

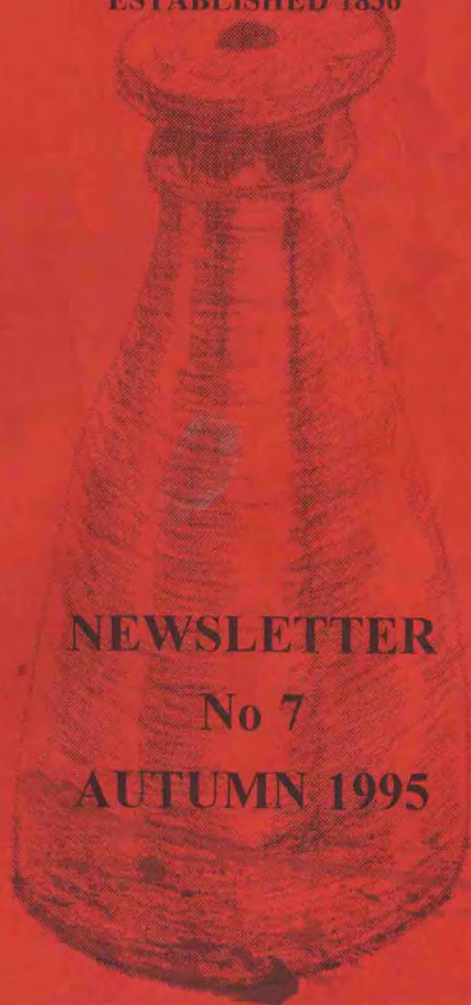
**WAKEFIELD  
&  
NORTH OF ENGLAND  
TULIP SOCIETY**

**ESTABLISHED 1836**

**NEWSLETTER**

**No 7**

**AUTUMN 1995**



# WAKEFIELD & NORTH OF ENGLAND TULIP SOCIETY

(Established 1836)

## OFFICERS 1994-1995

- PRESIDENT The Marquess of Hartington
- PATRONS W. D. Tear, Esq  
V. Roozen, Esq
- VICE - PRESIDENTS H. V. Calvert, J. G. Hardman, Miss D. B. Snape,  
P. Emmett, S. Knowles, C. Harrison, K. N. Eyre, T. Mills, J. L. Akers, C. Marsh,  
A. Hayward, T. Clark, J. Ollerenshaw, Dr A. K. Swift
- CHAIRMAN J. G. Hardman, Esq
- HON. SECRETARY Mrs. W. M. Akers  
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- COMMITTEE J. G. Hardman, Mrs. W. M. Akers, Mrs. C. Gude,  
J. L. Akers, K. N. Eyre, Mr R. Crabtree, Mrs B. Crabtree, Mrs J. Green,  
M. Hainsworth, J. Wainwright, Mrs. S. Wainwright.

**Annual Subscriptions - Members are reminded that subscriptions for 1996 become due on the date of the Annual Show May 1996 and are for the sum of £4 per member or £5 for Family Membership.**

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## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

Again another year passes by, too rapidly by far. We are now looking forward to another good A G M. The year has been a good one for our Society, both shows were excellent despite the weather conditions. We all thought that the hot spell in late April would ruin the two shows, but we were proved wrong. The Dutch show at Wrenthorpe and the English Florist at Horbury were both a huge success.

On the financial side this success was due to three factors:-

Sale of refreshments organised by Mrs Crabtree - *well done Beryl*.

The plant stall organised by Barbara Pickering

Arthur Hayward's raffles

Thanks to all three organisers.

Also our gratitude to all the people who gave raffle prizes, and all the lady members who baked for the English Show - *an excellent presentation, more like a WI competition than a members and visitors tea*. Particular thanks also for Mr Bingham who provided all the meat for that show.

The Primrose Hall Horbury was well received by both exhibitors and visitors for the English Show, a good venue.

The flowers from this show were then taken as last year to Dudmaston and displayed on the Sunday, again thanks to all the members concerned with this venture.

I do not know of any members passing away this year, but on a lighter note congratulations to Jane Eyre who is now Mrs Alistair Green. *Much happiness!*

Thanks too to Sir George & Lady Labouchere for their gift of a silver plate presented for the best bloom in the Novice Classes.

Finally many thanks to my committee, especially Carole Gude, for their efforts, not forgetting Keith Eyre for his help and consideration while I have been under the weather.

John Hardman

## EDITORIAL

James Akers

When we returned from America last year, three days before Christmas, after virtually seven months away from home, I fondly imagined that many of the problems viz-a-viz my tulips would be over. How wrong could I be!

Last year, for the first time ever since I started growing, I was forced to leave in the ground almost two beds of my offset breaks because I had no time to dig them up. Having always spoken very derogatively about those who never dug their bulbs up, my conscience bothered me all winter. Certainly there were a lot of gaps in the beds, an obvious sign of the havoc that the keel slug wreaks over the wet autumn months; however those bulbs which by flowering time had reached sufficient size bloomed very well and are now safely dug up. The other beds of broken tulips planted after Christmas have fared less well with very little increase because of the lack of rain after the flowering period. What is worse the ground was so dry and hard that I have had to use a hand trowel to dig up and am so far behind that the prospect looms that I shall be digging up and re-planting on the same day.

Similarly with my pen. I had expected this year not only to have produced this newsletter well before the end of August but also to have made significant progress in preparing the draft of the new Society Booklet which we intend to make available shortly. Here we are in the first week of September, newsletter not yet distributed and no progress whatsoever on the booklet. It will all be different next year!

I have very much enjoyed doing the newsletter this year not least of all due to the wonderful response that I have had from you members to my request for articles. Several have been held over until future years and if I have not responded personally to ones whose articles have not been included then please accept my apologies now and don't let that stop you from writing again next year. You may notice that I have new toys which I hope have improved yet again the quality of what you are now seeing. Our new PC has a desk top publishing package Pressworks 2000 which has made for a more uniform presentation. The type face most often used is Times New Roman 10 which I hope is clear enough for all to read, and a hand held scanner has enabled the inclusion of a number of photographs. OK they aren't perfect but I think we have done quite well in keeping our production costs within budget. What is more important is the quality of what is written and I am sure that you will find the articles interesting, thought provoking and even sometimes amusing. Please write and let me know if there is anything which you feel is lacking, (my aim is still to include coloured photographs when cost permits and the technology is available to me), or if there is a subject which we seem to be ignoring.

## THE ANNUAL SHOW - 20TH MAY 1995

### VASE CLASSES

Class 1 Vase of 12 Tulips (Any variety or varieties not English Florist)

1st P. Turner (Swanwick)	2nd P. Turner	3rd P. Turner
<i>Menton</i>	<i>Maja</i>	<i>Maureen</i>

Class 2 Vase of 6 Tulips (Any variety or varieties not English Florist)

1st P. Turner	2nd A. Hayward (Altofts)	3rd P. Turner
<i>Menton</i>	<i>Dreamland</i>	<i>Maureen</i>

Class 3 Vase of 3 Tulips (Any variety or varieties not English Florist)

1st P. Turner	2nd P. Turner	3rd Mrs. L. Chapman (Pickering)
<i>Maureen</i>	<i>Maureen</i>	<i>Queen of Night</i>

**The F R Hunter Cup for the most points in Classes 1 - 3: P. Turner**

**The Peter Emmett Trophy for the best exhibit in Classes 1 - 3: P. Turner**

Class 4 Vase of 12 English Florist Tulips

1st T. Mills (Walsall)	2nd Mrs. J. Green (North Ferriby)
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Class 5 Vase of 9 English Florist Tulips

1st Mrs. S. Wainwright (Wrenthorpe)

Class 6 Vase of 6 English Florist Tulips

1st T. Mills 2nd Mrs. S. Wainwright 3rd Mrs. J. Green

### OPEN CLASSES

Class 7 NORMAN EYRE MEMORIAL GOBLET

Stand of 12 Breeders (different varieties)

Four Bizarres - Four Bybloemens - Four Roses

No Entries

Class 8 NEEDHAM MEMORIAL CUP

Stand of 12 rectified English Tulips (all dissimilar)

Two Flamed and Two Feathered , Bybloemen, Bizarre and Rose

1st J. L. Akers (Wrenthorpe)

<i>Fe</i>	<i>Fe</i>	<i>Fl</i>	<i>Fl</i>
<i>Biz</i>	<i>Lord Stanley</i>	<i>Lord F Cavendish</i>	<i>James Wild</i>
<i>Byb</i>	<i>Sdg 95/1</i>	<i>Adomis</i>	<i>Columbine</i>
<i>Rose</i>	<i>Mabel</i>	<i>Wakefield</i>	<i>Mabel Akers Flame</i>

## Class 9 LOCAL SILVER CHALLENGE CUP

Stand of 9 English Florist Tulips (all dissimilar)

One Breeder, one Flamed, one Feathered Bizarre, Bybloemen and Rose

1st Mrs. J. Green	<i>Breeder</i>	<i>Flame</i>	<i>Feather</i>
<i>Rose</i>	<i>Gloria</i>	<i>Mabel</i>	<i>Julia Farnese</i>
<i>Biz</i>	<i>Lord Stanley</i>	<i>Sam Barlow</i>	<i>James Wild</i>
<i>Byb</i>	<i>Albert Tear</i>	<i>Habit de Noce</i>	<i>Agbrigg</i>

