

# WAGGING TAILS

Issue 20

Spring 2001

## NORTHERN ENGLAND FLATCOATED RETRIEVER ASSOCIATION Officers and Committee Members

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#### THOUGHTS FROM THE SECRETARY'S TABLE

I expect we are all having withdrawal symptoms over the lack of Flatcoat events of various kinds. However this is nothing to the tragic scenes on television and the despair in the countryside. So far we have been lucky around here. We have a few cases about 10 miles away, but our neighbours are all holding their breath and disinfectant is everywhere.

I very much regret the cancellation of our show due on May 6th. The venue at Low Heskett had to close as they were surrounded by Foot and Mouth Disease cases. Strenuous attempts were made to find both a new venue and a new date within the 12 weeks allowed by the Kennel Club, but with Championship Shows moving around the Calendar like pieces on a chessboard it proved quite impractical. Other casualties have been the Working Test in March and the Training Day at the end of April. Quite a baptism of fire for our new Working Secretary who we all welcome to the job. The Fun Day has been moved to June 10th. The White Horse Farm Hotel is a lovely venue and it is hoped that some of you will stay over and meet the resident Flatcoats. This makes a very busy weekend with the Flatcoated Retriever Society's Open Show the day before. The original date of June 3rd was the same weekend as the rescheduled Flatcoated Retriever Society's Championship Show.

We are actively looking at the programme for the second half of the year to try to make up for the disappointment of the first few months. Watch the notices in Wagging Tails and the Breed Notes.

All we can pray for now is a rapid resolution of the Foot and Mouth Disease crisis and a return to the normal rhythm of our year.

Kind Regards                      Audrey

#### Amelia Jessel

The Hon. Amelia Jessel, well known to all on the working side of the Flatcoated Retriever world and to many on the show side where she was a Championship Show Judge, died in February. Amelia made up her first Flatcoat Asperula into a Champion and established her kennel under her affix Collyers. Amelia made up several Champions, culminating in Field trail Champion Werriorn Redwing of Collyers bred by her daughter from a Collyers bitch. Amelia was for many years Hon. Secretary of the Flatcoated Retriever Society and later the President. For some years she has been involved in the Society's Shooting Dog Certificate.

Amelia will be greatly missed and we offer our condolences to her family in their untimely loss.

Chairman Mr P. E. Forster

#### A Chance remark

That's all it was. A few weeks before Christmas we were at a Gundog show and while chatting to another exhibitor Bernard mentioned he'd like to try picking up! The following week when I returned home I was greeted with "We not doing anything next Saturday are we?" "No we have a weekend at home" I replied. "Ah! Well, not exactly -- you're picking up!" Surprise, shock, excitement, and horror--I'm still not sure what I felt, but a phone call to Val Orme reassured me (well a bit anyway). "It's a very nice shoot, every one's very kind. The guns are all gentlemen." I was going to **WATCH!**

Excellent directions from Den meant we found the shoot easily and having allowed plenty of time for getting lost we arrived very early. Slowly cars arrived and we were greatly relieved to see Val and Den. Everyone was friendly. It was an 'outside day' designed to send birds back into the main drive areas for the next week. "Don't worry" I was told, "it'll be very quiet".

Off we went, as 'picker uppers'. We squashed into the back of a Land Rover --5 flatcoats and 4 humans, it's at times like this you appreciate how good-natured flatcoats are. Suddenly I found myself with a very excited Cass in the middle of a field - we waited. A whistle blew. We waited and waited. Another whistle blew and that was the end of the first drive. I had mixed feelings -relief tinged with disappointment I'm not sure what I expected, but 'NOTHING' certainly hadn't figured.

We moved off again and stood by a gun. This time quite a few birds were set up. Val's gun hit a cock pheasant and off raced one of her dogs to fetch it-it was clear it wasn't dead! It hadn't occurred to me that the birds might be alive when they hit the ground. Panic! Fortunately my gun did not fire a shot and a quick lesson from Val showed me how to dispatch wounded birds. There's more to this than I thought. Another drive (still no birds for us) and then it was lunch.

We had our first pick up on the next drive. The hen pheasant fell into a bramble bush. Would Cass find it? Would she bring it back? My mind flew back to Sally Collins words at a working test 'Have confidence in your dog!' I slipped the lead from her neck and sent her after the bird. Off like a rocket, straight into the bramble and a few moments later she reappeared triumph written all over her face as she brought the bird straight back to me. Relief flooded over me and I felt very proud of her.

