

THE EXHIBITION MOUSE

MARKED VARIETIES AT BINGLEY LACKED TYPE

One of the most welcome faces seen at Bingley show on August 5 was that of Doreen Cooper. After her recent serious illness we were all delighted to welcome her back and rejoiced in her recovery.

The show itself attracted 574 entries on a wonderfully warm and sunny day. For me it was quite an experience as I was asked to judge not only the AOV section (most of which varieties I have kept on and off for years) but also the Marked.

Not to put too fine a point on it, I was somewhat disappointed with the Marked as a section. Apart from the Himalayans, which I have always felt are interlopers in any case, the majority of the exhibits lacked that type asked for by the 'general standard of excellence'.

Three times in this preamble to the standards is mention made that the mouse 'shall be long in body', and 'the body shall be long and slim' and finally the mouse shall be 'racy in appearance'.

Now, I know the difficulties that Dutch and Broken fanciers are up against in their endless struggle to find the perfect markings, but the primary need for raciness seems to have been overlooked, for only one or two mice approached this requirement.

In my eyes if a mouse does not have this long, sleek, racy appearance, why then it loses all its charm. I suppose a Dutch could have perfect markings, but if it looked like the Hunchback of Notre Dame I am afraid that it just wouldn't begin to qualify.

Not that the Dutch were like hunchbacks, but the overall impression was one of squatness and I got the distinct feeling that in concentrating so greatly on perfection of marking, breeders of Dutch and Broken have forfeited that grace and elegance which transforms a common mouse into a thing of beauty.

On the other hand, and by way of contrast, the general level in the AOV section was high indeed. I was especially happy to see such an obvious improvement in the Long Haireds and a continued improvement in the Siamese Seal Points (but where are the Blue Points)? The introduction of the Seal Points must mark the greatest single advance which the mouse Fancy has made for many, many years. We all owe a debt of gratitude to Doreen for her pioneering work and to the likes of Nancy Horne and John Kellett who have steadily improved the breed.

Mr Angus Ridley's classes

DUTCH Ad 5: 1 Pickering, chocolate, wins on saddle and had best type 2 3 Byworth, black, cheek patches slightly below jaws 3 good head but fails tail r Maynard, fails tanned vent 8 wk 6: I always thought Foxes were the wild lads of the Fancy but they were as gentle as lambs compared with some of these young Dutch. Some of them wanted to impress their claims on me so much that they took the opportunity to bite me—and they were not love-bites either! 1 Jukes, chocolate, best head and overall appearance 2 Jones, good head and saddle 3 Byworth, chocolate, good head but failed saddle r Maynard, argente, pulls on saddle and insufficiently silvered **BROKEN** Ad 5: 1 3 Brown, best type mouse among the Broken, although the colour of the nicely-placed spots was an imperfect blue probably due to clumping of the pigment granules, the overall picture was very graceful and pleasing effect is most certainly called for 2 Byworth, Black eight-spot, unfortunately the white ground colour was far from good on the day 3 another blue but only five spots on a good white ground r Bleazard, black, five spots but one badly brindled 8 wk 7: 1 r Byworth, black, seven spots very well placed 2 Brown, black, eight spots but not so well placed and some brindling 3 Maynard, black, five spots, well placed but somewhat ragged in spot size r black, six spots but had too solid a rump **AOV MARKED** Ad 4: 1 Byworth, Himalayan, grand type and markings though stockings could be better, but overall a lovely mouse and wins best Marked 2 as the first but just a bit fat 3 Mackerill, Himalayan, nose point just a little blurred and had moults on back r Horne, rump white. I was sorry this had to go last but the pull on the belly was too great and then again the last half-inch of tail was agouti. The standard lays down that the rear third must be white—and that includes the tail. Perhaps the innovator, Mr Meredith, will consider whether his provisional standard is in order genetically for it could be that a coloured tip to the tail might well be in order. As things stand I had to judge by the printed standard. Nevertheless, congratulations AIF on getting this one as near as you did, though pay attention to improving the size please 8 wk 1: 1 Byworth, Himalayan, very similar to the

