

WAGGING TAILS

Issue 29

Summer 2003

NORTHERN ENGLAND FLATCOATED RETRIEVER ASSOCIATION
www.nefra.co.uk

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Thoughts from the Secretary's Table

Here we are, two days past the longest day and the nights are now closing in. Time seems to fly but we still have the rest of the summer in front of us. I am writing this on a lovely summer evening sitting in the car watching a Flatcoat Training Class. We have the usual attendant midges but they are par for the course.

Our main piece of news is the opening, I hope that it is the correct phrase, of our NEFRA web site. Keith Aldred has done all the work involved with setting it up and many thanks to him. Details of all NEFRA events will be available together with any last minute changes. Comments from you will be welcome – good or otherwise! **Why not view the site at www.nefra.co.uk.**

The May Show went well and already the schedule for November is out. We seem to wish our lives away having to be so far in advance. Before we know it the Crufts schedules will be dropping through the letterboxes.

We have had our three way Working Test with the Flatcoated Retriever Society and the Flatcoated Retriever Club of Scotland. A lovely day – good friends and a close result. Who could want for more? There is talk of this becoming a regular annual event.

Well back to this lovely evening, the great venue and here come the handlers and dogs so must close.

Regards to you all

Audrey

A note from the Editor

You may note that this edition is larger than usual. Due to the timings of events coupled with publishing deadlines means there have had to be a lot of results and other information included and this has restricted the number of 'lighter' articles submitted by yourselves that can be included. Please accept apologies for this.

If you have any articles you wish to submit or any comments you wish to make regarding the new NEFRA web site then please forward them to Kathryn Trevor, 120 Cross Street, Arnold, Nottingham, NG5 7BY or by e-mail to trevorsilk@ntlworld.com

FUN DAY ON SUNDAY 5th OCTOBER 2003 AT WOODFORD MEMORIAL HALL, WOODFORD, CHESHIRE.

Our Fun Day will be held at the Woodford Memorial Hall, Woodford, Cheshire. 10.00 am start. As well as the usual activities, such as training and the scurry, there will be an opportunity to participate in the Kennel Club Good Citizen Bronze and Silver award with your dog. There will be limited spaces for the award so please pre book. Refreshments will be available as well as tea and coffee. We will also be holding a raffle so if you can donate a prize it will be greatly appreciated.

Prices have been held as last time at £2 per adult with children and dogs free.

An application form is enclosed with this issue of Wagging Tails, however if you require a further application form please contact Mrs A Forster, Cooks Lane House, Cooks Lane, Bradnop, Leek, Staffordshire, ST13 7HA.



Directions

From the M56 – Leave at Junction 6 and follow the A538 into Wilmslow. At the traffic lights bear left, at next traffic lights turn right (Station Rd). Follow past station to mini roundabout. Turn left onto A5102 (Adlington Rd). At next roundabout bear right. At next roundabout bear left. Past Deanwater Hotel and venue is on left before the Garden Centre.

From M6 (South) – Leave at Junction 18. Go to centre of Holmes Chapel and turn right for Chelford and Alderley Edge. Bear left into Wilmslow then as above.

From the south – Go to Macclesfield and follow A523 towards Stockport. In Poynton at the traffic lights by the church turn left onto A5149. At mini roundabout bear left onto A5102. Go past British Aerospace. The venue is on the right past the garden centre.

NORTHERN ENGLAND FLATCOATED RETRIEVER ASSOCIATION SPRING OPEN SHOW REPORTS

Sunday 5th May 2003 saw us hold our spring show at Woodford Community Centre, Cheshire. 167 entries were attracted to the show ring and our new venture of obedience attracted 34 entries.

BIS Telmoss's Love Projector,
RBIS, BOS and BV Phillips's Sh Ch Solotown Spotonly at Jaeva.
BPIs Brooks's Castlerock Willow Warbler.

Our dog judge, Nicky Colson (Windyhollows) writes;

Thank you to the Officers and Committee for inviting me to judge the dogs at their show, the stewards for keeping the ring going and to the exhibitors for accepting my decisions and supporting the winners.

I found movement very difficult to assess, with many dogs moving close behind although I made some allowance for this, as I felt that the smaller ring contributed to it. Feet need to tighten and they weren't helped by long toenails. Many dogs lacked muscle tone. On the positive side there were no round or excessively light eyes and bone was generally good. Also the dogs were presented in good coat and clean condition to the point that I nearly forgot to wash my hands before lunch.

Minor Puppy Dog (7,0) A lovely class of puppies, at various stages of development 1st. Bellamy's Lathkill Valid Vampire A typy, active 7 month old puppy. Classic head and dark eye, full of flatcoat expression. Good reach of neck down to correct lay of shoulder. Coped well with the floor, driving well with happy action from a short nicely set tail, maintaining level topline. BPD 2nd. Mescus's Mecum Hurricane Rushed into the ring and didn't really settle which made his movement a little erratic and close behind. Similar to 1st in overall construction. A balanced pup with good lay of shoulder and plenty of bone. 3rd. Baxter's Blacktoft Gimlet This boy has already done his growing and looks a little out of place at the moment. Lovely head and expression, flat coat and strong neat feet. Settled down in the next class.