2nd. J. L. Akers

<i>Rose</i>	<i>Hubert Calvert</i>	<i>Akers Flame</i>	<i>Wakefield</i>
<i>Biz</i>	<i>James Wild</i>	<i>Lord Stanley</i>	<i>Lord F Cavendish</i>
<i>Byb</i>	<i>Seedling</i>	<i>Columbine</i>	<i>Adomis</i>

3rd Mrs. S. Wainwright

<i>Rose</i>	<i>Juliet</i>	<i>Wakefield</i>	<i>Mabel</i>
<i>Biz</i>	<i>Lord Stanley</i>	<i>James Wild</i>	<i>Cavendish</i>
<i>Byb</i>	<i>Music</i>	<i>Columbine</i>	<i>Habit de Noce</i>

## Class 10 SILVER CHALLENGE CUP

Stand of 6 rectified English Florist Tulips

One Flamed and One Feathered Bizarre, Bybloemen and Rose

1st Mrs. J. Green	<i>Rose</i>	<i>Bizarre</i>	<i>Bybloemen</i>
<i>Fe</i>	<i>Wakefield</i>	<i>James Wild</i>	<i>Habit de Noce</i>
<i>Fl</i>	<i>Mabel</i>	<i>Sir J Paxton</i>	<i>Columbine</i>

2nd J. L. Akers

<i>Fe</i>	<i>Wakefield</i>	<i>James Wild</i>	<i>Habit de Noce</i>
<i>Fl</i>	<i>Akers Flame</i>	<i>Sir J Paxton</i>	<i>Bessie</i>

3rd R. Smales (Dodworth)

*Fe Wakefield James Wild Adonis*

*Fl Mabel Sir J Paxton Columbine*

Class 11 THE G.S.HUNTER MEMORIAL CUP

Stand of 6 Breeders (different varieties)

Two Bizarres - Two Bybloemens - Two Roses

1st Mrs J. Green *Rose Bizarre Bybloemen*

*Mabel Lord Stanley Albert Tear*

*Juliet Goldfinder Bessie*

2nd T. Mills *Mabel Sam Barlow Music*

*Juliet Goldfinder Talisman*

Class 12 STAGES CUP

Pan of 3 stages - One Breeder, one Flamed, one Feathered

1st Mrs. J. Green *All James Wild*

2nd J. L. Akers *James Wild (Br & Fe) Lord Stanley (Flame)*

3rd Mrs S. Wainwright *All Lord Stanley*

Class 13 SILVER PLATE

For a pan of 3 Breeders - One Bizarre - One Bybloemen - One Rose

1st T. Mills *James Wild Music Mabel*

2nd Mrs J. Green *Goldfinder Talisman Gloria*

3rd J. J. Wemyss-Cooke (Atherton) *Sam Barlow Music Mabel*

Class 14 Pair of Flamed

1st Mrs J. Green *Sir J Paxton Wakefield*

2nd Mrs S. Wainwright *Lord Stanley Bessie*

3rd J. Ollerenshaw (Hyde) *James Wild Wakefield*

Class 15 Pair of Feathered

1st Mrs J. Green 2nd R. Smales 3rd J. L. Akers

*All Wakefield James Wild*



## Class 16 One Breeder

1st Mrs J. Green    2nd T. Mills    3rd F. R. Jackson (Sandal)

*James Wild                      Juliet                      James Wild*

## Class 17 One Flamed

1st Mrs J. Green    2nd Mrs S. Wainwright    3rd F. R. Jackson

*Sir J Paxton                      James Wild                      Lord F Cavendish*

## Class 18 One Feathered

1st Mrs S. Wainwright    2nd J. L. Akers    3rd Mrs J. Green

*James Wild                      Lord F Cavendish                      James Wild*

The "COCHRANE OF CULTS VASE" - Best Bloom Classes 16-18 Mrs S. Green

**THE JIM AKERS MEMORIAL GOBLET** awarded to the exhibitor gaining the most points in Classes 7 - 18. - Mrs J. Green**SEEDLING CLASSES**

Class 19 SEEDLING CUP One Seedling Breeder raised by the exhibitor

Not Awarded

Class 20 Three Seedling Breeders

Not Awarded

**NOVICE CLASSES** - Open only to members who have not won the Novice Cup

Class 21 Pan of Three One Breeder, one Flamed, one Feathered

1st A. Green (North Ferriby)    *Lord Stanley (Br & Fl) Lord F Cavendish (Fe)*2nd Dr A. K. Swift (Bridgnorth)    *James Wild (Br & Fe) Lord F Cavendish (Fl)*3rd T. Mitchell (Osset)    *Goldfinder (Br) Lord F Cavendish (Fe) Bessie (Fl)*

Class 22 One Breeder

1st D. Bromley (Wellington) 2nd Mrs J. Baker (Suffolk) 3rd Dr. A. K. Swift

*Mabel                                      James Wild                                      Juliet*

Class 23 One Flamed

1st A. Green    2nd Miss A. Tyler (Wigan) 3rd Mrs B. Royles (Hawarden)

*Lord Stanley    Lord F Cavendish                      Lord Stanley*

## Class 24 One Feathered

1st Not Awarded 2nd J. Gray (Houghton Le Spring) 3rd R. Crabtree (Wrenthorpe)

*Lord F Cavendish*

*James Wild*

## Class 25 THE GINA ROOZEN CUP - 3 Breeders Bizarre Bybloemen Rose

1st Dr. A. K. Swift *Mabel James Wild Music*

2nd Mrs B Royles *Three seedlings*

3rd A. Green *Juliet Lord Stanley Columbine*

**THE BROOK SILVER CHALLENGE CUP and a glass goblet - A. Green**

**THE DUDMASTON PLATE For the Best Bloom in the Novice Classes. - A. Green (Lord Stanley Flamed)**

**EXTRA OPEN CLASSES**

## Class 26 One Breeder

1st D. Bromley 2nd A. Green 3rd. F. Jackson

*James Wild Lord Stanley James Wild*

## Class 27 One Flamed

1st A. Green 2nd Mrs. B. Royles 3rd F. Jackson

*Lord F Cavendish Wakefield James Wild*

## Class 28 One Feathered

1st Not Awarded 2nd Not Awarded 3rd A. Green *James Wild*

## Class 29 Pan of 3 stages - One Breeder, one Flamed, one Feathered

No Entries

**The S. KNOWLES CUP best bloom Extra Open - D. Bromley (James Wild Breeder)**

**A glass goblet awarded for the most points in classes 26 - 29 - A. Green**

**Premier Blooms Best Breeder- Mrs J. Green (James Wild)**

**Best Flamed - Mrs J. Green (Sir Joseph Paxton)**

**Best Feathered - Mrs J. Green (Wakefield)**

**THE ALBERT TEAR MEMORIAL TROPHY for overall Premier Bloom. Mrs J. Green -Sir Joseph Paxton (Flamed)**

## Report on the Shows

James Akers

Flower shows, and particularly those for the tulip, never live up to one's expectations as the reports for 1895 and 1945 confirm. Last year was a record in terms of the number of exhibitors at the English Florist Show and we lived in hope that this year it would be even better. In fact the number of flowers was down by 10% and the number of exhibitors by even more. No doubt the weather played a part but still the regulars managed to show and the competition in the multi-flower classes was greater than last year. More rectified bulbs had been distributed than of late, particularly to members who had shown previously, and the breeders which had been distributed in the previous three or four years should have multiplied so well that to have only two entries in the six breeder class was nothing short of a disaster. Perhaps the increased number of entries in the English Classes at the Wrenthorpe Dutch Show was an indication of an early season but even there it was mainly the regulars who showed and they were still able to have flowers on the show bench two weeks later. The English Florist Tulip is a beautiful flower and one can understand the desire of anyone to grow it just for the joy of seeing it's flower in the privacy of ones own garden or living room, however the older varieties have only been kept going because of the show and I believe would rapidly disappear if the Society should fold. So please bring any flowers you have to next year's two shows and encourage us all.

People have been complaining for 50 years about the Eyre's and Akers' winning most of the prizes, (as they did no doubt about the Robinsons and Gills in previous generations), but now that women are prominent in the Society at least they can disguise their origins by the change of name on marriage. How long will it be before they start talking about the Green's and Wainwright's? Congratulations to Jane and Sarah on their winning exhibits, the show would have been very bare without them. At least Jane's husband Alistair won a few victories in the war of the sexes, being almost as successful in the Novice and Extra-Open Classes as Jane was in the Open, and this was his first show. In winning the new Dudmaston Plate presented for the best bloom in the Novices he has won a trophy that Jane will never be able to win.

As far as Dutch Tulips go, Peter Turner is rapidly taking over the mantle once worn so successfully by Bill Tear. Both at Wrenthorpe and Horbury his exhibits were outstanding both in the quality and the range of varieties which he showed.

Finally once again we transferred the Annual Show to Dudmaston on the Sunday where the display was admired by several hundred visitors from whom perhaps will come in future years several new exhibitors.

## Condensed Minutes of Annual General Meeting 1st October 1994

The meeting was held at Wrenthorpe Village Hall and commenced at 1.30pm

Present were the Chairman Mr John Hardman, the Secretary Mrs Wendy Akers and Treasurer Mrs Carole Gude along with committee members Mr James Akers, Mr and Mrs Ron Crabtree, Mr Malcolm Hainsworth and Mr and Mrs John Wainwright.

**After welcoming** the seventy or so members and friends from all parts of the country the chairman asked those present to observe a short silence in memory of three members who had passed away since our last meeting. Mr Norman Eyre, our oldest member, Mr Frank Keys and Mrs Kathleen Akers, all had given valuable service to the society.