winning adult except for age, but perhaps the face a little too pointed? **AV MARKED** Chall ad 13: 1 3 Byworth 2 Brown r Pickering 8 wk 14: 1 2 Byworth 3 Brown r Maynard **CHINCHILLA FOX** Ad 10: 1 r Byworth, silver Fox, best colour top and belly really white but could do with more ticking on flanks and rump 2 Miss Metcalfe, Chinchilla, congratulations, very type, very well ticked but skull just a little narrow, make sure its eventual mate has a good broad head 3 Emmett, blue Fox, good ticking and colour r silver Fox, fails belly and ticking 8 wk 5: 1 3 Emmett, blue Fox, a little gem well worthy of a championship point, lovely colour top and belly pure 2 r B Longbottom, Chinchilla, very well ticked but coat somewhat 'starey' today 3 blue Fox, fails on belly colour r Chinchilla, also fails belly colour and density **CINNAMON AGOUTI** Ad 3: 1 Hartley, Agouti, this was a beautiful specimen and to my eye correct in all departments, type, essential fire and ticking and tractability, it had it all 2 Pearce, Cinnamon, very fine but ticking just not quite obvious enough 3 Cooper, Agouti, lacked fire and the overall impression was too black, the fire had gone out 8 wk 4: 1 2 Hartley, Agouti, again a top-rate mouse and just won best AOV from the adult on the depth of belly colour 2 Agouti, just fails belly 3 r Pearce, Agouti, under again decided r Agouti **ARGENTE** Ad 1: 1 Byworth, a lovely exhibit but just a little uneven in silvering **AOV** Ad 8: 1 Byworth, Longhaired White, wins on purity of colour and length and silkiness of coat 2 E Longbottom, Sable, a fine specimen of this outstanding variety and well shaded 3 Furness, Siamese SP, good type and shadings but moults on back r Jones, Longhaired White, a little thin on the mane 8 wk 4: Despite the small number, I had the utmost difficulty with these four. Really a judge should be able to award two equal firsts, and this was a case in point. I even asked Don Taylor but he was adamant! 1 Horne, Siamese SP, correct shade of medium beige with lovely shadings and points 2 3 Byworth, Argente, another fine mouse 3 Longhaired White r E Longbottom, Sable, I thought the under was just not quite rich enough even making allowances for its youth Chall ad 19: 1 Hartley 2 3 and r

Byworth 8 wk 13: 1 r Hartley 2 Emmett 3 Horne. And the two mice I would have taken home with me if I could have done? Nancy's Siamese and Brian Emmett's little blue Fox. **ANGUS RIDLEY**

Mr S Smith's classes

I was pleased to judge the Self section at Bingley. Quality throughout was quite good with an overall entry of 574.

WHITE or SILVER Ad 12: 1 2 Hallett, White doe, good colour all round, good head and ears, could be bigger 2 good colour, fails thin body and moult across head 3 Goodstock, Silver doe, good size and type, moult on head, shade dark in colour 4 Backett, White doe, fails colour and thin belly fur 8 wk 9: 1 Jones, good colour and type, fails slightly thin belly 2 Pearce, BE White, very good colour, young and small 3 Hallett, White doe, coat not through, young 4 Pen 25, BE White buck, fails colour, slightly long in coat **BLACK or BLUE** Ad 9: 1 2 4 Wormald, Black doe, good colour but odd white hairs and scaly tail 2 Black doe, equal to first except for belly colour 3 Sill, Black doe, fails white hairs along the flanks 4 Blue doe, fair top, fails under, tan vent 8 wk 6: 1 2 4 Wormald, Black doe, fails white hairs on flanks 2 Jukes, Black buck, fails white hairs and tan vent 3 Black doe, fails colour and white hairs 4 Black doe, same remarks. In both black classes white hairs were very prevalent along the flanks **CHAM or FAWN** Ad 15: 1 Jones, Cham doe, good size and type, good colour 2 Holmlea Stud, Cham doe, fails moult on head to winner 3 4 Hallett, Cham doe, shade dark in colour, moult 4 same remarks as third. Several Chams failed badly on belly colour 8 wk 8: 1 4 Baker, Cham doe, very good type and colour, lovely condition, won best Self 2 Hallett, equal to winner in colour but failed head and type 3 Hartley, Fawn doe, good top, fails on belly colour 4 Cham doe, fails belly colour **AOV SELF** Ad 5: 1 Hartley, Red doe, best colour in class 2 Pearce, Red doe, fails colour 3 Ingham, Cream doe, fair colour, had bare patches 4 Jones, Dove doe, poor colour, thin belly 8 wk 5: 1 Hartley, Red buck, fair all round 2 Cunningham, Red buck, about equal to first 3 Jones, Dove doe, fails colour. Pens 140 and 143 were very

Mr R Espley's classes

I was pleased to be asked to judge the Tan classes, also the juvenile class. The total entry of 574 could have been better, but I think the rail charges has a lot to do with the lack of entries.

