

WAKEFIELD
&
NORTH OF ENGLAND

TULIP SOCIETY

ESTABLISHED 1836



NEWSLETTER
No 8
AUTUMN 1996

WAKEFIELD & NORTH OF ENGLAND TULIP
SOCIETY
(Established 1836)

OFFICERS 1995-1996

- PRESIDENT The Marquess of Hartington
- PATRONS W D Tear Esq
 V Roozen Esq
- VICE - PRESIDENTS H V Calvert, Miss D B Snape, P
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Gude, M Hainsworth, J Wainwright, Mrs S Wainwright.
- EDITOR J L Akers

Annual Subscription - Members are reminded that
subscriptions for 1997 become due on the date of the Annual
Show May 1997 and are for the sum of £4 per member or £5
for Family Membership.

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The Chairman's Report

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity through the Newsletter to thank the membership for electing me as your new Chairman. As those of you who came to the 1995 AGM will remember, I was unable to be present at the meeting because of my company's Annual Stocktaking for which I was responsible. I shall do my best to fulfil the confidence you have placed in me in following the much respected John Hardman.

It is with much sadness that I have to report to the membership the death of Lady Labouchere who in the last few years took a great deal of interest in our society and set up the Dudmaston exhibitions of the English Florist tulip which have taken place on the Sunday following the Annual Show. We have a fitting memorial to her in the Dudmaston Plate which will be presented annually to the exhibitor of the Premier Bloom in the Novice Classes

This year has been a very frustrating time with the long winter which seemed to drag on, making the spring very late and catching us out with the date of the Annual Show. The Wrenthorpe Show provided us with an excellent display of Dutch flowers and hard work for Frank Smith our judge. At our 161st Annual Show held at the Primrose Hall, Horbury, the three classes of Dutch tulips gave Frank an even more arduous task with nearly ninety entries to judge. I would like to express our thanks to Frank for giving his time and expertise on both occasions.

The season was very late for the English Florist tulip and for most of our members who grow them. Despite this, the show proved to be a success for which we are grateful to our members who live in the warmer climes of the country who brought their blooms to "make" a show. Most had to travel some long distances and we even had one member post her blooms. I thank you all.

Sadly, remarks were made to me during the course of the afternoon by an exhibiting member who called into question the fairness of the bulb distribution by implying that favouritism had been shown to some new members, because of the quality of the blooms they were able to exhibit. As Chairman, and in part being responsible for the bulb distribution together with other officers and the committee, I felt it a serious enough issue to address in my closing comments at the Show's Official Opening, and particularly whilst all exhibiting members were still present in the Hall.

Here I reiterate my comments. The bulbs which go into the general distribution for the newer members, have been accepted from members who have a surplus and are named or labelled by the sender. We have no way of knowing if the labels are correct and cannot guarantee in

any way the quality of the bulbs. In my comments I asked the members to please "do not grumble" as we do the distribution in *good faith* and we do our utmost to be fair, but it is very much the "luck of the draw".

I would like to say something at this point about the new members who show a genuine interest in "showing" their flowers. A small collection of bulbs is then given, usually by one or other of the committee members to help them to increase their stock, and further help is given whilst that member is in the early stages of showing in the Novice classes. This help has been a feature of the society for as long as I can remember and will have been extended to all present exhibiting members in their early days of showing in the Novice classes.

Once out of the Novice classes, the member is assumed to have accumulated a fair stock of bulbs, by careful management and the saving of all the small offsets. After some years of showing he will usually be in a position to return stock or exchange stock with other long standing exhibiting members. However, any exhibiting member who gets into difficulty for whatever reason and loses a variety or varieties is welcome to approach the committee for help and we always (within the limits of our own stocks) try between ourselves to supply a replacement. Unfortunately, there is no magic stock cupboard and we rely on each other's good management to preserve this beautiful tulip.

In closing, a word of thanks to our secretary Wendy Akers, who since 1990 has had the task of running the day to day duties of the society by replying to the many letters and phone calls, far more than when I had the job. Thank you also to Carole Gude for looking after our finances and organising the garden visits. I would like to thank the rest of the committee for giving of their time and also Arthur Hayward for auditing the books and looking after the raffle. A special thank you to the all important ladies who provide the refreshments at the shows and above all to you the members for your interest and continuing help. I hope to see many of you at the Annual General Meeting in October.

Best wishes

Keith N Eyre
7th July 1996

Editorial

JAMES AKERS

This is the eighth newsletter than I have been fortunate to edit for the Wakefield and North of England Tulip Society and once again it has given me a great deal of personal pleasure in doing so. I have decided to retire from my job next March and therefore will lose the capability I have had in the past to use the technology currently available to me. For that reason we have decided to investigate the possibility of having the printing done professionally this year and although at the time of writing this I obviously cannot see the result I confidently expect the quality to be much better than we have achieved previously. May I take the opportunity of thanking the small band of scribes who once again have produced good articles which I am sure you will find interesting. The number of volunteers has been smaller than last year so please give some thought to what you would like to see in the newsletter and then perhaps set the example by sending your idea, hopefully a written contribution, around the time of next years show.

I am always fascinated to read what was said in the reports from past shows. The comment by Bill Beddows 50 years ago is particularly appropriate. As the Chairman has explained in his report we have been criticised by a small number of members for the way in which bulbs are distributed. At an AGM a few years ago Bill Tear explained that after his father Albert won the Novice Cup he went 10 years before he won another prize. Now we read that Bill Beddows went for 25 years before he won a cup. When you remember that in those days it was possible to buy English Florist Tulips from Barrs & Sons, (later Wallace and Barr), so everyone had an equal chance to obtain the best breaks, it suggests that skill plays an important factor and that skill is harder to obtain than good bulbs. Jane Eyre explained in her excellent slide talk at last year's AGM that the placing of your available flowers to the best advantage was the secret to success. We hope to develop that further at the AGM this year and also start on the road to training more people to become capable judges.

I have also given the proposed constitution much thought as I have typed it in and moved it around to fit the available space. What if anything has changed that after 161 years we find the need to produce such a complex document. I suppose it's a sign of the times!

Shows 1996

The Annual Show - 18Th May 1996

The number of exhibits in each class is shown in brackets

VASE CLASSES

1 The John Hardman Memorial Class

Vase of 18 Tulips (One variety not English Florist) (6)

1. P Turner (Swanwick): White Triumphantor 2. P Turner: Rose Wonder 3. R Crabtree (Kirkhamgate): Languadoc

2 Vase of 12 Tulips (Any variety or varieties not English Florist) (14)

1. B Bingham (Horbury): Unknown 2. B Bingham: Unknown 3. P Turner: Unknown

3 Vase of 6 Tulips (Any variety or varieties not English Florist) (29)

1. P Turner: Unknown 2. Mrs W Akers (Wrenthorpe): Purple Surprise 3. Mrs W Akers: Flaming Parrot

4 Vase of 3 Tulips (Any variety or varieties not English Florist) (37)

1. P Turner: Unknown 2. Mrs A Smales (Dodworth): Vivex 3. M Hainsworth (York): Unknown

The F R Hunter Cup for the most points in Classes 2 - 4 P Turner

The Peter Emmet Trophy for the best exhibit in Classes 2 -4 P Turner

5 Vase of 12 English Florist Tulips (1)

1. K N Eyre (South Cave)

6 Vase of 9 English Florist Tulips (1)

1. K N Eyre

7 Vase of 6 English Florist Tulips (1)

1. K N Eyre

OPEN CLASSES

8 Norman Eyre Memorial Goblet

Stand of 12 Breeders (all different) Four Bizarres, Four Bybloemens, Four Roses - No entries

9 Needham Memorial Cup

Stand of 12 rectified English Tulips (all dissimilar)

Two Flamed and Two Feathered, Bizarre, Bybloemen and Rose. - No entries

10 Local Silver Challenge Cup

Stand of 9 English Florist Tulips (all dissimilar)

One Breeder, one Flamed, one Feathered, Bizarre, Bybloemen and Rose. (1)

1 K N Eyre: Breeder Goldfinder, Bessie, Helen Josephine

Flame Lord F Cavendish, Jane Eyre, Wakefield

Feather Lord Stanley, Habit de Noce, Julia Farnese

11 Silver Challenge Cup

Stand of 6 rectified English Florist Tulips

One Flamed and One Feathered, Bizarre, Bybloemens and Rose (1)

1 No award 2 K N Eyre Flame Lord F Cavendish, Jane Eyre, Mabel

Feather Lord Stanley, Habit de Noce, Julia Farnese

12 The G S Hunter Memorial Cup Stand of 6 Breeders (different varieties)

Two Bizarres, Bybloemens and Roses (1)

1. D Bromley (Wellington): Bessie, Music, Juliet, Mabel, Goldfinder, Lord Stanley

6

13 **Stages Cup** Pan of 3 stages - One Breeder, Flamed and Feathered (1)

1. K N Eyre: All Lord Stanley

14 **Silver Plate** Pan of 3 Breeders - One Bizarre, Bybloemen and Rose (2)

1. T Mills (Walsall): Music, Juliet, Lord Stanley 2. D Bromley: Bessie, Helen Josephine, Lord Stanley

15 Pair of Flamed (7)

1 K N Eyre Wakefield, Lord F Cavendish M Hainsworth Bessie, Lord Stanley, 3 Ms V Kneebone: (Bristol) Mabel, Columbine

16 Pair of Feathered (3)

1. Ms A Harrington (Trowbridge): James Wild, Habit de Noce 2. K N Eyre: Julia Farnese, James Wild 3. M Hainsworth: Julia Farnese Sir Joseph Paxton

17 One Breeder (17)

1. Mrs B Royles (Hawarden): Seedling 1/6, 2. D Bromley: Sam Barlow 3. J Wemyss-Cooke (Atherton) Bessie

18 One Flamed (11)

1. Ms V Kneebone: Sir J Paxton 2. M Hainsworth: Sir J Paxton 3. K N Eyre: Wakefield

19 One Feathered (6)

1. Ms A Harrington: Sir J Paxton 2. K N Eyre: Lord Stanley 3. No award

The "Cochrane Of Cults Vase" for Best Bloom in classes 17-19 Ms V Kneebone

The Jim Akers Memorial Goblet for most points in Classes 8 - 19 K N Eyre

SEEDLING CLASSES

20 **Seedling Cup** One Seedling Breeder or Rectified raised by the exhibitor (3)

