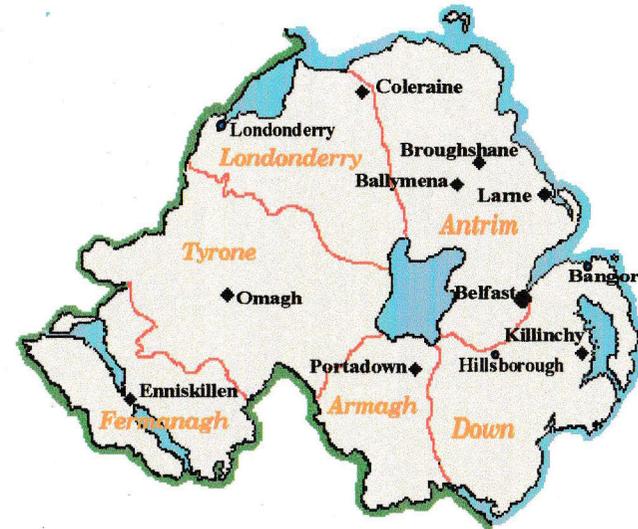


Newsletter

of the

Northern Ireland

Daffodil Group



Half yearly publication

*Autumn 2001
Issue*

**THE NORTHERN IRELAND DAFFODIL GROUP
NEWSLETTER**

VOL 5 NO. 9

Autumn 01

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CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

At the outset I must admit to a sense of trepidation in penning these notes. In my first ramblings as chairperson I posed the question of whether it would be an early or late season, we all now know the answer to that one! Our Early Show could not go ahead on the intended date due to lack of flowers, if only we had known at the time blooms were to be the least of our worries. Subsequently all our show schedule became redundant due to foot and mouth disease and only City of Derry and the Late Show survived on their intended dates. We did manage to have our Championship of Ireland classes on additional date thanks to the hospitality and hard work of Brian and Betty Duncan. Sincere thanks to all at 'Knothead' for taking such good care of us on consecutive weekends, both shows were exceptional both for quality of exhibits and for ambience.

Apart from the 'Kiss of Death' I put on the show season with my speculation on early or late status, I personally have had an excellent and exciting daffodil year. At long last I am in the position to rotate the use of rigs in the allotment and hopefully the fallow periods will not only allow the ground to rejuvenate but will reduce the chances of infestation by eelworm or other pests. In addition to this breaking of new ground I also broke new ground on the show front by competing at the main show in London. This really is an experience not to be missed and I would urge anyone who has not competed before in London to take up the N.I.D.G. offer on sponsorship, take the money before they change their mind!

One other scheme that suffered with the demise of our

show schedule was Nial Watson's scheme to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the founding of our group. In essence we intended to take a stand around the shows advertising our group but more importantly raising money for the Marie Curie Foundation by asking the public to vote for their favourite bloom on the stand. In order to vote they were asked to pay a donation to Marie Curie. After a lot of preparatory work and aided by my good lady's flower arranging skills we did get to use the stand once at London. In total we raised in excess of £200 and when you think of the traditional Ulster generosity we lost due to the cancellation of our shows we probably would have realised three or four times that amount. What a shame, it would have been a most fitting way to celebrate our 25th. However the fund raisers at Marie Curie appreciated our efforts on their behalf and perhaps it would be an idea to further develop our association.

In his most interesting lecture (partly reproduced in the spring newsletter) Dr. Gordon Hanks advocated the use of straw mulch or weed cover as a means of reducing ground temperature and thus reducing the likelihood of basal rot. As anyone who knows my growing area can attest, for many years I have inadvertently employed weed cover on my rigs. No one could claim that the rigs were weed free at virtually any stage and in fact on occasions it was a case of 'spot the rig'. However no matter how poor my weeding skills have proven to be I have apparently gained quite an unpredictable spin off, I have virtually no problem with narcissus fly. This statement is no doubt tempting providence but I lifted a four year down (!) rig this year containing fifty two varieties representing divisions 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, and 11 and had only twelve bulbs showing evidence of fly. There may be others but it is remarkably low incidence on first inspection. What makes it all the more remarkable is that a fellow grower with totally weed free hygienic rigs within 100 metres of mine has

Suffered severe fly damage in the rigs he lifted this year. So my plan is to keep the rigs relatively weed free to mid-flowering season then allow the chickweed, redshank and plantain etc. to thrive during the fly season. I will then wait until the foliage dies down and clean the rigs of weeds and foliage and apply a straw mulch to maintain a lower ground temperature during the hot summer months. I will keep you posted on the outcome.

Time now for thanks and appeals, firstly I wish to thank John McAusland for liasing with Colemans Garden centre during the uncertainty regarding the early show. His special relationship with the management made life a lot easier during this period. Secondly to Sam Dukelow sincere thanks for the work put into the newsletter over many years past. Having done one issue without Sam's assistance we all realise just what a task it is and how well Sam performed in this role. Lastly yet another appeal on behalf of the editorial committee, please get writing.

Now may I wish you all ideal planting conditions and a good growing season in 2002.

George Wilson

SECRETARY'S REPORT

It is quite a baptism of fire to be writing this my first report in the month of August. I felt that I should get it to the editor in good time before I start planting my bulbs. Where have the last six months gone since I was reading someone else's secretary report.

