

# WAGGING TAILS

Issue 31

Winter 2003

## NORTHERN ENGLAND FLATCOATED RETRIEVER ASSOCIATION Officers and Committee Members

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### Thoughts from the Secretary's Table

With Christmas fast approaching I expect you are all fully occupied with preparations – indeed maybe many of you are in panic mode, I know I am, but from past experience it always sorts itself out and Christmas Eve is lovely.

Moving on to 2004. In this edition is the notification for your AGM on March 14<sup>th</sup>. This year your committee have decided to ask for your approval to include a voting Vice President. We are also thinking around the problem of excessive workload and have one or two ideas to put to members. Please do try and attend the AGM. The Old Golf House puts on excellent sandwiches; salads etc so do come along and listen, vote and enjoy your day.

May I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous and successful 2004

Audrey

### 2004 SUBSCRIPTIONS

Please note that the 2004 Subscriptions are now due and remain unchanged from last year namely;

£5 for individuals  
£8 for joint membership  
£3 for senior citizens, juniors and gamekeepers.

Please send all monies due to Mrs E Whiting, Great Gable, 225 Kitson Hill Road, Mirfield, West Yorkshire, WF14 9DS

**Note From the Treasurer:** Thank you to all those of you who already pay by standing order. If you would like to pay by standing order next year, please enclose a stamped addressed envelope with this year's cheque and I will be pleased to send you the appropriate form. Those of you still paying by cheque, please note that the final date for payment is 28<sup>th</sup> February 2004 and after that date you may be required to re-apply for membership. Please pay promptly to save the Association the cost of sending out reminders.

#### From The Editor

In the last edition of Wagging Tails there was an article titled 'How does your garden grow' we wish to apologise to the author Ann Myers for missing off her name from the James Wellbeloved article Pet Club Issue 13 from which some information had been used.

### NORTHERN ENGLAND FLATCOATED RETRIEVER ASSOCIATION

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given of the eighth Annual General Meeting of the Northern England Flatcoated Retriever Association to be held at 11am on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2003 at the Old Golf Hotel, New Hey Road, Outlane, Nr Huddersfield (tel 01422 379311).

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

Hon Secretary  
Vice Chairman  
Committee

Mrs A R Forster  
Mr D Orme  
Mrs S Bunting  
Mrs S J Wells  
Mr R Bunting  
Mr S J Jubb

Nominations for the above posts should be received in writing by the Secretary from the proposer, together with a letter from the seconder and a written agreement from the proposed, by 14<sup>th</sup> February 2004. The proposed person and either 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 14<sup>th</sup> February 2004. 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.



### Woodford Fun Day - Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2003

This was our first visit to a flattie funday. We came for Twig our then 8 month old dog. It was a good excuse to show him to Sheena who bred him and for him to visit some of his relations. I used to live in Wilmslow so it was nice to meet up lots of people I hadn't seen since walking with my previous flattie.

Although prepared for a very wet day we arrived at Woodford Memorial Hall with the sun shining, which continued for most of the day. After registration, a coffee and a quick chat with Sheena we wandered around admiring the other dogs and beautiful tiny puppies. (Why do flatties grow so fast?!!)

The committee had arranged various fun quizzes and competitions for old and young. It was just up my son's street collecting items to fit inside a matchbox. The main events of the morning included instruction in trimming, an obedience class, an opportunity to have the height of your dog measured, an insight into gundog training and a dummy retrieve competition. Sheena and team ran the merchandise stall and business was brisk if not hectic!

We decided to chat to June about trimming. This was most useful as showing Twig is a possibility and she demonstrated techniques on our dogs, some more obliging than others. We then opted for a quick measure before returning back to the sunshine. Outside the obedience class was taking place, and was enjoyed by most owners.

Denise skilfully handled the introduction to gundog training. It was then the dogs turn to practise with the dummies. Twig wasn't bad but then still on the lead it wasn't a real test! That came later by those brave enough or indeed skilled enough to enter their dogs in the retrieve competition. Most were happy to collect the dummy but were more interested in the baked potato on the judge's chair than a proper present!

Lunch was held back in the hall where delicious sandwiches, baked potatoes and the most scrumptious cakes were for sale. Being novices we had brought a packed lunch, but still enjoyed the wonderful cakes.

The puppy walk was good fun. Twig managed second place. Several members took their Kennel Club Good Citizens awards to bronze and silver standard. Well done to them. A sit down and rest while Audrey demonstrated tidying up your dog for the show ring. It was then time for a quick run around the field with Shimna, Aisling and Fern. (Sheena's girls.) They were really well behaved and fun to be with - especially demonstrating their retrieving skills to me. We decided to adopt two of them for the highlight of the day for both humans and dogs - the competitions. We were divided into random teams having relay competitions, which included dressing up en route, biscuit and spoon races and sausage retrieves. There was lots of cheating, half eaten sausages and dropped biscuits - much to the dogs' delight. For more sensible humans there was a dummy throwing competition!

Back in the hall for final results of the quizzes and competitions and lots of very tired but very well behaved dogs still wagging tails. It was a brilliant day with lots of opportunity to chat, make new friends and catch up with old ones, human and doggy. We all enjoyed ourselves very much. It was a real fun day. Thank you committee.

Liz Todd

### NEFRA Working Test Report - Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2003

NEFRA held a special puppy, novice & open WT on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September at Farnsfield Nr Mansfield by kind permission of Mr Trevor Bossons. Judges were John Greeves for open and Novice with Jackie Winder judging Special puppy & Novice.

