellow Fever virus – I think some already are – you are most welcome.

Our efforts at improving our cash flow were well supported and resulted in us reacting our target. My thanks to everyone concerned.

Finally the sad news. During the year Sheila Fenn, one of our mainland members passed away. I have already written to Peter on your behalf expressing our sympathy. 1992 also saw the death of one of the elder statesmen of Northern Ireland daffodils namely the late James Bankhead, uncle of Sam. Our deepest sympathy goes to Sam and the Bankhead family. Unfortunately I only found out some time after.

Thank you all and good showing in 1993.

## SHOW DATES 1993

- Sunday, March 28th  
N.I.D.G. Early Show, Ballance House, Glenavy.
- Saturday, April 3rd  
Hillsborough Horticultural Society, "Orr Hall", Hillsborough.
- Saturday, April 10th  
Ballymena Horticultural Society, Community Centre, Broughshane.
- Saturday, April 17th  
Bangor Horticultural Society, St. Columbanus Church Hall, Ballyholme.  
Enniskillen Horticultural Society, Agricultural College, Enniskillen.  
Coleraine Horticultural Society, New University of Ulster.
- Saturday and Sunday, April 24th and 25th  
Belfast Spring Festival, Maysfield Leisure Centre.
- Saturday, May 1st  
Omagh Horticultural Society, College of Further Education, Omagh.
- Sunday, May 9th  
N.I.D.G. Late Show, Ballydorn Bulb Farm.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Saturday, April 24th  
Show Dinner, Ballance House
- Saturday, May 8th  
Garden Forms, Greenmount Horticultural College
- Sunday, June 27th  
Demonstration and Garden Visit at 231 Ballynahinch Road, Lisburn by kind invitation of Mr. J. McAusland.
- Sunday, July 25th  
Garden Visit and Barbecue at 223 Seven Mile Straight, Crumlin by kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. M. Kerr.
- Sunday, October 17th  
Bulb Auction and Talk on Lilies by Mr. J. McAusland at Tyrone County Club, High Street, Omagh.
- Sunday, January 30th, 1994  
Annual General Meeting followed by 'Doing It My Way' – a discussion on daffodil cultivation and exhilarating.

## WHITE AND YELLOW BICOLOUR TRUMPETS

MALCOLM BRADBURY

I last reviewed 1W-Y's in the April 1979 edition of the Northern Ireland Daffodil Group's "Newsletter". I opened that review by saying that only three cultivars; 'Newcastle', 'Preamble' and 'Downpatrick' were regular winners in single bloom classes, despite their having been registered as long ago as 1946 to 1959. Has anything changed in the last fourteen years and are there any newly introduced cultivars which are likely to make a big impact on the Show bench?

An obvious starting point is to look at past Show results. For many years George Tarry has performed an invaluable service to exhibitors. Each year George records the winning blooms at the R.H.S. Competition and Show, the Daffodil Society Show and Harrogate Show. The results are then tabulated by colour code and published in the Daffodil Society's "Journal". A result is only recorded if a cultivar is included in two winning entries and no distinction is now made between single bloom and collection classes, or between open and novice classes. George also lists the top ten winning cultivars irrespective of their classification. Given varying weather condition it is normal for some cultivars to score highly one season and to go unmentioned in the next. The important point is that George's articles have now appeared for so many years that it is possible to track the rise and fall of winning cultivars. The table overleaf shows the last ten years record of winning 1W-Y's.

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	'Newcastle'	'Downpatrick'	'Pennine Way'	'Preamble'	'Cristobal'	'Bravoure'	Other Cultivars
1983	11 5 9	2 3 4		2 1 0	1 5 0		*4 2 0
1984	10 10 7	1 4 1	1 1 2	2 3 1			
1985	12 7 9	3 1 1	2 5 1	2 3 1		4 4 4	
1986	9 9 11		2 3 1	2 3 1		2 5 3	
1987	12 5 9		2 1 0		1 1 2	1 2 2	+2 0 0
1988	10 12 4	2 2 0				3 1 2	
1989	4 3 4	1 3 1				5 4 1	#2 3 1
1990	5 5 2	1 2 3		1 1 2	3 1 0	7 8 6	=2 0 0
1991	8 7 6				2 3 1	7 10 2	
	3 5 4				1 4 3		

8

\* Split 50 : 50 between 'Owston Wood' and 'Karamudli'

+ 'Dunmurry'

# 'Pops Legacy'

= 'Compute'

Note: The numbers against each cultivar are the number of first, second and third prizes respectively won in the year in question.