Plans were well under way in early February for a full season of shows around the Northern Ireland show circuit. It

Looked like being an early season. Then at the end of February it suddenly changed with the snow and cold easterly winds turning the daffodil season into a late one. By early March the dreaded Foot and Mouth entered the Northern Ireland sheep flock. By the end of the month all public events in rural areas were being cancelled to stop the spread of the disease. Most of our shows are held in rural areas and regrettably all but one show were cancelled. The City of Derry Spring Show was the only one to be held. Seamus McCauley had put a lot of effort into this event which this year hosted the Silver Thread Award. Congratulations to Derek Turbitt on winning the Silver Thread Award and to John Ennis and Richard McCaw for giving him some stiff competition when daffodils were so scarce due to the late start to the season.

As the daffodil season peaked at the end of April, it emerged that this had been a good year for daffodil blooms and most of us had no shows to show these top quality blooms at. Two private shows were hastily set up and there was a massive response from members. Brian and Betty Duncan hosted both these shows and we are very much indebted to them both for their work and hospitality. The 'Belfast Championships' was the first of these where we competed for the seven major trophies which normally would be contended at the Belfast Spring Show. We were pleased to welcome Spencer and Chris Rainey from the U.S. A. following their trip to the RHS Late daffodil and Tulip Show in London. Chris helped to judge the Open Championship of Ireland. The Amateur championship had ten entries (not bad for the start of May). The standard was extremely high in comparison to what is normal at the Belfast Spring show.

The Late Show was held the week after and was different to the usual because most people still had fresh flowers coming out and approximately 500 blooms were

Staged. Betty and Brian had gone to a lot of trouble yet again to welcome the Group and guests Joyce McKenzie and Mary Price from the U.S.A. The heat was on, the sun shone, the flowers began to fade, and quite appropriately the best bloom was 'Tropical Heat'.

After our summer recess, we met once again at John McAusland's for our Lily Show. Several attractive lily blooms were on display and the swap shop was a great success. John as usual had a great display of plants for us to admire both inside and out. Our thanks to John for once again hosting this meeting yet again.

Our meeting in late September will take the form of a daffodil quiz and slide show—Spring 2001 in Retrospect organised by Derek Turbitt and Nial Watson respectively. The October meeting will include our usual bulb auction so come prepared to bid for a bargain. The X Files part 3 in November this year will be presented by Ian Scroggy.

Hopefully Autumn will have better weather than last year when it comes to planting your bulbs. Good luck with your planting.

James Smyth

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

2001 will be remembered for all the wrong reasons. We had a late season due to the first real winter for many years. The flowers were really good this year when they finally did come into bloom (with me I still had division 9 only opening the third week in May) and the main flushes were only finishing. Foot and Mouth disease virtually wiped out the show programme although there were two as mentioned earlier arranged to accommodate the members.

I personally did not show this year but took the opportunity to cross a lot of high quality blooms in the hope that in the not too distant future that I will have some interesting new varieties.

Summer was practically non-existent as the weather never really picked up to give us a period of warm sunny weather. The daffodils were reluctant to die down as temperatures failed to rise to what we would normally call hot in this area. Eventually at the end of the second week in July I resorted to the use of the flame gun to kill the foliage so that I could lift the bulbs that were due for rotation. When I did eventually start to lift the bulbs this is the first year that I remember it being so cold that even with the hard work that on one or two evenings I had a heavy sweater on as the bulbs were being dug.

September is normally remembered as planting time but the events on the 11th in New York will remain in our memories throughout our lifetime as the full extent of the tragedy unfolded. Our thoughts and prayers are with all those who have lost loved ones and those that were injured.

The middle of September produced a reasonable spell of weather which could be classed as a bit of an Indian summer. I took advantage and got the rigs thrown up and the bulbs planted. Having the time now to work in the garden when I want to is great so much so that I begin to wonder how I managed to do it all and hold down a job at the same time. It is nice to be able to take advantage of the weather and plan my work accordingly. So hopefully I will get this one and half acre garden into the condition that I would like and maybe this year I will be able to tidy up all the beds before it becomes too wet in readiness for winter. Today it is pouring the first real rain in over three weeks.

Copy is in short supply and I would appeal to you once again to put pen to paper and let me have some material to work on for the next edition. These last few editions have

depended on one or two of our members coming up with ideas for articles. So come on all you fellow enthusiasts put pen to paper and jot down some basis for an article. Inside all of you there is a budding author bursting to get out. Your thoughts and ideas are needed by the editorial team if we are to continue publishing this newsletter. You do not have to be an expert, your thoughts and or experiences are what we need. Your Chairman in his incoming remarks in our last issue highlighted several areas and I am sure some of you had thoughts on some of those.

Enough of the tub thumping, it has been nice this year to be able to plant my rigs in reasonable weather. I have been able to get my heavy clay into a friable tilth. Worms are still a scarce commodity in cultivated soil in this garden but at long last I am beginning to see evidence of the odd one or two small worms in the soil which are not related to the 'bramlings' which inhabit the copious amounts of manure which I use. At night time the 'slab' worm can be seen but not in the numbers that once were. Maybe at long last a balance is being struck between the worm population and that dreaded menace the flatworm. The good work that worms do mainly goes on unnoticed until you suddenly discover that your worm population has been decimated and your soil does not breathe to the same extent as it did. Then you have to resort to many different approaches to cultivation in order to keep your soil open and let air down to the roots of the plants so that they can flourish. Compaction easily goes unnoticed and I feel it is important to counteract it. I have in recent seasons resorted to the use of a three pronged hand cultivator to keep the soil open among my rows as heavy rain soon compacts the surface and I feel can result in basal root rot especially in wet seasons.

Well my planting is all but finished and I wish you all good planting weather and a good show season in 2002.

