

To all Officers - Committee and Members

THANK YOU

I was shocked and delighted, and then extremely honored, to be asked to be the new president of NEFRA. This following the great loss of Peter Forster an icon in our breed for all the disciplines, and unsurpassed in his medical knowledge. We will miss him, as we miss Audrey, the other half of the WIZARDWOOD TEAM, but what a great legacy they have left us, both in knowledge and and high quality stock.

So your new President. I come from a background of starting with a pet Alsatian (German Shepherd) Rebel as he was called, by name, but not by nature. This was at the ripe old age of 16, my mom said that I must take him to obedience classes, or he would have to go. This I did and he was a star, winning classes in beginners, then novice and test A, could not go any further as he was so devoted that he would not do a send away.

During this period I became involved with the obedience club and eventually became there chairman I was asked to judge obedience classes at various shows and so it all began.

In 1969 I made my first visit to Crufts as a spectator to watch the Alsatian's as then known.

Hedrewans Niblung of Charovane went BOB and eventually BIS. 2 years later I went for 2 days to watch working and then Gundogs. I sat round a ring and thought what are these fantastic black dogs obviously Flatcoated Retrievers, I was hooked.

I lost |Rebel at the tender age of 12 years and immediately started looking for a Flattie, my first venture was to see a kennel in Matlock and a lady called Mrs. Jury (Denise) to us all. I purchased a puppy bitch Torwood Laughing Girl more by luck than judgement she was good enough to show and did me a little winning qualifying for Crufts in 1976 we were on our way.

Flyss as she was called gave me 2 litters producing 2 champions 1 dog Darillens Super Trouper and 1 bitch Darillens Morning Dew.

I joined the Flatcoated Retriever Society and started getting interested in the functional side of the workings and eventually joined the Show committee in 1993 where I have been ever since and now the chairman. I also served on the General committee for a while and sat as vice chair for Mr Issard

Having lost Flyss to cancer I bought from a well known kennel (Clowbeck) a dog puppy Clowbeck Black Drake at Darillens and from this became very good friends with Bob and Sandra Kitching.

I bred 1 more litter from a bitch I bought in and produced 1 more champion dog Darillens Vagabond King at Pennyfells owned and made up to a full champion by Vivian Stuck.

My very first judging appointment was at a local match meeting where I made a Lowchen BIS, very strange. I judged my first open show in 1983 and my first Champ Show in 1993 this was the SKC.

I have judged the societies show twice in the past one being the Silver Jubilee with Mrs Winton (Braidwyn) we had an amazing entry and were still judging at seven oclock in the evening, I have been asked to judge many times in the UK and abroad including the Canadian Specialty in Vancouver Canada, in 2003, but my pinnacle and I assume every judges as well was, Crufts in 2004

I was asked by various people if I would attend a meeting at Harewood Village Hall re a proposed establishing of a northern flatcoat society, the meeting took place and I was asked If I would be chairman, and the rest is history.

I never dreamed that one day I would be the **President** of the

Northern England Flatcoated Retriever Association

Thank You Once Again

Mr. Robert Allen (Bob)