



**Herbert Brown
winners 2010**



Midahl 2011

The Magazine of the Midlands Dahlia Society

**Arthur Luck
winners 2010**



Editor: Roger Turrell

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Look at the web site: <http://www.dahlia-mds.co.uk/>

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FROM THE EDITOR

Thanks go to all who have contributed to articles for this 2011 MIDAHL. What a great year for the Society it was. Apart from the two society class wins which you can read about within, the show was a great success and the two sales have raised a great deal of needed funds.

The web site is a credit to Rob Cheetham and is one of the best society sites in the UK, worth a look.

The Kenilworth School will also be the National AGM venue again and this is largely because so many Midlands members make a great contribution to it and in no small way Angie and the girls.

I hope you now have all of your frosted stock replaced, what a start to the winter, -16c. Let's hope for a good time propagating.

Roger Turrell

Presidents Report

Well another season passes us by, not one of the best as regards showing the dahlia.

Our main show, held at Kenilworth School, was dominated mainly by the Giant and Large Decoratives. As can be read in the show results, David Gillam once again had a field day winning a lot of trophies. It was refreshing to see a new exhibitor to the Midlands area – namely Ian Hill from Thirsk. I'm so glad his trip was worthwhile, since he won the Giant Dec and Large Dec championships. He also took away the George Woodfield cup having exhibited the best Giant Dec in show. It's always puzzling to me why the Giant Cactus are not as popular as the Giant Decs?

I would like once again to thank all our ladies – what a band of hard workers they are! Not only for the food they serve to all judges, stewards and exhibitors 'not forgetting the early morning bacon batches' but helping to erect and dismantle the staging at the end of the show.

Congratulations to the society on achieving the double, for the fourth time in our history, winning the Herbert Brown Cup at Shepton Mallet and the Arthur Luck at the Harrogate show. A big thanks once again to members for supplying blooms for both exhibits. A big thank you to Tim Williams, our vice chairman for staging the exhibits, and a big thank you to our driver Rob Cheetham for the careful delivery of the blooms. It is sad to say that, of late, the exhibitor numbers are dwindling in these inter society classes. Whether it's the cost involved, or the distances to the respective shows, or the exhibitors showing more in their own right, I'm not sure? Looking back to the 60's and 70's as many as 20 exhibits were on display, whereas now we have got as few as 2 to 5. Let's hope the number of entries take an upward trend in the future.

My congratulations to all the individual winners at our shows, I don't intend mentioning names! We could have won a few more but one of our members, 'not being a cricketer', had the misfortune to drop a tub with 7 cracking blooms of Elma E – was the air blue, or did he just so 'drat'?

A big thank you to Tom Bebbington, who has given a silver tray to our society for perpetual competition. Tom originally won this tray at the NDS Centenary show at Harrogate for the most meritorious exhibit, which he won with 12 Giant Decs. Thank you Tom, for your kind gesture.

In closing, I would like to thank all the executive council for the work and dedication given to the society over the last year, and look forward to a better growing season for all of us in 2011.

Les Jones.

CHAIRMANS BABBLE

Well it does not seem a year since I last put pen to paper to report on another twelve months that have come and gone. What a year it has been for the Society. We can hold our heads up high again after winning the National Societies Trophies at both the National shows held at Shepton Mallet and Harrogate. I know we had a little help from that young chap from Essex who we have adopted. Who can blame him for wanting to take a transfer from there? Everybody wants to be associated with a winning team.

Since we took him under our wing last year when we let him take all our trophies home he has gone from strength to strength winning all over the country. I said last year it was like being a bridesmaid coming second to him in most of the classes at our show, the same thing happened again this year but not only at our show, I decided to take a trip to the Welsh National and he had the audacity to turn up there and he then said you have some good poms "I will stage them for you" yes you've guessed he came first I came second!!!! Joking apart we are lucky to have a man of his calibre willing to travel and support our show. Yes thanks to David Gillam and all who donated their time and blooms to the Society this year.

What a show we had. Only days to go, I thought we should have to cancel, in this area we had 4 inches of solid rain along with the storm force winds that accompanied it.

Six entries in the Giant Decorative class. - it nearly took up one run of staging, what a sight it was. Ian Hill from Thirsk, a first time exhibitor at our show came out on top with his son Graham second and the giant decorative Champion from the Harrogate, Don Mosley third. They have to be congratulated on the quality of the blooms, any one could have won anywhere. David Gillam as I have already pointed out again came along and showed us what a good exhibitor he is, winning five championship classes along with five best vase awards. I am not going to say any more about him as it makes me feel depressed. I am sure all the show reports are covered some were else in Midahl.

Our president once again stood up to the plate finishing second in the Large Decoratives at Shepton Mallet, but going one better at Harrogate winning the six large decoratives for the second year running. I know he already has plans for 2011.

Marie –Jane Roberts showed us what talent she has by winning at both the National shows with her miniature cactus along with her excellent arrangements in the basket classes.

Many of our members collected winning cards at both shows. Congratulations to Mark Roberts for winning the Midland Seedling Shield with his new bronze miniature cactus, named Tom McLelland. I understand that it will be on release next year by Halls of Heddon.

John Digweed has his new Miniature seedling, also on release, the colour is the nearest you will get to a black dahlia.

While I have been writing this article we have had eight inches of snow on our back lawn along with temperatures of minus twelve, I have had reports all over from people that have lost their tubers.

Lets hope this coming year will be a good growing season for every one.

Can I remind you all that the National A.G.M. is going to be held again at Kenilworth School on Sunday 13th March along with a dinner on the Saturday 12th to be held at Kenilworth Golf Club. It's a good evening where you can enjoy a nice meal along with friends and talk dahlias all night.

If you are interested in the dinner could you please let me know.

Ron Guest

Midlands Dahlia Society, 52nd Annual Show

Midlands Society Chairman **Ron Guest** was a happy chap when this year's show started - with over 4 in rain in the previous week, he had been thinking that he would have to cancel the show! However 32 exhibitors took part, showing 340 entries, making for a very good show - the blooms were good and we also had a significant number of visitors to the show. About half the entrants were strong growers; however the prizes were awarded across many entrants- a good outcome. We were short of small cactus entries, so perhaps some of you can grow a few for next year! The show continues to grow and is still the premier dahlia show in the Midlands.

