

THE EXHIBITION MOUSE

NATIONAL MOUSE CLUB'S SUMMER CUP SHOW AT PUDSEY

Cup and special winners at the Summer Cup show at Pudsey on July 11 were: Douglas No 1, Mason, Jubilee trophies, best in show, best under eight weeks; best AOV, **S Smith**; AOV: Points Trophy, best adult, best marked, **J Cunningham**; Douglas No 2, Dixon trophies, best Self, best Red, best doe, **J Hartley**; Clark, Joe Wood trophies, best Tan, **J W Clifton**; Cunliffe Trophy, **Mr and Mrs Hallett**; Taylor Trophy, **B Longbottom**; Juvenile Trophy, **J S Watson**; Sable Trophy, **A C Cain**; Joe Wood Mem Trophy, **T Cross**; Sid Boot Trophy, **Oxley Stud**; Jack Watts Trophy, **C Beckett**.

Mr E Kitchen's classes

There was a total entry of 749 at the NMC Summer Cup Show at Pudsey on July 11. Some first-class mice were on view. Moulting and condition played a big part in a lot of classes. Best in show was **S Smith's Argentine**.

DUTCH Ad 9: 1 Byworth, black, small dip in saddle, good cheeks, stops, and under, a big mouse, good condition 2 Tait, good markings but fails badly on condition, a small mouse 3 Maynard, agouti, a good big mouse but skew saddle, r Parker, good stops, ragged saddle 8 wk 9: 1 Parker, good all round, saddle could be a shade higher, first class condition 2 Pickering, choc, good markings but moult and fails condition 3 Byworth, good head and stops, ragged saddle r Tait, ragged saddle, fails condition **BROKEN** Ad 8: 1 Cound, 11-spot, nice small spots, too much white in places 2 Byworth, 10-spot, plain one side 3 Maynard, 9-spot, heavy markings r Heywood, 10-spot, even back end 8 wk 8: 1 2 North, 10-spot and 8-spot, tending to cluster leaving too much white in places 3 Shaw, 9-spot brindled r Pen 408, six small spots but too even **AOV MARKED** Ad 5: 1 2 Byworth, Himalayans, identical except second had moult mark on head, the winner was best Marked, and best adult, lovely white body colour, good coloured points, big and typy (good body colour with good feet are the most difficult things to get on a Himalayan) 3 Morris, good points, moult on back 8 wk 5: 1 2 Byworth, Himalayans, good all points, the winner had whitest body colour 3 r Mackrill, Himalayans, points not deep enough **AV MARKED** Chall ad 19: 1 2 3 Byworth, Himalayan, black Dutch, Himalayan r Tait, agouti Dutch 8 wk 20: 1 Parker, agouti Dutch 2 r Byworth, Himalayan 3 Pickering, choc Dutch r Dutch **AGOUTI/CIN** Ad 6: 1 Hartley, Agouti, the usual good colour and ticking from this stud 2 Pearce, Cinnamon, good colour, ticking and type, just a shade small 3 r C Smith, Agouti and a Cinnamon, both fail colour to leaders 8 wk 4: 1 Hartley, Agouti, again good colour, ticking and condition 2 Pearce, Agouti, good but not enough gold in colour 3 r C Smith, again lacking the fire in colour **CHIN/FOX** ad 9: 1 3 B Longbottom, Chins, good colour and ticking, good belly colour 3 had more moult 2 Byworth, black Fox, good top and belly colour, could do with more ticking r Oxley, Chin, a big mouse, ticking not sharp enough 8 wk 9: 1 3 Emmott, blue Foxes, really good top colour and ticking, a bit creamy belly colour 2 B Longbottom, Chin, a good one but not moulted through yet r Byworth, black Fox, fails ticking **ARGENTE** Ad 4: 1 r Byworth, wins on belly colour r moulting badly 2 3 S Smith equal to winner but for belly colour, all were the usual big typy mice **AOV** Ad 7: 1 Cain, Sable, good colour and shadings, just beginning to go on nose 2 Furness, Siamese, good colour and points, few small moult marks 3 r Ridley, Sables 3 good nose but lacks shadings r fails nose 8 wk 3: 1 S Smith, Argente, ideal colour, typy and good condition, went on to win best in show 2 Ridley, Sable, good colour and shadings just going on nose 3 E Longbottom, Sable, not so bright in colour Chall ad 23: 1 Hartley, Agouti 2 Byworth, Argente 3 Cain, Sable r B Longbottom, Chin 8 wk 10: 1 S Smith, Argente 2 Hartley, Agouti 3 Emmott, blue Fox r B Longbottom, Chin **UNSTANDARDISED** 4: 1 2 3 Oxley r Wainwright. All lilac Foxes, all fail ticking winner had best top and belly colour **AV Grand** chall ad 60: 1 hc Byworth, Himalayan 2 C Smith, Cham 3 vhc Hartley, Red r Clifton, black Tan vhc Agouti hc Argente c Pen 235, black Tan Breeders ad 33: 1 Byworth 2 C Smith 3 r Hartley, Doe ad 26: 1 r Byworth 2 C Smith 3 Hartley Tankard 48: 1 Byworth Grand chall 8 wk 59: 1 Smith 2 r Hartley 3 Parker vhc Hallett hc Byworth c Pickering Breeders 8 wk 35: 1 Hartley 2 Hallett 3 Byworth r Pickering Doe 8 wk 23: 1 2 Hartley 3 Hallett r Byworth. E KITCHEN.