Our next bird was a cock pheasant. I'd released Cass before it came down (a tip from Peter Forster - in case the bird was a runner). As she streaked towards it I realised that it was indeed a runner. For what seemed a lifetime I watched - a flash of brown followed by black and a rustle of undergrowth. I remembered tales of the damage cock pheasants could inflict with their spurs I crossed fingers and toes and prayed. Then suddenly Cass reappeared, pheasant in her mouth and raced back to me. I took the bird from her, it was still alive but not for long, Val's training worked. Cass was ecstatic..This is what she had been bred for and she loved every minute of it.

The day had flown by (excuse the pun) and soon it was the cramped bumpy ride back to the cars. Did we go again? Oh yes several times and we'll reserve Saturday's next season. Val said we'd enjoy it and we have. We feel privileged to have been invited on to the shoot and to hope to be able to continue picking up for many years to come.

Thanks to Val for asking us. To Val and Peter for encouragement and advice and to all the guns and beaters on the shoot for making us feel so welcome.  
From Kate and Bernard Perry

#### - GEORGIE LLOYD -

When we first met Georgie she was just a few weeks old. One of our neighbours had told us that Mrs Wells who lives around the corner had a Flatcoated Retriever that had some puppies. We all went to visit her, there are four children in our family, Georgie jumped onto one of us who was wearing a fake fur coat and went to sleep. We went to visit her a lot before we took her home. We have had Georgie for nearly a year now. Her birthday is January 15<sup>th</sup> and she got lots of presents. At Christmas we got her lots of toys but she chewed them all to bits within a few days so for her birthday we got her food treats and made lots of cards. Her friends Ellie (another Flatcoat) and Lucy gave her a bone and a card. We took her to dog training classes, Matthew practised hard with her but she still jumps up at everyone and licks them! When we come home from school she always jumps up at us and she likes to play games. She steals things she knows that she shouldn't have and runs around the room and we have trouble catching her! She likes us to play 'Tug of War' with her a lot. We've had to get a lot of new ropes. We're very glad she is part of our family.

By Matthew (11), Sophie (10), Rachel (7) and Timothy (8) Lloyd

#### 6 AM START

Been awake all night so not to sleep in. But was fast asleep when the alarm bell rang (sounds familiar). The dogs were having an early breakfast but watching every move in the house. The door was opened to load the car only to see Thick Freezing Fog today of all days. Time to go, we say goodbye and good luck.. Will Seth listen to the commands or will today be a day when he wants to do everything his way (typical Flattie).

I'm not allowed to go along for support, as there are no spectators allowed, so instead I have a day cleaning and playing with Mersey, our 7 month old puppy and full of fun. The phone rang a little after 4pm. I couldn't get there fast enough, YES Seth had done it a S.D.C. All the training has paid off. Well done to you both. From Pat

Shooting Dog Certificate Grade A Torwood Mannerly handled by Jeff Lewins

#### Dog Owners Fitness Program

You've seen those ads on TV promising amazing results from all sorts of contraptions. Well, there's no need to invest in fancy equipment. You and your dog can now exercise in your own front room, you have everything you need to get in shape now!!! Loose those extra pounds put on at Christmas (I meant the dogs!).

The following exercises can (and will) be done anywhere, anytime but remember to consult with your doctor and/or vets before commencing any fitness regime.

**Inner Thighs:** Place your Flatcoat's favourite toy between thighs. Press tighter than the dog can pull. Do not attempt bare legged, dogs that favour shortcuts to success will just dig the toy out.

**Upper Body Strength:** Lift your Flatcoat - off the couch, off the bed, out of the flowerbed. Repeat, repeat, repeat. As the dog ages, this exercise is reversed - onto the couch, onto the bed, into the car and so on.

**Balance and Coordination:** Remove your wriggly Flatcoat puppy from unsuitable tight places. If they're too small for him, they're certainly too small for you.

Practice not falling when your dog bounds across the full length of the room, sails through the air, and slams both front paws into the back of your knees.

For use with multiple Flatcoats and those daft enough of us to have them in the house and on our laps. Remove all dogs from lap and answer the phone before it stops ringing, or the answer phone cuts in (that is assuming you are not under psychiatric care!).

For those of us with older Flatcoats, attempt to cross a room without tripping over the dog. Get off your couch without crushing any part of a sleeping elderly dog (let sleeping flatcoats lie).

