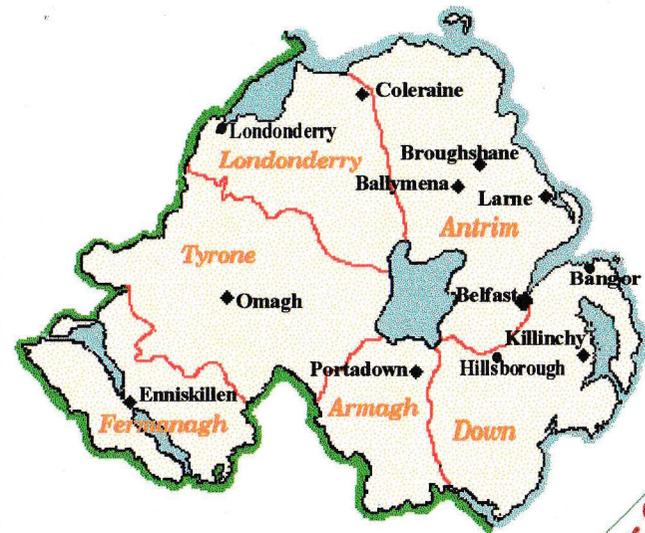


Newsletter
of the
Northern Ireland
Daffodil Group



Spring 97
Issue

Half yearly publication

**THE NORTHERN IRELAND DAFFODIL GROUP
NEWSLETTER**

VOL 4 NO 10

March 97

OFFICERS OF THE GROUP

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Dr. T. D. TURBITT, 16 Swilly Rd., Portstewart,
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W. J. E. DUKELOW, S. McCABE and M. KERR.

Auditor

SIR FRANK HARRISON, Ballydorn, Killinchy, Co. Down

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

It does not feel like two years since I was elected to this exalted office, but one cannot argue with facts.

I have enjoyed my two year term immensely, which has put me in much closer contact with the organisation of the Group than previous positions. It has also of course, meant more work; more in fact, than I was able to give; but I did my best, and I hope that I did not disappoint you.

During these two years the Group has progressed satisfactorily. Though membership is rather static there is no lack of enthusiasm, and I am very pleased to say we have some very active new members. But this is no reason why we should not continue to recruit more. The peak appeal time is the short blooming season of our favourite flower which will be on us shortly; so I appeal to all members to do their best during this time to enlist the support of their friends and acquaintances.

We have run our first set of judging trials successfully, but until now have not published a list of those qualified. Such a list would be useful to our affiliated societies when organising their shows. I hope further trials will be held when sufficient members are interested.

During my term of office we have also been working on organising daffodil trials in conjunction with Belfast Parks Department. This work is ongoing, and I hope it will create a lot more public interest, and will show the diversity of the daffodil.

Homing in on this particular point I think we ourselves are far too concerned with Divisions 1 to 4 to the exclusion of the less common and more varied forms. I realise some may not be easy to produce here; but I would say to our newer members you don't know until you try, and a breakthrough like Falaise can occur anywhere. Perhaps it is the chicken and egg situation - do our shows not provide the classes because the blooms are not there or vice versa.

I think the public are much more attracted by diversity of form than the gradual improvements in perfection of the first four divisions. I am at fault for one thing - my pet hate is split coronas, whereas I think the public has fallen for them. The public like miniatures, and we set aside very few classes for them at our shows. We might also give more attention to the novelty of form or colour. Presumably nature has been working on this for millions of years to get where we are, but with intensive breeding being done now we should be able to increase the number of variations quickly (look what happened in split coronas!)

Enough of my dreams; my term of office is drawing to a close, and I have a lot of people to thank for making it an enjoyable experience.

Firstly our secretary Richard McCaw has put in a tremendous amount of work in keeping the Group running so efficiently. His is an unenviable task of organising, cajoling and persuading people to get the work of the Group done. Thank you sincerely Richard.

Our treasurer Jack Carlisle has been using his skill and experience to great effect to keep our finances on an even keel, and he is doing a great job; thank you also Jack.

Our Newsletter editor Maurice Kerr has been doing a tremendous job and deserves our best thanks. He needs the full co-operation of all our members firstly to produce material for the magazine; and secondly to get it to him in time to meet the publication deadlines, for if deadlines are not set we will not have a magazine.

Our committee meets regularly to make all the arrangements to keep the group functioning properly, and they and other members of the group put in a great deal of time and work to run our show and show stands so effectively. Without mentioning names for fear of giving offence by omitting one, I say thank you one and all - your work is greatly appreciated.

To the speakers at our general meetings I say another thank you for sharing your knowledge with us. Without speakers we would have little reason for holding these meetings so useful in keeping us in touch; so to you our members - I say give them your support by attending or these meetings will cease.

And now with thoughts on the future may I wish the Chairman you are about to elect every success during his term of office, which I know will be a busy one; and may the Group go from strength to strength.

Thank you all.

W. J. E. Dukelow

SECRETARY'S REPORT

As Secretary of any organisation it is part of the job to report on the activities of that group past, present and future, I hope to do the same if not in any particular order.

If we look to the past year, again we had a late season, although exhibitors, as usual, made the best of it. Omagh arguably had the privilege of being the best supported and having the best flowers. For myself, I had flowers open after the show season which I wish had opened earlier. Show dates remain a contentious issue, last season we had five shows on one particular Saturday and Saturday 12th April this year is building up nicely. On a down note, the first casualty of this has been Bangor Show which has been cancelled for 1997. Hopefully, they will be back next year.

Our programme this year included a very well supported barbecue at Crosby and Freda's home and the Lily Show was an excuse for more socialising; perhaps this year we will have some more lilies at John's. The Bulb Ballot and Auction this year were on the same day, many bargains were to be had at the auction and the Group's thanks go to everyone who sponsored these events.