After this he spoke for a short period about the outstanding show season this year, the record number of exhibitors at the Annual Show and the excellent programme produced of the show by the BBC Gardeners World. He thanked the officers and committee for their hard work and commended the ladies who produced the lunches which had been a very successful first time venture. The idea of moving the show to Dudmaston had proved excellent and 700 people had visited during the day, several new members had joined as a result of seeing the tulips.

**Apologies** were received from Mr Keith Eyre, Mrs Jane Green, Mr Jack Wemyss-Cooke, Dr Katherine Swift, Mr Peter Pashley and Dr and Mrs Rose

**The minutes** of the previous AGM in 1993 were taken as read since they had been published in the newsletter and there were no particular matters arising.

**Correspondence** : Mr Bill Tear had sent a letter which he requested to be read to the AGM. This was read by the Chairman and comments taken from members.

**The Secretary's Report** : 1994 was always going to be a "tulip" year since the Dutch growers were celebrating 400 years of the tulip in Europe. A huge number of enquiries had come to the society via the R H S as various editors told their gardening correspondents to find out what we were doing in this country. She had felt duty bound to point out that tulips were grown in England some 17 years before the 1594 date being celebrated in Holland. All this interest had resulted in many articles on the tulip and/or the society, plus the aforementioned BBC Gardeners World programme which had achieved the seemingly impossible by condensing two day's filming into five or six minutes and still managed to keep

The shows had been wonderful, there were more breeders than ever being shown. There were 300 flowering size show bulbs for the novices who'd shown this year, provided by Sarah Wainwright, these to be collected after tea. Sarah and John had filmed everything they had done with the tulips over a whole year, preparing the beds, planting, selecting and marking to harvesting the bulb and seed crops. This record would form the basis for the afternoon and would help the novice growers.

One incident was worth mentioning. Mr John Hardman was in hospital at the time of the Dutch show and we visited him after the show taking some of the flowers. Walking through the hospital we were stopped several times by people who wanted to look at the tulips and it became obvious that most people have never seen a properly grown tulip, only the closed bud blooms sold by florists which are the result of forcing. A flower grown to its full potential is not only a delight to look at but will last for two weeks in water, getting better and better.

Finally she thanked Sarah and Carole who had taken the reins while she was in America.

**The Treasurer's report :** She had been a "courageous volunteer" at last year's AGM as the Chairman had described her but then panic had set in, was it a case of "fools rush in...."? Anybody can add up numbers but the job involved much more than that. She had been helped to settle in to things by Wendy and James the previous Treasurer and in the end had begun to enjoy herself. The new ventures into tulip cards etc had generated money for the society and she was exploring other ideas. The completed accounts were very satisfactory but they might be a little misleading since we'd closed at the 31st July and hadn't had a full year, only 10 months. So in effect we'd had a full year's income but not a full year's expenditure ie the Newsletter costs had still to come in. Trophy costs had been high - £100 - and we might have made a small loss. She thought we should not put up subscriptions but wait and see how a full year goes. There had been a major turnround on profits from the show and she congratulated everyone responsible.

#### **Election of officers :**

The chairman said he was not jiggered but was willing to stand down. On being re-elected he thanked those present for their confidence in him.

Patrons : no new ones were added.

Vice Presidents : two names were put forward, Dr Katherine Swift and Mr John Ollerenshaw and were elected unanimously

The Secretary Mrs Wendy Akers, the Treasurer Mrs Carole Gude and Auditor Mr Arthur Hayward were all re-elected

The committee were re-elected en bloc.

Acting Editor of the Newsletter Mr James Akers agreed to continue

Show Secretary Mr Ron Crabtree agreed to continue

**Dates of next year's Shows :** The Dutch Show would be the first Saturday in May the 6th May 1995.

For the Annual Show two dates were put forward, the 20th May and the 13th. A vote was taken and the 20th May 1995 was chosen.

Pashley Manor wanted to have the tulip display as did Dudmaston, this was held over for the committee to decide.

**Garden Visits :** We were open to suggestions, two had been Beth Chatto and Timothy Clark, we had plenty of time to decide but welcomed ideas.

**Replacement of Tulip booklet :** James Akers reported that we were running out and he is starting to update and improve it with a view to reprinting an up to date version.

**Date of Annual General Meeting 1995:** 30th. September and 7th October proposed. 30th September carried.

**Any other business :** Mr Peter Royles complained that we had agreed to insert additional classes for a feather and flame but hadn't done it. Promised to do it. Mrs Jean Lewis reminded members to bring used envelopes and stamps.

This concluded the business part of the afternoon.

**A year in the life of the English Florist Tulip** an illustrated talk by Sarah Wainwright was followed by tea at 4pm. The final item was **slides of 1994 Shows and flowers.**

### **Tulip storage and flowering**

**Sarah Wainwright**

My least favourite tulip question is "Why haven't my bulbs flowered this year?". It is a hard question to answer because there are so many possibilities. Assuming that the bulb was of flowering size, reasonably healthy and planted in good ground it should have flowered, but it failed to. I realised this year that just as much can go wrong during storage as during the planting and growing season. I have just reread "Ornamental Bulbs, Corms and Tubers" by A. R. Rees (C.A.B. International, Wallingford 1992), which covers all aspects of commercial bulb production, and from which the following information is condensed.

We tend to think of the time from the dying down of foliage in late June to replanting in November as the dormant time of the bulb. However, quite a lot goes on in the bulb which will be critical to the next year's flower. Rees says

“In the tulip...., there is hardly any true physiological dormancy, and flowers are initiated either before the [leaves and stem] die down,...or soon afterwards, in the apparently dormant bulb.”

So the bulbs currently nestling in paper bags around the country already contain 1996's flowers in miniature.

Starting from planting in November, the bulb goes through several stages before it begins to make the next year's flower. The trigger to start putting out the new season's leaves is a period of several cold weeks, which the tulip thinks must be winter. Its first priority is to get shoots and roots ready to support the flower it already holds inside. If the cold period is extended, the mother bulb will also begin to make many daughter bulbs within itself. One of these daughter bulbs will become the next year's mother bulb. Once the weather warms up the bulb concentrates on sending up that year's flower bud and growing strong leaves to feed next year's bulbs. Once flowering is over, the new mother bulb is fed by the leaves dying down and the withering of the old mother bulb, while the old stem remains behind to support a seed pod if necessary. If there is surplus food, the daughter bulbs previously formed in the winter will increase in size, but in a poor year, the bulb will mainly preserve its own existence. Around this time, the new flower may be forming in miniature within the new bulb, although the bulb appears to be dormant.

If the new bulb is not large enough to support a flower, it will not make one within itself, so that the next year it can concentrate on increasing in size by producing a single broad leaf and no stem. Some varieties will usually flower if the bulb has a circumference of 6cm (like a 10p coin), others not until they are 9cm circumference (like a 50p coin). The English florist tulip varieties Lord Frederick Cavendish, Wakefield and Habit de Noce often flower on a small bulb. Low size is the most common reason a bulb will not flower.

Temperatures during lifting and storage also influence whether or not the bulb will initiate a flower for the next year. It is thought that the flower is forming in the bulb between early July and late August in an average summer. Commercial growers sometimes use a short period of high temperature after lifting in July to promote flower formation. They control the length of time very strictly because long periods of storage at high temperature kills the main flower bud within the bulb, and may encourage tiny flowering side shoots. The bulb is “blind” because it sends up a shoot with a tiny, papery flower, if there is a flower at all. At the opposite end of the scale,

early cold storage of the bulb during September and October makes the bulb believe winter has arrived, and the bulb begins to grow. Commercial growers use this method to force tulips for Christmas flowering. Cold periods while the flower is being formed can also lead to the formation of extra petals. These extreme high and low temperatures should be avoided by us if we want the bulb to flower well, and at the proper time.

For best results, commercial growers store tulips at 20 C (69 F) from lifting time (in July) until 1st November, reducing the storage temperature around then to 17 C (63 F) until planting time, especially if this is likely to be delayed until early December. The air is kept moist to prevent the bulbs drying out, but not so damp that disease is encouraged. This relatively warm constant temperature would be hard to achieve at home, but slightly cooler temperatures do not seem to harm the tulips, so long as they are not exposed to the wide variations caused by storage in a greenhouse or a small metal-roofed shed, which can quickly chill or overheat. The best conditions seem to be in brick garages, dry cellars or large cool sheds where the tulips can be kept dark and free from temperature variation.

An obvious cause of non-flowering is damage to the flower during planting. This could be because the growing tip has been bruised, knocked off or eaten by a slug. Sometimes a bulb starts into growth but fails to thrive and flower because it has "hard base". This is caused by premature lifting before the tunic has formed, or by quick-drying in sunlight. The root plate thickens and after planting the new roots find it hard to force their way out of the tunic, starving the plant of food. Often the flower will be "blasted", being quite large but shrivelled, twisted or papery.

A further cause of non-flowering is exposure to ethylene. This chemical is given off by bulbs affected by "sour", a fusarium disease with a characteristic sour smell. Checking that odd bulbs are not rotting in storage is prudent to avoid this problem, which causes blind or blasted flowers. Ethylene is also produced by waterlogged ground, ripe fruit, boiler gases and car exhausts (so maybe the garage is not such a good place to store bulbs after all). There are other minor reasons tulips may fail to flower. Occasionally my Columbine tulips show signs of "topple", where the stem cracks as it is growing, possibly (I read) due to calcium deficiency. Blind or blasted flowers may also occur as a result of ice freezing around the bud as it pushes up through the soil, by early season drought or by unusually hot conditions (like 1995!). I hope you can see why I dread the "Why haven't my tulips flowered?" question so much- it is because there are so many possible answers. Hopefully you may have identified those causes that it is possible to do something about by good growing and storing techniques so that you can avoid problems next time.



