

WAGGING TAILS

Issue 28

Spring 2003

NORTHERN ENGLAND FLATCOATED RETRIEVER ASSOCIATION

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Thoughts from the Secretary's table

We had our A.G.M. on March 4th as usual at the Old Golf House Hotel. This is a good central venue and 40 members were present.

We are having problems with 'disappearing venues'. Health and Safety regulations are being given as the reason for the loss of Salmesbury - remember that very successful Millennium Fun Day, and Myerscough College - venue for last November's Show. These are the latest ones to become 'not available'. This is a worrying trend with which I hope you may be able to help. One of the main points in the questionnaire was your wish for venues further north. Could you please look around your areas for suitable venues, big enough for Shows, perhaps smaller for Seminars and halls with some land suitable for Fun Days. If you could make some enquiries as to the facilities, kitchen, available floor area and most importantly cost please let me know. You can be sure they will all be followed up.

The questionnaire was a great help to the Committee. It showed that one of the days you would like us to put on is a Seminar on breeding or buying a puppy from choosing your puppy through to rearing, basic training, ring craft, trimming etc. Further details on the entry form in Wagging Tails. We are therefore going to run this Seminar on Sunday 29th June at Tollerton nr. Nottingham.

Other dates for your diary

Saturday 5th April - Working Test contact Denise Jury
Sunday 4th May - Open Show at Woodford.

Finally may I wish you all a successful summer whether you are working, showing or just enjoying having a Flatcoat.

Kind regards, Audrey

From the Annual General Meeting

Forty members attended the AGM held on Sunday 2nd March 2003 at the Old Golf House, Outlane and there were a further twenty eight who set their apologies. A big thank you to all those who made the effort to attend.

Newly Elected Committee Members

Congratulations to Mr Rob Ashcroft and Mrs Karen Joyce who were both elected to serve on the committee

A note from the treasurer Amendment to Accounts:

Having finally received the necessary information from the Association's bank, it has been necessary to amend the accounts, which were sent out with the notice of AGM. In the final accounts, the surplus on the Open Shows has been reduced by £150 which has in turn reduced the surplus of income over expenditure for the year to £1,427 leaving the Association with Accumulated Funds as at 31st December 2002 of £12,744. In addition, the bank balance shown on the accounts is now £9,536. Anyone who wishes to receive a full copy of these amended accounts please contact the Treasurer.

Elaine Whiting

Item of Note

The decision was taken to affiliate NEFRA to the Countryside Alliance. This was carried through on a unanimous vote.

Presidents Cup Results

This competition is one to NEFRA members only and the points, which are gained at Champ Shows only, are awarded as follows; First, 3 points. Second, 2 points. CC, 2 points. Res. CC, 1 point. Best Puppy, 1 point. BOB, 1 point.

1 st	Mrs J Rudkin's	Branchalwood Lugarwater at Kenjo	54 pts
2 nd	Dalziel & Scott's	Sh.Ch.Branchalwood Strathfinnan	49 pts
3 rd	Miss B Johnson's	Downstream Revival	43 pts
4 th	Mrs H Winton's	Braidwynn Beriet	41 pts
5 th	Dalziel & Scott's	Sh.Ch.Branchalwood Benalisky	36 pts
5 th	Mr & Mrs Ryder's	Jaskar Sound of Taransay	36 pts
5 th	Mrs A Kilminster's	Withybed Drummer	36 pts
8 th	Mrs C Murray's	Gayplume Smarty Pants	35 pts
9 th	Mr & Mrs Emblem's	Sh.Ch.Dunctonwood Catch the Wind	34 pts
10 th	Mr & Mrs Eggington's	Pajanbeck Prince of Thieves	33 pts

Congratulations to you all and many thanks for the result service

AGM 2004

The AGM for 2004 will be held on Sunday 14th April 2004 at the Old Golf House, Outlane and full minutes will be circulated prior to the meeting.

NEFRA Questionnaire

As you may recall NEFRA undertook a questionnaire to see what the members expected of the association. In total forty six questionnaire had been completed and returned with the results as follows:-

- Q1 *Are you happy with the programme arranged so far?*
41 replied yes, 5 did not answer and there were no dissenting voices
- Q2 *Are you interested in;*
- | | |
|--|----|
| <i>Gundog work including training and working tests</i> | 31 |
| <i>Obedience</i> | 29 |
| <i>Showing</i> | 29 |
| <i>Agility</i> | 22 |
| <i>Working Trials</i> | 19 |
| <i>Fun Days etc</i> | 43 |
| <i>Seminars and instruction on various aspects of the Flatcoat</i> | 39 |
| <i>Veterinary matters</i> | 39 |
- Q3 *Would you be willing to help run events in your area* 28
- Q4 *Would you like to receive Wagging Tails by e-mail* 12

Other comments made included;

E-mail schedule for Fun Days. Web Site. Offer of representation in Scotland. Seminar for first time owners. Training on Showing and Induction into Working Tests. Some events in North East, as majority of events in south of area. More Gundog training in North West. Bob Slack to run Trials Weekends. Lots of Working Events. Nice if shows were north of Cheshire. More information on 'proper' gundog work. More localised gundog training. Ring Craft course. Informal gathering for chat and maybe picnic. Agility and obedience.