The day was fine and the rain that had been promised did not arrive. Unfortunately the water we were going to use had been taken over by the ducks (400 of them) so a stream caused a great diversion as the retrievers were all over the water and many dogs felt a trip up and down the pleasantly rippling water a much more exciting option. Around lunchtime, as this was forestry commission land, a small fire broke out a few miles away in the tree tops, this showered us with black bits of fir tree to enliven everyone's sandwiches.

Jackie Winder writes;

I was happy to have been asked to judge the Puppy WT at Farnsfield on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> Sept and was absolutely delighted with the 14 puppies who turned up. The weather was perfect, the forecast for rain was wrong again, thank goodness, giving the dogs good conditions for work.

The first test was for steadiness. Walking to heel up a path between shrubs and trees, sitting the dog and the handler throwing a dummy out in front, turning round and walking with the dog back to the starting point, then sending the dog for its retrieve after sitting and staying until told to move. Most dogs performed this test well with no failures. The second test was a 50yds mark along a track in woodland. The dogs got good marks and went out with enthusiasm. The third test was a blind about 30yds down a path between trees & shrubs to an overhanging bough. All the pups performed this task extremely well. The fourth test was a marked retrieve down a bank, across a shallow stream, and up the bank on the opposite side for the dummy. Most dogs performed this test well, but a few preferred to have a little play in the stream on the way back, as puppies are apt to do. There was a clear winner with a run off for 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> places. This test was a 30yd mark into cover with a few brambles, which did not deter these pups one bit. All the puppies entered showed good potential and hopefully will keep up their enthusiasm for working.

The novice test started on time in the afternoon after a quick lunch. John Greeves and I judged two tests each. The first test I judged was a mark 80yds along a track between woodland. Quite a few dogs were drawn into the cover on both sides, and track once in the cover the handlers found it difficult to get their dogs back onto the right track. The next test was a blind up a slope along a ride with beds of nettles that proved to be a problem, lots of dogs tip-toed over them or chose their way to avoid them. This resulted in slow retrieves. One or two handlers struggled to keep their dogs in the area letting them get into the cover and losing them. The number of dogs stopping for a pee on this test was amazing. This is a problem that must be overcome and can only succeed with training. The dogs that went straight out did this test well, and once in the area, quickly found the dummy as scenting was good.

Overall it was a most enjoyable day and as usual in f/c tests a good atmosphere prevailed. Thank you NEFRA for asking me to judge it was a lovely day on very suitable ground and we were well looked after in all respects. Thanks also to all the willing helpers who helped everything move smoothly forward to the final outcome with all the awards being given to very worthy winners.

**Open winners** out of 12 entries were 1<sup>st</sup> Dr. Diane Heywood's Sumaha Shadow Dancer at Houndswood. 2<sup>nd</sup> Cherry Woods Soft Breeze. 3<sup>rd</sup> Cherry Wood's Cumberwood Cracker and 4<sup>th</sup> Frann Robb with Meldorfer Mudlark.

**Novice winners** out of 26 were 1<sup>st</sup> Caroline Hewison's Spenbeck Circle of Life 2<sup>nd</sup> Ann Brook's Culmquill It's a Lovely Day 3<sup>rd</sup> Julie Matthews Eskmill Nymph & 4<sup>th</sup> Roz Townsend's Rainesgift Reiver.

**Special Puppy** out of 16. 1<sup>st</sup> Ellisons Blackflight Arrietta a repeat from the March puppy test at Preston. 2<sup>nd</sup> after a run off for the next three placings was Helen Fox's Blacktoft Imagination (handled by Mr Fox) 3<sup>rd</sup> Jo Montandon's Waverton Chianti 4<sup>th</sup> Jonsen's Casblaidd Gipsey Briar (handled by Casper).

**NEFRA Cold Game Tests held on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2003 at Lincolnshire University Farms.**

**Guy Radford** writes;

Quite often, something happens which is a little surprising. If you are lucky, pleasantly surprising. In this case, it was an invitation from Denise Jury to Judge Flatcoats at NEFRA's Cold Game Test at Lincolnshire University Farms on October 16<sup>th</sup>. I can only guess as to why she should invite ME to Judge, but any invitation to Judge is an honour so, naturally, I accepted.

It was about 24 hours later that I started to worry! You see, I started to think about the situation. Denise had said that the Test would be run on Field Trial lines, walked-up, in sugar beet. Walked-up in sugar beet, great. Field Trial lines. Oh dear.

And then I thought, I'm doing exactly what a lot of Flatcoat handlers do. I'm condemning the dogs before we've even started. I'm making unnecessary excuses for their performance in the field. Now I know several Flatcoats which are quite useful shooting companions, and on odd occasions I've seen a useful Lab have it's eye well and truly wiped by a Flatcoat. Right, let's go for it. I've said I'll do it and do it I will!

When I arrived at the venue, EVERYBODY stared at me as if I'd just landed in a spacecraft. This is not a good start I thought. I knew someone who plays about with Labs shouldn't be doing this! Anyway, once I took my crash helmet off and my motorbike clobber, things started to improve and it appeared that I'd been accepted as one of the Judges after all! David Bellamy welcomed everyone and explained the day to the handlers and off we went to the sugar beet.

It had been decided that I should take the centre of the line, and my Co. Judges, Elaine Whittaker and Malcolm Peacock took the left and right respectively. It was nice to find that we had a few "New" handlers with us although one or two of them felt a little out of their depth, not just with the dog work but with procedure as well.