Dave Gillam provided an excellent championship entry which won him the **Mawby Trophy** and was **Midlands Champion** for the second year running. **Roger Turrell** was second and **Ron Guest** third. The winning entry used: Narrows Tricia, Winholme Diane, Dave's Choice and Oakwood Goldcrest. **Dave's** championship entry also won the **NDS Silver medal** for the best exhibit in show (Oakwood Goldcrest), the **Decorative Cup** for the best M/S/Min Dec in show (Winholme Diane)- the **S & E Braddock Perpetual Challenge Trophy** for the best vase of small / min Ball in show (Dave's Choice). Given all of these it is not surprising that **Dave** also won the **Evening Telegraph Cup** again for most points in the Trophy classes. **Dave** has cut back on the number of plants he grew this year – down to 500!

Roger Turrell beat last year's winner **Frank Bolsover** for the **Lady Godiva Trophy** showing a very good vase of Marion Storer, Grenidor Pastelle, Avoca Cheyenne and Kiwi Gloria. However **Frank** had a tremendously beautiful vase of Kiwi Gloria which won the **Edward Durrant Memorial Trophy** for best vase small cactus in show and the **Voilet Davies Premier Award** for the best vase in show.

Nice to see visitor **Ian Hill** from Thirsk being successful with his entry of 6 Giant Dec to win the **Philip Damp trophy**. His Jean Shaw

bloom won the **George Woodfield Trophy** for best Giant Dec in show. His other blooms were Sir Alf Ramsey, Alvas Supreme, Candlelight, Kenora Valentine and Walter Hardisty.

Ian beat his son, **Graham** into second place, with **Don Mosley**, the existing Giant Dec Champion, third. **Ian** grows 120 plants of giants under covers. He was very complimentary about the hospitality showed by the Midlands at the show. Another visitor to the show was **Tom Bebbington**, a previous giant national champion, who first^t won at the Midlands in 1973! He was very impressed with the quality of the 5 entries in this class. Tom also presented the MDS with a silver platter, as a new trophy for the society. **Ian** also won class 5 - the **Irish Challenge Trophy**.

The **Christy Brookes Challenge Cup** had 4 entries all showing Kenora Challenger. **Dave Gillam** won beating **Ron Guest** into second place with **Frank Bolsover** third. **Dave's** entry also won him the **Leslie Jones Perpetual Challenge Trophy** for best large semi cactus in show.

In just two entries of really nice small decs, **Dave Gillam** beat **Frank Taylor** for the **Pauline Eales Award** showing Winholme Diane.

Class 7 had 7 good entries for 6 medium decs – Alf's Mascot being the most popular choice. **Roger Turrell** won the **Gordon Steel Trophy** showing Avoca Cheyenne and Avoca Mary Crichton, which I understand he is releasing this year. He was also second with **June Davis** third. **Roger** also won the **Styvechale Trophy** for small cactus with Avoca Lu-Lu and Rycroft Crystal. Second was **Neil Gadsby** from Bulkington near Bedworth showing Ruskin Lisa.

The medium cactus class saw **Frank Bolsover** winning the **Dennis Watson Challenge Cup** with Grenidore Pastelle. **Roger Turrell** was second and **Ron Guest** third.

There were 4 nice entries in the small ball class. **Brian Caswell** won the **John Griffiths Senior Cup** with Blyton Softer Gleam and Jomanda. **A Lloyd** from Bedworth was second showing Carstone Valliant with **Brian Carter** third.

Frankie Taylor came into his own in a class of 8 entries of min decs to win the **Pam Parsons Challenge Cup** with Dikara Superb and Marston Lilac. **John Digweed** came second with his new Marston dahlia with **Frank Newberry** third.

There were 9 entries of Miniature ball dahlias in class 13 which resulted in **Dave Gillam** aptly winning the **Friendship Trophy** with Dave's Choice. **R Vickers** was second and **Brian Carter** third. Mary's Jomanda was the most popular bloom in this class. **Dave** was the winner in the Pom class as well. He won the **George Irvine Perpetual Challenge Cup** showing Ivor's Rhonda and Gurtta Twilight. **Dave** also won the **H Dunkley Trophy** for best vase of Poms in the show. **Les Jones** was second with Noreen and Moor Place. It was nice to have a visit to the show from George Irvine's wife **Dorothy** and her two sons **John** and **Nick**, one visiting over here from Canada.

The Stella Trophy attracted 6 entries this year. **Marie Jane Roberts** won with two nice vases – one a seedling, one of Weston Pirate. **Cliff Wragg** was second and **Frank Taylor** third.

In the Intermediate section local boy, **Paul Fulford**, won the best exhibit and the **72 Trophy** with Bryn Terfel. Class 19 was popular with 6 entries – A Lloyd came first, with **Ray Cottrell** second and **George Elliott** third. **Ray Cottrell** from Droitwich Spa, Worcestershire, won class 20, with **George Elliott** from Swaddlingcote, Derbyshire, second.

In the members' class **Ron Guest** won the giant decs with Sir Alf Ramsey, **Ian Hill** was second with Walter Hardisty, Fairway Spur and Jean Shaw, the latter being the best seedling in last year's Leeds trials. **Ian's** son **Graham** won class 23 - large decs with a 3 cracking vases of Kenora Wildfire. **Roger Turrell** beat **Fred Wilson** into second place in the large cactus class. In the medium decs, a class with 7 entries, **Roger** also won with Avoca Salmon. **Rob Cheetham** had best medium cactus with 3 nice blooms of Ruskin Sunshine. **Gabby Hayes** got his Toy Boys up to scratch to win the small dec class.

Frank Bolsover had some more Kiwi Gloria blooms and won the **William Daffern Trophy** for best exhibit in the members' classes in class 28. **Frankie Taylor** won the min dec with Dikara Superb. This class had 9 entries all with different varieties, Rycroft Jan for **Les Jones** in second and Karen Glen + Andrea Lawson for **R Vickers** in third. There was only a single entry in the min cactus class with **Marie Jane Roberts'** Weston Pirate. It seems like the Weston's did not like the heat in early summer. She also used Weston Stardust to win the bi-coloured class. **Marie** also won the min ball class – 9 entries most of which showed Jomanda. **Ian Hill** had some nice Water Lily dahlias – Kilburn Rose in class 35. There were only 9 entries in the novice classes. **Rob Cheetham** won the **Don Brawn Trophy** for the best exhibit – Ruskin Sunshine in the medium class. **Rob** also had best large cactus, whilst **Paul Fulford** won the small dahlia class.