1. Mrs B Royles: 3/5 (Rose) 2 & 3 No award

21 Three Seedling Breeders (one from each colour class) No entries

NOVICE CLASSES

22 Pan of Three One Breeder, one Flamed, one Feathered (4)

1. Mrs B Royles: Breeder Seedling 1/2 (Biz) Fl Wakefield Fe Wakefield

2. B Bingham: Lord Stanley Mabel Wakefield

3. Ms A Harrington: Columbine Lord Stanley James Wild

23 One Breeder (7)

1. Mrs B Royles: Mabel 2. Dr K Swift (Bridgnorth): Lord Stanley 3. Mrs J Baker (Suffolk): Goldfinder

24 One Flamed (8)

1. Miss A Tyler (Wigan): Akers Flame 2. Ms A Harrington: Sam Barlow 3. Dr K Swift: Lord Stanley

25 One Feathered (9)

1. Ms A Harrington: James Wild 2. T McCrea: Royal Sovereign 3. T Mitchell (Ossett) Lord Stanley

26 **The Gina Roozen Cup** Pan of 3 Breeders Bizarre, Bybloemen and Rose (1)

1. Mrs J Baker: Mabel, Talisman, J Wild

The Brook Silver Challenge Cup and a glass goblet awarded to the novice with most points in classes 22 - 26. Mrs B Royles

The Dudmaston Plate for the Premier Bloom in the Novice Classes. Mrs B Royles Mabel breeder

EXTRA OPEN CLASSES

27 One Breeder (10)

1. Mrs B Royles: Seedling (Biz) 2. J Wemyss-Cooke: Mabel 3. Mrs J Baker: Talisman

28 One Flamed (18)

1. Ms V Kneebone: Dr Hardy 2. T Mitchell: Mabel 3. Mrs B Royles: Sir J Paxton

29 One Feathered (6)

1. Mrs J Baker: James Wild 2. T Mitchell: Wakefield 3. No award

30 Pan of 3 stages - One Breeder, Flamed, and Feathered (1)

1. No award

The S. Knowles Cup for best bloom in classes 27 - 30 Mrs B Royles Seedling

A glass goblet for the most points in classes 27 - 30 Mrs B Royles

The Albert Tear Memorial Trophy for the overall Premier Bloom.

and Best Flame Ms V Kneebone: Sir Joseph Paxton

Best Breeder Mrs B Royles Seedling

Best Feathered K N Eyre Lord Stanley

The Elizabeth Smith Silver medal awarded to the youngest exhibitor Miss A Tyler

Show Report

JAMES AKERS

For at least the first 150 years of its existence, the Society fixed the date of the show just a few weeks (sometimes even days), before the event in order to accommodate the differences in the season from year to year. Shows were often held mid week when it was thought that the flowers would be at their prime. With few members and the majority living in the immediate area of Wakefield this was a reasonable policy. However a few years ago the Society took the decision to fix the date of the Annual Show on or around the third Saturday in May, irrespective of the season so that the membership from all parts of the country could plan their planting and growing regimes with a definitive date in mind. Of course even this policy still favours the local members since the date chosen was the average date of flowering in the Wakefield area and members from warmer climes are still faced with the problem of delaying the natural flowering period of their bulbs to be just right on the day. Every once in a while the season is so late that these more southerly members find that their flowering season coincides with the date of the show; 1996 was such a year.

Another change which has taken place in recent years is the great increase in interest of ladies in showing the Florist Tulip whereas the original florists seem to have been 100 percent male. I am sure that our Chairman Keith Eyre, despite his success in winning the major collection classes and most points in the Open Classes, will not begrudge my devoting most of this reports to the ladies and their successes.

So where to start? Logically Valerie Kneebone and the Premier Bloom, once again 'Sir Joseph Paxton' Flame. Valerie, from Bristol,

joined the Society originally to gain access to the Florist Tulip to include in her wonderful paintings that she has exhibited at the Society's shows and at Dudmaston. However, perhaps encouraged by members who kept reminding her that they were show flowers, she brings them to the show bench. She also won the Extra Open single flame class with 'Dr Hardy'.

Angela Harrington from Trowbridge in Wiltshire, couldn't attend the show this year, but had the great foresight to send her flowers by post in a box marked "English Tulips - handle with care". I staged these for her, a service we offer to anyone unable to get to the show, and she won three firsts, a second and a third. Fortunately she and John were able to see them when the show was restaged the following day at Dudmaston.

Beryl Royles from Hawarden in Clwyd, is probably better known to most members, having shown very successfully in the past; many will remember the 'Bessie' Flame with which she won a premier bloom a couple of years ago. This year she won the Novice Cup for which she had been runner up on a number of occasions. Her best flower was a bizarre seedling breeder which is among a thousand which she and husband Peter have raised and which will flower over the next two years.

Judy Baker from Hitcham in Suffolk made the long trek, staged her flowers, drove on to visit relatives and then came back in time to see that she too had done well including winning the Gina Roozen Cup for three breeders in the novice section. It was nice that one of our patrons, Gina's father Victor, had flown from Holland once again and was able to see the breeders which he had placed at the Hortus Bulborum and then returned to the society, prominent on the show bench.

The youngest competitor Alison Tyler won the new award, the Elizabeth Smith Silver Medal but it wasn't gained just for taking part, she won the Novice single flame class. To complete the sterling effort by the ladies, Kate Swift gained a second and third in the Novice section. Almost as an afterthought we should record that Keith Eyre had the best feathered bloom in show with 'Lord Stanley'!

Although not a great year for the English Florist tulip because of the season the entries in the Dutch section were remarkable. Frank Smith from Altofts has judged the Society's Dutch show since its reinstatement, having judged at our tulip shows for many years. This year he was invited to judge the few classes at this show and what a task awaited him, in all 86 entries in just four classes. Just imagine trying to separate 29 vases of six and 37 vases of three. He did a magnificent job.

Peter Turner had a great day as you will see from the next article, winning first prize in three of the four classes, including the new John Hardman Memorial Class for 18 flowers, and will be presented with the new trophy at the AGM.

My day at the Annual Show

PETER TURNER

After awakening early and loading the boot of the car with my tulips for the show, we had to take a rest after fighting with the flowers to take their overcoats off because of the long cold spells with several late but hard frosts. We head north along the M1 to Primrose Hall, Horbury, with some apprehension as to what we would find. We need not have worried for when we arrived the hall was a hive of activity with crates of English and buckets of Dutch all being prepared for the show. By the time we were ready to stage our tulips the tables for the Dutch classes were already very full and several moves had to be made to accommodate the flowers, eventually, because of the large entry in class 3 the whole class had to be moved onto another table. It was extremely nice to see the very great and wide variety of Dutch tulips on show and most of the colours available were on the show bench, making a great riot of colour. This goes to show that it needs no special variety or colour to win.

The English tulips were not so plentiful as previous years owing I think to the cold weather that lasted so long, but members buckled to and a large number of classes were entered, amongst them it was obvious that there were some good sized flowers with good markings. The standard of the winning flowers was very high, making it difficult for the judges. Even though the numbers were down the quality was still there and this showed in the winning blooms.

During the course of the preparations we noticed that the several places in which the sunlight entered the hall were soon filled with various English tulips to give them a last chance to get their best finery on. The best example we saw was a number of flowers being placed on the radiators to cook them for 20 minutes on regulo 9 in order to get them to open out, showmanship and versatility approaching its best.

We were also pleased that the society has given a medal for the youngest exhibitor*. We should always encourage the young as they are our future. Our thanks to the judges, sometimes a thankless job, and to all the committee and helpers for their hard work to make the show a success now and in the future.

**This is the Elizabeth Smith Silver Medal presented by Tom McCrea in memory of his mother and awarded to the youngest exhibitor under the age of 18 years on the day of the show.*

Dutch Show - 4th May 1996

DUTCH CLASSES

1 **The Perkin Trophy** 18 Tulips - one variety

1. Mrs L Bone (New Mills): Elizabeth Arden 2. J Ingamells (Barnsley): Apeldoorn 3. P Turner (Swanwick): Holland's Glory

2 **12 Tulips** - any variety or varieties

1. R Smales (Dodworth): Vivex 2. J Ingamells: Apeldoorn 3. P Turner: - 9 Tulips - any variety or varieties

1 P Turner: Summit 2. P Turner: Dillinburgh 3. A Hayward (Altofts): Apeldoorn

4 **5 Parrot Tulips**

1. P Turner: Parkarel Doorman

5 **5 Lily Flowered Tulips**

1. P Turner: China Pink 2. M Hainsworth (York): -

6 **5 Fringed or Crispa Tulips**

1. P Turner: Fringed Apeldoorn 2. B Bingham (Horbury): Fringed Apeldoorn

3. P Turner: Fringed Elegance

7 **5 Late Double Tulips**

1. P Turner: Eros 2. P Turner Golden Artist 3. P Turner: Golden Artist

8 **5 Viridiflora Tulips**

1. M Hainsworth: Greenland 2. J Ingamells: Spring Green

9 **3 Yellow flowered Tulips** one variety

1. P Turner: Mrs J T Scheepers 2. A Hayward: Oxford 3. D Brears (Barnsley): West Point

10 **3 White flowered Tulips** one variety

1. D Brears: Purissima 2. Mrs B Pickering (Barnsley): Purissima

11 **3 Pink flowered Tulips** one variety

1. M Hainsworth: - 2. Mrs L Chapman (Pickering): - 3. B Bingham: Renown

12 **3 Any Other Colour** one variety

1. B Bingham: Red Perfection 2. P Turner: - 3. B Bingham: Red Perfection

13 **5 Kaufmannia, Greigii or Fosteriana** cultivars

1. P Turner: Summit 2. Mrs B Pickering: Orange Emperor 3. Mrs L Chapman: Orange Emperor

14 **Any species tulip**, one pot or pan of five bulbs in bloom

1. Mrs B Pickering: *Tulipa eichleri* 2. D Brears: Red Riding Hood 3. Mrs L Chapman: *Tulipa urumiensis*

15 **Container of English or Dutch tulips** arranged for effect

1. Mrs C Gude (Barnsley): 2. Mrs W Akers (Wrenthorpe): 3. P Turner:

ENGLISH FLORIST TULIPS - There were no entries in the following classes

16 1 Breeder, 1 Flamed, 1 Feathered

17 A Pair of flamed

18 A Pair of feathered

19 1 breeder tulip

20 1 flamed tulip

21 1 feathered tulip

22 1 seedling tulip

The Mary Tear Memorial Trophy for the exhibitor with most points in classes 1 to 8. Peter Turner

