

WAGGING TAILS

Issue 23

Winter 2001

NORTHERN ENGLAND FLATCOATED RETRIEVER ASSOCIATION Officers and Committee Members

Patron - Lady Crathorne

President - Mr. G Lancaster

Chairman - Mr. P Forster

Hon Secretary - Mrs. A Forster

Cooks Lane House, Cooks Lane, Bradnop, Leek, Staffs. ST13 7HA.

Tel: 01538 383946. E mail whimbrel@tiscali.co.uk



Hon Treasurer - Mrs. E. Whiting

Vice-Chairman - Mr. G. Whiting

Great Gable, 225 Kitson Hill Road, Mirfield, West Yorkshire. WF14 9DS.

Tel: 01924 521383. E mail elaine.whiting@ntlworld.com

COMMITTEE

Mrs. B M Adams (Litter Recorder).

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

Mr. R. Bunting & Mrs. S Bunting. E mail bunting.sylvia@talk21.com

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

Mr. S Jubb & Mrs. K Jubb. E mail steve1057@hotmail.com

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

Mrs. D Jury (Working Secretary). E mail dave@car-inspector.freemove.co.uk

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

Mr. J R Kitching.

Clowbeck Kennels, Sandhills Farm, Crathorne, Cleveland. TS15 0AD. Tel: 01642 780362

Mr. D Orme & Mrs. V Orme.

3 Ivy Road, Poynton, Stockport, Cheshire. SK12 1PE. Tel: 01625 874826

Mrs. J. Ryder. E mail joycearnold@jaskar.freemove.co.uk

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

Mrs. K Trevor. E mail trevorsilk@ntlworld.com

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

Mrs. S J Wells. E mail Tdwells@btinternet.com

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

Thoughts from the Secretary's Table

We hoped to come back with a bang after the disastrous first part of the year when everything was cancelled and we have certainly done that. Since the end of July we have held, on the working side, a Training Day, a Working Test and a Cold Game Test, a new venture for us, which I am sure, will become a regular fixture. We then held a Fun Day, a Seminar – completing the two seminars needed for judges by the Kennel Club and finally our Cup Open Show in November. We are all feeling slightly jet lagged after all that but are looking forward to a good year in 2002.

Denise, your Working Secretary, has some new ideas for 2002 but more of that in the next Wagging Tails.

If you attended the Breed Seminar and lost a pair of glasses then please contact me as I have got them.

So now we start the run down to Christmas with all that that entails. Despite all the hard work it is a lovely time of the year. With all good wishes to you all for a lovely Christmas and a happy and successful New Year.

Kind regards

Audrey



A Christmas Message



On behalf of all the members of the NEFRA Committee may I take this opportunity to thank you all for your support over the past year. Your articles have been most appreciated. Please keep submitting them.

Also for those of you with eagle eyes I wish to apologise for turning Mrs A Forster into a **crook** you will be happy to know she is now a **cook** again.

We wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you all in 2002. The Editor

Stop Press - NEFRA Calendar 2002

Only a few copies remaining. Order yours now for the small amount of £5.50 from Mrs S Wells, tel. 01625 522537

NEFRA Fun Day Woodford Memorial Hall Sunday 7th October 2001

Two members have submitted articles reporting on this event, both worthy of note, so with a little editing to fit the space available they are both included. The Editor.

According to Audrey, our Secretary, 70 people, 65 dogs and 10 children had booked places, which, if everyone turned up and my memory serves me right (memory loss is beginning to creep in), would make it one of the best attended that we have ever held. The one thing that we were all looking at though was the weather; the experts had predicted a very wet and windy day, so the worry was what would we do with all those dogs and people crowded into one big hall. As it happened the worry was unfounded as the gods smiled down on us. The weather was fine, blue skies and sunshine, even if it was a bit wet underfoot on the field. All sorts of activities had been arranged, even if some of them were dropped on people at the last moment, sorry Denise and Gill. A police officer from Leicestershire was bringing his Flatcoat to give a talk and demonstration, scurry, agility, ringcraft, trimming and a dummy pick up competition were the order of the day plus a friendly competition between the dogs, (a match - shhhhhh...).

It was an early start for the committee, 8.30am, to get everything set up and organized for the hordes that were soon to arrive, chairs to put out, scurry to set up, oh and coffee to help us all wake up and put us on the right footing. Although we were scheduled for a 10.00am brew of coffee for a 10.30am start, our participants started arriving about 9.00am, and of course, the first thing was exercising the dogs on the field. By 10.00am, the majority of the people had arrived and there had been dogs galore all over the field. The only reason I mention that, is that the Police Dog demonstration was partly held on the field. Also by this time, the gallant ladies and gentleman were hard at work in the kitchen serving coffee and cakes and preparing lunch that was also being laid on for anybody who wished to buy it there. I would like to say at this point that those ladies and gentleman worked all day in the kitchen, only closing while the Police Dog demonstration and talk were on, their motto otherwise was 'We never close'. So to the start of the proceedings. Peter, our chairman, welcomed everybody to the day and commented on the turnout. He then handed over to Steve Jubb, the M.C. for the day, (supposedly because, rumour has it, he could shout loudly,) who explained the itinerary for the day. And so to the first item.