The Bruce Watson Trophy – 20 blooms, 20 varieties, was won by **Gabby Hayes**, second was **Les Jones** and third **Tom Upton**. It was nice to see **Tom** especially as he has not showed at the Midlands for some time. There were 9 good entries for the **Elaine Felton Trophy** with a mix of small decs, min cactus and large semi cactus. It showed that blooms did not have to be big to win. **Frank Taylor** came out on top with Barberry Pip, George

Marston and a beautiful vase of Rycroft Jan which was well staged, well matched blooms with petals going right back to the stem. Second was **Frank Newberry** with **June Davis** third. Class 45 saw **Tim Williams** first showing Jomanda, Eastwood Moonlight and Hamari Gold. Second out of 6 was **R Vickers**.

In the basket class **Marie Jane Roberts** continued her run of success with baskets using Weston Sprite, W Miss, W Pirate and a seedling to fill her winning basket for the **Lilian Hall Rose Bowl**. She used Marston Lilac, Avon Snowflake and another seedling in another basket of different style and colour.

The seedlings class for newly bred dahlias saw local member **Mark Williams** win the **MDS Seedling Shield** with beautiful, perfect full cactus form, miniature orange cactus dahlia. **Mark** revealed that this will be named Tom McClelland - **Tom** created a whole range of miniature cactus dahlias under the Weston label. The new seedling was raised from Weston stock. **John Digweed** came second with his new George Marston. There were 9 new seedlings in this class, but **Mark's** stood out. **Graham Hill** won the other class with what was a 'chance seedling' – called Kilburn Fiesta. It has a bright new colour and was a very close 2nd to **Mark Roberts'** for the seedling shield. It got a bronze medal at Leeds trials 2009, and will be released by Hills. When asked why the name Kilburn Fiesta? – Kilburn is where he lives, however he does not drive a Fiesta!

Thanks again go to **Bruce Watson** and his catering team for the lunches and refreshments, many exhibitors and visitors said how hospitable the Midlands team were. We thank **Angela Guest** - not only for being an excellent show secretary, but also for putting on bacon butties early on Saturday morning - much appreciated by those staging vases.

Thanks also go to the judges who travelled from different parts of the UK and did an excellent job.

Final thanks go to the Midlands members who helped set up and clear down the show, without you we cannot hold the show.

Report by Rob Cheetham.

FOR THE NOVICE 2010

Each year the Novice grower excels in the Single Bloom Show, in 2009 it was Rob Cheetham who swept the board. This year there were 28 entries with Paul Fulford winning both the best in the Novice and best in the Show with a bloom of Mascot Maya. Mark Williams had excellent blooms of Janal Amy and along with Rob Cheetham made this a very competitive section.

At the Annual Show the Novice classes were dominated by Rob Cheetham and Paul Fulford and Rob winning the Don Brawn Trophy with a vase of 3 Ruskin Sunshine. In the Intermediate classes Ralf Elliot, Frank Bolsover, Tony Lloyd and Ray Cottrell were prize winners but Paul Fulford came out on top winning the "72" Trophy with 3 Bryn Terfel. In the Open Classes Tony Lloyd won the Two Vases of Collerettes using Don Hill. It was good to see that Ray Cottrell won the Collerette Class in the Members section also with 5 blooms of Don Hill, sadly Ray passed away a few weeks ago. In The Novice section of the Members Show Paul Stanoch won the best in the section with Mascot Maya.

I was driving up to Harrogate with our President Les Jones to exhibit at the Northern National (now held at the Great Yorkshire Showground) we were reminiscing about past journeys to Harrogate when I recalled my first visit to this show.

In the late 1960's early 1970's with the completion of the M1 motorway the show came within acceptable travelling distance. Individual members had explored the unknown and had come back with glowing reports of the show. In 1971 individual members had entered an exhibit in the "Arthur Luck" class on behalf of the Society unfortunately we were "NAS" due to oversize blooms the variety being "Evelyn Foster", following this disaster it was agreed at council that in 1972 we would exhibit as a group.

The 1972 showing season arrived and with the Society travelling to London and winning the "Herbert Brown" trophy (the best of 18 exhibits) there was far more emphasis on exhibiting at Harrogate. With the decision to exhibit came an added dilemma "how were we going to transport the blooms" not only the society's blooms but also those of individual members who were hoping to exhibit, someone had the crazy idea of hiring a cattle lorry which most of us thought was a joke.

The night before the show all blooms were taken to "The Wilderness", St Helen's Rd, Leamington Spa.(home of Dennis Watson who was the Society's President at the time). A lorry arrived from Oldham's Transport in Barford, the blooms were carefully loaded ready for their journey North.

It was decided that Philip Damp who was one of the 5 Founder members of our Society and at the time General Secretary of the NDS would travel with the lorry because he knew the way and with me in the middle as I was the Novice.

I remember that it was a lovely evening the journey itself being uneventful unlike some others I could mention.

We had an excellent driver who understood that we had a delicate cargo onboard. I was told we had to get to the Wetherby Whaler by 10 30pm or we would not get "fish and

chips”, its still there today not quite as good as it was (in my opinion) its more “up market” now. On arrival at the Valley Gardens we were all apprehensive as the rear door of the lorry was lowered and to our surprise there was very little damage to our precious blooms, They were unloaded, the lorry returned to Barford and we commenced staging. As we left the Valley Gardens to walk into Harrogate for breakfast it was generally accepted that we would be in the” shake up”

The Valley Gardens was a lovely location for a flower show with the gardens to look around as well as Harrogate itself while waiting for the show to open.

In 1972 it was soon known via the grapevine that the Midlands had won the “Arthur Luck trophy this was confirmed a short time later.

Varieties used:-

Giant decorative - LAVENGRO, PLAYBOY, HAMARI GIRL

Giant semi-cactus-RESPECTABLE

Medium semi-cactus –AMELISWEERD

Medium decorative-BRECKLAND JOY

Small cactus- WHITE KERKRADE

Second - Corby and District C. and Dahlia Society

Third – Eston Chrysanthemum and Dahlia Society.

Another first for the society the bloom of Hamari Girl won the new Harry Stredwick trophy for the best Giant or Large Decorative in the show(we have won this trophy on a number of occasions since).

To commemorate our achievements in 1972 an Intermediate class was introduced to our Annual show schedule and a trophy to be called the “72 Trophy”

Over the last 38 years the Midlands Dahlia Society has won the double(Herbert Brown and Arthur Luck Trophies) on 4 occasions including 2010.