The Billy Tear Trophy for the best exhibit in classes 2 - 15. Richard Smales

The judges for the show were:- Mr. F. Smith of Altofts (Dutch Classes), Mr. K. N. Eyre (English Classes)

Dutch Show Report

JAMES AKERS

It is not essential to have a degree in mathematics to show tulips but it might help. Firstly Richard Smales successfully used his fingers to ensure that all his blooms of 'Vivex' in Class 1 for 18 blooms had six petals, but failed to remove his shoes so entered 19 flowers; NAS!. Then Peter Turner in Class 2 for 12 blooms, tried 13, lucky for some they say; not Peter. Winner of the Perkin Trophy and Crystal Goblet was Mrs Linda Bone with 'Elizabeth Arden', with John Ingamells second with 'Apeldoorn'. Both cultivars are Darwin hybrids which would have been over in a normal season. Richard Smales' vase of 'Vivex' which won Class 2 was judged Best Exhibit in Classes 2 to 15 to win the Billy Tear Trophy. Peter Turner took the next five classes and two others to win the Mary Tear Memorial Trophy for most points. He won the vase of 9 and the *T. kaufmanniana*/*T. greigii* hybrids with 'Summit', a yellow *T. fosteriana* hybrid, the parrots with 'Doorman', the lily-flowered with 'China Pink', the fringed with 'Fringed Apeldoorn', the doubles with the rose coloured 'Eros', the yellows with 'Mrs John T. Scheepers'. His exhibits made the show.

RHS Tulip Competition

JAMES L AKERS

For 50 years Bill Tear has exhibited tulips at Wakefield, Chelsea (when competitions were held there), and most recently at this show in Vincent Square. Although he has shown English Florist Tulips, and was a particularly good judge of them, his greatest love has certainly been the "Dutch" varieties.

He intended that this show would be his last competition and planted accordingly to have three entries in every class. In this end he almost succeeded, however he was finally defeated by the weather which produced a very late season and resulted in many of his exhibits being too young to be worthy of a prize. For that reason alone the judges felt that it was not appropriate to award the Simmonds medal for the best vase in Show, another target which Bill had hoped to attain. Why not give it just one more try Bill?

Because of the late season he only had one other competitor, Wendy Akers. Several cultivars were shown which are not normally seen at Westminster, including 'Striped Bellona', yellow with dark red marking, the winner in class one, and 'Cassini' a dark wine colour the runner up. Wendy's winning exhibit was with the Darwin hybrid 'Olympic Flame' which again is yellow with red markings and is a good show and garden variety.

SHOW RESULTS

The number in brackets denotes the number of entries staged in the class.

Class 1: Single early cultivars, one vase of three blooms (4). 1. W D Tear: Striped Bellona. 2. Mrs W M Akers: Cassini. 3. W D Tear: Princess Irene.

Class 2: Double early or double late cultivars, one vase of three blooms (3). 1. W D Tear: Carlton. 2. W D Tear: Carlton. 3. No award.

Class 3: Triumph or mid-season cultivars, one vase of three blooms (2). 1. No award. 2. W D Tear: Anna Jose 3. W D Tear: Anna Jose

Class 4: Single late cultivars, one vase of three blooms (3). 1. W D Tear: Demeter. 2. No award. 3. W D Tear: Demeter.

Class 5: Lily flowered cultivars, one vase of three blooms (No exhibits).

Class 6: Fringed cultivars, one vase of three blooms (2). 1. No award. 2. No award. 3. No award.

Class 7: Viridiflora cultivars, one vase of three blooms (1). 1. No award.

Class 8: Parrot cultivars, one vase of three blooms (3). 1. W D Tear: Doorman. 2. W D Tear: Doorman. 3. W D Tear: Doorman's Record.

Class 9: Kaufmanniana, greigii, or fosteriana cultivars, one vase of three blooms (3). 1. W D Tear: Margaret Herbert. 2. W D Tear: Margaret Herbert. 3. No award.

Class 10: Darwin hybrid cultivars, one vase of three blooms (4). 1. Mrs W M Akers: Olympic Flame. 2. W D Tear: Ad Rem. 3. W D Tear: Big Chief.

Class 11: Mixed cultivars, one vase of nine blooms (4). 1. W D Tear: Big Chief, Margaret Herbert, Striped Bellona. 2. Mrs W M Akers: Olympic Flame, Springtime. 3. W D Tear: Big Chief, Sweetheart, Striped Bellona.

Class 12: Any species, one pot or pan of five bulbs in bloom (3). 1. No award. 2. No award. 3. No award.

Society Business

Condensed Minutes of the AGM 1995

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

Present were the Secretary Mrs W Akers, the Treasurer Mrs Carole Gude and more than 60 members

Apologies were received from Keith Eyre who was supervising his company's annual stocktaking and more than thirty members.

After welcoming the members from all parts of the country James Akers explained that we had lost our Chairman John Hardman on 13th September. T Mitchell proposed and T McCrea seconded that James Akers act as chairman until we could properly elect a new officer. James then spoke about John Hardman, describing him as a wonderful man and a great gardener. A huge loss to the society which he had supported for forty years. We had also lost Ray Perraudin, a member for twenty years, at the age of 85. He had become interested in the tulips through seeking appropriate flowers to grow in the knot garden at Clarke Hall and eventually, through his growing skills had become a successful exhibitor able to compete in the major classes. James and Wendy had attended both funerals.

Secretary's report

She endorsed James' remarks about John Hardman and spoke about his life and also Ray Perraudin. Both men had tulips named after them which was one appropriate way they would be remembered. The season had a very hot spell which rushed everything out, then a long cold spell which held everything in suspended animation thus ensuring two very good shows plus a lovely exhibition at Dudmaston. Over the last two years 1200 people had seen the tulips at Dudmaston, a very worthwhile exercise. The membership stood at 230 at present and was mainly in the north and midlands but we also had members in the south, east, Wales, Scotland, Ireland and abroad. Surely the furthest to travel to the AGM was Maedythe Martin from Canada, sitting in the audience, who she welcomed. The committee had all worked very hard but John Wainwright deserved special mention for doggedly filing all the society's papers over several weeks and actually enjoying it!

Treasurers report

Carole Gude said that the only thing she wanted to add to the printed report was that we are in a strong position financially and able to hold the subscription at £4.00. This is mainly due to all the help from members through plant sales, food donations and financial donations etc. The standing orders had been well taken up, some people had even

paid twice! Photographs at cost of the Dutch show were available.

Election of Officers

The President, the Marquess of Hartington and Patrons Victor Roozen and Bill Tear were unchanged. Three names were put forward for Vice President. Mrs Jane Green, who needed no introduction, Lady Labouchere who had been an extraordinarily enthusiastic supporter of the Society and Denis Hopkins retired Head Gardener of Chatsworth. Proposed by by Malcolm Hainsworth and seconded by Trevor Mills that these be appointed, carried. Bill Tear had written to propose Jack Wemyss-Cooke for Chairman, seconded from the floor by John Ollerenshaw. Keith Eyre was proposed by Ron Crabtree, seconded Terry Mitchell. Ballot papers were circulated and members voted. Tellers were Malcolm Hainsworth and Trevor Mills. Votes were counted and the result was 44 votes for Keith Eyre and 16 votes for Jack Wemyss-Cooke, Keith Eyre being duly elected. Since the new Chairman was unable to take the chair, James Akers continued as Acting Chairman. The secretary, treasurer, auditor and editor were all willing to stand and were re-elected unanimously, as were the members of the committee. A strong appeal was made for more help on the committee.

Dates of the 1996 Shows

Dutch Show	4th May 1996	Wrenthorpe
Annual Show	18th May 1996	Ossett
Dudmaston	19th May 1996	

Garden Visits 1996

Several suggestions were made. The matter was held over for further discussion by the Committee.

Replacement of the Society's Booklet

James Akers described what we hoped to achieve, a professionally printed booklet with good colour photographs which would give a clear idea of a good flower. To include history, details of flowers available, growing and showing. A target price of £3 was given. Trevor Mills suggested that since we had at present no constitution only aims, one be drawn up and included in it. Valerie Kneebone offered to produce slides. Sarah Wainwright suggested we approach the lottery. Richard Smales said he thought we needed to be a charity to do this.

Society's Trophies

Tom McCrea had presented us with a silver medal in memory of his mother, to be presented to a young exhibitor. A discussion followed as to an appropriate definition. Also we had to consider the John Hardman Memorial and several ideas were put forward

Date of next AGM - 5th October 1996

Formal business closed at 3.15pm and the rest of the afternoon was taken up with an excellent tea, an opportunity for members to talk, and an equally excellent slide presentation by Jane Green concerned with selecting flowers for exhibition. The meeting ended at 5pm.

Treasurer's Report

CAROLE GUDE

I am very pleased to be able to report a profit of £399.93 for 1995-1996, a year which financially speaking has seemed rather quiet. However, an inspection of the figures, (see inside and outside of back cover); throws up some items needing explanation.

On the credit side, and most gratifying, is the increase in income from subscriptions, effectively £199 since last year's total included £21.52 raised by the sale of photographs. Thank you for heeding our reminders about keeping up-to-date. Secondly, our sales table has at last turned in a good profit due to starting the year with a substantial stock of goods already paid for. We shall need to add in one or two fresh items over the coming year, one of which should be a new card. I shall be looking at the possibility of having a sweatshirt or sweater with the Society logo, but any suggestions are most welcome. Thirdly, the nett profit on the AGM - a staggering £124 - is entirely due to the huge effort put in by all those who contribute to making it such an enjoyable occasion. This year in particular I must mention generous gifts of food and plants for sale which boosted the profit level.

Looking over to the debit side, you will see an apparent reduction in the insurance premium. £71 in fact represents cover for eight months only, as the RHS is reorganising its own finances and has deferred payment from January until August, when I shall pay this premium and £98 for the coming year.

The extremely low cost of the newsletter is due to the efforts of our Editor in printing it entirely at home using the Society's stock of paper, which in turn explains the higher stationery costs. If taken together the two figures compare favourably with the previous year.