Many people asked where some of these bulbs could be obtained, especially at our stand at Belfast Horticultural Autumn Show so lets hope our professional breeders gained some good advertising.

The Newsletter is now sporting it's new cover which looks extremely well. There will be an editorial report later, but I know they will be too modest to heap praise upon themselves, so lets all show our appreciation by sending more material to the Editor. May I, on the Group's behalf, thank Sam, Sandy and Maurice who make up our Editorial team.

I would like to thank our Chairman who has backed all our decisions and our Treasurer, who has confirmed these by signing the cheques. I also look forward to working with our new Chairman in the coming year.

A new development this year was the Judges' assessments. These were orchestrated and executed, if this is the right choice of words, by Sandy McCabe and Brian Duncan. We also had a guest examiner Derek Bircumshaw who also is a fine judge of a Judge. Seriously, would affiliated societies please take note that seven candidates passed these tests. These plus our renowned Judges, are now available and their names will be printed from time to time in our Newsletter.

At our last meeting we welcomed Mr. Acheson Aiken from Irvinestown who delivered a very colourful and informative talk on herbaceous plants as companion plantings to daffodils.

This leads me nicely to the new Daffodils and Companion Plantings at Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park, by the Belfast Parks in conjunction with N.I.D.G.. Although this was started late in the season, many varieties were planted with pledges of many more for this autumn. I welcome this very much as a practical display for all levels of gardeners. It exhibits a wider range of varieties and form than those which possibly can be bought in local hardware stores and garden centres, with the added bonus of showing how they complement companion plants.

Belfast Spring Show continues to grow and I have included some comparisons to last year,

	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>
Overall exhibits up from	1194 to	1408
Daffodil	799	970
Open Section	160	152
Amateur	324	594
Novice	315	224
Total Blooms	1413	1526

As you can see a good increase in overall number of exhibits, Novice Section was down but this was due to more exhibitors being moved up a section.

Nial Watson brought honour to the group via our display table but will need extra help if we are to continue our winning ways, please ask him how you can help. New classes added to this years Schedule in the amateur section, include five American raised stems sponsored by our two American friends Susan Rayburn and Stephen Vinisky with a first prize of one years membership to the American Daffodil Society. Also twelve varieties, three stems of each. I am looking forward to seeing three or four exhibits in this class, thankfully I will not be judging it. For the first time there will be a class for intermediates.

After the success of last years Show Dinner this will be held again on the Saturday night of the Belfast Show. Please plan now to attend. For those who thought it was too far to travel a special rate of £25 per night has been negotiated please quote N.I.D.G. when you book with Cohannon Inn.

I would like to draw your attention to one more important item concerning Belfast Show, would members who agree to act as Stewards please be ready for stewarding by the end of coffee time at 10.30 am.

It is good to be able to report that 10 new members have joined our Group this year, keep up the good work, most of these

came from word of mouth when we the members meet the public.

Copies of updated Library materials are available, with new additions of N.I. Show Reports and Videos.

Now to the future a very full program of events has already been organised by the committee, I trust you will find these events interesting and they look forward to your support.

Many plans will be made throughout this year in connection with the World Daffodil Tour in Spring of 1998. To this end a Sub-committee has been formed to steer us in the right direction and they will need the support of the whole group.

Finally may I wish everyone a very successful and enjoyable daffodil season this year.

R. McCaw

NORTHERN IRELAND DAFFODIL GROUP
Summary of Income and Expenditure for the year ending
 31st. December 96

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Balance brought forward	£5097-59	Magazine	£822-18
Interest received	£77-06	Secretary's expenses	
Subscriptions	£631-68	Postage etc.	£202-06
Ballot	£222-00	Meetings	£232-00
Auction, bulbs		Trophies etc.	
Barbecue	£584-50	less sales	£89.66
Autumn Fair	£400-70	Belfast Show and Dinner	£281-17
		Balance carried forward	£5386-46
	<u>£7013-53</u>		<u>£7013-53</u>

A. J. Carlisle Honorary Treasurer

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

The last two editions of the Newsletter have been filled with the type of material which I as a grower have found most informative and has been enjoyable if somewhat challenging to produce. It is much appreciated that you the members of the Group have responded to my outburst at last years A.G.M. by producing articles which I think you all would agree has had something for everyone who suffers from yellow fever. May I encourage those that have not as yet ventured to put pen to paper as yet to give it a go, jot down what you think others might enjoy whether humorous or informative and we the editorial team will polish it up before publishing. Remember we are catering not only for the experts among us but also the 'latest' fellow sufferers. I would like to think that we could also build up a bank of material which can be used in future editions.

The Secretary makes mention of a class for Intermediates this year and I will include a brief definition later in this edition and a list of those who passed the Judging assessments. May I take this opportunity of congratulating these new judges and encouraging others to have a go in the not too distant future, you will find that although there is a lot of banter at the shows among the members there is a lot of information to be gleaned at the same time which would benefit any exhibitor or aspiring judge. The second in our series of articles by the student from Sweden appears and a list of show dates for 1997 is also published as I hope to have this edition with you by the end of March.

May I congratulate our new Chairman Michael Ward who hails from Killiney: and suggest that we as an editorial team will be approaching him with a view to a profile for our next edition.

May I in closing once again reiterate my plea to keep the articles coming in and to thank all those who have already committed pen to paper to make this publication live up to its title over the last year.

M. Kerr

NEWEST AND BEST IN REVERSE BICOLOUR TRUMPETS

When I was asked to write this article I started by looking at a lot of catalogues and then checked with some breeders and growers. I also looked up show results and consulted my bad memory!

I have now narrowed the varieties down to three. It would be interesting to see them competing in a class but this is the order I would place them in.

1. LIGHTHOUSE REEF 1YYW-WWY

Breeding - Daydream x Gin and Lime Flowering time 3-4

Bred and raised by John Pearson

John's description says it has broad, smooth ace of spades shaped petals which measure 50mm. across and almost touch. The attractive trumpet is almost tubular and expanding to a neatly rolled brim.

