

WAGGING TAILS

Issue 26

Autumn 2002

NORTHERN ENGLAND FLATCOATED RETRIEVER ASSOCIATION

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



Vice Chairman - Mr. D Orme

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

Hon Treasurer - Mrs. E. Whiting. e-mail elaine.whiting@ntlworld.com

Great Gable, 225 Kitson Hill Road, Mirfield, WF14 9DS. Tel: 01924 490741.

Working Secretary - Mrs. D Jury e-mail dave@car-inspector.freemove.co.uk

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

COMMITTEE

Mrs. B M Adams (Litter Recorder).

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

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

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

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

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

Mrs. V Orme

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

Mrs K Perry e-mail casanjay@ntlworld.com

12 Silverthorn Way, Wildwood, Stafford, ST17 4PZ. Tel 01785 606627

Mr A & 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

Miss G Walker e-mail gilliant@phoneandfly.co.uk

22 Angrove Close, Great Ayton, North Yorks. TS9 6LF. Tel 01642 722097

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

You all must wonder what goes on behind the scenes in Committee to keep NEFRA up to date with all the happenings in the dog world. One of our Committee members was asked recently why we were not applying for Championship Show Status. Well, for the past four years we have applied but so far have had no luck. We have tried to find out the best way to present our case to the Kennel Club. Some much smaller Breeds have several Championship Shows per year and even if we were granted our own show it would only bring the number of Breed Championship Shows up to three. In our endeavours we have the full support of the Flatcoated Retriever Society and the Flatcoated Retriever Club of Scotland. We must keep trying to convince the Kennel Club but after all the C.C.s are in their gift and not ours of right.

The new Working Gundog Tests are proving a great success. It is an opportunity to work your dogs under experienced Judges without the stress of competition so why not come along and dip your toes in the water - it really is not too frightening. Dates for the rest of the year are elsewhere in this issue.

Finally all good wishes to Val Orme who has been in hospital. We all wish her a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing her in charge of the cups at the November Show.

Just a footnote - the schedules are out for our 13th Open Show at Preston. We are not doing the catering ourselves at this venue, so none of our bacon butties and chocolate cake I am afraid. It will come as a welcome rest for Brenda and her kitchen team. However, food will be available through the College canteen. May I wish all of you enjoyment and success for the rest of the year in your Flatcoat endeavours.

Kind regards to you all, Audrey

LIBERTY AND LIVELIHOOD MARCH, LONDON. SUNDAY 22nd SEPTEMBER 2002

One of our members, Mrs C Wood, has drawn our attention to the forthcoming March. If you wish to attend to show your support for the Countryside Alliance then pre-register on 0900 102 0900. If you are unable to attend but wish to 'March in Spirit' then again register on the above telephone number. Calls cost 60p/min with a maximum cost of £1.80 and lines are open from 8am until 8pm seven days a week. For more details view the web site at www.march-info.org or call the March office on 020 7840 9300.

NORTHERN ENGLAND FLATCOATED RETRIEVER ASSOCIATION 13TH BREED OPEN CUP SHOW

MYERSCOUGH COLLEGE, BILSBOROUGH, PRESTON.
SUNDAY 3RD NOVEMBER 2002

Show opens at 9.00am.

Judging for bitches starts at 10.00am and dogs at 10.30am.

Judges	Bitches	Mr K Young (Pyngold)
	Dogs	Mrs P Cole (Kysheemy)
	JHA classes	Miss S Moul

ENTRIES CLOSE FOR ALL CLASSES
THURSDAY 3rd OCTOBER 2002 (POSTMARK)

Have you sent off your entry form yet? If not why not? Schedules have been sent out with this edition of Wagging Tails. 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

From the South leave the M6 motorway at Junction 32. Bear left following A6 Garstang lane indicators. Take A6 north. Follow Garstang signs for 3 ¼ miles. Sign on left 'Myerscough College' Turn left into St Michaels Road. Venue on right on an S bend. **From the North** leave the M6 Motorway at Junction 33. Take A6 south. Follow Preston signs for about 9 miles. Sign on left 'Myerscough College'. Turn right into St Michaels Road then as above.

LOOK OUT FOR THE FLATCOAT SIGNS

This show will see a change of format with two rings running alongside each other. Judging of the Bitches will start at 10am with the Dogs commencing 30 minutes later.

