



midahl 2009

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Contents

Front Page	1
Contents	2
From Your Chairman.....	3
From Your Editor	4
President's Page.....	5
DAHLIA 615 THIS IS YOUR LIFE (THUS FAR).....	6
MIDLANDS GO DUTCH.....	7
MIDLAND DAHLIA SOCIETY GOLDEN JUBILEE SHOW	9
SHOW SPONSORS 50 th Anniversary Show	10
FOR THE NOVICE 2008.....	11
The following are extracts from early issues of MIDAHL	13
THE MIDLANDS DAHLIA SOCIETY: SHOW RESULTS 2008	20
Obituaries.....	23
Dinner Dance	25
Open Centre: Problems on Medium Decs 2006 — 08	26
THE STATE OF THE ART	28
VARIETY ANALYSIS FOR THE 50 th ANNUAL SHOW	30
The Herbert Brown Trophy 2008	33
SINGLE BLOOM SHOW.....	34
MDS ONE DAY SHOW	35
Midlands Dahlia Society A.G.M. Chairman's Report 20/02/08	36
Minutes of the 49 th MIDLANDS DAHLIA SOCIETY AGM	40

From Your Chairman

Well it's been and gone, our fiftieth year. The planned celebrations took place, and those of us that took part enjoyed the occasions. I know that they are well documented elsewhere in Midahl.

I wish I could say that it was a momentous year for the Society show wise but the weather again played its part. The planting had to be done between the showers, but the plants seemed to get away quite well. Personally our plants looked quite good and I thought along with most other people that we were in for a good cut for our show. Then the weather decided to turn cold and suddenly everything seemed to stand still. I must say it was disappointing that we suddenly had exhibitors from every part of the country cancelling their Entries. But the show went on, and the exhibits that were staged were a credit to the exhibitors. Thanks to all who supported us and our sponsors, for making the show one to remember.

We were proud to have the deputy mayor of Kenilworth to open the show. It was also pleasing to have invited Tom McLelland along to receive the National Dahlia Society's Silver Medal. It was presented to Tom by Joe Batten, the Chairman of the National Society.

Our entry in the Herbert Brown came third which, considering the conditions, was a credit to those who managed to supply the blooms. Our congratulations to John Digweed for winning the Perpetual Challenge Cup for four vases of miniature decoratives, and Roger Turrell who had success in the seedling classes.

For only the second time in our history we did not manage to show in the Societies' Class at Harrogate, we could not justify the long trip. It would have been a long way to travel with so little blooms to choose from. The first time was when the petrol strike was on and we could not get the petrol.

We held our One Bloom show in August, it amazed me how many managed to have blooms out to show, again it was a success. Our end of season members show, held in September, is always a good show, along with the banter that takes place.

The trip to Holland was enjoyed by those who went; it was not without its problems caused by the fire in the Channel Tunnel, with travel plans having to be changed right up to the eleventh hour. I am also told that there were a couple of holiday makers that had trouble with their passports. One forgot to take his and one lost his in Holland. They shall remain nameless. Read Dave Bates' great article. Thanks go to Dave Reid for organising the trip.

The Annual dinner was again well supported and a success, Les and Audrey Jones being our guests for the evening, Audrey presented the trophies to the lucky winners. Thanks to Sarah for arranging the slide presentation, and to Frankie Taylor for again entertaining us with his key board.

I think the most pleasing item to talk about this year, is our World Wide Web site, Rob Cheetham has done an excellent job as our web master. I have to say that this has brought the Midland Dahlia Society to the fore front of dahlia enthusiasts from all over the world looking at our activities and news.

Finally its time to thank all our committee for the time and hard work they have given to make it a Year to remember.

Ron Guest

From Your Editor

I must take this opportunity to apologise that I wasn't able to get another edition organised for the special year but you will find this to be a bumper edition which includes within it extracts from the very first Midahls that were done when the society was formed.

They are very interesting and quite professional looking both in content and the booklet quality. I think we were left a great legacy by the likes of Phil Damp and others who set this society off on such a good footing. Phil of course went on to become probably the best NDS secretary we ever had. I will never forget the talks he gave with Derek Hewlett about the new dahlias seen during the year and the reports back from Holland.

We had at that time great stability in the National society, with great leadership, something that can't be said of the present incumbents.

You are probably aware of the resignation letter that is circulating the country sent out by the NDS President, Graham Carey, where he alleges that the Treasurer has misused his position in the EC, not carried out his elected role and told countless lies to various members including himself. It will be interesting to see what will happen now that this dirty washing has been hung out and I can only hope that the EC can again be strong to take the name of the NDS to better things. Was it three years since our own David Reid was allegedly slandered when standing for the Treasurers position? Could it be that AGM day may see resignations from the EC due to the contents of the letter, we shall wait with baited breath to see what will happen next.

It has been a difficult year in many ways for the MDS, both with the weather spoiling our planned theft of the society classes but also because we have lost some great servants to the society. Even our walled garden has seen probably the wettest season on record, at least the worst I can remember in 40 plus years of involvement with the flower. Let's hope that 2009 allows us to grow our blooms to the perfection we always aspire to.

President's Page

Our 50th year was not a vintage year, dahlia-wise. Some of our growers' plants were under water for long periods, rotting the tubers before flowering. Our society failed to stage an entry for the Arthur Luck – due to no one having three giant or large cactus!

Our celebrations started with a social evening at the Kenilworth Sports and Social club, where the ladies from the club laid on an excellent buffet. Those attending enjoyed skittles and a quiz!

In July we had a barbeque at Badgers farm, Lower Tysoe. There we had skittles and putting (the golfers having to play 'other handed'). We had a very enjoyable afternoon, although the weather could have been a few degrees warmer. Our thanks go to Brian and Beryl Caswell for their hospitality.

The main show, held at Leyes Lane School, was a great success. This was opened by the Deputy Mayor of Kenilworth, accompanied by his charming wife. Prize money was doubled and additional prizes were given to all trophy winners, these being donated by society members and friends. Later in the afternoon, Tom McLelland, although not at all well, managed to get to the show where he was presented with the National Dahlia Society Silver medal by Joe Batten, President of the National Dahlia Society.

In early October about 30 of us made a trip to Holland, organised by Dave Reid. Due to the fire in the Channel Tunnel, our arrangements had to be changed at the very last minute. After a very early start, we got down to Dover to get the ferry. All went well apart from one member leaving his passport on the mantelpiece at home (just in case he lost it) and another mislaying his on the way home! We had a very good trip – excellent hotel, coach driver and weather. We were made very welcome at the nurseries we visited and enjoyed visits to the Flower market, Delft factory, Amsterdam and Volendam.

Our final event was our anniversary dinner, held at Kenilworth Golf Club, where we had an excellent carvery meal. Trophies were presented and we had a delightful musical interlude given by an injured Frank Taylor, who somehow managed to play with one finger in a splint! Our Chairman, Ron Guest, his daughter Sarah then put on a slide presentation showing the Midlands Dahlia Society over the last 50 years.

Unfortunately our 50th year ended on a very sad note, with our society losing three of our members – you will read their obituaries elsewhere in this Midahl.

I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year and a better growing season in 2009.

Kind Regards,

R.L. Jones

President MDS, 2009

NB: I would like to apologise profusely to the editor for being late with this article. Five weeks ago, when I was about to put pen to paper, Audrey fell out of our (stationary) car and broke both bones in her left arm, necessitating two nights in Hospital (No I did not push her!). So as you can guess, I have had to be head cook and bottle washer amongst other things. Hopefully the plaster will be off on the 8th January.

DAHLIA 615 THIS IS YOUR LIFE (THUS FAR)

Your mother Hamari Gold conceived you in the summer of 2005 during a brief affair with Sir Alf Ramsey. Or was it that one night stand with a randy moth.

You were born in the spring of 2006 in a greenhouse in St Teath in North Cornwall. Your early days were spent in multi-purpose compost contained in a 4 inch pot. From those early days it could be seen that you showed promise and grew away stronger than most of your contemporaries. At the end of May you were transplanted to the seedling bed about 18 inches away from your neighbour.

You developed well and flowered for the first time towards the end of August 2006 just in time for the Cornish D.S. show and came top of your class (single bloom seedling).

For 2007 your tuber was split into three pieces and 10 cuttings were taken from one part. The remaining pieces were planted in the field to propagate from the following year if you continued to progress. The 10 plants that year were planted in the tunnel at the beginning of June. The first few weeks of your life under plastic were very hot and I wondered what would happen to you if it stayed like it. I need not have worried because as usual the British Summer arrived in July and it was very cold and wet until early August. You being you however, still managed to produce good enough flowers to win the Cornish Seedling Trophy. Your end of year report read 'an outstanding light gold Giant Decorative, one for the giant growers to look out for'. You also visited St. Blazey but did not enjoy it there as much as home.

2008 was spent at home in St. Teath and also with Tony Kingdon in Barnstaple and Mike Boswell near Torpoint. A difficult year to say the least, timing was all over the place at home under the tunnel and "damping" was a problem. For our Cornish Dahlia Show you came up with three reasonable blooms but cut a lot more. Come the National and you only had 4 and they weren't the best, one being no more than a large. As luck would have it Tony Kingdom brought a couple of spare flowers which we could use in the class to go with you. I have to admit that your Dad is no Giant grower, he never seems to get enough size compared to other specialist growers of Tony's calibre.

You were the only entry in the Jaldec Trophy Class for Giant or Large seedlings, but you were thought to be good enough to gain a first and win the trophy and a silver medal. The trophy was donated by Derek Hewlett who is the most successful grower of Giant Decorative Dahlias of all times so that makes it even more special to have won. Also you were Runner up to the best seedling in show. What comes next? Well you have an invitation to the R. H. S. Wisley trials to consider and a possible trial with a commercial grower with a view to release in a couple of years time.

All very exciting and a wonderful journey in a very short time. From a seed sown in 2006 to win at The National Dahlia Show in 2008 quite remarkable.

Your father has named you **Kernow Jazzy Bee**, just for the trouble.

By David Jasper

MIDLANDS GO DUTCH

A party of 31 people arranged to go to Holland to emulate those who used to go with Philip Damp in the early days of the society. The trip got off to an undistinguished start. A few days before we were due to leave, a lorry caught fire in the Channel Tunnel and it was closed for a few days. We travelled with Johnson's Coaches from Henley in Arden who were not only frequent visitors to Holland, but also arranged feeder coaches to make life easier for the travellers. On the Friday preceding our visit, many of us were at the show in Harrogate, and several PA announcements came out asking for Dave Reid. He could not be found and Dave Kent took the message which he passed to me. The call came from Howard Richards who had been contacted by Johnsons as he was the only one at home. The news was not good – the tunnel would be closed and we needed to divert to a ferry that involved leaving some two to three hours earlier! We could not make the decision as we didn't know if the entire group were contactable. I later remembered that Dave was going to Leeds to visit the trials and he did not use a mobile phone. Howard continued to try to ring Dave at home, but did not make contact until later in the evening. Dave eventually spoke to the coach firm and decided to leave things as they were, hoping the tunnel would be open in time for us to go through

There were three pick-up points, one at Barlestone, one at Kenilworth and the rest of us were joining at By 4am on the Monday morning, all the Henley passengers were on the coach, and we left to pick up the Kenilworth group who were also all present. We then went to Warwick services to meet with the Barlestone feeder coach and lo and behold we had a full party! At last we were on our way and eventually we reached Dover. We did not have to show passports at the docks which was fortunate as one of our number had left it on the sideboard. Soon we were on the ferry and on route for Calais. On arriving in France we had no need of paperwork, and we travelled through the day until we reached our hotel in Volendam, a few miles outside Amsterdam. The hotel provided a welcoming party in the bar, and we then we went our separate ways to get an evening meal at the end of a very long day.