Maurice Kerr

CHAMPIONSHIP of IRELAND SHOW

Saturday 5th May 2001

Saturday 5th May saw the first show apart from the City of Derry to be held in Northern Ireland during the 2001 season. Brian and Betty Duncan hosted the event and on the day various show starved exhibitors arrived with masses of excellent blooms to stage in the collection classes which had been transferred from the cancelled Belfast Show. On the day single bloom classes were arranged on an ad hoc basis and in all 450 blooms were staged. We were fortunate in having Mrs. Chris Rainey from America to assist in the judging and to present the prizes to the successful exhibitors. It was nice to see Sandy Wilson returning to the world of daffodils and assisting Kate Reade with the Carncairn entry. Rory Gilpin not only took the usual quota of photographs but also staged some fine blooms that featured in the results.

The quality of the exhibits was outstanding and would stand up to any comparison with anything I saw staged in London in April. The competition in the various categories was intense and results were decided by single or indeed half point differences. Congratulations not only to all the winners but to all the competitors who staged such fine exhibits. Sincere thanks is due to the judges who certainly earned their corn and in particular to Brian and Betty not only for hosting the show but for the copious supply of coffee freely available throughout the day.

There were 5 entries in the Open Championship, 10 in the Amateur Championship, 5 in the W. H. Roese Bowl, 10 in the Gilbert Andrews Trophy and 3 in the Royal Mail. With 135 single blooms in the various single stem classes the total number of blooms on display was 454.

Results

Open Classes

CHAMPIONSHIP of IRELAND

1st Brian Duncan with State Express 2Y-GOO, Cavalaryman 3W-R, Pooka 3Y-YYR, 1614 2W-PPW, Korora Bay 1W-P, Tropical Heat 2Y-R, 2108 2W-P, Gold Ingot 2Y-Y, 2113 2Y-YYO, 1914 2W-YYW, Garden News 3Y-ORR, Dorchester 4W-P Outstanding bloom was 'Dorchester' 4W-P. Second was Richard McCaw whose collection included an outstanding 'Ridgecrest' 3W-YOO and 'Seedling 95/4A' 2W-WWP while Brian took third with a collection of seedlings, three of which were worthy of note '2074' 2Y-O, '1959' 2Y-YYO and '2131' 3Y-R.

ROYAL MAIL TROPHY

1st was Richard McCaw with 'Dr. Hugh' 3W-GOO, 'Ahwhanee' 2Y-YOO, 'Barnes Gold' 1Y-Y, 'Ridgecrest' 3W-YOO, 'Naivasha' 2W-P and 'Triple Crown' 3Y-GYR. Brian took second and third places.

W.H.ROESE BOWL

Richard took the first prize again with 'River Queen' 2W-W, 'Culmination' , 'Hawkeye' , 'Berceuse' 2W-P, 'Chaste' 1W-W, second was Carncairn with James Smyth taking the third spot.

GUY WILSON TROPHY

First was Richard yet again with 'Cool Crystal' 3W-GWW, 'White Star' 1W-W and ,second place went to Derek Turbitt with James in third place.

GILBERT ANDREW'S TROPHY

Robert Curry took first place from the nine other entries with 'Serena Beach' 4W-Y, 'Twicer' 2Y-YYO, 'Inny River' 1Y-Y, 'Dr. Hugh' 3W-GOO, 'Misty Glen' 2W-GWW and 'Honeyorange' 2O-R. Richard was second this time with George Wilson taking third in this closely contested class.

AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP of IRELAND

This class was won by Derek Turbitt with 'White Star' 1W-W, 'Dunkery' 4Y-O, 'Elmbridge' 1W-Y, 'Altun Ha' 2Y-W, 'Golden Joy' 2Y-Y, 'Dr. Hugh' 3W-GOO, 'Samara' 3Y-YYR, 'Chinchilla' 2W-W, 'Applins' 2W-P, 'Goldfinger' 1Y-Y, 'Ringleader' 2W-YYR, 'Solar Tan' 3Y-R. Sandy McCabe was second while Robbie Curry came third.

SINGLE STEM CLASSES

1 Y-Y/O

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1st. Brian Duncan, | 'Seedling 2111' |
| 2nd. Brian Duncan, | 'Seedling 2395' |
| 3rd. George Wilson, | 'Ethos' 1Y-Y |

1 W-Y

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| 1st. Robbie Curry, | 'Drumlin' |
| 2nd. George Wilson | 'Three Trees' |

1 W-P

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------|
| 1st. Brian Duncan, | 'Korora Bay' |
| 2nd. Brian Duncan, | 'Korora Bay' |

2 Y-Y

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 1st. Brian Duncan, | 'Seedling 1872' |
| 2nd. Brian Duncan, | 'Gold Ingot' |
| 3rd. Roly Gilpin, | 'Easter Moon x Daydream' |

2 Y-O/R

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1st. Derek Turbitt, | 'Seedling 9911' |
| 2nd. George Wilson, | 'Bailey' |
| 3rd. Roly Gilpin, | 'Bouzouki' |

2 Y-W/P

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1st. Derek Turbitt, | 'Altun Ha' |
| 2nd. Brian Duncan, | 'Seedling 2080' |
| 3rd. James Smyth, | 'Altun Ha' |

2 W-W

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| 1st Derek Turbitt, | 'Silver Surf' |
| 2nd. George Wilson, | 'Misty Glen' |

3rd. Richard McCaw, 'River queen'