Puppy Dog (6,1) 1st. Mescus's Mecum Hurricane 2nd. Baxter's Blacktoft Gimlet 3rd. Pingree's Wizardwood Street Wise at Heatheridge Another lovely boy presented and handled well. In good coat and condition. Well boned.

Junior Dog (8,1) 1st. Greens's Hertarns Dr Pepper 15mth strong male with masculine head and dark eye. Level topline with correct tail set, maintained on the move. Moved with drive. Excellent oval bone down to neat feet. Has a flat coat. Could be in harder condition. 2nd. Ashcroft & Long's Canallhouse Game Seeker Just 12 mths. Moved well when settled. Stands straight front and back.

Neat ears. Good neck into well laid back shoulder. Preferred tighter feet and bend of stifle of 1. 3rd. Carroll & Ryder's Jasker Sound of Taransay Lovely head and eye, with excellent reach of neck. Racy in outline.

Special Yearling (11,2) 1st. Smitherman's Benvellyn Nephrite Jade 21 mths. Classic head with almond shape eye and good earset. Good reach of neck to level topline. Deep chest and well sprung rib. Coped well with the small ring, moving with drive. In gleaming coat. Considered him for RBD, loosing on overall balance to the maturer dog and he seemed to tire in the challenge. 2nd. Greens's Hertarns Dr Pepper 3rd. Wetton's Riberot Dances with Wolves Another classic head with expressive eye. Correct size. Deep chest but I would prefer a little more width

Novice Dog (11,3) 1st. Martin's Tanglebriar Bright Beck 4th in the previous quality class. He is of larger type and longer in loin. Good head with dark eye, full of expression. Moved OK. Well boned. 2nd. Bulleid's Jasker Sound of Monarch Smaller type than 1st. He didn't settle on the move. Level topline. Good bend of stifle. Coat in good condition. 3rd. Hailstone's Batchelors Buttons More refined boy who still needs time to develop in maturity and confidence. Lovely head and excellent reach of neck

Graduate Dog (10,1) 1st. Smitherman's Benvellyn Nephrite Jade 2nd. Joyce's Stranfaer Hercules 3 yr male who still needs time to mature and tighten. Lovely reach of neck, to well placed shoulder and level topline. Deep chest and well sprung rib. Racy outline 3rd. Townsend's Rainesgift Reiver Smaller type, presented in excellent condition. Dark kind eye and correct shaped head. Level topline. Moved ok in the small ring.

Post Graduate Dog (5,2) Three nice boys of different type 1st. Geoghegan's Eskmill Ovation for Fenfleet Masculine head, good reach of neck. Level topline. Flat forerib leading to well sprung ribcage and short strong loin. Moved true fore and aft with power. Ample bone and neat strong feet. 2nd. Burroughs's Elmstock Midnight Legend Racier type than 1 but lacked his rear drive. Moved maintaining level topline. Good bone. Pleasing head with dark eye. Good reach of neck and well placed shoulder. 3rd. Hailstone's Batchelors Buttons

Limit Dog (10,2) By far the best class and dogs I liked very much were left without a card 1st. Martin's Telmoss Love Projector Caught my eye with his ring presence. This boy has a lovely head, and dark, hazel eye with a cheeky glint. Good bone, straight front down to tight feet, deep chest and well sprung rib. Level topline with short strong loin. Correct tail set. Good bend of stifle and well developed second thigh. Moved well with drive when paying attention. The picture was completed by his gently wagging tail and mature feathering. BD and on the referees decision BIS. 2nd. Pingree's Elmstock Everlasting Flame at Heatheridge JW Another lovely male. Moved well. Masculine head with dark eye. Tight feet and strong bone. Good lay of shoulder from excellent reach of neck. Well-defined front, flat rib progressing to correct spring. He showed with far

more enthusiasm in the challenge, winning him RBD. Just preferred head and expression of 1st 3rd. Romeo-Dieste's Goldingale My Choise for Hopevalley Upstanding dog. In good coat. Long reach of neck to good shoulder and level topline.

Open Dog (5,3) 1st. Adams's Indigo Jim at Lathkill A strong powerful dog. Moved well, driving from the rear and maintaining good tail carriage. Well muscled although carrying a little weight across the shoulder. 2nd. Mescus's Clowbeck Sweeny Todd This boy has a lovely head and eye with melting flatcoat expression. Long reach of neck and level topline. Standing on better feet than 1 but lost the class on movement.

Veteran Dog (4,1) 1st. Ellison's Ch Shargleam Cragmartin At nearly 10 years old this dog moves soundly with driving rear action from strong quarters. Straight front and well developed brisket. Excellent bone down to strong feet. Good length of neck into well laid shoulder and level topline. Pleasing head with expressive kindly eye. Not in best of jackets. Sire of my best dog. 2nd. Cross's Hartshead Sir Lancelot A happy boy enjoying his day out. Moved soundly with level topline maintained on the move. Good bend of stifle. I would prefer a little more length in muzzle. In his prime today. 3rd. Whiting's Mirfield Maximillian of Spenbeck What a privilege to own this boy at 14 years and 2 mths. Still showing a glint in his eye and enjoying his day out.