Pc Doug Marshall from Leicestershire Constabulary handles a Flatcoat for the Force and it had been trained to sniff out firearms, components of firearms and also drugs. He started off by telling how long he had been a dog-handler, how long

he had had his Flatcoat and explaining about the training of the dog. He told us that while we had been milling around he had hidden four lots of drugs in various places around the room and that he would get his dog to find them, one of them only being 0.3gms of heroin. He also told us that four items had been hidden in the field, these being a shotgun cartridge, a revolver and 2 small cartridge cases. This talk lasted for about 20 mins and then he fetched 'Connor' in.

I don't know how many of you know Woodford Hall but there is a stage and a very large hall which could have easily sat about 150 - 200 people, so it is a fair size. He started off at the entrance to the hall and got Connor to start his search round there. Connor was not at all fazed by the people sitting in the hall but seemed to totally ignore them and got on with his work, unusual for a Flatcoat, knowing how friendly they can be. Pc Marshall guided him round the back of the hall and, within about five minutes, Connor had his first find, a small bag of cannabis in Pc Marshall's coat pocket, which he had left on the back of a chair at the rear of the hall. Connor was then given his head to try and find the next lot on his own. We had taken some rolled up mats for use during the day and these had been left near a fire exit at the front of the hall. Within another two minutes, Connor had also successfully recovered these. Pc Marshall then showed us the fingertip method of guiding Connor, whereby he shows Connor where to look, just by using his hands. There was no shouting, whistling or anything, other than encouragement and praise by the handler. Soon item number three was found under a cover on top of a radiator at the opposite side of the stage. So to item number four, which was the smallest of the articles. Hey presto, another two minutes and this was found in a crash helmet on the stage. Four - nil to the dog. Apparently the best find that Connor had made was two scrapings of cannabis which were down the back of a settee, situated in a three bed roomed house.

We were then invited outside to watch Connor try and find the shells. I think most people know the size of a shotgun cartridge and a revolver, but the other two items were brass cases about 1/2" across by 1" in length and had been fired about two days previously. Now I have already said that dogs had been all over the field and that it was wet underfoot, what I haven't said was that the grass was uncut, about four to five inches long and trampled down, surrounded on three sides by hedges and the car park on the fourth. So the search began. Three minutes later up came the shotgun cartridge, followed by the revolver after a further three minutes. This just left the two small cases. Undeterred, Connor went about his business with vigour and a happy wagging tail. Soon he gave the signs of having found something and sure enough, hidden under two or three stones, were the two cartridges. A very good thirty minutes of solid work by an excellent partnership. Due to time constraints, Pc Marshall was unable to answer questions straightaway but he stayed for the whole day and made himself available to anyone

there who may have wanted to ask questions. I personally think that he was the star of the day and I know that Connor took part in the afternoon competition and some of the other outside activities as well.

We then had different activities on-going for the rest of the morning. Our Acting Working Secretary, Denise, showed us her other side by taking a ringcraft session in the main hall. Gill Walker very kindly did some trimming sessions for owners in the smaller hall and Val and Den ran the scurry. I know for a fact that all three activities were very well attended and even over ran into our lunch hour. After lunch, two ladies, June and Jane from Wilmslow Dog Club, set up the agility outside so that people could put their dogs through their paces on the equipment, while Val and Den supervised a dummy picking up competition outside and a friendly competition was held in the hall, presided over by Kath Jubb (results elsewhere in the magazine.). Denise also held a puppy training session. The day was concluded at about 4.30pm with a few presentations. Fortunately the weather just about held out, although there were one or two slight showers, and it only really started to rain as the last few committee members were leaving.

Once again thanks to Kathryn, Claire, Sarah and Mark for sterling work in the kitchen, Kathryn providing nearly all the food. Also to Elaine for manning the 'shop', from what I could see she was kept very busy, and to Gary for a sterling job selling raffle tickets, Kath bringing home her normal quota of winnings. Mrs. Etheridge made copious amounts of cakes for sale in the kitchen and also donated a lovely cake which was raffled off, no guesses as to who won that, (see above), but it was sent to the kitchen to be cut up so everybody could have a piece. Mr. Bateson brought some intriguing cardboard boxes with him and when opened they contained small torches, complete with batteries, which again were donated and every participant was allowed to take one home with them. Many thanks to those two people. Last but by no means least, our thanks go to you, the members who attended the day, without you it would have been a complete flop, but you made it an excellent day, which, I hope, was enjoyed by all.

Steve Jubb.

NEFRA have done it again!!!!

On the 7th October they held one of their highly successful fun days. The format must be right, because not only do they attract the usual show and working people but many pet owners too. It is a real chance to meet other Flatcoated Retriever owners and their dogs from a wide area and have fun together.

The day started with a talk and demonstration by policeman Doug Marshall and his drug-detecting dog Connor, (a FCR bred by Brian and Jane Jones). Doug did an introductory talk about training and the drug team, and then brought Connor

into the hall. When Doug announced that he had hidden some drugs around the hall we all looked around to see if anyone left the room!! (I believe someone was worried because they had Paracetamol in their handbag!!) They didn't of course and Connor proceeded to find the tiny quantities of drug (cannabis and heroin) hidden in a pocket, a roll of carpet, in a radiator, and under a motorcycle helmet. It was incredible to see, he never gave up and of course his tail never stopped wagging. We then followed Doug and Connor to the field at the back of the hall where he proceeded to find a shotgun cartridge in long grass, a pistol in the bushes and the smallest bullet case buried in a rough area dug over for a bonfire. It was a wonderful display of nose work and I wonder how much we really understand about dogs scenting ability. Why does Connor work with so much enthusiasm? Because he knows through his training that when he finds drugs or firearms that he will get one of his favourite toys to play with (including a plastic bullet!!!). As Doug emphasised you can't make a dog do work like this it has to be reward based training. After a break for coffee and cake the 'have a go' sessions started, there was ring craft training, a trimming demonstration on your own dog, a scurry where you could choose to retrieve 1 or 2 dummies and gundog training to keep everyone busy. In the afternoon agility equipment (kindly loaned to NEFRA by Wilmslow DTC via June) was set up on the field and with the help of a WDTC member who was passing and offered to help, June put everyone through their paces. There was also a show match in the hall that people were encouraged to enter, and the now famous NEFRA dummy pick-up where you score points for dummies retrieved out an area of cover.