On Tuesday morning, the party visited the world's largest flower market at Aalsmeer where we had a fascinating time watching the process and seeing some of the many exotic flowers. We then travelled to Delft to visit the historic pottery. The pottery was at the top of some very steep stairs that were very narrow. (In Holland they used to tax people based on the size and width of their stairs). On leaving the building we congregated around the coach only to see one of our group prostrate and unmoving on the ground. Quick panic, who was going to volunteer to give the kiss of life? Before lots had been drawn, the patient pre-empted the medical emergency by getting up and saying he had been trying to take a photo of the peacock on the front of the building from an unusual angle! Well after this excitement, we travelled to Heemstede to visit Geerlings Nursery, one that previous Midland Dahlia Society trips had visited many years ago. The dahlia lovers spent ages looking at various flowers while their partners took advantage of the refreshments provided in the greenhouse that had been tidied for our visit. Many new varieties were on show, as well as this year's seedlings. The prize seedling was a "yellow gloria" so watch this space. Among the excellent varieties, the one that took most attention was a large semi cactus from Belgium called Citizen. (We subsequently discovered this had been released in the UK by Porters some 2 or 3 years ago). I understand that the entire stock of Citizen has been snapped up by people on the trip.

After Geerlings, we went to the display gardens of the Dutch CNB (a dahlia co-operative that supplies many of the tubers in plastic bags. There were some good exhibition types but a large number of garden varieties that gave us the opportunity to see a wider range of dahlias. After this visit, our return trip to Volendam came to an unexpected emergency stop on the motorway. A lorry, three vehicles in front of us was carrying another lorry as its cargo, making it quite tall. It was about to go into a tunnel under the canal when the cargo refused to pass under the bridge, halting the lorry very rapidly! Those who were so comfortable that they were sleeping on the coach had a rude awakening. On return, most of us went to the town for our evening meal.

On Wednesday, we left early to visit Verwer Brothers Nursery in Lisse. You may not have heard of the nursery, but you will know many of the varieties that it has raised. The brothers have spent years developing new ranges of dahlias for garden use as this is where the financial gains are to be made. They produced the Gallery series as well as the Melody, Karma and Happy Single series. We saw established varieties as well as those being trialled for future release. Many of the varieties had dark foliage that would put the Bishop to shame. They were concentrating on short dahlias that could be used by landscapers for filling public places

requiring no staking but giving a mass of blooms over a long period. The nursery was in a narrow road with significant roadworks and the coach could not get into the road, so we had to walk the last few yards. On the walk back, one of our members, an avid photographer was seen peering in every window and taking pictures all the way back to the coach. We pointed out that this was suspicious activity and the red light area was elsewhere in Amsterdam!

The next visit was to Ruro Dahlias. Here we saw rows of dahlias to be breeding parents, plus the best saved from previous years on trial for future commercial release. An interesting feature was a row of beehives alongside the rows of breeding plants. Although we could not go in, they also had a greenhouse filled with parent plants in pots and sealed to prevent insect entry. At an appropriate date when blooms were at the right stage, an army of bees would be released into this greenhouse to do their work. A colleague of Ruro was present selling various bulbs to the party. After leaving Ruro, we travelled to Amsterdam and were dropped at the flower market where we could purchase various bulbs etc. We had the rest of the time in Amsterdam, and most people went on one of the boat trips around the town as well as doing some sightseeing and getting refreshments. We were desperate for a coffee and found a coffee shop, but couldn't understand why it only seemed to be open to people over 18. We innocent retirees were advised that Amsterdam coffee shops were not like English coffee shops and we should have been looking for café like objects and green cannabis lollies! We were scheduled to meet outside here they would sell coffee rather than funny mushroom the Central Station to return to our hotel and this proved to be full of incident. The coach driver met us and escorted us back to where the coach had been left. This was done in instalments, but when we thought we were all back at the coach we discovered there were 3 gentlemen missing! One was Dave Reid last seen with the other two embarking on a boat trip. Unfortunately Dave was still not using a mobile phone so it was impossible to contact him to find where he was. The coach driver returned on foot to the station yet again and eventually found the missing three. Apparently, they had seen the party waiting for the coach driver and were on their way to join them when they had to wait for a tram to go past. Once it had gone, the party had disappeared!

We left early on Thursday morning for the long trip back to Calais. All was going well and we followed a small van towing a small trailer on the motorway. Many of you will know of travelling experiences with the MDS and van wheels that did not stay on the vehicle. Not to be outdone, the vehicle we were following suddenly had wheel fly across the motorway to the roadside. While we waited for the vehicle or trailer to suddenly drop onto its axle, it maintained steady progress and we concluded that it was the spare wheel that had parted company. Progress to Calais was dramatically slowed by extreme roadworks on the motorway and we arrived in Calais too late to spend some time in a wine warehouse, much to the disappointment of the party.

You may recall that one member of the party had no passport on the way out, so we hoped that we could slip through the customs area as easily as we had on the way out. Clearly the British officials were pleased to let anyone out, but were less keen to receive illegal immigrants. Customs were checking the holds of all the coaches and the passengers were all removed from the coach and sent through an immigration channel for passports to be checked. In this area it was discovered that 2 of our number did not have passports, so where had the extra illegal immigrant come from? Clearly the French didn't want to retain these people so they asked members of the party to vouch for them and sent them on their way! It was thought that the second passport had been left in the hotel room in a secure place – too secure. (I have always found the best way to lose something is to put it in a safe place!) We embarked on the ferry and the rest of the journey passed without incident. At Warwick Services, the feeder coach was waiting to take the Barlestone party back and the rest of us returned via Kenilworth to the depot in Henley.

From my point of view, we had a wonderful few days, we all got on extremely well and congratulations are due to Dave Reid the tour organiser and to our driver Chris Curtis from Knowle who made the whole trip so enjoyable.

Dave Bates

MIDLAND DAHLIA SOCIETY GOLDEN JUBILEE SHOW

My last two Show Reports have both started with remarks about bad weather and difficult growing conditions but 2008 will certainly go down as the worst ever. As the Midland's team was erecting the Show on the Thursday the school playing field outside the hall disappeared under water and we all wondered what we would see on Show day. However, dahlia growers are a resilient bunch as eventually about 40 exhibitors turned up and staged just over 400 vases of first class quality dahlias.

The Welsh Dahlia Society very kindly presented us with both a Silver and Bronze Medal to be awarded to the Best Vase in Show and the Best Vase in the Members Classes. Both these Medals went to a Barry Davies Miniature Ball seedling named Barbarry Maverick grown and shown by **John Digweed**. This vase also won for **John** the Violet Davies Premier Award for Best Vase in Show, the S. & E. Braddock Perpetual Challenge Trophy for Best Vase of Ball Dahlias and the William Daffern Trophy for Best Vase in Members Classes.

The Midlands Championship for the Mawby Trophy was won by **June Davis**, this exhibit winning the MDS Sterling Silver Medal for Best Exhibit in Show. She used 3 Sir Alf Ramsay, Alf's Mascot, Trelyn and Primrose Diane.. **Roger Turrell** was 2nd and Peter Bateson 3rd. **June** also won the Pam Parsons Challenge Cup with two vases of a John Digweed seedling Suzanne Marston with **John** himself being 2nd, and the Stella Trophy with vases of Trelyn and Mary's Jomanda. 2nd was **Mark Roberts**.

The Lady Godiva Trophy went to our Chairman **Ron Guest** with vases of Grenidor Pastelle, Trengrove Millenium, Trelyn and Gateshead Festival. **Roger Turrell** was again 2nd. The Phillip Damp Trophy was awarded to **Don Mosley**, together with the NDS Bronze Medal for 2nd Best Exhibit in Show. He used 3 Bryn Terfel, Alvas Supreme, Cream Alvas and White Alvas. **Dave Reid** was 2nd. **Don** also won the Irish Challenge Cup with 3 Grace Kendal. **Brian Carter** was 2nd. **Don's** entry in one of the Special Classes included a bloom of Alvas Supreme which won the George Woodfield Trophy for Best Bloom of Giant or Large Decs. in Show. Also in the Special Classes was a bloom of Kenora Challenger shown by **Les Jackson** which was awarded the Leslie Jones Perpetual Challenge Trophy for Best Vase of Giant or Large Cactus in Show.

Mark Roberts had a good day winning the Leicester Challenge Cup with 2 Debra Ann Craven and Happy Boy, **Dave Reid** being 2nd, the John Griffiths Senior Cup with 2 vases of Blyton Softer Gleam, **John Digweed** being 2nd, and the Dennis Watson Challenge Cup with vases of Eastwood Moonlight and Staleen Condessa, with **Ron Guest** being 2nd. Large Cactus seem to have had a poor year with only one entry of Kenora Challenger to win the Christy Brookes Challenge Cup for **Brian Carter**. **Brian** also won the Gordon Steel Trophy with 2 vases of Alf's Mascot, **Ron Guest** being 2nd. As usual **Frank Taylor** won the Pauline Eales Award with 2 vases of Primrose Diane, **June** being 2nd. **Frank** also won the Decorative Cup for the Best Vase of Medium, Small or Miniature Decs. in Show with a vase of Ryecroft Jan. The Styvechale Trophy went to **Peter Clubb** using a vase of Trelyn and a mixed vase of Trelyn, Oakwood Goldcrest and Lemon Elegans. **Peter Bateson** was 2nd. The Friendship Trophy was won by **Frank Newbury** with vases of Polventon Velvet and Jomanda, **Brian Carter** was 2nd. **Frank** was also the winner of the George Irvine Perpetual Challenge Cup with vases of Moorplace, Willos Violet and Noreen, the last one winning the H. Dunkley Trophy for Best Vase of Poms. in Show. Our President **Les Jones** was 2nd.

The Intermediate Section was fairly well supported with the 72 Trophy for Best Exhibit in Section going to newcomer from Doncaster **Frank Bolsover** with vases of Trelyn and Cream Moonlight, the vase of Trelyn was awarded the Eddie Durrant Memorial Trophy for Best Vase of Small or Miniature Cactus in Show. The Novice Classes were very encouraging with 26 vases spread over the five Classes, Frank being successful in four of them. He won the Don Brawn Trophy together with the NDS Bronze Medal for Best Exhibit in Section, not a bad day out for his first visit to us. Hopefully we shall see him in the Trophy Classes next year. 74 vases were shown in the Members Classes with the prizes well spread. **Neil Gadsby** won the Cactus Cup for Best Vase of Medium Cactus in Show with three Staleen Condessa

The Judges had quite a traumatic experience trying to select the winner of the Bruce Watson Trophy. The Class calls for 20 blooms from 20 varieties and there were 8 entries. Eventually the decision went to **Frank Taylor** with **Marie Jane Roberts** being 2nd and **Dick Vickers** 3rd. **Marie Jane** was also successful in the Elaine Fenton Trophy with vases of Jomanda, Weston Pirate and Marston Lilac. She also won the Lilian Hall Rose Bowl with a beautifully arranged Basket. The Seedling Classes attracted 39 vases with the winner going to **Barry Davies** with another vase of his Barbarry Maverick.

The 50th Jubilee Show went off very well and congratulations are due to Show Secretary **Angie Guest and her band of helpers, Bruce and all our lady helpers** for their sterling work in keeping Exhibitors, Judges, Stewards and visitors to the Show so well looked after. All Exhibitors went home with a memento of the Show and the Midland Dahlia Society can relax and prepare for the 51st. Well done everyone.

Don Davis

SHOW SPONSORS 50th Anniversary Show

As chairman of the Midlands Dahlia Society I would like to say thanks to all of the people below for their generosity at this years 50th annual show. Because of their support we were able to double the prize monies on offer and also give prizes to the winners of the Trophy Classes.

Joe Batten. Brownfield Road Allotments Association. Leicester Dahlia Society. Brian Carter. Maurice Woodfield.

Ken Smart. Barry Kenyon. Frank Taylor. Porters Nurseries. Roy Reeder. Mrs Edna Wilson. Bruce Watson. Jon Wheatley. Frank Newbery. Rob Cheetham. Norman Johnson. Paul Fulford. Marie-Jane Roberts. Mark Roberts.

Don & June Davis. Margie Durrant. Birmingham Dahlia Society. Freddy Wilson. Les & Audrey Jones. Tim Williams. Richard Vickers. Ian Hill. Frank Bolsover. Nick Irvine. Peter Clubb . The Welsh Dahlia Society.