Thank you to all those members who took time to complete and return the questionnaires. They have certainly given the committee plenty to think about and act upon. As you will see on the flyer a 'Puppy' seminar has been set up, we are actively designing a web site and Denise, our Working Secretary, has set up a number of working tests for you to try out at.

NORTHERN ENGLAND FLATCOATED RETRIEVER ASSOCIATION 14TH BREED OPEN SHOW

WOODFORD COMMUNITY CENTRE,
WOODFORD
SUNDAY 4TH MAY 2003

Show opens at 9.00am.

Judging Dogs at 10.00am. Bitches not before 12.00 noon

Obedience at 10.30am

Judges

Dogs	Miss N Colson (Windyhollows)
Bitches	Mrs S De Robbio (Spera)
Obedience	Mrs S Collins (Steeplehoue)
J/Handling	Mrs S Bunting (Mossdew)

ENTRIES CLOSE THURSDAY 3rd APRIL 2003 (POSTMARK)

Have you sent off your entry form yet? If not why not? The last show must rate as one of the best the association has held so let's see if we can make this one even better. Schedules were sent out with the AGM Minutes. If you require another schedule and/or entry form please contact Mrs A.R. Forster, Cooks Lane House, Cooks Lane, Bradnop, Leek, ST13 7HA or telephone 01538 383946

Will you be there?

Even if you have not entered have you thought about coming along to support the Judges, your Committee and fellow members of NEFRA? You will be made most welcome but please remember that only entered dogs are allowed within the precincts of the show, so if you bring your dogs with you they will have to remain in your car.

Directions to the Venue

M56 - Leave at Junction 6 and follow A538 to Wilmslow, then the A5102 to Woodford. The venue is on the left just after Woodford Church

M6 (from the south) – Leave at Holmes Chapel exit. Go to the centre of Holmes Chapel then head for Chelford and Alderley Edge. At Alderley turn left onto A34 to Wilmslow and in centre of Wilmslow take A510 to Woodford. Then as above.

From the South – Go to Macclesfield and follow the A523 signposted for Stockport. When reaching Poynton Church turn left along the A5149. Keep on this road to a mini roundabout where you go left along the A5102 to Woodford. Go past British Aerospace on the left and the venue is on the right past the Garden Centre, which is also on the right.

Our Dog Judge, Shirley De Robbio writes:-

My life with dogs changed forever in 1988 with the arrival of our first Flatcoat, Liscia. Although we had had other gundog breeds nothing was like her (!!) and now I cannot image being without one, two or more 'flatties'. She did well in the show ring and won two CC's. In her daughter I started to develop an interest in the working side too and she became a Ch. In turn her daughter also became Ch with the feather in her cap of BoB at Crufts.

In recent times I've probably spent more time on gundog work than showing, but strongly believe the same dog should be capable of doing both. My first judging appointment was in 1995 and probably, for me, the most enjoyable aspect is finding 'a good un' and following its future successes at other shows.

Our Bitch Judge, Nicky Colson writes:-

Dogs are in my blood; Dad was brought up with a Flatcoat and Mum, English Springer Spaniels. In 1969, when I was 15 months old, they bought a Flatcoat of their own from Bill and Wynne Garrod, Glidesdown Anemone (Penny), who was four months. She ran out of the kennel and knocked me down a slope. The rest, they say, is history!

In 1990 we obtained the Windyhollows affix and I bought a pup that became Ch Kulawand Wood Nymph of Windyhollows. Gunner started his career with BPIS at the FCRS open show and won his 3rd CC on my 25th birthday, obtaining his qualifier five days earlier. He introduced me to the whole world of "Flatcoats", showing, working tests, picking up, agility, obedience and flyball (although not always successfully!). Gunner died last year aged twelve and I still miss my "shadow" but we own three sons, a daughter, granddaughter and great granddaughter, W. Rosy Cheeks JW.

We have made up three full champions, Gunner, W. Gypsy Moth and her daughter W. Nelly Moser JW. Gypsy's sister, Bounty, had a CC, as does Sheila Tappin's

W. Anchors Away. W. Tumbling Ted JW has sired three Junior Warrant winners, Rosy Cheeks, Eskwinds Amazing Grace of W. and Kim Heath's E. Aladdin's Boy. (bred by Rees). Nelly and her brother Ted are our first livers.