In 1995 it won its class twice in London and again in Solihull where it won the seedling class and was chosen as best seedling.

In John's 1996 catalogue it cost £50. It seems this flower resembles Gin and Lime, its pollen parent, but sounds like an improvement. I can't wait to grow it.

2. TRUMPET WARRIOR 1YYW-WWY

Breeding - Chiloquin x Artic Gold Flowering time 2-3

Breeder Mitsch

This is an excellent exhibition flower and was stunning at the 1984 A.D.S. Convention in Portland Oregon. Descriptions are elegant, well poised, good colour contrast. I have seen this one in U.S.A. and I understand Brian Duncan grows it.

Elsie says it is her best ever reverse bicolour trumpet. There are mouthwatering photographs of it in the Havens catalogue.

3. YOUNG AMERICAN 1YYW-WWY

Breeding - Daydream x Artic Gold.

This flower has intense contrast. Elsie says she would put it

second to Trumpet Warrior on the show bench but it is an excellent breeder.

These are three varieties which interest me in this class.

The fascinating thing is that all three have Goldcourt in their ancestry. Guy Wilson always said that Goldcourt produced elegance and good form in its children. It was for this reason I used it on Moonstruck which resulted in Gin and Lime

Our own Ballyvoy has won a few prizes but I do not think it has the quality of Gin and Lime which could hardly be called newest!! I understand Sir Frank Harrison (Ballydorn) has some seedlings coming on in this class worth watching.

WHITE - PINK TRUMPETS

Now to the newest and best 1 W-P Trumpets. I believe Pink Silk is still the top exhibition flower in this group bred from At Dawning x Graduation, this is a very smooth pure white flower with a long straight, clear pink trumpet. Bred by Elsie Havens.

Although Elsie says she has several Pink Silk seedlings none of them in her opinion are better than Pink Silk.

It grows very well for us and is excellent in pots. It always produces trumpet measurements but it is a little on the small side with us.

David Jackson has produced some very good flowers in this class 1 W-P Camden. Verran x Seedling. This is a high quality flower with a delicate pink trumpet slightly frilled at the mouth.

Melancholy 1W-P is another David Jackson flower which Brian Duncan recommends, a good show flower which was premier bloom in Springworld 1984. Breeding C.E. Radcliffe x Ergina.

This class is still rather in its infancy. We do have a few seedlings coming on. One seedling which has excited me came from seedling 5/2/74 OP which was an unnamed pink Sdg x Gracious Lady. It has an incredibly long pink tumpet (No worry about measurements) the perianth could be more overlapping. We also

have some worth watching from Dailmanach x Quiet Day.

Clive Postles is watching some of his seedlings from Silver Convention which has Passionale and Rose Royale in its ancestry He also says he has some coming with Ben Aligin as a parent.

John Lea is still with us.

Note 5/2/74 has not been named but its nickname (pardon the pun) is "Nick's Pink" as the pollination was done by one of my grandson's Nicholas, who also helped to plant it out as a 2 year old. We have about 12 bulbs now. I hope to cross it with Pink Silk.

Kate Reade

Daffodil Pests

Alan Bell and Stephen Jess

Applied Plant Science Division, Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland, Newforge Lane, Belfast BT9 5PX.

Daffodils may be attacked by a number of pests, and the damage may be so extensive that, once they gain a foothold, a stock of bulbs in a plantation will dwindle unless prompt effective control measures are carried out. It is important to be able to determine the cause of damage, and to understand the characteristics of the pest involved. The major pests are the large narcissus fly, stem and bulb nematode, and the bulb scale mite. Other pests which may occur but are of lesser importance are the small narcissus flies, bulb mites and occasionally slugs. This article will consider each of these in turn and will deal with life history, symptoms of damage, and control measures.

Narcissus flies

The adult large narcissus fly (*Merodon equestris*) is about 12 mm long and resembles a small bumble bee, but is distinguished from the latter as it has only one pair of wings. Females lay about

40 eggs between late April and the end of June, one per bulb on or as near the host plant as possible. The larva which hatches is a legless maggot which crawls down the side of the bulb and penetrates the base plate. It moves into the centre of the bulb over a period of several weeks. Here it feeds and grows to a final length of 20 mm, lying within an excavated cavity filled with wet brown material in the middle of the bulb. The larva overwinters in the bulb and emerges either through a hole in the base plate or through the neck in early spring. It pupates in the soil and the adult fly emerges about 6 weeks later.

The symptoms of attack vary depending on the time of year. In spring, affected bulbs will either fail to shoot or to flower if the flower bud has been eaten. Less affected bulbs will produce weak yellowish and distorted foliage. Bulbs lifted in July or early August will have small larvae inside and there will be no obvious signs of attack. Careful examination of the base may reveal a small brown area surrounding the entrance to a small tunnel. Careful cutting may remove the larva before it has caused any serious damage. At planting time in September-October most larvae will have tunnelled into the centre of the bulbs. Infested bulbs will be slightly softer to the touch, particularly around the neck region, and the attack can be confirmed by an internal examination which will reveal the larva in the middle of degenerate plant material.

Hot water treatment used for the control of bulb and stem nematode will control large narcissus fly infestations. Chemical control to prevent attack involves the use of carbofuran used either as a dip (around 3 hours) or applied directly to the open furrow at planting time. An alternative is the addition of ciliorpyrifos to hot water treatment which will also provide protection for the incoming season. Both of these treatments have "off-label" approval and recommendations for dosage rates should be sought from the local advisor or the manufacturer.

Small narcissus flies (*Eumerus strigatus* and *E. tuberculatus*)

are secondary pests, and bulbs must be damaged by another organism before small narcissus flies can attack and promote the damage. Control measures for other bulb pests will usually prevent small narcissus fly damage.