2 W-P
 1st. Derek Turbitt 'Soprano'
 2nd. Brian Duncan 'Libby'
 3rd. Brian Duncan 'Cape point'

2 W-P rimmed
 1st. Nial Watson 'Notre Dame'
 2nd. Alice Watson 'Notre Dame'
 3rd. James Smyth 'Savoir Faire'

1/2 W-Y
 1st. Robbie Curry 'Fiona McKillop'
 2nd. Robbie Curry 'Claverly'

2/3 O-R
 1st. Robbie Curry 'Bailey'
 2nd. Brian Duncan 'Limbo'
 3rd. George Wilson 'Creagh Dubh'

3 Y-Y/O/R predominant
 1st. Derek Turbitt 'Solar Tan'
 2nd. Derek Turbitt 'Garden News'
 3rd. Brian Duncan 'Jake'

3 Y-O/R rimmed
 1st. Brian Duncan 'Seedling 1637'
 2nd. Brian Duncan 'Compton Court'
 3rd. Nial Watson 'Moon Ranger'

3 W-Y
 1st. Richard McCaw 'Carnearney'
 2nd. George Wilson 'Port Noo'
 3rd. Brian Duncan 'Seedling 2118'

3 W-W
 1st. George Wilson 'Silversmith'
 2nd. Nial Watson 'Silverwood'
 3rd. James Smyth 'Silver Crystal'

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3 W-O/R
 1st. Brian Duncan 'Dr. Hugh'
 2nd. Derek Turbitt 'Seedling 9921A'
 3rd. Derek Turbitt 'Dr. Hugh'

3W-O/R rimmed
 1st. Roly Gilpin 'Baden Loch'
 2nd. Alice Watson 'Witch Doctor'
 3rd. James Smyth 'Royal Princess'

4 Y
 1st. Richard McCaw 'Dunkery'
 2nd. James Smyth 'Dunkery'
 3rd. Roly Gilpin 'Sherborne'

4 W
 1st. Brian Duncan 'Dorchester'
 2nd. Brian Duncan 'Seedling 1766'
 3rd. Richard McCaw 'Pink Paradise'

Div. 5
 1st. Brian Duncan 'Seedling 1868'
 2nd. Brian Duncan 'N.TR x Chanson'

Div. 6
 1st. Brian Duncan 'Lilac Charm'
 2nd. Richard McCaw 'Kaydee'
 3rd. Sandy McCauley 'Suzie's Sister'

Div. 9
 1st. Richard McCaw 'Cantabile'
 2nd. Nial Watson 'Cantabile'
 3rd. Nial Watson 'Murlough'

Div. 11
 1st. Brian Duncan 'Seedling 1878'
 2nd. Brian Duncan 'Lady Eve'

W. J. Toal Award (Best bloom Div. 5 to 9)
 'Cantabile' 9W-GYR Richard McCaw

BEST BLOOM AWARDS

Best Bloom in Show	
'Samsara' 3Y-YYR	Derek Turbitt
Best Div. 1	
'Korora Bay' 1W-P	Brian Duncan
Best Div. 2	
'Notre Dame' 2W-GYP	Nial Watson
Best Div. 3	
'Samsara' 3Y-YYR	Derek Turbitt
Best Div. 4	
'Dorchester' 4W-P	Brian Duncan
Best Div. 11	
'Seedling 1878'	Brian Duncan
Best Seedling	
'Seedling 2113' 2Y-YYO	Brian Duncan
Best Bloom any other Division	
'Cantabile' 9W-GYR	Richard McCaw

LATE SHOW

13th. May 2001

For the second week in succession Brian and Betty Duncan played host to a NIDG show and as usual hospitality was beyond reproach. Coffee flowed during staging and after judging we were treated to a superb lunch which many took al fresco as the weather was excellent. As ever at this show the atmosphere was relaxed although the inclusion of a twelve stemmed class and a six stem class for non Irish raised cultivars added more than the usual competitive edge. The award for the latter class was a medal presented by the South East England Daffodil Group which is normally a 6x3 class at

Belfast. The remaining classes were arranged on the day and included singles and threes for most divisions and sub-divisions as well as a seven stem single vase class in which Richard McCaw scored a whitewash! Once again we had an international judging panel, Joyce McKenzie and Mary Price from America helping out our local band of stalwarts. The show brought the curtain down on a most difficult season for show organisers and exhibitors alike. As with the show of the previous weekend, bloom quality was exceptional and the large entry of 379 blooms spread across all classes demonstrated what a good season we might have had in normal circumstances.

Results

12 VARIETY COLLECTION CLASS

1st Brian Duncan

'Gold Ingot' 2Y-Y, 'Cavalryman' 3W-R, 'State Express' 2Y-GYOO, 'Seedling 2183', 'Seedling 1892', 'Pooka' 3Y-YYR, 'Seedling 1914', 'Seedling 2113', 'Tropical Heat' 2Y-R, 'Seedling 2167', 'Summer Solstice' 3Y-R, 'Seedling 2150'.

2nd was Richard McCaw whose most notable flower was 'Soft Focus' 2W-GWY and Sandy McCabe who had a very good 'Notre Dame' 2W-GWP in his collection.

SOUTH EAST ENGLAND DAFFODIL GROUP

AWARD

6 Varieties raised outside Ireland

1st. George Wilson

'Michael's Gold' 2Y-Y, 'Badbury Rings' 3Y-YYR, 'Royal Marine', 'Purbeck' 3W-YYO, 'Altun Ha' 2Y-W, 'Happy Fellow' 2Y-YYO.

Richard had a very good bloom of 'Hawkeye' in his group in the runner up spot while James Smyth in 3rd place had good examples of 'Dunley Hall' 3W-Y and 'Silken Sails' 3W-WWY.