Source: George Tarry, Summary of Prizewinning Flowers, The Daffodil Society's 'Journal' 1984-1993.

### 'Newcastle' triumphant

The most obvious message from past results is the overwhelming success of 'Newcastle' until the late 1980's and the ability of 'Downpatrick', 'Pennine Way', 'Preamble' and 'Cristobal' to keep a toehold amongst the prizes.

'Newcastle' ('Niphetos' x 'Kanchenjunga') was raised by Willie Dunlop and registered in 1957. Aided by the intense depth of glowing gold colouring in its trumpet, 'Newcastle' won Best Bloom in Show Awards at London in 1962, 1969 and 1970; and is the only 1W-Y to appear in George's top ten. Consequently, 'Newcastle's' ability to produce magnificent blooms from time to time is beyond doubt. Criticisms include hooding, cockled petals, yellow undertones to the perianth and a trumpet which is a little wide at the base. 'Newcastle' flowers at mid-season but needs a long time for the petals to whiten when grown outside and usually does better in pots. In short, 'Newcastle' is a difficult flower to grow, which can nonetheless produce good blooms for experienced exhibitors who have the ability and time to meet its demanding requirements.

'Downpatrick' ('Guardian' x 'Broughshane') was raised and registered by Willie Dunlop in 1959. Despite its pale trumpet, 'Downpatrick's' better form, larger size, whiter perianth and improved carriage can beat 'Newcastle'. 'Downpatrick's' relatively late flowering time has led to success at second half of season Shows such as Harrogate, where trumpet daffodils are sometimes in short supply. However, 'Downpatrick' can have a crepe like texture and look floppy due to insufficient substance relative to its size.

'Pennine Way' ('Killynure' x 'Preamble') was raised and registered by Freddie Board in 1965. A consistent flower which usually lacks the size needed for major success, 'Pennine Way' is regularly included in winning entries for the Arkwright Challenge Cup, which is judged for contrast between perianth and trumpet colours at the Daffodil Society's Show.

Only two other flowers in George's table are worth a mention at this point.

'Preamble' has the same parentage as 'Newcastle' and was raised and registered by Guy Wilson as long ago as 1946. 'Preamble' blooms well before 'Newcastle' and had a good record at early Shows. Though well formed and having a whiter perianth than 'Newcastle', 'Preamble' has a less strongly coloured trumpet which fades quickly even when protected from direct sunlight. At its best, a couple of days before fading spoils its beautiful soft golden trumpet, I prefer 'Preamble' to 'Newcastle'. Unfortunately, 'Preamble's' early flowering time has led to it being ignored by the many exhibitors, who prefer to rely on growing mid-season flowering cultivars in pots to meet their early Show needs. Consequently, 'Preamble' is now rarely seen at major Shows.

9

ENGLEHEART CUP 1985, 1986 and 1990  
A.D.S. HYBRIDISERS CHALLENGE TROPHY 1988 and 1991

# Brian Duncan

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‘Cristobal’ (‘My Love’ op.) was raised by Lionel Richardson and registered by Mrs. Richardson in 1968. As with many cultivars introduced shortly before Mrs. Richardson’s retirement, ‘Cristobal’s’ impact on the Show bench was delayed until it was re-introduced into commerce some years later. ‘Cristobal’ has a smooth white perianth and a primrose trumpet which does not fade. My having said in 1979 that ‘Cristobal’ lacked impact on the Show bench, Wilson Steward exhibited a magnificent bloom at the following year’s Daffodil Society Show. Unfortunately, I have never seen ‘Cristobal’ so well grown since.

### **The rise and fall of ‘Bravoure’**

New cultivars are usually made available to exhibitors as expensive novelties. Consequently, even outstanding flowers usually take a long time to become firm Show favourites. As will be seen from the table, ‘Bravoure’, achieved a dominant position within five years (1988-92). What the table does not show, is that during the same period, ‘Bravoure’ made a major impact at all levels of competition, including the Open Single Bloom Classes – arguably the acid test of success for an exhibition flower. How did ‘Bravoure’ achieve such comprehensive success so quickly?