Stem and Bulb Nematode

The stem and bulb nematode (*Ditylenchus dipsaci*) is an important eelworm pest of daffodils, and bulbs grown for export must be free of this pest to satisfy the strict plant health requirements of importing countries. The nematode itself is extremely small and not normally visible to the naked eye, living within the plant tissues. Enormous numbers may build up here, and the nematodes may leave infested bulbs and move, or be washed by rainwater, to adjacent bulbs, thus spreading the infestation. Nematodes can live in stored bulbs, and in this situation large numbers of juvenile worms may mass together at the base of the bulb and dry gradually to form an off-white material known as "eelworm wool". In this dormant state, the nematodes can survive for many years in suspended animation, becoming active once more when moistened. Eelworm wool forms only in dry conditions, and so will never be found on bulbs in the soil. It is an important source of infestation as it may be blown about in store, and may contaminate cleaning or grading machinery.

In soil, nematodes enter bulbs around the neck region. Some will travel upwards into leaves and others will move down into the bulb tissue. Symptoms of stem and bulb nematode infestation are small swellings on the leaves varying in colour from green to brown. Eventually the whole leaf becomes discoloured and distorted. However, if the attack takes place later in the growing season, these symptoms may be reduced or absent, and consequently bulbs which are apparently healthy may be harbouring nematodes. Towards the end of the season, nematodes migrate down into the bulb, leading to the formation of orange-brown to greyish brown rings in the infested scales.

Nematodes will move down to the base plate, along and up to infest further scales. The baseplate in a heavily infested bulb may become loosened and fall off when the bulb is lifted, leaving a highly infectious source of nematodes to re-infest subsequent bulb plantings.

Prevention of stem and bulb nematode attack is achieved through good hygiene, crop rotation and remedial measures such as hot water treatment. Healthy planting stock should be used, and vigilance throughout the growing season will detect infected plants as soon as they appear. These should be removed from the crop along with adjoining plants in the same and adjacent rows. Hot water treatment between lifting and planting at 44.4°C for 3 hours will kill any nematodes in infested bulbs, and this can be optimised by storing at 18°C before treatment and pre-soaking in cold water (with a wetting agent and Formalin added) for 3 hours. Bulbs should be placed in clean sterilised boxes in a good airflow to dry out thoroughly after treatment.

It should also be realised that the nematodes can use weeds such as chickweed, bindweed, cleavers, fat-hen and scarlet pimpernel as hosts. Prevention of weeds near to clean growing stock will reduce the chances of cross-infection with stem and bulb nematode.

Bulb Scale Mite

This is an extremely small mite (*Steneotarsonemus laticeps*) which lives between the fleshy leaves within the bulb and feed by piercing and scarifying the scale surfaces. Several generations will be produced in the bulb throughout the year, though activity will be reduced during the winter months. With the onset of warmer weather, or when bulbs are placed in a glasshouse for forcing, the rate of multiplication increases rapidly. Mites will spread up the foliage when numbers increase, and the nett effect of a heavy

infestation is to reduce plant vigour and performance. Infested bulbs tend to be undersized and soft, but the presence of a mite infestation can be confirmed by cutting the bulb horizontally across the neck. Brown scars at the angular points of the scale confirm the infestation.

Bulb mites (*Rhizoglyphus* spp.) are larger than the bulb scale mite and are usually associated with bulbs which have already suffered damage, either as the result of a pest species, or mechanical trauma. Infested areas in a bulb will be brown and dry, with mites quite obvious on the surface.

Hot water treatment used for control of stem and bulb nematode will also kill mite infestations. As with the nematode problem, strict hygiene during storage is vital to prevent stocks of bulbs becoming re-infested. Bulbs intended for forcing should not be given hot water treatment, but drenched instead with endosulfan at the recommended rate.

Slugs

Damage to daffodils by slugs is variable, but may be serious if slug populations are high. The two species mainly responsible are the garden slug (*Arion hortensis*) and the grey field slug (*Deroceras reticulatum*). During the winter months damage occurs below ground when slugs attack the base of the bulb leading to death of the plant, or permitting the ingress of pathogens. When the weather becomes warmer, slugs will damage the aerial parts of the plant feeding on foliage and flowers. This is usually associated with warm damp weather which promotes slug activity. Slugs may be introduced accidentally into the glasshouse where conditions are ideal for them, and damage can be extensive.

Control of slugs may be achieved by poisoned bait pellets containing either methiocarb or metaldehyde.

REGISTRATION of NEW DAFFODIL CULTIVARS

The application for a Certificate of Registration for a proposed name for a new cultivar must be submitted to the International Daffodil Registrar, The Royal Horticultural Society, 80 Vincent Square, London, SW1P 2PE, accompanied by the fee of £1 sterling for each proposed name.

The name proposed should be sufficiently distinct from any name already approved by the R.H.S. This involves examination of the International Daffodil Checklist, and its supplements published by the R.H.S., which contains thousands of names going back to before 1877 (eg. N. Alfred Parsons, pre- 1877).

The information required on this form of application is simple in form, but does involve the hybridist in keeping accurate records of the parentage of each candidate. When the cross was made, when it first flowered, its colour coding with a description of the colours according to the R.H.S. colour chart if possible. If the candidate was a sport, or was from open pollination this does not disqualify. The hybridist's seedling number should also be given where applicable.