The most common problem was that dogs were miss-marking and charging off down the beet. OK. We all have that problem from time to time. That's when we get the whistle out! Now, when I see a dog run past a retrieve by about 75 yards and no attempt is made to stop it, I usually surmise that the handler knows there is absolutely no point blowing the whistle as the brake pads need replacing (if they ever worked at all) so they just stand there and pray. If this was you, it doesn't work like that!

Some of the dogs I saw were effective natural hunters and, at times, very pleasing to watch, but you MUST have control. (Read the Field Trial Regulations if you don't believe me!)

Alright, this was a fun day and it doesn't matter that much. It's the taking part that counts. (That's a quote by the way!) It does matter, and there are a few serious Flatcoat owners out there who can hold their own in most situations. The problem, as you all know, is that there are fewer of you than Labs and Goldens. All the more reason to get stuck in and do it right. The three dogs in the awards at this Test proved it can be done, so stop relying on the fact that people expect less from Flatcoats. It's not a good enough excuse. Flatcoats were the foundations of our first Field Trials at the turn of the last century, so, as devotees of the breed, you owe it to your dogs to give them the chance to work well by treating them as equal to the task. It isn't going to be easy, but it's worth a try. Just ask Philip Bruton!

Anyway, after a lovely ride, gliding through the beautiful English countryside on a fine, late Autumn Sunday morning, I had an enjoyable day and thank you for having me.

After reading this, one or two of you may be pleased to know that on my ride home I got absolutely bloody soaked!!



**Malcolm Peacock writes;**

Thank you for asking me to judge. I enjoyed it immensely.

Apart from the first three dogs the standard was somewhat lacking, heel work and stop whistle are basic needs of good gundog work. A lot of dogs lacked these two basic needs. Also a lot of dogs were hard mouthed. If Flatcoat people want to compete against other breeds, then these basics need to be adhered to.

If I can help with any training etc please don't hesitate to give me a ring. Look forward to seeing you all soon.

**Elaine Whittaker writes;**

On 19<sup>th</sup> October 2003 I was kindly asked to judge NEFRA's cold game test along with Guy Radford, and Malcolm Peacock. Guy ran the line in his usual kind but professional manner with the occasional nod or wink for us. It was a very good venue and a friendly atmosphere.

Luckily the beet had not grown too high and we had a good view of the dogs working. When we set off there must have been a fair bit of pressure in line and this proved too much and a few dogs promptly ran in. However once we got going things improved and I seemed to have the best side of the line for the wind, my dogs not struggling too hard for their retrieves.

Heelwork was variable but certainly not all bad a few dogs a little fidgety at first but soon settling down. Unfortunately some of the retrieving was very sloppy with birds being put down several times on the return, some just a few yards away from the handler. I do believe with young dogs this can be due to the sheer volume of eyes in line and hopefully will improve with experience, but an older dog should know better. NEFRA had provided plenty of game so it was not overused.

Some handlers were trying to give directions to their dogs without stopping them first, the dog may give you a quick glance if you are lucky or catch a verbal command but it is much better to stop the dog and then direct it (if possible)

After the second round we had six dogs left inline, this is where the dogs sorted themselves out and the three placed dogs were well worthy of their places. The winning dog marked well, had a clean pickup with a good return and delivery, second and third were very close behind. I think the dogs were showing that they have plenty of ability but more basic discipline is required.

**Live in southeast Northumberland?**

**Interested in joining working training classes?**

I would like to try and organise working training classes for Flatcoats. I am a member of N.E.F.R.A. and live in southeast Northumberland, I just wondered if anyone was interested living in this area so that we could organise something ourselves. Anyone who is interested can contact me on 01670 717327 after 6pm or leave a message and I will get back to them.

**Gordon Hunter**

### **Notes from the Working Secretary's Kennel.**

Well the end of the year, and the beginning of a new one approaching. Have you, over the end of the year, thought of new resolutions that you hope to keep?

Especially regarding that new pup that will just make the puppy WT's and show classes in the spring. Or the older dog that really needs a refresher course and you know in your heart of hearts you haven't really put in the time needed to do him justice. We all seem to live in hope that a good fairy will wave a magic wand and the hard work and daily grind will be taken out of the training and your ugly duckling will miraculously turn into the metaphorical swan as regards training. Believe me, it doesn't happen! Ask any successful trainer and although a lot is down to the dogs natural ability (you can train any dog to do anything, but why bother if the natural ability isn't there? Get a dog for the job) there is a lot of hard work on wet windy moors, playing fields, and other less desirable places before the glory of a win. A friend of mine says that 'if they haven't got it they cannot use it', worth bearing in mind when choosing that new hopeful. If it's not in the pedigree it won't stand a chance of coming out of the pedigree. With this in mind and also for the newest owner wanting to get the best out of their puppy we are starting off the new year on 8<sup>th</sup> February at Doe Lea Hall with a training day. This will begin without your dog, so you can concentrate, there will be handouts, coffee and soup and a bun at dinnertime before we adjourn to the outdoors with the dogs and try to put into practice what we have heard in the morning. It is for all standards, there will be cold game for those who will benefit, as well as whistles for sale for those who need them. More details below. Leading from this we are having at least two general training days with perhaps novice working retriever tests at the same time. The Intermediate tests take up more time so days will be scheduled for them alone, with, as last year novice tests as well if the numbers allow. This is in addition to the working retriever tests in the evenings on the east & west side of the Pennines starting in May. The usual two Special Puppy, Novice & Open W.T. along with the Cold Game test in October will close the year. Your full support is needed and looked forward to with any offers of help appreciated. Hope you had a good Xmas and a new Year to look forward to.

