

# ***WAGGING TAILS***

Issue 12

Spring 1999

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### PRESIDENT'S CUP

For the second year, the Association has presented this cup from the results collated by Mrs. Val Orme. Only dogs belonging to the Association's members were eligible and the points were awarded for the following placings at Championship Shows 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 recipient of the President's Cup for the second year running is Mr. G. and Mrs. H. Winton's CH. BRAIDWYNN BONNY LAD. The full results are as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup> Ch. Braidwynn Bonny Lad	42 points
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sh. Ch. Cannimore Rambler	40 points
3 <sup>rd</sup> = Sh. Ch. Gayplume Fine Fashion of Dravidian	37 points
3 <sup>rd</sup> = Jaskar Strathmore Water	37 points
5 <sup>th</sup> = Jaskar Sound of Isla	36 points
5 <sup>th</sup> = Sumaha Sharp Shooter for Gayplume	36 points
7 <sup>th</sup> Dealing Winter Wren	31 points
8 <sup>th</sup> = Sh. Ch. Elmstock Wild Thyme	29 points
8 <sup>th</sup> = Wizardwood Tawny Woodsedge	29 points
9 <sup>th</sup> Ch. Tiger Moth of Keepersend	28 points
10 <sup>th</sup> Gayplume Daredevil of Dolwesbrook	26 points

The presentation of the Cup took place at the Annual General Meeting which was held on March 7<sup>th</sup> 1999.

As a point of interest, we thought members would like to hear a brief history of the Cup which had been purchased at auction. It had been made in Sheffield in 1909 and was a 60oz silver cup originally commissioned by Hartlepool Snooker Club. In 1937, it became a hospice cup for donations. It had now been refurbished with a new centre piece.

### THOUGHTS FROM THE SECRETARY'S TABLE

It is hard to believe that another Annual General Meeting has come and gone. It does not seem five minutes since we all met at Harewood Village Hall for the Inaugural Meeting. But what a lot we have done in those few minutes.

Your Committee and officers continue as before. We are all well used to working together with each other now and I believe we make a good team.

Our first Event of 1999 has been the Seminar held on 20<sup>th</sup> February at Kirk Deighton. The speakers were Mr. Frank Kane, whose subject was Construction and Movement and Mr. Bob Allen on the Breed Standard and Stewarding. In the afternoon we had 18 dogs with their handlers. They very patiently allowed everyone there to go over them and make their own notes. After tea we had six Championship Show Judges who assessed three of the dogs each and gave a verbal commentary on them. It was interesting to see the difference in approach shown by the various judges.

It was most enlightening and we all, even the Championship Show Judges, should have learnt a lot. It is so important that we all keep open minds and continue to widen our knowledge of our Breed even if we never intend to enter a show ring or compete in the field. It can only enhance the pleasure of owning a Flatcoat.

We are hoping that Mr. Kane will let us have a list of books that we might find useful. If so it will be published in a future Wagging Tails.

The Seminars is a side I feel we might develop in the future, maybe in the form of "mini seminars" in various parts of the country. If you feel you would like us to organise a day on whatever subject you would like whether for a group or just a few friends we would be delighted to do so.

Now for Congratulations! These go to David and Debbie White on the birth of their son, Joseph David, on 19<sup>th</sup> February. I think Debbie had a fair enough excuse for missing the Seminar but I don't expect it will be long before we are seeing her again at our events.

All in all, I feel we have had a very successful year and we are all looking forward to 1999 and all it may bring.

One administration note, you will find in this newsletter a full membership list. If we have your name, address or telephone number wrong, please drop us a line and we will amend our records.

Finally, may I thank your Committee for all their help during the year and of course my thanks to you the Members.....Audrey



**My First Judging Appointment.....written by Mrs. K. A. Jubh**

We had not been showing our dogs for long when someone asked me to judge. I laughed and refused as we were new to the showing game ourselves. Over the next couple of years I was asked two or three times to judge, I refused each time with the same excuse. Then one day someone asked and I heard myself saying yes I would love to judge at their show. Stephen, my husband, was amazed, but I told him it was a show miles away from where we lived, so no-one would know me down there and it was not for another 18 months anyway. After sending my letter of acceptance, I promptly forgot about it. The show was months away, so why worry. As the date grew nearer, I had one or two pangs of fear, but nothing much and I just put it out of my mind. Then about three weeks before the show I received a letter giving me the number of entries that had been received. That's when the panic started. Over the next two weeks, I read the breed standard more times than I care to remember. Our own dogs were fed up with me "going over" them.

