Kelmscott

Hale

8th October 1925

Dear Hewitt,

In reply to your letter of 24th Sept.: - judging a pan of 6 breeders, take each flower singly, allow 3 points, one each purity, form, colour, then for the pan as a whole, regularity, uniformity – of size – dissimilarity of colour, 3 points. There are two each biz, byb, rose, and they must be dissimilar, a red and dark biz, a light and a dark rose, a lilac and a purple byb. Three points on the stand as a whole.

If you get a stand with 6 3-pointers = 18, it is a very good stand and then, compared with another, the points for the stand as a whole are to be added to each stand.

If I take you to a stand, point to the best flower and say put down 3 for this, now, what do you say for this – pointing to the adjacent bloom - ? You may say – well, that is worth 2, and so on.

Sometimes a judge will say when he finds a bloom in a stand, a real topper, no specs on it, well grown, quite sound, looking like a premier. Oh, 4 for this!!

The blooms must be examined closely, each one apart. The points are tabulated, added and the result declared. Only when the bloom shown is very poor, weak, or very bad, has the first judgement to be reviewed. Very good blooms are easy to judge; bad ones difficult. Most pans at Wakefield are good and bad mixed, without points given, judgment is difficult for A may beat B in 3 flowers, equal him in one, lose in 2 only, yet have a worse pan than B

Thus

	A	B
Biz	3	2
Biz	3	2
Rose	3	2
Rose	2	2
Byb	1	3
Byb	1	3
Total	13	14
Stand as a whole	1	2
Points	14	16

Giving points makes allowance for how much one flower beats another. In the case quoted, A is plus 3, minus 2, result 1 up. Oh no! B has not a really bad flower in his pan, whereas A has one conspicuously bad one, and one very poor. How often have I heard he beats him 3 out of 6 and one is quite as good, level on that, so he wins 3 to 2. In those days, the old boys had no idea of points.

Note. In the 12 stand in London this year, RHS, I beat Hall by 2 points. In the 6 breeders, he beat me by 1 point – he had the premier breeder in his 6.

Now here Bentley - but only Bentley I think – might have bated Hall's 12 two points for having 2 feathered bizarres too much alike, thus losing on dissimilarity. Bentley had an eye like a hawk and could spot the weak spot in a stand in two minutes. Most of us would get there in time, he "jumped to the conclusion" as it were. Bentley had a wonderful eye for colour.

Yes, I should like to see your bloom sometime, but it had better be on some other day than show day. On show day there is so much to do, especially when I have to judge the local class and they seem to wish me to do it, then there is the meeting and the "gas" for the reporters. Also I have young Bentley to father; and a sister at Menston whom I ought to visit, my brother-in-law is liable to come for me in his car. Bye the way, I have not seen a paper with a report of the show in – I should like to see the Wakefield paper's report – is it in the Gazette or the Guardian?

I was referred to the Post so I ordered a copy and they sent a copy in which the report was not.

Then the Yorkshire Post print off an edition for London and distant places which may or may not contain local news. I got copies from WH Smith & Sons from a stall here – from London I expect - with no show report in any of them, Mon Tues, Wed & Thursday.

I can not say where colour plates are to be obtained. I could give your society a paper on tulips generally – the breaking, seedling raising etc if you could get your tulip members there to attend and if it could be conveniently arranged – with slides – if desired.

Hoping you and yours are well, I am yours faithfully

C W Needham