I started judging in 1998 and have attended numerous breed and non-breed seminars; I am a committee member and ringcraft trainer, responsible for the juniors, at our local club. I regularly compete in and steward for work tests and strongly believe that the Flatcoat should maintain its dual-purpose status, something we consider most important when we are planning a litter. In addition to this, I have a large collection of postcards, paintings and history of the breed dating back to 1860.

We currently own ten Flatcoats. I show them, Mum drives the car and Dad is the unpaid kennel maid, our lives revolve around the dogs. Over the years I have been fortunate to receive advice and share the knowledge of many of the stalwarts of the breed. I would like to thank the Officers and Committee of NEFRA for giving me this opportunity to judge the dogs at their show.

Sally Collins, our Obedience judge writes:-

When I heard NEFRA were planning on having Obedience at their May Open Show I was thrilled, when they asked me to judge I was even happier. What will I expect your dog to do?

In the Kennel Club Regulations it says, **'In all Classes the dog should work in a happy and natural manner but should not impede the handler and prime consideration should be given to judging the dog and handler as a team. The dog may be encouraged and praised except where specifically stated'**

I will be looking for happy waggy tails from dogs and smiles from handlers. The exercises themselves are outlined in the schedule, Pre-beginners doesn't have retrieve and in the Beginner class your dog can retrieve any article, bring a dummy if you like or a favourite toy.

Come on have a go, neither Anne my steward or myself will bite, we both have had Flatcoats for many years and have competed in obedience, so we understand the nerves and the dogs. For the first Show we have just these 2 classes, if you have qualified out of beginners please enter 'not for competition' and show the beginners what can be done!!!! Let the Committee know what obedience classes you would like so we can plan them for future shows. They provide an added interest at the shows and NEFRA are only asking £2 per class entry fee, which is excellent. We look forward to seeing you all on the 4th May. Any questions please feel free to ring me, 01332 769002.

Annual Photographic Competition

The annual photo competition will also be viewed and judged at the show with Keith Aldred having to make those all important decisions. Unlike the past few years we are not proposing to publish a 2004 calendar, instead we are hoping to produce both Christmas Cards and notelets. It will be a general competition with classes defined by the seasons. Please enclosed a stamped self addressed envelope should you wish to have your photographs returned.

The closing date for the photographic competition is Saturday 25th April 2003. Please send entries to Mr D Orme, 3 Ivy Road, Poynton, Stockport, Cheshire. SK12 1PE enclosing a cheque made payable to NEFRA covering the entry of 50p per photograph. Please write photo competition on the rear of the cheque and your name and address on the rear of the photographs.

The Flatcoated Retriever

A wealthy man decided to go on a safari in Africa, and took his faithful pet Flatcoated Retriever along for company. One day the Flatcoat started chasing butterflies, and before long discovered that he was lost. Wandering about he noticed a leopard heading rapidly in his direction with the obvious intention of having lunch. The Flatcoat thought, "OK, I'm in deep trouble now!" But then he noticed some bones on the ground close by and had an inspiration. He immediately settled down to chew on the bones with his back to the approaching cat. Just as the leopard was about to leap, the Flatcoat exclaimed loudly, "Boy, that was one delicious leopard. I wonder if there are any more around here?" Hearing this the leopard halted his attack in mid-stride, as a look of terror came over him, and slunk away into the trees. "Whew," said the leopard, "That was close. That Flatcoated Retriever nearly had me."

Meanwhile, a monkey who had been watching the whole scene from a nearby tree figured he could put this knowledge to good use and trade it for protection from the leopard. As he took off running after the leopard, the Flatcoat spotted him and figured that something must be up. He resolved to be alert. The monkey soon caught up with the leopard, spilled the beans about the Flatcoated Retriever and struck a deal for himself with the leopard. The leopard was furious at being made a fool of and said, "Here monkey, hop on my back and see what's going to happen to that conniving canine." Soon the Flatcoat saw the leopard coming with the monkey on his back, realized instantly what had happened, and thought, "What am I going to do now?" **Eureka!** Immediately he sat down with his back to his attackers, pretending not to see them. Just when they got close enough to hear, he

exclaimed angrily, "Where's that monkey? I sent him off over half an hour ago to bring me another leopard."

Supplied by Elaine Whiting (source not known)

Flatcoats abroad!

For us the decision to move lock, stock, barrel and Flatcoat to France was not a difficult one. We already had one son living in France with his French wife and two small children and our daughter decided France was the place she wanted to start her new business growing organic vegetables. Our other son and family also love rural France, so will be frequent visitors. We have been holidaying in France for many years and for the last five have stayed regularly in the area, which is now home, with our friends Becky and Terence Wansley and their Stownsley Flatcoats and Pointers. We bought Alice (Stownsley Limited Edition of Ribert) from Becky and Terence eight and a half years ago when they lived not far away from us in Yorkshire. Tony and I felt at home here in the centre of France from our first visit. It reminds us of the Yorkshire we both remember when we were young (many years ago!), when there were fewer cars on the roads and you could enjoy the tranquillity of the countryside. We live in a small hamlet of Mainclef, which is very close to Saint Benoit du Sault. We are in the Indre Department in the region known as Berry and are close to the Limousin area. We have a small farm on which our daughter, who lives nearby, is going to grow her organic vegetables.