Special Liver (1,0) 1st. Forster's Wizardwood Tawny Tantalus VHC in Grad. This boy is shown in excellent condition with deep liver coat. Good bone and feet. Straight front. Pleasing head. Needs to settle in movement. A little proud of his tail at times. Best Liver in Show.

Our bitches judge, Shirley De Robbio (Spera) writes;

Thank you everyone for a most enjoyable day, also top marks to the committee for a lovely buffet lunch.

Minor Puppy Bitch (7,1) 1st Brooks' Castlebrook Willow Warbler, 6 month old, lovely puppy just right for her age with feminine nicely moulded head, good reach of neck, defined front, tight feet and level top line, moved and showed very well. Should have a bright future BPIS 2nd Fox's Blacktoft Jazz after Dark, 8 ½ month going (correctly) through her rangy stage at the moment. Nice dark eye, good length of muzzle, well laid shoulders, strong quarters moved well. 3rd Warrington's Hopevalley Morning Leaves among Woodavens.

Puppy Bitch (4,0) 1st Fox's Blacktoft Jazz after Dark, 2nd South's Torwood Bel's Spirit, Nice head with good angulation front and rear, short coupled, tight feet. Moved happily and well 3rd Tate's Mecum Starlight.

Junior Bitch (9,2) 1st Chapman's Canalhouse Kyre Coppice, Pleasing head and eye, defined front, level top line and strong quarters, tight feet, in good coat, moved with drive. 2nd Holland's Canalhouse Shades of Ebony, Litter sister to 1st

and very similar in type. Good spring of rib, short coupled, just preferred expression of 1st 3rd Hancock's Jaskar Sound of Gigha at Garregwen,

Special Yearling Bitch (6,1) 1st Brook's Gayplume Classic Design at Castlerock, Nice almond shaped eye, neat ears, good length of muzzle, good bone and feet, well muscled, moved well 2nd Chapmans' Kyre Coppice, 3rd Hancock's Sound of Gigha at Garregwen

Novice Bitch (8,2) 1st Fox's Blacktoft Jazz after Dark, 2nd Hailstone's Charlie's Angel, Correct size, nice head and length of muzzle, good reach of neck, good bone and held top line on the move 3rd Payne's Whittersbeck Antlia,

Graduate Bitch (6,3) 1st Watson & Peach's Rainesgift Renn with Kilbourne, Pleasing head with kind eye, good reach of neck, nice spring of rib and short couplings, good condition and muscle 2nd Joyce's Stranfaer Spruce Goose, Nicely made bitch, well moulded head, dark eye, good depth and length of rib, strong quarters, moved well. 3rd Rees' Eskwinds About Time

Post Graduate Bitch (14,5) 1st Moults' Castlerock Ennerdale, Feminine, well balanced bitch, nicely moulded head, dark eye, neat ears, good reach of neck, well angulated front and rear, showed and moved very well with drive RBB 2nd Donnelly's Eskmill Obsession, Good head and lay of shoulder, defined brisket, short coupled, good bone, nice tight feet, moved well 3rd Allen & Bunting's Mossdew Nightingale,

Limit Bitch (11,3) 1st Fox's Wistosa Sings the Blues to Blacktoft, Pretty bitch with nicely moulded head, dark eye and good reach of neck, good spring and depth of rib, level top line, moved well with drive 2nd Ellison's Blackflight Henrietta, A bitch I've liked since puppy but carrying extra weight today which cost her place 3rd Harrison's Solotown Simply the Best,

Open Bitch (10,3) 1st Harrison's Benvellyn Hera, Correct size of bitch in good coat, feminine moulded head, kind expression, defined brisket, well angled front and rear, slightly overweight and flagged somewhat in the challenge 2nd Tate's Plane Joint Pal, neatly made with pleasing head, good reach of neck, defined brisket, tight feet, level top line, moved well with drive. 3rd Allen & Wilson's Darillens Gypsy Queen,

Veteran Bitch (11,5) 1st Phillips' Sh Ch Solotown Spotonly at Jaeva, Now almost 9 yrs old I gave her 1st BOB many yrs ago. Delighted to see her still in top form. Correct size, feminine well moulded head, dark eye, good reach of neck, well laid shoulders, short coupled, good quarters, lovely coat and condition, effortless driving movement, a joy to watch BV, BB and RBIS. 2nd Moore's Hornsdyke Eclipse, 7 ½ years with pleasing head, good length of muzzle, well angled front and rear, good spring and depth of rib, tight feet, moved well 3rd Wells' Gilduffe Irish Mist,

Special Liver Bitch (3,1) 1st Trevor's Trevorsilk Galaxy Velvet, Finer made type with good reach of neck, level top line, nice tail set, moved freely. 2nd Forster's

Wizardwood Tawny Tweed. *Pleasing head, good depth of chest, good bone and tight feet, lost out on the move*

JUDGED BY REFEREE - Mrs. S. Bunting (Mossdew)

Brace (4,0) - 1st Donnelly, 2nd Rees, 3rd Martin, Res. Donnelly

Junior Handling (6 - 11 years) - 1st Lucy Tate, 2nd Megan Fox, 3rd Alex Tomlinson.

Junior Handling (12 - 16 years) - 1st Lindsay Trevor, 2nd Joseph Tate, 3rd Sarah Trevor, Res. Hannah South.