Brian Caswell 2010

THE MIDLANDS DAHLIA SOCIETY SHOW RESULTS 2010

THE MIDLANDS CHAMPIONSHIP FOR THE MAWBY TROPHY

1st D. GILLAM 2nd R. TURRELL 3rd R. GUEST

THE LADY GODIVA TROPHY

1st R. TURRELL 2nd F. BOLSOVER 3rd

THE PHILLIP DAMP TROPHY

1st I. HILL 2nd G. HILL 3rd D. MOSLEY

THE LEICESTER CHALLENGE CUP

1st B. CASWELL

THE IRISH CHALLENGE TROPHY

1st I. HILL 2nd R. L. JONES 3rd T. WILLIAMS

THE CHRISTY BROOKES CHALLENGE CUP

1st D. GILLAM 2nd R. GUEST 3rd F. BOLSOVER

THE GORDON STEEL TROPHY

1st R. TURRELL 2nd R. TURRELL 3rd Mrs. J. DAVIS

THE DENNIS WATSON CHALLENGE CUP

1st F. BOLSOVER 2nd R. TURRELL 3rd R. GUEST

THE PAULINE EALES AWARD

1st D. GILLAM 2nd F. B. TAYLOR

THE STYVECHALE TROPHY

1st R. TURRELL 2nd N. GADSBY

THE JOHN GRIFFITHS SENIOR CUP

1st B. CASWELL 2nd A. LLOYD 3rd B. CARTER

THE PAM PARSONS CHALLENGE CUP

1st F. B. TAYLOR 2nd J. DIGWEED 3rd F. NEWBURY

THE FRIENDSHIP TROPHY

1st D. GILLAM 2nd R. VICKERS 3rd B. CARTER

THE GEORGE IRVINE PERPETUAL CHALLENGE CUP

1st D. GILLAM 2nd R. L. JONES

THE STELLA TROPHY

1st M-JANE ROBERTS 2nd C. WRAGG 3rd F. B. TAYLOR

Section B Intermediate Classes.

THREE BLOOMS GIANT OR LARGE DAHLIAS ONE BLOOM PER VASE

1st P. FULFORD

TWO VASES MEDIUM DAHLIAS THREE BLOOMS IN EACH VASE

1st 2nd n/a 3rd n/a

TWO VASES SMALL BALL, SMALL CACTUS, SEMI CACTUS, OR SMALL DECORATIVE DAHLIAS,
THREE BLOOMS PER VASE

1st R. COTTRELL

TWO VASES, THREE BLOOMS PER VASE, MINIATURE OR POM PON DAHLIAS.

1st A. LLOYD 2nd R. COTTRELL 3rd G. ELLIOTT

TWO VASES, THREE BLOOMS PER VASE, ONE VASE MEDIUM, ONE VASE SMALL DAHLIAS.

1st R. COTTRELL 2nd G. ELLIOTT

Section C Members classes

THREE BLOOMS GIANT DECORATIVE DAHLIAS.

1st R.A.GUEST 2nd I.HILL 3rd R.L.JONES

THREE BLOOMS GIANT CACTUS AND /OR SEMI-CACTUS DAHLIAS.

1st B.CASWELL 2nd n/a 3rd n/a.

THREE BLOOMS LARGE DECORATIVE DAHLIAS.

1st G.HILL 2nd F.WILSON 3rd P.FULFORD

THREE BLOOMS LARGE CACTUS AND/OR SEMI-CACTUS DAHLIAS.

1st R.TURRELL 2nd F.WILSON 3rd F.BOLSOVER

THREE BLOOMS MEDIUM DECORATIVE DAHLIAS.

1st R.TURRELL 2nd R.VICKERS 3rd F.BOLSOVER

THREE BLOOMS MEDIUM CACTUS AND/OR SEMI-CACTUS DAHLIAS.

1st R.CHEETHAM 2nd N.GADSBY 3rd A.LLOYD

FIVE BLOOMS SMALL DECORATIVE DAHLIAS.

1st A.T.HAYES 2nd R.GUEST

FIVE BLOOMS SMALL CACTUS AND/OR SEMI CACTUS DAHLIAS.

1st F.BOLSOVER 2nd R.TURRELL 3rd F.B.TAYLOR

FIVE BLOOMS MINIATURE DECORATIVE DAHLIAS.

1st F.B.TAYLOR 2nd R.L.JONES 3rd R.VICKERS

FIVE BLOOMS MINIATURE CACTUS AND/OR SEMI CACTUS DAHLIAS.

1st M-J.ROBERTS

FIVE BLOOMS SMALL BALL DAHLIAS.

1st R.TURRELL 2nd B.CASWELL 3rd P.FULFORD

FIVE BLOOMS MINIATURE BALL DAHLIAS.

1st M.J.ROBERTS 2nd J.DIGWEED 3rd P.CLUBB

SIX BLOOMS POM PON DAHLIAS.

1st R.L.JONES 2nd n/a 3rd R.L.JONES

FIVE BLOOMS COLLERETTE DAHLIAS.

1st R.COTTRELL 2nd n/a 3rd n/a

FIVE BLOOMS WATERLILY DAHLIAS.

1st I.HILL 2nd R.L.JONES 3rd R.COTTRELL

THREE BLOOMS FIMBRIATED DAHLIAS.

1st n/a 2nd n/a 3rd n/a

THREE BLOOMS BI-COLOURED DAHLIAS

1st M.J. ROBERTS 2nd T.WILLIAMS 3rd A.T.HAYES

Section D Novice Classes

ONE GIANT OR LARGE DAHLIA.

1st R.CHEETHAM 2nd P.FULFORD 3rd P.FULFORD

THREE MEDIUM DAHLIAS.

1st R.CHEETHAM 2nd P.FULFORD 3rd

THREE BLOOMS SMALL DAHLIAS.

1st P.FULFORD 2nd 3rd

THREE BLOOMS MINIATURE DAHLIAS.

1st P.FULFORD 2nd. P.FULFORD 3rd. R.CHEETHAM

THREE BLOOMS POM PON DAHLIAS.

1st. n/a

Section E Special Classes.

BRUCE WATSON TROPHY

TWENTY BLOOMS FROM TWENTY VARIETIES

1st A.T.HAYES 2nd R.L.JONES 3rd. T.UPTON 4th

EILEEN FENTON TROPHY

NINE BLOOMS THREE VARIETIES THREE BLOOMS OF EACH VARIETY

1st. F.TAYLOR 2nd. .F. NEWBERY 3rd Mrs.J.DAVIS

THREE BLOOMS OF DAHLIAS ONE BLOOM PER VASE THREE DISTINCT CLASSIFICATIONS.

