

YOUTH

EASTERN GREEN

I was pleased to judge the young fanciers at Eastern Green on May 2. Best in show was B Watts's Dwarf; best cavy, S Pittaway's Agouti. ALLAN WILLIAMS

DWARF 1: 1 Watts **TAN** 3: 1 2 Morton 3 Jackson **AOV FANCY** 2: 1 Measey 2 Cross **AV FANCY** 3: 1 Morton 2 Southall 3 Jackson Points 2: 1 Watts 2 Morton Chall 6: 1 Watts 2 Measey 3 Morton **NZ WHITE** 1: 1 Giddings **CHINCHILLA** 1: 1 Burford **AOV FUR** 1: 1 Morris **AV FUR** Points 3: 1 Burford 2 Giddings 3 Morris Chall 3: Repeat **CAVY AGOUTI** 3: 1 3 Pittaway 2 Kinnersley **AC Self** 1: 1 Was-tell **AV Rough** 1: 1 Kinnersley **AV Cavy** 5 mth: 1 2 Kinnersley 3 Southall Points 2: 1 Westall 2 Southall Chall 3: 1 3 Pitta-way 2 Westall **AV Boys** 5: 1 Watts 2 Measey 3 Giddings Girls 4: 1 Morton 2 Burford 3 Westall **Boar/Buck** chall 2: 1 Watts 2 Measey **Sow/doe** chall 3: 1 Giddings 2 Westall 3 Cross **Sportsman** 5: 1 Watts 2 Southall 3 Giddings Chall 5 mth 1: 1 Southall **Grand** chall 8: 1 Watts 2 Measey 3 Morton **Pet rabbit** 3: 1 Jackson 2 Simkins 3 Harrison **Pet** chall 3: Repeat. ALLAN WILLIAMS

WORSLEY

I had a pleasant day judging the young fanciers section on May 30 at Worsley. There were a few good exhibits on show, namely Tanerian Stud's Tan and G and A Cooke's Chinchilla, which I made best juvenile. This rabbit needs only one more win to be a Young Fanciers champion.

Thank you, Worsley, for an enjoyable afternoon and also thanks to my very efficient book steward, Barbara Lane, and to two very keen young fanciers who very kindly helped as stewards, Deirdrie Ricketts and Garry Davies.

DUTCH 3: 1 Coupe, adult steel, could be better colour 2 Robb, young steel, beaten stops 3 Davies, young black, could be better condition **DWARF** 1: 1 Fishwick Bros, nice type and coat, bit down on colour **AOV FANCY** 5: 1 Tanerian Stud, nice chocolate Tan, would like bit deeper tan 2 Marchwind Stud, young black Tan, bit down in condition 3 Grime, English, needs bit more work, nice colour and good head **REX ORANGE** 1: 1 Miss Johnson, good colour and coat, bit down on type, would make good breeding doe **AOV** 1: 1 Rarex Stud, nice coat and colour, fails on type **SILVER FOX** 3: 1 3 Tara Stud, nice all round, would like bit more coat, heavy on front 2 Bushy Stud, young blue, good type and coat, should make up 3 adult

black, broken in coat **AOV NORMAL FUR** 3: 1 Cooke, good coat, nice top colour 2 Grime, beaten coat and colour, bit light at base 3 Marchwind Stud, nice colour, just broken in coat **AV Buck** 6: 1 Tanerian Stud 2 Fishwick Bros 3 Coupe Doe 7: 1 Cooke 2 Tara Stud 3 Bushy Stud Chall 9: 1 Cooke 2 Tanerian Stud 3 Fishwick Bros. P J BIRCH

SOUTHAMPTON

I was very pleased to judge the juvenile cavies at Southampton on May 16. Best pure-bred went to a lovely Peruvian boar, well put down by Kingsmere Stud. Best pet went to a golden agouti-type boar which was in excellent condition and owned by Dawn Knott. On the whole the standard was good for both pets and pure-breeds.