SEVEN BLOOM SINGLE VASE CLASS

- 1st. Richard McCaw 'Triple Crown' 3Y-YYR
2nd. Richard McCaw 'Cantabile' 9W-GYR
3rd. Richard McCaw 'Patois'

COLLECTION CLASSES

Div. 1 x 3 any colour

- 1st. Sandy McCabe 'Gold finger' 1Y-Y
2nd. James Smyth 'Empress of Ireland' 1W-W

Div 2Y x 3

- 1st. James Smyth 'Red Combo'

Div. 2 W x 3

- 1st. George Wilson 'Notre Dame' 2W-GYP
2nd. Carncairn 'Seedling 1/52/82'
3rd. James Smyth 'Notre Dame' 2W-GYP

Div. 3 W x 3

- 1st. Brian Duncan 'Lemon Grey' 3W-Y
2nd. Brian Duncan 'Limpopo' 3W-GWY
3rd. Brian Duncan 'Cavalryman' 3W-R

Div. 4 x 3

- 1st. Carncairn 'Gay Kybo' 4W-R
2nd. Brian Duncan 'Serena Beach' 4W-Y
3rd. Sandy McCabe 'Gay Kybo' 4W-R

Any Other Div. X 3

- 1st. Richard McCaw 'Cantabile' 9W-GYR
2nd. Carncairn 'Irish Trip' 7Y-O
3rd. George Wilson 'Celtic Wings' 5W-W

Miniature x 3

- 1st. Derek Turbitt 'N. Jonquil'
2nd. George Wilson 'Clare'

SINGLE STEM CLASSES

1 W-W

- 1st. Brian Duncan 'Seedling 2103'
2nd. James Smyth 'Asante'
3rd. George Wilson 'White Star'

2Y-R

- 1st. Brian Duncan 'Tropical Heat'
2nd. Brian Duncan 'Seedling 2160'
3rd. Robbie Curry 'Happy Fellow'

2W-W

- 1st. George Wilson 'Misty Glen'
2nd. George Wilson 'Silver Surf'
3rd. Kate Reade '1/70/82'

2W- any colour

- 1st. James Smyth 'Rushmore' 2W-O
2nd. Derek Turbitt 'Young Blood' 2W-R
3rd. Robbie Curry 'Rushmore' 2W-O

2 Y-any colour

- 1st. Brian Duncan 'Seedling 2113' 2Y-O
2nd. James Smyth 'Casterbridge' 2Y-O

2Y-P or W-P

- 1st. Brian Duncan 'Libby' 2W-GPP
2nd. Brian Duncan 'Seedling 2108'
3rd. Brian Duncan 'Soprano' 2W-GPP

2 Rimmed

- 1st. George Wilson 'Notre Dame' 2W-GYP
2nd. Ted Thompson 'Notre Dame' 2W-GYP
3rd. Ted Thompson 'June Lake' 2W-GYP

3Y- R

- 1st. Robbie Curry 'Seedling 1547' 3Y-R
2nd. Brian Duncan 'Seedling 1772' 3Y-R
3rd. Ted Thompson 'Solar Tan' 3Y-R

3W-any colour cup

- 1st. Brian Duncan 'Busselton' 3W-YYR
2nd. Brian Duncan 'Cavalryman' 3W-R
3rd. Derek Turbitt 'Seedling 0127'

3W-Y

- 1st. Brian Duncan 'Seedling 2118'
2nd. George Wilson 'Port Noo'



Richard debating the finer points during judging



Chris Rainey visiting judge admiring some of the flowers at the Championship of Ireland Show



Northern Ireland Daffodil Group stand at London



Amateur Championship of Ireland winning group .
Derek Turbitt



Championship of Ireland winning group.
Brian Duncan

3rd. Sandy McCabe 'Oykel'

3W-W

1st. Richard McCaw 'Cool Crystal'

2nd. James Smyth 'Silver Crystal'

3rd. George Wilson 'Warmington,

Div. 4

1st. Brian Duncan 'Dorchester' 4W-P

2nd. Brian Duncan 'Seedling 2108'

3rd. Robbie Curry 'Sherborne' 4Y-Y

Div. 6 Y

1st. Brian Duncan 'Seedling 1912'

2nd. Brian Duncan 'Prototype' Y-YY

Div. 6 W-P

1st. George Wilson 'Swingwing'

Div. 7

1st James Smyth 'Stratosphere' Y-Y

Div. 8

1st. George Wilson 'Avalanche' W-Y

Div. 9

1st. Richard McCaw 'Cantabile' W-GYR

2nd. George Wilson 'Torr Head' W-GYR

3rd. George Wilson 'Torr Head' W-GYR

Div. 11

1st. Brian Duncan 'Seedling 1879' W-WP

ANY OTHER DIV.

1st. Brian Duncan 'Seedling 1597' 3Y-Y

2nd. Brian Duncan 'Seedling 2157' 2Y-YY

MINIATURE

1st George Wilson 'Hawera'

2nd. George Wilson 'Sun Disc'

Best Bloom in Show

Tropical Heat 2Y-R

Brian Duncan

Reserve Best Bloom

'Seedling 2183' Brian Duncan

Best Div. 1

'Seedling 2129' Brian Duncan

Best Div. 3

'Seedling 2183' Brian Duncan

Best Div. 4

'Dorchester' 4W-P Brian Duncan

Best any other Div.