**Upper Arms:** Throw the ball. Throw the squeaky toy. Throw the Frisbee. Repeat until nauseous. Tug the rope. Tug the pull toy. Tug the sock. Repeat until your shoulder is dislocated or the dog gives up (we all know which comes first!).

**Hand Coordination:** Remove foreign object from a locked jaw. This exercise is especially popular with puppy owners. Repeat, repeat, repeat. Remember, this is a timed exercise. Movements must be quick and precise (think concert pianist) to prevent trips to the vet, which only offer the minimal exercise benefit of jaw firming clenches.

**Calves:** After your flatcoat has worn out the rest of your body, hang a circular toy on your ankle and let the dog tug while you tug back..

Run after dog - pick any reason, there are plenty. Stopping the Flatcoat from eating undesirable matter is usually a good one. Dogs of any size can be used for this exercise.

**Neck Muscles:** Attempt to out manoeuvre the flatcoat tongue headed for your ear, mouth, or eyeball. This is a lifelong fitness program. A dog is never too old or too feeble to give you a 'French Kiss' when you least expect it!

Practice all these exercises as and when you and/or your dog have the energy and inclination. Or just exercise your fingers on the dummy launcher!

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#### DUKE

April 2<sup>nd</sup> 1997 - December 10<sup>th</sup> 2000

Four days before Duke's death he was enjoying our local dog club Christmas party - when Joe and Lucy were taking part in the bean bag race he was vocally encouraging them on at the sidelines. Duke was a proud member of the Cresta Display - visiting local summer fetes - obedience, agility, shadowing Steve while he helped to set up. Together they achieved their bronze and silver Kennel club awards and were working towards their gold.

Duke was always Steve's shadow - he loved to work in the joiner's workshop with him or ride in the van with that proud look on his face. They discussed jobs together. Nine months ago it was Duke who helped Steve to cope when I was diagnosed as having a brain tumour. He was there for him all of the time. When Joe's Rosie had to have an operation, Duke went into the ring in Junior handling and helped Joe to take Best Junior Handler at a local Open show even though he didn't like the show scene. He was a real pal.

Duke received a lot of compliments when he was out with us - he was a fine looking dog with a stature that made reps and visitors hold him in great respect but his face showed his true character, he was a big softie - a gentle giant. Duke was judge shy - to those of you who can cast their minds back some 3 years ago when the Tate Family first gathered at the ring side with their 4 flatties - we really tried but Duke didn't enjoy it so we chose not to make him do something that he didn't like. It wasn't necessary.

Neither was he a gundog - there are plenty of working gundogs in his family but he didn't inherit this trait. To us he was worth far more than the top show dog, better than the most qualified gundog. He was our perfect gentleman. Almost 16 years ago we chose our first flattie, Bess. Like Bess, Duke was our loyal friend. That was enough.

(Duke died during an operation to rectify a twisted stomach and spleen - he is sorely missed)  
Written by the Tate Family

#### Puppy Virus Alert.

This virus is no joke. It is progressive and dangerous. It will begin with one cute puppy, usually as a pet. You will not realise you have been infected even when you try to convince your family that making liver cake is more rewarding than buying groceries. You may not recognise the symptoms even when 90% of your mail is pet catalogues and show schedules.

By the time the virus has taken firm hold you will have made your garden into a safe area for your dog, you will try to sell the children's swings etc to make more room for the dog agility equipment. Your computer will threaten to crash because of the huge number of dog web sites, food sites, breeding lists, rescue lists, advice centres, canine health notes and book lists that have filled all the available space. You will have borrowed from anyone who will lend you money to buy more memory.

This virus will take over every room of your house in the form of dog beds, toys, food, treats, health products catalogues schedules etc. You will begin to avoid anyone who doesn't have a dog and try and convert anyone who doesn't know how wonderful a Flatcoat is. Your family will not recognise you unless you are covered in dog hair. They will run competitions at mealtimes to see who gets the first dog hair in their food. You will seriously consider moving house to accommodate more dogs, you will need a second mortgage for a car more suitable for dogs and depression will set in if there are no dog shows in the pipeline.

Your own dog will worry about you.

There is no cure.

Thankfully there are groups where you can talk to others that have been infected and who will understand you. With luck they will also know of a really good sale on dog food etc.....