LIMITED OBEDIENCE - Judge - Mrs. S. Collins (Steeplehouse)

Firstly thanks to Audrey Forster and the committee of NEFRA for inviting me to judge their first (of many I hope) obedience classes at the Open breed show, and thanks to Anne Barnett for an excellent job stewarding people and dogs around the ring. We set a round that we felt allowed the dogs and handlers to stride out, not too fiddly and making good use of the room we had. Most handlers came in the ring smiling, some suffering from nerves looked worried but as promised we didn't bite anyone, all the dogs came in tails wagging and wanting to see what was going to happen. We had several 'characters' but one stood out, this was Mrs Moults Capeldewi Merman, he looked at Anne and I every time he was asked to do something as if to say 'shall I, shan't I? are you watching me?' he had the naughtiest eyes and expression. Sheena Wells brought a stuffed pheasant in the ring as her retrieve article, which was fine, but we had to stop the giggles when it quacked as the dog retrieved it. The standard of work was varied but I hope everyone gained something from the experience and will be raring to go next year. All the dogs in the prizes worked a good round and with a bit of tidying up could work a credible round at an open obedience show, a star of the future deserves a mention, Jane Hedges, Trevorsilk Indian Queen, this young bitch, danced around the ring, she thoroughly enjoyed herself, eyes only for her mum, I look forward to watching her progress. As you can probably tell we had a lovely day, refreshments were excellent as always and we were looked after all day, thank you.

Well done to all of you for entering and congratulations to all those in the cards.

Pre-Beginners (18,4) - 1st Griffin's Eskwinds Admiral, 2nd Moults Capeldewi Merman, 3rd Martin's Tanglebriar Bright Beck, Res. Shelley & Shaw's Castlerock Scandale Beck, VHC Child's Briardance Arrietta

Beginners (16,7) - 1st Green's Wistaston Bracken, 2nd E. Admiral, 3rd Rees' Verdant Treacle Toffee, Res. C. Merman, VHC Ladley's Eskmill Moonraker

THE TV DIARY OF FINLAY LLOYD (Aged 8 ½ months)

It's all my mums fault. She works for the BBC in Nottingham, and takes me to work most days. Everyone in the newsroom knows me, and thinks I'm really cute. They've named me 'News Hound'. My first TV appearance happened at just four months old! 'Inside Out' were doing a story on training unruly dogs so they asked my mum if they could use me, not because I'm unruly but because I'm a good example. That was quite a short appearance, but I really enjoyed walking up and down for the camera. I did it perfectly on the first take!

So when the newsroom was setting up a story about metal lampposts in Ilkeston rotting away because of too much dog pee, I was the obvious choice to report on the story. (I didn't dare tell anyone that I'd never peed on a lamppost before - I've only been cocking my leg for a couple of weeks!)

So off we went one cold and wet afternoon, to Cotmanhay in Ilkeston to meet a very nice man called Rob, who was doing the story and Chris, the cameraman. Mum had kept me indoors all morning so by the time we got there I was desperate to get out of the car and have a wee. Mum kept me in the car until they were ready to start, then I got the nod to do my stuff.

Rob wasn't really sure how to walk me so mum gave him a quick lesson but I didn't really like having a stranger hanging on to me. Anyway I was far more interested in that big metal box the cameraman had over his shoulder - it had a sticky out thing on the front, which tasted yummy when I licked it!!

After two or three sniffs at the bottom of the lamppost I decided I'd better leave my mark, so I cocked my leg, much to my mums surprise, and everyone seemed delighted - I got lots of treats! Yum yum!

Rob then wanted to walk me up and down so the cameraman could get lots more shots of me. I was getting a bit bored by now and just wanted to sniff the bushes so I nearly pulled his arm off. Then it was all over - I was back in the car but I'd been given a tennis ball to play with so was a happy chappie!

The next day, the edited story went out on mummy's programme 'East Midlands Today' and now I'm a star! Everyone in our village keeps coming up and saying they saw me on the telly, I've even had some fan letters on e-mail asking for my pawtograph! I can't wait for my next appearance.

Can you get a doggie equity card?

**NORTHERN ENGLAND
FLATCOATED RETRIEVER ASSOCIATION
15TH BREED OPEN CUP SHOW**

**SPEEDWELL ROOMS, STAVELY,
nr CHESTERFIELD
SUNDAY 2ND NOVEMBER 2003**

**Show opens at 9.00am.
Judging Bitches 10.00 am and Dogs at 10.30am.**

	Judges
Dogs	Mrs R Townsend
Bitches	Mr J Joller
Referee	Mr D Bellamy (J/Handling & Brace)

Yes, I know you've only just been reading about the spring show at Woodford but time waits for no man and the schedules are out for our Cup Show on Sunday 2nd November 2003 at the Speedwell Rooms, Stavely, nr Chesterfield. In line with previous shows our judges have been asked to provide a short critique;

Mrs Roz Townsend writes.