Everything went really well, everyone found something new to try as well as having a go at old favourites. We had some visitors too, a couple who used to have a Flatcoat and were passing came to see what was going on, and a family who have one dropped in. They all said how welcome they felt as so many people spoke to them (we can talk can't we? especially when the subject is dogs!) Results:-

Double Scurry, 1st Carl Swift with Sophie 2nd Dorothy Brooks with Wish
Single Scurry, 1st Liz Geoghan with Strider 2nd Dorothy Brooks and Jay
Puppy Scurry, 1st Jon and Louise Orme with Lizzie
Dummy Pickup, 1st Andy Locket with Zac, 2nd Gary Whiting and Fred
Show match, 1st Liz Geoghan and Strider

I'm sure everyone at the Fun Day would like to thank the NEFRA team for a brilliant day, all the dogs and the people they brought with them went home tired but happy, and full of drinks and cake thanks to all in the kitchen.

by Sally Collins

Northern England Flatcoated Retriever Association 11th Breed Show Sunday 4th November 2001

Leonie Galdermans, our Dog Judge, writes

I had been to the NEFRA Open Shows several times as a visitor and always liked these shows because of the quiet, friendly and easygoing atmosphere. I felt very honored when I was asked two years ago to judge dogs at the 2001 NEFRA Open Show and of course I was very pleased with the number of entries. Thank you very much for entering your dogs under me!

I found temperament very good, and all dogs were very sure of themselves and friendly. I got so many licks on my ears and it is a little miracle that my flower survived the day, so many dogs wanted to nibble it!

In general, in the younger dog classes some lacked quality in head and several younger dogs did not have scissor bites and a few had rather flat feet.

In the higher classes the overall quality was much better. The winners in the higher classes were all very good typical Flatcoats. Limit Class especially had high quality exhibits wagging their tails as hard as possible to try to convince me to choose them!

My Best Dog, and later Best in Show, Steeplehouse Gamekeeper is a first class, absolutely smashing Flatcoat, in perfect condition who I feel sure has a bright show career ahead of him. Also the Reserve Best Dog, and later Reserve Best in Show, Ghilgrange Magic Magician JW is a lovely dog. The two dogs placed second after the winners, Hasweth Spirit in the Sky and Windyhollows Tumbling Ted JW did catch my eye, as did Billowen Magic at Midnight, winner of Post Grad. The best Veteran, Heronsflight Haste, moved as solid as a locomotive. But there can be only one Winner and that was Gamekeeper!

Have fun with your Flatcoat and enjoy living with them!

Minor Puppy (5)

1. Adams Vaporean Wye, very nice eight month old puppy, has already good substance, nice body with good topline, nicely balanced, nice head with dark eye, good bone and feet, moved well, a shade long in the loins.
2. Bellamy's Lathkill Quadrille Quip, very nicely balanced seven month old puppy, very nice type, lovely head with dark eye, good bone, nice body, moved well. Not as good in coat and feet as first.
3. O'Brien's Gowran Black Pennal

Puppy (4)

1. Brook's Culmquill Bless Em All, **Best Puppy Dog** lovely type, already very nicely balanced for his age, strong body with strong back but a shade long in the loins, nice head with dark eye, good bone and strong feet, strong hindquarters, already moves well.
2. Townsend's Rainesgift Reiver, very nice type, already quite developed and balanced in the body, lovely head with dark eye, lovely bone and feet, moved well, not as strong in back and topline as first.
3. Holt's Lathkill Odin's Owl

Junior (8,3)

1. Shaw's Castlerock Scandale Beck Seventeen months old, already well matured dog, lovely well developed body with strong back, very nice head which should not become broader in the skull, excellent bone and feet, good angulations, strong hindquarters, moved very well, in beautiful coat.
2. Brook's Culmquill Bless Em All, seen before
3. Warren's Rivers Flow

Special Yearling (9,3)

1. Shaw's Castlerock Scandale Beck, seen before
2. Brook's Culmquill Bless Em All, seen before
3. Warren's Rivers Flow

Novice (7,1)

1. Brook's Culmquill Bless Em All, seen before
2. Carrington's Suskin Discovery, very typey liver dog, already well developed, strong body with a lot of substance, very nice head with dark eye, carrying a bit too much weight today, good topline, well angulated, good bone and feet, moved well and happy.
3. Holt's Lathkill Odin's Owl

Graduate (9,3)

1. Whittaker's Bramatha Hot Chocolate, **Best Liver in Show**, very nice typey liver dog, well developed and balanced body, beautiful head with dark eye, good neck, strong topline, excellent bone and feet, well angulated, moved very well with drive.
2. Burroughs Elmstock Midnight Legend At Rokaness, lovely well matured and balanced dog, very nice head but skull should not become any broader, well developed body, good angulation, very good bone and feet, level topline, moved well and powerfully.
3. Showell's Cleovine Rough Silk

Post Graduate (10,2)

1. Cooper's Billowen Magic At Midnight, very good type, lovely balanced dog, powerfully built but still elegant, lovely head, a shade light eye, lovely substance, very good topline, excellent bone and feet, movement very good, well angulated.