The high fixed costs of the shows defeated us this year and unfortunately both lost money. However, it does not present us with a problem whilst the profit on the AGM can counterbalance the losses. We have used some money raised by Maurice Evans to start a small library of old or out-of-print books for the use of members, at a nett cost of £30. More will be needed as and when they become available.

And now for a small confession, I have unintentionally made a profit on the garden visit, due to being charged group rates for the entrance fees. If anyone who came along would like approximately £1.07 refund, please let me know.

A glance at the balance sheet shows us to be making steady progress, but as usual I must sound a few words of caution. We are heavily dependent on the generosity of many people, and must be aware that

costs could rise rapidly without their help. Looking to the future, we must replace our small booklet with a more up-to-date version and to do it justice might take a fair amount of our capital: Nevertheless, a project well worth the effort.

Thank you for your patience in reading this report. Please feel free to ask any questions at the AGM, or by writing to me, if I have not explained anything to your satisfaction.

May I finally thank the members and the rest of the Committee for their continued help and encouragement. See you at the AGM

The Garden Visit 13 July 1996

ANGELA HARRINGTON

Some Menagerie it might have been thought as we saw the whale bones at the entrance to the Garden, and so it was. Set in a sea of Northampton grain the house was originally but an eye-catcher in the park of Horton House. If this was the garden ornament what must the house have been like? The main house is lost but fortunately this place, The Menagerie, was discovered by the late Gervase Jackson-Stops, scion of the family firm of estate agents whose signs hang out in the adjacent village. He made it his own and restored it to its former glory. Externally the place did indeed house animals, internally, a banqueting house and zodiac animals decorate the ceiling - all restored.

But the basement had further surprises still. The former kitchens, now a grotto with showers, saunas and bubble baths plus vistas where none existed - all done by mirrors! What would hermit extraordinary John Duck have made of all this? And who would have thought there was a living still to be made out of shell work, or, for that matter, sticking fir cones on to the walls and fittings of the two thatched buildings which are now adjuncts to the main feature. These small garden buildings are two-faced with formal fronts and rustic rears. One is a garden bedroom, the other served, on this occasion, as a tea room and welcome too for the thirty or so who had sedately cruised the motorways to get there. Focal points to the hornbeam allees were fountains playing in ponds which once might have housed sea lions. More prosaically in 1763, they may have been "basons of goldfish". The central vista has a mount with obelisk and a spiral path leading to it, all in the best tradition. Beyond the garden bedroom is a bog garden still being developed but continuing the spirit of the garden. A serpent may appear one day, if the structural problems can be overcome. At lunch time the visitors all vanished into the quiet spots, or the sunny spots, or the quite raucous spots near the fountains with their picnics. It was surprising that a seemingly open garden with vistas could conceal so many people eating.

Then it was off from one side of Northampton to another. Here things, at Coton Manor Garden were at first sight quite different, but were they? Perhaps they had much in common. Although the manor house is recorded in the Domesday Book the gardens were the creation of one family, started in the 1920s, who set their basic shape and character. Today the grandson of the original owners, Ian Pasley-Tyler and his wife are maintaining, even developing the family tradition. These gardens too have animal as well as plant life though the plants now seem to have the upper hand over the pink flamingos, yes pink flamingos. But the real colour was in the glorious and spectacular borders which overflowed with a profusion of herbaceous delights. It was a walk through the glossiest of garden magazines. Coach loads come here and East Anglian accents were heard on the lawns, by the ponds and amongst the herbs. A garden for high summer on a high summer day. A delicious tea was arranged in the restaurant. Good value for £10 per person to see both gardens. But then there were still plants to buy outside. Nobody mentioned the Tulip. But they were there with Taurus on the ceiling of the Menagerie.

Constitution of the Wakefield and North of England Tulip Society

This constitution adopted by the Annual General Meeting of the society on..... shall completely supersede and replace each and every issue of the Society's Rules previously existing

1. NAME

The society shall be called the "Wakefield and North of England Tulip Society" herein after referred to in this constitution as "the Society".

2. ADMINISTRATION

Subject to the matters set out below, the Society and its property shall be administered and managed in accordance with this constitution by the members of the Executive Committee, as constituted in clause 7 below.

3. AIMS OF THE SOCIETY

a To promote the growing and showing of the English Florist Tulip, to this end holding shows at which growers may compete for the trophies and awards of the Society

b To preserve the old varieties

c To continually develop new varieties from seed which must meet the required standards of purity of colour and shape

d To provide bulbs and flowers (wherever possible) to members for photography and painting

e To promote the growing and showing of other varieties and species of tulips

f To advance the education of the public in awareness of the English Florist Tulip

4. POWERS

In furtherance of the aims, but not otherwise, the Executive Committee may exercise the following powers:

a To raise funds and to invite and receive contributions, provided that in raising funds, the Executive Committee shall not undertake any substantial permanent trading activities and shall conform to the relevant requirements of the law,

b to co-operate with other charities, voluntary bodies and statutory authorities operating in furtherance of the aims and to exchange information and advice with them,

c to do all such other lawful things as are necessary for the achievement of the aims of the Society.

5 MEMBERSHIP

a Membership of the Society shall be open to anyone on payment of minimum annual subscription, as determined from time to time, due on 1st May. Any member twelve months in arrears may be deemed to have resigned. Members will not be charged entrance fees to Society's shows and they shall be entitled to a copy of the Newsletter on publication. Every member shall have one vote at meetings.

b The rate of annual subscription appropriate to each category of membership shall be determined by the members in an Annual General Meeting to be effective in the following financial year.

c The Committee reserve the right to accept applications for membership or to terminate membership with the right of appeal to the AGM

6 HONORARY OFFICERS

The Honorary Officers of the Society, consisting of Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Editor, shall be elected at the A.G.M. and shall hold office from the conclusion of that meeting.

7 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

a The Executive Committee shall consist of:

i) The Honorary Officers specified above and

ii) not more thanmembers elected at the A.G.M., who shall be required to retire annually though they may be proposed for re-election

b The Executive committee may appoint not more than three co-opted members; each appointment being made at a meeting of the Executive Committee and taking effect, either from the end of that meeting or from the date on which the place to be filled becomes vacant

c No member of the Executive Committee shall acquire any interest in property belonging to the Society (otherwise than as a trustee for

the Society), or receive remuneration, or be interested in any contract entered into by the Executive Committee (otherwise than as a member of that committee).

8 ENDING MEMBERSHIP OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

A member of the Executive Committee shall cease to hold office if he or she:

a. is disqualified from acting as a member by virtue of Section 45 of the charities Act 1992 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that provision),

b. become incapable, by reason of mental disorder, illness or injury, of managing and administering his or her own affairs,

c. is absent without cause from all meetings held within a period of twelve months and the Executive Committee resolves that his or her place be vacated or

d. submits his or her resignation (but only if at least three members of the Executive Committee will remain in office when the resignation is to take effect).

9 MEETINGS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

a. The Executive Committee shall hold at least two ordinary meetings each year. A special meeting may be called at any time by the Chairman, or by any two members of the committee, giving not less than 7 days notice of the business to be discussed.

b. A quorum exists when 7 members of the Executive Committee are present and normally the meeting will be chaired by the Chairman. After being proposed and seconded every matter shall be decided by a simple majority of votes and, in the event of a tie, the chairman of the meeting may give a second or casting vote.

c. The Executive Committee may, from time to time, make and or alter rules for the conduct of its business, the summoning and conduct of its meetings and the custody of documents, but no rule shall be made which is inconsistent with this constitution.

d. The Executive Committee may appoint one or more sub-committees, consisting of three or more of its members, for the purpose of making any enquiry or performing any function which the Executive Committee considers would be more appropriately undertaken by a sub-committee, provided that all acts and proceedings of any such sub-committee shall be fully reported to the Executive Committee.

e. Minutes of proceedings at all meetings of the Executive Committee shall be recorded in books kept for the purpose.

10 FUNDS, RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE

a. The funds of the Society shall be held by the Treasurer and kept in an account in the name of the Society at such bank as shall be decided from time to time by the Executive Committee.

b. All receipts, including subscriptions, donations and bequests, shall be paid into the account and any expenditure shall be made only in furtherance of the aims of the Society.

c All cheques drawn on the Society's funds must be signed by two of the appointed signatories, one of whom should normally be the treasurer.

11 PROPERTY, INVESTMENTS & TRUSTEES

The Executive Committee shall cause the title to all investments held by or on behalf of the Society to be vested in:

not less than three individuals appointed by it as Holding Trustees, who shall act in accordance with the lawful directions of the Committee and may be removed by it at any time. Providing that they act in accordance with the lawful directions of the Executive Committee, the Holding Trustees shall not be liable for the acts or defaults of members of that committee.

12 ACCOUNTS

The Treasurer shall:

- a Keep accounting records for the Society,
- b prepare Annual Statements of accounts as at 31 July, have the accounts audited or independently examined as appropriate

13 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

a The Society shall hold an Annual General Meeting (AGM.) in the month of October or as soon as practicable thereafter.

b Each AGM shall be called by the Executive Committee. The Secretary shall give at least 21 days written notice to the members by post. All members shall be entitled to attend and vote at the meeting. A quorum exists when at least one twentieth of the membership or twenty members, whichever is the greater are present.

c At each AGM, members of the Executive Committee shall present their reports and the audited accounts for the preceding year for approval by the members present.

d The Officers of the Society, as detailed previously in Clause 6, shall be elected for the coming year and an Honorary Auditor for the current financial year shall be appointed.

e Nominations for all Society Officers and for the places of Executive Committee members must be made in writing by a proposer and seconder and sent, accompanied by the written consent of the nominee, to reach the Secretary no less than seven days prior to the AGM. Unless agreed otherwise by the AGM, all elections required where nominations exceed vacancies, shall be by secret ballot with the Chairman having a casting vote in the event of a tie.

f The honorary office of President, Vice President and Patron shall be awarded at the AGM. to any individual who, in the Society's estimation, has rendered particular service to the aims of the Society. All recommendations for these offices shall be made by the Executive Committee to the AGM for approval.

g The A.G.M. shall appoint the members of

A Show sub-committee to deal with the administration and conduct of the Society's shows

A Publications sub-committee to advise upon the production of appropriate literature to promote the Society and its objectives within financial constraints to be determined from time to time by the Executive Committee

from the membership of the Society generally and or the Executive committee. All such appointments to be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Clause 13 (e) above.

h The Secretary, or other persons specially appointed by the Executive Committee, shall keep a full record of the proceedings and these shall be approved by members voting at the next A.G.M.

