WAGGING TAILS

Issue 19

Winter 2000

NORTHERN ENGLAND FLATCOATED RETRIEVER ASSOCIATION Officers and Committee Members

Patron - Lady Crathorne

President - Mr. G Lancaster

Chairman - Mr. P Forster Honorary Secretary - Mrs. A Forster Cooks Lane House, Cooks Lane, Bradnop, Leek, Staffordshire ST13 7HA Tel: 01538 383946



Honorary Treasurer - Mrs. E. Whiting Vice-Chairman - Mr. G. Whiting Great Gable, 225 Kitson Hill Road, Mirfield, West Yorkshire WF14 9DS Tel: 01924 521383

COMMITTEE

Mrs. B M Adams (Litter Recorder)

30 Yewdale Road, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG2 8NE Tel: 01423 885471

Mr. R. Bunting & Mrs. S Bunting

Kind Care Boarding Kennels, Bothalhaugh, Morpeth, NE61 8AQ Tel: 01670 513963

Mr. S Jubb & Mrs. K Jubb

Thistledown House, 136 Loscoe Denby Lane, Denby Village, DE5 8PP Tel: 01773 741501

Mrs. D Jury (Acting Working Secretary)

103 Williamthorpe Road, North Wingfield, Chesterfield, S42 5NX Tel: 01246 853575

Mr. J R Kitching

Clowbeck Boarding Kennels, Sandhills Farm, Crathorne, Yarm, Cleveland TS15 OAD Tel: 01642 780362

Mr. D Orme & Mrs. V Orme

3 Ivy Road, Poynton, Stockport, Cheshire SK12 IPE Tel: 01625 874826

Mrs. J. Ryder

Tunstead Milton Farm, Tunstead Milton, Whaley Bridge, SK12 7ER Tel: 01663 734159

Mrs. K Trevor

120 Cross Street, Arnold, Nottingham NG5 7BY Tel. 01159 939134

Mrs. S J Wells

Ravensdale, 2 Albert Road, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5HT Tel: 01625 522537



If only.....written by Gary Whiting

It may have come as a surprise to some people but this year marked my first competition in a Working Test. Over the past 10 years I've tried to train my dogs to a reasonable standard but with varying degrees of success, as anybody who knows my old Max will testify! Still, with a new millennium dawning, I thought it was about time I tried my hand at a Working Test.

Having spent last winter doing some training with young Fred I was reasonably happy with our progress so far. Now it was time to find out just what sort of standard we were up to and so we entered the puppy class of the NEFRA event at St Helens. It soon became apparent that whilst we were some way off the best, we were by no means the worst either. All those long hours stood in a freezing field had taught me the basics for a Working Test (and the dog had learnt something as well!) but despite all our best efforts we finished just outside the places.

If only the heelwork had been better, if only the presentation had been better, if only I'd really paid attention to what all those helpful people had been telling me for the last 10 years then I might have been able to have foreseen some of the errors we would make and controlled my dog better or sooner.

However this first effort encouraged me to enter another test in the Midlands but if only I'd read the entry form more closely I'd have seen that the puppies would be tested in water and so not left it to 3 days before the test to give Fred his first retrieve from water. For this test I'd worked hard on all the areas in which we were weak in the first test and in fairness to the dog he had learnt from our mistakes. If only he hadn't run in on one test, something he hadn't done in training for months and if only he hadn't been cooped up in the car most of the day before at the NEFRA Open Show, we might have been up there with the winners.

Still there was always the next test. Third time lucky...... oh, no! This time if only I'd have trusted my dog to retrieve the dummy (unseen to me if only I'd have been 3 inches taller!!) and not go into the wood after the young birds.

And so it goes on, we have tried our best all summer but still consistently finish just outside the places. You may be forgiven for thinking this is just one set of excuses after another but in actual fact it's an attempt to try and remind people that to win a place at a Working test takes a lot of time and effort, training the dog and you. There are a lot of people who will give you help and advice about how to train your dog but at the end of the day it's down to you to listen and learn from what they are saying. There are no shortcuts and no substitute for hard work and dedication.