Of unrecorded percentage, ‘Bravoure’ was raised and registered

by J. W. A. van der Wereld as long ago as 1974 and received an Award of Merit as an exhibition flower in 1978. ‘Bravoure’ then disappeared from sight whilst flocks were built up and reappeared some years later as a mass market flower. Consequently, ‘Bravoure’s’ rapid rise to fame as an exhibition flower was helped by its easy availability as an excellent low priced garden plant. I am told that last Autumn, ‘Bravoure’ was on sale at £2.50 for 20 bulbs at Marks and Spencers! If even a few more leading Show flowers were good garden plants and available at similar prices, I for one would be rather wealthier and our hobby would be much more popular.

‘Bravoure’ is a large flower with a tall strong stem and lots of substance in its ample clean white petals. Unfortunately, ‘Bravoure’s’ trumpet is plain and uninteresting and is coloured a dull muddy shade of yellow. Overall, ‘Bravoure’ lacks the refinement of form and clarity of colour which I expect in a top rank exhibition trumpet daffodil. It could be argued that ‘Bravoure’s’ Show results imply that my criticisms are exaggerated. In self defence, I would argue that the real problem is the lack of distinctive character in many of ‘Bravoure’s’ older competitors and the considerable effort and skill needed to grow the exceptional blooms they are known to be capable of providing from time to time.

### **New competitors**

The relative decline of ‘Newcastle’ has not been entirely due to ‘Bravoure’, ‘Dunmurry’, ‘Pops Legacy’ and ‘Compute’ have each done well enough to get a mention in George Tarry’s annual “Summary of Prizewinning Flowers”. Likewise, ‘Stormy Weather’, an established Southern Hemisphere Show flower has recently become available in the U.K. How strong are the new competitors?

‘Dunmurry’ is not new. Raised from the same productive cross as ‘Preamble’ and ‘Newcastle’ and registered as a 2W-Y in 1958 by Willie Dunlop, ‘Dunmurry’ was re-classified as a 1W-Y in 1988. It is many years since I, and I suspect many other exhibitors, last grew ‘Dunmurry’. My recollection is of a well contrasted bloom, with a waxy texture and a rather wide mouthed borderline trumpet, which flowered at mid-season. Earlier re-classification might have helped, but I find it difficult to envisage a born-again ‘Dunmurry’ emerging from retirement to take the Show bench by storm.

‘Pops Legacy’ was raised in the U.S.A. by Bill Bender from open pollinated seed collected by the late Phil Phillips – hence the name. I have yet to grow ‘Pops Legacy’ which has only recently become available in the U.K. despite being registered as long ago as 1985. Those who know ‘Pops Legacy’ tell me that it is large, smooth, consistent and flowers after ‘Stormy Weather’ – perhaps the best of the new challengers. I await my first bloom with hopeful anticipation.

'Compute' ('Lenz' x 'Helsal') was raised and registered by David Jackson of Tasmania in 1986. David's catalogue description of 'Compute' reads:

"A large early bicolour which has a very large long trumpet of bright yellow that does not stain the perianth. The perianth is triangular and very smooth, opens a little muddy but whitens to a pure white. A very consistent smooth flower carried on a tall stem!"

I have not grown 'Compute', but have seen some of Paul Payne's winning blooms. As grown by Paul, 'Compute' has a magnificent perianth and is a tall bold flower which thrusts itself at the viewer. However, the narrow based trumpet was too long for my liking and was spoilt by a ridge near the mouth.

'Stormy Weather' was raised and registered by David Bell of New Zealand in 1957. I have yet to discover the parentage of 'Stormy Weather' which I am now growing for the third time, having lost it twice due to virus after importing it from New Zealand. 'Stormy Weather' is strongly coloured, opens at mid season but takes time to whiten, smooth and nicely balanced – a strong challenger which I expect to make a greater impact when more widely grown.