14 NOTICES

Any notice required to be served on members of the Society shall be in writing and shall be made by the Secretary by inclusion of appropriate details in a publication of the Society or by letter sent by post and addressed to such members at his or her last known address. Any such notice shall be deemed to have been received within 5 days of posting.

15 ALTERATION TO THE CONSTITUTION

The constitution of the Society may be altered by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the members present at an Annual General Meeting. The notice of the A.G.M. must include notice of the resolution, setting out the terms of the alteration proposed.

16 DISSOLUTION OF THE SOCIETY

If the Executive Committee decided that it is necessary or advisable to dissolve the Society, it shall call a meeting of all members of the Society, giving not less than twenty-one days notice in writing and stating the terms of the resolution to be proposed. If the proposal is approved by a two-thirds majority vote of those present, the Executive Committee shall have the power to realise any assets remaining after the satisfaction of all proper debts and liabilities shall be given or transferred, as the members of the Society may decide.

This constitution was approved by the Annual General Meeting in 199.....

Years Ago

JAMES AKERS

The Leeds Central Floral Society Show 1846

In my search for records of the Society's shows I am currently frustrated in the attempt to find details of the show 150 years ago by the fact that the Wakefield Express, my main source of information, did not begin publication until 1852. However I chanced upon the details of the Leeds Central Floral Society show in the *Leeds Mercury* of June 6 1846. It has interest to us in that one of the judges was Mr Hepworth the raiser of Goldfinder and Bessie, flowers still with us today, and remarkably, both still existing in breeder form. Peter Turner will be particularly interested in the the presence of the second judge Mr Gibbins of Derby, his neck of the woods. The flowers described as selfs were most likely breeders but the constitution of a class for seven dissimilar blooms is not as obvious. Two prizes only seem to have been awarded in each class and only three members won prizes, or perhaps only they showed. One common factor to all the shows 150, 100 and 50 years ago was the date of the show, the last week in May, which was probably also the normal flowering time in 1996.

TULIP SHOW. - The Leeds Central Floral Society held their annual show of tulips at the house of Mr. W. Dobbins, Golden Cock Inn, on Tuesday last, when prizes were awarded to the following competitors:- First stand of seven dissimilar blooms, Mr. James Bramma; second stand Mr. Edwd. Mitchell, in classes. Feathered bizarre, 1st and 2nd prizes, Mr J. Bramma. Flamed bizarre, 1st and 2nd prizes Mr. J. Bramma. Feathered bybloemen, 1st prize Mr. J. Bramma; second prize Mr. E. Mitchell. Flamed bybloemen, 1st and 2nd prizes, Mr J. Bramma. Feathered rose. 1st prize, Mr. E Mitchell; 2nd prize Mr. J. Bramma. Flamed rose, 1st and 2nd prizes Mr. Mitchell. Selfs, 1st prize, Mr. Mitchell; 2nd prize Mr. J. Jepson. Premium prize, Mr Mitchell. The judges, Mr Hepworth, Brighthouse, Mr. Gibbins, Derby, and Mr. Hinscliffe, Halifax, gave entire satisfaction to the whole of the competitors exhibiting.

The Wakefield Amateurs Tulip Society Show 1896

The report is taken from *The Wakefield Express* of 30 May 1896.

As 50 years previously the judges gave 'entire satisfaction'.

No names are given for the flowers and because W Calvert and G Freeman did not win any appropriate single bloom classes their premier blooms must have come from the collection classes. As was normal at this time all entries in each class were given a position as happens at leek shows today. In single bloom classes each exhibitor was allowed to win two prizes.

The prizewinning entries included just short of 200 blooms and therefore if the report of 500 blooms is to be believed then each competitor must have entered many more than two in each class. Judging must have been a nightmare.

WAKEFIELD AMATEURS TULIP SOCIETY-

The 61st annual exhibition of tulips, ferns etc in connection with this society was held at The Brunswick Hotel, Borough Market on Monday and Tuesday. There were ten competitors in the different classes. We see by the balance sheet that last year £6 2s 10d was paid in prize money, the subscriptions being £4 17s 6d, and the entrance fee £2. There were a few well grown ferns and over 500 tulip blooms arranged on a long table in the club room. Though the competition was not equal to some years the average quality was superior to the usual show, particularly in the class for unbroken flowers, the weather having been very suitable for tulips. Mr. B. Simonite of Sheffield, and Mr. T. Spurr of Eastmoor Wakefield, two well known tulip growers, acted as judges, and gave entire satisfaction. The principal and most successful exhibitors were Mr. W. Calvert and Mr. G. Freeman, Potovens and Mr. Alfred Moorhouse and Mr. W. Mellor of Wakefield, who secured the chief prizes.. The following is a list of the prizewinners-

Stand of 6 rectified tulips- 1 W. Mellor; 2. A. Moorhouse; 3. E. Lister; 4. W. Calvert; 5. J. Hardwick; 6. G. Gill; 7. G. Freeman; 8. H. Gill; 9. H. Brown
Stand of 6 breeders - 1. Moorhouse; 2. Calvert; 3. D. Gill; 4. Lister; 5. Hardwick; 6. Freeman; 7. G. Gill; 8. Mellor. Stand of 3 breeders- 1. Calvert; 2. H. Gill; 3. Lister; 4. G. Gill; 5. Moorhouse; 6. Hardwick; 7. Mellor; 8. Freeman; 9. Brown. Rose breeders- 1 and 2. G. Gill; 3 and 5. H. Gill; 4 and 7. Calvert; 6. Moorhouse; 8. Brown By blooms breeders- 1 and 4. Hardwick; 2 and 3. G Gill; 5. H. Gill; 6 and 8. Calvert; 7. Mellor. Bizarre breeders - 1. Hardwick; 2. Mellor; 3. Moorhouse; 4 and 6 Calvert; 5. G. Gill; 7. Lister; 8. H. Gill Feathered roses- 1 and 3. Mellor; 2 and 4. Moorhouse; 5. Calvert; 6. Hardwick; 7. G. Gill; 8. H. Gill Flamed roses 1 and 2. Mellor; 3. Calvert; 4. Lister; 5. G. Gill; 6. H. Gill; 7 and 8. Moorhouse Feathered by blooms- 1 and 2. Moorhouse; 3 and 4. Mellor; 5 and 6. Lister; 7. H. Gill; 8. G. Gill Flamed by blooms 1 and 6. H. Brown; 2 and 4. Moorhouse; 3 and 8. Calvert; 5. Hardwick; 7. Mellor Feathered bizarres- 1 and 2. Moorhouse; 3 and 6. Calvert; 4. G. Gill; 5. Mellor; 7. Brown 8. H. Gill Flamed bizarres- 1 and 3. Lister; 2 and 8. Calvert; 4 and 7. Moorhouse; 5. Mellor; 6. Freeman
Premier flamed- Calvert premier feathered- Freeman
premier breeder- Calvert

The Wakefield and North of England Show 1946

Taken from *The Wakefield Express* 1 June 1946

TULIPS ON SHOW

MANY BEAUTIFUL BLOOMS

Despite the fact that the weather has been all against the growing of tulips this season, some growers have succeeded in producing extraordinarily fine blooms for showing purposes. This called for the exercise of much time and patience, and in this direction Mr W. Beddows, of Altofts, who won the championship at the Wakefield Show which was held at the Whinney Moor Hotel on Saturday, had to confess he had to use tarpaulin to shield his tulips from the strong winds and torrential rain experienced during the last few weeks. This was the 110th show of the Wakefield and North of England Society, and although it was difficult to raise tulips during the war period, there was a fine array of blooms staged, which were much admired by visitors. The President of the Society (Mr F. R. Hunter), of Horbury, extended a hearty welcome to the Mayor of Wakefield (Cr. (Mrs) E. H. Crowe), who opened the show. She was accompanied by the Mayoress (Mrs P. Ashton). The President said it was very nice of the Mayor to find time, on a Saturday night, to come to their show. In the years gone by they had many gentlemen who came forward to perform the opening ceremony, but this time it was a lady. Wakefield, Horbury and the surrounding districts were still able to grow excellent tulips and they had some fine blooms from Cheshire. The Mayor said she was delighted to see so many beautiful blooms. The growers must have spent much time in getting them to such perfection. There was nothing in the world which gave so much joy to people as did flowers. She realised that growers had had difficulty in recent years, but now the war was over she hoped the show would meet with increasing success. It was an old Society, and she trusted it would continue to be well supported. The Mayor then presented the cups to the successful competitors. The Mayoress then expressed her pleasure at being able to attend the show. The Wakefield Parks Superintendent (Mr W. G. Robertson) moved a vote of thanks to the Mayor, and in doing so said he believed Wakefield was the only show existing in the country for the English Florist tulips. All the others had dropped out.

Mr W. Beddows seconded, and made an appeal for young growers to come along and interest themselves in the culture of the English Florist tulips. It had taken him 25 years to get his first cup.

The officials were: President, Mr F. R. Hunter; Vice-Presidents, W. K. Bramham (South Milford), W. H. Midgley (Halifax), W. W. Hartley (Horbury), R. Robinson (Horbury), W. Beddows (Altofts), F. Fox (Normanton), E. Walker (Altrincham), E. H. Robinson (Horbury), J. Akers (Horbury), G. Senior (Horbury), N. Eyre (Horbury), A. Tear (Altofts) and W. G. Robertson (Wakefield). Hon. secretary, G. Hunt (Horbury), and hon. treasurer, Mr J. Prest (Horbury).