Mr A Kettle's classes

I thoroughly enjoyed judging with my fellow Judges Eric Kitchen and John Kellelt, at the summer cup show. When I arrived the secretary

Don Taylor had everything in hand, and we were able to make an early start.

I had 132 exhibits in my section, some excellent mice went home carelessly. Quite a few were troubled with moult, due no doubt to the warm spell we have had recently. Many thanks to my stewards Laddie Heywood and Jack Hartley, who stayed with me throughout the day.

PINK EYED WHITE Ad 8: 1 Todd, buck, good colour size and type, the under was also excellent, wonderful large broad head 2 3 Halletts, does, first a little thin on shoulders, good colour carried out under, both had large bold eyes, second exactly the same, the fur on the shoulders was a little too thin r Sutcliffe, another good doe, moult mark between ears held this mouse back 8 wk 3: 1 2 Halletts, does, both good colour size and condition under separated them **BLACK EYED WHITE** 7: 1 Pearce, these exhibits have really come on very well, I compared them with the winning PE Whites, and they were just the same, the leader won on condition I thought this was a very good try 2 3 r Beckett, another good team, just fail a little on head and ears but colour and condition excellent **BLACK/BLUE** Ad 4: 1 Taylor, black buck, best colour in the class well carried out under, good size and type for a black spilt only by a few tan hairs on flanks and vent 2 Berry, blue, good colour, again carried out well under, had a few more tan hairs on vent than black 3 r Sill, not the colour of the leader and covered with tan hairs 8 wk: 1 Pearce, blue buck, good colour and type, again a few guard hairs and tan vent 2 Sill, black doe, an improvement on the adults but again guard hairs spoil this mouse **CHAM/FAWN** Ad 9: 1 C Smith, Cham doe the only one in the class which was level all the way round, good colour a real sparkle, good size and type and excellent condition, a good try for a youngster 2 3 r Halletts, another good team for size, type and condition, but the under are about three shades lighter, and all three had a moult mark on the head 8 wk 20: Hardest class to sort out some very good mice went carelessly. I sent pens 125 and 129 off for over development, one of these mice had been suckling young. Please don't do it, I'm not daft, nor is any other judge. 1 Hartley, Cham doe, it took me twenty minutes to decide between this mouse and the second, I even had to take into account the fur on the feet and tail set it was so close. It was a wonderful little mouse good colour carried out well under condition excellent. Jack really knows how to put a mouse down, went on to win best Self 2 3 r Halletts, another excellent team, the first was as the winner except on closer examination it was a little thin on the hocks and feet 3 r, two good does but slightly darker than the first two. Four really excellent mice. **AOC SELF** Ad 7: 1 Hartley, Cream buck, a good delicate shade, carried out well under, good head and excellent set on 2 Hartley, Red buck, another of outstanding quality but it was up against it today, the under was not as good as the winner 3 Beckett, Silver doe, very good colour, size and condition, spoilt only by a large moult mark on head r Fleming, Silver doe, much too light on nose 8 wk 15: 1 Cross, a beautiful little Cream doe, stood out for colour and condition just beat the Red on under 2 Hartley, Red doe, another very good mouse but under not through yet, wonderful condition 3 Morris Cream doe, not as good as the winner, too light under r Beckett, Silver doe, another very good Silver, again spoilt by a large moult mark on the head a real pity because it was an excellent mouse in every other respect **AC SELF** Chall ad 26: 1 C Smith 2 3 Hartley r Halletts 8 wk 37: 1 2 3 Halletts r Pearce. A KETTLE.