1st. T.WILLIAMS 2nd R.VICKERS 3rd. R.L.JONES

TWO VASES, WATERLILY FIVE BLOOMS PER VASE

1st . R.L.JONES 2nd I.HILL 3rd n/a

TWO VASES, COLLERETTE FIVE BLOOMS PER VASE

1st. A.LLOYD 2nd 3rd. n/a

TWO VASES, MINIATURE CACTUS/ SEMI CACTUS FIVE BLOOMS PER VASE

1st M.J.ROBERTS 2nd 3rd.

LILIAN HALL ROSE BOWL

BASKET OF DAHLIAS.

1st. M-J ROBERTS 2nd M-J.ROBERTS 3rd.

Midlands Dahlia Society Seedling Classes

THRE BLOOMS SMALL OR MINIATURE DAHLIAS

1st. M..ROBERTS 2nd J.DIGWEED 3rd. R.TURRELL

THREE BLOOMS MEDIUM. LARGE OR GIANT DAHLIAS

1st G.HILL 2nd. M.ROBERTS 3rd G.C. ARMSTRONG

THREE BLOOMS ANY OTHER VARIETY OF DAHLIAS.

1st n/a 2nd n/a 3rd.

ADDITIONAL AWARDS

M.D.S. SILVER MEDAL

D.GILLAM

PREMIER AWARD

F.BOLSOVERS

N.D.S. BRONZE MEDAL

I.HILL

N.D.S. BRONZE MEDAL

R.CHEETHAM

THE CACTUS CUP

F.BOLSOVER

EDWARD DURRANT
MEMORIAL TROPHY

F.BOLSOVER

THE DECORATIVE CUP

D.GILLAM

GEORGE WOODFIELD TROPHY

I.HILL

LESLIE JONES TROPHY

D.GILLAM

S & E BRADDOCK TROPHY	D.GILLAM
H..DUNKLEY TROPHY	D.GILLAM
WILLIAM DAFFERN TROPHY	F.BOLSOVER
THE EVENING TELEGRAPH CUP	D.GILLAM
DON BRAWN TROPHY	R.CHEETHAM
THE 72 TROPHY.	P.FULFORD
THE BRUCE WATSON TROPHY	A.T.HAYES
THE M.D.S. SEEDLING SHIELD	M.ROBERTS
EILEEN FENTON TROPHY	F.B.TAYLOR
MOST POINTS MEMBERS	
LIAN HALL ROSE BOWL	M-J ROBERTS

VARIETY ANALYSIS FOR THE 52nd ANNUAL SHOW

In the following Analysis only vases containing one variety were taken into consideration. The most popular variety was **Sir Alf Ramsey** with 23, followed by **Mary's Jomanda**: 17, the third variety was **Kenora Wildfire**: 15.. I'm afraid that time and tiredness didn't allow us to count the number of vases staged and how many different varieties were on display, although there were 340 entries.

Giant Decoratives	2010	2009
SIR ALF RAMSEY	23	17
BRYN TERFEL	10	4
HAMARI GOLD	4	9
ALVAS SUPREME	3	7
MABLE ANN	3	1
FAIRWAY SPUR	2	1
WALTER HARDESTY	2	
JEAN SHAW	2	
MARK HARDWICK	1	
BON ADVENTURE	1	
CANDLE LIGHT	1	

Giant Cactus	2010	2009
JANAL AMY	6	

Large Decoratives	2010	2009
KENORA WILDFIRE	15	8
GRACE KENDAL	7	3
ELMA E	6	2
HILLCREST EMBERS	2	
RYCROFT REBECCA	1	
RYCROFT ICE	1	
SILVER CITY	1	

Large Cactus & Semi Cactus	2010	2009
KENORA CHALLENGER	13	6
NARROWS TRICIA	4	3
CITIZEN	1	

Medium Decoratives	2010	2009
ALFS MASCOT	9	13
MASCOT MAYO	4	1
TRENGROVE MILLENNIUM	3	12
AVOCO CHEYENNE	2	
LOTTIE	2	
MARY CRICHTON	2	
BJ BEAUTY	1	2
AVOCA SALMON	1	
SUNSHINE PAUL	1	
DIKARA MOON	1	
ANDREA CLARK	1	

Medium Cactus & Semi Cactus	2010	2009
GRENIDORE PASTELLE	12	8
RUSKIN SUNSHINE	6	3
EASTWOOD MOONLIGHT	2	1
HILLCREST CANDY	2	
SUSAN GILLIOT	2	
CREAM MOONLIGHT	1	
RUSKIN SENSATION	1	

Small Decoratives	2010	2009
PRIMROSE DIANE	5	5
WINHOLME DIANE	2	2
GATESHEAD FESTIVAL	2	3
MARION STORER	2	
CRYFIELD ASHER	1	
TOY BOY	1	

Small Cactus & Semi Cactus	2010	2009
TRELYN KIWI	3	11
KIWI GLORIA	3	
ORITA BLISS	1	
RUSKIN LISA	1	1
OAKWOOD GOLDCREST	1	4
RUSKIN MYRA	1	7
RYCROFT CRYSTAL	1	
RUSKIN RESPECTABLE	1	
GILWOOD TERRY G	1	
AVOCO LU-LU	1	

Small Ball	2010	2009
BLYTON SOFTER GLEAM	7	9
JOMANDA	11	6
CARSTONE VALIANT	2	
SCAR TANGO	1	

Miniature Decoratives	2010	2009
RYCROFT JAN	10	2
SUSANNE MARSTON	4	4
BARBARY PIP	4	1
MARSTON LILAC	3	4
GEORGE MARSTON	3	
BARBARY MAVERIC	3	2
DIKARA KEHT	2	
BLYTON HRIKA	1	
LILIAN MARSTON	1	4
KAREN GLEN	1	
AVOCA JUDITH HOUSE	1	
ROSSENDALE LEWIS	1	1
DIKARA SUPERB	1	

Miniature Cactus & Semi Cactus	2010	2009
WESTON SPANISH DANCER	3	2
WESTON MISS	2	1
WESTON PIRATE	1	3
AVON SNOWFLAKE	1	
WESTON STARDUST	1	

Miniature Ball	2010	2009
MARYS JOMANDA	17	20
DAVE'S CHOICE	3	
LANCRESSE	1	3
RYCROFT LAURA	1	

Waterlilly	2010	2009
KILBURN ROSE	3	
BRACKEN BALLERINA	2	
GWYNETH	1	

Pom Pons	2010	2009
NOREEN	3	2
MOOR PLACE	2	7
GURTA TWILIGHT	2	
WILLOW'S VIOLET	1	
IVORI CHOCE	1	
WILLOS VIOLET	1	7

Collerettes	2010	2009
DON HILL	2	5
MARY EVENTIDE	1	

This report does not take into account seedlings.