My first dogs were bought for me by my husband Roy 2 days after our Wedding in 1969, red Cocker Spaniels, Jock and Jinney. I have always been involved with animals and held the position of Secretary for Ilkeston Riding Club for many years in the early 70's. In 1971 I saw my first Flatcoat and vowed that one day I would have one. My dream came true in 1979. He was Ben, Greganor Waxwing, by Bruderker Consul out of Wizardwood Nightjar. Another Cocker Spaniel Jamie, and a Border Collie, Bobby Robert followed, and in 1988 I had my second Flatcoat, Greganor Black Beau, 'Big Mac' I learned everything with Mac, started to show him and to join Gundog Training Classes and - I was hooked. We also had his son Teal. When Sally Collins bred a litter in 1995 I was lucky enough to have my Scott, (Ch. Steeplehouse Chipper). He is an absolute joy and has taken me to successes I never dreamt possible. BIS at the NEFRA Open Show, 3 C.C.'s and 2 Res C.C.'s. His third C.C. was from the late Hon. Amelia Jessell together with Best In Show at the United Retriever Ch. Show 2000 from Val Fosse. Scott was always worked right from being a puppy and

won the NEFRA Puppy Test in 1996 followed by the Novice Test in 1997 at just 2 years old. He obtained his SGWC in 2000 and his Shooting Dog Certificate 'A' in 2001. Shortly after this Scott developed a chip of bone in his shoulder and can no longer be shown. However, this does not slow him down in any way and he still picks up all season. I also own his son Rainesgift Reiver 'Saava'.

My first judging appointment was in 1998 and have attended many Breed and non-breed seminars and have been on the committee of Matlock & Dist. C.S. for 10 yrs. I am on the General Committee of the Flatcoated Retriever Society as the Area Representatives' Co-ordinator; Editor of the Annual Newsletter, and a member of the Field Trial Sub-Committee. I strongly believe in the dual purpose of the Flatcoated Retriever and I judge, compete, and help out, at Working Tests. May I take this opportunity to thank the Officers and Committee of NEFRA for giving me this opportunity to judge the dogs at their Show.

Mr Joseph Joller writes

I was born in Sarnen in Switzerland and live with my wife in Kriens, next to Lucerne. I have spent my working life within the pharmaceutical business and after the death of my dachshund, 'Schnupsi' in 1982 my staff presented me with a bond for my 50th birthday with which I bought my first long awaited Flatcoated Retriever, 'Dolly von Felsbach' which I obtained from the only Flatcoated Retriever breeder in Switzerland, Franz Steiner. Since that time all my love has been dedicated to Flatcoats!

I have acquired a great knowledge of the breed through my association with Leonie Galdeman. I bought my dog 'Swallowsflight Black Oberon' from her and he went onto win 54 CAC and Reserve CAC throughout Europe. Although I have visited Crufts several times, due to the quarantine restrictions I have not exhibited in England. I have been a member of the Swiss Retriever Club for more than 25 years both on the committee and as the president. In 2002, nobody could be found among the 3500 members to lead the club so I was elected president again. I have served as a member of the Swiss Kennel Club and have now been elected as a Member of Honour by the Swiss Kennel Club and the Retriever Club of Switzerland.

A man takes his Flatcoated Retriever to the Vet.

"My dog is crossed eyed, is there anything you can do?"

"Well" says the Vet "lets have a look at him"

So he picks him up and examines his eyes, then checks his teeth.

Finally he says "I'm going to have to put him down."

"WHAT?" says the man "Because he's crossed-eyed?"



"No, because he's really heavy"!!!!!!!

Working Test, Saturday 5th April 2003 at Garstang.

NEFRA held a special puppy, novice & open WT on Saturday 5th April at Coventry farm near Garstang by kind permission of Mr & Mrs Thornton. Judges were Derek Capel for Open and Novice with Frann Robb judging Special puppy & Novice. The day was sunny & dry, with a cool wind making quite pleasant working conditions. The only real excitement was when the outside loo blocked up in the morning, but after mine hosts working flat out and digging up a good portion of their lawn it was again in use by lunch time.

Derek Capel writes;

Shirt sleeves in April, that has got to be a bonus, but that is what the 20 or so competitors who took part in the working test at Garstang were treated to. That and a well-organised and extremely sociable day, which everyone including myself and my co-judge Fran Robb seemed to enjoy. I judged the open test in the morning.

Test 1 - a marked retrieve

Test 2 - a double blind and a mark. Both in woodland.

Test 3 - a mark which fell out of sight of the dogs into a pond.

Test 4 - a walk up in an open field.

The top dog Cherry Woods' Lawton Jullia handled by Brian Holmes completed the retrieves with a minimum of effort but showed its Achilles' heel in the walk up where the heelwork was less than tidy. Fred Newton's Lynholmes Hoopoe, which had a purple patch in the morning, scoring well in all the tests, only to fade away in the afternoon novice tests. Mrs Neary handled her Castlerock Aria Force at Collarm despite a bad performance on her first retrieve (the mark) more handler error than dog- once it had overrun the dummy the stop whistle should have been applied points disappeared as the dog hunted well but out of the area. All in all most of the open dogs gave the impression that they could do a good job on a shoot day - isn't that what we are looking for?

Open winners out of nine entries were

1st Cherry Woods' Lawton Julia handled by Brian Holmes.

2nd Fred Newton's Lynholme Hoopoe

3rd Sheila Neary's Castlerock Aria Force at Collarm

4th Cherry Woods' Soft Breeze.