#### **Where do we go from here?**

Progress in breeding good 1W-Y's has generally lagged behind that in breeding 1Y-Y's and 1W-W's. However, the apparent lack of progress is not for the want of trying. Almost all leading hybridizers have introduced new 1W-Y's at one time or another. Brief comments on a few of the thirty or so bicolour trumpets which I have grown since the early 1970's will hopefully highlight some of the problems.

'Descanso' (Evans 1965) – Clean colour contrast, distinctive character due to its long narrow trumpet and pointed petals, but reluctantly thrown out due to its tendency to produce lob-sided blooms.

'Cool Contrast' (Bloomer 1970) – an improved 'Ballygarvey' but on the small side.

'Willow Green' (Abel-Smith 1977) – very early and vigorous, long lived, a fine garden plant which is too ragged for exhibition.

'Form Master' (Duncan 1977) – I like the distinctive bell-shaped trumpet inherited via 6W-Y 'Joybell' from N. Cyclamineus and the wide perianth segments, but wish the trumpet had been a cleaner yellow and the whole plant a bit larger.

'Cyros' (W. Jackson, Jr., unregistered 1966) – consistent, slightly reflexed perianth, deep lemon yellow trumpet which is unfortunately very wide at the base, variable between divisions 1 and 2.

'Pontes' (W. Jackson Jr. 1967) and – 'Chief Inspector' (Bloomer 1982) – as I write these two early cultivars are in flower, they have good perianths and clean but pale colour contrasts; unfortunately

they also have short weak stems and are dwarfed by 2Y-Y 'Bryanston' and 2Y-O 'Estremadura' in the same bed.

Despite the negative points highlighted above, the last decade has seen progress. Fading trumpets are a thing of the past, flowers with clean lemon yellow trumpets whose colour does not leak into the perianth are widely available and exhibitors can choose between flowers with a wide range of relative flowering times. The challenge for hybridizers is to combine obvious plus points in a range of distinctive, easy to grow, consistent cultivars. As regards form, as with other sub divisions, there is room for a range of styles. Trumpet colour can be either lemon yellow or deepest gold provided it is clear, unfading, and does not leak into the pure white perianth.

#### **Conclusion**

As the examples below show, promising new introductions continue unabated. We have only seen one of a promised series of introductions bred by the late John Lea. Last year, Carncairn introduced the weakly contrasted but very smooth 'Three Trees' ('Newcastle' x 'Cool Harmony') from seed collected by Arthur Robinson. This year, Carncairn are introducing 'High Seas' and 'Tall Ships', both raised from seed sent by George Tarry and having ('Dunmurry' x 'Stormy Weather') as their potent parentage. Tasmanian varieties such as 'Dabster', 'Quench', 'Mareeba' and 'Weipa' (Jackson) await evaluation. Likewise, I note a growing list of Bill Pannill introductions which I have yet to see. With so much hybridizing taking place, I will be surprised if 'Bravoure' keeps its top spot for as long, or as comprehensively as 'Newcastle' – if it does, I will be a very old man before 'Bravoure' is dethroned!

## **BALLYDORN BULB FARM**

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## SPRING BULBS; THE GREAT JOY OF THE GARDEN

*Gerry Daly gives some advice on using them effectively*

All over the country just now gardens are full of daffodils; crocuses and snowdrops are on the way out and tulips have not yet begun. In most cases, these flowers add greatly to the decoration of the garden for a period of several months. Still, there are many gardens which do not have spring bulbs or use them ineffectively.

### **The value of bulbs**

Before the leaves come on the trees and shrubs, we are dependent on early-flowering shrubs and bulbs for colour interest. Bulbs are without equal when it comes to masses of colour. Why, poets have been inspired by their extravagant displays of Showy flowers. The value of bulbs in their immense flower power at a time of year when only the earliest shrubs are capable of making a contribution.

Later on, when the summer shrubs and flowers are at their best, the spring bulbs will have completely disappeared, leaving the stage to these seasonal plants. This is a significant advantage of bulbs. If you depend entirely on early shrubs such as forsythia, flowering currant and kerria for early colour, you will be stuck with large mounds of dead green foliage during the summer. There are ways around this problem too, but that is not an issue here.