THOUGHTS FROM THE SECRETARY'S TABLE

Here we are on the final run up to Christmas. I am sure like their owners there must be web footed dogs after the past weeks. I do not know if any of our members were unlucky enough to be flooded. I am sure that you have the sympathy of all our members and committee and our best wishes for the future. If you have any tales to tell or any doggy escapades from this wet Autumn let us have them for our next Wagging Tails.

Unfortunately I have to report a change in our officers. Liz Geoghegan has tendered her resignation from the position of Working Secretary with immediate effect. I am sure with the rest of the committee you would wish me to pass on to Liz our thanks for the hard work she has put in on our behalf and hope to see her at many events in the future. Denise Jury will be standing as Acting Working Secretary until the AGM.

We have has a busy year in NEFRA rounding off with an Eye Testing day, a Judging Seminar and the Cup Show - quite a busy few weeks. It was rather disappointing that the Eye Testing and Judging Seminar were not as well supported as we had hoped but owners from other breeds came to the rescue and made up the numbers to enable us to continue

The programming of dog events is now becoming so crowded that we are all competing for space and dates. So despite our best efforts some events are bound to clash. There is also a constant increase in the expense of running the Association. The cost of venues is increasing in leaps and bounds so any ideas for suitable ones at economical rates would be welcome.

Already schedules for Manchester and Crufts are out and we are starting to look forwards to beyond the New Year. My, how time flies!!With all good wishes for a happy and peaceful Christmas and may the New Year bring you good fortune in your dog endeavours.

Kind regards	Audrev.
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CALENDARS 2001 - There are a limited number of our 2001 calendars still available. Once again all profits from the sale of these will go to Dogs for the Disabled.

If Santa doesn't bring you a calendar this year one can still be yours by sending a cheque made payable to N.E.F.R.A.for £5.00 (£4.50 plus 50p postage) to - Elaine Whiting, Great Gable, 225 Kitson Hill Road, Mirfield, West Yorkshire, WF14 9DS (Tel. No. 01924 521383)

"The Power of the Dog"

There is sorrow enough in the natural way From men and women to fill our day; And when we are certain of sorrow in store, Why do we always arrange for more? Brothers and Sisters, I bid you beware Of giving your heart to a dog to tear.

Buy a pup and your money will buy Love unflinching that cannot lie Perfect passion and worship fed By a kick in the ribs or a pat on the head. Nevertheless it is hardly fair To risk your heart for a dog to tear.

When the fourteen years which Nature permits Are closing in asthma, or tumour, or fits, And the Vet's unspoken prescription runs
To lethal chambers or loaded guns,
Then you will find -- it's your own affair
But ... you've given your heart to a dog to tear.

When the body that lived at your single will,
With its whimper of welcome, is stilled (how still!)
When the spirit hat answered your every mood
Is gone -- wherever it goes -- for good,
You will discover how much you care,
And will give your heart to a dog to tear.

We've sorrow enough in the natural way
When it comes to burying Christian clay.
Our loves are not given, but only lent,
At compound interest of cent per cent.
Though it is not always the case, 1 believe,
That the longer we've kept 'em, the more do we grieve,

For, when debts are payable, right or wrong, A short-term loan is as bad as a long --So why in -- Heaven (before we are there) Should we give our hearts to a dog to tear? Fighting Breaks out At Eye Test... When Kath Jubb came for a fight and got one.

Den Orme ends up with a bruised knuckle, in a fierce fight with Kath in the car park at Salmesbury Village hall.

Amazed normally mild mannered Flatcoat owners just watched and cheered as Kath got the better of Den. Being the true gent, he never actually hit Kath's CONKER, but it was more bad aiming than good manners. Kath saw a small crack in Den's conker and went for the kill. Den walked away head down and in some pain.