2. Thompson's Gayplume Dare Devil Of Dowlesbrook, very nice type, lovely balanced dog, very nice head with dark eye, well developed body, strong topline, good bone and feet, moved well.

3. Whittaker's Bramatha Hot Chocolate

Limit (10,1)

1. Ashcroft & Long's Steeplehouse Gamekeeper, **Best in Show**, a beautiful typical Flatcoat, full of quality, beautiful head with dark eye and a very soft expression, very strong neck and excellent topline, very well developed body, good angulation, excellent bone and excellent feet, moved very well with a lot of drive, strong hindquarters, in super coat and condition, he is just a little too proud of his tail.
2. Huddleston's Hasweth Spirit In The Sky, a beautiful dog almost nine years of age but still in absolutely super shape, lovely head with dark eye and very soft expression, very nice well developed body, good brisket, very good topline, well angulated hind quarters, very good bone, feet not as good as first, moved well and with drive. He was unfortunate to be in the same class as the Best in Show!
3. Malkin's Steeplehouse Ashe

Open (7)

1. Hall's Ghillgrange Magic Magician, **Reserve Best in Show**, quality dog of lovely type, well balanced all over, lovely head with dark eye and very soft expression, well developed good body with level topline, well angulated hind quarters, very good bone and very good feet, moved well in drive, not in his best coat today.
2. Colson's Windyhollows Tumbling Ted, lovely liver quality dog, powerful built but still elegant, very nice developed body with strong topline, good neck, lovely head with dark eye and nice expression, well angulated, super bone and feet, moved strongly.
3. Showell's Cleovine Tresillion

Veteran (9,1)

1. Ulliyart's Heronsflight Haste, **Best Veteran in Show**, beautiful dog, nine years old but still in super shape and condition, lovely smaller type, well balanced overall, lovely well developed body, good brisket, lovely head, dark eye with soft expression, nice neck, excellent topline, and tail carriage, very well angulated hind quarters, excellent strong movement with a lot of drive.
2. Joyce's Stranfaer Trooper, nine an a half years old, still in very good shape, lovely type of dog with strong well balanced body, lovely head with very dark eye, but the eyes are just a little bit too round for my taste, well angulated, good topline, lovely coat, moved quite well.
3. Townsend's Ingella Celestial Star

Special Liver

1. Colson's Windyhollows Tumbling Ted
2. Carrington's Suskin Discovery
3. Hargreaves Wolfhill Touch Of Guinness

Sue Pingree, our Bitch Judge writes;

My thanks to the committee of NEFRA for inviting me to judge Bitches at their open show. The hospitality was 101% and the food was delicious and plenty of it. The show was well run and I enjoyed judging the Flatcoats from the northern end of the country. I thought there was a good atmosphere and everyone was enjoying their day out. I enjoyed judging but what happened to the front movement, pinning, legs going all ways. There was no excuse for bad movement as we had a big ring, so the dogs could really stride out. I found my stewards to be helpful and kept the ring running smoothly. This is a must when you are judging. The entry and bitches for our final line ups and I was more than pleased with my Best Bitch and Reserve Best Bitch. Both the dog judge and myself were in full agreement for the Dog to go Best in Show, a very nice dog indeed.

Minor Puppy (6)

1. Colson's Eskwinds Amazing Grace Of Windyhollows, seven months old, sweet expression, with kind eye, nicely constructed, good depth of chest, stood on neat feet, showed well.
2. Rees Eskwinds About Time, litter sister to number 1, made on the same lines, slightly bigger but well balanced.
3. Taylor's Lathkill Oweenee Opel

Puppy (7)

1. Brook's Culmquill It's A Lovely Day, **Best Puppy in Show**, has very good conformation, nice length of neck into correct shoulders, excellent bone, moved extremely well for an eleven month old puppy.
2. Watson & Peach's Rainesgift Renn With Kilbourne, nice puppy, slightly more length in body, correct flatcoat head and nice eye, good bone, tight feet, good conformation and moved well
3. Rees Eskwinds About Time

Junior (13)

1. Jury's Torwood Pyjama Party, what a nice bitch, feminine, lovely head and eye, nice angulation of shoulders, gave a racy outline, moved straight and true.
2. Colson's Windyhollows Rosy Cheeks, Another lovely young lady, same remarks as number 1, perhaps a shade heavier, but still racy, excellent front, sadly a lot were lacking here.
3. Brook's Culmquill It's A Lovely Day

Special Yearling (12)

1. Colson's Windyhollows Rosy Cheeks, seen before
2. Branston's Delaneige Winter Spirit, lovely bitch, liked her head, neck, excellent shoulders, ample bone into neat feet, good depth of chest, moved true
3. Brook's Culmquill It's A Lovely Day

Novice (13)

1. Colson's Windyhollows Rosy Cheeks, seen before
2. Branston's Delaneige Winter Spirit, seen before
3. Brook's Culmquill It's A Lovely Day

Graduate (11)

1. Colson's Windyhollows Rosy Cheeks, seen before
2. Branston's Delaneige Winter Spirit, seen before
3. Wells Gilduffe Aisling

Post Graduate (14)