For the dogs, Zoe, Alice, Moss, Ella and Ciara the move has meant so much more freedom and have all settled down really well. As soon as we knew that we were going to make the move we started the procedures of micro chipping and rabies injections followed by blood tests, all quite simple. As we bought our property here last April and our daughter had already made the move, we bought our two eldest dogs Zoe and Alice when we came in April for one month. In July we returned here to France bringing Moss, Ella and Ciara with us for the summer (our house sale in England was still not completed). We did bring Moss and Ella back with us in September to do our final packing, so we have well tested the pets passport scheme with no problems.

The only problem for our dogs in France is the tick and the disease it carries, la Piroplasmose, however there is a vaccine, Pirodog, for this disease and we had all our dogs vaccinated immediately. They also recommend regular use of Frontline when the ticks are at their worst. Apparently this area is quite bad for ticks as we have Sanglier (wild boar) in the forest nearby. Unfortunately Zoe, who we nearly lost a few years ago with organic phosphate poisoning, seems to be allergic to the regular use of Frontline, it causes her to have epileptic fits. Our Belgian vet here

seems to think there may be some connection with the poisoning but who knows? However she is fine with the vaccine so we just have to inspect her very regularly for ticks and I'm pleased to say she is thriving.

All the dogs have had to adjust to actually living in the country and not just near it. We are surrounded by sheep and it is not unknown for them to turn up in our fields only to disappear mysteriously overnight. It's also not unusual to find oneself being observed through the hedge by several Limousin cows, sometimes plus bull. All the dogs, except Zoe, found this a bit daunting at first and tended to bark at them. Zoe, of course, was the first to realise that all these animals leave behind dropping which are very tasty! We now have four hens and a cockerel and although the cockerel stays put in the enclosure the hens are constantly pecking around - another lesson for the dogs - Ella and her daughter Ciara in particular, could not understand at first why they couldn't pick them up and carry them! Moss ignores them in the fields but sees them off if they are too near HIS front door.

Lastly we have a pig, a present to our daughter from the previous owners of our farm. She is a rare breed of French pig; a 'cul noir' (literal translation is 'black arsed') and she came with the name of 'saussisse' (sausage), which didn't seem very kind to me. However, no way will this pig ever be eaten, although her offspring may be. She thinks she is a dog and I think the dogs believe she is too. Moss has had to be stopped from jumping into the pigsty to pinch her food, however on the occasion she has tried to raid his bowl while he was eating he soon sent her packing, even though she is twice his weight and could probably eat him for breakfast. This pig will lie on her back to have her tummy tickled.

As you can see, little or no problem for the dogs, they understand the language perfectly and everywhere we take them people approach us to ask what breed they are and to admire them. They are pretty much unknown as a breed around here and most people seem to think they are related to the very popular Labrador. We were delighted the other night whilst watching the news on French television to see a report on search and rescue dogs in, I think, the Alps and hey presto the first Dog featured was a beautiful Flatcoat!

Well as you can see we are enjoying life 'French style'. Tony is renovating our farmhouse, which at the moment is much like a building site, and we have survived temperatures of minus 13C without central heating but we have no regrets and are looking forward to our future here. We have peace and tranquillity, but are not isolated, and have very friendly neighbours who don't mind repeating things several times when we don't understand. Tony knew he'd found his piece

of heaven when he discovered Chanterelle mushrooms in our little wood and cepes the size of dinner plates under one of our numerous oak trees!

Lastly I must say to Brenda Adams, who told me she could see us living in France, it's not a dream anymore Brenda - it's real and we love it!

Jennifer and Tony Garnett (Riberot)
Mainclef, 36170, Parnac, France
Tel 0033 2 54 24 85 58

Westminster Show

New York in February is seriously cold (-10) and a wind like a knife. The city is wonderful, Central Park, the Empire State building etc. The people diverse and friendly, the barman extremely generous with their shots of 'Jack Daniels' and the taxi drivers totally suicidal. The point of my trip was the Westminster Dog Show in Madison Square Garden, the oldest organised event in America next to the Kentucky Derby. Although the 'garden' is a large building the actual ring space quite small, probably more suitable to boxing matches. The benching area was very overcrowded and almost impossible to walk down with cages and tables, anyone could dump anything anywhere. One of the dogs was actually being bathed there. I dread to think what would have happened if it had been necessary to evacuate.