'Cantabile' 9W-GYR Richard

McCaw

LONDON TRIP

There were several reasons behind my decision to go to the RHS Late Daffodil and Tulip Show in London this particular year. They were as follows:

- (a) The cancellation of all the Northern Ireland shows (except City of Derry) meant that I had not shown any daffodils this year.
- (b) I had always wanted to go to the London show.
- (c) I had come to the end of the lambing season at home and had time available from work.
- (d) I had a wide range of good blooms available.

I only made the decision about 10 days before the show date and I had been spurred on by George Wilson's success while Richard McCaw exercised his gentle persuasive powers to travel over with him. I had not long to get myself organised for the trip and Richard had booked the flight tickets with Easy Jet. I hastily contacted Georgina Clark (Show Manager) for a schedule and gave in my entries over the phone. Brian Duncan "Travel agent" handled the accommodation arrangements and Nial Watson donated a box to transport my flowers.

No turning back at the last moment; I was spoilt for choice of cutting material as this was my first show of the season (28-29th. April). I started cutting blooms about six days before the show date and found a good range of blooms to cover all the classes I had entered and more. I finished

Cutting on the Wednesday afternoon. I had received lots of advice on packing the box, but the only way to learn was to start packing for myself. The Thursday afternoon was spent packing the box with between five and six blooms to a row and making sure they were well secured. I packed extra blooms where possible to allow for damage in transit. I had approximately ninety blooms in the box and still had room left for more. Good blooms were still emerging in the garden but I persuaded myself that I had enough blooms to cover the Novice Section and several of the Amateur Collection classes. Moss and leaves were packed into my hand luggage along with my grooming kit.

The flight to London was at an unsociable hour but was trouble free. Richard and I arrived at Victoria station using a Green-line coach at about 8 am. On the Friday morning complete with three large boxes and two bags. A taxi was quickly organised to take us and our 'luggage' to the RHS halls at Vincent Square. The show was being held in the back one of the two halls as the front one was under repair. The halls were just opening as we arrived and Georgina Clark was there to welcome us. We immediately got down to business. The moment of truth had arrived. We opened the boxes and was delighted to find all the blooms were in good condition. The ends of the stems were trimmed to allow the blooms to take in water after their long journey. We left them in large vases up to their necks in water along with the leaves while we went and had lunch.

When we returned Brian had arrived, he flown in the previous evening with British Airways and was well rested having spent the night at the Winchester hotel. He was inspecting the damage after BA had left his flowers badly shaken up with pollen everywhere and the blooms crushed together at one side of the box. Thank goodness we chose to

fly Easy Jet and did not have this happen to us.

We had a good afternoon staging. I started with the large collection classes, staging with leaves for the first time in my career and in antique terracotta vases! The leaves took a bit of getting used to; trying to keep them straight and behind the blooms. These big vases needed a lot of moss to fill them so it was fortunate that we had brought plenty. Staging went well, with the help of 'staging fluid' and Eddie Jarman's banter with Brian about his flowers.

We went for a break at about six pm. To check in at the Winchester hotel and to freshen up. This is a very nice small hotel five minutes walk from the halls and owned by an Ulsterman. We were shown to our rooms at the top of the hotel. We described it as the 'pent house suite' but others in our company said it was at nose bleed altitude.

On return to staging we found Chris and Spencer Rainey from the USA helping Brian with his staging. They had spent the day sightseeing with a day ticket for the underground. We staged until ten pm. I had staged all my flowers for the intended classes and had some left over. With the help of Jan Doulton (chief steward) looking after our needs, I decided to enter some extra classes to use up the spare flowers. Some exhibitors arrived on Friday night and they worked through the night staging their flowers. The benches filled up overnight and the opposition appeared.

Next morning after a Winchester (three egg) breakfast we returned to staging. I had just a few flowers left to stage, labels to write and to check over the collection classes, so I was able to relax and help others to finish off. Nial Watson had arrived early this morning with his daffodils and some tulips. This was the largest entry of flowers entered for the Late Show and space was very scarce. I am not sure whether it was the staging fluid but I saw some strange sights. I saw a

Twelve bloom class with up to twenty flowers facing away from sight (no one wanted to reveal their entry until the last minute). But the strangest sight had to be daffodils with two stems! (with the use of a cane and a clothes peg to try and raise the head of flowers which were looking at your boots)

The daffodils and tulips only took up a small corner of the Great Hall, with trade stands taking up the rest. These stands were dressed to perfection with displays of sweet pea, lilies, auriculas, rhododendron, hostas and many others all competing for the Best Stand in Show and the coveted Silver medals.

Time was up! It was now in the hands of the judges. After judging I eagerly returned to see how I had done, expecting at most a few red tickets in the Novice Section. I was left speechless (for once) I counted fourteen firsts in the Novice section, a first, a third and a fourth in the amateur Collections and a second in the singles class (with a four week old bloom). I had achieved my objective; to rule myself out of the Novice Competition in style. Pity I had not had more opposition. My main opposition came from A. Jones of Birchwood, Warwickshire who produced the finest 'Altun Ha' I saw at the show. The rest of the Northern Ireland contingent also had reason to celebrate, Brian Duncan won the John Lea Trophy and the Devonshire Trophy, Richard McCaw won the Silver Simmons Medal for six seedlings raised by himself and Nial Watson won the Unregistered Cultivar Class with one of his own seedlings and won two firsts in the tulip classes at his first attempt. That evening we went out to celebrate with Chris and Rainey Spencer enjoying some good cuisine and lively debate.

My first trip to London had been beyond all my expectations and I will be back again if they will let me, if only for the good 'craic'.

James Smyth

BALLOT RESULTS at THE LONDON SHOW

The daffodils staged for this charity fundraising exercise were chosen at random from flowers left over after staging. The public voted by placing a donation in a box for their favourite flower.