1. Egginton's Pajanbeck Born Free, **Best Bitch**, Have admired from the ring side, for me shouts Flatcoat, correct length to body giving a good Flatcoat silhouette, super conformation, with good bone and feet, lovely head with kind dark eye, neat ears. Really moved with drive from strong quarters, lovely tail carriage.
2. Burroughs Elmstock Bunch Of Thyme At Rokaness, one I had done well before, good honest bitch, nice in head with good shoulders and upper arm, ample bone, moved well.
3. Wells Gilduffe Shannagh

Limit (13)

1. Watson's Here Comes The Rain, **Reserve Best Bitch**, The disappointment of the day, a bitch that caught my eye as soon as I saw her movement, lovely bone and feet, nice in eye, head I would like a bit more refined but good enough to take RBB.
2. Salt's Carnegga Ebony Of Levelmoor, Another bitch I like, slightly finer than number 1, liked her head, eye, good front. Another that moves well from good quarters.
3. Bunting's Mossdew Black Magic

Open (12)

1. Whittaker's Bramatha Beat the Blues, **Best Liver**, Liver, how nice, up to size for me for a bitch, her qualities outweighed this, gorgeous head, one of the best here, good eye colour, best of shoulders and upper arm, excellent bone, moved on strong quarters, considered in the challenge.
2. Barnett's Steeplehouse Tess, another up to size, nicely made, good head with nice eye, neat ears, had a touch of elegance, moved true.
3. Brook's Gayplume Dreamlong of Culmquill.

Veteran (6)

1. Hughes's Candeease Love Me Do, nine years old, another I have judged before, classic head and outline, good eye shape and colour, in super condition, showed and powered round the ring
2. Rees's Verdant Treacle Toffee, another nine year old, nice type, another that really strode round the ring, showed well.
3. Hall's Shargleam Last Echo

Special Liver (6)

1. Whittaker's Bramatha Beat the Blues, *seen before*
2. Jury's Torwood Fryur, *fourth in puppy, very much a baby, nice liver colour, good make and shape*
3. Forster's Wizardwood Tawny Pebble

CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU ALL!

As I am sure you are aware NEFRA have been fundraising for Dogs for the Disabled in order to sponsor a puppy through training. In just under two years we have managed to raise a magnificent £3000 so congratulations to you all for a fine effort. Chris and Sally together with their support dog Josh came to our Open Show to accept the cheque on behalf of Dogs for the Disabled and presented the Society with a photograph of D'Arcy. For those of you who did not see it on the day it is hoped to use it on our 2003 Calendar.


**Dogs for the
Disabled**

Dear Friends

This is just a short note to express our sincere thanks for all the support given to us by The Northern England Flatcoated Retriever Association. We are most grateful for all your work and efforts to raise £3000 for Dogs for the Disabled. I have found a Flatcoated Retriever puppy to put forward for training and as requested he will be called D'Arcy.

Chris and Sally said that you liked the photograph of D'Arcy and that Josh got a standing ovation, so I hope a good day was had by all.

Once more I would like to express our sincere thanks for your generous support in sponsoring D'Arcy, we hope he will grow up to become a fully fledged dog for the disabled.

With kind regards

Emma Archer
Key Donor Fundraiser
emma@dogsforthedisabled.org

Patron: The Marquess of Hertford

Registered Charity No. 700454
Telephone: 08700 776600
Fax: 08700 776601
info@dogsforthedisabled.org

Vice Patrons: Wendy Richard M.B.E., Anthea Turner, Peter Purves

A CHRISTMAS POEM



It's the day before Christmas
and all through the house
the puppies are squeaking
an old rubber mouse.

The wreath which had merrily
hung on the door
is scattered in pieces
all over the floor.

The stockings that hung
in a neat little row
now boast a hole
in each little toe.

The tree was subjected
to bright-eyed whims,
and now, although splendid,
is missing some limbs.

I catch them and hold them.
"Be good" I insist,
They lick me, then run off
to see what they missed.

And now as I watch them
the thought comes to me,
That theirs is the spirit
that Christmas should be.

Should children and puppies
yet show us the way,
and teach us joy that
should come to this day?

Could they bring the message
that's written above,
and tell us that, most of all

Christmas is love....



JACK

Jack is 13 weeks old, just finished his injections and has been away from his mother since he was 5/6 weeks old and away from his siblings since he was 7/8 weeks old. He has lived in the house with another Flatcoat and has learnt exactly how far he can go with any given game with the older dog.

Jack has his own bed, which is in a cage where he is put when we think he needs to rest (this is not always his opinion). If he falls asleep in the house, or the other dogs bed we usually remove him to continue his sleep in his cage.

At first he was fed in his cage so his older friend didn't bully him from his food, also as there was nothing to distract him in the cage the only thing left to do was eat. In his cage he learnt to be on his own, not destroy furniture or other things left lying around. He stayed in his cage when his older friend went on his longer walks and training sessions.

From being a tiny pup Jack would test his teeth and carry things. When we saw him carrying anything we would go down to his level and call him to us, when he came to show us his "find" we would scratch his chest thus making him hold his head up and sit down so laying the foundations for a good presentation. We sometimes eventually removed his "retrieve" other times we left him with it and occasionally we "exchanged" it for a little treat, always we kept our spare hand under the object so even if he opened his mouth he never dropped the object onto the ground. Jack became quite happy to bring anything he picked up to show us, came willingly to his name because he didn't feel his prize would be snatched from him.