In general a word of advice may be appropriate when one remembers that the characteristics of a seedling may change materially as the stock is being built up. Guy L. Wilson said that he nearly discarded N. Preamble in its seedling stage, until it changed so much for the better over the several years in which the stock increased. The contrary is equally true and first appearances may deceive. So it probably is wise to grow the plants for several years until a stock of 10 or more bulbs establish consistency. The changes which may occur during the development of the stock include some in the dimension of the flower, so an early Division 2 may turn out to be a trumpet, and a Division 3 may reveal itself to be a Division 2. To make classification really difficult some cultivars are Division 2 one season and Division 1 the next, and so

also the distinction between Division 2 and Division 3 measurements. The corona colour may also be variable especially with orange red, reversed bicolours and those with a halo at the base, or more than one colour in the perianth. We record such events as ' marginal Div. 1 etc.', or variable colour ' orange flushed', or 'orange red, sometimes red', and regard such performance as making the plant less attractive for the dignity of a name.

The flower measurements to be recorded every year up to the point of application for registration should be in the metric measure, and finally the application form will show the flower diameter; the length of the perianth segments; the length of the corona; and in each case a description of each component when the flower is mature.

The **measurements** should be those of the flower at maturity. The diameter of the flower is the measurement from the tip of a perianth segment to the tip of the opposite segment when both are flattened out.

The length of the perianth segments is the measurement from the tip of the 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.

The terms to be used for these descriptions should follow as far as possible the stereotypes used by the R.H.S. and the following examples may be useful:-

Perianth Form

Broad; overlapping; smooth; plane; ovate; wavy; inflexed; reflexed; spreading; concave; convex; mucronate (ie. pointed clasps).

Perianth Colours

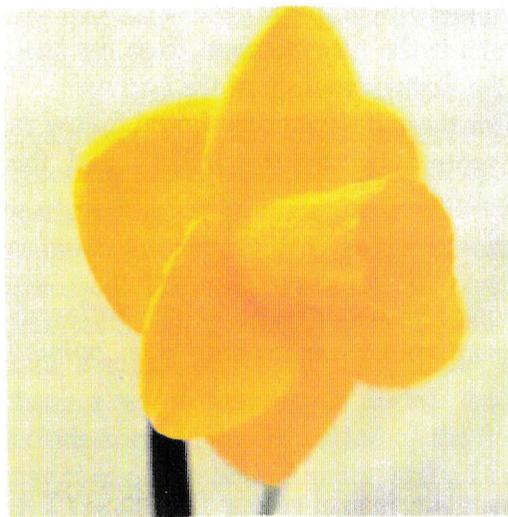
If more than one colour then the principal colour first eg. 2YYW (for Halo base).



New Chairman MICHAEL WARD (Centre)
with Treasurer JACK CARLISLE and his wife MARGARET
(Late Show 1995).



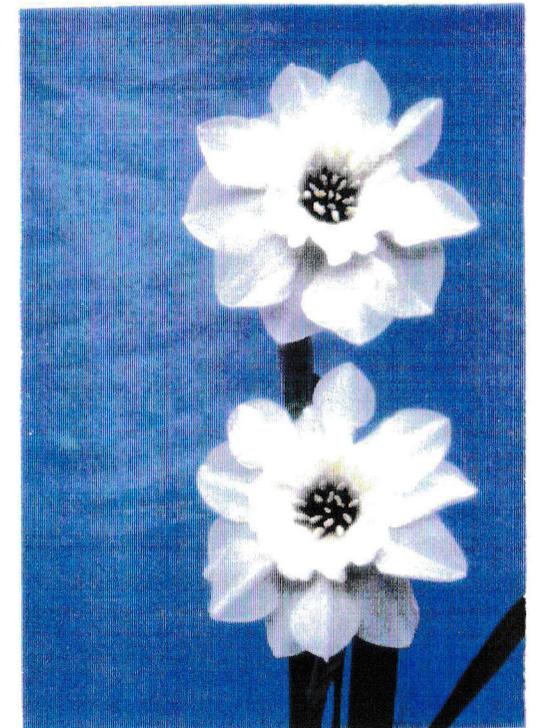
With thoughts of 1998 visit, photo from the 1979
visit with BRIAN and BETTY DUNCAN and TOM BLOOMER.



PIPER'S GOLD B.S.DUNCAN
Best Div.1 Late Show 1996.



Ladies behind the Daffodils
MARY McCABE, ROSEMARY ROESE, BETTY DUNCAN, MARY KOONCE.



Freak or Futuristic?
Eland Seedling B.S.DUNCAN.

Corona Form

Tube; cylinder; funnel; goblet; saucer; disc; rounded; straight sided; expanded; lobed; fluted; ribbed; rolled; dentate (ie. straight teeth); serrate (teeth angled acutely); crenate (rounded teeth)

Corona Colour

In three zones, not including the eye, with the throat zone first, then the mid zone and the outer zone, banded; rimmed or margined; and if the colours are suffused and not clearly distinct this should be stated.

Flower stem

Dwarf - less than 325mm.
Standard - 325 to 675mm.
Tall - over 675mm.

Flowering season - *very early; early; mid ; late; very late.*

The flower attributes, which distinguish it from other cultivars which it may resemble, and any information about Show or other awards then are added to indicate eg. whether it makes exhibition blooms, or has forcing, or market potential or makes a good garden plant etc.

The names of the hybridiser, the raiser, and the applicant are also required to be given.

Once the application is accepted, The R.H.S. will issue a handsome red and gold certificate (292 x 210 mm) with the new name and its coding together with the name of the registrant.

The success of so many seedlings raised by amateur hybridisers in recent N.I. and U.K. prestige shows, beating well established named varieties in open competition, establishes that there are quite a number of good plants deserving registration. The only words of caution are that with so many new cultivars

added annually, perhaps seedlings should not be registered unless they have been found to be significantly different and better than cultivars already there. But there is plenty of room for the new cultivar which is of better substance, more weatherproof or more sunproof colour, with smoother more glistening perianth segments, or with a shorter stiffer neck to make the flower stand proud of its foliage. For ourselves we like a thing which makes a good hard bulb and with good straight glossy leaves.