## DUTCH SHOW - 6TH MAY 1995

## DUTCH CLASSES

Class 1 THE PERKIN TROPHY 18 Tulips - one variety

1st P Turner 2nd A Smales 3rd P Turner 4th P Turner  
*Jacqueline Vivex Elegance Golden Appeldoorn*

Class 2 12 Tulips - any variety or varieties

1st J Hardman 2nd P Turner 3rd R Crabtree  
*Menton White Triumphator Menton*

Class 3 9 Tulips - any variety or varieties

1st W Akers 2nd P Turner 3rd R Crabtree  
*Maureen Unknown Queen of Night*

Class 4 5 Parrot Tulips

1st W Akers 2nd J Hardman 3rd F R Jackson  
*Fantasy Flaming Parrot Unknown*

Class 5 5 Lily Flowered Tulips

1st A Harper 2nd B Pickering 3rd B Bingham  
*Ballerina Queen of Sheba White Triumphator*

Class 6 5 Fringed or Crispa Tulips

1st P Turner 2nd P Turner 3rd A Harper  
*Burgundy Lace Burgundy Lace Fancy Frills*

Class 7 5 Late Double Tulips

1st W Akers 2nd P Turner  
*Angelique Golden Medal*

Class 8 5 Viridiflora Tulips 1st 2nd 3rd

1st P Turner 2nd P Turner 3rd P Turner  
*Esperanto Greenland Greenland*

Class 9 3 Yellow flowered Tulips one variety

1st B Bingham 2nd B Bingham 3rd W Akers  
*Mrs J T Scheepers(?) Maja Sweet Harmony*

Class 10 3 White flowered Tulips one variety

1st S Wainwright 2nd A Hayward 3rd L Bone  
*Maureen Marilyn Snow Peak*

Class 11 3 Pink flowered Tulips one variety

1st W Akers 2nd R Crabtree 3rd F R Jackson  
*Garden Party Menton Menton*

Class 12 3 Any Other Colour one variety

1st B Bingham 2nd L Bone 3rd A Smales  
*Burgundy Lace(?) Queen of Night Vivex*

Class 13 5 Kaufmannia, Greigi or Fosteriana cultivars - No entries

Class 14 Any species tulip, one pot or pan of five bulbs in bloom - No entries

Class 15 Container of English or Dutch tulips arranged for effect, any foliage allowed.

1st T Mills 2nd P Turner 3rd W Akers

## ENGLISH FLORIST TULIPS

Class 16 1 Breeder, 1 Flamed, 1 Feathered

1st T Mills *Sam Barlow (Br) Lord Stanley (Fl) Lord Stanley (Fe)*  
 2nd J Akers *Hubert Calvert (Br) Wakefield (Fl) Wakefield (Fe)*  
 3rd R Smales *Seedling (Br) Wakefield (Fl) Wakefield (Fe)*

Class 17 A Pair of flamed (must be from different colour classes)

1st R Smales *Lord Stanley & Mabel*  
 2nd S Wainwright *Lord Stanley & Wakefield*  
 3rd T Mills *Sir Joseph Paxton & Mabel*

Class 18 A Pair of feathered (must be from different colour classes)

1st R Smales *James Wild & Wakefield*  
 2nd S Wainwright *James Wild & Wakefield*  
 3rd J Akers *Lord F Cavendish & Wakefield*

Class 19 1 breeder tulip

1st Miss A Tyler *Juliet* 2nd P Turner *Sam Barlow* 3rd T Mills *Sam Barlow*

Class 20 1 flamed tulip

1st P Turner *Bessie* 2nd R Smales *Paxton* 3rd S Wainwright *Lord F Cavendish*

Class 21 1 feathered tulip

3rd L Bone *James Wild*

Class 22 1 seedling tulip

1st J Akers *Rose seedling***THE MARY TEAR MEMORIAL TROPHY** awarded to the exhibitor with most points in classes 1 to 8. - P Turner**THE BILLY TEAR TROPHY** for the best exhibit in classes 2 - 15. P Turner

The judges for the show were:- Mr. K. N. Eyre of South Cave (English) and

Mr. F. Smith of Altofts (Dutch)  
shown here with treasurer Carole

Exhibits in Class 2





York Gate garden visit - see page 34



**WAKEFIELD TULIP SOCIETY**-The annual show of this old-established society was held on Monday and Tuesday at the Brunswick Hotel, Borough Market. Although the season has on the whole been a favourable one, the show was not quite so fine as those of some previous years, the hot weather of the last week affecting some of the older blooms. About 500 magnificent blooms, grown by ten exhibitors and these were inspected by a goodly number of visitors, amongst them being the Mayor (Gr J. Nicholson), after whom Mr E. Lister, one of the members of the Society, christened a very good seedling he has raised. The prize for the premier breeder was taken by Mr E. Lister with "Dr. Dalton" and he also showed a wonderful flamed flower "Sir Joseph Paxton" while an extraordinarily fine feather bloom was staged by Mr W. Calvert, rope manufacturer, Alvethorpe. Mr H. Simmonds, of Sheffield, and Mr T. Spurr, of Eastmoor, were the judges. Following is the list of prize-winners:- Rectified pans-1 Edwin Lister, 2 W. Mellor, 3 A. Moorhouse, 4 Jesse Hardwick, 5 W. Calvert, 6 George Gill, 7 Thomas Maddock, 8 H. Brown. Pan of six Breeders- 1 A. Moorhouse, 2 E. Lister, 3 George Gill, 4 W. Mellor, 5 W. Calvert, 6 Thomas Maddock, 7 J. Hardwick. Pan of three Breeders - 1 W. Mellor, 2 E. Lister, 3 J. Hardwick, 4 G. Gill, 5 A. Moorhouse, 6 W. Calvert, 7 H. Brown, 8 T. Maddock. Feathered bizarres - 1 and 2 W. Calvert, 3 and 4 A. Moorhouse, 5, T. Maddock, 6 and 7 E. Lister, 8 W. Mellor. Feathered by blooms - 1 and 6 G. Gill, 2 and 7 A. Moorhouse, 3 W. Mellor, 4 and 5 W. Calvert, 8 G. Freeman, 7 H. Brown. Flamed roses - 1 G. Gill, 2 and 4 A. Moorhouse, 3 G. Freeman, 5 and 8 H. Brown, 6 E. Lister, 7 W. Calvert. Bizarre breeders - 1 and 3 E. Lister, 2 A. Moorhouse, 4 and 5 W. Calvert, 6 G. Gill, 7, J. Hardwick, 8 T. Maddock. By-bloom breeders - 1 and 2 G. Gill, 3 and 5, W. Mellor, 4 T. Maddock, 6 and 7 J. Hardwick, 8 E. Lister. Feathered roses - 1 and 6 E. Lister, 2 and 3 A. Moorhouse, 4 G. Gill, 5 W. Mellor, 7 W. Calvert, and 8 G. Freeman. Three flame bizarres - 1 and 2 E. Lister, 3 and 7 T. Maddock, 4 and 6 W. Calvert, 5 A. Moorhouse, and 8 W. Mellor. Flame by-blooms - 1 A. Moorhouse, 2 and 4 E. Lister, 3 and 4 W. Mellor, and 5 and 8 G. Freeman. Rose breeders - 1 and 2 A. Moorhouse, 3 and 8 G. Mellor, 4 and 5 E. Lister, 6 and 7 G. Gill. Premier breeder - E. Lister with "Dr. Dalton". Best flame - E. Lister with "Sir Joseph Paxton". Best feathered flower - W. Calvert with "Masterpiece". Best three ferns - 1 George Gill, 2 J. Hardwick. Best single fern - 1 Wm. Calvert, 2 George Gill.

## THE ANNUAL SHOW 1895

The show took place on the Monday and Tuesday of the first week in June.

As has happened several times before the best flame in the show one hundred years ago was the same flower as this year - Sir Joseph Paxton.

Bybloemen has always been a problem to type setters - see by-bloom on this occasion.

Two entries were allowed in most classes and all classes were judged to the eighth position. Individual breeders were shown by colour and there were seven entries in the six breeder class - they obviously had plenty. An intriguing class was the three bizarre flames.

The Gill family who were founder members of the society in the 1830's were still represented sixty years later.

William Calvert, from whose grandson's widow I bought my house, probably grew his flowers in what is now my garden.

Source the Wakefield Express in Balne Lane Library.

## TULIP SHOW

### WAKEFIELD & NORTH OF ENGLAND SOCIETY

The 109th annual show of the Wakefield and North of England Tulip Society took place at the Whinney Moor Hotel, and was opened last Saturday by the Mayor (Cr E. Slater). Owing to the weather conditions the quality and quantity of the tulips did not reach their usual high standard. The honours chiefly went to Mr N. Eyre, of Horbury, who won three cups. The Mayor, in declaring the show open, said how pleasing it would be if the members who first formed this Society 109 years ago, could see the fruits of their labours and the Society still flourishing as it did to-day. The Mayoress presented the cups and gold medal to the prize-winners.