Looking back to the previous year, there was a sharp decline in Small Decs and Small Cactus: 27 / 28 & 12 / 14 respectively. Perhaps it was just the season?

The analysis was collated by [R. L. Jones and Brian Caswell](#).

A very successful show was held at Kenilworth to mark the beginning of the show season. The grand total of 147 vases were staged with some extremely good quality exhibited blooms. It was a very pleasant social evening as well with plenty of good natured banter going on.

RESULTS

Class1 Giant Decorative	1 st R Guest	2 nd P Fulford	3 rd R Guest
Class2 Giant Cactus	1 st M Cross		
Class 3 Large Decorative	1 st P Fulford	2 nd L Jones	3 rd B Watson
Class 4 Large Cactus	1st B.Watson	2nd P.Fulford	3rd R.Guest
Class 5 Med Decorative	1st B.Watson	2nd L.Jones	3rd R.Guest
Class 6 Medium Cactus	1st P.Fulford	2nd N.Gadsby	3rd L.Jones
Class 7 Small Decorative	1st R.Guest	2nd P.Fulford	3rd R.Guest
Class 8 Small Cactus	1st M.Cross	2nd R.Cheetham	3rd A.Hayes
Class 9 Min. Decs	1st J.Digweed	2nd J.Digweed	3rd .Cheetham
Class 10 Min. Cactus	1st MJ Roberts	2nd MJ Roberts	3rd F.Wilson
Class 11 Small Ball	1 st B.Caswell	2nd B.Caswell	3rd N.Gadsby
Class 12 Min.Ball	1st N.Gadsby	2nd P.Fulford	3rd J.Digweed
Class 13 Waterlily	1st P.Fulford	2nd P.Fulford	3rd L.Jones
Class 14 Collerette	1st M.Cross	2nd M.Cross	
Class 15 Fimbriated	1st B.Watson	2nd B.Watson	
Class 16 Pom Pom	1st R.Guest	2nd A.Jones	3rd B.Watson

NOVICE SECTION

Class 17 Giant or Large	1st M.Williams	2nd P.Fulford	3rd M.Williams
Class 18 Medium	1st P.Fulford	2nd R.Cheetham	3rd W.Hodkinson
Class 19 Small	1st P.Fulford	2nd M.Williams	3rd R.Cheetham
Class 20 Min. or Pom	1st M.Williams	2nd P.Fulford	3rd P.Fulford

Paul Fulford had a very successful show with 5 firsts, 7 seconds and 1 third prize. He also won Best Exhibit with Andrea Clarke in Class 18.

Runner up was Ron Guest with Sir Alf Ramsey in Class 1.

Bruce Watson

MEMBERS SUNDAY SHOW

In all there were 14 exhibitors who staged 45 vases for this end of season show. The results were:

1 Giant Dec	1 st J Davis	2 nd T Williams	3 rd B Caswell
2 Giant Cactus	1 st B Caswell		
3 Large Dec	1 st T Williams	2 nd A Jones	3 rd B Caswell
4 Large Cactus	1 st P Clubb	2 nd J Davis	3 rd D Davis
5 Med Dec	1 st P Clubb	2 nd R guest	
6 Med Cactus	1 st R Cheetham	2 nd P Clubb	
7 Small Dec	1 st L Jones	2 nd R Guest	3 rd P Clubb
8 Small Cactus	1 st R Guest		
9 Min Dec	1 st R Cheetham	2 nd T Williams	3 rd A Hayes
10 Min Cactus	1 st R Guest	2 nd A Guest	3 rd L Jones
11 Small Ball	1 st B Caswell	2 nd A Hayes	
12 Min Ball	1 st A Hayes	2 nd B Caswell	3 rd T Williams
13 Waterlily	No Entries (Why!!!)		
14 Collerettes	1 st H Richards		
15 Fimbriated	No entries (Come on you lot!!)		
16 Pom	1 st L Jones	2 nd A Guest	3 rd R Guest.

The Silver went to Gabby Hayes in Class 12 and the Bronze to Brian Caswell in Class2.

NOVICE

17 Giant/Large	1 st P Stanoch	2 nd P Fulford	
18 Medium	1 st P Stanoch	2 nd P Fulford	
19 Small	1 st P Stanoch	2 nd R Cheetham	3 rd P Fulford
20 Min	1 st P Stanoch	2 nd P Fulford	

The Best novice was **P Stanoch**, obviously as he won every class, well done, for the exhibit in Class18.

A Very good way to end the season and also to hold an inquest into the whole Dahlia year.

Tim Williams

THE SOCIETY CLASSES AT THE TWO NATIONAL SHOWS

Well we in the Midlands have something to shout about, **WE WON BOTH TROPHIES**, at Shepton and at Harrogate.

We were perhaps a trifle lucky but we have had the luck the other way before so we will gratefully accept it this year.

Tim collected blooms for the National Show from June and Don Davis at lunchtime on the Thursday and after cutting his own, went to the barn where the Van was to be packed, thanks to Mr and Mrs Edgar, at Leek Wootton.

There were a fair quantity of blooms but we seemed to be lacking in quality with the small decs and cactus. Rob Cheetham was our driver this year with Tim and Paul Fulford on the dreary night duty. It was a difficult night as it was hard to match the small blooms. Thankfully a member came along with a vase of quality Primrose Diane and a vase of Oakwood Goldcrest.

Sadly there were only two societies entered and we were lucky to win it over the Vagabonds.

Varieties used were;

Challenger	15
Primrose Diane	23
Oakwood Goldcrest	21
Alfs Mascot	16
2 Alf Ramsey & 1 Bryn Terfel	15
Total	90

A couple of weeks later it was off to Harrogate.

Rob did the driving again, but Paul was on holiday so Tim had the nightshift on his own working solo. A cold hard night.

Varieties used were;

Narrows Tricia	17
2 Bryn Terfel & 1 Alf Ramsey	21
Jomanda	16
Ryecroft Jan	17
Gurtla Twilight	23
Total	96

This gave us victory over the Vagabonds again with Northampton third. My thanks to everyone who helped and supplied blooms but I could do with some more help please on the night.

Tim Williams

Obituaries

Harry Banner

Harry was born in a small cottage in the village of Leigh near Worcester, where he lived for all his 90 years. He started growing dahlias in the late 1950's and became a Life Member of the Worcester C. D. Society, of which he became patron.