Choosing the Name

There are formal rules for the selection of names which will be acceptable to the international registrar, and these are set out in " The International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants" of which the sixth edition has just been published by the R.H.S. These rules present little difficulty as apart from the requirement that a new name should not be capable of causing confusion with an existing registration, and should not merely be adjectival eg. ' *Large White* ', ' *Gold and Silver* ' etc. or other common descriptive adjectival words, it should consist of no more than ten syllables, and no more than thirty letters.

So no amateur hybridiser should be deterred. If you follow the rails the course is easy, and the International Registrar, Sally Kington is always most helpful in assisting the candidate to gain the final accolade of International Registration.

Sir Frank Harrison

"MINIATURE" and "INTERMEDIATE" DAFFODILS

"Miniature": having individual flowers measuring no more than 2ins. or 50mm. in diameter when flattened out.

"Intermediate": having individual flowers measuring more than 2ins. or 50mm. and no more than 3ins. or 75 mm when flattened out. Undersized cultivars of standard cultivars will be ignored.

DAFFODIL and COMPANION PLANTING at SIR THOMAS and LADY DIXON PARK

In the autumn of 1996 35 varieties of daffodils were planted at Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park in Belfast . These groups of bulbs were supplied by local growers here in the Province and one grower from Holland. Unfortunately for some, this project was started late in the season and the detailed information was not available until the autumn edition of this publication. Pledges for many more varieties were received for the 1997 bulb planting season.

Daffodils are an ideal addition to this park where the renowned International Rose trials and the International Camellia trials take place. The idea behind these plantings is to discover how the bulbs will perform with various companion plants as well as exhibiting to the public the range of daffodil varieties which are now available. Observations will be made on such aspects as ability to camouflage the dying bulb foliage, degree of invasive-ness, colour compatibility and size relationship will all be assessed.

If you would like to participate this autumn by donating a selection of readily available daffodil bulbs which you feel should be promoted to a wider audience you will need to have 25 bulbs of each variety delivered to the Belfast Parks Department in good time that they may be planted by the end of October. Each variety will be labelled with the cultivar, raisers and donors names. Significant publicity will be generated we feel by this worthwhile project as many visitors already are attracted to this park.

If you would like more details please contact the Secretary of the N.I.D.G. requesting an information pack.

Bulbs planted autumn 1996 - Dispatch Box, Midas Touch, Comal, Carrickbeg, Silent Valley, White Star, Patabundy, Fragrant Rose, High Society, Nightcap, Gracious Lady, Willy Dunlop, Golden Joy Bunclody, Pipe Major, Namraj, Lysander, Fair Prospect, Kens Favourite, Resplendent, Rory's Glen, Brecken Hill, Show Band, Ravenhill, Merrymeet, Samantha, Tamar Fire, Unique, Bunting, Arish Mell, and Tuesday's Child.

NARCISSUS FLOWER BULBS - Part 2

Classification

During the garden history dedicated people have ensured that the swelling numbers of new daffodils has not brought total confusion. So when the old classification was confronted with the daffodil population explosion from the 1850's it seemed to be useless (Jefferson-Brown, 1991). In 1888 J.G. Baker's classification was thankfully adopted. His classification was made out of three groups based on the relative lengths of the petals and coronas, which has been deployed rather differently as the years have passed, the proportionate lengths being changed.

In 1909 a simplified classification was adopted and has been kept under review since then by the RHS Narcissus Classification Committee (Jefferson-Brown, 1991). This was originally based on seven arbitrary Divisions, but in the 1910 List, however they were said to have failed to meet with general acceptance, and an expanded schema of eleven Divisions was published instead. This, with some small amendments over the years, survived until 1950 (The Royal Horticultural Society, 1989). The Revised System of 1950 was designed to make the whole classification more logical and easy to understand. It still remains the basis for today's classification with its one major development in colour coding.

In the 1960-75 List a new scheme was published saying that colour could be expected to vary considerably and that the colour code would remain only a guide to a flower's colour (The Royal Horticultural Society, 1989).

The present 1989 System of Classification is as follows;

- 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 and illustrated below.

4. Measurements taken in determining between Division 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 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").

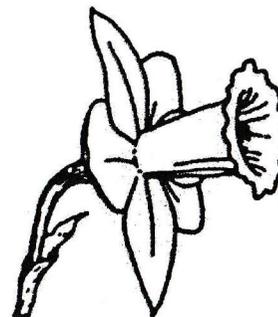
c) For purpose of description the perianth segments will be divided into three zones: outer zone, mid-zone and base; and the corona into three zones: eye zone, mid-zone and rim.

d) If the perianth segments are substantially of a single colour, a single code letter will describe them; if they are 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 letter 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.

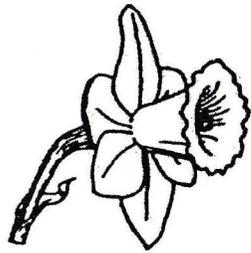
f) In double daffodils the code letter(s) before the hyphen will describe not only the perianth segments but also any extra perianth segments (being of the same colour), even if they are interspersed with the corona at the centre of the flower; the code letter(s) following the hyphen will describe the 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.

DIVISION 1 TRUMPET DAFFODILS OF GARDEN ORIGIN



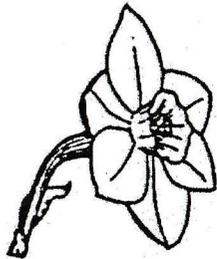
One flower to a stem;
coronas ("trumpet") as long as,
or longer than the
perianth segments ("petals").

DIVISION 2 LARGE-CUPPED DAFFODILS OF GARDEN ORIGIN



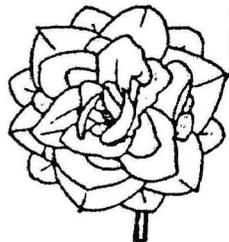
One flower to a stem;
corona ("cup") more than one-
third, but less than equal to the
length of the perianth segments
("petals").

