

# **WAGGING TAILS**

**Issue 8**

**Spring 1998**

## **NORTHERN ENGLAND FLATCOATED RETRIEVER ASSOCIATION**

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## PRESIDENT'S CUP

This is the first year that N.E.F.R.A. has presented this cup and I had the honour of collating the points, which entailed obtaining results from every championship show up and down the country. My thanks go to all those who supplied me with results from shows I was unable to attend myself. Only dogs belonging to N.E.F.R.A. members were eligible and the points were awarded as follows:

- 3 points for a first place
- 2 points for a second place
- 1 point for best puppy
- 1 point for R.C.C.
- 2 points for C.C.
- 3 points for Best of Breed

Hopefully, this gave all dogs an equal chance and as the results show some of the younger dogs pushed hard for top honours.

The first recipient of the President's Cup is Mr. G. and Mrs. H. Winton's SH. CH. BRAIDWYNN BONNY LAD. The full results are as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup> Ch. Braidwynn Bonny Lad	50 points
2 <sup>nd</sup> Abercairny Wild Rumour	49 points
3 <sup>rd</sup> SH. CH. Gayplume Fancy Free	43 points
4 <sup>th</sup> = Braidwynn Blue Bayou	38 points
4 <sup>th</sup> = SH. CH. Gayplume Fine Fettle of Kenjo	38 points
6 <sup>th</sup> Gayplume Sea Fever at Culmquill	36 points
7 <sup>th</sup> = Forgeway Park Royal	25 points
7 <sup>th</sup> = Ghilgrange Magic Magician	25 points
9 <sup>th</sup> Torwood Bizzy Lizzy Back to Hasweth	22 points
10 <sup>th</sup> = SH. CH. Pendlewich Polka	21 points
10 <sup>th</sup> = Riversflight Quishion to Pajanbeck	21 points

The presentation of the Cup took place at the Annual General Meeting which was held on March 15<sup>th</sup> 1998.

Val Orme

## SANDRA

It is with heavy hearts that we have to report to you the death of our secretary, Mrs. Sandra Kitching, on 31<sup>st</sup> January 1998.

Our President, Mr. George Lancaster, writes.....

"I have been asked to write an Obituary for our Sandra Kitching. I'm not going to quote how many Champions she had bred, or how many times she had awarded CC's in our breed at home and abroad, or the number of dogs she had sent overseas to gain top honours; that is history and can be obtained from many sources. I am going to write about her and her aims to further our Association.

She had said many times that her ambition for NEFRA was that of Championship status and not to stop there but to be the best.

After the last show, I wrote to her, thanking her for the work she had put in. Running an Association is not just turning up for a meeting or show. It's of work, planning and worrying that everything is going to be all right that matters and I know she did plenty of that. She may not have agreed with a lot of things, but, if they had to be done, they were done.

Nobody was too high in the Kennel Club for Sandra to approach. When we were fighting for a name, I was with her at Manchester Championship Show when she said "There's Mr. Mann, come on, let's tell him what we want" (not ask but tell him). We didn't quite get exactly what we wanted, but very near.

Sandra was a very special friend to me. We both thought alike about NEFRA and I will miss her greatly. But let me say this to you, sweep all your differences under the table and pull together to raise the Association to great heights in honour of her Memory. She has left NEFRA in a very healthy position, let's see if we can make it even better."

GOD BLESS YOU, SANDRA



## SHEENA WELLS - GILDUFFE

I was brought up in the city with the usual pets; goldfish, white mice, tortoises, cats, a budgie and of course family. Living in a city, our dogs were not large; we had a Cocker Spaniel, Irish Terrier, two black miniature Poodles and a Wire Haired Fox Terrier over the years but I had a yearning for a larger dog.

I met my first Flatcoat at my uncle's house in Berkhamstead in the late 50's - a lovely black chap called Fiach. He was a gamekeeper's reject as he was supposedly gun shy but a more steady and intelligent dog it would be hard to imagine. Over the years I got to know and love him as I did his successor, a liver dog called Copper.