We have also been approved to hold Junior Handling Classes with the qualifiers being eligible for the 2003 semi finals held at the Richmond Championship Show. There will be two age groups 6 – 11 years and 12 – 16 years and these will both be judged during the lunch break. The aims of the Junior Handling Association is to promote the Junior Handling classes at Open Shows to help improve the handling ability, not to mention the sporting and competitive spirit, of our up and coming exhibitors. There are no membership requirements to enter the competition at the our Open Show but the qualifiers (First, Second and Third in each class) will have to join the Junior Handling Association at a cost of £2 should they wish to compete in the semi finals at Richmond.

Our two breed judges have been asked to submit a short critique to help you 'get to know' a little about them.

Pauline Cole writes:-

I have lived with dogs all my life, and when I was younger, we had Labradors. My Mother had her first Flatcoat in 1978. She used to do obedience with her. I had my first Flatcoat in 1985, she was a pet. I also did obedience with her, and my affair with Flatcoats began. My Mother had her first litter from Belsud Brown Siskin in 1987, from which I had Kysheemy Copper Monarch, he was wonderful and taught me so much. He was consistent in the show ring, and worked obedience up to Test 'B', and also a little picking up - he was my best friend. He was followed by Kysheemy Radagar Brown Wizz, and Copper Monarch's son, Wizardwood Tawney Chestnut of Kysheemy. When I lost Rex (thirteen and a half) and Wizz (suddenly at seven and a half), I decided to go to a black, and now have a 17 month old, who leads Scott a merry dance. I am sure you will all agree that Flatcoats give so much love, teach us all so much, and are totally devoted, (even when they chew something up, they look as if to say, 'what me, never')

I first started judging Flatcoats in 1992, and was delighted to have been asked to judge at U.R.C's Open Show in February of this year. I would like to thank the Officers and Committee of N.E.F.R.A for inviting me to judge the dogs at the November Show, and am looking forward to it immensely, it is a great honour.

Thank you.

Sadly Mr K Young's critique has not yet arrived and the publication can wait no longer so please accept his and our apologies.

From the Working Secretary's Kennel

The next two dates for the Working Dog Proficiency Tests are fixed for Sunday 29th Sept near Lincoln and Sunday 20th October near Preston. It will be the same judges as before, Peter Forster & David Bellamy, carrying out the same tests as before i.e. two back to back land retrieves of about 40/50 yards and two water retrieves. These tests are to show marking ability, water entry, swimming and presentation of dummy to hand. A whistle could be useful, but only if the dog has heard one before. After the first two tests there are seven dogs sitting on two rosettes, lets hope we get some certificates this time round. Owing to the great demand at the last test at Farnsfield (30 entries) we are limiting entries to about 20 per session. We found the 20 at the first day at Dorothy Brooks's ground were a manageable number. So it will be first come gets a place. If on the other hand demand is so great we will think of putting on another day in November etc.

We have organised a Cold Game Test for Sunday 6th October working on sugar beat land near to Lincoln. If you require more information then please ring Audrey on 01538 383946 or myself on 01246 853575. Should you require an entry form then please send me a self addressed envelope.

Denise.

**NEFRA WORKING TEST HELD ON SATURDAY 10TH AUGUST 2002
AT CRATHORNE VILLAGE**

A Working Test was held at Crathorne Village, nr Yarm with the kind permission of Lord and Lady Crathorne. Our judges, Mr and Mrs S Crookes, write:- Firstly many thanks for inviting us to judge your tests and for the lovely present of the chairs. Steve and myself both thoroughly enjoyed our day and it was a first for me to judge all Flatcoats. Of course Steve judged for you last year so he knew a few more faces than I did. We set all the tests to the standard you would expect to find at any variety retriever tests for those classes, and were generally not disappointed with the way they were executed.

Special Puppy

We started with a simple water test with a dummy thrown into fast running water judged by myself and a steadiness test judged by Steve. Most of the dogs coped well with the running water though I suspect that for a few it was the first time they had experienced it. Unfortunately many of them spoiled it with a bad delivery, putting the dummy down and shaking was the main problem. I know their coats get very heavy with water, so do my Golden Retrievers, but do insist on them coming and delivering properly before they are allowed to shake.

Steve says steadiness was generally completed very well, confirming that the important basic obedience had not been skimmed on. It is very important now to continue with this obedience and steadiness as the dogs progress into novices.