**Denise.**

### **Training your Flatcoat: An introduction and beyond**

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February at Doe Lea Hall, Junction 29 of M1 Motorway.

Lead by David Bellamy and ably assisted by others in the afternoon with the practical side. No dogs at the morning talk, (they wouldn't follow it!) Questions whenever you can catch a likely person to answer.

£10 per person including hot & cold drinks all the time, soup & a roll at lunch time, and a practical session in the afternoon.

For more information contact Denise Jury on 01246 853575

## Seasonal Quiz Time

Sorry no prizes on offer but a couple of quizzes to exercise the mind! The answers will be published in the next edition of Wagging Tails

### Cryptic Affixes set by Karen Joyce

1. Lone performance joins a small city
2. Feline friend enjoys noisy musical sessions
3. A present from wet weather
4. Murder with a strap
5. Fortress on stone outcrop
6. Famous cat mixes it with the grapes
7. Harry Potter meets a small forest
8. To elevate
9. Shrewd and cunning, areas of Yorkshire for example
10. Watercourse takes to the air
11. Plaited hair is victorious
12. Where doves live on the boundary
13. It's blustery in lowland areas
14. The family wander aimlessly in Scotland
15. Happy home of moledom
16. Route to the blacksmith
17. The towers lucky birds in the vestibule
18. Caught short between the hills
19. Precious stones have the victory
20. Tower in the Scottish valleys
21. Residential building with a church tower
22. A home of pottery and china
23. Manufacturers of firearms
24. The demise of Lady Chatterley's lover
25. Precious metal combines with a very strong wind

### Crossword set by Jane Hedges

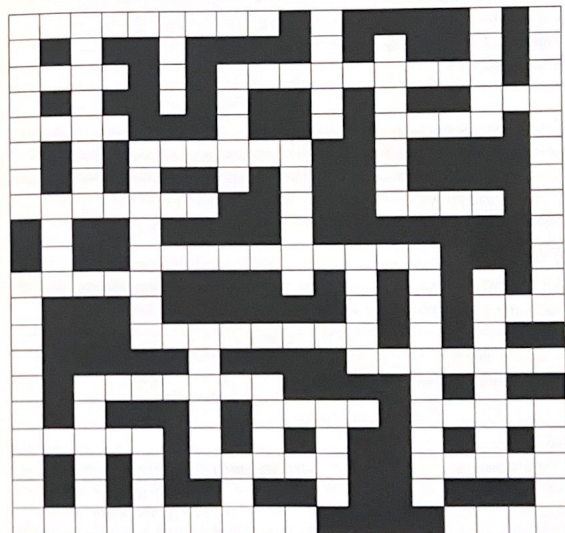
#### Across

- 1 Gundog sub-group (9)
- 8 Dog's fur (4)
- 9 Won at shows, trials etc. (9)
- 10 Lethal Weapon (3)
- 11 Nil (4)
- 12 Secure (4)
- 13 American for Dummy (6)
- 15 Can be voice, hand or whistle (7)

#### Down

- 1 ----- without weediness (8)
- 2 Teaching dogs (8)
- 3 Jug (4)
- 4 Trotted (5)
- 5 Presides over competition (5)
- 6 Affix - Dalziel & Scott (12)
- 7 Type of bite (7)
- 9 Baby dog (5)

- 17 Affix - Mrs. P Petch (4)
- 18 Canine Governing Body (6,4)
- 21 Simple (5)
- 23 Opposite of lass (4)
- 24 Needed for dog training (8)
- 26 Ribbon (7)
- 27 Mr \* founder of 18 across (7)
- 29 English trees (4)
- 31 When a terrier's coat needs stripping (5)
- 33 8 across should do this (5)
- 35 Team race (5)
- 37 Gleaming (5)
- 38 Affix - Mr & Mrs Forster (10)
- 39 Crate (4)
- 13 Crufts B.I.S. 1980 (8)
- 14 Comes back (6)
- 16 Ruler of Peru (4)
- 19 Colour of FCR (5)
- 20 Sternum (10)
- 21 Top prize in conformation (4,2,4)
- 22 Type of Retriever (8)
- 25 Duck retriever (6)
- 27 Red Wine (6)
- 28 Howl (4)
- 30 Unlocks doors (4)
- 32 Knock (5)
- 34 Always & for---- (4)
- 36 Self-esteem (3)





## Picking a Pup.

I am frequently asked by people who are having one of my pups if they can have 'pick of litter'. By this they usually mean pick of sex. Very few people are not set, for many reasons, on a certain sex.

I bought my first Flatcoat nearly 35 years ago and we didn't even know what it was. There had been no BIS at Crufts then and certainly no Best In Group winners there was even no CC's for Flatcoats at Crufts. So we looked at this horde (10) of black bodies (little persons by then) and picked one, paid our £8 guineas and went off clutching our KC paper entitling us to transfer our pup to our name. No food, no worming advice, no breed club help, certainly no vet or injection advice was given. We were on our own.

After that, when I went to choose a pup, I was under the apprehension that there must be some magic formula for picking the 'best' whatever that may be, and I would spend hours deliberating over litters. Angle of shoulder, stifle, set of tail, colour of eye etc. I was looking for that something special. Usually the pup that stood out for me had some drastic fault (in my eyes). Or there were two with completely different faults. Which one to choose? That was the question.