Position	Flower	Amount Raised
1st.	'Lennymore'	£41-50
2nd.	'Drama Queen'	£38-75
3rd.	'Silver Surf'	£36-10
4th.	'Ethos'	£34-30
5th	'Ita'	£34-00
6th	'Fiona McKillop'	£26-00

Total £210-65

The flowers were chosen to be distinctly different as possible and while no conclusions should be drawn from such a small sample perhaps there is a glimpse of how the general public define what pleases them as a daffodil.

DIVISION 11

THE DEBATEABLE DAFFODIL

In my limited experience in the daffodil world few divisions appear to cause more heated discussion than Division 11. It is a situation far beyond the bounds of a love them / hate them debate. To some they are a division to be worked on and developed in regard to smoothness of perianth, symmetry, colour etc. To others they are beneath contempt – sheer anathema—have no place on the show bench and should be treated with glyphosate.

When I show the division 11 cultivars that I grow to my friends who are not involved in daffodils and have no preconceived ideas regarding their worth there is an equally mixed reaction, some say 'that isn't a daffodil' while others

Say 'that's lovely!' Further debate reveals that the first group think daffodils have to be yellow trumpets while the second group like the division 11 samples as attractive flowers not necessarily as varieties of daffodil.

At this stage I will not nail my colours to the mast in any definitive manner, I have admitted to growing division 11 daffodils and to some that is condemnation enough! I will however try in some way to bring logic to the debate without trying to convert the phobic or to eulogise too much about the division 11 advances of recent years. I believe that the recent 11a/11b divide has helped focus breeders on separate aspects of development rather than simply producing colour s with suspect form.

Historically cultivars such as 'Gabriel Kleiberg', 'Tripartite', 'Colblanc', 'Phantom' etc. have been grown and exhibited to fulfil a show schedule but no one would have contemplated putting them up in a twelve. This is akin to the outlook of many exhibitors to divisions with numbers beyond six or possibly eight and perhaps it is the attraction of growing large perfectly formed blooms that causes the initial attraction to yellow fever. But hold on a minute there is nothing to prevent a division 11 being as large as a division 1, 2 etc. So what causes so much derision?

It is difficult to believe that it is colouration which causes problems with some exhibitors for in this area there are now colours to rival other divisions. Could it be then that it is purely and simply the fact that the corona of a division 11 is split into segments? Many cultivars in other divisions exhibit splitting of the corona around the front lip yet these varieties are revered rather than rejected. So are we therefore talking about degrees of splitting? (Makes a change from splitting hairs!) Even this theory does not hold water as all flowers in division 4, many of them highly regarded, have coronas well and truly split, often into multiple ill defined

and distributed petaloids never mind six clearly defined segments.

So lets take stock of where we are in this examination. Division 11 flowers can be large, colourful, tidy of neck and sturdy of stem and are not alone in the genus in being split in the corona. Therefore on this somewhat cursory examination it would appear that bringing logic to the debate fails due to that most special of human gifts, the ability to discriminate on the grounds of personal feelings. That is why one persons choice of car is totally illogical to another motorist, the Fiat Multipla is a clear example of a love it / hate it vehicle. But surely discrimination on grounds of personal preference is as legitimate as grounds of logic and is perhaps preferable as a degree of passion is inferred in personal preference. Without that passion I am convinced our interest would lack some of the magnificent blooms we grow and the world would be a duller place.

In conclusion may I add that I will continue to grow division 11 flowers and admire them for their obvious (in my eyes) attributes of variety, poise, colouration and straight forward eye appeal. I will also listen with tolerance and understanding to those who out of kindness attempt to show me the error of my ways.

George Wilson

WORLD DAFFODIL CONVENTION

*Daffodils Down Under
11th. & 12th. September 2004*

Presented by the VICTORIAN DAFFODIL SOCIETY
MELBOURNE, VICTORIA

*Contact Mr. Ian Dyson, Box 1409, Pearcedale, Victoria
3912*

**NARCISSUS DISEASES (and tulip fire)
and their control - for breeders,
enthusiasts and specialists.**

Dr. Gordon Hanks

Continued from spring edition

Smoulder

- A foliar disease caused by *Botrytis narcissicola*, found wherever narcissus are grown.
- Smoulder is seldom serious, but probably accounts for a steady loss of bulb yield (10%?).
- Occurs in a wide range of cultivars.
- Like many narcissus problems, it becomes evident in the second (and subsequent) year of crops following a build-up of the pathogen in the bulb neck, debris or soil.
- Associated with cold, wet weather near emergence. Flower cropping and the associated damage increase smoulder.
- May be associated with bulb scale mite infections.
- Infection is difficult through undamaged leaf or stem surfaces - possible importance of frost, hail or other damage.
- Grey mould, *Botrytis cinerea*, may occur with *B. narcissicola* (can be difficult to differentiate).

Symptoms:-

- The leaves often become infected as they grow through the neck of the bulb, so smoulder is very evident on newly emerged shoots.
- Infected leaf tips ('primaries') have a grey mass of spores and often stick together.

There may be flower spotting as well as leaf lesions sometimes with grey fungal growth, surrounded by a

yellowing zone. Unilateral lesions lead to curvature of the leaf.

- Affected leaves die back to ground level, and pulling up dead leaves reveals grey fungal growth at their base.
- The cut ends of flower stems are also infected after flower cropping, rotting to the base.
- Under the 'right' conditions there may be serious infections late in the growing season (numerous leaf lesions coalescing and leaves dying prematurely).