I then did a mark into some long grass. Generally no problems, the scent was good in spite of the weather and most were winding the dummy quite well once they were on the right side of it. The awkward bit comes if they get the wrong side because at that age you would not expect them to be handling well, if at all (only Labradors handle as though on rails by the time they get to 10 months the rest of us have to wait till our dogs grow up!) The best you can do is hope they overshoot the dummy so you can call them back on a different line for them to wind it.

Steve meanwhile judged a double mark with only one dummy to be picked. Most people opted for the right hand dummy when an easier option would have been the left hand one, so the handler could have stepped across the dog, physically obstructing its path to the wrong dummy.

At the end we were both agreed on our winner, but well done to everyone.

Open

We ran the open dogs at the same time as the puppies and we decided to make all the tests doubles. I started with a mark over the river followed by a blind up the bank on the same side. The fast flowing river caused some of the dogs to need a bit of encouragement to get into it but once in they realised there was nothing to worry about and the retrieve caused few problems. Most of the marks were lost on the blind by the dogs pulling back towards the water. The best dogs cast where they were told and picked easily.

Steve started with a double mark. None of the dogs marked both dummies, meaning that dogs needed handling onto at least one dummy. Handlers seemed reluctant to do so resulting in dogs hunting in entirely the wrong area, disturbing ground and wasting time. Handlers don't be afraid to help your dog if it obviously needs it because you will soon get called up if your dog is persistently hunting in the wrong place. I then did a Walk up with marks to the front and rear. The front mark was done well but the back mark caused a few to lose marks by not getting their dogs turned quickly enough to mark it.

Steve meanwhile judged a hunting exercise in the wood, with two dummies out of three to be picked. All dogs did this well, this time hunting the correct area! The result was a little closer this time with the same handler handling both first and second. The only thing to split them was the winner was better at healing than the second. Again well done to everyone.

Novice

The novice tests took place in the afternoon. We decided to start everyone off on a mark so I judged a double mark up a steep hill. This was generally well done with very few dogs getting the wrong dummy first. The better dogs remembered the second mark as well as the first, which gained them more marks.

Steve judged a Walk-up with a mark in front and a blind behind. This was where most of the failures occurred. These were either through unsteadiness at heel, failing to pick the front mark, failing to handle onto the blind at the back and some squeaking. This exercise is the basis of all retriever work. Firstly dogs must walk quietly and neatly at heel with the handler, and they must be steady otherwise they will not get a retrieve! Having got that far the handler must mark the dummy at least to an area so they can help their dog if necessary, and the dog must be capable of being handled onto something it has not seen fall. Put all this together and the dog will progress.

I then judged a mark in a wood over a fence. The light levels were so low that the dogs could only mark by sound, with a gunshot also drawing them into the wood. The fence caused very few problems and the bolder dogs made a good job of hunting in very thick cover with nettles and brambles in the wood. The dogs who had trouble were the ones who would not enter the cover because the dummy could only be winded from in there.

The highlight of the day for me was Steve's last test. The river which had been flowing quite fast in the morning was now more of a torrent having risen about four inches during the day. For anyone who wasn't there you can probably form some idea of the amount of rain we had! We decided a simple mark over the river would be enough to test the dogs and this proved correct. All gamely entered the river and stuck to their task. Some did better than others, some dogs failed but full marks to all for trying.

Finally we took the top 5 dogs through to a run off. We set up a drive with some very noisy beaters and 'birds' flying everywhere. At the end of the drive the dummies which had landed close to the dogs were picked by hand leaving five distant blinds to be picked. All five dogs were steady at the drive and sat quietly waiting for their turn but unfortunately all struggled to handle onto the blinds and marks were lost. In view of this we decided that all of these dogs would benefit from further Novice tests so first place was withheld so no one would suffer from not being able to compete at the level their dog needed to progress further. All the top five should qualify for open with a little bit more work on handling and heeling, as should some of the dogs who did not make the cut. So keep up the

good work and maybe we will see a few more Flatcoats out not letting the Lab owners have it all their own way in future.

NEFRA Working Test Results (Special puppy, novice & open).

Special Puppy. Judge Anne Crookes. 8 entrants

1st Carpet Flyers Ch No. 3 of Silkman's Castle.
Owned and handled by Cerea Seideman. (Germany)

2nd Raingift Reiver.
Owned and handled by Mrs R Townsend.

3rd Foxtrot Caesar.
Owned and handled by Mrs P. Easy.