Pick of litter sounds super, you get to choose before anyone else, surely you will get the best, won't you? The best for you is not necessarily the best for the next person. It depends what you want out of your pup or what you want your pup for. It's all in the eye of the beholder, or buyer. Everyone wants a pup for a slightly different reason. This means that people who ask for a no-show pup and expect to get it cheaper are metaphorically barking up the wrong tree.

Often a knowledgeable person comes along and chooses not my personal pick of litter. Are the rest of the litter after pick of dogs & bitches has gone rejects? Of course not, everyone knows that the pup they pick will be a winner, you always take the best dog home with you. Most breeders will know which pups in the litter are dominant, headstrong, submissive greedy etc, they may be able to match to some owners, but how many new owners know what sort of F/c pup will suit them?

So often people who have coped with easygoing labs, lively collies, brainless setters, wilful hounds etc feel they can cope with a F/c. All breeds have their own specific characteristics and even breed lines can show slightly different sides to their characters. Success or failure with one type doesn't mean you haven't learnt from your mistakes.

Pups change when removed from the pack. The timid one suddenly becomes a thug with a soft handler, the leader loses his dominance in new surroundings. Eight-week-old pups have not really established a pecking order that they will defend, and if removed from the old order the new might be already established before you leave the place.

Where can the new puppy get into the pack order? When a top dog is removed from a pack another soon takes its place and shows just the same dominance, but it takes experience to guess how a pup will turn out physically and that only comes with time and an intimate knowledge of breed lines and inherited dominant characteristics, but nature always holds something up her sleeve to dumbfound you.

Once you have chosen your pup stick with it through all its growth and development spurts till it is fully grown then assess what you have. Its no use keeping a dog locked away because you dislike some part of it, there is always someone to whom the bit you hate is their ideal.

Let the pup or dog who is not your ideal go and admit it wasn't the dog for you. The dog will have a better life being loved to distraction by someone else and you will feel better having found a lovely home for it and into the bargain have space to try again, having learnt from that pup.

A well bred pup, for what you require, with all the genetic background and then well brought up and sensibly managed to ensure no unnecessary faults develop will probably give you years of pleasure.

After you have chosen it's no use deliberating on the 'other' pup time moves on and everything changes. The environment and subsequent training are far more important than the actual choosing as long as the basic stock is sound.

**Denise Jury.**

Looking for a new puppy? Not sure who has got a litter? Not sure what will suit your needs?

NEFRA has it's own Litter Recorder, Brenda Adams. Please feel free to ring her on 01423 885471 for any advice and help.

**Northern England Flatcoated Retriever Association  
15<sup>th</sup> Breed Open Show, Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2003**

**Roz Townsend writes;**

My sincere thanks to the Officers and Committee for inviting me to judge at this friendly show. Thanks to my two excellent stewards for keeping the ring running smoothly and the exhibitors for allowing me to judge their dogs and their acceptance of my decisions and good humour. The dogs were a pleasure to judge, one or two very close decisions, movement was a little difficult to judge as the ring did not allow the dogs to stretch out and show of their best. However, I was pleased with my final line up.

**Minor Puppy Dog. 8 (1 Abs)** 1<sup>st</sup> Showell's Yonsaff Rambler for Cleovine. Delightful 8 month quality puppy with super head and eye shape. Good reach of neck into correct lay of shoulder. Coped well with the floor moving nicely for one so young. Good coat and nice tight feet. 2<sup>nd</sup> Jury's Black Coffee in Bed at Torwood. Another quality puppy with good bone. Correct head and eye shape. Good angulation, topline and tailset. Moved well. 3<sup>rd</sup> Egginton's Pajanbeck Forever Young. Another lovely outgoing puppy with correct head and eye shape. Good bone, topline and tailset. Needs to settle on the move, but plenty of potential.

**Puppy Dog. 8. (2 Abs)** 1<sup>st</sup> Heath's Eskwinds Best Kept Secret. Very close decision here, just won the class on maturity. Lovely puppy with excellent head and eye shape. Good reach of neck to well laid shoulders, good brisket, strong bone and good feet. Level topline, moved well for his handler. B.D.P. 2<sup>nd</sup> Showell's Yonsaff Rambler for Cleovine. 3<sup>rd</sup> Griffin's Eskwinds Black Moss. Nice young boy with all the attributes of 1. However, nails would benefit from a good trim which would tighten his feet.

**Junior Dog. 11 (5 Abs)** 1<sup>st</sup> Coddington's Bracsan Dancing Mystery. Super young dog, nicely moulded head and eye shape. Good angulation all round, good bone leading to nice tight feet. In good coat, moved well. 2<sup>nd</sup> Moors & Allen's Mossdew State Affair. Again a close decision, just preferred head of 1. Good angulation all round, with good bone and best of feet. Moved well. A happy boy. 3<sup>rd</sup> Heath's Eskwinds Best Kept Secret.

**Special Yearling Dog. 10 (4 Abs)** 1<sup>st</sup> Bellamy's Lathkill Valid Vampire. A super young dog with beautiful moulded head and eye shape. Good reach of neck into well laid shoulders. Good topline held on the move. In nice coat and condition. 2<sup>nd</sup> Green's Hertarns Dr. Pepper. Strong powerful young dog, just preferred the head of 1. Good angulation all round with good bone and the best feet in the class. In super coat and condition. Moved well with his handler. 3<sup>rd</sup> Heath's Eskwinds Best Kept Secret.