The awards were as follows: Open Classes: Silver Cup for best stand of 12 rectified tulips (English) - E. Walker (Altrincham); 2. W. Beddows (Altofts). Needham Memorial Cup for best stand of 9 tulips (English) - W. Beddows. Pan of 6 rectified (dissimilar): 1. J. Akers (Altofts); 2. W. Beddows; 3. E. Walker. Pan of 3 rectified or stages class - I. E. Robinson (Horbury); 2. A. Tear; 3. W. Beddows. Pan of 3 breeders - I. E. Robinson; 3. E. Walker. Pair of flamed (dissimilar): 1. E. Robinson; 2. C. Woodhall (Horbury); 3. J. Prest (Horbury). Pair of feathered (dissimilar): 1. W. Beddows; 2. J. Akers; 3. E. Robinson. Vase of 18 tulips - J. Prest; 2. E. Walker; 3. Mrs Walker. Vase of 9 tulips - I. Master Tear; 2. J. Master Prest; 3. Mrs Robinson. Vase of 25 English Florist tulips - I. E. Walker; 2. W. Robinson; 3. W. Beddows. Vase of 9 English tulips - I. E. Walker; 2. Audsley; 3. Mrs Walker. Local Challenge Cup for best stand of 9 English tulips (dissimilar): 1. W. Beddows; 2. J. Akers. Single Blooms: Class 15 - 1. J. Akers; 2. R. Robinson; 3. W. Beddows. Class 16 - 1. Robinson; 2. N. Eyre; 3. A. Tear. Class 17 - 1. J. Akers; 2. W. Beddows; 3. N. Eyre. Class 18 - 1. A. Tear; 2. R. Robinson; 3. W. Beddows. Class 19 - 1. A. Tear; 2. W. Beddows; 3. Master Tear. Class 20 - 1. W. Robinson; 2. R. Robinson; 3. W. Beddows. Class 21 - 1. E. Robinson; 2. W. Beddows; 3. J. Akers. Class 22 - 1. C. Woodhall; 2. J. Akers; 3. W. Robinson. Novice Classes: Pan of 3 tulips - Prestley (Osset); 2. Master Prest; 3. H. Moulter. Best breeder - 1. Master Tear; 2. H. Prestley; 3. J. Moulter. Best flamed - 1. J. Moulter; 2. Master Tear; 3. H. Prestley. Best feathered: 1. H. Prestley; 2. Master Tear; 3. Master Prest. Best 3 tulips in show - Feathered - Mr E. Walker; Flamed - H. Prestley; Breed - W. Beddows. Cup winners: Open Challenge Cup - E. Walker. Needham Memorial Cup - W. Beddows. Local Challenge Cup - W. Beddows. Silver Plate - W. Beddows. Novice Cup - H. Prestley. Most points in show - W. Beddows. Darwin Class - J. Prest.

E A Bowles and the English Tulip

TOM MCCREA

Edward Augustus Bowles lived from 1865 to 1954 and died two months before the 150th anniversary celebrations of the Royal Horticultural Society with which he was closely associated for over half a century. He served almost continuously on its Council and in many other ways. In an obituary the President of the RHS wrote that "he was the greatest amateur gardener of the past half-century". He was a recognised authority on *anemone*, *crocus*, *colchicum*, *galanthus* and *narcissus*.

Acknowledged to be an ascetic in his way of life, he was not without a sense of humour, having a special fondness for the oddities of plant life and he called the area where he grew these his "lunatic asylum". There is a chapter in the book with this heading, in his case it is an affectionate rather than a derogatory term. The Twisted Hazel he refers to as its first crazy occupant, Witches Broom being another (this plant he found growing high up on the branch of a tree).

He loved the English tulip, of which he wrote in *My Garden in Spring*: "it may be an acquired taste, but I am sure it is really good taste, and just as an art connoisseur will turn away from showy, meretricious objects to a really fine piece of work even though it may need looking into, and handling, to appreciate its best points, so will anyone who compares many tulips, and has access to really well-grown English Florists varieties, grow to love the beautiful proportions and delicate featherings or rich contrasts of the best of them more than any gorgeous display of Darwins".

By his own admission they were not easy to grow in their best form in his garden which was situated in the parish of Enfield in Middlesex, close to the Hertfordshire border. He envied but did not share the rose-growing soil around the adjacent area of Waltham Cross. His garden was also dry, a fact he also lamented: "I cannot believe there is a dryer garden to be found in England". It was composed of gravel and yet more gravel! Any water to which he had access was "hard". Despite all this he grew 'Annie McGregor', an exquisitely soft-rose coloured breeder. He enthuses about its colour and shape and argues that it and 'Mabel' are "still the best Rose Breeders known" (bear in mind however the date this was written - before World War I). If anyone can get hold of a copy of his book *My Garden in Spring* which is now a much sought after classic, almost a collectors item, his exposition of how breeders break and what they break into - feathered and flamed, is worth reading on its own.

The flamed 'Sir Joseph Paxton' was one of his greatest favourites. The colour he likens to some grand old piece of Buhl (carved or inlaid brass or tortoiseshell) and writes about turning such a flower round and round to try and settle which of its segments is the most perfectly

coloured, and the best "to place towards me as I dine or write".

Interestingly enough, he believed that "the love for the English Tulip will some day revive and perhaps grow into a rage, and that the noble little band who keep up its cultivation and the Royal National Tulip Society are doing a great work for future gardeners. Mr Bowles states that tulips can be obtained from this society". (Again, bear in mind the date!)

That noble little band, in the form of the Wakefield and District Tulip Society kept, and still keeps, the English tulip alive today, and to a few families in particular we owe a tremendous debt.

Funeral of Sir Joseph Paxton

PETER TURNER

I found this report in a old copy of the *Derby Mercury*. I know we still grow the flower, 'Sir Joseph Paxton' and also 'Lord Frederick Cavendish' but attending the funeral was a person called Lord Denman. He also had a flower called after him in this period. It was very often among the winners from 1850 onwards. It was raised by someone called Abbott of Stanton by Dale (a small old village) near Ilkeston Derbyshire, about 12 miles from Swanwick

Perhaps with the exception of the demise of the late Duke of Devonshire, nothing has caused more universal regret in the neighbourhood of Chatsworth than the death of his intimate friend, Sir Joseph Paxton. We well remember the late Duke of Devonshire stating, in connection with Sir Joseph's project of the original Crystal Palace, that he, by his sagacity, his thoughtfulness and his friendship, had saved him many thousands a year without doing injustice to anyone. We have already in our present impression, mentioned some of the great works he has accomplished and paid an affectionate tribute to the memory of Sir Joseph. It now remains for us to say, that we in conjunction with others have been present at the funeral obsequies of a man who was beloved and esteemed by all who knew him.

Yesterday, Thursday, was a brilliant day as far as nature could shower down her blessing; but in the house of mourning and amongst the many friends who assembled to pay the last tribute of respect to the memory of a great man - for great indeed he was in intellect, in heart, in devotion and in sterling friendship - there was a dark cloud of sorrow. The body of Sir Joseph was conveyed specially from his residence, Rockhill, Sydenham, to his beautiful retreat at Chatsworth. Lady Paxton and the members of the family, with some personal friends, followed by train. The funeral itself was intended to be comparatively private, but some special friends were invited to be present amongst whom were the following :-

FRIENDS

His Grace the Duke of Devonshire

Lord George Cavendish
Lord Richard Cavendish
Lord Frederick Cavendish

William Currey Esq.
Geo. Newton Browne Esq.
Mansfeldt Mills Esq.
Sir C W Dilke Bart.
R W M Nesfield Esq.
H Adams Esq.
Fred Wragge Esq.

William Longsdon Esq.
T S Cutbill Esq.
Dr Hicks
E Wrench Esq.
John St Barbe Esq.
Philip Hubbersty Esq.
Scott Russell Esq.

Geo. Grove Esq.
James Allport Esq.
Dr Branson
Edward Allcard Esq.
Lord Denman
J Jones Esq.
Digby Wyatt Esq.

J Bowley Esq.

Owen Jones Esq.

Mr G Rickman

The arrangements of the funeral were entrusted to Messrs Taylor and Redfern of Bakewell. Mr Greaves of the Rutland Arms, Bakewell, provided the hearse and mourning coaches.

The time appointed for the funeral was half past two, in order to accommodate his Grace the Duke of Devonshire, Lord George Cavendish, MP, and others, who were anxious to attend. But long before the funeral procession arrived at the beautiful burial ground at Edensor, where the Duke is rebuilding the church at an expense of £12,000, a great number of respectable people of both sexes had assembled, desirous of marking their sense of the worth of the deceased. Not the least interesting portion of the ceremony was the mournful demeanour of the working classes who have always found in the late Sir Joseph Paxton a kind friend and a generous supporter of all their claims.

In addition to the names enumerated above, as friends of the deceased, we may add the Chairman and the Board of Directors of the Midland Railway were invited to be present at the funeral, in conjunction with other friends; but as it so happened that the Wharncliffe meeting which had been fixed previously to the Sir Joseph Paxton's death was on the same day, only two directors could represent the board, and that in the persons of Mr Ellis and Mr Jones. We now subjoin the programme of the funeral:-

OFFICIALS

Mr Gibson	Mr Edmonds	Mr Eyles	Mr Swafield
Mr Milner	Mr Knowles	Mr E Morton	Mr Knowles
Mr J Marples	Mr James Morton	Mr Houseley	S Hereman

BEARERS

Mr Worrall	Henry Bacon	Geo Wilson	James Swidell
William Clark	William Roose	Henry Slow	Joseph Marples

PALL BEARERS

T Brassey Esq.	J C Macdonald Esq. (London)
Mark Lemon Esq. (London)	J S Whittem Esq. (London)
Geo Wythes Esq. (Coventry)	F M Evans Esq. (London)
J Gulson Esq. (Coventry)	W Jackson Esq. MP

MOURNERS

Mr Stokes	Mr W Paxton	Rev E Ridgeway	Mr Cottingham
Mr Allcard	Rev H Cottingham		
Mr Markham	Mr Greaves	Mr Thos Paxton	Mr H Willgoss

PRIVATE CARRIAGES

The deceased's carriage, followed by Mr Thornhill's, Mr Nesfield's and others. A large concourse of people assembled in the park, to witness the mournful cortege which consisted of the hearse, eight mourning coaches and a number of private carriages.

On the funeral procession arriving at the churchyard, His Grace the Duke of Devonshire, Lord George Cavendish, Lord Richard Cavendish, Lord Frederick Cavendish and the other personal friends invited, fell in after the mourners and accompanied the body to the family vault, where, owing to the rebuilding of the church, the whole of the burial service was read.

The funeral service was read very impressively by the Rev Hall and the ceremony was one naturally of a most solemn character. In close proximity to the tomb of the late Duke of Devonshire, the friend and patron of the deceased, were deposited, in the family vault, the remains of a man whose genius has been the theme of universal admiration, and whose life has been spent in benefiting mankind.