The awards were as under:-

#### OPEN CLASSES

Vase of 18 Tulips, any variety other than English Florist: 1 A. Tear (Altofts) gold medal, 2 F. R. Hunter (Horbury), 3 A. Robshaw (Alvethorpe). Vase of nine, any variety other than English Florist: 1 G. Hunt (Horbury), 2 Mrs E. H. Robinson (Horbury), 3 F. R. Hunter. Vase of 25 English Florist 1 W. Robinson (Horbury). Vase of nine English Florist 1 N. Eyre (Horbury), 2 A. Tear 3 R. Robinson (Horbury). Silver Challenge Cup 1 W. Beddows (Altofts) 2 N. Eyre. Needham Memorial Cup N. Eyre. Pan of 6 rectified 1 J. Akers (Altofts), 2 W. Beddows, 3 G. Hunt. Pan of six breeders, 1 J. Akers, 2 R. Robinson, 3 N. Eyre. Stages Class (silver cup) 1 N. Eyre, 2 R. Robinson, 3 G. Hunt. Three Breeders 1 R. Robinson, 2 G. Downing (Normanton) 3 W. Tear. Pair of flamed 1 R. Robinson, 2 N. Eyre, 3 W. Robinson. Pair of feathered 1 W. Beddows 2 J. Akers, 3 A. Robshaw.

#### LOCAL CLASSES

Silver Challenge Cup 1 N. Eyre, 2 W. Beddows, Rose Breeder 1 E. Robinson (Horbury), 2 W. Beddows, 3 N. Eyre, Rose Flamed 1 G. Hunt, 2 J. Akers 3 W. Robinson, Rose Feathered 1 K. Robinson, 2 R. Robinson, 3 W. Beddows, Bizare Breeder 1 K. Robinson, 2 R. Robinson, 3 G. Downing, Bizare Flamed 1 E. Robinson, 2 K. Robinson, 3 A. Tear, Bizare Feathered 1 K. Robinson, 2 Siddall (Lapset), 3 A. Robshaw, Bib Breeder 1 E. Robinson, 2 A. Robshaw, 3 J. Akers, Bib Flamed 1 W. Robinson, 2 K. Robinson 3 A. Robshaw, Bib Feathered 1 W. Robinson, 2 J. Akers, 3 W. Beddows

#### NOVICE CLASSES

Pan of three, Breeder, Feathered, Flamed 1 J. Mouter (Horbury), 2 Master C. Woodhall (Horbury), 3 J. Butterworth, Breeder 1 G. Woodhall, 2 J. Butterworth, 3 Master W. Tear Flamed 1 C. Woodhall 2 J. Mouter, 3 I. Prest (Horbury) Feathered 1 H. Priestley, 2 C. Woodhall 3 J. Mouter, Pan of three any variety English Florist 1 H. Priestley

## THE ANNUAL SHOW

1945

The show took place on Saturday 5th May which is the earliest I have ever found for the show date in all the extensive research I have done.

Note Master W Tear with a third in the single breeder Novice Class.

To echo the sentiments of the Mayor, how pleasing it is that Norman Eyre, who died last year, should have been so successful and fifty years later his granddaughter Jane and her husband Alistair "swept the board".

Unfortunately no varieties are mentioned.

Source the Wakefield Express in Balne Lane Library.



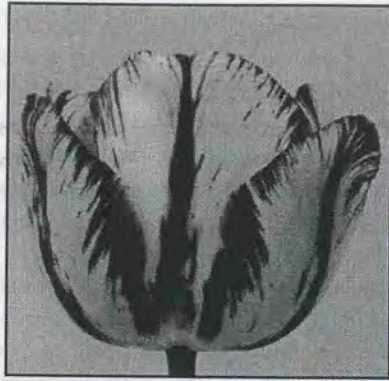
Lord F Cavendish - Memorial at Barrow



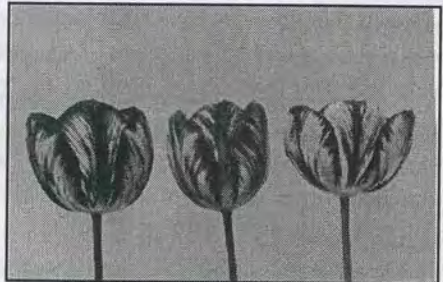
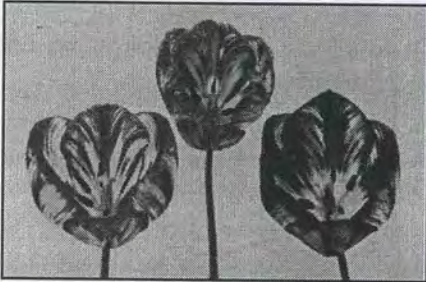
Lord F Cavendish (centre) with four Union Jack



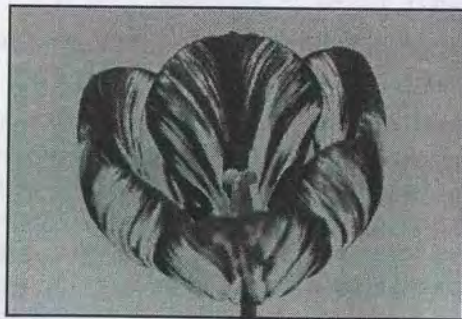
"The Team Photograph" - Garden visit to York Gate - See Page 34



A new Break - Seedling 95/1Byb Fe



Akers Flame   Mabel   Wakefield   Wakefield   Mabel   Akers Flame



Akers Flame - Rose Fl

## Judging Standards

James Akers

The standards by which flowers, vegetables, cats, dogs, babies, Miss World and Mr Universe are judged are completely artificial, often arbitrary, and even subjective. Shows, particularly where one flower is judged against another, are confined mainly to the English speaking world. Holland which is looked upon by the other European nations as the Mecca of the floral world has nothing like the two tulip shows which we hold annually. Of all the florist flowers the tulip is probably the most difficult to judge because the virus which causes the "breaking" or striping in the petals does not act the same from flower to flower or even petal to petal. To the novice the difference between a winner and an also-ran is difficult to comprehend, to the casual observer the "prettiest" flower is usually the one which is most unlikely to win a prize. For that reason many new exhibitors feel unsure about the quality of the flowers they have grown, even to the extent of leaving them at home when they come to the show. To have been brought up in "a tulip family" can be a help to being a successful exhibitor, but many of the best judges of the past and present have been members who have no historical connection with the Society.

The Society is anxious to attract more showing members but it is also equally keen to increase the number of members who are both capable of, and feel sufficiently confident to, judge at our Annual Show. For that reason we intend to encourage potential judges in a number of ways.

Firstly by a discussion at the AGM of what is being looked for in a good Florist Tulip. Jane Green who judged the show at a very early age will be one of the main contributors.

Secondly in the proposed new Society booklet the various qualities of Breeder, Flame and Feather will be defined and illustrated.

Thirdly by having a judging seminar if possible at the Dutch show where there is less pressure than at the main show.

Finally by production of coloured photographs specifically designed to show what are good and less well marked flowers. In addition, some photographs will compare different flowers from the same class. For example overleaf on page 21 you will find photographs of the inside and outside of the three most common rose flamed flowers, Akers Flame, Mabel and Wakefield. These colour photographs will enable the exhibitor and potential judge to recognise and name the flowers he has grown or which are in front of him on the show bench. In addition such photographs will demonstrate the strengths and weaknesses of individual varieties. For example it is easy to identify that Mabel is perhaps a little taller than is ideal and in addition has



petals which hook in. Wakefield although a better shape has more pointed petals and Akers flame while slight less tall than the perfect tulip has good rounded petals and when open presents itself to the judge better than the other two varieties. However a perfectly marked flamed Mabel despite the disadvantages with it's shape would probably beat either of the two other varieties as a flame in a close competition.

The Membership Card issued to all members until the 1960s describes the basic requirements as follows:-

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### OLD ENGLISH FLORIST TULIPS

All flowers to have six petals, level at the top and in shape like the lower half of a ball.

All flowers to have six stamens

Bizarres to have a pure yellow base.

Roses and Bybloemen to have a pure white base.

Bizarre Breeders' colours red, yellowish brown, reddish brown to mahogany.

Bybloemens Breeders' colours light slate to dark Lilac.

Rose Breeders' colours pink, red or scarlet.

**FEATHERED** Base colour reaching to pencillings of breeder colour which stretch right round petals, finishing at base. Pencillings are usually deeper at the top of the petal.

**FLAMED** Clear beam of breeder colour up the petal centre, regular tongues of base colour stretching upwards and outwards to pencillings of breeder colour which stretch right round petals to base.

It must be understood that perfect flamed and feathered are scarce. Exhibitors should show flowers with the least faults.

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These requirements have not changed for centuries, however what the aids described above will attempt to clarify for exhibitors and potential judges alike are the relative merits of different flowers. For example which is better, a flower with good feathering markings but a number of skips, (where the base colour breaks throught the feathering to the edge of the petal), or a flower with complete feathering but a line down the middle of the petal like Royal Sovereign or the new bybloemen break shown on page 21.

## Treasurer's Report

Carole Gude

Please see the back cover, inside and outside.

Overall, a very satisfactory year with an excess of £111.93. A glance at the separate accounts reveals that the two shows and AGM go from strength to strength. My thanks to all those members who gave raffle prizes, food, donations, plants and, perhaps more importantly, their time and effort to make these days such a success.

A couple of minor points:-

The hire of a projector for the AGM was due to an unfortunate break-down at the last moment, and this expense should not occur again.