DIVISION 3 SMALL-CUPPED DAFFODILS OF GARDEN ORIGIN



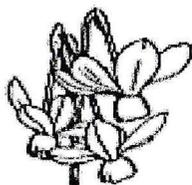
One flower to a stem;
corona not more than
one-third the length of the
perianth segments.

DIVISION 4 DOUBLE DAFFODILS OF GARDEN ORIGIN



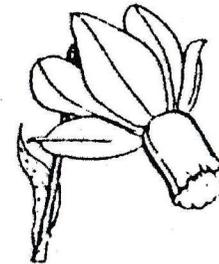
One or more flowers to a stem,
with doubling of the perianth
segments or the corona or both.

DIVISION 5 TRIANDRUS DAFFODILS OF GARDEN ORIGIN



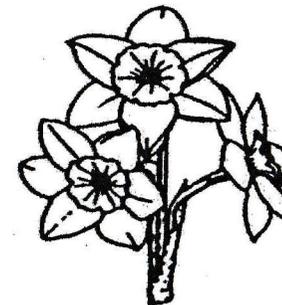
Characteristics of *N. triandrus*
clearly evident: usually two or
more pendent flowers to a stem;
perianth segments reflexed.

DIVISION 6 CYCLAMINEUS DAFFODILS OF GARDEN ORIGIN



Characteristics of *N. cyclamineus*
clearly evident: usually one flower
to a stem; perianth segments
reflexed: flower at an acute angle to
the stem, with a very short pedicel
("neck").

DIVISION 7 JONQUILLA DAFFODILS OF GARDEN ORIGIN



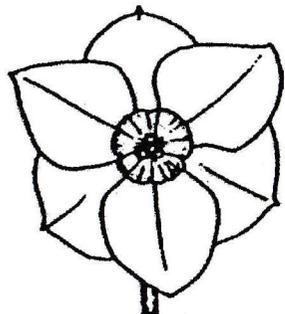
Characteristics of the *N. jonquilla*
group clearly evident: usually one to
three flowers to a rounded stem;
leaves narrow, dark green; perianth
segments spreading not reflexed;
flowers fragrant.

DIVISION 8 TAZETTA DAFFODILS OF GARDEN ORIGIN



Characteristics of the *N. tazetta*
group clearly evident: usually three
to twenty flowers to a stout stem;
leaves broad; perianth segments
spreading not reflexed; flowers
fragrant.

DIVISION 9 POETICUS DAFFODILS OF GARDEN ORIGIN

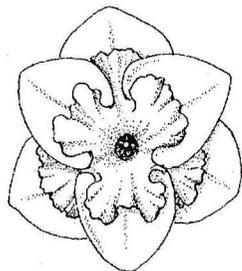


Characteristics of the *N. poeticus* group without admixture of any other: usually one flower to a stem; perianth segments pure white; corona usually disc-shaped, with a green or yellow centre and a red rim; flowers fragrant.

DIVISION 10 SPECIES, WILD VARIANTS AND WILD HYBRIDS

All species and wild or reputedly wild variants and hybrids, including those with double flowers.

DIVISION 11 SPLIT-CORONA DAFFODILS OF GARDEN ORIGIN



Corona split rather than lobed and usually for more than half its length.

DIVISION 12 MISCELLANEOUS DAFFODILS

All daffodils not falling into any one of the foregoing Divisions.

Notes

- The characteristics for Division 5 to 9 are given for guidance only; they are not all necessarily expected to be present in every cultivar assigned thereto.

- Divisions 10 and 12 are not illustrated owing to the wide variation in shape and size between the flowers involved (The Royal Horticultural Society, 1989).

(To be continued)

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1997 SHOW DATES

NORTHERN IRELAND

N.I.D.G Early Show	23rd March	Ballance House
COLERAINE	5th April	- with SILVER THREAD AWARD
HILLSBOROUGH	12th April	
DERRY and DISTRICT	12th April	
ENNISKILLEN	12th April	
BELFAST	19/20th April	Maysfield Leisure Centre - GILBERT ANDREWS TROPHY
BALLYMENA	26th April	
OMAGH	3rd May	
N.I.D.G. Late Show	11th May	Carncairn

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

R.H.S.I. SPRING SHOW	5th April	
SOUTH COUNTY DUBLIN HORTICULTURAL SHOW	12th April	Dalkey

R.H.S. LONDON

EARLY DAFFODIL COMPETITION	18/19th March
DAFFODIL COMPETITION	15/16th April
LATE COMPETITION	29/30th April

DAFFODIL TRIALS COMMITTEE

Chairman - Crosby Cochrane
Jack Carlisle, Brian Duncan, Richard McCaw, Derrick Turbitt.

WORLD DAFFODIL TOUR COMMITTEE

Convenor - Sandy McCabe
Jack Carlisle, Brian Duncan, Sam Dukelow, Richard McCaw.

BULB LOTTERY 1996

On behalf of the Northern Ireland Daffodil Group I wish to thank the many members and friends who participated in the lottery which has contributed hundreds of pounds to the group funds to help with the World Tour in 1998.

I would like to thank the leading exhibitors and the following 'Trade' growers for their generosity in supplying the 54 prizes:

Brian S Duncan	John W Blanchard
Clive Postles	Ron Scamp
Mrs Kate Reade	Constable Daffodils
Bloms Bulbs	Sam Dukelow
Richard McCaw	Broadleigh Gardens
Copford Bulbs	Jacques Amand
S. McCabe	E. Jarman
N Watson	Mr & Mrs Baxter

and anyone else who contributed to this auction.

The draw was made by Mrs Kate Reade and the prizes were sent direct from myself in October 1996. A winners list will be printed in the N.I.D.G. Spring Newsletter.

Another lottery will take place in 1997 and arrangements are now in hand. If you are able to help by donating a bulb or voucher please let me know what you have available.