**Novice Dog 10 (4 Abs)** This was a difficult class with one or two novice handlers struggling a little with their dogs. 1<sup>st</sup> Clark's Stranfaer Liberator. Happy boy with nicely moulded head and eye shape. Good shoulder angulation, topline and tailset. Feet could be tighter, in good coat and condition. Moved o.k. 2<sup>nd</sup> Romeo-Dieste's Hopevalley Morning Xplorer. Young dog who had left his coat in the cupboard. Nicely moulded head and eye shape. Nice neat ears, good reach of neck into good shoulders. Good topline and tailset. Moved o.k. 3<sup>rd</sup> Todd & Herrick's Gilduffe Branduff. Young dog in good condition, not co-operating with his handler. Moved well when settled.

**Graduate Dog 11 (3 Abs)** 1<sup>st</sup> Coddington's Harrendon Morse. What a super young dog this is. Lovely head and eye shape with melting expression. Good reach of neck. Good front, bone and feet. Moved well holding topline. Great potential. 2<sup>nd</sup> Chipperfield & Higginbotham's Vbos the Tycoon JW. What a close decision, just preferred the shoulder placement of 1. Good head and eye shape. Good reach of neck, and overall conformation. Wonderful showman, moved so well with his handler. 3<sup>rd</sup> Gray's Torwood Phantasmagoria. A nice young dog attentive to his handler. good topline and tailset, good depth. Nice coat and condition.

**Post Graduate Dog. 9 (2 Abs)** Again a close decision for my first two places. 1<sup>st</sup> Burroughs' Elmstock Midnight Legend at Rokaness. Lovely dog in strong hard condition. Good head and eye shape with excellent angulation all round. Moved well holding topline. 2<sup>nd</sup> Showell's Heathlymn Tirran of Cleovine. Another lovely dog with same attributes as 1. Just preferred movement of 1 on the day. 3<sup>rd</sup> Heath's Eskwinds Aladins Boy JW. Nice dog with good overall construction. Well moulded head, would prefer a slightly better eye shape. Good topline and tailset, moved well for his handler.

**Limit Dog 6 (1 Abs)** 1<sup>st</sup> Shelley's Castlerock Scandale Beck. Handsome dog. Good construction throughout. In super condition with good bone and best of feet. Moved well. 2<sup>nd</sup> Whittaker's Bramatha Hot Chocolate. My first liver of the day. Lovely head and nice dark eye. Good construction throughout, moving well. 3<sup>rd</sup> Jury's The Great Pretender at Torwood. Another strong dog in hard condition with ever wagging tail. Feet could be a little tighter.

**Open Dog 9 (1 Abs)** 1<sup>st</sup> Moors' Clowbeck What A Cracker. Lives up to his name. Strong powerful dog with the best lay back of shoulder and length of upper arm, giving excellent brisket and depth of chest. Nicely moulded head with naughty expression. Good reach of neck, topline and tailset. In super coat and hard condition. Moved well with drive and ever wagging tail. Pleased to award him Best Dog. 2<sup>nd</sup> Martin's Telsmoss Love Protector. Another lovely dog in the best of condition. A little heavier built than 1. Moved well. 3<sup>rd</sup> Colson's Windyhollows Tumbling Ted JW. A super liver dog in excellent coat and condition. Well balanced overall, moving well.



**Veteran Dog 6 (2 Abs)** 1<sup>st</sup> Goodman's Riversflight Neath of Beanit. I could take this one home! No idea he is a Veteran. A handsome dog with simply the best head of the day for me. Lovely eye shape giving gentle melting expression. Good conformation all round, coat a little heavy and not in as hard condition as my Best Dog. However, delighted to award him R.B.D. 2<sup>nd</sup> Chipperfield and Higginbotham's Biddick Butney Boy JW. Another happy Veteran, good construction throughout, strong mover. 3<sup>rd</sup> Romeo-Dieste's Goldingale my Choice for Hopevalley. Kind expression, lovely outline. Moved o.k.  
**Special Liver Dog (2)** 1<sup>st</sup> Colson's Windyhollowd Tumbling Ted JW.  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Whittaker's Bramatha Hot Chocolate.

As my co judge Mr Joller had selected my travelling companion and close friend's bitch as the Best Bitch in Show, the Referee, Mr Bellamy was requested, at this point, to take over and Judge Best in Show. His decision, I am delighted to say, I agreed with wholeheartedly.

<b>Best in Show</b>	
<b>&amp; Best Veteran in Show:</b>	Barnett's Steeplehouse Tess.
<b>Res. Best in Show:</b>	Moors' Clowbeck What a Cracker
<b>Best Puppy in Show:</b>	Wells' Gilduffe Sinead
<b>Best Liver in Show:</b>	Colson's Windyhollows Tumbling Ted JW.

Joseph F. Joller, President of the Retriever Club, Switzerland writes;  
 It was on a cold, windy and rainy morning as Mr. David Bellamy drove me in his car to the Speedwell Rooms in Staveley, Nr Chesterfield where I was welcomed as judge of honour from Switzerland by the members of the organising committee headed by Mrs. Audrey Forster. My heart was beating faster when I saw the hall crowded with all these Flatcoated Retrievers and their rather nervous owners. Sitting at a beautifully decorated table on which many articles were offered for sale, the persons responsible for the show were very busy. In the middle of the hall, two big rings provided with carpets for the safety of the dogs were waiting for the show to go on.

Punctually at 10 o'clock, Mr. Peter Forster, chairman, opened the 15<sup>th</sup> Breed Open Show. Mrs. Joyce Ryder, show manager, addressed a warm welcome to the visitors and the judges: Mrs. Roz Townsend (dogs), Mr. David Bellamy (referee Brace and Junior Handling), and myself as judge of the bitches. I was very pleased to be assisted by two competent ring stewards: Reg Bunting, chief steward, and Rob Ashroft, ring secretary, who was responsible for correct writing and distributing of all the judging reports.