All breeds of dog were immaculately turned out and a lot were shown by professional handlers who rang between rings, a bit like jockeys going for their next race. There are people who prefer to show their dogs themselves and there is even an owner handlers club. The show was run over two days. The Flatcoats, as are all the Gundogs, the sporting group. There is one class for each breed of dog, all the dogs are champions and a Best of Breed is chosen then best opposite sex then three awards of merit. There was twenty two Flatcoats, only one liver present and he got an award of merit. There were some breeds I'd not come across before such as the American Water Spaniel, like the Irish but only about the size of a Brittany. The American Fox Hound was quite a few inches taller than his English cousin and makes me a bit concerned about the size of the American fox!

About 8:00 on the evening of the second day we had Best in Show and the commentator said it was the best dog show in the world. As I'm half American, and only came to England as a graduation from high school present, I feel I can be unbiased on this and Crufts wins hands down although I come from the west coast, I have to admit the east coast is worth a visit especially Westminster.

Linda Cawkwell

NEFRA Items for sale

For all you shopaholics out there, here are the items we have available for sale. Please send your order together with a cheque made payable to the Northern England Flatcoated Retriever Association to Mrs S.J. Wells, Ravensdale, 2 Albert Road, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5HT. **Why not place your order in time to collect from the Open Show on 4th May**

		Cost	P & P
Sweatshirts	Printed (S & M)	£15.50	£2.00
	Printed (L & XL)	£16.00	£2.00
Sweatshirts	Embroidered	£17.00	£2.00
Polo Shirts		£15.00	£1.00
Ties	Green, blue, maroon	£10.00	50p
Metal Club badges		£ 2.50	30p
Ring Clips		£ 3.20	50p
Car Stickers		£ 1.25	30p
Pens		50p	20p
Flatcoat Cards (no message)	Pack of 6	£ 3.20	£ 1.00
Puppy booklet	How to raise your new puppy	£1.00	30p
NEFRA mug	White china with logo	£3.00	
	Pack of 4	£ 2.40	£ 1.00
Joan Mason's book	The Flatcoated Retriever	£16.00	
Training Equipment			
Dummies (1lb)		£ 3.00	£ 1.60
Puppy Dummies		£ 2.00	50p
Rope Leads	Green or Black	£ 4.50	50p
Leather Slip Leads		£ 8.50	50p
Whistles		£ 2.50	30p
Lanyards		£ 1.00	30p

New Item A Flatcoat print

This black and white print of flatcoats was drawn by Keith Aldred, and Part of the proceeds will go to support dogs for the disabled order from Mrs S. Wells £15.00 plus £2.00 pp

A day at Crufts with a difference

With Crufts approaching I found myself thinking back to this time last year - what had we done! I had decided on a whim that it might be fun to apply to be a part of the Kennel Club Silver Good Citizen Dog display team with one of my Flatcoats - Maddie and of course I didn't want to do it alone so I persuaded my friend that she too would like to have a go with her Dalmatian, Chloe. Everything seemed to be right - the practice venue was fairly close, one of the two days that we would be there (if of course we were chosen) was Gundog day so why not apply - we wouldn't get chosen anyway.

Then the phone call came - could we attend the selection day. Off we went wondering why we had been so rash but still convincing ourselves that we would not be chosen - after all there must be lots of far better dogs than ours. We arrived and sat down - you could just imagine what people were thinking - a Flatcoat and a Dalmatian - were we mad! The assessment began and we were split into three groups. The first group were put through some basic exercises. We watched and looked at each other in horror, if this was the standard we just may get in! The second group were put through the same routine and were even worse! We got up and had our turn and Maddie and Chloe didn't put a paw wrong - we were on the team.

We attended four more practice sessions during which the routine was perfected however we found that our dogs were maybe to well behaved - yes I am still talking about the Flatcoat and the Dalmatian. The display had to be both entertaining and had to get over the serious side to owning a well behaved dog. I volunteered Maddie for one of the exercises whereby they needed a naughty dog to jump up a passer by and knock their basket over - she liked to jump - she would do so on command, however she seemed to know that this was not right and was having none of it, someone else would just have to do that bit.

The big day came, why had we volunteered? The team all arrived in plenty of time and we had one final practice in the ring before the public started to arrive. It went o.k. - We were ready. We were to perform three times on both days and we were now ready for our first performance to an audience and Maddie and I were leading file on the opening and the closing routine - could I remember where to go? The music started, off we went with her tail wagging in true Flatcoat fashion - we did remember, thank goodness. We worked our way through the program, the road walk, the park, the stays, the vets, the food manners team race - with much cheating going on and finally the closing routine to music again. It went well - what a relief. As the day went on some of the doggie team members were getting a bit anxious and tired, it was one thing practising in a quiet sports hall but quite another performing at Crufts. The routine had to be adjusted and Maddie and I found ourselves doing more than we bargained for. She worked well to the last

and I was really proud of her - that tail never stopped wagging. We had a rest the following day and then we were back again for our final day with the extra bits to perform as well.