PURE-BREDS SELF Ad 7: 1 Deanery School, Cream sow, good type and colour, pale on belly 2 Longdon, Black sow, good depth of colour, could do with a bit more shoulder 3 O'Neill, White sow, good coat and type **NON-SELF** Ad 4: 1 Caversham Stud, Abyssinian boar, good rosettes, but only fair ridges 2 Spencer, Himalayan boar, good feet, fails smut 3 Deanery School, golden Agouti sow, well prepared with even ticking but fails on belly **AV** 5 mth 6: 1 Dearlove, Self Golden sow, well groomed, nice type but fails depth of colour slightly 2 3 Deanery School 2 Cream sow, good type but pale under with slight yellow tinge to coat 3 Cream sow 5-8 mth 8: 1 Kingsmere Stud, best juvenile, good density and texture, good length of coat 2 Plumley, Abyssinian boar, double rosette on rump and one slightly out of line 3 Edwards, Peruvian boar, still a young one with good density and texture but fails fringe and sweep Chall 17: 1 Kingsmere Stud 2 Deanery School 3 Spencer Rosettes 10: 1 Kingsmere Stud 2 Longdon 3 Blundell Points 14: 1 3 Deanery School 2 Spencer **PETS SMOOTH** Ad 6: 1 2 Knott 1 agouti-type boar, very fit and clean, best pet 2 tricolour sow, not much to choose between this pig and the winner 3 Longdon, boar, good condition and clean **ROUGH** Ad 4: 1 Mobsy, this sow was very firm and fit but put down due to lice and a dirty coat 2 Spencer, boar, soft condition with a dirty coat 3 Cassey, boar, clean coat but only fair condition 5-8 mth 11: 1 2 Longdon, boar, very good condition and very clean 2 sow, good condition, very clean 3 Kingsmere Stud 5 mth 6: 1 Spencer 2 Stratton 3 Mobsy Chall 18: 1 2 Knott 3 Longdon Rosettes 15: Repeat Points 22: Repeat Bingo 7: 1 2 Knott 3 Blundell. J DE SOUZA

THE EXHIBITION MOUSE

WHAT MAKES A GOOD STEWARD

EVERYONE knows the importance of the judge, but without his right-hand man, the steward, the judge is greatly handicapped. Often, the steward has to work harder than the judge.

A conscientious steward will have everything ready for the judge to begin his job and the two should work together quickly and efficiently so that the cards and prizes can be awarded without delay.

A good steward will have arrived early, at least half an hour before the judge. He will go round with the judging book, checking all the mice in the allotted classes for number in class, number arrived, straight class and duplicate class numbers, making sure that number 1 is in class 1 and also in classes 9, 24 and 50, or whatever they may be, to tally with those in the judging book. A small pencil mark against the number in class at the top of the page indicates that all is in order for that class to be judged.

He will check any missing numbers with the secretary, whether any have been delayed, have just arrived, or have been scratched. Then the judge is not in a 'fiz-woz' wondering where '135' is when it has been waiting by the door for the past half hour in readiness for checking in.

It is a good idea to arrange the straight classes in numerical order so that they can be put on to the judging table in straight lines instead of in a jumble so that precious minutes are not wasted in sorting out.

It is convenient for the judge if the steward has removed the excess bedding from the Maxeys and either tucked it behind the Maxey lid or left it in the appropriate travelling boxes instead of littering up the floor or tressles.

With mainly Whites, Creams and Silvers, some owners use paper shavings or wood wool in the Maxeys to prevent the stock getting soiled from dusty hay. Any owner who has

sent his stock by rail will not be very pleased on their return to find the mice in the very nesting material he wished to avoid when he collects his mice at the railway station. So surely it is the best thing to leave excess or 'incorrect' bedding in the travelling box or for the owner to pack extra bedding for the return journey.

It is surprising how soon large amounts of bedding can get kicked around on the show room floor and become scattered about making the place most untidy. If, as has happened this material is retrieved, the mouse, more often than not, finds a matchstick or cigarette end, or even a bun case to keep him company on the journey home.

Then, of course, there is the distribution of the prize cards—quite a boring job when there are over fifty, and one has to keep checking that the mouse who won a third is not being judged in the challenge class when all fanciers are gathered round to watch and 'excuse-me's' are exhausted and elbows are the best way to get to the table. This does not happen at agricultural shows when judging is carried out with the exhibitors excluded from the marquee.

Rail stock during warm weather appreciate a water-soaked-bread feed and if someone has the task of mixing such a one and sharing it out between the stock, with a handful of oats to go with it, the mice will be quite happy and can be packed up without delay. Some show committees are guilty of this sin of omission.

A good steward concentrates on his task—sometimes a gruelling one, but also an interesting and rewarding one, for he can gain a few hints from the judge on the exhibits. He can help the judge, secretary, and other officials to ensure the smooth-running of the show. He can help visitors to feel at home in the mouse Fancy, and provide the mice with refreshment for their journey home.

675 ENTRIES AT NOTTINGHAM

Mr J Hartley's classes

The East Midland Mouse Club show on June 13 went down well with a total entry of 675. One or two mice were weather beaten before the end of the day. Condition had started to go by the time of the grand challenge.

Most of the fanciers I came into contact with seemed to be having a good day. The best mouse in my section was a wonderful Sable which was very close to best in show. Thanks to my most helpful steward.