With her ego bristling Kath was ready to take on the world, but only little me was willing to restore the male supremacy – yes taking Kath's conker out in two blows. Men on top again, but not for long, the ex-champ emerged with two Safeway bags full of her "Back Ups", putting pay to my ONLY conker knowing when to run - I DID Just a normal day really!!!!!!

P.S. Den ---got any "marbles"

written by our on the spot reporter Mr Ken Rees

LETTER from Mrs. Adrienne Hesketh from West Kirby.

I thought the members of NEFRA would like to hear of the indirect tribute paid to our breed this year.

In the summer (I think we had one- I'm not sure) my husband, myself and our 2 Flatcoats Kara and Marnie attended a Fun Day run by our local vet's practice. Upon our arrival we were greeted by the 'main man' with the following - "What's it like to have a baby named after your dog?" My first thought at this stage being of the poor child going through life with the name Flatcoated Retriever Jones, Smith, etc!! Silly me! Mr. Vet interrupted my thoughts and went on to explain that a locum vet who'd been at the practice earlier in the year had recently given birth. The lady in question and treated our liver bitch, Marnie, in January after she had decided her 'ragger' toy made a tasty dessert to her dinner! Consequently, when Mrs. Vet had given birth in the summer and was looking for a name she thought back to a certain four legged patient she'd once seen.

The result now being there are two little Marnies running about the local area, one with four legs, one with two. Now, I wonder which of the two is the more fun, or mischievous???!!! - Answers on a postcard.......

DOGS - Mrs. A. Brook (Culmquill) Many thanks to NEFRA for inviting me to judge dogs at this their 9th Open Show. I had a very enjoyable day with some quality dogs to go over. It is really a most friendly and very well run show - thanks to everyone for making me so welcome and so well looked after - particularly delicious Pavlova. I am not one for making critical comments on the breed as a whole but I feel that I must mention that I did find there were a number of poor feet, also some rather straight upper arms. Mouths were good with just one or two level bites.

Minor Puppy Dog (4,1) 1st Stevenson's Steelriver Tradewinds His first show at just six months, a delightful young man with plenty of bone and a confident manner obviously enjoying his day with usual zest for life that comes from this kennel. Soundly constructed moving well, lovely eye, should do well. 2nd Green's Wistaston Bracken This young man is going through the very leggy stage however he moved steadily and soundly but not so well balanced as 1. Shall watch with interest to see how he develops. 3rd Allen's Casanjay Storm Chaser. Puppy Dog (5,1) 1st Dalziel & Scott's Branchalwood Strathybay - A lovely Flatcoat puppy, confident, ever wagging tail, well balanced and the sound construction showed in his good movement - lovely head with a kind dark eye. BDP and with my co- judge was happy to make him BPIS. I understand he gained his JW today. - Well done. 2nd Geoghegan's Eskmill Ovation for Fenfleet. Another lovely puppy slightly longer and taller than 1. Pushed very hard for 1st place these two, I feel, could at times change places. Also moved well particularly as I have now discovered he was not handled by his normal handler. He presented a very elegant now disover was not as incomposed to the state of the sta Celtic Swing Novice Dog (5,2) 1st B. Strathybay 2nd Slack's Branchalwood Mactavish Little to choose between this lad and the third but just preferred his head and tail setmoved steadily 3rd W. Celtic Swing Graduate Dog (10,1) 1st Egginton's Pajanbeck Prince of Thieves - I like this boy. He has a lovely head, well balanced body, moved well in excellent condition - a happy showman at one with his handler. 2nd Hewison's Spenbeck Circle of Life - not so good in head as one but otherwise I liked this dog good feet, moved well but he did not always stand to his advantage. 3rd Miller's Dunctonwood Mr Softee for Keepersend Post Graduate Dog (8,2) 1st Colson's Windyhollows Tumbling Ted A very close decision between 1st and 2nd but held his top line better on the move. He is very soundly constructed - moving well going, coming and in profile with good rear extension. Good feet. He presents a very balanced picture in the stand at one with his handler. Shown well on a loose lead. (BD, BL). My cojudge and I were pleased to award him BIS. 2nd Ashcroft's Steeplehouse Gamekeeper. Another very good dog that I like - of a more racy type but not as balanced as I Good bone and feet, moved well but just spoilt the line with his tail carriage. In excellent condition also handled and shown well. (RBD) 3rd Mescus's Llecan Piper. Res. S. Circle Of Life. Limit Dog (11,7) 1st Cawkwell's Rievaulx Monsoon. A medium sized well coated dog with a good front, moved freely - a kind dark eye, good feet. 2' Ellison's Blackflight Game Silk. A well coated larger type but very soundly constructed - would have liked tighter feet and a lower tail carriage on the move but standing he