Dave Reid. Roger Turrell. Terry Bratcher. Ron Guest

FOR THE NOVICE 2008

After 2007 and all the rain and floods I was hoping and anticipating a long hot summer in 2008, but, what did we get, rain, rain and more rain. It never stopped. At least in 2007 we did eventually get the grass cut and hay made in August. In 2008 there was no chance of this happening. In fact if it had not been the Midlands Dahlia Society's Golden Jubilee year then it would have been one to forget ending with the dahlias being covered in snow in October and the coldest start to winter for many years.

What has happened to the global warming we have heard so much about? Where 2007 was one of my best ever years on the show bench 2008 turned out to be my worst. However, in spite of the weather our Jubilee show was great success with a number of new faces in the Novice and Intermediate classes. Congratulations are due to:- Frank Bolsover who had a field day winning the "72" Trophy for the best exhibit in the intermediate section, the Don Brawn trophy and the NDS bronze medal for the best exhibit in the Novice classes as well as the Eddie Durrant trophy for the best vase of small or miniature cactus in the show all with vases of "Trelyn Kiwi". Other winners in the above classes were: - Rosemary Enstone, Rob Cheetham, Ray Cottrall, Ralf Elliot, Paul Fulford and Brian Milwood.

Over the past couple of years we have had quite a few new members join the society many growing dahlias for the first time and as is normally the case most will grow across the board. The first question you ask is "what varieties should I grow"? The following are all top class varieties. Giant and Large varieties are not really suitable for the garden where an abundance of flowers are required.

Giant Decorative - grow 3 up

Sir Alf Ramsey, Bryn Terfel, Wandas Capella grow from large plants or split the tubers.

Giant Cactus – grow 3 up

Janal Amy- the current no 1, Daleko Jupiter – has stood the test of time Happy Boy – new from Arthur Hayes

Large Decorative – grow 4 up

Kenora Valentine, Elma E- both are late flowering varieties grow from large plants or split tubers.

Large Cactus - grow 4 up

Kenora Challenger, Hamari Accord, Reginald Keene, one classic and 2 that have stood the test of time.

Medium Decorative - grow 5up

Alfs Mascot, Avoca Salmon and Charlie Two- 3 good bankers

Medium Cactus/Semi Cactus - grow 7 up

Genidor Pastelle, Eastwood Moonlight choose the original or one of their many sports.

Small Decorative - grow 7- 8 up

Ruskin Diane, Primrose Diane, Amber Festival 3 of the best from a large choice in this group.

Small Cactus/ Semi Cactus - grow 7-8 up

Kiwi Gloria or one of its sports

Ruskin Myra- an alternative to the Kiwis

Avoca Comanche- 1 from the editor's stable

Miniature Decorative - grow 8-10 up

Lilac Marston, Karenglen, Rycroft Jan 3 varieties from a large choice.

Miniature Cactus/Semi Cactus - grow 8-10-up

Weston Spanish Dancer. Weston Pirate, Weston Miss- 3 from the late Tom McClelland.

Midahl 2009

Small Ball - grow 8 up

Jomanda, Blyton Softer Gleem- 2 of the best.

Miniature Ball - grow 8-10 up

Mary's Jomanda, Peach Cupid, Lanresse- Jomanda can also be grown as a miniature.

Pom Pons

Moor Place, Wills Violet, Noreen –3 old favourites.

Collerettes Dory Hill, Tresbrooke Redeye, Wooton Windmill,- 3 of my favourites

Waterlily

Pam Howden, Terahiti Ruby, Charlie Dimmock- 3 beauties to finish with.

If you propose showing **Giants** and **Large** then you will need protection from the elements so start collecting old umbrellas now.

Brian Caswell.

The following are extracts from early issues of MIDAHL

“MIDAHL”

(The Quarterly Bulletin of the Midland's Dahlia Society)

Issue No. 1, Vol. 1. January, 1959.

A Welcome and Happy New Dahlia Year to all our members.

News in brief: The society will hold its second open meeting on the **14th** January. This will be in the same spot as the memorable first meeting last November. Those of you who had the good fortune to be present that evening will well remember the pleasant surroundings of the “Old Bowling Green Hotel”. This time, the programme has something rather special to offer. We have obtained a set of coloured slides of the very latest exhibition dahlias from Holland. Included are such untried beauties as “Beauty of Baarn”, “High Standard”, “Oh Boy!”, “Brumas” and many others. With commentary, it is anticipated the programme will last 1 1/2 hours, thus allowing ample time for discussion.

The First Annual Show: Your committee are in the throes of preparation for next summers show. We would, however, appreciate a little assistance from another three or four members in this venture. The secretary will be glad to give details to anyone interested.

The New Classification List: The National Dahlia society are issuing a new classification list this month, which will include the completion of the colourisation programme which was commenced in 1957 by Mr. Gordon Medlen. We are obtaining these in bulk, possibly at a small reduction in price (standard price 2/—). Every member is urged to purchase one of these invaluable books, and if you are interested please give your name to the treasurer. On the same theme, you may be interested to know that the term “Giant flowered” is disappearing from the classification list as from this month. The giants were, as you will probably recall, any bloom that had a diameter of 10 inches or more. The new lists will have only one section for the “big boys” and that will be an all-embracing “Large” which will denote any bloom measuring 8” and over.

Schedule distribution for local shows: Many of you are no doubt in touch with, or are friends of, horticultural society show secretaries. It would be an advantage both to them and to our members if you passed on the information that a batch of schedules delivered to the secretary of the Midlands' Dahlia Society would gravitate into the right hands.

THE DAHLIA PRIZEWINNERS IN 1958

As a guide to the selection of your show plants for 1959, it is a distinct advantage to know those that the experts considered to be the best of 1958.

“MIDAHL”

(The Quarterly Bulletin of the Midland's Dahlia Society)

Issue No. 2, Vol. 1. April 1959

OPINION

“The Orphan Annie

Talking point in the dahlia world this last few months, has been the abolition of the former class for “Giants” both in the decorative and cactus sections, and incorporating them in an all-embracing group called “Large” and defined as any bloom that exceeds 8 inches in diameter. This has sparked off a host of mournful johnnies to protest at the crass stupidity of the National Dahlia Society in ever daring to do such a thing! This is a storm in a tea-cup. The previous large section (8 to 10 inches) was never patronised outside the National and a few exceptionally progressive societies, and therefore the situation needed putting to rights. Far from removing from the show tables such varieties as “Avalanche”, “Halifax” and “Kidd's Climax”, we feel that this new step, allied with the thoughtful wording of the new judges instructions in the 1959 Classified List of Varieties, will do much to encourage exhibitors to grow the 8 to 10 inchers.

The vanishing quadruped ... Every other dahlia scribe instructs the unprotesting grower to incorporate barrow load after barrow load of rotted stable manure in his plot to ensure that his efforts will be amply rewarded. This society wishes that some of these optimistic gentlemen would tell us where we can get it! Very soon there will only be one answer to the old chestnut “What do you put on your rhubarb?” ...it will be custard!

Mid-Week Madness ... The National Dahlia Society's Annual Show has been changed from the customary Friday

and Saturday in early September to a Tuesday and Wednesday (8th and 9th). This decision has aroused unfavourable comment amongst our members. A question was asked on your behalf at the A.G.M., and the reasons for the change are as follows: The competition of other shows at the week-end and the demand for judges necessitated a return to the mid-week show. Your executive feel that this is a bitter blow to "out of town" enthusiasts. The Saturday visit to the National, with its cheaper rail fare and no loss of time from work, now appears to be a thing of the past. A great pity.

SOCIETY NEWS FOR THE QUARTER

Things we have done...and are going to do.~

The First Annual Show. Owing to a change of date by the "Heart of England" Show, we have had to make alternative arrangements. Our show will still be held on the 29th of August, but will be at the Irwin Memorial Hall, Kenilworth Street, Leamington Spa. Schedules will be available this month, and will be distributed to members. Plan now your requirements, and ensure that this first effort is a resounding success. It has been whispered that many nationally famous names will be competing in the Open classes. Are you ready for them?

The Lecture Programme. We have almost completed our lecture programme for this season. Altogether we have given seven shows at points as far apart as Birmingham and Northampton. Everywhere we took the show we were met with kindness and sincere hospitality. If anyone didn't receive our thanks at the time, please accept it now. Next winter may seem a long way ahead, but already we are planning your dark evenings! More details later.

Visit to the Dahlia Nurseries of the Woolman Organisation.

On Sunday, the 12th April, we have organised a trip for members to the dahlia nurseries of Mr. John Woolman (a Vice-President of the Society).

Transport will run from the Leamington, Warwick and Kenilworth areas, and anyone wishing to go is asked to write to the secretary immediately. Cost will be for the coach only. We are indebted to Mr. Woolman for his kind invitation at what we know is a busy time of the year.

Representation on the National Dahlia Executive Committee.

One of the first expressed aims of this Society was to seek representation on the N.D.S. executive committee, in order that our members could have an outlet for their queries or grievances ... (always assuming that they are members of our parent body!). We are pleased to announce that this objective has been achieved. At the N.D.S. Annual General Meeting, your Secretary, Phil Damp, was elected and will remain in office for a period of three years.

The President's Illness. It is with sincere regret that we have to tell you that our President, the Reverend H. M. Holland, has been extremely ill, and is in fact, still under doctor's orders. On behalf of all members of the Society, we extend our sympathy to the Reverend and his family, hoping that he will soon make a return to good health.

Appointment of a Life Vice-President. At a recent meeting of your executive council, the Secretary of the American Dahlia Society, Mr. Edward B. Lloyd of New Jersey, was awarded a Life Vice-Presidency of the Society. This was in recognition of the great help we have received from the A.D.S. and from Edward in particular in the form of information and literature on the dahlia in the New World.

"ROUNDABOUT ...by Midlander

Being a digest of dahlia news that you may well have missed.

The Society has received many congratulations on its formation. Prominent amongst these have been messages of goodwill from Mr. Stuart Ogg (Chairman of the N.D.S. executive council), Mr. Joe Barwise, V.M.H., the talented head of Towneley Nurseries in Lancashire. An octogenarian (who still writes better than many a quarter his age), Joe has been introducing new varieties for over half a century. One of his latest 'Newby'. From Charles How, too, comes another welcome letter. Charles hailing from Wembley in London, is one of the country's leading experts on the dahlia, as well as being a journalist and lecturer. Perhaps some of you have read his articles in "Amateur Gardening" and "Chrysanthemum and Dahlia". Terry Lebar sends his good wishes. Terry, author and silver knight the dahlia fraternity, is one of, if not the, leading exhibitor in Britain. From America, Edward Lloyd, the secretary of the American Dahlia Society, sends his appreciation. We are indebted to Edward for literature and photographs bringing us up to date with the latest developments. We have received congratulations from places as far apart as Aberdeen, Manchester, Tewkesbury, Leeds, and Victoria (Australia). To all these good people and the many, many others who have written, we extend our sincere thanks. Maybe, as one correspondent wrote, they should start a dahlia society in the Kremlin, then we could all rest content!

In the national press recently, the secretary of the Bordesley Green Dahlia Society took us to task for stating that our first annual show will be the first ALL dahlia show in the Midlands. He states that they have had a purist show now for three seasons. Congratulations Bordesley Green, we had not heard of this.. and willingly accept second place. Maybe we can entice some of your members to compete at Leamington Spa on the 29th August!

“MID AHL”

(The Quarterly Bulletin of the Midlands Dahlia Society)

Issue No.3, Vol.1, July, 1959.
“AMAT VICTORIA CURAM”

“A matter of Standards.”

With the approach of the exhibiting season, no doubt we shall again be hearing the perennial arguments raised on the subject of judges and judging. It is true to say that no other aspect of dahlia growing arouses more controversy than the thorny problem of deciding which vase shall carry the coveted red card, There are, however, two sides to every story, and those amongst us whose favourite pastime at the shows is to prove that every judge is an unmitigated idiot, should perhaps put our own house in order first,

This is not to say that every judge is always right Far from it How easy it is to find fault with a judge’s decisions especially in favour of our own exhibit. No, the answer is a matter of standards, If, for example, you are knowledgeable and keen, it doesn’t follow that every judge at every show has the same grasp of the facts that you have. Allow for this, and if you enter a general show where the official has to deliberate at one table between beetroot qualities and between dahlias at the next then don’t be surprised if he thinks “Bonny Blue” is a pom. Under circumstances like this it is better if you offer serious advice to the secretary rather than erupt on the inequality of it all. If we are to spread the gospel to the societies who still do not consider it necessary to employ specialist judges, it must be done by kindness and persuasion not by vitriolic verbal thrashing of the hard worked officials in charge.