It was the day before the show. Because of the distance involved Stephen and I were travelling down to the venue and staying with the club secretary over night. I packed enough clothes for a week, just in case it was, hot, cold, wet, or dry. You name it and I had packed it. Driving down in the car I asked Stephen, what it would take for me to get out of the judging appointment. He didn't answer, he was laughing too much. I was terrified. I really don't remember much about the evening before and somehow I did get a little sleep, although not much.

The morning of the show dawned bright and sunny. Judging started at 9-00 am, and I was first in ring 2. The secretary had to be there early and as we didn't know the way to the showground we followed her there. We arrived at the venue at about 7 am. What was I going to do for two hours? Stephen had offered to help in preparing for the show, but what was I to do. The fear had now turned to panic, I did contemplate falling and breaking a leg but knowing the Secretary, I thought she would make me do the judging anyway. There was no escape.

We parked the car and walked over to where the Secretary was talking to a very smartly dressed Gentleman. She introduced us to him. He was the Best in Show judge. In the introductions he was told that it was my first judging appointment. He smiled and told the secretary to leave me with him. He made me a strong coffee and we sat and talked. We talked about anything but the show. I heard about his operation, his mother, and his partner and about the time he was bitten in rather a personal place. I have never laughed so much in my life. Then he looked at his watch and said it was time to get ready. It was 8-45am. I could not believe it. He patted my arm told me to enjoy myself and do my own thing. This is advice that I have never forgotten. I did not have time to feel frightened now. What with going to the loo, picking up my judges book and finding the ring. The time had gone and the steward was calling the first class. I had some lovely dogs before me that day and lovely owners. That is one thing about the majority of Flatcoat owners, they are always so pleasant.

I have judged several times since then and yes, I do enjoy it. There is always the slight fear and flow of adrenaline in the days leading up to a show, but not the outright panic that there was for the first one. If you are asked to judge, take the bull by the horns and say yes. When you finally get in the ring, you will enjoy yourself.

One or two tips that are really common sense but might come in handy. Always dress in something that is smart but comfortable, especially your shoes. If it is on outdoor show, flat shoes may be best. Always get to the venue in plenty of time, there is nothing worse than being on the last minute. Take a pen and paper with you, most shows provide a pen but not all of them. Don't wear a lot of jangling jewellery, it is distracting for both dogs and handlers, also some dogs can be put off by perfume. Always be polite and courteous to stewards and handlers. Try and give the same amount of time to each dog. Finally, but most important, make sure that you know and understand the Breed Standard. Then the only thing to do is enjoy yourself and do what you think is right.

To finish I would just like to say thank-you to two people. Firstly, the Secretary of that first show. For asking a novice judge and being such a charming hostess. Secondly the Best in Show Judge, a very experienced Gentleman. Thank you for spending the time on a complete beginner. I don't know how I would have spent that couple of hours with out you. Many thanks to Sue Kearton and Peter Jolley.

**DEBATE CORNER**

There must be many topics in the Flatcoat world which raise strong feelings on both sides. So we thought we would try and start a debate on some of these. The first is on whether Show Champions should be shown at Open Shows and the debate is "kicked off" by Gary Whiting (who would like to stress that these are personal views - he already knows that they are not held by all the committee and officials!!)

"In my opinion, it is criminal to say that once a dog is made up to Show Champion it should never again be shown at an Open Show. This practice denies up and coming judges from experiencing going over top class dogs. I am not saying that these dogs should be heavily campaigned around the Open Show circuit but they definitely have a place at Breed Open Shows and certain Gundog Society Shows, even if they are only put in variety classes."