It was a great pleasure for me to find so many excellent bitches among the 110 entries. I placed 5 in each class. My BOB was Barnett's Steeplehouse Tess from the Veteran Class. I chose her without hesitation as BEST BITCH. RBB was Egginton's Pajanbeck Memories, competed against the dog Moors's Clowbeck what a Cracker, but just missed the title of RBIS. Best puppy bitch was Wells' Gilduffe Sinead, who then went BP in S.

At lunch time, David Bellamy was judging Junior Handling, and I did not want to miss this. In the past 9 years, as a member of the board of the Swiss Kennel Club, I had been organizing and promoting Junior Handling in our country. What a pleasure to see the 4 young people working in the senior Class. I had also the pleasure to meet them later on in my ring. I would have liked to give them first prizes, but I had to judge the bitches, not only the handling. I now take this opportunity of congratulating the Junior Handlers for the excellent handling!

I will never forget this 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2003! It was a beautiful show, and I thank all exhibitors, organizers and helpers. I am very grateful to the committee for their invitation, for the great welcome, for their confidence in me and for the nice present I received as a gift.

**Minor Puppy Bitch (8. 2 abs)** A lovely class. 1<sup>st</sup> Goodman's Rainesgift Serendipity at Beanit. A very promising 8m old puppy with the correctly moulded head and lovely expression, long neck, correct angulations and very good bone. 2<sup>nd</sup> Walker's Lizzlog Midnight Rose. Another very promising 8m old puppy with a very feminine expression, good topline and tail set. Chest a little narrow for me but very well presented. 3<sup>rd</sup> Egginton's Pajanbeck Memories. This 7m old puppy is very well put together giving a nice overall picture. She coped well with the floor and maintained her level topline.

**Puppy Bitch (9. 2 abs)** A small class with only 4 new puppies. 1<sup>st</sup> Ravensdale's Gilduffe Sinead 10m, a very nice feminine head with dark eyes correct scissor bite. Well set on neck. Good angulations and moved well but a little slower movement would perhaps improve her. BP in Show. 2<sup>nd</sup> Batchelor's Walnutfarm Ilka. 9 1/2 m old with a very nice feminine head, Typical F/C dark eyes and well set on ears. Good reach of neck. I liked her feet and her active movement which showed drive. I personally would like her a little bit smaller. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ree's Eskwinds Beyond the Moon. This 11 1/2 m puppy has a lovely head with typical F/C expression. Good scissor bite. Correct angulation and tail set. Moved a little narrow behind.

**Junior Bitch (12)** A supper class of 12 nice bitches. 1<sup>st</sup> Fox's Blacktoft Jazz After Dark 15m, a bitch I liked very much who will do well as she matures. Nice overall, moved well and was well presented. 2<sup>nd</sup> South's Torwood Bel's Spirit. Another bitch who will do well in the future. Lost to 1 on feet. I would like them

little tighter. She moved well and was well presented. 3<sup>rd</sup> **Brook's Castlerock Willow Warbler**. This 14m old bitch has a lovely expression, good topline and tail set, correct angulation. Very well presented.

**Special Yearling. (13. 1 abs)** 1<sup>st</sup> **Fox's Blacktoft Jazz After Dark**. 2<sup>nd</sup> **Chapman's Walnutfarm Blueberry**. 19m. A pleasant bitch with a nice outline giving a good overall picture. Correct angulation and tail set, well boned and moved well but was a little narrow behind for me. 3<sup>rd</sup> **Brook's Castlerock Willow Warbler**.

**Novice Bitch. (12. 1 abs)** 1<sup>st</sup> **Chapman's Walnutfarm Blueberry**. 2<sup>nd</sup>. **South's Torwood Bel's Spirit**. 3<sup>rd</sup> **Brook's Castlerock Willow Warbler**.

**Graduate Bitch. (12. 1 abs)** 1<sup>st</sup> **Brook's Gayplume Classic Design at Castlerock**. 2 ½ y o. A lovely bitch in good hard condition. Good bone and well muscled. Came 1<sup>st</sup> despite her broken coat. 2<sup>nd</sup> **Bellamy's Lathkill Redstone Rocket**. 19m. Another super bitch who lost to the 1<sup>st</sup> on feet and length of coat. 3<sup>rd</sup>. **Grey's Gilduffe Sava**. This 3 ¼ y. o. bitch made up a super trio who could change places any time. She was not as pleasing to me in the head as 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> hence her 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

**Post Graduate B. (8. 2 abs)** 1<sup>st</sup> **Coleman's Shiredale Persuasion**. 3 ½ y. This bitch's coat was in such superb condition that it completely took my eye. She also has a well moulded head, lovely front with a well feathered and set on tail. She was beautifully presented. 2<sup>nd</sup> **Moult's Castlerock Ennerdale**. Another beautiful 3 ½ y. o. bitch, not standing on the best of feet. Good topline and brisket. She was handled and presented very professionally. My congratulations to her handler. 3<sup>rd</sup> **Gray's Gilduffe Sava**.