And continuing to put our own house in order, let us take steps this season to improve the standard of our own specialist shows.....away with the milk bottles and jam—jars, leave the tin jugs and Kilner jars at home. Show only the most perfect specimens that you have, and show them well. Tighten up on these things, present a bewildering galaxy of dahlia beauty at every possible occasion, and very soon the uninitiated show committees will realise that they have no course but to provide competence for competence.

We are most fortunate indeed in obtaining the services of probably the two most foremost dahlia judges in the country to-day, Mr. G. F. Drayson of Thickhurst Hill in Essex and Mr. J. Riding of Hockley in the same county are regarded throughout the country and even far beyond those shores as dahlia experts par excellence, George Drayson, often referred to as “Mr. Dahlia”, is an exhibitor, specialist grower, vice—chairman of the National Society, author in his own right and Editor of the N.D.S, “Year Book”, all for the love of our flower. His opinions of new varieties are read and respected in all the English speaking countries of the world, Modest and unassuming, George, although repeatedly asked, would not let his name be tagged to any new variety, but his many Dutch friends overcame this by naming the pink and white fimbriated medium cactus “Popular Guest” in honour of one of the many visits George has made to that country, John Riding, or Jack as his friends call him, has been connected with the dahlia all his life. His father was a specialist dahlia nurseryman, and in such environment it is easy to see why there isn’t much about the dahlia that Jack doesn’t know. Not always enjoying the best of health, he nevertheless renders sterling service on the National committee, and in recognition of these efforts which have stretched over almost fifty years, the N.D.S. this year have appointed Jack as a Gold Medallist, the highest honour they can award,

Phil Damp

SOCIETY NEWS FOR THE QUARTER

The First Annual Show.

By now all members will have received their copy of the show schedule. We hope that the 29 classes are to your liking, and in this direction the executive council welcome criticisms (slanderous or otherwise) for future

reference. Naturally in this the July issue of "Midahl", we must appeal to you to support the show. It is the sincere hope of your backroom boys that this appeal is superfluous and that you will all inundate the secretary with entries so much so that he will be unable to get his own blooms ready for the show For members who do not know Leamington Spas geography, the "Irwin Hall" in Kenilworth Street is the third turning on the right off Warwick Street heading south, If you do get lost, or are in need of transport from the railway station, you can contact the officials on Leamington 945 who will be only too willing to help.

Outing to the National Show, We are anticipating running a coach more if necessary to the National show on the first day, which is Tuesday the 8th September, Interested members are asked to contact the Secretary immediately to book seats, enclosing 15/- deposit per seat, Ladies are extended a warm welcome, so why not make a family day of it? You will have something to look for at the show, as the society will be entering for the first time the "Herbert Brown" challenge Cup class, which is virtually the affiliated societies championship. A goodly number of our members will also be making individual tilts at those various trophies.

Our American Friends, During the last few months, your executive have been in constant touch with our many friends in the New World. One of the outcomes of this is the exchange of awards between the American Dahlia Society and us, We have received from Ed. Lloyd some of the most attractive prize cards we have ever seen, and these will be offered in certain classes yet to be decided at our show. In reciprocal mood., we have had. two special plaques made, engraved with our good wishes, which will be offered for competition at the American Dahlia Society's annual show on September 22nd and 23rd, held in the Garden State Plaza, New Jersey. Incidentally, your secretary has had an article printed in quarterly bulletin of the A.D.S., in which he naturally gives the Midlands Dahlia Society full prominence. Part of the article dealt with the interchange of news and information between dahlia lovers here and in the States, and already we have had. requests from growers for British enthusiasts to write to them. Anyone interested in taking a pen pal should contact our secretary for addresses at once.

Slide shows for the winter, Standing on the threshold of yet another season, it may seem a little premature to be thinking of the long winter evenings ahead. However, it is never too early if arrangements are to be completed in good time to satisfy the requirements of all. We are hoping to have three sets available for showing, each one a little different from the other in various ways, If you require a "show team" to visit your society, or perhaps need only the use of the slides, please contact the secretary as soon as possible with three suggested dates. You are reminded that the use of one of the society's lecturers would naturally require the payment of the gentleman's expenses.

Dahlia literature from abroad, The society has acquired a fair number of interesting items of dahlia literature, Those are mainly bulletins and year books of different societies abroad, Any member wishing to borrow from the collection should send a stamped addressed envelope to the secretary, who will forward a copy on. Please do not keep your item for longer than a week.

Visit to the Bishop of Coventry, Several members of your executive council were invited to visit our Patron the Lord Bishop of Coventry during the early part of June. The party were conducted round the diocesan gardens by his Lordship, and before leaving presented a collection of dahlia plants on your behalf. These had been donated by council members. Our President, the Reverend H. Holland, should have accompanied. the party, but his illness, reported in the last issue of "Midahl", is still persisting, and this, unfortunately, prevented him leading the group.

ENROL A NEW MEMBER, AND BUILD UP YOUR NEXT YEAR' S STOCK

In order to build up membership of the society, we are offering one plant (to be delivered in May, 1960), for each new member that you enrol in the course of the next nine months. You may choose your variety from any of the blooms at our First Annual Show. Start now and who knows, by next March you will have built yourself a really fine collection.

"Roundabout" by Midlander.

With the 1959 shows just around the corner, the society officials are beginning to think seriously about the entry we are making in the "Herbert Brown" perpetual challenge cup at the National, The London societies have had this one cornered for a long time, and I know that the lads in our society who are responsible for this entry are going to

make it a real “scorcher”, Personal entries will take second place to our mutual effort, and with the amount of plants that are going in this season, we should be able to make a strong challenge, At the moment George Irvine, Phil Damp and Tom Terry will be travelling with the blooms I am sure we all wish them the best of fortune.

Those of you who went along with the outing to Messrs. Woolmans’ nurseries, will, I am sure, have thoroughly enjoyed yourselves. Every possible consideration was given to us by Mr. John and Fred Woolman, who conducted the party personally around the glasshouses. Possibly the most interesting feature was the dahlia house where blooms were being made ready for Chelsea, A magnificent sight. We were able to refresh ourselves at a handy tavern afterwards, where a dozen medium cactus were raffled off to be won by vice chairman, Gordon Steel, whose good fortune was greeted with a shattering chorus, reflecting in the main on the morals of the organizers./ It is pleasing to report that our membership has leapt up again this quarter. Amongst the newcomers we are pleased to mention Gerard Peters of Leicester, who has paid his subs three years in advance. Thank you, Gerard, and the society wishes you good fortune with some of your new seedlings, Vatican City, Fred Trotter and Golden Robber to mention just a few.

Still on the subject of membership, elsewhere in this issue you will read of the Council’s intention to award plants for the introduction of new members, Having been personally instrumental in the introduction of at least a couple of dozen in the last few months, I asked. if past records counted., The secretary gave me one of his scathing looks and said. “Starts from first of July, son,...Thanks Dad’. looks like I shall have to begin all over again.. ah well’,

Visiting some of our members’ gardens lately, I have been struck by the hospitality of the better halves of these busy gents. Always seems to be a cuppa ready and a winning smile. Seems we shall have to think up some award for these long suffering ladies ,...firs-to get a medal would be Mesdames Irvine, Terry, Brawn, Colston, Leedle, Damp, Steel and Jennings, Incidentally, the last named lady has denied that husband Fred intends to become a chef, The rumour arose, apparently, after a visit this gentleman paid. to our secretary Phil’s wife, so the story goes, was away on holiday, and the kindly Fred. cooked his supper!. The fact that he came away with a dozen of the new varieties had nothing to do with it at all’.

A final word on the “new look” our quarterly bulletin has taken on this time. The prints of “Belle of the Ball” and “Prestige” have been obtained. from “The Chrysanthemum and. Dahlia” through the good offices of Editor, Jim Wilson, Jim, who has recently returned from the Keukenhof in Holland, assures us that he will make every endeavour to be at the Irwin Hall on the 29th August to report the show for the “C and “D”. An excellent dahlia journal at any time, the October issue will be of great interest to Midlands exhibitors.

“MID AHL”

(The Quarterly Bulletin of the Midlands Dahlia Society)

Issue No. 4, Vol. 1 October, 1959

“Amat Victoria Curam”

“A Red Letter Day...”September 8th, 1959, dawned as bright and clear as had most dlays of this brilliant summer. In a London side street, two weary figures stirred inside a parked van. The moment for action had arrived. A month’s planning was about to be put to the practical test. A few yards away stood the Royal Horticultural Hall, soon to be the setting of the most impressive dahlia show in the world. Two pairs of tired eyes looked admiringly at the host of carefully packed blooms that filled the rest of the van’s interior, they had the ammunition to fulfil their purpose, they had the will to do it, but could they successfully pull it off?

It reads like fiction, doesn’t it? But to our Secretary, Philip Damp, and Treasurer, Tom Terry, later to be joined by Don Brawn from Northampton and Terry Dayman from Leicester, it was real enough. For the records, the rest is history, we know that at the first attempt the Midlands Dahlia Society became holders of the coveted “ Herbert Brown Trophy “, unofficially recognised as the national championship.

To all of us who viewed this from the sidelines, we can only say, “Congratulations, lads, well done “. Something attempted that became something achieved. A boost for the society that putus on the map and enabled all of us to

say proudly, “ Yes, the Midlands won the championship this year. I’m a member, why don’t you join?

In the opinion of the lads who carried out the coup, the most impressive single feature of victory was the sporting attitude of the London boys. Surrounding our representatives, they showered congratulations on them at the same time threatening what they would do in 1960 Let that be as it may, but in 1959 no one can take away the proud record that is ours, National Champions at the first attempt, the Midlands Dahlia Society!

By now you will all be thirsting for details of the society win in the ‘Herbert Brown Trophy’ at this year’s national show, The “HOB0” is a perpetual challenge cup that is annually awarded to a combined exhibit consisting of Three vases, large decorative, one bloom to each vase. three large cactus, all in one vase and five blooms each of any three of the following, staged five blooms to a vase: (a) medium decorative, (b) medium cactus, (c) small and/or miniature decorative, (d) small and/ or miniature cactus, (e) show and fancy and (f) small pompon. -

The society exhibit consisted of the following varieties: Large Decorative: Margaret Duross, Axford Triumph and Axford Gold (the latter at 12 inches).

Large Cactus: Arab Queen (three).

Medium Decorative: Coluna (five).

Medium Cactus:Golden Heart (five)

Small Cactus:Klankstad Kerkrad.e (five).

The colours were blended from the bronze large, through the yellow mediums and smalls to the brilliant red/gold of the of the medium cactus standing in the front of the six feet high completed exhibit. We had other vases as spares, and tried such as Brumas, Mrs. Heap, White Rays and even at one time Rhonda. The eventual choice was a joint decision between all of us with the added and valued experience of Fred Woolman and his attractive wife.

Second place was taken by the entry from Kingston, on Thames, whose exhibit was dominated by the new and sensational large decorative Donald Van Do Mark, a purple monster standing on 15 and one half inches!. Third place went to the Camberwell (London) society. The Worcester Park Horticultural society, persistent winners of this trophy over many past shows, had their exhibit next to ours, and although not in the first three, nevertheless had a magnificent collection topped by a vase of three Surprise (large cactus) which took the individual award as the most outstanding vase of cactus dahlias in the show.

All in all, a most encouraging first encounter and one that leaves a most satisfying feeling of goodwill met, all the way along the line from the lads who supplied the blooms, to the people who wished us well and the sporting opponents who seemed as pleased with our success as we were ourselves.

SOCIETY NEWS FOR THE QUARTER

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

The date of our first A.G.M. will be the 11th November, 1959, taking place in the lounge of the “Old Bowling Green Hotel”, at Warwick. Nominations for executive officers must be in the hands of the Secretary 14 days before the meeting. If any member wishes an item to be raised on November 11th, this must also be placed in the Secretary’s hands by 28th October

“MID AHL”

“... Encore with a vengeance . . .“
October 1960

The Quarterly Bulletin of the Midlands Dahlia Society Affiliated Champions of the National Dahlia Society, 1959, The Midlands Dahlia Society. Affiliated Champions of the National Dahlia Society 1960, gentlemen, we give you The Midlands Dahlia Society ... encore with a vengeance!!