There are many of you, I am sure, with your own opinions and reasons for the above. Why not write to the editor and we will publish them in Debate Corner? If you have no strong opinions on this, I am sure there is something you feel passionately about, so please let us know if you would like to air your views.



## A LETTER FROM FRANCE - Becky & Terence Wensley

As you are probably aware we decided to move to France, we said our goodbyes and set off resembling Noah's Ark with two horses, four flatcoats and three pointers. The sea was very calm (which was more than I was) but the journey was long - nearly 24 hours.

The next morning was dry but coolish. The dogs came out as usual full of beans and explored their new territory; I am sure they didn't realise they were in France. That afternoon a welcome party arrived with a bottle of wine. Luckily Pierre speaks some English; they live in the village and have horses which they use for trekking, but I am not sure what they thought of seven dogs in the house. They have become good friends and taken us on some lovely treks.

After a month of struggling with our little French and getting things wrong, For example:

1. Terence telling me the local farmer (Fabrice) who had hay for sale was also a hairdresser and the both of us asking him for a haircut, with him looking very puzzled (but he does look like a hairdresser, if you know what I mean).
2. Going for some horse feed at the local mill and wondering why they were trying to sell us mice; later it was explained to us that they meant maize. The French still find it funny.

We decided to ask the local retired teacher (Hugette) who taught English for some help. She had taken us under her wing, introducing us to locals, who were mainly her relatives, so they know all about us and what we are doing, but I think it has helped to be accepted.

The dogs have settled well. Sweep (Lily of the Valley) has won over the postman; finally he realises she wants the post not his hand. Hank and Prince (Stownsley Winchester and Moody Blues) have been trying to help European relations by visiting the local cheine francaise. Ryan (Tandlepark Triton) discovered the lizards which come out with the sun; he spends his days pointing and trying to catch them. Dolly and Sally (Dolly Mixture and Mustang Sally) spend all day tasting the local produce which includes apples, blackberries, conkers, crickets, lizards and, their favourite, beetles - luckily with no consequences so far.

We are doing bed and breakfast after converting the granary and opened in August. We have had all nationalities, the dogs have enjoyed the attention and the people seemed to enjoy their welcome, as any Flatcoat owner has to, but many had never seen the breed before - I don't think they will forget it.

As I write this letter, sat in the sun with just a tee-shirt on, all the dogs laid sunbathing, the horses eating happily in their field and a glass of wine in my hand, I am sure we did the right thing. Now I made you all drool, we would love to hear from anybody and if you are passing call in. Don't forget to tell your friends about this friendly B & B you know in France!

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### Toys for Flatcoats.....by Mrs. K. Trevor

Flatcoats, as we all know love to play with toys and to carry something around in their mouths, unfortunately that can sometimes mean your best shoe! Puppies require something to develop their mind, as well as being able to chew when the teething process is well under way. Here are a selection of toys, which can be useful in certain circumstances. The golden rule is that any toy should never replace the love of the owner and if possible you should try to play with the dog and the toy. Remember no toy is totally indestructible so don't leave your dog unsupervised with the toys, especially when it comes to Flatcoats!

#### Kong's, the Space Ball and the Goody Ship

The Kong toy range are a uniquely cone shaped rubber toy that has a hollow centre, which can be filled with food or treats to occupy the dog while left for short periods. The toy comes in a variety of sizes and types, there is a dental Kong which is useful for puppies and will also aid in cleaning the dogs teeth. The cool Kong has a rope and will also float, try to buy a Kong that is large enough for your dog, there is an heavy duty one as well. When the Kong is thrown it has an unpredictable bounce.

Try stuffing the Kong with different treats. Pack the food well down the Kong but do make it easy to begin with, liver cake is a good food to use. Kongs can also go in the microwave, for all you budding chefs try stuffing the Kong with dog biscuits then cover with grated cheese cook in the microwave then allow to cool, before giving to the dog. The cheese will have set over the biscuits to give a tasty treat. Another option for teething puppy's is to plug the hole and fill the Kong with some mashed potato, or something similar, then freeze once the dogs have finished. The Kong can be washed even in the dishwasher.