He was presented with the NDS Affiliated Society Silver medal for services to the Worcester Society, at the time being the treasurer.

A well known exhibitor in the Midlands area, Harry passed the NDS judging exam in the 1970's. He was a well respected judge of the dahlia. He had been a member of our society for a long time. Our thoughts go to his loving and caring wife Dorothy at her sad loss.

John Brooks.

Frank Sutton

It is with regret I have to report the death of Frankie Sutton, aged 93. Frank lived most of his life in the Leamington area, and all his married life in Old Milverton.

He was a keen dahlia grower, but I think it would be fair to say that his first love would have been the chrysanthemum. In early years he showed in the novice classes of the MDS shows, where he liked meeting other exhibitors and sharing their views. He was a life member of our society.

In his youth he was a featherweight amateur boxer. Frank lost his wife many years ago and had lived on his own for a long time, but spent the last few months in a home in Coventry. He was always cheerful when visited.

Our thoughts and condolences go to his only daughter and her family at their sad loss.

Les Jones.

Ray Cottrell

Born 22May 1940 – 30th October 2010.

Ray was a regular exhibitor at our Midland Dahlia Shows. Born in Droitwich Ray started work as a brick layer and went on to become an expert foundry man. Because of ill health he had to take early retirement and this gave him more time to spend on his allotment. He was also a competent golfer playing off single figures. His love was the poms which explains why he won the Harry Dunkley Trophy for the best vase of poms a couple of years ago.

He was also a good exhibitor of vegetables showing all round the Droitwich area. He was well known for his excellent Leeks and Parsnips. If that is not enough he also exhibited Daffodils and Sweet Peas.

On his allotment he would always give his time and knowledge to anyone who requested it.

He will be missed by many.

MINUTES – 51st AGM of MIDLANDS DAHLIA SOCIETY

Held at:

KENILWORTH SPORTS and SOCIAL CLUB on Wednesday 17th February 2010

PRESENT – The President , Mr L Jones , supported by members of the Executive Council of the MDS.

Opening the meeting the president asked all members present to stand for a minutes silence to remember those members who had passed away during the past year.

ITEM 1 – the secretary read the notice convening the meeting

ITEM 2 –APOLOGIES – Mrs D Cheetham , Mrs J Davis, Mrs J Taylor, Mr T Bratcher, Mr D Davis, Mr J Digweed, Mr F Newberry, Mr P Waring, Mr M Roberts, Mr F Taylor. Mr R Turrell, Mr M Woodfield

ITEM 3 – the minutes of the 50th AGM had been circulated to all members via publication in Midahl. The chairman asked if they could be taken as read - carried.

ITEM 4 –MATTERS ARISING –none

ITEM 5 –CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – see attached report.

Proposed by Mr F Wilson and seconded by Mr N Johnson that this report be adopted – carried

ITEM 6 –SECRETARY'S REPORT – secretary confirmed that the proposed programme of events for 2010 was as printed in Midahl. The judges for Annual Show are Mr L Allen, Mr D Bates, Mr E Collins, Mr D Kent, Mr A Lawes, Mr K Perrin, Mr R Pearce, Mr S Travis.

The Annual Dinner will be held on 20th November 2010 at Kenilworth Golf Club..

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

The treasurer reported that 2009 had been a difficult year but still a very successful one- there had been an increase in membership even though the subscription had been increased to £5. The interest on the Society's investment of £10,000 was only £5.

Proposed by Mr P Fulford and seconded by Mr N Johnson that the balance sheet be adopted - carried

ITEM 8 – ELECTION OF PATRON – **nominee** – Mr F Wilson

Proposed by Mr R Guest and seconded by Mrs M J Roberts .

ITEM 9 – ELECTION OF PRESIDENT - **nominee** - Mr L Jones

Proposed by Mr B Watson seconded Mr K Smart.

ITEM 10 – ELECTION OF OFFICERS

NOMINEES

Chairman - Mr R Guest

Proposed by Mr N Johnson seconded by Mr G Russell

Vice-chairman - Mr T Williams

Proposed by Mr P Fulford seconded by Mr R Reeder.

Gen. Secretary- Mr B Caswell

Proposed by Mr T Williams seconded by Mr M Crump.

Ass, secretary –post not filled

Show secretary - Mrs A Guest

Proposed by Mr A Hayes seconded by Mr M Crump.

Treasurer - Mr B Watson

Proposed by Mr D Reid seconded by Mr K Smart

Midahl **Editor** - Mr R Turrell

Proposed by Mr B Watson seconded by Mr C Wragg

Publicity Officer- Mr R Cheetham

Proposed Mr T Williams seconded by Mrs A Jones

All the above nominations were carried

ITEM 11 – ELECTION OF COUNCIL

NOMINEES

Mrs D Cheetham, Mrs A Jones , Mr T Bratcher, Mr P Clubb, Mr P Fulford, Mr A Hayes ,Mr N Johnson, Mr R Reeder, Mr D Reid , Mr M Woodfield.

Proposed by Mrs A Guest seconded by Mr T Williams –carried.

ITEM 12 –AOB Mr D Reid proposed that the Society should look into the possibility of becoming a registered charity as this would enable us to get a better return on our investments – council to look into this matter.

Mr C Wragg asked if help was required to set up NDS AGM – the chairman stated that as the Society were hosting the event help would be appreciated on the day.

Mr F Wilson thanked all the members who had voted for him to be our Patron and congratulated those members who had organised and set up Midahl.

The President closed the meeting by thanking members who had attended and wishing them a very successful showing season.

Meeting closed at 21 00hrs

Midlands Dahlia Society Chairman's A.G.M. Report 17/02/2010

As a society we had a very good year. The Exhibitors turn out in force to support us at our Main show. Our One Bloom show was again a success also our members show, was again well supported. Our open meetings throughout the year were again interesting and this reflected in the way you the members attended them.

It was again pleasing that we attracted new members, which is an achievement in this day and age. I will run through our activities for last year as I have said in past it's hard not to repeat oneself year on year, but here goes.

JANUARY. We started the year with our annual Tuber sale here at the Kenilworth Sports and Social Club. As always it is the first of our two major fund raising events of the year. I keep asking you the members to dig deep into your pockets to support us and again you did just that, we had a sale that many societies would crave for. I think it was a record for our tuber sales.

I thank all who supplied the tubers and more important those that purchased them. Again thanks go to Fred and Edna Wilson for providing us with the refreshments something they do throughout the year.