It was a wonderful experience to be a part of the team - anything that promotes dog education in these current times with so much bad press that dogs get has got to be a good thing - would we do it again - possibly not, it was very stressful for both dogs and handlers.....but then again - maybe next time we should go for Gold!!!!!!

Susan and Maddie (Green)

From the Working Secretary's kennel.

Spring is here and with it the start of the Working Test season. All the schedules have been arriving for quite a while now and with them the realisation that more work should have been started earlier with the youngsters we are hoping to bring on and those we are hoping to upgrade to novice. They don't stay puppies for ever!

The working committee have been thinking about the spring/summer calendar for a long time now, trying to juggle dates with venues etc. It was brought out but unfortunately the 1st two events were not well subscribed so were cancelled and a rethink was called for. This resulted in deciding that after the huge start to the new Novice Working Dog Tests we would downgrade the events from a day away to an evening. We realise this is awkward for some people getting to venues after work in an evening, but the judges/ organisers are human and a phone call could well sort out a remedy, after all we want you to participate and pass!! The intermediate tests will take some full days to start with, but there are, at the moment only 12 dogs who are qualified to enter these. More details of dates and requirements for the intermediate test later in this issue. The seminar about working is still on hold waiting a speaker, date and venue to coincide.

The W.T.'s are well under way with the 1st one on **5th April 2003**. A newer, and we hope regular, event to be tried this year is an inter Flatcoat event. This will be between the Scottish Club, NEFRA and the FRC. It will be on May 31st at Farnsfield near Mansfield. If it is successful we hope to hold it annually and rotate it round GB even eventually include the new Irish club and perhaps all participants and spectators will be tripping over to the Emerald Isle for a few days with their dogs for a test and some R&R. It's a forward thought, or am I just having a senior blond moment? A new venture for NEFRA which will help the working side a lot, when it is up and running in full swing, will be the web site. Keep an eye out for it and dates etc which will be posted, we hope regularly. I'm not really into this

technology but I'm sure I'll get there in the end and wonder what all the fuss was about.

Working dates for 2003.

We will be holding two WT in 2003. The first on 5th April at Garstang with Derek Capel and Frann Robb judging. If you want to put an entry in for this date please contact Denise Jury immediately late (**entries will be accepted**). There will be a Special Puppy (up to 24m on the day of the test.) Novice and Open. Because of the crowded show calendar in August we are having our summer test on the 7th September with John Greeves and Lyn Stringer judging. We hope to have a super entry as we have two panel judges. The usual classes with Sp. Puppy, Novice and Open, this is again at Farnsfield, but a new area for us. At the old area (the conservation area) we are hoping to have a three team test between the Scots, the NEFRA and for want of a better name the South. This is a first and we hope it may be the first of a yearly event held around the country and even incorporating the new Irish group when they get really established. For the first event the midlands was decided on as a mutually convenient part of the country, and the 1st of June as the most suitable day. Keep in touch if you are interested in helping, participating or spectating. I feel we will need all the help we can get especially with dogs to participate who are up to an intermediate standard. It has been decided probably to hold a novice and intermediate test. Lets make it a winner in all ways.

The Cold Game test is being held in sugar beat on a different part of the Lincoln University Farms on the 19th October.

Now to the Working Retriever Tests, as most of you will remember we had twelve dogs who had worked up to the intermediate and quite a few sitting on one/two rosettes waiting to complete the novice and to this end we put on two days in January & February but for a full day we need at least ten paid up dogs. This was not achieved so the days were cancelled and the working committee decided to run the novice legs in the evenings at two venues, one in the east and one in the west. The westerly one is being held at by kind permission of Dorothy Brooks at Wild Acres near Macclesfield on the 1st Thursday of every month starting 1st May then 5th June, 3rd July, 7th August, & 4th September. Dogs must be booked and prepaid with me. The eastern side is at Farnsfield on Wednesdays starting 7th May, 11th June and 9th July with two dates at a new venue called Williamthorpe Ponds on 13th August and 10th September. For these last two we will meet up at my house. Again book and prepay.

The new intermediate tests will be held starting 8th June at Farnsfield with another 21st September at Coventry Farm near Garstang. Further dates will be put in when

suitable venues become available. There is the option of an evening test if the 9th July at Farnsfield is not fully subscribed to by the novice dogs. I'll try and keep you posted on the Internet when the web page is up and running.

Below are the requirements for the new Intermediate Working Retriever Test. This has been set up by the working committee of NEFRA for their members and follows on from the Novice working Retriever tests which were launched very successfully last year.

Denise

The New Intermediate Working Retriever Test.

The requirements are first of all a certificate from the Novice tests which requires three passes on different days. The novice test is simple requiring four 'back to back' retrieves only. Two on land and two onto or over water. This is to test the swimming ability of the dog. The land retrieves will also test the marking ability of the dog.

These intermediate tests are more advanced (as the name implies) Obedience is paramount and will be reflected in the dogs achievements.