The novice tests which Fran & I judged jointly proved a mixed bag. The tests were similar to the open tests but many of the dogs were short on basics, steadiness and heelwork. Five dogs scored over sixty out of a possible seventy points.

Fran Robb (Meldorfer Flatcoats) writes;

I would like to thank NEFRA for inviting me to judge their working test. I had the honour of being co-judge with Derek Capel for the Novice test and had the Puppy test to myself! We were blessed with lovely blue skies, a light wind, good areas to set up the relevant tests, and I think everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day and really good atmosphere. My thoughts on the day - there were some very good dogs competing in the novice test and they show in the awards, others I think know what homework they need to be doing - sharper stop whistle to stop the dogs going so far wrong, to then get it back on line again, simple consistent commands, not a barrage of conversation (!) and to listen to the directions given by the judge very carefully. The puppies were wonderful, and again the above comments apply - given careful correct training, they will all do very well. On a more jovial note, the dogs are not the problem, they know what they are doing, and it is the handlers who need training.

There were eleven puppies entered, one withdrawn, and on the whole, they performed well. The winning puppy at just twelve months was, in my mind, a very promising prospect for the future, closely followed by the other three placings.

Puppy Test 1 - consisted of dog walking off lead to heel for about 20 yds, then sitting, handler walking out in front of the dog, throwing a dummy, and returning to the dog, therefore testing steadiness, dog then sent for the retrieve.

Puppy Test 2 - a double seen out on the open field, handler to nominate which to be collected first.

Puppy Test 3 - water, just a splash in the middle of a small piece of water, but tested their ability to enter water and retrieve cleanly to hand.

1st Garry Ellison's Blackflight Arrietta

2nd Elaine Whittaker's Torwood Tipsey Tassel

3rd Karen Ellison's Cove Springs of Blackflight

4th Jo Hewison's Casblaid Foggy Dew

Novice Test 1 - long seen into woodland

Novice Test 2 - blind with shot, also in woodland

Novice Test 3 - being a two dog walk up

Novice Test 4 - a water test.

Of the four tests, I took two of them and Derek Capel judged the other two tests. We then had a run-off for 1st place and 4th place.

1st Cherry Wood's Cumberwood Cracker

2nd Gary Ellison's Blackflight Henrietta

3rd Dorothy Brooks' Steelriver Mystic Rhythms of Castlerock

4th C Hewison's Spenbeck Circle of Life

NEFRA Proficiency tests. (update)

After the cracking take up on the Novice Working Retriever tests last year with twelve getting all three legs and a certificate, there was a slow start this year but since the re-scheduling to evenings, or is it the better weather? They have taken off again with a further 8 qualifying for certificates. We left the inauguration of the intermediate till June to allow the numbers of dogs qualifying for entry to increase (you have to have the novice certificate to enter) and because the entry was only six and we had the ground and judges for the day we did allow novices to try for another leg after the intermediates had finished. (You must watch the website for changes to the programme) As a timely reminder about booking early, we nearly cancelled the intermediate as only one dog was paid in advance, it was only on mentioning it to other qualifiers who then assured me they were coming that we let it go ahead and had a creditable six turn up with new and old novices running their legs at the end of the day.

The novice test is well established now with four judges qualified to test and a couple more will soon be joining them. The tests, for new readers, are four simple back to back retrieves, two on land and two from water. The dogs do not have to be steady, a leader can be looped round the dogs neck if desired. They do not have to be quiet, but excessive noise will be penalised, the dog must bring the dummy to hand but putting the dummy down does not negate the retrieve. The tests are to prove marking ability and swimming. This includes entry into the water and bidability to search for a mismarked dummy. The intermediate tests are nearer the KC preliminary working retriever tests, for this the dog must be on the whistle, as it has to find an unmarked dummy (blind) negotiate an obstacle, sit as at a drive while another dog retrieves. No noise is accepted and the dog must be steady, walking to heel and retrieve tenderly to hand. (Note we are still on dummies) The distances are longer than in the novice, but still within the range of a shooter. (We are after all not doing circus tricks, but trying to test a dog that can do a job of work). After all this only 2 dogs completed the first intermediate test day but I know the ones that need to try again for their first intermediate rosette learnt a lot and will soon overcome the small faults which prevented them qualifying. I hope the novices present realised that this was a big step up (like going from junior to secondary school) and does need preparing for, but you can enter as often as you like and therefore overcome obstacles and work towards a certificate slowly.

Training (Puppies)

A few issues ago I started writing a little bit about training gundogs. This was in response to many questions and phone calls from members. All seemed to ask similar questions, so we proceeded from the beginning, starting from taking your puppy home up to a basic level of novice WT. I was asked a few questions about

faults and how to correct them as time proceeded. These I tried to answer but now the new season is getting under way and people are attending training classes again I'm beginning to find the old faults re-occurring and the same questions being asked. Is this because there are new handlers out there? Or because you forget and need reminding or because although you really know what to do, and how to do it you hope that there will, with the passage of time, appear a magical way of acquiring a beautifully trained dog without putting in all the effort. The later I would suspect is the real reason. There is no way round putting time and effort into training. All learning is repetition, repetition, repetition, if you think back to your time in school the things that really stay with you are those that were drilled in by repetition. Lucky the person who has a dog that learns quickly, or has a lot of natural ability, the repetition in their case is less. Its still there though. We do learn new things at different classes which may help a specific dogs problem, but the saying that there's nothing new out there is still very true and good trainers try to remember all the little wheezes they have learnt over the years to make learning less boring for dog & handler.