looked great. 3rd Slack's Wizardwood Orlando Res. Mescus' & Kitching's Clowbeck Sweeney Todd. Open Dog (2,0) 1st Hall's Ghilgrange Magic Magician. I have done this dog well before and I still like him, he is a well balanced and elegant dog with a lovely head - moving freely but today he met in the challenge two dogs who pleased me more with their greater masculinity. 2nd W. Orlando. A medium sized dog who did not hold his top line as well as 1 and did not move as straight as I would have liked. I feel that he was not co-operating with his handler and was a bit switched off. Veteran Dog (6,0) 1st Wells' Gilduffe Fiach Not a classical Flatcoat as I know his owner would agree but he was the best mover in this class by far, if not of all the dogs and at 10 years old this won him the class that plus his excellent condition - a lovely fellow. 2nd Egginton's Riversflight Marling of Pajanbeck Just seven years old, not the mover of 1 but a well balanced dog with a good head, lovely feet. 3rd Townsend & Young's Ingella Celestial Star. Res. Jury's Torwood Paradox

BITCHES - Mrs. K. Jubb (Katzenjammer) My thanks to the committee for the invitation to judge this their Millennium show. To my ring stewards and show manager for their excellent and proficient running of the show. To my fellow judge Mrs. Anne Brook. Lastly the most important thanks, to you the exhibitors. Many thanks to you all for allowing me the pleasure of going over your beautiful bitches. I am happy to say that I did not find one bad mouth and the temperament of all the bitches whilst in the ring was superb. Just two things 1 would like to mention. 1. Please remember that the mats are for the dogs to move on, not the handlers. 2. It is advised that our beautiful breed is shown on a loose lead, so please don't string them up when moving them. Minor Puppy Bitch (7,2) 1st Carroll & Ryder's Jaskar Reflection of Willow. Lovely 7-month-old puppy with good angulation all round, neat tight feet, lovely head and a sweet expression, moved well. One to watch out for in the future (BPB). 2nd

Stevenson's Steelriver Summer Winds 6 months old on the day, nicely shaped head with a kind dark eye, tight feet, excellent tail set. 3rd Jackson's Jaskar Pride of Willow. Res. Whittaker's Bramatha Lady in Red Puppy Bitch (12,3) 1st Donnelly's Eskmill Obsession. What a lovely young lady, correctly angled and with good bone, tight feet. Neat set ears on a nicely shaped head, moved well. 2nd Harrison's Blackaurams Sproxton Bliss. Another confident little lady. Sound boned with a good bend of stifle, neat feet, well balanced. kind expression. 3rd Ellison's Huntfar Saint Bride Res. Wells' Gilduffe Aishling, Junior Bitch (9,3) 1st E. Obsession, 2nd B. Sproxton Bliss 3rd B. Lady In Red. Res. Botterill's Blackaurams Treasurley Special Yearling Bitch (7,3) 1st E. Obsession 2nd Forster's Wizardwood Celtic Song. Happy young lady, who showed and moved well. Neat feet and good bone, nicely angled, correct tail set. Well shaped head & a lovely expression. Difficult to choose between 1st & 2nd. 3rd Street's Branchalwood Niceilidh. Res Bellamy's Walnutfarm Jessie at Lathkill Novice Bitch (9,1) 1st W. Celtic Song. 2nd B. Lady In Red. Nice liver bitch, strong bone, good feet and correct angulation. Well shaped head and nice eye and expression. 3rd Payne's Whittersbeck Antlia. Res. Tate's Plane Joint Pal.