Denise Jury

#### Thought from the heart.

He is your friend, your partner, your defender, your dog. You are his life, his love, his leader. He will be yours, faithful and true, to the last beat of his heart. You owe it to him to be worthy of such devotion.

Unknown

### Interview with a 'Dogs for the Disabled' dog trainer

How do they do that? It's a question I am sure you must ask yourself when you see any type of assistance dog working. Perhaps this article will enlighten you

Chris Wilsdon has worked as a trainer for the Dogs for the Disabled for five and a half years, the first three years of which were as an apprentice trainer gaining his qualification. He is currently training a Flatcoated Retriever cross Goldie named Cree who is willing to try anything but the 'licky trait' of the breed is coming through.

The Dogs for the Disabled try and use gundog breeds as they have the natural retrieve instinct that forms a vital part of their later training. They are also strong enough to cope with the demands that will be placed on them. Puppies are placed with the Puppy Socialiser at about eight weeks of age and will remain with them until they are between twelve and fourteen months old. The charity also uses withdrawn Guide Dogs, which, whilst they may not make the grade as Guide Dogs, make excellent candidates for Dogs for the Disabled. They try and keep a balance between dogs and bitches, all of which will be neutered before being placed with their new owners.

During the time spent with the Puppy Socialiser the prospective puppies will have two spells in kennels, one at four months and the other at six months, so that it will not be a 'culture shock' when they are moved onto the training centre. The Puppy Socialiser Coordinator visits the puppies once a month and organise 'Puppy Parties' for them to socialise with each other.

Once the puppy is ready it is moved onto the training centre to undergo six months of intensive training. For the first four months it undergoes basic training that uses positive reinforcement such as clicker training and shaping. Indeed the charity has a 'hands off' policy when it comes to training and most is done off lead using positive rewards so the dogs do the training because they want to rather than being made to do something. There are five basic areas covered these being

Obedience, which includes responding to voice and hand signals

Retrieve work, such as dropped articles. Later training in this area included retrieving named articles.

Pull work, such as opening doors, operating switches

Targeting work, such as lift buttons, light switches and closing doors

Speak work, barking to raise the alarm etc. This is the last thing to be taught.

Chris thinks that the hardest part of the training is to retrain a dog that has learnt to pull on a lead and avoid food distractions. He believes the hardest task for the dog to learn is to replace articles, such as putting a phone back on the cradle, as this is contrary to the natural retrieve instinct.

In the final two months of the basic training a decision is made regarding the placement of the dogs with their new owners. The disabled person's needs are assessed as are the dog's abilities and the two are matched as closely as possible and the last two months of training become more targeted and could include pulling washing out of a washing machine, fetching groceries in a shopping basket or by using a special harness helping a person with balance difficulties to walk without walking frame or stick.

After the initial six month training course the puppy goes home with its new owner. The trainer will make five home visits in the first two weeks to check all is going well and then once a week until the puppy is qualified as a 'Dogs for the Disabled' assistant dog.

Even at this point the support offered by the charity does not stop. A week after qualification the trainer will revisit, followed by another after a month, then every two months until six months have elapsed. Then the visits are reduced to one every six months for the remainder of the dogs working life.

As I am sure you are aware we have been fund raising for the 'Dogs for the Disabled' charity and through the various articles in the Newsletter I hope you have gained some of an insight on some of the working of the charity.

So next time when you see an assistance dog working and ask yourself 'How do they do that?' you know it is only through the efforts of a dedicated team of trainers and support workers some of which has been made possible by your fundraising efforts!

Thank you

### NOW HERE'S THE CHALLENGE

Can you train your dog to carry out one of the tasks mentioned above, for example opening and shutting a door. Sounds easy? Why not give it a go and tell all of your successes and failures in 'Wagging Tails'.

The editor

**MINUTES OF THE SIXTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE  
OLD GOLF HOUSE HOTEL, OUTLINE, near HUDDERSFIELD ON SUNDAY  
4TH MARCH, 2000**

Present: Mr. G. Lancaster (President), Mr. P. Forster (Chairman), Mr. G. Whiting (Vice Chairman) Mrs. A. Forster (Secretary), Mrs. E. Whiting (Treasurer) and 34 members.

**PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

The President, Mr. G. Lancaster, welcomed the members to the Annual General Meeting and said it was pleasing to see so many attending. He expressed his thanks for all the work done during the past year. He then handed over to the Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

Mr. P. Forster announced that the Flatcoated Retriever Society Championship Show had altered its venue (due to the foot and mouth outbreak) from Malvern to Slough, Berkshire. Mr. R. Allen added that a final decision on whether to hold the show would be made two weeks before the event.