Many thanks.

Robbie Curry

LIST OF BULBS AND WINNERS

BULBARROW	J. P. McAusland	RUSHMORE	A. Harper
BADBURY RINGS.	M. M. Bird	AUNTIE. EILEEN	P. Cross
BOSLOWICK	J. R. Smith	BARLEY COVE.	Mrs. McFarley
FIRST BORN (the first yellow pink)		J. Carlisle	
CULMINATION	R. Curry	QUASAR	D. Bircumshaw
SPUN MONEY	I Erskine	TROPIC ISLE.	R. Curry
BELFAST CITY	D; Bircumshaw	BULB from LIST	B. Patton

C. POSTLES INTRODUCTION K. Bacon
ANOTHER NEW INTRODUCTION J. Carlisle

PINK SILK	K. Bacon	ARTHURIAN	J. Witmore
ETHOS	M. Baxter	GOLD FINGER	R. Wiseman
GOLD BOND	P. Cross	JUNE LAKE.	T. Palmer
NAIVASHA	L. Duthie	TYRIAN ROSE.	Mrs Bird
BORDE.R BEAUTY	Mr M Bird	BURNING BUSH	J. R. Wiseman
TRIPLE. CROWN	R. McCaw	SERENA LODGE	J. R. Wiseman
VERNAL PRINCE	J. R. Wiseman	NOTRE DAME	D.Bircumshaw
PINK PARADISE	R. Shield	ETHEREAL BEAUTY	T. Palmer
YOUNG BLOOD	J. P. McAusland	CUPIDS EYE	J. Carlisle
RORY'S GLENN	D. Bircumshaw	LIMBO	M. Cove
DUNLEY HALL	M. D. Lewis	JOCELYN THAYER	R. McCaw
TRUMPET WARRIOR	S. McCabe	CHARLBURY	J. Smith
CREAGH DUBH	Mrs. Duthie	PALE SUNLIGHT	K. Bacon
ASLAN	J. R. Sausage	RORY'S GLEN	Mrs. Bonugli
CUESTA	I. Erskine	DUNLEY HALL	A. Harper
LEA 3-8-80	J. P. McAusland		

VOUCHERS - £10 - I.Erskine £5 - M.Kerr, D. Turbitt, Mr. J. Robinson

NEWLY APPROVED JUDGES

The following is the list of those judges who passed the test last season and are included here with phone numbers for the benefit of affiliated societies who may require judges in the future.

J. SMYTH	Banbridge	01846 692400
N. WATSON	Killinchy	01238 541007
R. McCAW	Hillsborough	01846 682920
R. CURRY	Lisburn	01846 673684
D. TURBITT	Portstewart	01265 833963
I. SCROGGY	Carnlough	01574 885289
S. JORDAN	Hillsborough	01846 683378
A. LEITH	Scotland	01261 861339

NORTHERN IRELAND DAFFODIL GROUP

DAFFODIL GROUP LOTTERY 1997

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SECOND WORLD DAFFODIL TOUR NORTHERN IRELAND

Sunday 19th April — Sunday 26th April 1998

This week-long tour organised by the Northern Ireland Daffodil Group will immediately follow the Daffodil Society Centenary celebrations in England. Visitors will transfer from Birmingham to Northern Ireland directly or via a London airport.

The previous World Daffodil Convention in Northern Ireland in 1979 was an outstanding success and the N.I.D.G. is determined to make this tour an equally memorable occasion for every visitor.

The tour, by luxury coach, will visit the Daffodil Nurseries of *CARNAIRN*, *BRIAN and BETTY DUNCAN*, *TYRONE DAFFODILS*, *BALLYDORN*, *RINGHADDY*, and the extensive daffodil plantings at *BARNETT DEMESNE* and *DIXON PARK* in Belfast will show daffodils in distinct and different landscaped settings. Also, visits will be made to the *DAFFODIL* and *COMPANION PLANT TRIALS* and Northern Ireland's *PREMIER DAFFODIL SHOW* in Belfast (both organised by the N.I.D.G. in association with Belfast Parks Dept.) which will be highlights of the tour.

Additional visits will be made to the wondrous *GIANT'S CAUSEWAY*, followed by a little Irish spirit at *BUSHMILLS*, (the world's oldest Distillery) and the *ULSTER AMERICAN FOLK PARK* where the unique Ulster / U. S. A. connections are dramatically portrayed. Between these focal points the coaches will take the scenic routes with stops at other places of interest. These visits will be enhanced by a series of welcoming receptions, lunches and dinners to ensure a cordial and relaxed atmosphere and an opportunity to meet the friendly people of Northern Ireland.

ESTIMATED ALL IN COST Per Person - £395.00 (Sharing)
(includes Top Class Hotel accommodation, All Meals, Luxury Coach, Entrance Fees and Cocktail reception).

An early indication of numbers expecting to attend would be most helpful to the organising committee and need not be a firm commitment at present.

!!!! PLEASE RESPOND NOW !!!!

For **INFORMATION PACK** and **BOOKING DETAILS** please send the slip below to:-

Mr Sandy McCabe

21 Parkmount Crescent, Ballymena, County Antrim,
Northern Ireland, BT43 5HS
Tel: 01266-48231

WORLD DAFFODIL TOUR - NORTHERN IRELAND 1998

Please send Information Pack and Booking details to:

Name:- _____

Address:- _____

Tel:- _____ Fax:- _____

The Northern Ireland Daffodil Group
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

To R. McCaw, 77 Ballygowan Road, Hillsborough,
Co. Down, BT26 6EQ

Mr.
I/We Mrs. _____
Ms. _____

Post Code _____

desire to become a member of The Northern Ireland
Daffodil Group, and enclose the sum of £7.50/£18.00
being my subscription for 1 or 3 years. (Please delete one figure)

Date _____

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