The Space ball and the Goody ship are a similar idea to the Kong just a different shape, they have three holes which are called goody grippers which hold the treat in place

#### Buster Cube and Canac Activity Ball

Both these types of toys are a large hollow container which when food is placed inside encourage the dog to push the toy around with their nose, as the toy is moved the food is slowly released. Once the dog has got the idea they will soon

become very enthusiastic to play, if you can why not let the dog have all its dried food in the container and then place it outside. This is an ideal way of exercising both mind and body especially for young growing puppies. Even young puppies learn very quickly about how to move the container to receive a treat. On a personal level my choice would be the Canac ball as it cannot be picked up by my dogs, where as the cube can be, although the manufactures say that this should not be possible with either toy, as usual the Flatcoats prove otherwise.

#### Frisbees

These are a great form of exercise for the dog, try and choose one that is of a multi purpose, for example a floating type can sometimes be useful. Do avoid playing with these around trees or power lines for safety's sake

#### Raggers

These are knotted ropes and tend to get softer when used. They can be washed in the machine and tumble dried. Again these come in lots of sizes and styles some have a ball in the middle, choose a ragger to suit your needs. Raggers can be used as a first retrieve item as they are quite light, or useful for helping with cleaning teeth and helping with new teeth to settle in to the jaw, which saves your furniture or dog beds. Always remember not to pull the ragger from a puppy, encourage the dog to give it to you

Toys can of course be found around the house old socks tied in a knot perhaps with a ball in the toe end. Has your hose pipe past its best, near the end? Don't throw it away save large pieces as retrieve items. While out on a walk this is a lot safer than a stick. Any old fabric pieces can be sown together at the top then plaited, and sown at the end. With a bit of time toys can be made out of anything.

#### Prize Crossword Answers (Winter 1998 issue)

Across: 1. A dog is for life not 6. Braemist 7. Stag 9. Helper 12. Dark 13. Pep 14. Envoy 15. Send 16. Away 17. Pet 19. Hen 20. Toy 23. Ape 25. Card 26. Page 29. Annie 30. Set 31. Sits 32. Gundog 33. Trek 34. Grooming 35. Just for Christmas  
Down: 1. Airedale 2. Gamekeeper 3. Father 4. Leap year 5. Nativity 8. Gayplume 10. EP 11. Red 16. Award 17. Pheasant 18. Rough shoot 21. Spaniels 22. Calendar 24. Presents 27. Leg 28. Beggar 30. So

We would like to thank Mrs. Janet Bradshaw for supplying us with these last two splendid crosswords and look forward to trying our hand at some more in the future.



# T A I L E N D E R S

## Future Dates for your Diary

**Working Training Day - Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> April** to be held at Tatton Park. Entry forms were sent out with the AGM notice. If you have any queries, please ring Mrs. E. Geoghegan on 01772 812709

**Open Show - Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> May** - to be held at Newstead Miners Welfare Club (schedule enclosed).

**Funday - Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> June** - This will incorporate our annual photographic competition. The categories have changed slightly this year to reflect the fact that we are hoping to produce a calendar.

**Working Test - Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> August** - to be held at Crathorne.

**Funday, early October** - to be held at Woodford, near Wilmslow

**Open Show - Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> November** - to be held at Normanton.

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(Show) **Tips of the Tail** - When showing your dog, it is worth trying to remember to wear something that will show off your dog to its best advantage. In the case of a black dog, this is usually NOT black or dark coloured trousers or skirt.

- When moving your dog, remember the judge wants to see the dog and not you, so try never to get between the dog and judge (this can take some practice in changing hands with the lead!)

- To bait your dog, why not try some home made liver cake. This is made by getting raw liver, liquidizing it and then mixing it with as much brown flour as it will take. Some people also like to add an egg to the mixture. This is then cooked in the microwave for between 20 and 30 minutes on low power or in a low oven until solid. The "cake" can then be cut into bite sized pieces and stored in the freezer until required.

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The Newsletter sub committee would greatly appreciate your "Letters to the Editor" or tips for the above section. These will be included in future newsletters as and when space is available. Please send them to Mrs. E. Whiting at the address below.

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

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