Retrieving is demonstrated by:-

Good marking, retrieving and delivery. (This will be from or over water. The other side of obstacles. To willingly search for an unseen retrieve.)

The handler should be able to stop the dog at a distance from him on the whistle and redirect him as required.

The dog should ignore all distractions.

The dog, though on the lead except when under the judge's discretion, must behave well in the company of other dogs.

The following will deem a dog not ready to pass this test, and the dog will require more practice.

Failing to hunt an area for the required length of time.

Not entering cover or overcoming an obstacle.

Being unsteady and out of control.

Not entering water and swimming.

Fear of a gun or gunshot.

A refusal to retrieve and deliver tenderly to hand.

Noise, on the part of the dog or handler, and aggression.

This intermediate test, like the novice will be on dummies only though fur covered, or feathered ones may be used, as may mechanical distractions.

INTER CLUB WORKING (NOVICE) TEST (Between N.E.F.R.A, The Flatcoated Retriever Club of Scotland and The Flatcoated Retriever Society) To be held on Saturday 31st May 2003 at Farnsfield, Nottinghamshire

Anyone wishing to compete or just spectate then please contact Denise Jury on 01246 853575 or Den Orme on 01625 874826 for further details or visit the Scottish web site www.Flatcoat-scotland.com

A tribute to Wizardwood Rushing Water

Bella was our first Flatcoat. She was born on 11th October 1991, one of a litter of seven. Mum was the beautiful Champion Wizardwood Water Witch (Fern) and Dad was Champion Branchalwood Stroan (Ryan). As novice owners we were very lucky to have her, thank you to the Forsters. It must have been meant, because she has ingrained into us that total obsession with the breed, familiar to many owners and breeders, which we cannot escape!

What an introduction! She was well named..... At a few months old she had her first swimming lesson in Jumbles reservoir with our mongrel Fay. She splashed a lot on that occasion but soon became a very competent swimmer indeed. Her love of water continued all her life, the seaside perhaps being her favourite. After her first visit on a chilly, early spring day, we had to drag her off Filey beach after two hours. She wanted to live there forever and would have gone to be with any other family if they were staying on the sands longer. No one else was daft enough to be there shivering though! She was incredibly lively and over enthusiastic, in fact manic may have been a better description in those days. Eating the judges' earrings and laddering her tights at her first show was not an auspicious debut. She did calm down a little after her first litter taught her some responsibility and we gained some experience! She was a strong character with a will of her own, clever, and like most Flatcoats, very eager to learn, even if once learnt, she decided to do things her own way because it was more fun! We went to obedience classes, which after some time paid off, which we really enjoyed. Gaining her Kennel Club Good Citizen award and taking part in a display, organised by the local dog warden and our club, in a crowded market square during Pro Dogs week, at which she behaved impeccably, encouraged me to enter the beginners obedience class at the Flatcoat open show one year. Bella, the only one of a long line dogs, broke her sit stay after nine and a half seconds and padded

over, her eyes sparkling wickedly and that long tongue hanging out, laughing. She had that typical Flatcoated sense of humour too!!

We did a little showing occasionally with her. She was a nice size for a bitch, just over twenty two inches at the shoulder and had a lovely head with a face which grew more exquisite as she grew older, like humans perhaps, who acquire character with age. Her love of life extended especially to food and keeping the weight off her after her seasons was a battle we hardly ever won, a fact that did nothing to help in the ring. Even so we managed a few placings and even the odd first at Champ shows with her, but my very proudest show moment and the day I actually enjoyed most of all was her winning Best Pedigree at a local exemption show when she was nine years old. We also attended Flatcoat fundays, meetings, seminars, NEFRA's 'have a go at gundog' training days and when we lived in Lancashire went to Merseyside Gundogs to train on occasion.

Whatever we did, Bella was KEEN. She had a good nose, was a brilliant marker and was practically fearless and raring to go. In the right experienced hands she may well have been a very good gundog and less of a lunatic or a clown. Some people may have shown her much more and certainly much better, but no one could have loved her more or enjoyed her more than all our family have. She has introduced us to new activities and firm friends. She has changed our lives forever. Bella was an irrepressible personality. She often exasperated and embarrassed us but also filled us with a magic bubbling laughter and love every time we looked at her. She had the Flatcoats unfailing optimism in full measure. She exuded excitement and was a fountain of joy. She was a very balanced confident dog. I never saw her afraid of anything ever. She was friendly with everyone, people and dogs, welcoming all into the home. If more people were like her or you could bottle her essence the world would be a better place.

In January 2002 we found a small tumour at the top of a front leg near the site of an old shoulder injury, where she had suffered from some stiffness and arthritis for a time. We were advised it was a slow growing type and we didn't want to put her through amputation as the vets' advice and others experiences told us this could be far from successful as a cure. She lived through the next spring and summer at a pace belying her age and with a great intensity as if she was savouring every second. She even slept profoundly deeply and snoringly! In October the tumour mushroomed and secondaries spread everywhere, despite pethidine and steroids, sleep and movement became increasingly restricted. She was part of the FCR Society cancer survey so on November 15th I took her sedated to Jane Dobson at Cambridge to be put to sleep forever. On her last morning despite now being ravaged by the disease and struggling to even stand she, true to form, devoured a dish of liver with great excitement.