### **Bad use of bulbs**

Although many gardens feature bulbs, especially the favourite daffodils, a relatively small number of them use bulbs to best advantage. There are three common faults. The first is what I call the "geometry lesson". This is where the bulbs are planted in straight lines, semi-circles and, worst of all, rings around trees. Now there is nothing wrong with having bulbs between and around trees, but not in rings.

The second fault is the "good value" approach to planting. This occurs when a limited amount of money is available to buy bulbs and the resulting dozen or two is spread out singly all over the place to get a good spread. Again, nothing wrong with having a limited amount of money to spend on bulbs, but this does not have to mean the poor deployment of same. If only five bulbs are bought, they should be planted together to make an impact.

The third fault is the "let's show them off" attitude. When this factor weighs heavily, the bulbs are planted in the wrong places, just so that they will be easily seen. Planting bulbs in prominent places means that their foliage will also be prominent in its ugliness as it dies off in the early summer.

### **Ways to use bulbs**

Bulbs should always be planted in groups – be they small or large. If clumps are lifted and divided over the years a large stock of bulbs will be built up quite quickly. Then they can be deployed in drifts, as they do naturally. This approach is especially effective for large gardens and rural gardens. Few garden sights can match the beauty of drifts of daffodils, or other spring bulbs, marching off into the distance beneath the bare canopy of trees.

Use spring bulbs to fill gaps – this is what they are best at. Where are the gaps in the garden caused by late-leaving trees and shrubs such as Cotinus, Hibiscus, Cherries, Magnolias and Maples? All of these plants will contribute handsomely later on but they need a little help in early spring.

Gaps are also created by perennial flowers which disappear below ground in winter – examples include Hosta, Astilbe, Geranium, Aquilegia, Dicentra and some ferns. These make perfect companions for bulbs of various kinds. Firstly, many of them are also woodland plants and thrive in similar conditions. There is also the advantage that they produce their foliage after the bulbs have flopped and help to disguise it, besides providing a second season of beauty from the same bit of ground.

Plant bulbs under trees and shrubs and at the front of borders. Daffodils are also attractive, and do well, planted in grass but be sure to keep them in sizeable groups in an area that can be left to grow unmowed until the end of June. Small groups make this requirement – essential for continued success with bulbs – very hard to achieve. Finally, mark out the spots now, or make notes of, where bulbs might be planted next autumn, or moved when the foliage is yellowing. Very often there are plenty of bulbs already in the garden but they might be better arranged.

## **Bulbous flowers are at home beneath trees and shrubs**

Bulbous flowers have their own particular botanical characteristics which should give us some leads as to their effective use in the garden. Firstly, the majority of spring bulbs are woodland plants which means that they are at home beneath deciduous trees and large shrubs.

The reason they flower so early is to get a head-start on the canopy of trees which will later shut out most of the light and intercept the rainfall. Most bulbs like the humusy conditions created by the fallen leaves of woody plants.

Another significant characteristic of bulbous flowers in the wild is that they usually occur in very large groups. Their survival strategy is to heavily colonise suitable sites, once they have found them. The seeds of bulbs are usually large, unattractive to birds and not equipped for flight.

This means that they fall close to the parent plant and build up into significant numbers over a period of time. Under suitable conditions, this occurs in the garden too.

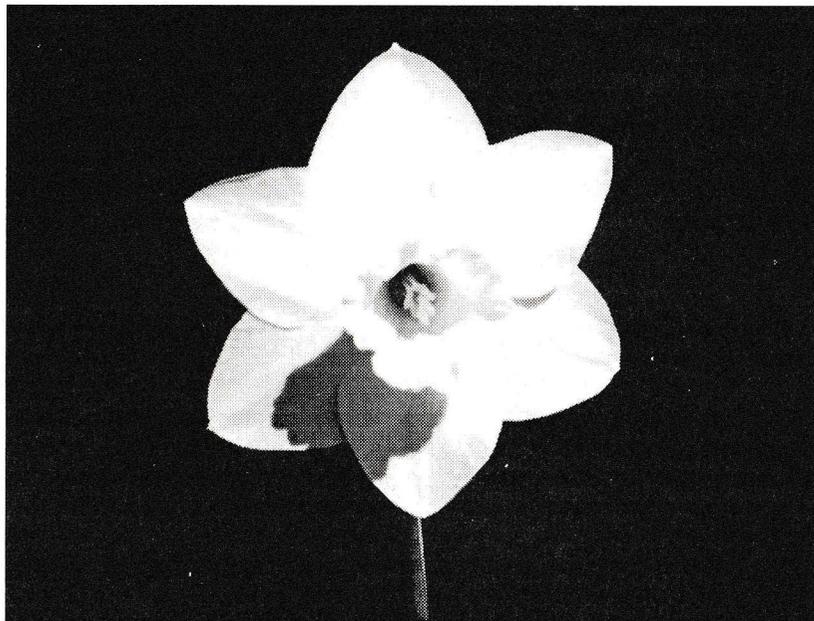
*(The above article published by kind permission of Mr. Gerry Daly and the Farmers' Journal.)*

## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

ALF CHAPPELL

Like most amateur hybridizers I have a list of names just waiting for the right seedling to come along. This year I had three perfect blooms of a lovely 2W-W seedling or should I say 2W-GWW seedling. This was the answer to the question about using one of my chosen names.

I read an article by Jan Dalton in the Daffodil Society Annual. This mentioned the Glens of Scotland and I was informed that "Glen" is an old Scottish name for daffodil. This made my name even more suitable.



*'Antrim Glen' ('Easter Moon' x 'White Star') Bred by late Alf Chappell*

The seedling was an 'Easter Moon' x 'White Star' cross. Both parents were bred in County Antrim. The flower in question has now been registered as 'Antrim Glen'. It was premier 2W-W and Champion Seedling at the National Show in Timaru, New Zealand in 1991.

## ALF CHAPPELL

SANDY McCABE

News of the passing of Alf Chappell in New Zealand was received with much sadness by the members of the N.I.D.G. Alf had been a frequent visitor to our Province since he first came in 1979 during the World Convention.

In my view, he was the best stager of flowers that I have ever seen and had few equals at grooming and presenting them. On many occasions I was thankful for his advice, suggestions and indeed practical assistance when time was short and the Judges were fast approaching.

Intensely patriotic he took great pride in all achievements emanating in New Zealand or by his fellow countrymen. In particular he argued passionately that New Zealand daffodils were the equal of anything in the U.K. or U.S.A. In 1992 he brought me a few offsets which were planted in April. One in particular – a reverse bicolor of his own raising – impressed me in July when it flowered. I await its climatization with interest and I now regret that he did not give me its parentage.

On his penultimate visit in 1989 we spent a very happy hour hybridizing. In 1992 he looked with interest at the three-year-old seedlings and made me promise to keep him informed of their progress. I note with pleasure that five of these seedlings will flower this year but unfortunately Alf will never know how they turn out.

A daffodil fraternity has lost a stalwart grower, exhibitor and breeder. We mourn his passing and tender our heartfelt sympathy to the family circle "down-under".

## TRAVELLING TRUMPET

S. McCABE

On Sunday, 29th March, 1992 the N.I.D.G. held their early Show at Ballymena. This is never a serious affair but served as the 'aperitif' for the main Shows later.

Just before lunch on that Sunday, Brian Duncan, who had been our guest for the week-end, enquired as to which flowers I was taking to the Show. As we were scheduled to fly to London the following Sunday, 5th April, I replied, "nothing", as I wanted to keep all my flowers for the R.H.S. Show. He insisted that I take

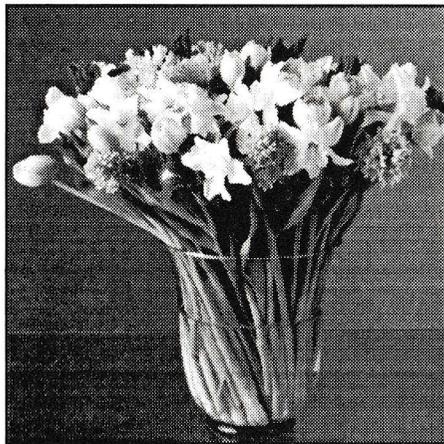
something. I quickly cut a bloom of 'Pink Silk' which was the closest to hand. I should add that the flower was not examined or inspected before it was cut and was selected at random. Imagine my surprise and delight when later that day it was adjudged "Best Bloom".