I had to wait many years until my children were of school age and I had more time before I had one of my own. They were not exactly common in Northern Ireland, in fact I never saw one there. My first 'almost' flatcoat came to me in the summer of 1982 from Denise Jury and I still have her at the venerable age of 15 ½ years. I worked Jetta of Ravensdale, CD Ex., UD Ex., WD Ex., TD (Open) in Working Trials up to qualifying in Open Tracking Dog but then had to retire her with a recurring injury. She had a sense of humour, and still does, and on one occasion retrieved a dead bird on a track instead of the 'article' which was a boring piece of carpet and did not have such a delectable smell! Her party trick until her eyesight started to fail was doing sums by barking the relevant number of times for the answer, much to the delight of the children. She also competed at Open Shows and did very well at Exemption Shows even going BIS in her youth.

My second Flatcoat came from Frances Heslop and was a grand-daughter of Jetta's sire. She too did Working Trials and had CD Ex., UD (Open); she also competed in Working Tests and was a registered PAT dog. In 1990 I took out my affix Gilduffe which means 'black servant'. From Ash's first litter I kept a dog, Gilduffe Fiach (Sooty), whom I work in a beating line on a shoot and show occasionally. He prefers to work and had even been known to yawn in a judge's face! From Ash's second litter I kept Gilduffe Irish Mist who was hand reared as Ash died when her puppies were five days old. Ember is shown and takes part in Working Tests. From her litter I have kept Gilduffe Shannagh and am having great fun with her. She attends the local dog training group and had passed her KC Good Citizen as have all my flatcoats. She causes much amusement as she tends to do her down stay on her back waving her legs in the air!

I am the Flatcoated Retriever Society Representative for Cheshire and provide transport for rescue when required. Apart from dog and family activities I help with an OAP Luncheon Club and deliver flowers for church. I have recently retired as an Assistant Beaver Leader after 11 years and am now hoping to use the time to take up Agility again.

## PYOMETRA - A life threatening uterine infection

This is just an inflammation of the womb - on saying "just" it is at worst a life threatening illness and perhaps a blow to future breeding plans and showing and working. Pyometras can be of two sorts - open or closed.

Open are easier to detect for the owner. The bitch is perhaps off colour (not necessarily with a flatcoat's propensity for life and their stoic attitude to it), perhaps running a temperature (who has a thermometer to hand all the time?), perhaps diarrhoea (not always) - but often a nasty smelling discharge. This may be the first sign the owner detects and it means that the uterus is full of puss and very infected - usually a rush to the vets followed by antibiotics to reduce the inflammation and stabilise her for surgery and spaying. Sometimes operating has to be attempted before stabilisation is complete and the inevitable happens.

Occasionally, if it is caught in time, hitting the infection hard with antibiotics, and anything else appealing to your vet, for a very special bitch, may persuade him not to operate and you may clear it up without spaying - a lot of sleepless nights and a long convalescence.

A closed pyometra has no discharge and so the only signs or the first sign is a collapsed dog (off it's back legs).

Pyometras occur after a uterus had been open and an infection entered, i.e. after a season or having puppies. Flatcoats are stoic, some vets think the most stoic of breeds, which explains why we sometimes don't even find out they are extremely affected with other diseases such as cancer until it is well progressed.

### I Chose Flatcoats..... K. A. Jubb

I'm glad that I chose Flatcoats,  
Or was it they chose me,  
That wagging tail,  
Those laughing eyes,  
A smile that's great to see.

A house that once was tidy,  
For visitors to call,  
Has chewy bones,  
And squeaking ones,  
To litter up the hall.

A pleasant tidy garden,  
Has gone for evermore,  
What could withstand,  
The steady pound,  
Of sixteen scrabbling paw.

A mud bath in the garden,  
"Just look what we have found",  
My nice clean clothes,  
Oh what of those,  
When to greet me Flatcoats bound.

No trials or tribulations,  
Of life could air defeat,  
That happy wail,  
And wag of tail,  
When a Flatcoat you do meet.

But I'm glad that I chose Flatcoats,  
No other breed's the same,  
At work or play,  
They're bright and gay,  
And life's a constant game.

**Photographic Competition and Fun Day**  
to be held at Hollybank School, Mirfield, West Yorkshire  
on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June 1998 - starting at 10:30 a.m.