Graduate Bitch (15,4) 1st Brocklesby's Spenbeck Maggies Dream. A lovely typical Flatcoat. Good bone and well muscled. Nicely shaped head with neat well set ears and a dark eye. Lovely coat and correct bend of stifle. One that I will watch with interest. (RBB) 2nd Walker's Spenbeck Debutante of Myhills. Litter sister to 1 and very similar in build and type. Much of the above also applies to this bitch. Difficult to split them, first placed bitch being in better coat. 3rd Eggington's Pajanbeck Born Free Res. Salt's Carnegga Ebony Of Levelmoor. Post Graduate Bitch (17,1) 1st Emblem's Dunctonwood Catch The Wind. What a beauty. Nice sized bitch with lovely angulation, good bone and excellent feet. Lovely topline, elegant neck and good front. Kind dark eye set in a beautiful shaped head. Sound and true in movement. Graceful overall picture of what a Flatcoat should be. (BB, RBIS, BOS) 2nd S. Maggies Dream. 3rd Dalziel & Scott's Branchalwood Benalisky. Res. S. Debutante of Myhills. Limit Bitch(14,0) 1st Allen's Darillens Gypsy Queen. One I have watched and liked from being a puppy. Sound, well muscled construction, good bend of stifle. Excellent mover. Strong bone and feet. Lovely neck and head well shaped dark eye. 2nd Hall's Ghilgrange Dawn to Dusk. Lovely type, well constructed with good bone and well developed muscle. Neat ears set onto a well shaped head. Kind expression and dark eye. Good topline. Moved with drive and purpose. 3rd Walker's Biddick Black Pearl. Res. Whiting's Clowbeck Peacock Fly of Spenbeck. Open Bitch (5,2) 1st Miller's Keepersend Oh So Smart. What can 1 say about this lovely bitch, which has not been said many times before? Lovely overall shape, good bone, nice feet on which she moved with drive. Beautiful head, dark eye, neat well set ears. One I have always liked. a typical Flatcoat bitch. 2nd Whittaker's Bramatha Beat The Blues. Liver bitch. Well balanced sound mover good angulation & correct tail set, nice head and neat ears, yet another nice bitch. 3rd Hall's Shargleam Last Echo Of Ghilgrange. Veteran Bitch. (8,2) 1st Donnelly's Ch. Springburn Dreamer of Eskmill. Difficult to believe that this one is a veteran, especially when moving. Well muscled and with good bone. Lovely top line and nicely sprung ribs. Lovely head. Shown in superb condition. 2nd Rees' Verdant Treacle Toffee 8 years old on the day, but you would never have known it. Well muscled, good bone and sound mover. Nice head with neat well set ears. Dark kind eye. 3rd Miller's Smarty Party At Loxdale. Res. Donnelly's Eskmill Intrigue Special Liver Bitch. (3,1) 1st Forster's Wizardwood Tawny Teasel. Lovely dark liver bitch, nice size, ample bone and tight neat feet. Lovely shape of head on an elegant neck, beautiful dark eye. Moved with style and drive 2nd B. Beat the Blues

After a brief consultation with my fellow judge, Mrs. Brook, we decided that we would need the assistance of the referee Mrs. C. Murray, to judge the Brace. The results were as follows: **Brace** (5,1) - 1st Miss S. E. F. Whittaker's 2nd Mrs. & Mrs. P. E. Forster's, 3rd Mrs. S. J. Wells' Res. Mr. & Mrs. H. R. M. Donnelly's

Well Done!!