Regarding juvenile classes I agree with John Kellett that it is time that they should be given more than one class, as I could have found two lots of winners, and some really good mice went cardless. These are the fanciers of tomorrow and should be encouraged. I would like to thank Mr Sill who stewarded for me, also Trevor Fearnley who ran me to station after show.

TAN CHAM Ad 7: 1 2 3 Jones, nice colour and tan, 2nd similar, just beaten condition 3rd slight tan behind ears and tail root **CHAM** 8 wks 3: 1 2 Jones, nice colour feet and condition 2nd again nice, hardly as good tan 3 Marriott, nice youngster all round, very rough under or would have pressed winner very hard **BLACK or CHOC** Ad 8: 1 Cross, choc young adult, good tan, feet and colour was best Tan and second best adult in show 2 Sill, choc, nice colour and tan, beaten feet 3 Heywood, black, again beaten feet 8 wks 3: 1 Heywood, black, nice colour and tan 2 Cross, choc, very close, tan deciding 3 Heywood, black not as good tan as winner **BLUE** 8: All youngsters. 1 2 Sill, winner good colour, feet and tan, best young Tan 2 very similar, just beaten feet 3 Heywood, again very nice, beaten condition **AOV** Ad 4: 1 Cooper, agouti, good tan, feet and colour 2 Marriott, silver, close, just beaten condition 3 Jukes, silver, tan behind ears 8 wks 5: 1 2 3 Jukes, winner good colour and tan, 2nd close, shade dark 3rd shade dark beaten tan **AC Chall** Ad 20: 1 Cross 2 Cooper 3 Sill 8 wks 15: 1 Sill 2 Jones 3 Heywood **JUVENILE** 14: Very strong class. 1 Bakes, young Self Cham, this mouse I believe won best Self in show under section judge 2 Pickering, Dutch, very nice mouse, hard lines to meet winner 3 Miss Metcalfe, Chin, a good mouse, in lovely condition. **R ESLEY**

SILVER GOES BEST IN SHOW AT HALIFAX

I have been attending Halifax agricultural show for twenty years, and never has it been blessed with a more perfect day than it had on August 8.

The mouse section swarmed with interested spectators from lunch time on. Don Taylor and Maurice Bleazard worked all day with their usual efficiency, helping out Ed Longbottom.

Everything went smoothly throughout. I judged all the adult classes, including the grand choll adult. My co-judge, S Smith judged all the eight week classes, including grand choll eight weeks.

Consequently best in show was decided between the exhibits I brought out, and the best from Stuart's classes. We decided on the adult Silver. This method seemed to cause some dissension from visiting fanciers.

The opinion was stated that we should each have brought four mice out for best in show ie best from Self, Tan, Marked and AOV, adult and young mice.

I cannot see how it could possibly have affected the final result, because having got them on the table, I should have selected my best adult and Stewart his best 8 weeks, which is exactly what we did, by bringing two mice out.

Similarly, best in each section was decided by comparison between adult and eight weeks. **JW.**

Mr J Wormald's classes

WHITE or CREAM Ad 9: 1 Hallett, White, wins on colour, type and ears 2 3 Goodstock, good racy White, beaten ears 3 Cream doe, slight moult on neck **BLACK or BLUE** Ad 3: 1 Sill, Black doe, good colour, small 2 Taylor, Black buck, few white hairs 3 Berry, Blue, level colour but very small **CHAM or FAWN** Ad 16: 1 2 Hallett, two excellent Cham does 2 outstanding condition, colour and type 3 Hartley, small, level Fawn, failed skull **AOV SELF** Ad 7: 1 Goodstock, best Silver I've seen for a long time, perfect colour, lovely type, fit as a fiddle, best self, adult and best in show 2 Beckett, another Silver, but outclassed today 3 Hartley, Red buck, good colour, top and under, failed type and size **AC SELF** Chall ad 25: 1 Goodstock 2 3 Hallett **TAN CHAM or SILVER** Ad 7: 1 2 Marriott, silver, nice even tan, correct top 2 cham, bit dark on top 3 Espley, silver,