This year's Photographic Competition will be held in conjunction with one of our Fun Days. Rosettes will be awarded for 1<sup>st</sup> place in each class. Two overall winners will be chosen to be used on this year's Christmas/greeting cards. Please write your name, address and class number to be entered lightly on the back of your photograph (a sticking label can be used to prevent marking the front) and enclose a stamped address envelope if you require them returned by post.

The classes are:

**Class 1** Puppy (under 12 months)

**Class 3** Head Study

**Class 5** Active (Dog on the move)

**Class 7** Most Appealing

**Class 2** Adult

**Class 4** Brace or Group

**Class 6** Take a Break (Dog at rest)

**Class 8** Most Amusing

Cost of entering competition..... 50p per photo

We are returning to the venue of a previous Fun Day and hope that the central location will enable as many of you as before to attend. As well as the judging of the photographs, our usual "fun for all" activities will be going on throughout the day (novelty retrieves, scurry, etc.)

Because of the time of year, no meal is being provided so you are asked to bring a packed lunch. Tea, coffee, squash, cakes and biscuits will however be provided at the start of the meeting, lunch time and before you leave.

Costs for the Funday will be £2.00 per person (including drinks), £1.00 for children under 16 and £1.00 per dog (all events included). Any donations of Raffle prizes or cakes would be greatly appreciated.

**CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES FOR THE ABOVE IS 30<sup>th</sup> May 1998**

**DIRECTIONS TO VENUE (from M62 junction 25)**

Following signs A644 Dewsbury. At next roundabout, take nearside lane, turning left, direction A62 Leeds. Straight ahead through two sets of traffic lights. About ¼ mile fork left (just before White Gate public house). School is on left. Entrance will be signposted. Please note we are in the grounds of a school for handicapped children and young people - PLEASE KEEP YOUR SPEED DOWN.

**Photographic Competition Entry Form**

Name:.....

Address:.....

Classes entered (and number of photos per class).....

Number of Entries ..... @ 50 pence per entry .....

**FUN DAY - to be held at Hollybank School, Mirfield, West Yorkshire**

Name: .....

Address: .....

..... Adults @ £2.00 each, ..... Children @ £1.00 each, ..... Dogs @ £1.00 each

**Total enclosed for photographic competition and/or fun day £**

Please send Entry Form, Photographs, SAE and cheque (made payable to NEFRA) to The Honorary Secretary, Mrs. A Forster Cooks Lane House, Cooks Lane, Bradnop, Leek, Staffordshire, ST13 7HA Tel: 01538 383946



### MY THREE FAVOURITE FLATCOATS.....MR. PETER FORSTER

At first sight, it seemed it would be easy to decide on and write about dogs which I have judged at shows or owned. In fact, when I think about it, it has proved quite hard. However, out of all the lovely dogs I have had the privilege to make the acquaintance of, I have picked three..... Lady's first!!!

Ch. Branchalwood Whineyon.....Anyone who was at the National Gundog Association Championship Show at Newark will remember the rain, the water and the ever shrinking wet weather ring. But there was this bitch, with a lovely appealing expression but also a look which said I can do my job. She was super to get your hands on, with correct conformation and great movement. She later added to my pleasure by going on to be Best in Show.

My next choice would be Ch. Shargleam Sparrow Hawk. When I judged him at Bournemouth, I believe I would have been the first to put a dog over his uncle, Blackcap. However, Blackcap was lame that day so I left that distinction to Audrey at Crufts. He was a beautifully balanced dog with true movement as a result. A very good head and length of neck gave him elegance but the feeling of power. A dog to stand out in one's memory.

My final choice would be Ch. Wizardwood Wigeon. As one judge said, she had a head like a lady but the backside of a cook. Show wise, she was lovely but, work wise, she was also very talented. She had numerous firsts and second in working tests and she had field trial awards.

All of these three dogs stand out equally in my memory. I suppose I could have picked out lots more, but space will not allow.

### GUIDELINES FOR THE LITTER RECORDING SERVICE

We do our best through the Secretary and Committee Members to help members who have puppies for sale to make contact with prospective owners. However, as in some cases this service is being abused, we feel that it is necessary to introduce some simple guidelines for the assistance of us all.