The Kennel Club had been contacted and confirmed that NEFRA should proceed with holding its Annual General Meeting.

Mr. Tom Fell from the Countryside Alliance was present and would be giving a short talk later in the proceedings.

Mr. Forster then continued with his opening remarks. He welcomed members to the sixth annual General Meeting. He felt the Association had come a long way since the Inaugural Meeting in April 1994 and had just realised they had had 40 committee meetings since that date. The Association had had another successful year, details of which would be provided by the appropriate officials. Mr. Forster stated this could not have been done without the hard work and dedication of the Secretary, Treasurer, Working Secretary and the rest of the Committee and he thanked them on his own and the Association's behalf. The Working Secretary, Liz Geoghegan, had decided she no longer wished to hold the post. Mr. Forster regretted this decision but thanked her for all the hard work she had put in over the years. He also thanked Denise Jury for stepping in as Acting Working Secretary and agreeing to become Working Secretary. A proposition regarding the Association's attitude on yellow flatcoats would be raised later in the proceedings. Mr. Forster asked all present to sign the attendance sheet and enter details on the apologies sheet.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from 37 members.

**MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The Minutes of the last meeting on 5 March 2000 had been circulated prior to the meeting. Mrs. Lancaster proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true and correct record of the meeting. Seconded - Mrs. V. Orme. All in favour.

**MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Mrs. A. Forster welcomed everybody and thanked them for making the effort to attend. She felt it was important to have feedback at the AGM on the progress of the Association.

The Association had aimed to make the Millennium memorable and Mrs. Forster felt that they had managed that, especially with the hugely successful Fun Day in June during which the Millennium Raffle was drawn. Members surpassed themselves with the prizes, which enable the Association to send over £1,000 to Dogs for the Disabled. This, together with many other individual donations - including a large one from Mrs. Ann Sparkes consisting of sponsorship by members and others for the White Peak Walk held in very inclement weather - had enabled NEFRA to sponsor the purchase and training of a dog.

All the regular events were held, together with a Judging Seminar and an Eye Testing Day. The attendances at the latter two were very disappointing with minimal profit arising when expenses had been met. Mrs. Forster personally felt that some educational events should be included in the programme in order to offer members the opportunity to widen their knowledge of Flatcoats, their health and well being, and to offer training in both showing and working.

Mrs. Forster thanked all the members for the help they had given to herself and the Committee during the year.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Mrs. E. Whiting stated a copy of the Accounts had been sent out with the Agenda. The surplus had decreased from £2200 in the previous year to £700.

Expenses had increased (paying for the committee meeting expenses and honoraria increases). Losses were made on the Judging and Health Seminars and on the Eye Testing. The Fun Day had made very little surplus as the profits from the Raffle had been earmarked for Dogs for the Disabled. 2001 had got off to a bad start, as the Working Test scheduled for 18 March had had to be cancelled due to the foot and mouth outbreak. Mrs. Whiting asked for questions from the floor. Mrs. Forster pointed out the contributions to Dogs for the Disabled would not continue at the same rate as during 2000.

The Auditor had again waived his fee and indicated he would like the Association to make a donation on his behalf to a charity of NEFRA's choice.

Mrs. K. Jubb proposed the accounts for 2000 be accepted. Seconded Mr. D. Orme. All in favour.

**APPOINTMENT OF AN AUDITOR**

Mr. Andrew Pollock would continue as Auditor. A vote of thanks was proposed to the Auditor, All in favour.

#### HONORARIA

All officials were in agreement that the existing honoraria would remain as at present. An additional honorarium of £50 per year for the Litter Recorder was proposed by Mrs. E. Whiting, seconded Mrs. A. Forster (this was to cover telephone expenses). All in favour.

#### ACTING WORKING SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mrs. Jury thanked Mrs. Geoghegan for handing over all the records in such good order. Unfortunately the Working Test had had to be cancelled. A Training Day was scheduled to be held near Uttoxeter at the end of April - this would be confirmed at a later date. A Working Test would be held at Yarm in August and a Cold Game Test was being planned for October. A Shooting Dog Certificate to be run under the auspices of NEFRA was being considered. Mrs. Jury would welcome suggestions for grounds away from the Chesterfield area for Gundog events.