Brian wanted to use its pollen so conveyed it from Ballymena to Omagh. On the following Saturday whilst in the midst of packing flowers for the flight the following morning, he telephoned me. He had not used the pollen. The flower was still in good form and could be useful in London. Should he bring it? Most definitely "yes". At approximately 6.00 a.m. on 5th April, 1992 at Belfast Airport I received the bloom from Betty who had nursed it from Omagh. My hand luggage consisted of a plastic bag full of daffodil leaves into which I placed the 'Pink Silk'. That bag and I were inseparable during the flight and in the taxi from Heathrow to Vincent Square where the flower was undoubtedly relieved to be placed in water.

On Tuesday it figured prominently in the front row of my winning Richardson twelve and attracted much favourable comment. It is a tribute to the quality of the flower that it was still in exhibition form ten days after it had been cut and during which time it had travelled hundreds of miles. I was tempted to take it home with me on Wednesday to see if it would last until the Belfast Show on 10th April but decided that this would be unfair to the bloom that had performed so well.

## DAFFODILS IN A MIXED VASE

A frequent complaint by flower arrangers is that daffodils may not be used in mixed arrangements. People maintain that daffodils kill



the other flowers. They cite the fact that the slime given off by daffodils is poisonous. Recent research from Holland indicates that this is not so. They found that the slime given off causes no damage in a bouquet provided the flowers have stood separately in water for the previous 24 hours. It would indicate that it is the fresh slime that does the damage or that after 24 hours most of the slime has been renewed. There is a new type

of flower nutrient available for use in bouquets containing daffodils. The risk to tulips can be reduced even at the cutting stage by cutting the narcissi last, that is if the same knife is being used. Hyacinths are easy to combine in bouquets because they give off no slime, nor are they sensitive to slime from other subjects.

## FIVE STAR SEEDLINGS OF '92

D.1530 (1W-Y) 'Pontes' O.P. A very impressive first flower. The flower was extremely smooth, ideally proportioned, with a mid yellow trumpet which showed no staining into the perianth. This flower could be the one we are all looking for in this division. I just hope that this flower is not a "one off" – so does the raiser.

D.1534 (1W-P) 'Verran' x 'Algarve'. To my mind this is the outstanding seedling of 1992. It is a true trumpet even though bred from two Division 2 flowers. It would be easy to get carried away describing this one but the raiser would prefer to wait and see. However I predict a bright future for this one.

D.1564 (2W-P) 'Clouds Rest' x 'Fragrant Rose'. A lovely pink of ideal proportions. It may cause difficulties with its colour coding. It is a red pink with violet tones. The raiser tells me he awaits Sir Frank's comments on this ones colour!

D.1567 (2W-GPO) 'Cupids Eye' x ('High Society' x 'Valinor'). This flower almost measures Division 3. The flower has a beautiful frilled cup. It is an unusual pink/orange shade. I suppose this is only to be expected since the seed parent is 'Cupids Eye'. There are going to be difficulties when deciding this ones colour code!

D.1587 (3Y-R) (Seedling x 'Sun Magic') x 'Burning Bush'. This is a magnificent flower bred from two of the deepest coloured flowers raised at Omagh. It combines both parents characteristics to produce an excellence of colour, smoothness and symmetry. It will be most useful because of its lateness and I eagerly anticipate its arrival on the Show bench.

## HAZARDOUS DAFFODILS

J. O'REILLY

A reprint in the local paper (Sunday Life) describes how Glengormley gardener Edward Cooke reclaimed a piece of derelict land and created a beautiful garden only to be told by the Roads Division of The Department of Environment to remove all the plants and restore it to its "original condition". The reason given was that they considered the plants could restrict a drivers vision and so cause an accident.

Edward spent over £500 on plants and daffodil bulbs. He spent

hours planting, weeding and caring for the plants. The result is a magnificent display which has been admired by everyone who has seen it – even the local Parks Department. However the latest report from the D.O.E. stated that the court threat mentioned in the original letter would be withdrawn and they would no longer insist on the plants being removed. I know we grow good daffodils in Glengormley but to claim they grow five feet tall is ridiculous!