4th Culmquill It's a Lovely Day JW.
Owned and handled by Mrs EA Brook

Novice. Judges Steve & Anne Crookes. 19 entrants

1st Not awarded

2nd Spenbeck Maggies Dream from Brockslot.
Owned and handled by Mrs J. Brocklesby.

3rd A No.13 of Silkman's Castle.
Owned and handled by Miss C Seidemann. (Germany)

4th Searovers J's Willy's Mighty Mouse.
Owned and handled by Miss C. Seidemann (Germany).

C.o.M Cleovine Water Wagtail D.
Owned and handled by Mr D.Churchard.
Blackflight Henrietta.

Owned and handled by J. Ellison.

Open Judge Steve Crookes 6 entrants 1 Abs.

1st Rehyrb Ithica

Owned and handled by Mrs.F. Robb.

2nd Meldorfer Mudlark

Owned and handled by Mrs F. Robb

C.o.M Kenmillone Blizzard D.

Owned and handled by Mr W.B. Deacon.

WORKING DOG PROFICIENCY TESTS

As I am sure you are aware from previous editions of Wagging Tails NEFRA has launched the Working Dog Proficiency Tests. Kate Perry writes 'from the other side of the fence' as a willing entrant.

First thoughts

What a wonderful idea. Just what was needed to help newcomers begin to work with their dogs. Damn----- can't do the first test we're on holiday.

Second thoughts

We'll enter all 4 dogs for the 2nd test. The tests are simple, straightforward retrieves. Even Ria who'd only had a passing acquaintance with a dummy might be successful on some of the tests.

Two days before the test

(Still on holiday, feeling relaxed and un-harassed). Maybe we'll just take 2 dogs. Ria won't cope, she'll be overwhelmed and I'll look stupid. Jay will go over the top and run in. We'll take Sam and Cassie --the reliable ones?!!

The day dawns

Whose stupid idea was this? We'd only just arrived home from holiday and hadn't even thought about unpacking the caravan, yet here we were at the crack of dawn heading for darkest Nottinghamshire with 4 dogs and it was raining!!!

The test

As usual organisation was first class. (Many thanks to Denise and her band of helpers). I collected my numbers and waited. The weather still threatened rain so I was wearing wellies, but soon the sun was out and it became hot and sunny. "Is it wet?" someone enquired, thinking of changing into more comfortable trainers. "No" Denise replied "although the water may be a bit wet"!!!! A true Denise-ism, but we all knew what she meant.

Ria's turn. Although she is steady enough the rules allow for the dog to be on a lead for this test, so I took no chances. On command she streaked out and in no time both dummies had been returned ---relief! Perhaps I ought to take her training more seriously after all. Similar success in the water retrieves. But why is it that muddy wet flatcoats are the friendliest? Although a long day it was very enjoyable. Very few dogs did not pass (in this age of political correctness no one fails). We collected our rosettes (very smart red and white ones) said our goodbyes and headed home.

The Verdict

These tests are designed to help owners assess their progress in developing the skills of a working retriever. The atmosphere is friendly and non-competitive and there is lots of helpful advice on hand. So give it a go, you'll learn a lot, your dog will love it and with luck you too will go home proudly clutching a rosette.

Thanks to all concerned especially Denise, David and Peter (our judges) and Audrey (for the continuous flow of refreshments).

Results to date

To qualify for the certificate dogs have to attain three 'passes'. At the moment seven dogs have attained two passes after two day sessions. Hopefully all or most will qualify on the next training day.

Two passes

Casanjay Wild Dancer
Casblaidh Ballycleary
Eskmill Nymph
Gilduffe Mourne
Meldorfer Mayfly
Rainesgift Reiver
Spencebeck Circle of Life

One Pass

A No. 3 of Silkmans Castle
A No. 13 of Silkmans Castle
Blithdale Leisha
Carpet Flyers No 3 of Silkmans Castle
Casanjay Maria
Casanjay Wiliwaw
Castlerock Wild Mist
Elmstock Midnight Sky
Gayplume Classic Design of Castlerock
Gilduffe Sava
Lakemere Castaway
Searovers J's Willys Mighty Mouse
Spencebeck Maggies Dream of Brockshot.
Steeplehouse Chase
Steelriver Mystic Rythems of Castlerock.
Torwood Florin
Torwood Puddleduck
Windyhollows Nellie Moser

Flatcoats by Sarah Trevor

The Flatcoat will bring you good laughs good fun.
They may get hot when they're out in the sun.
The Flatcoat is the best friend that it could be.
It will make a friendship with you or me.