#### LITTER RECORDER'S REPORT

Mrs. Adams reported supply had kept up with demand. She had received 90 enquiries. Members of NEFRA who had litters were given priority for enquiries. Mrs. Adams did request that breeders advise her when all their litter had been sold.

#### ELECTION OF SECRETARY

Mrs. A. Forster - proposed Mr. H. Nelson, seconded Mrs. K. Trevor.  
All in favour. There were no other nominations.

#### ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Mr. G.M. Whiting - proposed Mrs. D. Jury, seconded Mr. R. Bunting.  
All in favour. There were no other nominations.

#### ELECTION OF WORKING SECRETARY

Mrs. D. Jury - proposed Mr. P. Forster, seconded Mr. D. Orme.  
All in favour. There were no other nominations.

#### ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

There were 4 vacancies on the Committee.

The following committee members were willing to stand for re-election for 3 years:  
Mrs. S. Bunting, Mrs. S. Jubb, Mrs. S.J. Wells.  
Proposed: Mr. H. Nelson, seconded Mr. Allen.  
All in favour. There were no other nominations.

#### PRESIDENT'S CUP

Mrs V. Orme thanked Mr G. Whiting and Mrs E. Whiting for supplying results of shows that she had not attended in person. The results between the top two dogs had been extremely close and had not been decided until the last show of the year at LKA.

1st with 74 points Winton's Ch. Braidwynn Bonnie Lad  
2nd with 72 points Daiziel and Scott's Branchalwood Strathybay  
3rd with 43 points Irvine's Sh Ch Gayplume Fine Fashion of Dravidian.

Mrs Winton had sent her apologies for not attending the Meeting as she was attending the Scottish Top Dogs competition with Bonnie Lad. Mr. R. Allen had agreed to accept the Cup on her behalf.  
Mrs Forster thanked Mrs Orme for all the work she had done compiling the results throughout the year.

#### DRAW FOR MEMBERS PRESENT AT THE MEETING

A draw was made from the entire membership list. To collect the prize money, the member had to be present at the meeting. First drawn was Mr. C. Bell from Mirfield, second Mrs. J. Showell and third Mr. A. Beattie. None of the foregoing were present. Next year first prize would be £100, second £20 and third £10. If not won these amounts would be donated to charity.

#### PROPOSITION

That the Code of Ethics be expanded to include 'Yellows and Non Standard colours should not be bred from'. Proposed Mr. P.E. Forster, seconded Mrs. D. Jury.  
Mrs. Forster advised that the Kennel Club had confirmed that yellows would be shown on registration papers as 'non standard colour'. Mrs. Cawkwell queried why this had not come up before and was told that it arose from the Kennel Club's updating of breed standards. All were in favour.

#### PROPOSITION

That the Committee have the discretionary right to raise subscriptions for 2002 should this be deemed necessary. Proposed Mrs. E.M. Whiting, seconded Mrs. A.R. Forster.  
Mrs. Whiting reported that the committee had discussed the question of subscriptions. She pointed out that if we were to attain Championship Show status a reasonable bank balance would be required. In view of the current situation and events having to be cancelled the committee were asking for this authority (a decision would not be taken until September/October) when the results of the year's events could be costed out. The suggestion had been a maximum of £2.00 although Mrs. Whiting stressed that she would be reluctant to increase subscriptions unless felt absolutely necessary.  
Mrs. Forster advised that the Kennel Club had confirmed that this procedure was in order. Mr. Nelson suggested that the Proposition should stand with the amendment that a maximum increase of £2.00 be levied. All were in favour.

#### REPORT FROM THE KENNEL CLUB LIAISON COUNCIL MEMBER

The majority of the Agenda for the Liaison Council's last meeting did not apply to Flatcoated Retrievers directly. The main relevant discussion was around the proposition that 'there is no doubt that having the privilege of judging the dogs of other owners carried certain responsibilities and obligations. It therefore follows that judges should show the same degree of integrity and courtesy after leaving the judging ring'. This motion was carried. It was also confirmed that the Kennel Club Guide to Judges was under review and would be released in the New Year (i.e. 2001).

#### ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Orme reported the suggestion of affiliation to BASC had been raised at the previous AGM. Unfortunately he had received very little feedback from that organisation. However the Countryside Alliance had proved very enthusiastic. Mr. Orme felt, as a Gundog club, we should be supporting the countryside. Mr. Tom Fell was welcomed to the meeting to give a short talk on the Countryside Alliance. Countryside Alliance had originally emerged from BFSS specifically to combat the threat to hunting. This remit has now widened, as there is now a genuine threat to animal activities. Mr. Fell outlined the remit of the Alliance. Full membership with all of its benefits is £35.00 per annum. A reduced membership was available for groups at £17.50, which provided insurance cover etc., for the named members but did not provide newsletters etc. Affiliated membership does not include any benefits but registers that person as supporting the Alliance. Mrs. Orme asked that anyone interested in joining should contact himself or Mrs. Jury. Mrs. Geoghegan requested that Affiliation with the Countryside Alliance should be included as a Proposition on the Agenda for the 2002 AGM. Mr. Fell was thanked for his attendance and very interesting talk.

#### DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF THE NEXT A.G.M.

To be held at the Old Golf House Hotel, Outline on Sunday 3rd March 2002.  
The meeting closed at 1.00 p.m.

#### Presidents Cup Results

1 <sup>st</sup>	Winton's	Ch. Braidwynn Bonnie Lad	74 pts
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Dalzeil/Scotts'	Branchalwood Strathybay	72 pts
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Irvine's	Sh Ch Gayplume Fine Fashion of Dravidion	43 pts
4 <sup>th</sup>	Irvine's	Sh Ch Vbos Lady from Louisiana	42 pts
5 <sup>th</sup>	Murray's	Gayplume Pure Style	38 pts
	Nelson's	Byways Murphy Himself	38pts
7 <sup>th</sup>	Hargreave's	Sh Ch Forgeaway Park Royal	37 pts
	Orme's	Sh Ch Elmstock Wild Thyme	37 pts
9 <sup>th</sup>	Donnelly's	Eskmill Obsession	33 pts
10 <sup>th</sup>	Colson's	Windyhollows Nelly Moser	32 pts
	Murray's	Sumaha Sharp Shooter for Gayplume	32 pts

#### Why do we love them so .....by Nicky Bailly

Why do I love my Flatcoat so?  
Is a thought I've often had,  
Droopy eyes so full of woe  
That make him look so sad.

Could it be he always waits  
With nose pressed on the door,  
The "I have to go and peepee" trait  
Just as I have washed the floor.

Or is it when he goes outside  
And slides right through the mud  
He re-appears so full of pride  
Thinking he has done such good

And what about the dog hair  
As I scrub, and vac, and clean,  
It seems to float round in the air  
When I think my homes pristine

But no it is his loyalty  
As he follows where I go  
He must think I am royalty  
That's why I love him so.

#### Things Flatcoats must try to remember

1. I will NOT play tug-of-war with Dad's underwear when he's on the toilet.
2. The dustbin men are NOT stealing our stuff.
3. The kitchen bin is NOT a biscuit tin
4. I must NOT steal the underwear clean or dirty and dance in the garden with it.
6. We do NOT have a doorbell. I will not bark each time I hear one on T.V.
7. I will NOT lick anybody's face after eating animal poop.
8. I must shake the rain out of my fur BEFORE entering the house.
9. I will NOT eat the cat's food before or after they eat it.
10. My head does NOT belong in the fridge.
11. I must NOT use the toilet as a drinking bowl
12. The milkman will go away. I do NOT need to bark at him at 6.00 a.m.
13. The hand that delivers the letters has a body as well.

Future Dates for your Diary

**T** **Fun Day - Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> June** - to be held at White Horse Farm Hotel, Rosedale Abbey, nr Pickering (website - [www.whitehorsefarmhotel.co.uk](http://www.whitehorsefarmhotel.co.uk))

**A** **Working Test - Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> August - CANCELLED**

**I** **Open Show - Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> November** - to be held at Staveley, Chesterfield

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STOP PRESS

**L** We are still hoping, Foot and Mouth Disease allowing, to hold the Fun Day on June 10<sup>th</sup>. As open fields and livestock surround this venue it must be considered under threat.

After discussion with our Working Secretary and the venue owners, the proposed training Day on July 28<sup>th</sup> in South Notts and the working test at Crathorne on August 12<sup>th</sup> are cancelled. It is hoped to make fresh arrangements as and when the Foot and Mouth Crisis has ended.

**E** For further information nearer the time watch announcements in the dog press or ring Denise Jury or myself. Thank you. Audrey

**N** 

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

**E** 

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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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