From the beginning when we prepared his food we told him to "sit" This he did easily if you held the dish up, then we praised him and either gave him the food or put it into his cage. We decided where he ate. On walking to the cage we tried to get him to walk sensibly by our side, not running round in front and so trip us up, or jump up and down and cause the dish to be knocked. Jack soon learnt "sit" expecting a treat, or food. "Stay" was introduced when sit had been thoroughly learnt. By 12 weeks he would sit and stay while his food was prepared and placed for him to eat without mobbing you while you put it on the ground.

There are 2 ways of looking at "sit" and "stay". Some say the fewer words a dog needs to learn the better he will be and to this end if he is told to "sit" he should remain sat until told to do otherwise. We've all heard about the old gamekeeper, on taking his dog to town left him sitting outside the shop and it wasn't till he got home and his wife asked him where was the dog? He remembered him, took the bus back to find the dog sitting patiently sitting outside the shop. O.K. for older dogs, but pups needs to be able to distinguish a longer term "stay" and a short "sit".

Before he was 12 weeks Jack was used to a slip lead, being quite happy to follow your hand for fuss and titbits, when a leader just happened to be round his neck.

At first he always got the treat but then it dropped off as his proficiency on the leader increased soon it was second nature to want to walk with you when the leader was round his neck, because you never knew what exciting places you might be going, and what exciting things you might be doing. By now Jack was ready to face the big world, he had a grounding in basic obedience and needed only to progress with his training to become a joy to have around and the pride of the household.

Denise Jury

I Propose a Toast!!!

The last newsletter was so much enjoyed by so many people, so I was told, that on reflection it occurred to me that what had impressed me most was the wide variety of information and contributions. The thought that so many people take the time to write, compile and edit these items led me to think of all the people who have contributed, and continue to contribute, to NEFRA and all its endeavours. We have members who contribute their time and energy to serve on committees, the newsletter editors who work so hard to keep us communicating, the contributors who make "Wagging Tails" interesting, the organisers of fun days, working events, shows and seminars, usually with a shortage of workers and an ever increasing number of events to coordinate. Some people have done most of the above at one time or another, maybe even simultaneously!

We get involved because of our dogs, and the experiences can be as rewarding (and as frustrating) as are the relationships with our dogs. So it seems appropriate at this time of the year you propose a toast to US!!

TO FLATCOATS AND THEIR OWNERS!!!

May we continue to give (Flatcoats ALWAYS give) and may we always listen (whoops, that may be too much to ask of the dogs!)

Denise Jury

CRUFTS 2002

Will we see you at Crufts this time round? Gundogs are being exhibited on Sunday 10th March 2002 with Flatcoated Retrievers in Hall 5, Rings 26 and 27. Mrs C Dugdale (Dogs) and Mrs J.A. Bird (Bitches) are the judges. Or how about the Gamekeepers Classes in Hall 4, Rings 15 and 16.

It is a wonderful day out so why not come along and support your fellow NEFRA members who had done so well in qualifying to reach Crufts.

Breed Specific Seminar, Kirk Deighton, Saturday 20th October 2001

A 'Breed Specific Seminar' didn't sound like the most riveting way of spending a Saturday but how wrong I was. Being a newcomer to the world of judging seminars I went along not knowing quite what to expect. On arrival and after a welcome cup of tea, I was put at ease and reassured by more experienced NEFRA members.

It was then time to settle down to a detailed and very informative talk on conformation and movement of the dog by Frank Kane. Quite obviously an expert with many years experience, he was also an excellent communicator, explanations being clear and simple to grasp. I must say, he was ably assisted by Scott and his owner Roz Townsend (Scott being a six and a half year old Flatcoat and a wonderful example of the breed both in his conformation and personality.) Mr Kane, with the assistance of Scott, kept the proceedings light-hearted and gave us some very entertaining moments. Being a Flatcoat fan, I wonder if he would have had quite so many bursts of laughter if Scott had been a Labrador!

This was followed by a talk given by Rosalie Brady, in a similar vein but specifically relating to the Flatcoated Retriever. Again an informative interesting talk interspersed with gems of wisdom acquired over the years from some of the stalwarts of the breed from the 'early days'. Her love of the breed was obvious and I felt she shared some wonderful pieces of advice. How important it is to have such experienced people willing to share knowledge that has taken years to acquire. Even the video just before lunch kept my attention, reaffirming what we had covered that morning.

Lunch was wonderful and gratefully received and then came an afternoon that raced by. Four groups of Flatcoats of all ages with their owners, who very kindly allowed us students to 'go over' their dogs. A Championship Show level judge within the breed led each group. They were all so helpful and patient and I for one, gained more knowledge and experience then, than I would have imagined. To actually have 'hands on' opportunity and be guided by an experienced eye was invaluable.

After breaking for some of the memorable NEFRA chocolate cake (courtesy of Claire Taylor) the judges then gave us their opinion and placed the dogs in their respective groups. This enabled us, the students, to examine the critiques we had written earlier and compare our line up with that of the judges. All the judges were careful to explain how they had come to their decisions, which gave us an invaluable insight into how to approach judging. I felt, as the afternoon progressed, I started to get the first glimmer of 'getting my eye in'.

How lucky we were to have this opportunity. A big thank you must go to the owners/handlers and their very patient dogs, all of who remained in good humour, typical of this wonderful breed. On a personal note, I would like to thank Jenny Donnelly and Audrey Forster for persuading me to go along in the first place, it was a brilliant day!