The cost of hiring Primrose Hall for the main show, (which we thought extremely reasonable,) will rise again for next year as we were accidentally under-charged, though not asked on this occasion to pay the difference.

The sales item account showed a deficit of £52.38 due entirely to the restocking with different items. As can be seen the profit made from the items sold was good, and the stock will contribute a profit in future years. Your continued support for this venture is much appreciated.

Some comments on the general account:-

We should thank Sarah Wainwright for donating her fee for a talk on tulips at Red House and Maurice Evans for raising money from sales of photographs for a second year.

The rose bowl re-silvering has been accomplished within the amount awarded by the insurance company, and all who have seen it will agree that it is once more an attractive trophy to be won.

A significant purchase this year has been two second-hand filing cabinets. This is enabling the Society to organise the huge amount of old records in our possession into a useful form, and to make day-to-day running easier. In due course I am sure these fascinating documents can be made available to interested members; John Wainwright has spent a great deal of time on this project.

Expenses, in particular printing costs, have been kept very low this year largely due to the good offices of James Akers.

The vexed question of insurance re-appeared in April when Sun Alliance requested a sum of £272-85 (discounted from £310-75) to renew the cover for our trophies.

This was plainly unacceptable, and after some investigation into alternatives, the committee decided to affiliate with the RHS, and take their cover. The sum of £98-00 includes affiliation fees and public liability insurance for our shows, so we have got much better value for money, as well as saving £12.42 on last year's figure.

The remaining item, always our highest expense, is postage, and this is closely related to subscriptions. We have achieved the reduction in postage by another careful pruning of the mailing list and by consolidating our correspondence. The large drop in subscriptions is a cause for concern and I would urge all members to ensure they have paid up to date. We can easily check if you are unsure. Many thanks to those who have taken the trouble to pay by standing order. If anyone is considering this we can provide a form to send to your bankers. Subscriptions are due each May.

On the balance sheet, the outstanding debt of £84 is simply a cheque for the Garden Visit which at the time of closing the books had not cleared our account.

Please raise any questions regarding these accounts at the AGM.

### "An answer to our prayers"

#### Carole Gude

We were captivated: it was the answer to our prayers. "We" are the novices - we've seen the tulips on "Gardener's World", we've been to the show, enchanted by the exhibits, joined the society and got two or three bulbs. Panic sets in. These are someones babies, freely given, not purchased from a catalogue. We should nurture them, show them, make them increase and send their offspring back. It's too much, we can't cope. It doesn't even help to read Anna Pavord confess the same in a national newspaper.

We are at the AGM, October 1994, listening to Sarah Wainwright's talk on growing English Tulips. an excellent lecture - comprehensive, well illustrated, full of sound practical advice; " put 3 bulbs in a 10 inch pot". this is the stuff we need to know. Unselfish too, remember these are **her** babies. Admittedly, she makes it sound a bit too easy, but we can forgive that: she was probably born knowing some of what she is saying.

A glance around the room reveals an audience concentrating hard, the fog beginning to clear for the novices, but the "older hands" too, with more bulbs, wanting to do better, thinking of that elusive first, second or third at the show. These are the members with questions at the end, contributing to an informed discussion about differences in soil and regional weather. There is plenty of interest for them too. Everyone, I'm sure leaves feeling they can do a bit better this year and perhaps we will. So, thanks Sarah and John, for all your hard work and attention to detail that

## RHS TULIP COMPETITION

May 2-3

James Akers

Apart from our own shows this is the only other show I know of where there is a comprehensive range of tulip classes and even then looking at the results you might be misled into thinking it was a Wakefield show.

Of the eight exhibitors at this year's competition, double the number from last year, five were our members and they won most of the prizes. At last year's show Anne Smales had come very close to winning the Simmonds Medal for the Best Vase in show with the Darwin Hybrid "Vivex" but this year she achieved it with the same variety. We had driven down from Yorkshire early in the morning with the cold fans on because of the warm weather and I had watched these flowers slowly open in the rear view mirror wondering if they would be fully blown by the time we reached Vincent Square. Fortunately by judging time they had achieved a perfect goblet shape and gained their just reward. Billy Tear made it to London rather than our Dutch Show the following weekend and won a number of prizes, his best entry was probably the dark red Single Early "Couleur Cardinal". Ms M C de Laubarede's Viridiflora Spring Green and Arthur Robinson's white Single Late "Maureen" were winning vases which also caught the eye. The latter is one of the most consistent flowers for exhibition purposes though on this occasion it was a little young and had not quite reached its full potential. Class 8 for three Parrot tulips was the source of some discussion among the judges where a number of flowers had more than the usual six petals. One view is that because Parrots are themselves an aberration the number of petals need not be confined to six as is the case with all other types with the exception of Doubles. On this occasion that view prevailed but I have agreed to raise the question among our members. Should Parrot tulips be disqualified if they have more than six petals? Please write and let me know.

### SHOW RESULTS

Class 1: Single Early Cultivars. (5)

1: W D Tear - Couleur Cardinal; 2: A E Robinson - Generaal de Wet; 3: W D Tear - Prinses Irene

Class 2: Double Early or Double Late Cultivars. (6)

1: W D Tear - Mount Tacoma; 2: Mrs W Akers - Eros; 3: R A Brand - Angelique

Class 3: Triumph or Mid-Season Cultivars. (7)

1: W D Tear - Garden Party; 2: W D Tear - Rosario; 3: Mrs J E Sudell - Kees Nelis

Class 4: Single Late Cultivars. (12)

1: A E Robinson - Maureen; 2: W D Tear - Menton; 3: Marie Christine de Laubarede - Sorbet

Class 5: Lily Flowered Cultivars. (9)

1: W D Tear - Jaqueline; 2: W D Tear - Jaqueline; 3: R A Brand - Ballerina

Class 6: Fringed Cultivars. (8)

1: Mrs A Smales - Fancy Frills; 2: A E Robinson - Hamilton; 3: W D Tear - Blue Heron

Class 7: Viridiflora cultivars. (3)

1: Marie Christine de Laubarede - Spring Green; 2: Miss M A Charlwood - Spring Green

Class 8: Parrot Cultivars. (9)

1: A E Robinson - Rococo; 2: R A Brand - Estella Rijnveld; 3: A E Robinson - Flaming Parrot

Class 9: Kaufmannia, Greigi or Fosteriana Cultivars. (4) - No awards

Class 10: Darwin Hybrid Cultivars. (6)

1: Mrs A Smales - Vivex; 2: W D Tear - Golden Parade; 3: Mrs W Akers - Olympic Flame

Class 11: Any Species tulip, one pot or pan of five bulbs in bloom. - No Entries

All classes for three blooms. Number of entries in brackets

### **Tulips by Ann Bonar**

64pp 1993 Pavilion Books £6.99

It is difficult to imagine the impact that the first tulips must have had when they arrived in the West. To eyes accustomed to bluebells and buttercups they must have seemed impossibly gaudy. I grow my tulips on an allotment and even today when I see them flowering among the winter cabbages and the last of the sprouts I am astonished by their exotic appearance rather like parakeets among sparrows. Ann Bonar has captured exactly this thrilling aspect of modern tulips. She first takes us through the history of tulip growing as they spread westward from the court of Suleiman, into Austria, Holland and Britain. In the middle section she makes the point that it is not surprising that modern garden tulips display such diversity since they have been bred continuously for at least four centuries and then takes the reader through the groups of tulips which are available today, illustrated either by photographs or Julia Cobbold's lovely paintings. Finally there is a comprehensive section on how to plant, lift and store tulips successfully.

Of the clutch of tulip books that were inspired by the 400 year celebrations of the tulip this is the one to have. It will not only inform and inspire its reader to grow a wider diversity of tulips but will ensure that they are healthy and long lived plants.

## *TRICKERY AMONG THE TULIPS*

*Bill Tear*

With over fifty years of growing and showing tulips I have a few tales of dark deeds to tell.

It is fifty years since I won my first Gold Medal at the Whinney Moor Hotel in Lupset. The variety was City of Harlem, or Pride of Harlem. The bulbs were purchased at Woolworths in Normanton, I think 24 bulbs cost 2/6. [thats 12 1/2 new pence Ed]

The next year the same bulbs came early and I showed 18 at an early show at Horbury, and won first prize. At the auction at night, a well known member of the Society purchased these eighteen flowers, kept them in cold storage and then beat me next week at the main show to win the Gold Medal.

My mentor Uncle Bill Beddows went mad. He always said what he thought, and never held back any punches. Beaten with my own flowers.

A few years later the venue was the St Johns Working Mens Club at Normanton. I grew some beautiful flowers - Jeanie Dessor, a big ivory flower feathered delicate pink. I managed to cut nineteen blooms, staged eighteen and put the spare bloom in the sales bucket near the door. Mr Frank Smith was the judge.

After the judging Frank called at my home to tell me that he had unfortunately disqualified my exhibit because there were nineteen flowers in the vase. Some kind rival had put the spare flower in my exhibit. They were the best Darwins that I have ever grown and shown.

### **A Treasury of Tulips by Valerie Schloredt**

64pp Michael O'Mara Books £6.99

This little book with its many photographs of tulips and use of tulips as a design motif is at once very pretty and at the same time intensely irritating. The illustrations used have no information or attribution attached to them at all, indeed looking at the acknowledgments inside the back page increased my sense of irritation since the references are to page numbers and the pages are not numbered. Thus there is a delightful photograph of a mixed border of cowslips and yellow and green viridiflora tulips on page 27 (I had to count the pages myself). If you wanted to create the same planting you would need to use some other reference to discover that the tulip is "Hummingbird". The epithet "coffee table book" has come to have a rather derogatory meaning, but in this case it seems the perfect description for this

*Into the Unknown*

John Ollerenshaw

How often does the bloom of yesteryear outshine the present? Even so the present may be next year's shadow.