Can we repeat the praises of our 1959 October Issue of this Bulletin? We can, and we do. Thank you M.D.S. team, thank you very much indeed for your repeat effort for 1960. The mounting membership of the second largest

dahlia society in the country echo the sentiments of your editorial staff in extending the Double handclasp of congratulations to you all.

The facts? Certainly. Team members as follows — On active duty, Phil Damp, John Castle, Don Brawn, Dennis Watson, Walter Jackson, Cyril Thompson, Terry Dayman, Arthur Booth, George Brookes; behind the scenes — Gordon Steel, George Leedle, Mr. & Mrs Ritchie, and Gerard Peters.

The blooms that did the trick for the second year in succession, came from the fertile soil of four counties, and blended combination of new and old varieties that comprised:

Surprise, Axford Triumph, Coluna, Klankstad Kerkrade and Flevoland. Whirled through the gathering dusk of the evening of 5th September, our night owls converged in five vehicles from Leamington. Birmingham, Leicester and Northampton, bringing the choicest blooms from the choicest gardens to do battle on your behalf.

Westminster New Hall resounded on the morning of September 6th to the sound of midland accents. Scenting the kill, "Garden News" representatives buttonholed our boys before the event for photographs and interviews. Their anticipation was well rewarded when the Thursday edition of that illustrious paper carried a banner headline — "Midland Invaders Second Great Win", and a complimentary "write-up" that made even our more voluble embers blush to their crown buds! "The Midlands boys" so wrote the Garden News, "are all live wires, they work as a team", and indeed they did! A team of live wires, handing out shocks 11 round!

Two in a row. Can we do it again in 1961? We shall be in here pitching, and on to a good hiding to a hat trick, this we must see!

“MID AHL”

October 1961

FIFTY-NINE, SIXTY AND SIXTY-ONE!!!

Do you remember these "Midahl" headlines?

October, 1959 "A Red Letter Day..."

October, 1960 "Encore with a Vengeance.."

These topped our OPINION page in the last two Autumn issues, and in October 1960 your editorial said "... *Two* in a row, can we do it again in 1961?

We shall be in there pitching, and on a good: hiding to a hat-trick, this we must see..."

CAN WE DO IT AGAIN?

We can, and we did.

The faltering amongst us had doubted our ability, to achieve a third successive win in the Affiliated Championship of the Dahlia world. Hesitant fingers had pointed at the gathering might of the southern societies, smarting under two defeats. Sidelong glances, full of apprehension were directed at the prancing enthusiasm of the East Anglians. The mailed glove of challenge had been flung, and the Midlands Dahlia Society swept it contemptuously away.

On the evening of September 4th, the whole star-studded might of our society leant its weight in a supreme effort. Nine vehicles, with enough blooms to fill a trade stand swept into Vincent Square. Blooms of quality, the cream of a score of midland gardens, blooms that were good enough to win a trophy and, **three medals for one single exhibit.**

'Victory was ours, and the top hat sits at a jaunty angle. We cannot be accused of possessing enlarged heads now! The hat is ours and it fits.

We respectfully salute the vanquished.

THE MIDLANDS DAHLIA SOCIETY: SHOW RESULTS 2008

Open Classes	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
THE MIDLANDS CHAMPIONSHIP FOR THE MAWBY TROPHY	Mrs. J. DAVIS	R. TURRELL	P. BATESON	D. REID
THE LADY GODIVA TROPHY	R. GUEST	R. TURRELL	n/a	
THE PHILLIP DAMP TROPHY	D. MOSLEY	D. REID	B. CASWELL	
THE LEICESTER CHALLENGE CUP	M. ROBERTS	D. REID	n/a	
THE IRISH CHALLENGE TROPHY	D. MOSLEY	B. CARTER	B. CASWELL	
THE CHRISTY BROOKES CHALLENGE CUP	B. CARTER	n/a	n/a	
THE GORDON STEEL TROPHY	B. CARTER	R. GUEST	R. VICKERS	
THE DENNIS WATSON CHALLENGE CUP	M. ROBERTS	R. GUEST	B. CARTER	
THE PAULINE EALES AWARD	F. B. TAYLOR	Mrs. J. DAVIS	B. CARTER	
THE STYVECHALE TROPHY	P. CLUBB	P. BATESON	N. GADSBY	
THE JOHN GRIFFITHS SENIOR CUP	M. ROBERTS	J. DIGWEED	B. CASWELL	
THE PAM PARSONS CHALLENGE CUP	Mrs. J. DAVIS	J. DIGWEED	F. B. TAYLOR	
THE FRIENDSHIP TROPHY	F. NEWBERY	B. CARTER	R. GUEST	
THE GEORGE IRVINE PERPETUAL CHALLENGE CUP	F. NEWBERY	R. L. JONES	n/a	
THE STELLA TROPHY	Mrs. J. DAVIS	M. J ROBERTS	F. B. TAYLOR	

Section B - Intermediate Classes	1st	2nd	3rd
THREE BLOOMS GIANT OR LARGE DAHLIAS ONE BLOOM PER VASE	F. BOLSOVER	n/a	n/a
TWO VASES MEDIUM DAHLIAS THREE BLOOMS IN EACH VASE	F. BOLSOVER	R.COTTRELL	n/a
TWO VASES SMALL BALL, SMALL CACTUS, SEMI CACTUS, OR SMALL DECORATIVE DAHLIAS, THREE BLOOMS PER VASE	F. BOLSOVER	G. ELLIOTT	R. COTTRELL
TWO VASES, THREE BLOOMS PER VASE, MINIATURE OR POM PON DAHLIAS	R. COTTRELL	M. J ROBERTS	G. ELLIOTT
TWO VASES, THREE BLOOMS PER VASE, ONE VASE MEDIUM, ONE VASE SMALL DAHLIAS	F. BOLSOVER	G. ELLIOTT	R. COTTRELL

Section C - Members Classes	1st	2nd	3rd
THREE BLOOMS GIANT DECORATIVE DAHLIAS	J. DAVIS	D. MOSLEY	D. REID
THREE BLOOMS GIANT CACTUS AND /OR SEMI- CACTUS DAHLIAS	n/a	n/a	n/a
THREE BLOOMS LARGE DECORATIVE DAHLIAS	n/a	n/a	n/a
THREE BLOOMS LARGE CACTUS AND/OR SEMI- CACTUS DAHLIAS	K. SMART	n/a	n/a
THREE BLOOMS MEDIUM DECORATIVE DAHLIAS	N. GADSBY	R. GUEST	K. SMART

THREE BLOOMS MEDIUM CACTUS AND/OR SEMI-CACTUS DAHLIAS	N. GADSBY	K. SMART	F. WILSON
FIVE BLOOMS SMALL DECORATIVE DAHLIAS	A. T. HAYES	F. WILSON	R. GUEST
FIVE BLOOMS SMALL CACTUS AND/OR SEMI CACTUS DAHLIAS	R. TURRELL	n/a	N. GADSBY
FIVE BLOOMS MINIATURE DECORATIVE DAHLIAS	M-J. ROBERTS	J. DIGWEED	J. DIGWEED
FIVE BLOOMS MINIATURE CACTUS AND/OR SEMI CACTUS DAHLIAS	M-J. ROBERTS	R. GUEST	F. NEWBERY
FIVE BLOOMS SMALL BALL DAHLIAS	B. CASWELL	B. CASWELL	G. ELLIOTT
FIVE BLOOMS MINIATURE BALL DAHLIAS	J. DIGWEED	R. VICKERS	B. CASWELL
SIX BLOOMS POM PON DAHLIAS	F. NEWBERY	R. TURRELL	R. COTTRELL
FIVE BLOOMS COLLERETTE DAHLIAS	K. SMART	n/a	B. MILWARD
FIVE BLOOMS WATERLILY DAHLIAS	R. COTTRELL	K. SMART	C. WRAGG
THREE BLOOMS FIMBRIATED DAHLIAS	n/a	n/a	B. MILWARD
THREE BLOOMS BI-COLOURED DAHLIAS	A. T. HAYES	M-J. ROBERTS	R. CHEETHAM

Section D - Novice Classes	1st	2nd	3rd
ONE GIANT OR LARGE DAHLIA	F. BOLSOVER	P. FULFORD	R. CHEETHAM
THREE MEDIUM DAHLIAS	F. BOLSOVER	P. FULFORD	n/a
THREE BLOOMS SMALL DAHLIAS	F. BOLSOVER	F. BOLSOVER	R. CHEETHAM
THREE BLOOMS MINIATURE DAHLIAS	F. BOLSOVER	F. BOLSOVER	R. CHEETHAM
THREE BLOOMS POM PON DAHLIAS	R. ELLIOTT	R. ENSTONE	B. MILWARD

Section E - Special Classes	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
BRUCE WATSON TROPHY TWENTY BLOOMS FROM TWENTY VARIETIES	F. B. TAYLOR	M-J ROBERTS	R. VICKERS	R. TURRELL
EILEEN FENTON TROPHY NINE BLOOMS THREE VARIETIES THREE BLOOMS OF EACH VARIETY	M-J ROBERTS	F. B. TAYLOR	M. ROBERTS	
THREE BLOOMS OF DAHLIAS ONE BLOOM PER VASE THREE DISTINCT CLASSIFICATIONS	D. MOSLEY	F. B. TAYLOR	A. T. HAYES	
TWO VASES, WATERLILY FIVE BLOOMS PER VASE	K. SMART	R. L. JONES	C. WRAGG	
TWO VASES, COLLERETTE FIVE BLOOMS PER VASE	K. SMART	R. L. JONES	B. MILWARD	
LILIAN HALL ROSE BOWL BASKET OF DAHLIAS	M-J ROBERTS	K. SMART	D. REID	

Midlands Dahlia Society Seedling Classes	1st
THRE BLOOMS SMALL OR MINIATURE DAHLIAS	B. DAVIES
THREE BLOOMS MEDIUM. LARGE OR GIANT DAHLIAS	R. TURRELL
THREE BLOOMS ANY OTHER VARIETY OF DAHLIAS	L. JACKSON

Additional Awards	
M.D.S. SILVER MEDAL	J. DAVIS
PREMIER AWARD	J. DIGWEED
N.D.S. BRONZE MEDAL	D. MOSLEY
N.D.S. BRONZE MEDAL	F. BOLSOVER
THE CACTUS CUP	N. GADSBY
EDWARD DURRANT MEMORIAL TROPHY	F. BOLSOVER
THE DECORATIVE CUP	F. B. TAYLOR
GEORGE WOODFIELD TROPHY	D. MOSLEY
LESLIE JONES TROPHY	L. JACKSON
S & E BRADDOCK TROPHY	J. DIGWEED
H. DUNKLEY TROPHY	F. NEWBERY
WILLIAM DAFFERN TROPHY	J. DIGWEED
THE EVENING TELEGRAPH CUP	J. DAVIS
DON BRAWN TROPHY	F. BOLSOVER
THE 72 TROPHY	F. BOLSOVER
THE BRUCE WATSON TROPHY	F. AYLOR
THE M. D. S. SEEDLING SHIELD	B. DAVIES
EILEEN FENTON TROPHY	M-J. ROBERTS
MOST POINTS MEMBERS	K. SMART
LILIAN HALL ROSE BOWL	M-J. ROBERTS
 THE WELSH DAHLIA SOCIETY SILVER MEDAL	J. DIGWEED
 THE WELSH DAHLIA SOCIETY BRONZE MEDAL	J. DIGWEED



Obituaries

Tom McLelland

Tom McLelland leaves behind him a great legacy, which dahlia growers and exhibitors will long enjoy for many years to come. His dedication to improve the popularity of the miniature cactus, semi cactus classifications by his raisings brought a whole new dimension to the show benches with their 'Weston' prefix.

Not only excellent exhibition varieties, but also included were many colourful bi-coloured ones in demand for garden decoration and cut flower.