Julie Matthews

NB Did you lose some glasses at the Seminar? If so contact Audrey Forster as she has them.

Gundog Proficiency Certificate

The Gundog Proficiency Certificate is being introduced by the association to encourage the breeding in the North of England of good working retrievers, and to help prospective puppy purchasers choose pups, if they wish, whose parents have achieved a recorded level of competence in the shooting field and also assist the owners of bitches to choose a mate with a recorded level of competence in the shooting field. The scheme will be complementary to the Shooting Dog Certificate run so successfully by the Flatcoated Retriever Society and will be run on similar lines. Priority will be given to members of N.E.F.R.A.

It is important that we establish a test in which dogs can prove that they have inherent capabilities, being assessed more on their work than on handling, so we must try to test each dog on as similar lines as possible. Dogs will be required to be steady and quiet, to walk reasonably to heel and be under reasonable control at all times, retrieve tenderly to hand, both fur or feather, to pick game from cover and to enter water and swim. In this way we should be able to find a number of useful working dogs in our area that might not have been discovered.

To this end the first 'day' of this new venture will be run towards the end of January in the Newark - Mansfield area, Nottinghamshire. This will be held on a formal shoot and cost the participants £20. If there are more than 4 wishing to take part it can be arranged to hold another day before the end of the shooting season, perhaps in a different part of the N.E.F.R.A. area. So please let us know before **10th January 2002** if you are at all interested so arrangements could be made to hold a day nearer to you if the demand is there.

If you feel you would like to participate but need to know more about either, qualifications, place, date, time etc please contact Denise Jury, 103 Williamthorpe Road, North Wingfield, Chesterfield, S42 5NX Tel: 01246 853575

Escape from Colditz aka the NEFRA training day

by Kate Perry

'Are you going to the training day?' I asked. 'I've no one to take' replied Joyce 'well I'm taking Ria.' (Masochism runs in my family.) 'Why not take Becky?' So it was arranged. One hot sunny Sunday in August Joyce and I set off for Sherwood Forest and a gundog-training day. We found the venue easily and turned off the main road following two other cars. Down a farm track and a sharp turn between two container lorries. Could this be right? Oh well the others seemed to know the way. So on we went. Trees on all sides, no land marks. Another sharp turn by a pylon. Where were we going? Then suddenly a clearing, several cars and a tent, we had arrived. As always organisation was excellent. Plenty of cold drinks for the dogs and humans, and LUXURY! a toilet tent. We quickly divided into groups according to ability (or lack of it). Ria and I went into 'puppy'. Sally Collins was our trainer and with a lot of common sense plus an excess of good humour she helped us to understand our dogs and the way they think. (Wait, do I really want to know the dark intricacies of Ria's mind?) Ria quickly got the hang of things - do it right first time and get a treat. Do it wrong and you get more treats to encourage you to get it right. (She's very good at 'getting it wrong'.) 'Will she recall?' Confidently I replied 'Yes', because she does - it's one of her most reliable responses (She thinks she'll miss out if she's not there with you!) So-sit, stay. Ria come. Wouldn't you know it, at that precise moment there was a splash in the nearby pool. She did recall but only after a 'dip' and a visit to everyone else's pup to show off her new dripping wet look with off the shoulder algae. Who was it who said 'Wet dogs are the friendliest?'. After lunch it was test time. Surprisingly Ria did quite well, despite finding the 'blind' for a novice test as well as her own 'seen' retrieve.

All too soon the day was over. Tea, cakes, awards and home. Or so we thought. We retraced our steps. This time no cars in front and no signs, just trees. Thoughts of Hansel and Gretel. Did we turn here? It was no good we could not remember. Twenty minutes later it was clear we were lost. It was then that I saw the car in my rear view mirror-we must be ok someone else was going the same way. The other car, a huge 4x4 loomed large, lights flashing. 'He's in a hurry' I said to Joyce and pulled over to let him pass. The monster roared past, stopped suddenly and started to reverse. An unmarked police car?? A mental checklist flashed through my head-excessive speed-surely not, road tax, lights?!. Then a smile and a wave- a guardian angel had found us and escorted us through the maze to safety, disappearing as quickly as he had appeared. Looking back along the track and the silent world of trees we were thankful for our rescue. Perhaps next time we should bring along a bloodhound?

Many thanks to the N.E.F.R.A. Committee and especially Denise and the trainers.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given of the seventh Annual General Meeting of the Northern England Flatcoated Retriever Association to be held on Sunday March 3rd 2002 at the Old Golf Hotel, New Hey Road, Outlane, Near Huddersfield (Tel. 01422 379311) at 11 am.

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

Chairman	Mr P E Forster
Committee	Mrs B M Adams, Mrs K A Jubb, Mrs V Orme, Mr J R Kitching.

Mr G M Whiting is resigning as Vice Chairman.

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 February 1st 2002. 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 February 1st 2002. 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.

2002 SUBSCRIPTIONS

Please note that the 2002 Subscriptions are now due and remain unchanged from last year, namely £5 for individuals, and £8 for joint membership. Please send all monies due to Mrs E Whiting, Great Gable 225 Kitson Hill Road, Mirfield, West Yorkshire, WF14 9DS

Why not save the worry and hassle of remembering your membership subscriptions, why not pay by standing order. Forms can be obtained from Mrs E Whiting.