Even though we still have four other dogs the house seems quiet and empty without her presence, the sun does not seem to shine as brightly. We will always miss her deeply and remember her with laughter and awe!
Thank you Bella... How wonderful life was when you were in the world.

Roger and Beverley Foreman

NORTHERN ENGLAND FLATCOATED RETRIEVER ASSOCIATION

PUPPY SEMINAR

**CANINE ACADEMY, TOLLERTON, NOTTS
SUNDAY 29th JUNE 2003**

Closing Date is Monday 23rd June 2003

The seminar will aim to cover most aspects of breeding or buying a puppy, from choosing your puppy through to rearing, basic training, ring craft, trimming. Also there will be a gundog demo if time and weather permits.

Tea and coffee will available through the day. Raffle prizes please. Jacket Potatoes plus a filling (£1.50) will be available at lunchtime.

Cost per person is £7.50

Please apply for a place on the seminar by completing the enclosed booking form and sending to Hon Secretary, Mrs A R Forster, Cooks Lane House, Cooks Lane, Bradnop, Leek. Tel 01538 383946. Please make cheques payable to N.E.F.R.A. writing your name on the rear together with the event title.

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Directions to the venue are on the rear of this form.
Canine Academy, tel 0115 982 1539
Hill Farm, Tollerton Lane, Tollerton, Nottingham NG12 4GB

Puppy Seminar Sunday 29th June 2003

Please reserveplaces @ £7.50 =
And.....jacket potatoes @ £1.50 =
Total =

Name.....
Address.....
.....
Postcode..... Tel:-

From the South via M1 Exit M1 at junction 21A: follow the A46 towards Newark. Stay on the A46 approx. 15 miles and exit left onto the A606 towards Nottingham. At the second set of traffic lights turn into Tollerton Lane, the entrance to Tollerton Lane is between The Chard Restaurant and a petrol station. Follow lane about 2 miles passing Nottingham Airport on your right hand side. Turn left into Canine Academy just after the last house on the left hand side of lane.

From the North via M1 Exit M1 at junction 24, follow the A 453 to Nottingham, take the A 52 to Grantham, straight across at the 1st roundabout, straight across at next roundabout following signs A52 Grantham (ignore Tollerton signs) Take 1st.right slip road into Tollerton Lane, signed Nottingham Airport, Tollerton and Bassingfield. Canine Academy is the first set of buildings on the right hand side. Turn in just before the wooden bus shelter, which is before the first house on the lane.

From the A1 South Exit the A1 at the Nottingham A52 exit. Follow the road until you come to a large roundabout; take the A52 towards Nottingham. Follow the road until you come to another large roundabout, take the A52 towards Derby. Tollerton, Nottingham Airport and Bassingfield are signed at the roundabout. Take the first left slip road from the A52 you will enter Tollerton Lane. The centre is the first set of buildings on the right hand side. Turn in just before the wooden bus shelter, which is before the first house on the lane.

From the A1 North Exit the A1 at Newark on Trent. Take the A46 towards Leicester. At the large Bingham roundabout take the A52 towards Nottingham. Follow directions as from A1 South directions.

The nearest railway station is Nottingham Station; we are about a ten minute taxi ride from the station. Yellow Cabs: Telephone no. 0115 981 8181.

T Future Dates for your Diary
A Working Test – 5th April – Coventry Farm, Garstang
I Open Show - 4th May – Woodford
L Inter Flatcoat Club Match – 31st May – Farnsfield, Notts
 Puppy Seminar – 29th June – Canine Academy, Tollerton
 Working Test – 7th September – Farnsfield, Notts
 Fun Day - 5th October – Woodford
 Cold Game Test – 19th October - Lincoln
 Open Show – 2nd November – Speedwell Rooms, Staveley

Working Retriever Tests
 Novice – 1st May, 5th June, 3rd July, 7th August, 4th September
 All at Macclesfield (Thursday evens 7.30pm start)
 Novice – 7th May, 11th June, 9th July at Farnsfield
 and 13th August and 10th September at Williamthorpe Ponds
 (Wednesday evenings 7.30pm start)
 Intermediate – 8th June at Farnsfield
 Intermediate - 21st September at Coventry Farm, Garstang

D Forthcoming Open shows in our area. Schedules for the following
E shows can be obtained from the respective secretaries.
Chesterfield Canine Society - **Monday 21st April** at Alfreton
 Judge Mrs R Rains (Gunhill) Sec Mrs C A Briggs 01246 451526

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

News Letter Sub Committee.

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