Oliver and Maggie would like to congratulate all the Spenbeck puppies for the joy and pride felt over the last year when watching them at shows and hearing about their successes. Here's hoping not to miss any particular success out but amongst the most memorable one's were "Debutante" - 1st Junior bitch Manchester, 1st Graduate Leeds, 1st Post Graduate Scotland, "Maggie's Dream" - Reserve Best Bitch at the NEFRA Open Show in November, "Simba" - 3rd Post Graduate Driffield, 3rd in his class at Crufts, "Circle of Life" - 1st Graduate Wales and 2rd in his class at Crufts and "Zazu" - RCC at Driffield, 2rd Junior Manchester and 1st Graduate Leeds. As well as these successes, there have been many minor placings, which with the quality young dogs that are around at the moment we have also been delighted about. Thanks also to the various judges. Here's to next year - now what about working tests!

(The newsletter team would love to here about your successes to include in our "Well Done!!" section).

N.E.F.R.A. Working Test - 18th March 2001

This year, to help cut down on costs, entry forms will only be sent out to those members who entered the last working test. This will be done early in the New Year. Anyone wishing to enter the test who does not receive a from should contact our Acting Working Secretary - Mrs. Denise Jury, 103 Williamthorpe Road, North Wingfield, Chesterfield, Tel. No. - 01246 853575 (SAE would be appreciated).

The tests are to be held at Farnsfield in North Nottinghamshire and will as usual include Open, Novice and Puppy (for dogs up to 2 years of age).

The judges will be Mr. Arthur Hewer, Ms. Eileen Dudley and Mrs. Ann Sparkes. Depending on entries, a fourth judge may be appointed.

Hot refreshments will be available on the day.

SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER: Subscriptions are due on 1st January. The rates are:

SINGLE - £5.00 JOINT - £8.00 JUNIORS, OAPs, etc. £3.00

Please save your Association money by paying on time and saving the expense of issuing reminders.

LETTER from Jane Hedges -

I have been holidaying in the Lake District for a number of years now, especially since becoming a Flatcoat owner as I have discovered that the Lakes must be the nearest thing to Flatcoat heaven there is. This year was no exception. Inca, Juno and I duly headed off to Cumbria for our annual holiday. Having recently been linked to the Internet, I was now aware that Gordon Hall who runs the Coniston Launch service has two Flatcoats (Saga and Folly). I therefore planned to visit, taking the dogs with me; Juno after all thinks she is a Flatcoat even if she really is a Cavalier.

On rather damp morning I dragged my mother and 3 dogs to the banks of Coniston. The launch was just pulling in, and I saw a head looking very intently towards the dogs. As I approached, Gordon immediately said "Good morning, and who are you?" this was of course towards Inca. Following introductions, Gordon welcomed us on board. It turned out that although we paid to travel on the launch, Inca was entitled to a free ride. Gordon explained that Flatcoats always travel free on his launches and although he has about 4 bona fide Flatcoats per year travel, you would be surprised how many Great Danes claim Flatcoat parentage!! We were also told that if we came back for the "Swallows and Amazons" tour in the afternoon we would be able to meet Saga and Folly.

This we duly did. They were both exceptionally well behaved, not once did either try to dive into Coniston, unlike my Inca who thought that her place was as a figurehead in the bows. Gordon did say that they know when they are allowed to swim i.e. when not on boat duty. Gordon's "Swallows & Amazons" tour is fascinating if like me you enjoy the books of Arthur Ransome. He points out many of the places referred to in the books and places them in context. If you enjoy both Flatcoats and boats and happen to be in the Lake District then please visit Gordon on the Coniston Launch, and don't forget your Flatcoat travels free.

The following day Inca and I were heading off for a low level walk taking in two "forces" accompanied by two friends (human) when in the distance I spot a brown coloured dog. Not having my glasses on I was unsure as to whether my eyes were deceiving me or was this truly a liver Flatcoat. As we walked closer I saw that it was indeed a liver Flatcoat and on the end of the lead was no other than Peter Forster. It turns out that the Forsters come to the Lake District every year and were staying only a mile or so away from the cottage that I always take.