It was a gratifying sight, on so melancholy an occasion, to see the present Duke of Devonshire, Lord George Cavendish, and the members of the house of Cavendish present, to testify their respect to the memory of the dead. There was no ostentation; all was simple, unpretending and in the best taste. It must be gratifying to Lady Paxton, and the family generally, to know that such sincere testimony has been paid to the memory of so good and worthy a man.

Sir Joseph Paxton died June 8th 1865. The amount of £12,000 mentioned in the re-building of the church would be approximately £720,000 today.

Obituaries

John Hardman

(1920 - 1995)

John Hardman had a great interest in flowers of many kinds, growing and showing successfully Chrysanthemums, Daffodils, and tulips both Dutch and English Florist. In addition he worked tirelessly for so long for the Societies with which he was associated.

In his working life he had two careers, firstly in the making of bricks at which he was very skilled, becoming the Manager of the Warmfield Brick Company until its closure in 1971. Secondly in managing Middlebrook Mushrooms from which he really never retired being regularly invited back in a consultant role whenever problems arose after his official retirement. John very rarely lost his temper however provoked and during his period as Chairman was always prepared to sit down and discuss logically and reasonably the problems that arose so that a solution was always found. He had great patience particularly with the younger members of the Society whom he encouraged whenever possible and the progress that has been made in attracting and keeping new members in recent years is a tribute to the quiet effort that he put in. As a showing member he rarely entered the collection classes, but he always liked to enter, and if possibly win, the Stages Class for breeder flame and feather. He was a member of the Society for over 40 years and for most of these years he struggled in vain to win the Gold Medal awarded at the Dutch show for 18 tulips of the same variety. At last in 1991 after 35 years of trying he succeeded in his aim but unfortunately we mislaid the medal. After turning the house upside down several times it was finally located on the morning of the Annual Show a week later and he was a very proud and happy man when the Mayor handed it to him that afternoon.

He was a very good judge of Florist Tulips, always willing to explain the reason for his choice. In this and his other roles he will be sorely missed. The photograph was taken by Jack Wemyss-Cooke on the occasion of the first garden visit to Dudmaston with his wife Irene on his right and our hostess Lady Labouchere.



Ray Perraudin

(1911 - 1995)

When we attended Ray Perraudin's funeral last September we knew him primarily as a member of the Tulip Society for a good number of years. A gentle man who was delighted to be carrying on the tradition of florists before him in growing and showing English Florist tulips. It was fascinating therefore to hear some of the rich diversity of his working life as we listened to the eulogy in St John's Church. He was born in Chelsea, London and eventually studied History and English at Cambridge prior to World War II. As well as captaining his college's First XI football team he became the university's lightweight boxing champion. He became headmaster at St Bernard's College, Montreaux, Switzerland and then during the war served as a commissioned officer with the Oxford and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry and with the King's African Rifles.



After the war he worked with the British Control Mission in Germany as university control officer at Munster and at Cologne and was much concerned with re-establishing the universities in Germany. On returning to England his career was in the field of educational administration and eventually the West Riding County Council were fortunate to have the benefit of his work as a senior assistant education officer with responsibility for combined services which included the schools museum service. Any parent who has had the privilege of accompanying their child on a visit to Clarke Hall with all its delights will have seen some of the benefits brought to Wakefield by this far sighted man.

It was Ray's initiative which led to the county's acquisition of Clarke Hall and it was through his wish to plant the knot garden there with appropriate seventeenth century plants that he came to grow English florist tulips himself. Through his growing skills he became one of the very few able to win the major trophies of the society. He has a flower named after him, raised by James Akers it resembles 'Sam Barlow' and was best bloom at one of the last shows that Ray attended, much to his delight.

The final tribute from the city of Wakefield is a sculpture of Ray Perraudin to be placed on the south wall of the Chantry Chapel, one of a handful of mediaeval bridge chapels in the country.

Rachel Katharine Labouchere (nee Hamilton-Russell)

(1908-1996)

Lady Labouchere died on 22 March this year, as a result of heart failure. Her sudden death came as a great shock, but I know that her many friends in the society will be glad to know that she was spared the long mental decline that sometimes comes with old age. Right up until the morning of her death she was working on her current book, and only a few days earlier we had been discussing plans for her next. The fact that the long obituaries in the *Independent* and *The Times* both characterised her as "writer and benefactor" would have delighted her. The importance of her historical writing was acknowledged by Birmingham University in 1993 with the award of an honorary doctorate. This was an especial delight as she felt that, as a girl from a county family in those days, her education left much to be desired. She confounded family and friends by wanting to read History at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, and was interviewed by the then Principal who said she was willing to take her if she went away for a year and crammed - but, as she said, other things ("life"!) then distracted her. She did not rediscover her love of history until she and Sir George were posted to Madrid, where she began working in the Spanish archives. She always felt that education was a lifelong thing, and it was particularly inspiring to see her accepting her degree at the age of 86, in company with all the "young things" as she called them. In 1994 she fulfilled a long-standing ambition to study archive material. She was always enormously interested in people younger than herself, especially those who wanted to study or write, and several people now owe their careers to her practical help and encouragement.

In such a long and full life there are so many anecdotes - stories which she used to relish telling - that it is hard to choose which to relate here. Perhaps the one which best exemplifies her spirit of fun and adventure, is the story of her flying out to Sweden to marry Sir George. They met in wartime London in 1943 when she was working at the Admiralty. George asked her to marry him, but was then posted as First Secretary to the British Embassy in Stockholm. She made a daring night-time flight across the enemy-infested North Sea to join him. On the first attempt, the aeroplane turned back, because there was not enough cloud cover to hide the plane from enemy aircraft, and George was left stranded in Sweden, fearing that she had been shot down. She made another attempt the following night and arrived unheralded and unmet, speaking not a word of Swedish. They were married in Stockholm a few days later. After the war they served together in China (1946-48), Argentina (1948-50), Austria (1950-1953)

and Hungary (1953-55). Sir George was knighted in 1955, and together they served in Belgium (1955-60) and Spain (1960-66), where Sir George was HM. Ambassador.

When Sir George retired in 1966, it had been agreed between them that, after a life-time following Sir George's career, Lady Labouchere's interests should now take centre stage. This took two forms: firstly the custodianship of Dudmaston, her family home in Shropshire, bequeathed to her by her uncle, and its eventual transferral to the National Trust following his wishes; and secondly, the establishment of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum trust, of which she was President for 14 years. Ironbridge is now, largely thanks to her energy and vision and determination, a World Heritage Site.

She was from a long line of passionate gardeners, but diplomatic life meant that she was unable to indulge her own love of gardening until she and Sir George retired to Dudmaston. She had inherited a collection of 17th and 18th-century flower paintings, some of which accompanied her around the world and were hung on the walls of embassies in many different countries. They are now at Dudmaston, where members of our society were invited to see them and have tea with "Lady L" as everyone at Dudmaston called her. She continued to build on the collection, adding work by modern young botanical artists such as Jenny Brasier and Pandora Sellars, as well as paintings by her friend Mary Grierson and others. She was also herself an accomplished watercolorist and made hundreds of paintings and drawings of the places where she and Sir George lived, often of historical as well as artistic value - her paintings of China before the Communist Revolution, for example. She also studied flower painting under John Nash and when in China took lessons in the technique of Chinese painting. Only last year, despite failing eyesight, she did two wash drawings in Chinese ink for a pamphlet she wrote on the history of St Andrew's Church, Quatt - one painting of the church and the other of auriculas (the 17th-century incumbent was the famous auricula grower Samuel Gilbert). She adored the garden at Dudmaston, and during the last winter of her life she was much occupied in supervising the planting of new rose borders, and in making a new fern garden.

Lady Labouchere was descended from Alfred Darby, the ironfounder who in 1709 discovered how to smelt iron using coke instead of charcoal, and sparked off the Industrial Revolution. She inherited a great deal of Darby grit. The *Independent* obituary summed her up as follows: "a great charmer ... [but] at the same time a tough operator, who rarely failed to achieve her objective." I can hear her delighted laugh now.

Flower Matters

Raising Seedlings

JOHN WAINWRIGHT

ENGLISH FLORIST TULIPS

FREE

Breeders - Unlimited Stocks - New Varieties

Would you like to increase your Florist
Tulip stocks?

It sounds too good to be true. Almost unbelievable, but it is possible to obtain English Florist Breeder tulips in unlimited quantities and absolutely free. What's the catch I hear you say. There are two main limitations. The first is that you must grow your own from seed and the second is that it will take at least five years before you see them flower. Unfortunately there are no short cuts in this game and it does take time and some patience but it is not difficult.

I made my first crosses in the summer of 1991 with limited success. I managed to get seed from six different seed pods. I sowed the seed in the autumn in shallow bowls with a layer of grit in the bottom filled up with seed compost and placed it in the greenhouse. During January 1992 some of the seed germinated and emerged like onion seed as a single round leaf, bent over at the top and still hooked onto the seed case from which it had emerged. February was damp that year and many of the new seedlings damped off and died. Others were nibbled in half by mice but some of them survived. By August 1992 the seedlings had started to dry off and I emptied the bowls out to find tiny bulblets no larger than a match head. Even the seedlings leaves that had been nibbled in half by mice produced a small bulblet.

Each year since 1992 I have carefully replanted the tiny bulblets and patiently watched the single leaf get larger and wider. With each year's growth the bulblets have gradually grown larger, at the same time splitting to form droppers and offsets, until this year when my very first seedling flowered. I knew by March that I was going to get two flowers. On two of the bulbs the single leaf which I had patiently

watched each year was now curled around a second leaf. Five years of waiting and I was finally to see my very first seedling flower. Each day I went into the garden to get a seedling update. Each day I carefully looked to see if I could see any sign of a flower bud emerging from the centre of the leaves. As you know, this spring has been particularly cold and the late spring was doing nothing to help develop a flower bud. At last by mid-April I was sure I could see two tiny buds emerging. A week later and they were clearly visible. I was delighted and very excited. By now I had stopped wondering if my two buds would flower and concentrated my mind on more important issues. What were they going to be like? Were they going to be rubbish, badly shaped, badly coloured or worse still, mixed colour classes? Maybe not even the crosses I originally intended but seedlings created by a bee.