One of the first things to remember with any puppy is the early weeks/months of its life are the most formative. To this end we must remember that the pup is learning all the time and its up to us to make sure it's learning the correct things. I was once told that it's easier to learn the wrong thing than the right one. How true this seems to be. What happened to the 8week old pup that followed you everywhere? Why at seven or eight months can you let it off its leader and not see it for dust? With no hope of a return before it thinks fit! Your dog has learnt somewhere that there are more exciting things in the big wide world than answering your call. Why? If you start with a treat and a ready pat for your returned dog he will find this the best. Remember the way to most dogs' hearts is through their stomachs but Flatcoats need a lot of hands on attention and this will count more with slightly older dogs. If you feel you are giving out too much food in treats i.e. your dog is getting fat! Then divide its daily ration up and use some of that as treats. If your dog returns to you but stays just out of reach, trying to decide what you want it for, use a flexi-lead and when out on a walk keep calling the dog back to you, giving it a lot of fuss or a treat and letting it go again to pursue its own thing. This way the dog doesn't associate a return with the end of the game and a leader snapped on to return home. A dog that is not too bad can probably learn with out the flexi-lead and just a lot of recalls with attention and send aways will keep the dog guessing about your final homeward bound moment. Also feeding them a portion of the days ration when they return home makes going home much more attractive. Finally during this game when your dog returns, with or without a retrieve, make it sit prettily in front of you i.e. front feet together and back legs tucked underneath it, not sprawled out one or both sides of its body, and scratch its chest thus forcing it to lift up its head and present anything its got in its mouth to you. Don't immediately take the retrieve but hold

your other hand underneath it to catch it if its dropped and continue fussing the dog so that it doesn't think everything is going to be snatched from it as soon as it shows you its trophy. Sometimes you can only look at the retrieve and send the dog off again with it. This hopefully gives it the idea that it can show you some prizes without loosing them. We find this works well at Xmas with the sausage-retrieving contest. Our dogs know they will get the sausage in the end so they are quite happy to let you see it, even take it, because they know it will be returned to them to eat. There's no need for them to snatch and gobble it down before returning.

Denise

Inter Club Match held on Saturday 31st May at Farnsfield

The day started misty but the forecast was for things to become very hot (in more ways than one). The gathering of the three clans began from 8.45am with bleary eyes and mounting tension, the marquee was already steaming with hot teas and coffees being handed around. Would this be a clean dry fight? The clans grouped into their respective areas with bright yellow numbers attached to their arms. The battle tools (dogs) were being brandished around with varying war cries being used.

Then it started, order was called and the judges presented. First test was a walk up through the bracken one clan at a time. First up for the challenge was Flatcoated Retriever Club of Scotland with their six members who had travelled for many hours to compete in this first ever test. Flatcoated Retriever Society and then the hosts NEFRA closely followed them. All was going well. The next two tests saw a splitting of each clan with half going with one judge and the remainder with the other. The dedicated dogs worked hard some finding tests easier than others. After these two tests a break was called, the clans regrouped and unpacked feasts fit for kings. By now the temperatures had soared and the dogs needed cooling down, nearby running streams and ponds plus Flatcoats, say no more! After all had refreshed and refuelled the clans resumed as they had finished, split for different tests with some taking to woodland and others to water.

After all had competed and given of their best, there came a time of tension with marks being added up. In order to leave the judges in peace the clans were distracted with offers of tea, cake and photographs. Then the moment of truth, the results given in accordance with long held traditions, third place Flatcoated Retriever Club of Scotland 205 pts, second place N.E.F.R.A. 243pts and the winners by **HALF A MARK** the Flatcoated Retriever Society. They took home the NEFRA Shield donated by NEFRA (with spaces for the next 12 winning teams). The winning team also received a small token shield each and the four

highest scores in the winning team a Flatcoat print. These were

David Showel with Gayplume Dark Delusion by Cleovine.,
Warren Jones with Dark Star from Vortex.
Becky Johnson with Angico Merry Minstrel of Downstream.
Terry Sparkes with Gorgeous Lady of Churchwood.

Everyone in the teams placed first to third was given a suitable rosette stamped for the event. The highest placed individual was Terry Sparkes from the Flatcoated Retriever Society and he received a small plaque to keep along with a rosette as did the 2nd and 3rd who were Warren Jones from the Flatcoated Retriever Society and Garry Ellison running Blackflight Henrietta from NEFRA.

The clans departed talking of 'next time' and peace returned once more to the land.

Future Working Events

NEFRA Working Test

On Sunday 7th September 2003.

At Farnsfield by kind permission of Trevor Bossons of the Inkersal Manor Shoot.

Judges - John Greaves open & novice, Jackie Winder (puppy & novice).

Sp Puppy & Open meet at 9.15 for 9.30 start. Novice not before noon.

(Sp puppy over 6m and not exceeding 2y on date of test.)

Entry fee £6. Entries close 27th August.