Why and how does this sort of thing take place? Granted we all know that our Florist Tulips are inconsistent; from good to moderate, to poor and back again.

In all these variancies several things never change.

Take form; this is stable.

Take size of bloom; this too is stable even if large from full size bulbs or small from lesser bulbs.

However in the matter of colour we see good, moderate and poor. We know that our broken tulips contain a virus which affects the hirsutin concentrate in the bulbs but why it does so is, as yet, not so clear.

Let us assume that all our tulips are constant year after year. Then if we apply a little logic into the conundrum we can say that:-

a) A breeder remains constant in colour without any virus.

b) Rectified tulips remain variable in colour with virus.

Therefore it surely follows that the variant is in the virus, so we could make up a kind of chart.

Minus virus = Constant amount of colour

Increasing virus giving decreasing colour

Maximum virus = Total loss of colour

But as we cannot eliminate the virus can we control the amount?

Somewhere along the line from the first shoots in Spring to the taking up of the bulbs the virus changes and seemingly becomes less potent. The longer we take before we lift the bulbs, so the greater seems to be the chance of over coloured blooms in the following year.

If we are to read and understand what was said and practised about two hundred years ago we may improve matters.

James Maddock (c 1790) propounded that after petal fall " the bed may remain in this state about a fortnight longer, by which time the grass or foliage, will become of a yellowish brown, and two or three inches of the top of the stem will wither, dry up and become purplish: this denotes the critical period to take up the bulbs because if done earlier, they will become weak and spongy, and if deferred later their juices will become gross; this will be manifest at the succeeding bloom, by too great a redundance of colorific matter in the petals, and the flowers will be what is generally termed foul."

George Glenny writing in c1860 was content with lifting when the stems had died down half-way.

It would seem therefore that if a 'broken' tulip bloom exhibits excess colour in the petals that the virus count has fallen too low and when in another year the same tulip bloom appears almost white or yellow with odd specks or flecks of colour the virus count has been raised too high. If Maddocks is right then the former was caused by lifting too late and in the latter case too early. Bulbs lifted at the "critical period" should have a middle virus count and so presumably well marked petals next time in bloom.

I believe that there is a case to answer and I invite others to think about these matters.

Should we as a routine measure always lift at the critical period or should we ignore any thought on such matters and lift willy-nilly?

Perhaps some members would like to set aside a few bulbs and see if the above does run in line with their findings.

What do other members think?

I would like to correspond with anyone interested; who knows, we may turn up all sorts of useful ideas.

-----  
 John's address is :-        33 Gloucester Road  
                                      Hyde  
                                      SK14 5JG



### **A few thoughts at Horbury and Dudmaston by a new member.**

**Douglas Kydd**

Almost a week of strong sunlight and exceptionally high temperatures was bound to hurry on the development of blooms which had already coloured. Followed by low temperatures, and even snow, would provide testing conditions for exhibitors. With little experience it seemed to me that most classes were well represented in spite of these weather changes though I believe the total entry was less than usual.

I have grown a few broken tulips for a number of years but not to any standard which would be acceptable for showing. So, it was exciting to be given bulbs and hope to bring them to flower, perhaps even at the right time. As I watched them grow I thought of the many people who had been concerned with selection and care to keep the named varieties in being and to breed new ones. In one case and possibly more than one, the variety was established over two hundred years ago. I expect that most members of the Society are well aware of this but again as a novice I think it is an impressive record and worth mentioning.

Apart from comparing the markings and finding out more about correct colouring and shape, it was interesting to watch the staging and realise the importance of placing the blooms within the different classes. This added a great deal to the attractiveness of the whole display.

At Dudmaston on the following day arranging was equally important and in these exceptional surroundings of fine paintings and furniture the blooms looked superb. The Society was again fortunate in the kindness of Sir George and Lady Labouchere in allowing the use of their house and, in addition, giving a trophy to the Society to encourage novices.

### **The Pansy - Another Florist Flower**

**John Snocken**

I am a member of the National Viola and Pansy Society, which is small but endeavouring to grow. In order to maintain the ever dwindling supply of Violas, Show and Fancy Pansies the society has instigated a collection of exhibition varieties that is to be held by me. I wonder if any members have any named varieties of which a plant or cuttings may be spared. Some of the Tulip Society members may also have been members of the North of England Viola and Pansy Society and can help.

My address is Cleeway, Eardington, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, WV16 SJT.

## It's a Long Way to Wakefield

John Snocken

The 25th October 1994, a small parcel of great worth arrives in the morning post; the treasure has arrived! Unpacked carefully, names remembered from the Dudmaston display, bulbs smaller than I imagined all holding the promise of blooms to come.

A new challenge; I already persevere with Auriculas, Laced Pinks, Pansies and Violas, very much an apprentice florist, what am I to make of my first tulips? Not for my precious bulbs the heavy and slug infested borders of Shropshire clay. No! All my other florist flowers thrive in clay pots and loam, so that shall be a good home for the latest arrivals. A ten inch pot for each bulb, crocked, gravelled, a nice layer of leaf mould and topped up with my own mix of loam, peat and grit with blood fish and bone.

When to plant? My diary tells me that it was 12th November, having little to go on, an arbitrary date I am sure. Pots into the coldest greenhouse, 4 bulbs, can I get just one bloom on time. "It's a long way to Wakefield", my wife muses.

Growth appears, pots are moved in and out as temperatures fluctuate. Will they? Won't they? My first thoughts are no, no far too early, but this is all part of learning. But wait, they seem to have stuck, all other bulbs seem to be overtaking them, too late then.

April is unseasonably warm, buds appear, my first fears confirmed; too early. Columbine, Wakefield and James Wild all come and go in what appears so short a time. If the show bench is not to be then, enjoy the blooms and plan for next year. Lord F Cavendish appears tardy, might it hold? Not with a searing first week of May, and why did I not think of the refrigerator.

No matter, I have entered the big Malvern Spring Show for the first time, a vase of five tulips and pot of tulips growing. For the cut flowers I have some Union Jack, for the pot class some big blowsy Estella Rijnveld. Oh the heat! The pots are moved into the cool and shaded garage, Union Jack suffers in the border. I cut as early as I dare and store in comfort of the stone-floored pantry. Disaster, I need five and can only muster four blooms of good condition and size. Check the schedule "...any variety or varieties".

Lord F Cavendish to the rescue, it takes a centre place in the vase to make the five. I am very nervous placing this on the bench, never staged a tulip, everyone else appears to know what they are doing. Go home satisfied, I did get a florist tulip on

the bench after all.

Return to the show, a large red card beneath my pot of Estella Rijnveld. Move around to the vase class, a red card beneath my five and a silver card for the best exhibit! Much surprise, and then a large Cheshire cat grin. Time to stop and think. I have learnt a very little in my first year and it is still a long way to Wakefield.

## SHOW DAY

Trevor Mills

The start of Saturday 20th May 1995 in the West Midlands was bright and sunny, but on reaching Derbyshire I had to close the sun roof on the car due to the rain. I drove at a fast pace as I am always keen to get to Wakefield on show day.

Spirits rose when the green-coloured roofs of Meadowhall shopping centre came into view on the M1 reminding my wife to finish her Murraymint as breakfast was imminent. She can make a mint last for hours, I am thinking of contacting the Guinness Book of Records.

Suitably refreshed we continued on to Junction 40 as indicated on the schedule, and called on one of our older members Hubert Calvert to enquire as to his health. Sadly he wasn't as well as usual and going for X-Rays to find the cause of his frequent falls.

On to the Primrose Hall at Horbury. On the map it looked as though it was on an estate but in fact was on the main road. Why mention was not made of the Victoria Public House opposite defeats me.

The ritual of handshaking and greeting people you hadn't seen for sometime makes this a pleasant period. Despite the fears of a shortage of blooms because of the earlier hot spell there were plenty around.

After staging the tulips we were requested to keep the noise to a minimum as there was no barrier between the judging of the flowers and the eating place. A delicious meal was available, all the food being provided by members.

At this time I noticed an auricula in a three inch clay pot being passed around for inspection amongst a group of members.

The ladies wished to go to the Readicut craft shop nearby which resulted in our also going into the shopping centre further down the road.

Back to the show to see what results had been obtained by our efforts.

There was criticism of the colour of Juliet in the six breeder class, the only explanation I can give is that it had been heavily shaded.

Whilst going round the shopping area I had called into a newsagents for a Garden Answers magazine which had an article on the Wakefield Society but no copy available. When Margaret related this experience to John Sautell he instantly went out and purchased one for me. It was hard to comprehend such kindness.

Presentation of the trophies was by Eddie Walker. Peter Turner from Swanwick collected the most prestigious ones for the Dutch Classes, well deserved for the enthusiasm shown.. David Bromley took the Stan Knowles cup back again to Shropshire. I did say three straight wins makes it his for keeps, only kidding David.

There was an embarrassing moment for Keith Eyre (*and the rest of the committee - Ed*) when it was found that there were no green counterfoils in the raffle tin but lots of people had green tickets in their hand. The offending book was found and the next four prizes were given to that colour. Quick thinking, well done Keith!