DUTCH Ad 9: 1 2 Jukes, good top saddle, fair cheeks 2 Choc, fails short on tail 3 Maynard, Argente, good type saddle, fails stops. Except for first two positions all seemed to lack condition **AOV MARKED** Ad 5: 1 Byworth, Himalayan, good points, wonderful condition 2 Maynard, nine spot Broken, level spot on back, good type 3 Heywood, seven spot Broken, even ear spot **AV MARKED** Chall ad 14: 1 Byworth 2 Jukes 3 Maynard **DUTCH** 8 wk 5: 1 Pickering, Choc, best Marked, slight pull one cheek 2 Parker, Agouti, good type, saddle well up, fails stops 3 Berry, Argente, good top saddle, raggy under **AOV MARKED** 8 wk 6: 1 Staton, eight spot Broken, nice quality, belly spot 2 Maynard, seven spot Broken, uniformity of spots 3 Williams, black Variegated, good attempt at splashes **AV MARKED** Chall 8 wk 14: 1 Pickering 2 Staton 3 Parker **AGOUTI/CINN** Ad 4: 1 3 Parkinson, Agouti, good top colour, thin under 2 Pickering, Agouti, young adult, piece of tail missing 3 Cinn, nice colour, rough around ears **CHIN/FOX** Ad 10: 1 Beach, well ticked, lovely under, good type 2 Home, lost on sharpness of ticking 3 Longbottom, nice buck, outstanding type, soiled under. First four all Chins and all were moultly **AOV** Ad 6: 1 Ridley, Sable, light nose, the rest was wonderful 2 Byworth, Argente, smashing type 3 Jukes, Argente, very good colour, moultly Chall ad 20: 1 Ridley 2 Byworth 3 Beach **AGOUTI/CINN** 8 wk 6: 1 2 Pearce, Agouti, nice youngster 2 Cinn, colour just coming through 3 Smith, Cinn, moultly back **CHIN/FOX** 8 wk 9: 1 Longbottom, Chin, good all round 2 Pickering, Chin, fails ticking 3 Davis, Fox, lovely top, thin under **AOV** 8 wk 5: 1 Ridley, Sable, good colour, head shade darker 2 3 Jukes, Longhaired, both of same type, length of hair decided, not condition I would like Chall 8 wk 20: 1 Longbottom, Chin 2 Pearce, Agouti 3 Ridley, Sable. JACK HARTLEY

Mr D Taylor's classes

This was my first visit to the East Midland show at Nottingham. Congratulations on a very good venue.

Stock in my section was quite good led by some very good Silvers shown by Tony Cooper. Many thanks to my stewards, especi-

ally Andrew Pickering, he stayed with me all day.

WHITE Ad 3: 1 Halletts, good colour all round, good type 2 Pearce, spoilt by slight moult on shoulders 3 King, good top colour, let down under 8 wk 5: 1 2 Halletts, both good colour, winner has it on under 3 Jones, nice type and top colour **BLACK/BLUE** Ad 8: 1 Martin, doe, good colour, good feet 2 Higgs, buck, little between these two, just failed on vent 3 Berry, Blue, good colour, not quite big enough 8 wk 9: 1 2 Wormald, good to see this name back with the winners, both good mice for colour and condition, could change places 3 Berry, Blue, another nice mouse, failed on feet **CHAM/FAWN** Ad 12: 1 2 3 Halletts, good colour, type and condition 2 failed slightly under 3 darker colour 8 wk 5: 1 3 Holmlea, good top, failed under 3 good top, again spoiled by under 2 Bagshaw, Fawn, good top but light under **AOV SELF** Ad 5: 1 2 3 Centurion Stud, lovely trio of Silvers, little to fault 8 wk 4: 1 Centurion Stud, Silver, good colour, moulting at face 2 Beach, Choc, best top colour 3 Pearce, Red, nice mouse, shade too light for me **AC SELF** Chall ad 26: 1 3 Centurion Stud 2 Halletts 8 wk 23: 1 Centurion Stud 2 Halletts 3 Wormald **JUVENILE** 18: A very pleasing class to judge, we certainly have some up and coming juveniles in our ranks 1 3 Pickering, Dutch, nice mouse, little to fault, went on to win best under eight weeks 3 Agouti, good colour, top and under 2 Parker, Dutch, pulls under **AV Grand** chall ad 74: 1 Centurion Stud 2 Ridley 3 Jones 8 wk 65: 1 Pickering 2 Jones 3 Longbottom. D TAYLOR

NMC NOTES

New members: J Edwards, Manchester; P Hillman, Cardiff; K Hodges, West Wickham; H Jones, Clitheroe; Anne Rifland, Leicester; G W Richardson, Bury; S Rugsley, London; A Wallace, Scotland; M J Woolton, Chelmsford.

Illness: Mr A L Edmondson has recently had a major operation and is now resting. He will not be able to attend shows or judge for the next few months. I am sure he will be pleased to hear from anyone who cares to write. On behalf of all NMC members I wish him a speedy recovery.

Loss of stock: I hope other fanciers have not had the bad luck I have experienced during the recent heat wave. About a dozen of my mice, both Whites and Argentes, died because of the heat and several litters also had to be destroyed. During the day they died my hut door and windows were open all day but because of the stillness of the air this apparently did not help. S SMITH (Sec)

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