It is truly a small world when you have Flatcoats, you never know who you might meet.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given of the sixth Annual General Meeting of the Northern England Flatcoated Retriever Association to be held on Sunday, March 4th 2001 at the Old Golf House Hotel, New Hey Road, Outlane, near Huddersfield (Tel No 01422 379311) at 11.00 a.m.

The following Officials and Committee are due to retire this year and are willing to stand for re-election:

Secretary Vice Chairman Committee Mrs. A. R. Forster Mr. G. M. Whiting Mrs. S. Bunting Mr. S. J. Jubb Mrs. D. Jury Mrs. S. J. Wells

In addition, the post of Working Secretary is vacant following the resignation of Mrs. E. Geogeghan.

Nominations for the above posts should be received in writing by the Secretary from the proposer, together with a letter from the seconder and written agreement from the proposed person by 1st February 2001. Both the proposed person and the proposer or seconder should be in attendance at the Annual General Meeting and be prepared to address the meeting.

Propositions for inclusion on the Agenda of the Annual General Meeting are also invited and should be received by the Secretary no later than 1st February 2001. Only items on the Agenda can be discussed at the Annual General Meeting.

Lunches and bar snacks will be available after the meeting. Please order on arrival. **DIRECTIONS TO THE VENUE**: The Hotel is situated close to the M62. From the West, leave the motorway at junction 23 (you will see the hotel on your left just before the junction). Take the A640 towards Rochdale, the hotel is on your left. From the East, leave the motorway at Junction 24 (**Note** junction 23 is restricted and will involve you in a 20 mile detour!) Again head for the A640 towards Rochdale, via the A643.

Future Dates for your Diary

Annual General Meeting - Sunday 4th March - to be held at the Old Golf House, Outlane, Huddersfield. See notice in this newsletter.

Working Test - Sunday 18th March - to be held at Farnsfield, Nottinghamshire. See notice in this newsletter.

Open Show - Sunday 6th May - to be held at Low Hesket, Carlisle.

Fun Day - Sunday 3rd June - to be held at White Horse Farm Hotel, Rosedale Abbey, nr Pickering (website - www.whitehorsefarmhotel.co.uk)

Working Test - Sunday 12th August - to be held at Seaton Ross near York

Open Show - Sunday 4th November - be held at Staveley, Chesterfield

Forthcoming Open Shows in our area

Anyone wishing us to advertise their show should send full details as soon as possible and bear in mind that this newsletter is only published on a quarterly basis. Schedules for the following shows can be obtained from the respective secretaries:

- Yorkshire Gundog Club (held at Huddersfield) Sunday 25th February Judge: Debbie White (Whiteabbey) - 4 classes - Sec: Mrs G. Earle Tel: 01535 646589
- Matlock & District (held at Alfreton) Saturday 24th February Judge: Val Orme (Elmstock) - 4 classes - Sec: Mrs. S. Monaghan Tel: 01159 278415
- Stoke-on-Trent Gundog (held at Crewe) Sunday 19th January Judge: Sally Millbank (Larksdown) - 6 classes - Sec: Mr D. B. Jack Tel: 01785 665603

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.

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

News Letter Sub Committee.

Mrs. K Jubb Thistledown House, 136 Loscoe Denby Lane, Denby Village, DE5 8PP Tel. 01773 741501
 Mr. S Jubb Thistledown House, 136 Loscoe Denby Lane, Denby Village, DE5 8PP Tel. 01773 741501
 Mrs. D. Jury 103 Williamthorpe Road, North Wingfield, Chesterfield, S42 5NX Tel: 01246 853575
 Mrs. K Trevor 120 Cross Street, Arnold, Nottingham. NG5 7BY Tel. 01159 939134
 Mrs. E Whiting Great Gable, 225 Kitson Hill Rd, Mirfield, West Yorks WF14 9DS Tel: 01924 490741

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