A special thank you to Carole our treasurer for the sterling work she does on show day and to all the people involved in putting on a show which has its own identity at a venue which should be given consideration again for the future.

## JUNGLE HUTS & CUPS OF TEA IN THE RAIN

JOHN WAINWRIGHT

The 1995 double garden visit in Leeds on Saturday 15th July proved to be another success, and despite the unpredictable weather, attracted more than twenty society members.

The first garden visited was York Gate at Adel near Leeds. Car parking was easy near Adel's Norman church, and we walked through the churchyard and down the hill to the one acre garden on the lower side of the village. The garden has been left to the Gardener's Royal Benevolent Society on the death of the owner, Mrs Sybil Spencer.

The sun shone as we gathered in the gravelled entranceway in front of the house. We were received by a lady from the above society who described some of the history and development of the garden, and recommended a series of routes and an approach to viewing the garden.

The main party eagerly set off down the garden towards the lily pond so, to avoid the rush and discover some of the sights on my own, I cut up by the side of the house and into the "White Garden". This was unfortunately past its best, the lack of a gardener to restock its borders being evident. After this initial disappointment, I wandered through a gap in the hedgrows and found a sundial at the axis of several radiating views. Open views ran from the house and out over a landscape of mature trees and rolling grassland, while a path ran along a straight narrow corridor of enclosed beech hedgerows, and down to a small closed door. Far too inviting to miss! The door was open and led through into the summer house, and to reveal a different section of the garden. This was a taste of things to come, and I was soon to discover that the whole garden was set out as a series of enclosed rooms, each with a theme based around a feature or focal point, all linked by narrow radiating paths. The garden is architectural in layout and is planted around a structure of neatly clipped hedgerows and paths of gravel and stone.

I walked through tall spirals of clipped box, and past a yew hedgerow clipped into pyramid shaped towers, and followed the path down to a fountain and lily pond. This is in the form of a long raised channel and has a beautiful glaucous cedar trained along the lower wall. From here the path wound its way down into woodland planted with ferns and damp-loving iris. It then led into depths of undergrowth where other members of the party gathered around a rustic thatched hut complete with tree trunk carved chairs. Birds squawked, and I headed back out of the jungle, over a stream, and up to an open part of the garden with curved lawns and rare ornamental trees. I walked back up to the house to rest on the terraced lawn before exploring the garden all over again, but from other directions and angles.

After lunch we met again at 30 Latchmore Road, the home of Mr & Mrs Joe Brown. Joe, an American from Chicago, met us outside the house and led us up the passageway, and into his suburban garden which he and his wife have developed over the last twenty five years.

The garden is long and narrow with a central lawn, and borders packed with shrubs and herbaceous plants of every texture and colour, but specialising in Tropaeolums, Clematis and other exotic climbers.

The weather finally broke, and we sprawled out in a long line down the garden, each clutching an umbrella as the warm fine rain gently watered the garden. We all chatted and pondered over the many plants, including ornamental thistles, ferns, roses, and many other varieties of flowering plants and climbers.

Refreshments soon followed with home baked scones and cups of tea, which made the afternoon complete. Many thanks again to Carole Gude for all her efforts to organise the day for us.

## GROWING ENGLISH TULIPS FOR THE FIRST TIME

EINION HUGHES

As a gardener who has always enjoyed tulips, but never succeeded in making them grow beyond a second year, 1994 proved to be a very educational year for me. After seeing one or two articles on English tulips and the Wakefield society in the press, last May I drove down to Dudmaston to see them for myself. It was a revelation.

Not only were the broken tulips unlike anything I had ever seen before, I found that the breeders had a range of rich, glowing colours unlike anything offered by the Dutch tulips. I heard words I had never heard before - bizarre, feathered, bybloemen. I listened in order to learn and before leaving Dudmaston, I joined the Society.

Attending the 1994 A G M proved to be an enjoyable and enlightening experience; people were so friendly, and eager to share their knowledge of cultivating these bulbs. I went home with eight different varieties, and, following advice from Sarah Wainwright, planted each variety individually in large pots.

The results were varied but all interesting. Firstly, I planted them far too early (late October) to have them in flower here on the North Wales coast in time for the Annual Show. By the time this year's show was held, all the varieties had finished flowering some two or three weeks previously. So this year I shall delay planting them until early December.

The standard of the markings varied considerably. Adonis and Columbine had the most assymetrical markings (Adonis being 2/3 feathered, 1/3 flamed), and the best markings were undoubtedly on Sir Joseph Paxton (feathered). Dr Hardy had a tendency to reflex its petals later, and Wakefield did become suffused all over in its later stages, but then I didn't shade it, so that was my fault. Talking of Wakefield - the flower was absolutely huge! - far too big really, especially compared to the other varieties.

I dug up the bulbs later in the summer, and they are now all stored ready for the autumn. They had multiplied well, though not as much as the Dutch tulips which I also dug up at the same time. Couleur Cardinale and Apricot Beauty had tripled, so how on earth do the bulb companies ever manage to sell any?

As a postscript, I took four of the varieties in flower to a meeting of the North Wales group of the N C C P G in April. The general reaction was very much the same as mine last year - even tuliphobes (yes, *I'm afraid they do exist*) were drooling over them. I now can't wait until next spring.

**STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 st. July 1995**

<b>RECEIPTS</b>		<b>1995</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>PAYMENTS</b>		<b>1995</b>	<b>1994</b>
Subs./Donations		518.52	710.42	Insurance		98.00	110.42
Fee - Red House		40.00	-	Postage		150.76	183.62
Donations		-	80.00	Newsletter		67.40	109.35
Evans Prize fund		21.52	19.57	Printing and Stationery		59.62	71.42
Sale of Booklets etc.		8.00	64.00	Bulb Distribution		15.65	33.96
Insurance Claim		-	72.00	Trophy re-silvering		65.00	-
Sales Items		-	10.88	Sales Items		52.38	-
Nett Profit AGM		52.15	71.80	Nett Loss Dutch Show		3.85	60.11
Nett Prof. Main Show		71.40	2.96	Purchase of Filing Cabinets		85.00	-
Garden Visit		124.00	-	Garden Visit		124.00	-
				Bulbs Lady Labouchere		-	17.30
				In Memorium		-	55.00
				Slide Film		-	29.97
				Engraving		-	78.50
				Excess of Income		111.93	281.98
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>835.59</b>	<b>1031.63</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>835.59</b>	<b>1031.63</b>
<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>		<b>1995</b>	<b>1994</b>			<b>1995</b>	<b>1994</b>
Current Account		436.40	1653.70			632.33	436.40
Savings Account		473.77	-			475.96	473.77
Building Society		1009.78	-			1042.65	1009.78
Cash in Hand		-	40.00	Cash in Hand		-	3.41
Bank Interest		2.19	7.77				
Building Society Interest		32.87	9.78				
Outstanding Debts		84.00	-197.68				
Owed for Parkers		-	127.81				
Excess of Income		111.93	281.98				
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>2150.94</b>	<b>1923.36</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>2150.94</b>	<b>1923.36</b>
<b>Sales Items</b>		<b>1995</b>	<b>1994</b>			<b>1995</b>	<b>1994</b>
Tulip Cards		77.52	264.80	Tulip Cards		76.83	277.80
Little Tulip Book		28.00	130.00	Little Tulip Book		-	109.04
Treasury of Tulips		35.00	-	Treasury of Tulips		113.59	-
Rory McEwan Catalogues		25.08	-	Rory McEwan Catalogues		52.56	-
RHS Yearbook		100.00	-	RHS Yearbook		75.00	-
Loss		52.38	-	Profit		-	10.88
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>317.98</b>	<b>397.80</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>317.98</b>	<b>397.80</b>

RECEIPTS	1995	1994	PAYMENTS	1995	1994
<b>Photographs</b>					
Income from Members	127.30	120.05	Cost	84.26	80.91
			Donation to Society	21.52	19.57
			Evans Prize Fund	21.52	19.57
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>127.30</b>	<b>120.05</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>127.30</b>	<b>120.05</b>
<b>AGM</b>					
Raffle	63.00	67.50	Hall Hire	30.00	24.00
Refreshments	94.10	62.50	Food Cost	77.40	78.45
Item Sales	36.50	54.40	Crockery	18.69	13.75
Donation for Raffle	5.00	-	Hire of Projector	20.27	
			Profit	52.15	71.80
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>198.60</b>	<b>184.40</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>198.60</b>	<b>184.40</b>
<b>Dutch Show Accounts</b>					
Raffle	62.40	43.00	Hall Hire	31.50	42.00
Prizes Donated	25.00	20.00	Prize Money	69.25	69.25
Tea receipts	7.70	10.54	Tea Expense		5.00
Door/Entries	7.25	15.70	Crystal Goblets	22.45	45.60
Book Auction	15.00				
Plant Sales		12.50			
Loss on Show	5.85	60.11			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>123.20</b>	<b>161.85</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>123.20</b>	<b>161.85</b>
<b>Main Show Accounts</b>					
Raffle	61.40	57.50	Hall Hire	74.00	124.00
Sale of Bloom	32.10	36.50	Crystal Goblets	67.35	- 68.40
Donation	5.00	5.00	Prize Money		7.50
Refreshments	86.30	82.01	Food Cost	41.30	43.90
Plant Sale	53.60	43.00			
Door Money	5.65	22.75			
			Show profit	71.40	2.96
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>244.05</b>	<b>246.76</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>244.05</b>	<b>246.76</b>