*Editor*

## The Royal Horticultural Society NARCISSUS CLASSIFICATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

To all Daffodil Hybridizers and Growers

### QUESTIONS OF CLASSIFICATION AND IDENTITY 1993

Your help is again request with certain questions of classification and identity with which the Narcissus Classification Advisory Committee is having difficulty. Given below are the names of the daffodils and the subjects of enquiry. In some the division is in doubt, in others the colouring. In some the very identity is uncertain.

If you have any observation or information, please contact The International Daffodil Registrar, The Royal Horticultural Society, Vincent Square, London SW1P 2PE (telephone 071-834 4333; fax 071-630 6060).

If you can spare blooms, please send them to The Narcissus and

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Tulip Committee, who will be meeting at The Royal Horticultural Society on 23rd February, 16th March, 8th April, 20th April and 25th May, 1993.

Please keep these enquiries in mind for next season if they have arrived too late for some of the earlier flowering daffodils. Please keep them for next season anyway if you are in the Southern Hemisphere.

Please look again at previous such lists (February 1990, 1991 and 1992); for help is still needed with a number of the questions there.

N.B. Measurements and colours required are those of mature blooms.

'ALPHA' 9W-YYR (A. M. Wilson pre-1915).

Is there a second flower of the same name? The 'Alpha' illustrated in a 1991 catalogue does not match the A. M. Wilson flower illustrated in an early Year Book.

'ARCTIC FLAME' 2W-Y (b) (de Navarro) de Navarro 1968.

Is the corona code right? At least two recent sources give YOO instead.

'ARLINGTON' 2W-YOY (b) (J. C. Williams pre-1945).

Is the corona code right? A 1946 catalogue suggests YYO or YOO.

'BEAUTICOL' 11Y-YYO (Gerritsen) Gerritsen 1980.

Is the corona code right? It has been described (1983) as solid yellow, though of varying shades, also (recently) as solid pink.

'BELLA VISTA' 2W-YYR (Lefeber) Lefeber 1959.

Are the division and corona code right? Some references (1958, 1992) are to Division 3. Some descriptions (Dutch) are of an orange rather than a red rim.

'BERGERAC' 11Y-Y (Gerritsen 1972) Gerritsen 1984

Is the corona code right? One recent grower catalogues it as white.

'BERYL'S LITTLE SISTER' 6Y-Y

Is this consistently distinct from 'Beryl', warranting registration in its own right?

'DAMSON' 2W-O (P. D. Williams pre-1925)

Is the colour code right? The perianth has been described (1930s, 1962) as yellow or partly yellow and the corona as red.

'EASTER BONNET' 2W-P (Meyer) Ponsonby 1956

Is the corona code right? In current experience in the U.K. and Europe it has yellow at base and sometimes mid-zone too.

'GLORY OF LEIDEN' 1W-Y (de Graaff pre-1897)

Is the perianth code right? Several early sources suggest yellow instead (albeit a shade lighter than the corona).

'HIGHFIELD BEAUTY' 8Y-GYO (Mott) Mott 1964

Is there indeed green at the base of the corona? If so, is it prominent enough to warrant coding?

'IDA MAY' 2W-P (b) (Glover) Glover 1968

Is the corona code right? Two current resources have YRW instead.

'PEASE-BLOSSOM' 7Y-Y (b) (Gray pre-1938)

Is the division right? Gray listed the flower at one time among Jonquil Hybrids (Division 7) and later among Triandrus (Division 5).

'SILVER SHELL' 11Y-W (Gerritsen) Gerritsen 1983

Is the perianth code right? It has recently been catalogued as white.

'SOLO' 1Y-Y (D. Heere pre-1908)

Is there a second flower of the same name? The 'Solo' recently exhibited and catalogued has more colours in it than the plain yellow signified by the old code for the 1908 flower.

'TOPOLINO' 1Y-Y (Gerritsen) Gerritsen 1965

Is the perianth code right? Though registered by Gerritsen as yellow, it appears in his catalogues as white, and at least one present-day stockholder would describe it as white.

Sally Kington

International Daffodil Registrar

February 1993

## 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, cultivations, 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), devise 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.