It also brought their own nation championship at N.D.S. shows and they are now being included in many multi-vase exhibits. Tom began showing at his local Paisley, in Scotland, society shows and then progressed to the Scottish national ones. On moving down to the Derby area in the mid 1970's, as an engineer with the Rolls Royce company, he soon got involved with the local dahlia scene.

Then on retirement he moved to Bulkington in the Midlands area where he soon made his mark with the Midlands Dahlia Society and the Bedworth C & D Society managements.

It was at this time he began his programme of concentrating solely on miniature raisings.

Meanwhile, he was elected to the N.D.S. Executive Council, where he served the Finance and Show standing committees and also gave valuable service on the Leeds Exhibition Trials committee. For His excellent services he was made a Vice President and in 2008 was awarded the N.D.S. Silver Medal in recognition of his work in promoting the miniature cactus/miniature semi cactus classes.

He will be sadly missed by all his colleagues.

Our sympathy goes out to his wife, Mary and family at this sad time.

DAR.

Bill Chapman

The unexpected death of Bill came as shock news to his many friends and colleagues within the Dahlia fraternity and also within his local community of Kirkby Mallory, Leics.

A tireless worker for our society he served on the Executive Committee and gave valuable and dedicated service in assisting with activities. Ever willing to help in whatever was needed to be done without fuss or bother. A member who was the backbone any society committee. He was also Vice Chairman of the Leicestershire Dahlia Society where he gave an equal amount of support, and his presence will be sadly missed. A large attendance at his funeral service was an indication of the respect and esteem he enjoyed from all who knew him.

Our sympathy goes to Rose and her family at this grievous time and we wish them good fortune in the future.

DAR.

Len Moore

Len, who lived in Leamington Spa, served on the Midland Dahlia Society Executive Council some 15 years ago, when he suffered a severe stroke.

Through all those following years, he never lost interest in dahlias and still managed, with the help of his son to grow some miniature and small varieties.

Up until the last two years, Len attended the main show, being taken there in his wheelchair and enjoyed going around the show and meeting up with old friends. He read dahlia books and publications and kept up with all the new varieties.

Unfortunately after another stroke, Len was confined to his bed for the last 18 months.

Our thoughts are with his son Graham on his sad loss.

RLJ

Cla Bailey

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Cla Bailey, one of our long time members, who lived in Wiltshire for most of his life.

He was in the heat of competition when the Midlands Society was formed and exhibited throughout the range of classifications.

He had a particular rivalry with Eddie Durrant in the early days when they were competing with small cactus.

He and his family travelled all over the country to support the Swindon Robins speedway team, and would very often drop into midlands members on the way to watch a fixture.

He was Chairman of Trowbridge D S for many years. As a society they entered society classes and ran them at their own show and Cla was at the forefront.

Although he was a very competitive exhibitor, in later years he was known for his prowess at judging. He judged the giant decoratives for many years at the National Show and lately he was part of the team judging special prizes at the National, an honour indeed.

He was part of the judging team at the 50th show and my last meeting with him was at North Somerset where he judged with Cyril Watkins.

He had been in hospital for a minor operation, but seemed to be recovering when his heart finally gave out.

He will be greatly missed by his dahlia friends and his family.

Our thoughts are with his two daughters, Clare and Jill on their sad loss.

RWT

Dinner Dance

Our 50th Anniversary Dinner was held at Kenilworth Golf Club on 15th November. This year, him and myself were very honoured to be your guests.

I think everyone there would agree that the carvery meal was excellent.

Rob Cheetham was in charge of the audio and made very sure that everyone could hear the speeches clearly.

After this we had a delightful musical interlude, played for us by Frank Taylor, famous as Taylors Dahlias. He had actually fallen over and broken a finger and damaged others, but he didn't want to let us down and somehow managed to play with a splint and bandages. Somehow it sounded better than previous years, a small tip to you Frank!

Our Chairperson, Ronnie Guest and daughter Sarah then put on a slide show of the MDS through the 50 years, which held our interest both for old and new members.

As usual we had a wonderful raffle, all the prizes being donated by members and friends.

Finally we had the presentation of the trophies. I feel everyone had enjoyed their evening, as no one seemed to be in a hurry to go home.

Audrey Jones

Open Centre: Problems on Medium Decs 2006 — 08

Frank Newbery

I was alerted to a problem when several of my early flowers on such as ANDREA CLARK and TRENGROVE JUBILEE were coming out with weak centres. Later as MASCOT MAYA and ALFS MASCOT were blooming, from the early buds they were all open centred, the telephone was by now ringing with such as Jeff Gardener at Darlington reporting the same problem which appeared to be the case all over the country.

‘Was it the weather conditions?’ or **‘Was the stock of certain cultivars breaking down?’** were the critical questions being asked by everyone.

Having asked the opinion of many experienced growers I thought it may help to list the possible reasons for this problem and any ways it could be combated and do we have to destroy stock etc.

David Boyd, Newcastle, was of the opinion that technically the plants were under stress while buds were forming and this was the reason in most instances why the flower eventually was not fully formed so giving way to the open centre.

Peter Read (Mark Reads father) Weymouth, informed me that they normally flood the beds of CHARLIE TWO and WHITE CHARLIE TWO when they water, as this gives the blooms better development. They put their poor blooms this year down to not watering enough under the hot extreme weather conditions. Peter also made the point that the CHARLIE TWOs and other plants that have heavy foliage need more water than cultivars that have sparse foliage.

As I had been watering late in the evening, I had noticed in the morning that such plants as MASCOT MAYA were ringing wet so had assumed they were turgid and did not need to be watered again for several days, where as such as B.J.BEAUTY and AVOCA SALMON with sparse foliage did not show such rapid evaporation so retaining more moisture within the plant.

Ron Guest at Kenilworth confirmed that he had to rely on such as B.J.BEAUTY, AVOCA SALMON, TRENGROVE MILLENNIUM, to retain his National Championship as all his other varieties had weak or open centres.

Dave Spencer, Essex confirmed he had experienced centre problems but later in the season it had been less of a problem. It is difficult to sum up as there is no doubt other factors are involved from grower to grower, such as mulching, shading, covering etc would need to be considered in a more in-depth review. However most growers were of the opinion that stock breaking down was not the main problem, although some growers did express the opinion that they had changed stock of some varieties as they had suspected this may be the cause in past seasons.

Watering at critical times appears to be a **very important factor**, although anyone in a hose pipe ban area would be in for a difficult time if we continue to get hot and dry summers.

Selecting plants with sparse foliage would be another factor but would we want to lose many of our favorite medium decoratives because they had heavy foliage. Stripping the foliage would not appear to be a sensible option either on the basis of the plant then lacking the essential photo—synthesis requirement. We would like to hear from anyone who thinks they can add to the debate, as we may well have to consider more of such problems if Dahlia culture is to survive under Global Warming producing such hot and dry conditions in future years.

After the problems experienced in 2006 many of the growers contacted that had suffered under the hot weather of that season decided not to grow several of the cultivars that had open centres all through the season.

I decided that if I was to prove or disprove many of the reasons put forward for this problem, then I would have to grow all of the varieties again for at least a further season.

As the season progressed it proved to be the very opposite of the previous season, in that it was cloudy and wet for most of the summer months, so it was not possible to replicate the conditions of the previous season. As far as possible I kept all of my procedures the same as in the previous season, bench and rooting times,

Midahl 2009

planting out, ground preparation and stopping times. I was however prepared to make sure the plants were well watered at all times. Due to the dull weather the plants were several days late in flowering from previous years, but when they flowered there were no problems at all with the centres all through the season. Due to the wet weather it was not necessary to water very often and at times when I did it was not absolutely necessary but I was ensuring that the plants never lacked moisture all through the season.

We should never forget that although many of us think that we can treat all Dahlias similarly, they are never the less a very diverse family with so many variations which account for the effect that stress has on some cultivars, which are not apparent to other cultivars even within the same Dahlia group. Darwins theory is true of the Dahlia as in other species as the species are changing and evolving, that is why we constantly have new cultivars.

Growing in 08 season

A very similar season to 2007, so the end result was again a late season with no problems with malformation. My final conclusion of the observations made over the 3 years has been that **if the 2006 conditions return in 2009** we may well have to consider **shade covers, trickle irrigation** etc to combat such harsh conditions as I have observed such procedures in many overseas countries.

We may well find that some of our British cultivars will not survive such harsh conditions, as we have found many do not perform well overseas and visa versa with overseas cultivars not making it over here.

THE STATE OF THE ART

Well, in the last three years exhibitors have been put through the proverbial mill when it comes to the summer and autumn weather patterns, from very hot, very wet and this last year from a wet August and a soggy September. But despite all these traumas, exhibitors have shown a stoic resistance to everything that has crossed their paths twixt garden and show bench. Obviously the adverse conditions has seen a reduction in show entries, but the quality of exhibits has remained of high standard which reflects the resilience and dedication of growers to maintain the high quality seen up and down the country.

Classification or the non classification of certain varieties rankles with many exhibitors and anomalies are most evident in the Ball classes. In most of the small classes I have judged in recent years contain a large number of unclassified blooms that will easily go through the miniature ring. Now, if these unclassified blooms do not come up to the small size asked for in the schedule, shouldn't they be judged as N.A.S. as they do not conform to the schedule requirements? The wording in the Classified Directory, 'Qualifications for Exhibition in Competitive classes' states in para, three, 'An unclassified cultivar should conform with the formation and size relative to the class in which it is exhibited. But it then goes on to say it should not be disqualified. So we have a contradiction. The word **should**, ought never to be used when laying down rules, as it then becomes obligatory to comply with them. So it becomes farcical if the present policy of leaving established varieties as unclassified, there needs to be a more rigorous rules in their control on the showbench. I am still of the opinion that Kenora Valentine is a natural Large Decorative and I am sure the national shows analysis will bear this out. The Giant Decorative growers have plenty to choose from, so losing one to the Large Decoratives will still leave them plenty to choose from.

The one rule for the judging of exhibition blooms, that gives the most agro, is that **embryo buds are considered to be blooms**. Now, what is the true definition of a bud? If a presumed bud shows no colour how can you guarantee that it will produce a bloom. It could well be a small concentration of leaves. I challenge the best botanical and horticultural brains in the world to categorically state it will produce a bloom. Why do we persist with these silly rules? Or maybe you are a 'budding judge, (or are you a judge of buds?) who gets great satisfaction poking around the foliage to justify your masochistic tendencies to find cause to get an N.A.S. The N.D.S. are responsible for making their own rules for judging blooms and do not have to take a lead from other societies in doing so. So let us have some realistic rules. I am prepared to go some way with the rule if a bud shows its true colour, but small concentrations of growth is definitely beyond the pale. I thought it was only the E.C. that made silly rules.

Reduced Entry of Seedlings. The entries in numbers in the seedling classes at the national shows has been much reduced. Maybe it is the high standard at present that deters raisers from entering and many of the new releases have not been seen in these classes, or is it the cost and hassle of travelling long distances to the national shows?

The best ones seen include **Rossendale Lewis** from Don Kershaw which is a yellow miniature decorative which won its class at both national shows and was also included in the winning Terry Clarke staged by Ian Sutherland. It has Hillcrest Hannah in its parentage and has immaculate form with very good strong stems. It is available as tubers from the raiser and plants from Frank Taylor. He also has a good ball type, **Rossendale Rattle** a light bronze one which could be up to the small size and be a welcome addition to this poorly supported section for variety selection. **Hillcrest Candy**, an excellent pink addition to the M.S.C. section. It can be pushed to being a L.S.C. but I think that its natural place will be as a medium. Its parentage has Candy Keene to its benefit and for one thing, it will be a welcome colour change amongst the usual shades of yellow and white in the class. **Ruskin Harmony** made its debut and this yellow one has very good sharp petal form and will add to the good selection in the M.S.C varieties.

A couple of **new Giant Decoratives** were seen. **Rhanna Tammy** is from New Zealand and when seen in New Zealand it was over 5ft tall. Seen at Geerlings nursery in Holland it was around the 3' 6" to 4' height. The colour is a mixture of red and yellow which slightly detracts its appeal, but there is good basic form.