**Limit Bitch (10. 5 abs)** 1<sup>st</sup> **Watson's Rainy Days and Sunday**. (5 ½ y). A bitch with a well moulded head, dark eye, well set ears, good quality coat. Tail a little gaily carried but never the less well set on. She moved well and with drive. 2<sup>nd</sup> **Orme's Elmstock Enchanting Eve** (5 ½ y) A smaller bitch but very compact with a lovely topline and well feathered tail which showed during her free flowing movement. I would have preferred her a little bigger but you couldn't deny the quality. 3<sup>rd</sup> **Rees's Eskmill Moonshine at Eskwinds**. (5 ½ y) Also a small fine bitch with a heavier head than 1 & 2. Her head was in proportion with dark eyes and well set ears. She moved very elegantly.

**Open Bitch (10. 2 abs)** These 2 older classes had some bitches with teeth showing a build up of tartar which should be cleaned before shows. 1<sup>st</sup> **Egginton's Pajanbeck Born Free**. This 5 y o bitch has a lovely intelligent expression with her long head and slight stop, dark brown eyes and well set small ears she moved with drive showing her enjoyment of the occasion. She was well handled and beautifully presented. RB. 2<sup>nd</sup> **Colsons Windyhollow's Rosy Cheeks**. (3y). Another lovely bitch but I would have preferred a little higher ear set. Overall good quality with a wonderfully feathered tail. She was an excellent mover.

3<sup>rd</sup> **Romeo-Dieste Braemist Morning Star over Hopevalley**. (5y). Also a very nice bitch but lost today on coat. Again very well presented.

**Veteran Bitch (14. 3 abs)** This was a big class full of superb bitches. Some who must have done very well in their younger days. 1<sup>st</sup> **Barnett's Steeplehouse Tess**. (8 ½ y o) This bitch stood out for me as a winner. She is so nice that she could be shown with success all over the world. She was well handled and presented and became my BB and then BIS!! My warmest congratulations. 2<sup>nd</sup> **Whittaker's Galleywood Merton Charm**. At 9 ½ y o she is in superb condition and has all the qualities of a winner. It was unfortunate she came across No 1 today. 3<sup>rd</sup> **Well's Gilduffe Irish Mist** At 10 y o this bitch has a superb head with good bone and angulation. She has a lovely topline and tail set, a fine dense coat of medium texture. She still moves elegantly but I would prefer a slightly longer neck. **Special Liver. (2)**. A small select class with only the two bitches. A difficult decision to make because both did not have their full coats. 1<sup>st</sup> **Forster's Wizardwood Tawny Tweed**. A 3 y o this bitch has a dark glowing coat. When in full coat she will look a picture. She has a nice moulded head with dark eyes but is a little fine in the bone. She moved well but carried her tail a little gaily. 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Trevor's Trevorsilk Galaxy Velvet**. Another lovely 3 y o bitch with a slightly lighter eye than 1. Her coat colour again was lighter. She moved well.

### From the Secretary

Firstly thank you all for an excellent entry. Both judges said how much they enjoyed the day and the way their decisions were accepted. After the pat on the back come the complaints;

The Entry Form enclosed in the Schedules are Official Kennel Club Forms and as such they must be fully and accurately completed. On the day we can have an inspection from the Field Officer (representing the Kennel Club) and he can inspect anything regarding the Show. Incorrectly completed forms could lead to NEFRA receiving a low grading and may even result in having your entry and any resulting awards disqualified, so your help please. I have listed some of the errors that have occurred this time all involving a phone call and subsequent checking that they have been corrected.

Dog's name omitted, Date of birth incorrect, Dog entered in class incorrect for age, In brace class only one dog designated, Form not signed and in the case of partnership only one signature, Wrong date, Name of Sire or Dam missing or incorrect, Incorrect cheque or Postal Order enclosed

We can all make mistakes but please take five minutes to check the entry before posting and it will save Peter and I a great deal of time.

Audrey



### Future Dates for your Diary

**T** 8<sup>th</sup> February - Training your Flatcoat: An introduction and beyond  
**A** 14<sup>th</sup> March – Annual General Meeting – Outlane, Huddersfield  
**I** 9<sup>th</sup> May – Open Show – Woodford  
**L** 7<sup>th</sup> November – Open Show – Kirk Deighton  
TBA Funday to be held at Craythorne

Details of Working Tests and the like can be obtained direct from Denise Jury,  
103 Williamthorpe Rd, North Wingfield, Chesterfield, tel 01246 853575

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### **Forthcoming Open shows in our area**

Schedules for the following shows can be obtained from the respective secretaries.

**Cumberland Canine Association** – Sun 1<sup>st</sup> February 2004  
Miss S Stevenson (Steelriver), Sec Mrs E Waddington tel 01768 866799  
**Sutton Coalfield and Dist. Can. Soc** – Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2004  
Mr M Philip (Jaeva), Sec Mrs E Tristram tel 01889 802733  
**Rugby and District Canine Society** – Sat 21<sup>st</sup> February 2004  
Mrs A Howes (Medogold), Sec Miss M Stowe tel 01788 510367  
**Stoke on Trent District Gundog Club** – Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2004  
Mrs E Harrison, Sec Mr C Donahue, tel 01270 763849  
**United Retriever Club** – Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2004  
Mrs E Geoghegan (Fenfleet), Miss B Johnson tel 01638 750614  
**Matlock and Dist. Can. Soc** – Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2004  
Mr R Ashcroft, Sec Mrs L McEwan tel 01782 515515

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The Newsletter sub committee would greatly appreciate your 'Letters to the Editor'. These will be included in future newsletters as and when space is available. Please send them to Mrs. K Trevor at the address below or e-mail to [trevorsilk@mailblocks.com](mailto:trevorsilk@mailblocks.com) Items received from members and included in this newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of the Association.

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