Control:-

- Apply a regular and varied foliar fungicide spray programme starting once shoots are 4" tall, until flowering, and again after flowering. (Little information at present on best choice of fungicides).
- Give bulbs full hot-water treatment, using a fungicide and formalin.
- As the fungus survives in leaf debris, clear this up, and generally maintain good hygiene.

Future prospects:-

- New fungicides.
- Disease forecasting techniques.

White Mould

- White mould, caused by *Ramularia vallisumbrosae*, occurs in narcissus crops in wetter, warmer areas, such as the southern counties of England. Apparently not a problem in other bulb-growing areas of the world.
- White mould can develop and spread very rapidly.
- It can devastate crops and seriously reduce the yield of bulbs and flowers.
- White mould is not carried on the bulb, but 'sclerotia' (resting bodies) over-winter in the soil

Symptoms:-

- Elongated yellowing lesions are seen near the tips of leaves, producing grey-white patches of spores..
- Affected leaves die down quickly, looking as if they have been 'burnt off'.
- Sclerotia-like bodies are produced, but they are minute.

Control and future prospects:-

- As for smoulder. Importance of hygiene to reduce debris. Reported success of Bordeaux Mixture.

Fire

- Fire (caused by *Sclerotinia polyblastis*) occurs on tazetta narcissus in the extreme southwest of England. Problem in the Netherlands.
- Standard cultivars are less affected.
- Fire is not carried on the bulb, but sclerotia over-winter in the soil.

Symptoms:-

- Fire results in a pale brown spotting of the leaves and flowers.

Control and future prospects:-

- De-heading or flower cropping is important to control fire.
- Otherwise as for smoulder.
- Success of copper fungicides.

Penicillium bulb rots

- *Penicillium* spp. are common on damaged tissues of various types of bulbs, and used to be considered saprophytic. However, aggressive strains can spread rapidly under damp conditions after lifting, becoming pathogenic.

A mass of grey-green mould can be formed, and whole bulbs may rot.

- *Penicillium* can be a problem in chipping and in the production of bulbs of dwarf cultivars like 'Tête-à-Tête'

Control:-

- Attend to the proper drying and ventilation of bulbs, especially for sensitive cultivars.
- Remove affected bulbs in storage.
- Use appropriate fungicides in hot-water treatment (some strains resistant to benzimidazole fungicides).

Soft Rot

- *Rhizopus* species are commonly present in the air, but affect bulbs only when they are stored with high humidities above 300C. This can occur during warm storage, during transit if environmental controls fail, and when propagating bulbs by 'chipping'.
- Bulbs rot rapidly to a grey-white musty mass covered with mycelium.

Control:-

- Maintain correct storage conditions.
- Narcissus 'chips' can heat up considerably when cut and placed in vermiculite: place a temperature probe in the chips and cool the store to keep chip temperatures at 20°C.

Chocolate spot and 'rust'

- Disfiguring marks on leaves and stems.
- No known pathogen.
- 'Physiological' disorder.

Tulip Fire (*Botrytis tulipae*)

Vuur or fire occurs wherever tulips are grown, and can cause serious losses.

Symptoms:

- 'Primary' infections are seen as young shoots covered with grey spores and sclerotia.
- Spores spread from the primaries by leaf splash result in spotting of the leaves and the flowers are also affected, becoming spotted and sometimes invested with a mass of spores.
- New shoots and bulbs become infected from sclerotia on the old flower stalk or scales, producing new primaries and infecting daughter bulbs.
- Sclerotia in the soil are relatively short lived (under a year).
- All varieties of tulip are affected.

Control:

- Inspecting bulbs and discarding affected bulbs is important.
- Bulbs should be dipped before planting with a benzimidazole fungicide. However, this dip should not be employed too often as the pathogen can develop tolerance to the fungicide. Bulbs can also be dipped in formalin for 30 minutes before planting.
- Newly emerging bulbs should be inspected and primaries cut off and destroyed.
- Particularly if a fungicide dip has not been used, a regular fungicide spray programme should be used, every three weeks (or every two weeks in wet weather). This should involve benzimidazole and other fungicides.
- Remove flower heads that are a serious source of infection.

(Viral diseases and pests to follow. Editor)

NARCISSUS (Daffodil)

NAME - Named after Narcissus in Greek legend, who fell in love with his own reflection in a stream. He stayed transfixed by the stream and the gods thought he would die of starvation so they changed him into the flower to stay there forever.

"Narcissus" comes from the Greek for "numbness" referring to the narcotic properties of the plant.

COLOURS - yellows and whites, also soft pink and peach .

ORIGIN - South Western Europe. Grown extensively in the UK - we export daffodils to Holland.

HISTORY - The daffodil is the emblem of Wales and is worn on St David's Day .

MEDICINAL - Daffodils are being grown for Galanthine, a substance in the bulbs being used to fight Alzheimer's

FOLKLORE - Feng Shui adherents believe the flower brings good luck for the next twelve months if forced to bloom at New Year.

FACTS - Prince Charles is paid one daffodil annually as rent for the unattended lands of Scilly. The local Environmental Trust is responsible for the payment.

TRIVIA - The daffodil is used by Marie Curie Cancer Care to raise money on National Daffodil Day. They believe it symbolises new hope and life

LANGUAGE OF FLOWERS - narcissus means "vanity", appropriate for a flower named after someone so self-absorbed!

CARE TIPS - Daffodils and narcissi have sap which is toxic to other flowers. Display separately or use specially formulated cut flower food which enables mixing of flowers with daffodils.