Future Dates for your Diary

T Live Game Training Day – 11th January 2002 at Alrewas, Staffordshire
A Gundog Proficiency Certificate – TBA January 2002 in Nottinghamshire
I Annual General Meeting – 3rd March 2002 at Outlane, Huddersfield

L **CRUFTS Gundog Day Sunday 10th March 2002** at the NEC
Working Test – 13th April 2002 at Farnsfield, Nottinghamshire
Open Show – 5th May 2002 at Kirk Deighton, North Yorkshire
Fun Day – 2nd June 2002 at Woodford, Cheshire
Working Test - 10th August 2002 at Yarm, Cleveland
Fun Day – 22nd September 2002 at Craythorne, Staffordshire
Open Cup Show – 3rd November 2002 at Myerscough, Preston

L Forthcoming Championship and Open shows in our area

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

E **Clitheroe and District Kennel Association** Sunday 13th January 2002
Sec Miss D Smith, 01254 233422, closes 27th December 2001
N **Flatcoated Retriever Society Championship Show** Saturday 30th March 2002
Dogs - Mr R Millbank (17 classes) Bitches – Mrs S Johnson (17 classes)
Sec Mrs A Youens, 01494 443349 (daytime) 01494 461776 (evenings)
Closes Monday 18th February 2002
D **United Retriever Club** Sunday 24th February 2002
Mrs P Cole (Kysheemy) 10 classes
Sec Miss B Johnson, 01638 750614, closes 17th January 2002

D Achievements

E Congratulations to Ashcroft & Long's Sh Ch Steeplehouse
R Gamekeeper for gaining his 3rd CC at LKA on 8th December

E The Newsletter sub committee would greatly appreciate your 'Letters to the
R 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@ntlworld.com. Items received from members and included in this
newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of the Association.

S News Letter Sub Committee.

Mrs. K Jubh Thistledown House, 136 Loscoe Denby Lane, Denby Village, DE5 8PP Tel.
01773 741501

Mr. S Jubh 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 (Editor) 120 Cross Street, Arnold, Nottingham. NG5 7BY
Tel. 01159 939134

NORTHERN ENGLAND FLATCOATED RETRIEVER SOCIETY

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Block Capitals Please

DATE OF APPLICATION.....

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

.....POST CODE

TELEPHONE NUMBER.....

SIGNATURE.....

NUMBER OF FLATCOATS OWNED (if any)

HOW LONG HAVE YOUY BEEN INTERESTED IN THE BREED

PROPOSER (must be a member)

SECONDER (must be a member)

NAME.....

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

ADDRESS.....

.....

.....

.....POST CODE.....

.....POST CODE.....

TEL NO.....

TEL NO.....

SIGNATURE.....

SIGNATURE.....

MEMBERSHIP FEES

SINGLE	£5.00
JOINT	£8.00
JUNIOR, SENIOR CITIZEN	
FULL TIME GAMEKEEPER	£3.00

CHEQUE/POSTAL ORDER/CASH
(Please delete as necessary)

Applications to be sent to
Hon. Secretary,
Mrs A Forster,
Cooks Lane House,
Cooks Lane,
Bradnop,
Leek,
ST13 7HA
Tel 01538 383946

.....
Secretary's use only

DATE OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT
OF APPLICATION.....

DATE OF ACCEPTANCE.....

ENCLOSURES.....

NORTHERN ENGLAND FLATCOATED RETRIEVER SOCIETY

Do you have friends who own or are interested in Flatcoats?

Are they members of NEFRA? If not, would they be interested in joining?

Do you have a litter of puppies for sale?

Are the purchasers members of NEFRA? Why not talk to them about joining.

NEFRA are always happy to welcome new members who share a common interest, namely our Flatcoats, and aims to encourage a greater understanding and appreciation of the breed through shows, working tests, fun days and other social events.

So if you know of someone you feel would like to become a new member of NEFRA why not talk to them. There is a copy of the membership application on the reverse of this notice, feel free to photocopy it should you require further.

Should you or your friends require any further information about NEFRA and/or the benefits gained from being a member then please feel free to contact any of the current committee members listed below;

Chairman - Mr. P Forster

Cooks Lane House, Cooks Lane, Bradnop, Leek, Staffs. ST13 7HA.

Tel: 01538 383946. E mail whimbrel@tiscali.co.uk

Hon Treasurer - Mrs. E. Whiting

Hon Secretary - Mrs. A Forster

Vice-Chairman - Mr. G. Whiting

Great Gable, 225 Kitson Hill Road, Mirfield, West Yorkshire. WF14 9DS.

Tel: 01924 521383. E mail elaine.whiting@ntlworld.com

COMMITTEE

Mrs. B M Adams (Litter Recorder).

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

Mr. R. Bunting & Mrs. S Bunting. E mail bunting.sylvia@talk21.com

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

Mr. S Jubb & Mrs. K Jubb. E mail steve1057@hotmail.com

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

Mrs. D Jury (Working Secretary). E mail dave@car-inspector.freemove.co.uk

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

Mr. J R Kitching.

Clowbeck Kennels, Sandhills Farm, Crathorne, Cleveland. TS15 0AD. Tel: 01642 780362

Mr. D Orme & Mrs. V Orme.

3 Ivy Road, Poynton, Stockport, Cheshire. SK12 1PE. Tel: 01625 874826

Mrs. J. Ryder. E mail joycearnold@jaskar.freemove.co.uk

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

Mrs. K Trevor. E mail trevorsilk@ntlworld.com

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

Mrs. S J Wells. E mail Tdwells@btinternet.com

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