1. Priority will be given to Members of the Association who have puppies available.
2. New owners should be given advice and support together with a copy of the Code of Ethics of the Association.
3. Vendors must undertake to make all reasonable enquiries regarding the prospective homes and their suitability. The Secretary or Committee Member cannot enquire in-depth into each prospective home, they can only advise.
4. Vendors must realise that whilst the Association will help as much as possible it is unreasonable to expect puppies to be homed in large numbers on a regular basis. Vendors must make every effort to home puppies themselves, preferably not having litters until they have sufficient enquiries.
5. When a litter has been sold, please notify the Secretary so your name can be removed from the 'puppies available' list so preventing disappointment to prospective new owners.

### CRUFTS 1997.....Val & Dennis Orme

What did it feel like to win at Crufts? This is a question we have been asked many times. It isn't easy to describe the spectrum of emotions we went through that day from nervous anticipation to extreme elation. For us it was a dream come true and it was hard to believe it was actually happening.

I always feel nervous before entering the show ring, especially at Crufts, but once in there usually just try to concentrate on showing the dogs. When Toby (Sh. Ch. Elmstock Wild Thyme) won the Open Class we were thrilled, but could hardly believe it when he was awarded the dog C.C. Then we had to go back in there to challenge for Best of Breed. By now the adrenaline was keeping us going (that and one of Elma Winton's "wee tots"). It was a wonderful feeling when the Best of Breed rosette was handed to us and I could see the delight on Den's face when I glanced in his direction. Then everyone was clamouring around us taking photos and offering congratulations and I couldn't quite take it all in.

We realised when we eventually got back to the bench what a long tiring day it had been and we still had the group judging to come. Organised chaos ensued. What to do next, where to go? No time for any shopping, we hadn't been near any of the trade stands. We were too excited to eat anything, just a quick drink then over to the collecting ring to wait with the other Best of Breed gundogs. I sat there with Toby not realising the trouble Den was having trying to get into the main arena. It was only through Kath Jubb's efforts that he managed to get in, courtesy of Pedigree. Looking around the collecting ring it was apparent that quite a few of the handlers had done this before but for some of us it was a totally new experience.

Then the group judging was being announced and it was time for us to go into the ring. Once in there I was too busy concentrating on when we were supposed to go to take too much notice of anything else. It was only as we stood waiting to be seen by the judge that I became aware of all those people and cameras watching us, quite a daunting experience. Although I found it hard to relax I really appreciated the support all our friends and other flatcoat owners gave me. When the judge began to pick out his last eight I wasn't really expecting to be in there (although I obviously hoped we would be) so it was a great thrill when he pointed to us and we joined the other seven left in the ring. We didn't make the final four but for us we had achieved a dream we had never expected to and we will always have our wonderful memories of Crufts'97.



# T A I L E N D E R S

## Future Dates for your Diary

**Fourth Open Show, Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1998** - To be held at Worsall, North Yorkshire. Schedules were included with your AGM agenda, further copies if required can be obtained from the secretary.

**Fun Day and Photographic Competition, Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> June 1998** - To be held at Hollybank School, Mirfield, West Yorkshire, details and entry form enclosed.

**Members' Working Test, Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> August 1998** - To be held at Crathorne, Cleveland. Entry form and details enclosed.

### Tips of the Tail

- "I just cannot get the weight off/put body on my dog". This is the plea heard from many flatcoat owners. When trying to diet your dog, consider filling up the food dish with vegetables such as cabbage or carrots instead of the usual meat and mixer. Care should be taken to ensure younger dogs receive the required nutrients, however. When trying to put body on your dog, it is worth taking a tip from human body builders and feeding pasta.

**STOP PRESS.....** Following our AGM last weekend, Mrs. Audrey Forster was elected, by a narrow margin, as our new secretary and she writes.....

"I had the honour of being elected at the AGM as Secretary of N.E.F.R.A. It is indeed a daunting task to follow such a super Secretary as Sandra and to try to carry on the work she had started with such success. Her dearest wish was to see N.E.F.R.A. have it's own Championship Show and to fulfil this will be the main priority of your committee.

Anyone taking over a job done so well by someone else must face problems, both of acceptance and familiarisation. However, I will work with the help of a very united committee to continue N.E.F.R.A.'s success and enable it to grow and improve in the future.

If you have any queries or suggestions, please get in touch. I am always available and, if I cannot help immediately, I will find the answers and get back to you as soon as possible.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our forthcoming events"

Items received from members and included in this newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of the Association.

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