They say that the Flatcoat is stupid we know better than that

They may go a bit mad when they're chasing a cat

My Flatcoat is whappy and loves to work or play

All she wants is loads of love at the end of each day

Your Flatcoats' your dog at the end of the day.

And I wouldn't want mine any other way.

NORTHERN ENGLAND FLATCOATED RETRIEVER ASSOCIATION

FUN DAY ON SATURDAY 21st SEPTEMBER 2002
AT BOOTLE STATION VILLAGE HALL, BOOTLE, CUMBRIA.

Jenny Donnelly has offered to hold an Autumn Fun Day on behalf of NEFRA that will be held at Bootle Station Village Hall, Bootle, Cumbria. Tea and Coffee will be available from 9:30am prior to a 10:00am start. As well as the usual activities, such as training and the scurry, there will be an opportunity to participate in 'flyball' training. Bob Slack will also be giving a search demonstration. We will also be holding a raffle so if you can donate a prize it will be greatly appreciated. Please bring cakes to be used on the day or to be offered for sale. Lunch will be available at a cost of £3.00 and it is requested you pre-book to assist with catering. (For those of you who do pre-book a lunch please contact Jenny Donnelly on arrival for your voucher.) Being conscious of the location of the Fun Day arrangements have been made for those wishing to stop overnight in their caravans or tents at the venue both Friday **and/or** Saturday night at a cost of £5.00 for the weekend. The hall will be open both nights for toilet facilities. For those wishing to stop overnight please pre-book. Why not bring your BBQ with you and let's have a social evening as well!

Direction to the Venue (From Junction 36 of M6)

Take A590 initially towards Kendal then towards Ulverston. After about 20 miles turn right onto the A5092 and follow till junction with A595. Turn right onto A595 towards Broughton in Furness. Follow A595 for about 16 miles to Bootle. In Bootle turn left towards Bootle Station, cross over the railway line then bear left following the NEFRA signs.

Closing date is Tuesday 10th September 2002. **If you wish to come please speak with Mrs Audrey Forster, Cooks Lane House, Cooks Lane, Bradnop, Leek, Staffordshire, ST13 7HA tel 01538 383946 to make arrangements.**

PRESIDENTS CUP RESULTS 2003

Congratulations to you all so far. The leaders are separated by a handful of points providing a close competition this year. The final results will be released in the New Year. Up to and including United Retriever Championship Show the leaders in the Presidents Cup, in owners alphabetical order are:-

Eggington's	Pajanbeck Prince of Thieves
Emblen's	Dunctonwood Catch the Wind
Johnson's	Downstream Revival
Rudkin's	Branchalwood Lugarwater at Kenjo
Winton's	Braidwynn Beriet

Future Dates for your Diary

Fun Day – 22nd September 2002 at Bootle Station, Cumbria

Working Dog Test – 29th September 2002 nr Lincoln

Cold Game Test – 6th October 2002 nr Lincoln

Working Dog Test – 20th October 2002 nr Preston

Open Cup Show – 3rd November 2002 at Myerscough, Preston

**T
A**

Forthcoming Open shows in our area. Schedules for the following shows can be obtained from the respective secretaries.

I

Edwinstowe and District Canine Society, Sat 28th September.

Ms H Watson (Rainesgift) Sec Mrs E King tel 01246 476059

L

Entries closed for this show on 27th August but the secretary is willing to accept late entries from NEFRA members.

Mid Western Gundog Society, Sat 12th October. Mrs J Coddington (Bracan). Sec. Miss C Smillie, tel 01531 640102

Pinxton and District Canine Society, Sat 12th October. Mrs E Thomas (Claramand) Sec. Mrs C Briggs, tel 01246 451526

E

Melton Mowbray District and Canine Society, Sun 20th October.

Mrs J Jones (Benvellyn) Sec. Mrs E Thomas tel 01664 567640

N

Lincoln Canine Society Sun 6th October Snr S Scarpellini (Dukeland) Sec. Mrs C Knight tel 01636 626647

D

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.

E

A note from the Editor

R

Thank you very much to those of you who have forwarded articles to me by e-mail, Unfortunately I have had a major problem with my computer and have 'lost' all my e-mails. Can I please ask that you re-send the articles to me. Kathryn Trevor

S

News Letter Sub Committee.

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

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