One for the **multi varieties classes** **Kernow Jazzy Bee** a bronze one made its début. Raised in Cornwall, it was seen at the national show in the A.T. Barnes class and is another very useful addition. It could do with a

few more petals to be really competitive in the single boom classes, but a useful addition to the multi variety classes. Should be available for release in 2010.

Quality Miniatures New miniature decoratives and ball types are in plentiful supply on release in 2009 so choose from John Digweed's red miniature decorative **Marston Suzanne**. This was in his national championship winning entry at Shepton Mallet. Then there is the dark red **Dikara Midnight** making its début in the catalogue of Frank Taylor. Along with the miniature balls; Les Stothard's cracking **Blyton Royal Velvet**, a red one and **Barbary Maverick** in deep purple.

In the **large semi cactus class** the Midlands D. S. members were impressed with the pink **Citizen** seen at Geerlings nursery when on their 50th anniversary tour of Holland. This Belgian raised one has good basic petal form and makes it an attractive addition to the class. **Susan Carey**, a yellow one from N. Ireland and this one might be a little short of petal count to compete with the best, but well worth a try.

Best Vase. The best vase seen around the shows was the pompon, **Gurtla Twilight** staged by Brian Warriner in his Terry Clark exhibit at the national show. It was awarded twenty seven points and picked up the Bristol trophy as the best vase of pompons in the show and then went to get the best vase in the whole show award. Whilst on the pompons it was a very close run thing in the national show championship when the winner, Alan Barlow of Cumbria, had an overall total of 269 points and last year's champion, David Williams of Ringwood had 268 points.

Small Decorative — New Colours. The three new decoratives that made their début on the show bench in 2008 were well received and successful. They were **Marion Storer** and the N. Ireland raised **Ruby** brought a welcome colour option to the class and were reputed to be able to stand up to the weather. **Rycroft Brenda T** was also seen, but this white one did show a marked variation in form from bloom to bloom. A new introduction for 2009 will be Phil Watson's **Leopold Chloe**, a pink one which has very well formed blooms of good depth to add to the improved colour selection. Phil is releasing this one by himself.

Changes to 'National' Schedule. There are several changes in the national show schedule in 2009 along with the doubling of the prize money.

Note: Hillcrest Candy is available as tubers from Les. Jackson Tel 01228 810290

Geerlings Dahlias, Kadijk 38, 2104AA Heemstede, Fax 0031235284075.

Dave Reid

VARIETY ANALYSIS FOR THE 50th ANNUAL SHOW

In the following Analysis only vases containing one variety were taken into consideration. Mary's Jomanda was far and away the most popular variety followed by Sir Alf Ramsey. There were 418 vases staged for judging which included 104 different varieties (excluding seedlings). Star dahlias were also exhibited for the first time, which attracted much interest by the general public. The seedling classes were well supported with no fewer than 56 vases exhibited.

Giant Decoratives	2009	2008
SIR ALF RAMSEY	17	12
HAMARI GOLD	9	3
ALVAS SUPREME	7	
BRYN TERFEL	4	
WANDAS CAPELLA	2	
CREAM ALVAS	1	
FAIRWAY SPUR	1	5
MABLE ANN	1	
KIDDS CLIMAX	1	
KENORA VALENTINE	1	1

Larg Decoratives	2009	2008
KENORA VALENTINE	8	
GRACE KENDAL	3	3
ELMA E	2	

Medium Decoratives	2009	2008
ALFS MASCOT	13	
TRENGROVE MILLENNIUM	12	3
BJ BEAUTY	2	2
BARLEY BLUSH	1	
MASCOT MAYO	1	

Small Decoratives	2009	2008
ROSSENDALE PEACH	7	
PRIMROSE DIANE	5	2
GATESHEAD FESTIVAL	3	
AMBER FESTIVAL	3	
WINHOLME DIANE	2	

Miniature Decoratives	2009	2008
LILAC MARSTON	4	3
LILIAN MARSTON	4	
SUE MARSTON	4	
BARBARY MAVERIC	2	
TOY BOY	2	
BLYTON VELVET	2	
RYECROFT JAN	2	5
LORETTA	2	2
BARBARRY PIP	1	
ROSSENDALE LEWIS	1	
DIKARD MIDNIGHT	1	

Giant Cactus & Semi Cactus	2009	2008
PINK JUPITOR	3	
DEBRA ANN CRAVEN	3	
HAPPY BOY	1	2

Large Cactus & Semi Cactus	2009	2008
KENORA CHALLENGER	6	3
NARROWS TRICIA	3	4

Medium Cactus & Semi Cactus	2009	2008
GRENDORE PASTELLE	8	4
STALEEN CONDESA	4	5
RUSKIN SUNSHINE	3	1
EASTWOOD MOONLIGHT	1	2
KATES PASTELLE	1	1
PRIMROSE PASTELLE	1	
WOOTTON IMPACT	1	

Small Cactus & Semi Cactus	2009	2008
TRELYNS KIWI	11	2
RUSKIN MYRA	6	3
OAKWOOD GOLDCREST	4	
KILMORIE	2	1
CHERWELL GOLDCREST	1	1
RUSKIN MYRA	1	
HALEY JANE	1	
RYCROFT ZOE	1	

Miniature Cactus & Semi cactus	2009	2008
WESTON PIRATE	3	4
WESTON SPANISH DANCER	2	3
WESTON MISS	1	3
WESTON TORERO	1	

Small Ball	2009	2008
BLYTON SOFTER GLEAM	9	4
JOMANDA	6	7
BARBARY PARASOL	2	
ELMDON SUPERB	1	1

Miniature Ball	2009	2008
MARYS JOMANDA	20	9
JOMANDA	9	4
LANCRESSE	3	1
OLD ONE	1	
PEACH CUPID	1	
POLVENTON VELVET	1	

Pom Pons	2009	2008
MOOR PLACE	7	
WILLOS VIOLET	7	1
NOREEN	2	2
RHONDA	2	2
MINLEY CAROL	2	
GILWOODS VIOLET	1	1
LISMORE PEGGY	1	

Waterlilly	2009	2008
PAM HOWDEN	5	4
FIGURINE	3	2
RED VELVET	3	
SHEPS MEMORY	3	
CAMEO	1	

Collerettes	2009	2008
DON HILL	5	
TEESBROOKE REDEYE	1	2
WOOTTON WINDMILL	1	2
FASHION MONGER	1	

The analysis was collated by **R. L. Jones.**

The Herbert Brown Trophy 2008

The Herbert Brown Committee met early in the season to decide which varieties to use as bankers. The very wet conditions soon put paid to all the good intentions. However we met up at Leek Wooton Barn to sort and pack blooms.

After loading the van, which was only three quarters full, Norman Johnson, Rob Cheetham and myself set off to Shepton. We were pleased to see that some blooms had already been left in the hall for us when we arrived. After unloading, Rob got his head down for some sleep, while Norm and I prepared vases and started sorting blooms. We were later joined by Les, Fred, Ken and Gabby at about 5am. We vased up several varieties but decided to stage 3 Sir Alf Ramsey, 3 Challenger, 5 Alfs Mascot, 5 Ruskin Sunshine, and 5 Marys Jomanda.

The exhibit looked quite good and was placed third.

The scoring was: Giants 19, Large 16, Med Cactus 16, Med Dec 20 Min Ball 19 **Total 90 points.**

Our congratulations go to the New Forest who won this year. Also many thanks to June Davis, Roger Turrell, Fred Wilson, Les Jones and others who supplied blooms.

Let us hope that 2009 will bring better weather and growing conditions, so that we can once again get to the top.

We decided that due to the really bad weather leading up to Harrogate and the fact that there were very few quality blooms available, that it was not worth hiring a van and travelling for an entry.

Tim Williams

SINGLE BLOOM SHOW

This was held at Kenilworth Sports and Social Club on Tuesday August 12th 2008.
Only first prizes were awarded.

Class	Winner		Class	Winner
Class 1	J Davis		Class 11	B Caswell
Class 2	B Caswell		Class12	R Cottrell
Class 3	N/a		Class 13	R Cottrell
Class 4	P Clubb		Class 14	K Smart
Class 5	R Guest		Class15	N/a
Class 6	M Roberts		Class16	R Guest
Class 7	A Hayes		Novices	
Class 8	R Guest		Class18	P Fulford
Class9	A Hayes		Class 19	R Cheetham
Class 10	R Guest		Class 20	P Fulford

Best Exhibit winning a bottle of Whisky.... **J Davis**

Runner up and a half bottle (sorry Gabby).....**A Hayes**

19 exhibitors turned up, very creditworthy considering the season. They staged 139 vases of one bloom per vase.

T Woodbridge judged, with M Woodfield.

MDS ONE DAY SHOW

This was held on Sunday 14 September at Kenilworth S&S Club

It was a members only show and 16 exhibitors turned up to stage 53 vases of dahlias.

Class 1	June Davis,		
Class 2	No entries		
Class 3	Les Jones		
Class 4	Peter Clubb,	Ken Smart	
Class 5	Peter Clubb,	Ken Smart,	Gabby Hayes
Class 6	Les Jones,	Ken Smart,	Rob Cheetham
Class 7	June Davis,	Les Jones,	Gabby Hayes
Class 8	June Davis,	Peter Clubb,	Gabby Hayes
Class 10	Gabby Hayes		
Class 11	Gabby Hayes		
Class 12	Gabby Hayes		
Class 13	Ken Smart,	Brian Millward,	Les Jones
Class 14	Ken Smart,	Brian Millward	
Class 15	Ken Smart		
Class 16	Les Jones,	Ken Smart	
Class 17	Rob Cheetham,		
Class 18	Rob Cheetham,	Brian Millward,	John Bradbury
Class 19	Rob Cheetham,	John Bradbury,	Brian Millward
Class 20	Rob Cheetham,	Brian Millward	

The **best exhibit** was Sir Alf Ramsey entered by **June Davis**. This won the silver medal.

Runner up and bronze medal also went to **June** for an exhibit of Trelyn Kiwi.

The **best novice exhibit** was Western Pirate shown by **Rob Cheetham**.

Dave Bates kindly judged, ably supported by steward Tim Williams.

Special class was won by my wife which I judged to be null and void. Mick Harris, Rob Hill and Pete Griffin were the prize winners.

Tim Williams

Midlands Dahlia Society A.G.M. Chairman's Report 20/02/08

Well it is finally here. We have been a Society for fifty years. Started by a group of men, in a pub in Warwick. It's hard to believe that fifty years have gone by since that memorable meeting. The notable names being Philip Damp, Gordon Steel and George Irvine.

Sadly these men are no longer with us, but they were soon joined by the men who we have here today, Les Jones, and Freddy Wilson, and others that should be mentioned who helped make this Society what it is today, are Denis Watson, George Leedle, and one who hoped he would see this day was Eddie Durrant. There are others who over the years have played their part, the likes of George and Bob Eales, Bert Rainbow and of course Violet Davies.

As a society we have always been lucky to have a strong back up team in our committees. I know that I could go on all night naming people who have served our society either as committee members or just friends of our great society, and I think that's where our strength lies in having such people willing to give their time and support to our society.

Once again I can report that our open winter programs were well attended, and that it was encouraging to see one or two new faces.

I will run through the last year's activities.

JANUARY. We started the year with our annual Tuber sale at Kenilworth Sports and Social Club. This is the first of our two fund raising events of the year. It was a well attended meeting and I asked those present to be as generous as possible with their bids, and you did not let me down. Once again we raised a record amount for tuber sales, as you can see in the accounts.

I thank all who supplied the tubers and more important those that purchased them.

I thank Fred & Edna Wilson for supplying the refreshments as they did at all of our open meetings.

FEBRUARY. We held the A.G.M at the Kenilworth Sports & Social Club and it was well supported by our members. I must thank our President for the way he conducted the meeting and Tim Williams our vice chairman who gave the report on the previous year's activities.

I must admit I was playing golf down in the West Country and it might please a lot of you to know I was getting wet. Our members voiced their opinions on wide number of subjects, but generally those present were happy with the way the society was being managed.

MARCH. We were given a talk by the Royal society for the protection of birds. I must say it was well received and indeed some of our members took the occasion to join.

It is amazing what a strong society they are with a strong lobbyist support.

I am pleased to report that a number of our members supported the National Dahlia Society A.G.M. held at The Hough End Centre in Manchester.