FEBRUARY. We held the A.G.M at the Kenilworth Sports & Social Club and it was well supported by our members. It's please to note that on the whole you are happy with the way the Society is being managed. I know it's not a meeting that you look forward too, but it's important that you take the opportunity to voice your opinions. A number of subjects were discussed. We were please to elect three new Life vice presidents Maurice Woodfield John Digweed and Ken Smart.

We also elected a Publicity Officer, Rob Cheetham and what an excellent job he is doing.

I thank our President for the way he conducted the meeting.

MARCH. We were given a talk on the wild side by Graham Robson from Long Itchington. He must have spent hours on end taking and producing the film mainly about butterflies and dragon flies that frequented his pond in Long Itchington. Our members also supported the National Dahlia Societies AGM at Bristol.

APRIL. We were treated to a double helping That of Dave Reid and Les Jones, Who between them talked us through from taking cuttings to planting out and showing. Les giving us a practical lesson in the taking and rooting of cuttings That was appreciated by many of our novice growers in the audience who were able to participate.

MAY. We held our annual plant sale on Sunday the 10th May, in the village hall at Wellesbourne. I think the date is about right in the month and again as you will see from the Accounts it was another major success.

I keep on saying this only happens because of the generosity of everyone who helps, either by bringing plants, and to you the members and friends for purchasing them. I think the plants were of a better quality than last year because we had a better spring. We have also noted that our purchasers are not buying the large quantities of six or a dozen but stopping at two or three.

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.

I must say a thank you to Bruce Watson our treasurer, who organizes the room for us and also has the onerous task of collecting and counting the money. I usually demand his passport at this time of the year

Again thanks go 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.

This is a very tiring task and if anyone could help for any part 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 had a blank months as we are all busy planting out and on holidays.

AUGUST. We held a one bloom show at the Kenilworth sports and social club on Tuesday the 18th. This has turned out to be a huge success. We had numerous exhibitors who stage over 200 vases and they were all worth a prize.

Rob Cheetham not only won the best bloom but also was runner up not bad for a supposedly novice. The venue for our main show was the Kenilworth Lower School on Saturday and Sunday 29th and 30th August. Again I think a two day show was a correct decision, I know that it adds about £150 to the costs but it's worth it so as our committee have a chance to leisurely look at the exhibits. I just wish we could encourage more of the public to come and visit us. To say we had a good show would be an understatement; the quality was excellent but perhaps we did not have the quantity of bloom we expected.

I hope we gave them enough hospitality to the exhibitors to make them want to return again.

I suppose it's true to say that we were well and truly beaten by a young man by the name of Dave Gillam. I think he walked away with twelve trophies.

Another new comer from Derby was Paul Harvey who produced some wonderful medium cactus.

Thanks go to Bruce and his team of ladies who provided our judges and all our helpers and friends with lunches and the welcome cups of tea.

I'm pleased to report that once again our traveling exhibitors were treated to Bacon batches early on the Saturday morning provided by Rachel and Angela.

Thanks also 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 down on the Sunday, it could not be done without your help. If I have missed any one out of the thanks I am sorry.

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 the Society.

Tim Williams, and new boy Rob Cheetham led the team.

As you all know by now we won the trophy by one point. We should congratulate and thank Tim in particular for this year he more or less staged the exhibit on his own.

Once again thanks to the people who supply the blooms and also those who travel on our behalf? I also say thanks and those who helped pack the van.

It is pleasing to report that many of our members won with their own exhibits.

Marie-Jane Roberts Winning the Weston Trophy and the Crowley for the best new small or Miniature Cactus a long with the Basket class. Our President Les Jones Finished Runner up in the Stuart Ogg for large decoratives and being runner up for the best Giant or large Decorative in the show with a bloom of Grace Kendall. Roger Turrell Wining the Hamari Cup, for best new seedling in the Medium section and John Digweed who finished runner up in the miniature Decoratives and of course Terry Bratcher who won the Vivienne dale trophy for small cactus.

From here we moved to Harrogate and the Northern National hoping to complete the double, but our hopes were dashed when our giant Dec's started fall apart in front of our eyes. Never the less we did come second only to lose it by one point.

Again I thank the team that travelled on our behalf, and the support group that followed later that night.

Some of our members won tickets in their own names with the president taking pride of place by winning the Six Large Dec's. Gabby Hayes finished third in The Miniature Ball Class. Brain Caswell a second in the six giant dec's and Marie –Jane was again amongst the prizes with her baskets and miniatures.

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.

As I have already said it was well supported and the pleasing fact was again new up and coming novices taking part.

It was good to see that the prizes were shared.

The recipient of the Silver medal was Brian Caswell using the giant cactus Janal Amy with Peter Clubb taking the bronze with a vase of Kenora Challenger. The Novice prizes were shared between Paul Fulford and Zebra Winning who took the best in the novice section. We did have a slight problem that our selected judge did not arrive on time and Gabby Hayes and myself stood in.

OCTOBER. We were given a talk by Dave Spencer. I would think that Dave is one of the countries most sort after speakers. I am told it was a very interesting to the more senior members than perhaps the novice. I am afraid I missed this one as I was enjoying myself in another part of the world.

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 that has been successful for the last couple of years.

We were privileged to have as guest of Honour the President of the National Dahlia Society, Mr Ted Collins and his good wife Jean who presented our Winning exhibitors with the trophies. I am pleased to report that it was very well supported by our members and friends that there were only a few spaces left.

Once again I say thank you to our Raffle ticket sellers Rachel and Sarah in persuading all in attendance to part with their money. Also I must thank all who donated raffle prizes.

We were given a lesson on how our web site was created by its creator Rob Cheetham, it was an interesting and informative, and possible to hi Tech for most of us there.

As Frankie Taylor decided that he would sooner Baby sit than come and entertain us with his musical talents we had a surprise guest artiste in the name of David Reid who paraded his talents on piano accordion.

I will add that we have booked the same venue for our dinner, next year due to popular demand.

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.

The ladies once again supplied us with the mince pies, to start the festive season, thanks to all those who provided them.

At this point I would like to thank Ken Smart, who has reluctantly left the council, through ill health. Ken has served for many years and was always there when help was required. We wish him well in his retirement. I'm sure we would welcome him back with open arms when his treatment is complete.

I again thank Roger Turrell for another good MIDAHL.

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 throughout the year, and also Freddy & Edna for providing the refreshments and To Mike Crump for the cakes and Maurice Woodfield for his Sausage rolls.

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

And finally 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.

Ron Guest