slight moult on face, very close **BLACK** Ad 7: 1 Heywood, buck, rich tan, lovely top sheen 2 Sill, buck, not as deep tan 3 Cooper, little between last two **AOV** Ad 7: 1 3 Longbottom, both choc, won easily on tan 2 Cooper agouti, line of demarcation not clearly defined **AC Chall** ad 20: 1 Heywood 2 Longbottom 3 Cooper **DUTCH** Ad 6: Difficult class, all had minor faults, very close throughout. 1 Pickering, choc, good saddle, slight pull both cheeks, well balanced 2 Mackerill, saddle slips a bit, but nice 3 Parker, agouti, pulls badly on one cheek **AOV MARKED** Ad: 1 3 Byworth, Himalayan, good points, 3 not as clear body 2 Taylor, 10 spot black Broken, even spots on ears **AV MARKED** Chall ad 13: 1 Byworth 2 Pickering 3 Taylor **CIN or AGOUTI** Ad 4: 1 Hartley, Agouti, rich gold, nice condition 2 Pearce, nice Cin, only fault too small 3 Cooper, Agouti, not rich enough **CHIN or FOX** Ad 8: 1 Byworth, black Fox, excellent top, in fine fettle 2 Goodstock, massive Chin buck, slight moult 3 Longbottom, Chin, nice ticking, beaten under **AOV** Ad 4: 1 Longbottom, nice Sable, well shaded, excellent condition 2 Furness, Siamese, patchy on flanks 3 Cain, Sable, would have won but for heavy moult on back **Chall** ad 12: 1 Byworth 2 Hartley 3 Longbottom Stud Buck 18: Some grand stallions, ten breeds in all. 1 Nadin, massive Cham, excellent skull bit dark, but ideal to correct mate 2 Goodstock, Chin, fine specimen 3 Byworth, black Fox, perfect colour top and under, not as big in bone Doe ad 20, Breeders ad 23, Grand choll ad 39: A judge's delight, all four best mice in each class. 1 Goodstock 2 Byworth 3 Hartley. **J WORMALD.**

Mr S Smith's classes (under 8 weeks)

I was pleased to judge at Halifax again. The show was a success this year with wonderful weather and an entry of approximately 530.

WHITE or CREAM 6: 1 Hallett, White doe, good colour shade, thin belly 2 Hartley, Cream good colour fails belly and type to winner 3 Pearce, BE White doe, very good colour, fails size only young 4 Beckett PE White doe, fails type and colour to winner, thin belly **BLACK or BLUE** 2: 1 Berry, Blue doe, good colour and type, fails top vent 2 B Longbottom, Black doe, fails type and odd white hairs **CHAM or FAWN** 17: 1 Bakes, Cham doe, very nice mouse, good colour, type and

condition 2 Kettle, good colour, beaten type 3 Hallett, good coloured doe, moult on head 4 Hartley, Fawn doe, fails type to winners, also moult on head **AOV SELF** 2: 1 Hartley, Red buck, wins on colour 2 Beckett **AC SELF** Chall 23: 1 Bakes 2 Hallett 3 Berry 4 Kettle **TAN CHAM or SILVER** 3: 1 2 Espley, both good colour silvers 2 fails feet to winner 3 Marriott, fails tan and condition **BLUE** 11: 1 Sill, young doe, very good top and feet, good tan for a young blue, won best Tan 2 Kettle, fails tan to winner 3 Heywood, fails top and tan to first two 4 Mackerill, same remarks as third but had throat spot **AOV** 8: 1 2 Heywood, black, good all round except for throat spot 2 dove buck, good tan, fails top to winner 3 Sill, choc, fails tan to winners 4 Espley, same remarks as third **AC Chall** 16: 1 Sill 2 Heywood 3 4 Espley **DUTCH** 8: 1 B Longbottom, black doe, good colour and markings slight pull left cheek 2 Cunningham, choc doe, equal to winner but bigger pull on one cheek 3 Williams agouti, good cheeks, odd stops and fails colour 4 B Longbottom, black doe, saddle well back **AOV MARKED** 8: 1 Cunningham, Himalayan doe, very good white body colour for a young mouse, fails slightly on feet 2 Brown, 9-spot black Broken, nicely placed, slight brindling 3 Bleazard, 6-spot black Broken, nose spot very small compared with rest **AV MARKED** Chall 11: 1 3 Cunningham 2 Longbottom 4 Brown **CIN or AGOUTI** 4: 1 2 Hartley, both good colour, winner best AOV and best 8 weeks 3 4 Pearce, both fail colour **CHIN or FOX** 4: 1 2 B Longbottom, winner very good colour, fails moult 3 4 Emmett, blue Foxes, fail yellow tinge on demarcation line **AOV** 2: 1 E Longbottom, Sable, won on colour and shadings 2 Cain, had a ticked appearance instead of shaded **Chall** 10: 1 Hartley 2 B Longbottom 3 Hartley 4 E Longbottom Doe 8 wk 16: 1 Hartley 2 Baker 3 Cunningham 4 Sill Breeders 27: 1 Hartley 2 Cunningham 3 Longbottom 4 Espley Grand choll 8 wk 27: 1 Hartley 2 Bakes 3 Cunningham 4 Sill. **S SMITH.**

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