APRIL. We welcomed Mr Dave Reid who gave us a talk on Growing to Showing. As you would expect from Dave it was a detailed talk into all aspects of growing from planting out to actually putting your blooms on the show bench.

MAY. We held our annual plant sale on Sunday the 6th May, in the village hall at Wellesbourne. I think the date was perhaps not a good idea as it clashed with the Bank Holiday Week End and we were a little down on attendance, and this reflected on sale being down on the previous year.

I keep on saying this: 'the sale is only a success because of the generosity of every one who helps, either by bringing plants, and to you the members and friends for purchasing them'.

Thanks to Sue and John Digweed for organizing the bedding and pot plants, and once more we have to say thanks to the ladies of the society for the cakes and sandwiches, these ladies work solid for two hours preparing it all, and again after the break in collecting the cups and saucers and plates. We are very lucky to

have in our society ladies who are prepared to give up their Sunday afternoon, without whose help we could not run the event.

At this stage I normally thank Bruce Watson our treasurer, who organizes the room for us and also has the onerous task of collecting and counting the money. But this year Bruce was actually seriously ill in Warwick Hospital at the time, so our president Les Jones and Sarah deputized, and Les had the task of counting all those pennies.

I have to thank Patsy for making sure we had the keys to the room along with all her worries about Bruce. Also a thank you to Freddie Wilson, and his gang, who sort, and collate the plants, so the auction runs smoothly.

Also thanks to those of you who do the running about with the plants to the purchasers. I must stress that this task is very tiring and if any one could help for any of the afternoon it would be very much appreciated, also thanks to our friends, who are not members but turn up to help on the afternoon.

JUNE and JULY. We do not hold any open meetings. But our council members again gave up one of their Sunday mornings and made a range of new tiered staging for the show.

AUGUST. We held a one bloom show at the Kenilworth sports and social club on Tuesday the 14th. I am happy to report that despite the weather, it was again a success, so much so that I have to say we did not have enough vases to go round, and again it was a quick journey home to collect more. I hope we have now learnt to provide enough vases in the future; our new method of entry cards adopted last year was again a success.

Thanks to our judge Dave Bates for doing a grand job, although the lighting is not that good in the room. Congratulations to Brain Caswell who collected the Silver Award and to Marie-Jane Roberts for Winning the Bronze.

It was also pleasing to see new names amongst the Novices.

Due to The Town and Country Festival at Stoneleigh being discontinued, we had to find a new Venue for our main show which we held in the Kenilworth Lower School on Saturday 25th August. We were wondering how the setting up would go in a new venue on the Thursday evening, but I must say that it went very well thanks to all our friends and members who turned out in force to help.

When I arrived just gone five o'clock I was amazed to see staging already erected. I thought we would be there all night but thanks to those who arrived early and those who came later it was soon finished. I have to say, I think it was perhaps fortunate that we did not have to fill the Stareton Hall at Stoneleigh this year. Due to the weather, most show men were running late with the flowering season and the entries in most classes were down.

Frank Taylor won the silver Medal with Brian Caswell taking the Bronze. It was nice to see that the Major trophies were shared around with June Davis winning the Championship and Roger Turrell the Godiva. It was a good job Roger was over his ailments, and able supported by Terry Bratcher, arrived with their wares, other wise we would have been really depleted.

I have to say thank you to Audrey and Edna who led our team of ladies, who provided our judges and all our helpers and friends with lunches and the welcome cups of tea. I can say that this part of our hospitality is pleasantly appreciated by the travelling exhibitors.

Also thanks to Angela, and her friend Paula for the efficient way they produced the prize cards, and collated the prize monies.

Finally Thanks to all who helped break down the show after a tiring day, we could not do it without your help.

SEPTEMBER. Once again we made our annual trip to Shepton Mallet and The N.D. S. Show in our attempt to win the Herbert Brown Trophy for Society.

Fred Wilson led our team, along with Tim Williams, John Digweed, and Gabby Hayes. We staged quite a good exhibit and as you all know by now we did not finish in the prizes. I think it's only three or four times we have not finished in the first three since we started showing at the National. The Monklands Dahlia Society Once again took the major honours.

Credit must be given to these lads that travel from Scotland and stage their exhibits. Once again thanks to the people who supply the blooms and also those who travel on our behalf.

I must also say thanks to those who helped pack the van. It is pleasing to report that many of our members won with their own exhibits.

We also embarked on our trip to Harrogate and the Northern National.

I have to report that we finished third - I felt we deserved something better.

Midahl 2009

Congratulations to the Monklads who won again.

Thanks to Tim Williams, Freddy Wilson, Gabby Hayes, John Digweed and Roger Turrell who made the trip and to those who supplied the blooms and also those who packed them. One or two of our members also won tickets in their own names.

We again held our members show at the Kenilworth sports and social club in what is a friendly get together at the end of the season. I have to admit I did not attend this one, but was told that again it was well supported. It was good to see that the prizes were shared.

The recipient of the Silver Medal was Colin Somerfield with a vase of Oakwood Goldcrest, runner up in the bronze position was Derrick Cave with a vase of Grenador Pastelle. The Novice prizes were shared between Ray Cotterell, Paul Fulford, Rob Cheetham, and Wendy Nirongo. Dave Reid was our main judge with a little help from Gabby Hayes.

OCTOBER.

We were given a talk by Dave Mathewman on sweet peas. I am told it was a very interesting talk by a man who really knows his sweet peas. I am afraid again it clashed with my holidays.

NOVEMBER.

We held our Annual Dinner and Prize giving.

The Kenilworth Golf Club was chosen to be our host once again. The dinner committee also decided to continue with the carvery style meal. I know it does not please all our members, but it does keep the costs under control, and to be quite honest I think we get served as quick as we would with a silver service.

On a personal note I was proud to have as our guests of honour my two daughters Rachel and Sarah although I must add that it was not of my instigation.

They still had to do their duties as Raffle ticket sellers and again I thank them for doing this task and persuading all in attendance to part with their money. Also I must thank all who donated prizes, we seemed to have a prize for every one.

It was pleasing to see most of the Trophy winners in attendance.

This year we were treated to an organ recital by our good friend Frank Taylor. I thank Frank for sharing with us his musical talents.

Most of you will know by now that we have already booked the same venue for November this year to celebrate our Golden Jubilee Dinner.

I have stated in the past, the down side is that our members who travel from a distance, have commute to and fro from hotels in the town.

DECEMBER, David Reid's talk is now a permanent fixture, with his slides on the new varieties, photographed from his travels up and down the country, along with his trip to Holland. The ladies once again supplied us with the mince pies, to start the festive season, thanks to all those who provided them. I again thank Roger Turrell for another good MIDAHL. I think this year's issue was one of the best we have had for content. But remember that he needs articles about anything to do with our society or its members, so please if any one can come up with a story, send it to him.

Throughout the year members of the society have given talks to various clubs and societies on behalf of the M.D.S. and to those concerned I thank you.

I would like to thank all who gave raffle prizes for the talks through out the year, and also Freddy & Edna for providing the refreshments and To Mike Crump for the cakes and Maurice Woodfield for his Sausage rolls.

Looking forward in our Fiftieth year we have a varied program of talks, sales, and of course shows to enjoy. I know that we will have to work hard to fund it, as we have doubled the prize money on offer at the main show. We are looking for people to contribute by either sponsoring by giving a donation or by giving a prize such as cut glass or a bottle of spirits etc, we are also giving mementoes to celebrate the occasion to all who show and help.

Again this year it will be held on the Saturday and Sunday of the bank holiday weekend, at the Kenilworth School Layes Lane.

It will mean that we will require a lot of support on the Thursday evening prior, to erect the staging; if any one can help with this task can they please let us know.

Midahl 2009

Finally I must thank Rob Cheetham, he has designed our own internet web site, and brought our Society into the World of dahlia enthusiasts. For those of you that have not already been on our web page if you type in the words Dahlia-MDS on Google or www.Dahlia-mds.co.uk

It's well worth looking at. It has all news about what's going on in our society there for all to see along with photos of last years show as well.

I must thank all the officers and committee for all their help and support over the past year, in which I have been proud and privileged to have been your chairman.

Minutes of the 49th MIDLANDS DAHLIA SOCIETY AGM

held at KENILWORTH Sports and Social Club on 20TH February 2008.

PRESENT –THE PRESIDENT SUPPORTED BY MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE MDS

Opening the meeting the President asked all present to stand for a minutes silence to remember those members who had passed away during 2008

ITEM 1- the secretary read the notice convening the meeting

ITEM 2 – APOLOGIES - Mr T Bratcher ,Mr L Moore, Mr F Newberry, Mr R Reeder, Mr D Reid, Mr H Richards, Mr F Taylor, Mr R Turrell.

ITEM 3 - the minutes of the 48th AGM had already been circulated to members via publication in MIDAHL-the president asked if they could be taken as read- carried

*ITEM 4 - MATTERS ARISING –*none

*ITEM 5 - CHAIRMAN'S REPORT-*attached

Proposed by Mr K Smart and seconded by Mr M Woodfield that this report be adopted- carried.

*ITEM 6 - SECRETARY'S REPORT-*The programme of events in this our Jubilee year was printed in MIDAHL

Mr L Allen, Mr C Bailey, Mr J Batten, Mr E Collins ,Mr A Lawes, Mr R Pearce, Mr K Perrin, Mr J Wheatley have all accepted invitations to judge at our Annual show.

ITEM 7 -TREASURER'S REPORT- see attached balance sheet

He thanked Mr and Mrs R Guest for taking over the treasurers duties during his illness.

He was pleased to report that a profit of £426 had been made over the current year, he proposed that surplus sweaters should be sold at the plant sale or written off.

It was proposed by Mr W Chapman seconded by Mr J Digweed that this balance sheet be adopted- carried

ITEM 8 - MOTION TO RAISE MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION - it was proposed by Mr B Watson that due to the ever increasing cost of running the society the membership subscription should be increased to £5 this motion was seconded by Mr M Crump –carried and to commence in January 2009.

*ITEM 9 - ELECTION OF PATRON-*nominee Mr F Wilson

Proposed by Mr L Jones seconded Mr M Roberts

ITEM 10 - ELECTION OF PRESIDENT- nominee Mr L Jones

Proposed by Mr K Smart seconded by Mr N Johnson

ITEM 11 - ELECTION OF OFFICES

Chairman - Mr R Guest- proposed by Mr W Chapman seconded by Mr M Crump

Vice chairman - Mr T Williams-proposed by Mr A Hayes seconded by Mr F Wilson

GENERAL SECRETARY - Mr B Caswell-proposed by Mr T Williams seconded by Mr M Roberts

TREASURER - Mr B Watson- proposed by Mr R Guest seconded by Mr M Woodfield

SHOW SECRETARY - Mrs A Guest- proposed by Mr F Wilson seconded by Mr G Russell

MIDAHL EDITOR - Mr R Turrell proposed by Mr R Guest seconded by Mr D Davies

ASSISTANT SECRETARY / PUBLICITY OFFICER- Posts not filled

ITEM 12 - ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mrs A Jones ,Mr P Clubb, Mr W Chapman, Mr A Hayes, Mr N Johnson Mr D Reid, Mr K Smart, Mr R Reeder, Mr M Woodfield.

Proposed by Mr T Williams seconded by Mr R Guest.

NEW NOMINATIONS FOR COUNCIL- Mrs D Cheetham , Mr R Cheetham, Mr T Bratcher.

Proposed by Mr R Guest seconded by Mrs A Guest

All the above nominations were carried

ITEM 13 - AOB

Mr M Crump asked for information about the meeting to be held on 16th March2008. Mr R Guest said that this was not being organised by the MDS.

Midahl 2009

Mr R Guest informed the meeting that he had received a letter from Mr F Newberry to say that Alice was now much better after her recent fall- Mr F Wilson asked if flowers could be sent to her and Mr R Guest said that this had already been done

Mr R Guest said that he hoped that a special edition of Midahl would be published during 2008 to celebrate our Golden Jubilee Year

Mr R Guest then thanked the president for all his hard work and for being the main driving force in organising the events for our Jubilee Year.

Meeting closed at 21 05hrs.