Day by day the two flower buds grew then disaster! I noticed that one of the two buds was malformed and papery looking. This bulb had looked too small to flower when planting and the result was a blind flower. With a sinking heart I dead-headed the blind flower to retain the bulb's strength for next year's effort. I had one flower left and kept my fingers crossed. The day of the main annual show came and went and the flower had only just started to show a sign of colour at the tip of the green bud. I checked the label; 'Lord Stanley' x 'James Wild' told me it should be a bizarre, red or brown with a yellow base. Time was running out as I was due to leave on holiday within the week and I would not be back for two weeks.

The day I was to fly off on holiday arrived but the seedling was still in closed bud. The bud was distinctly coloured by now but it was obvious that I was not going to see my first seedling open. I left instructions with my father-in-law James Akers to photograph the flower when it opened, whatever it looked like. Then we left for the airport.

Two weeks later I was amazed and delighted to find that James had not only managed to photograph the flower for me but had managed to save it in good condition by keeping it cool and dark in the garage. It was indeed a bizarre, deep wine red, even shape and clear yellow base and filaments with jet black pollen. At last, after five years waiting, success at last. There can be few things more enjoyable than seeing your very own seedlings flower.

Since I made my first cross in 1991 I have continued to make crosses each subsequent year and so I do not have to wait so long again to see new seedlings flower and should see new varieties each year. Of course, some will not be acceptable through shape, colour or impure base but there are sure to be some more good breeders waiting to flower for the first time.

If you would like more information on crossing and raising your own seedlings please see the society's handbook *The English Florist Tulip*

Confessional

TREVOR MILLS

Although I have been disrespectful towards the silver plate awarded for three breeder tulips at the main show, calling it an ashtray, I now have had second thoughts. Having had my property broken into and burgled twice in the first three months of the year it occurred to me I was being foolish leaving the silver plate with such easy access. Considerable damage was caused to the window which was the point of entry since I had taken stringent measures with the windows to make them more secure.

Whether due to lack of knowledge or the inconvenience of converting it to cash, the silver plate was passed over in preference for the inevitable video. On examination the inscription on the plate reads *Altera Merces* inscribed on a belt with holes and buckles with swag. This surrounds a crooked walking stick taking root and throwing out branches. If my latin serves me well, *Altera* means "one another" and *Merces* "for gain". Also engraved on the plate, "given in memory of Charles W Needham, President of the Wakefield Tulip Society" (interestingly he was the nephew of Sam Barlow, and he died in the 1930's). The assay mark reveals that the maker was John Emes who worked at the end of the 18th century creating a wide range of run-of-the-mill work in tea and coffee sets, which makes the age of the plate around 200 years.

Although we feel safe in having home insurance I wondered if this would cover having a duplicate made which would be in every way the same. Editors thoughts would be appreciated in this matter.

Lastly, should I have left the burglar a note telling him what it is for and maybe convert him to growing tulips and a more worthwhile life?

Breeders from the Hortus Bulborum

JAMES AKERS

In 1995 our patron Victor Roozen indicated that because of his health he would no longer be able to arrange to get breeders from the Hortus Bulborum. He asked me to write direct to them to see whether the Society could come to an arrangement with them for direct supply. This was done in October 1995 and I later received from the secretary Th Zanbergen an offer to sell us bulbs at a price of Hfl 2, per bulb, slightly less than £1 each. I had visited the garden earlier that year and calculated that there was a possibility, bearing in mind their excellent

growing conditions, of obtaining a maximum of 50 bulbs of each of the 12 varieties we believed they grew in 1996 and 1997. I therefore made an offer to buy these. The intention was that we would offer 6 bulbs to the first 100 members prepared to pay £10 to cover the cost of transport from Holland and UK postage charges. The other 6 varieties would then be available the following year. Faxes, phone-calls and letters crossed until I received the following dated 23 August 1996.

I herewith confirm your fax of August 10th and we are sorry to inform you that delivery of any Breeder tulips is impossible for this year.

*As we informed you earlier, last year we had serious problems with *Rhizoctonia solani*, in many stocks. Last season, especially the late flowering tulips, such as Darwin tulips, the Single Late tulips and of course the Breeder tulips suffered too much of the very bad weather conditions. In fact Mr Karel van der Veek himself cleaned all the bulbs and selected seriously the best bulbs for the new planting season. We are sure that you will be disappointed with this answer, but at the other hand, we hope that you will understand our situation after 2 years with problems.*

How Many Petals

PETER TURNER

Further to the debate on tulip petals (the number of) I found the following towards the end of an article in the *Gardener's Chronicle 1845* so the matter was around in those days.

"Now, in all regular-petalled flowers like the Tulip, where six petals are the acknowledged number that form the cup, I most certainly think that five petals have as much right to win as seven; and though one may have been extracted to bring the flower down to the required standard, still the want of the requisite number, or a superfluity, ought in neither case to disqualify. In conclusion, I may add that, during the many years I have judged flowers, I have set aside blooms otherwise unexceptionable, and that judgement has never been impugned."

"W"

The drawing on the front cover is by Wendy Akers of the breeder tulip Hubert Calvert. Always a very good grower, this year two bulbs dug up the size of a jaffa orange with 9 and twelve offsets respectively. It's a pity that they all don't multiply like that. - Ed

Sports or Mutations

BILL TEAR

Vigilance is required by the grower of the English Florist tulip because many new varieties can be obtained by sports or mutations.

The odd plant growing stronger or with better foliage than its neighbours may produce a better flower in either shape, size or colour. These plants are well worth segregating from the others and growing on in a separate bed. Sometimes the new bulb may produce a flower with seven or more petals, the sign of a well grown flower. This bulb should not be discarded, the following year it should settle down and produce a six petalled bloom and perhaps a new variety.

My father, Albert Tear, and I found the variety now named after my dad growing in a bed of 'Columbine' breeders. There were about 800 to 900 flowering sized bulbs in the bed and to find one that was different was quite a success. When grown well it was a little larger than the parent flower.

At about the same time we found the variety we now call 'Gleam', growing in a bed of broken 'Goldfinder'. Uncle Bill Beddows said it was 'Gleam' but he had never grown it himself. I took a bloom to the Chelsea Show for the late Mr Herbert Barr to examine but he was unable to help. He said that Barrs had never grown it. We never found a breeder of this variety in the 'Goldfinder' breeder bed, where did this bulb come from?

Hundreds of varieties of Darwin or Dutch tulips have been obtained from sports. An early double tulip 'Murillo', raised 1860, which is white flushed pink has provided more than 100 new varieties, most are doubles but a few are parrot tulips, in a vast range of colours. 'Bartigon' a Darwin tulip raised in 1898 sported many parrot varieties

My fellow patron Victor Roozen's uncle John Beeren raised 'Symphonia' a beautiful cherry red double from the old variety 'Pride of Haarlem' in 1939. 'Pride of Haarlem' sported many new varieties. I won my first gold medal with 'Pride of Haarlem' in 1944, it was a nice big Darwin tulip raised about 1900, cerise red with a blue base. I think it is difficult to obtain now.

My thoughts are, you can obtain good new varieties from sports as well as from seed, so keep your eyes open.

Statement Of Accounts For Year Ending 31st July 1996

RECEIPTS	1996	1995	PAYMENTS	1996	1995
Subs/Donations	696.00	518.52	Insurance	71.00	98.00
Fee		40.00	Postage	219.89	150.76
Evans Prize Fund		21.52	Newsletter	15.90	67.40
Sales of Booklets	5.50	8.00	Printing/Stationery	109.05	59.62
			Bulb Distribution	15.85	15.96
Sales Items	119.32		Trophy Resilvering		65.00
Nett Profit AGM	124.00	52.15	Sales Items		52.39
Nett Profit English		71.40	Nett Loss Dutch Show	46.90	5.85
Garden Visit	260.00	124.00	Filing Cabinets		85.00
			Garden Visit	232.00	124.00
Reimbursement for book	60.00		Nett Loss English Show	34.40	
			In memoriam (JGH)	30.00	
			Purchase of books	90.00	
			Excess of Income	399.83	111.92
TOTAL	1264.82	835.59	TOTAL	1264.82	835.59

BALANCE SHEET

	1996	1995		1996	1995
Current Acc @1.8.95	632.33	436.40	Current acc @ 31.7.96	586.39	632.33
Savings acc	475.96	473.77	Savings acc	480.51	475.96
Interest	4.55	2.19			
Building Society	1042.65	1009.78	Building Society	1575.31	1042.65
Interest	32.66	32.87			
Outstanding debts	-84.00		Outstanding Debts	-138.23	-84.00
Excess of Income	399.83	111.93			
TOTAL	2503.98	2066.95	TOTAL	2503.98	2066.95

SALES ITEMS	1996	1995		1996	1995
Tulip Cards	59.15	77.52			76.83
Little Tulip Book	7.00	28.00			
Treasury of Tulips	28.00	35.00			113.59
Rory McEwen	35.95	25.08		30.78	52.56
RHS Yearbook	20.00	100.00			75.00
Loss		52.38	Excess	119.32	
TOTAL	150.10	317.98	TOTAL	150.10	317.98

AGM 30.10.95	1995	1994		1995	1994
Raffle	56.00	63.00	Hall Hire	22.50	30.00
Refreshments	95.14	94.10	Food Costs	56.02	77.49
Plant Sales	60.35	36.50	Crockery Hire	9.87	18.69
Donation		5.00	Hire of Projector		20.27
			Profit	123.10	52.15
TOTAL	211.49	198.60	TOTAL	211.49	198.60

DUTCH SHOW 4 May 1996

	1996	1995		1996	1995
Raffle	43.00	62.40	Hall Hire	42.75	31.50
Prize money donated	20.00	25.00	Prize money	63.00	69.25
Tea Receipts		7.70			
Door/Entries	9.15	7.25	Crystal Goblet	25.80	22.45
Book Auction		15.00			
Plant Sales	12.50				
Loss	46.90	5.85			
TOTAL	131.55	123.20	TOTAL	131.55	123.20

ENGLISH SHOW 18 May 1996

	1996	1995		1996	1995
Raffle	56.00	61.49	Hall Hire	122.00	74.00
Sale of Blooms	21.00	32.10	Crystal Goblets	77.40	67.35
Donations	4.25	5.00	Food Costs	30.49	31.30
Refreshments	87.14	86.30			
Plant Sales	37.10	53.60	Gratuities	10.00	
Door Money		5.65	Profit		71.40
Loss	34.40				
TOTAL	239.89	244.05	TOTAL	239.89	244.05