NEFRA Cold Game Test - Fur or Feathers

On Sunday 19th October 2003

At the Lincoln University Farms, Lincoln on sugar beet

Judge - Guy Radford

This test will be run on F.T. lines and will be for NEFRA members' Flatcoats only. The cost will be £15 per dog.

Entries close 10th October

At both events coffee and tea will be supplied. Please bring your own food for lunch and a cake to share for tea. There will be a raffle so please donate a prize if you can. Spectators are welcome. If you are interested in attending either event and require further details please contact Mrs D Jury, 103 Williamthorpe Road, North Wingfield, Chesterfield, S42 5NX or tel 01246 853575 as there will be a limited number of places available. Directions to the venue will be sent with running order. Anyone else requiring directions ring Denise. Please send a self addressed envelope for a running order.

DOGS FOR THE DISABLED

Dogs for the Disabled are a registered charity supported by NEFRA. Throughout this year they are holding fundraising events throughout the country to celebrate their 15th year. As you will see from the list of dates below most are sadly in the south of the country, however there is an event we can all join in one form or another and its called

'Tea for Two'

There is nothing like the chance to sit down with some friends and catch up over a cuppa and the latest news. What's more, all too often it seems that we never make enough time for taking a break. So that's why Dogs for the Disabled is suggesting 'Tea for Two' week from 5th to 11th September. We'd like you to help create a partnership by holding a tea party for you and a few friends. You could even have a theme like 'The Mad Hatters Tea Party' or just use your afternoon tea break to do a bit of fundraising.

Whatever you decide to do, you could help create a partnership just by having a cup of 'Rosie Lee'. For more information or a special fundraising pack on holding a tea party phone 'Dogs for the Disabled' on 0870 0776600. It's packed with useful information and will tell you just how your party will help 'Create a Partnership.'

If you do hold a fundraising party please send a copy of your total to the editor, Kathryn Trevor, so that your efforts can be acknowledged in autumn edition of Wagging Tails

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|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7 th July | Warwickshire Supporters Group are hosting an 'Are you being served?' show at Kenilworth. Phone Sarah Carr on 01926 774407 |
| 19 th July | Open Day at the Frances Hay Training Centre, Banbury. Phone Dogs for the Disabled on 0870 0776600 for more information |
| 23 rd August | Open Day at the Frances Hay Training Centre, Banbury. Phone Dogs for the Disabled on 0870 0776600 for more information |
| 21 st Sept | BUPA Great North Run, Newcastle – Runners required! |
| 1 st Nov | HERO Day at Royal Priors Shopping Centre, Leamington Spa. A chance to meet the Charity Mascot |
| 23 rd Nov | HERO Day at Grace Church Centre, Sutton Coalfield. A chance to meet the Charity Mascot |
| 15 th /16 th Dec | Discover Dogs, Earls Court, London |

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 Fun Day on Sunday 5th October or browse our stall on the day?

		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

Keith Aldred drew this black and white print of flatcoats, and part of the proceeds will go to support Dogs for the Disabled
Order from Mrs S. Wells £15.00 plus £2.00 pp

FUN DAY ON SUN 5th OCTOBER 2003
WOODFORD MEMORIAL HALL,
WOODFORD, CHESHIRE
Closing date is Tues 23rd September 2003.

Name	
Address	
Name of Dog(s)	
(KCGC Test only)	Bronze/Silver
	Bronze/Silver

Both the Bronze and Silver Kennel Club Good Citizen Award will be running. Please note dogs must be pre registered. To take the Silver Award the dog must have passed Bronze and a dog cannot take Bronze and Silver on the same day. More information can be obtained from the Kennel Club.

	Adults	@ £2.00	
	KC Good Citizen	@ £2.00	

Please forward to
Mrs A Forster, Cooks Lane House, Cooks
Lane, Bradnop, Leek, Staffs, ST13 7HA
making cheques payable to NEFRA.

T Future Dates for your Diary

A Working Test – 7th September – Farnsfield, Notts
Fun Day - 5th October – Woodford
Cold Game Test – 19th October - Lincoln
Open Show – 2nd November – Speedwell Rooms, Stavely
Working Retriever Tests
Novice – 7th August, 4th September Macclesfield (Thursday evens
7.30pm start)
Novice – 9th July at Farnsfield and 13th August and 10th September
at Williamthorpe Ponds (Wednesday evenings 7.30pm start)
Intermediate - 21st September at Coventry Farm, Garstang

E Forthcoming Open shows in our area. Schedules for the following
shows can be obtained from the respective secretaries.
Sedgefield & Dist Agric and Hort Soc – Saturday 9th August at
Sedgefield Sec Mr C Gullon, 01677 425243
North Riding Gundog Club – Saturday 23rd August
Sec – Mrs J E Knight 01677 450548
Eastwood Kennel Association – Sunday 24th August at Winthorpe
Judge Hugh Sidebottom (Humaryn) Sec Mr James 01636 676876
D Rugeley and Dist Can Soc – Saturday 6th September at Fenton
Judge Miss C Huwes (Carkathian) Sec Mr D Gordon 01782 564087
E The Newsletter sub committee would greatly appreciate your 'Letters
to the Editor'. These will be included in future newsletters as and
when space is available. Please send them to Mrs. K Trevor at the
address below or e-mail to trevorsilk@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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