LONDON & SOUTHERN COUNTIES

On June 20 the LSCMC held the last of the present season's series of table shows.

It was well attended considering the holiday season is now under way with its inevitable absences. The judges were Tim Heath and Jim Robb making his debut as a club judge. They were kept fully occupied until 5.30 pm.

Best in show was awarded to Tony Holland's under eight-week's champagne Tan, and best opposite age to a blue Tan owned by Jim Robb. The total entry was 252, not too bad for a holiday show.

PE WHITE Ad: 1 Cooke 2 Jukes 3 Miss Crowe 4 Miss Greenaway 8 wks: 1 2 Heath 3 4 E Jukes **BLACK/BLUE** Ad: 1 Pugsley 2 3 Jukes 4 Crudgington 8 wk: 1 Pugsley **CHAM/FAWN** Ad: 1 Holland **SILVER/CREAM** Ad: 1 2 Heath 8 wk: 1 2 Heath **AC SELF** Chall ad: 1 Cooke 2 Pugsley 3 Holland 4 Heath 8 wk: 1 3 4 Heath 2 Pugsley **TAN BLACK/CHOC** Ad: 1 Holland 2 Davis 3 4 Robb 8 wk: 1 3 Holland

RANCH CHINCHILLAS

THE LUCK THAT WAS HARROGATE Dr BARBARA WEIR DESCRIBES HER WORK WITH CHINCHILLAS IN COMPARATIVE PHYSIOLOGY

IT WAS fortunate that the date (July 1, 1970) fixed for the July meeting of the Harrogate branch happened to coincide with the Medical Conference held in the town that week.

A lucky chance too to find that Dr Barbara Weir had come north for a few days for this event.

This then was a golden opportunity to invite her and a fellow doctor to come and tell us about her work with chinchilla at the Wellcome Institute of Comparative Physiology at the Regent's Park Zoo, London, and to meet our small group of breeders in a friendly get-together which was a break, as she admitted, from the formalities of the medical profession. Spirits were high as they had just received a special prize for her report and work done on chinchillas.

Many of you will remember meeting Dr Weir at the South Regional Show at Woburn Abbey, when Ursula Mainwaring invited her to bring a sample of the chinchilla's cousins for us to see, and you may remember what a keen and enthusiastic person she is to talk to.

Her main work is with chinchillas and is the only one in Britain to be involved in their study. She finds them an absorbing and unpredictable species to understand.

Also there are colonies of viscacha, larger than a chinchilla with stripey markings, and another close relative whose name I forgot to ask how to spell. It was something like tucca-tucca.

This little animal was small and rather mole-like with a short tail. Dr Weir had one with her to show us. It ran about on the lounge-bar table much to the horror of people at neighbouring tables, until Fred Ingledew decided it was time for us to retire to the room allotted to us for our meeting. As you may also imagine, the conversation, too, was hardly fit for lay ears!

Both the viscachas and this little animal come from the Argentine. Since being in captivity all the tucca-tuccas had developed cataracts on their eyes as a result of diabetes, and this is why she had brought them to the conference as a matter of interest, although they were breeding well.

At the London Zoo these special animals and the chinchillas are kept in a large room above the laboratory in a similar way to the usual ranch methods. The animals naturally are handled more frequently for weighing, measuring, testing, etc.

The females are used polygamously with selected males, some of which are often used for artificial insemination purposes.

Experiments of this kind have had a margin of success, but there are problems to be overcome.

The females, alas, have a quicker turnover, and are used to study the process of pregnancy and development of the foetus among other things. However it is only through intensive research and statistical surveys that conclusions and comparisons can be made, but with comparative physiology there is none of the distasteful experiments necessary for study of disease and other disorders.

When Dr Weir began this work a few years ago chinchillas were unknown as laboratory animals. It was because of her contacts with chinchilla breeders who needed research that she decided to specialise, and felt a necessary supply would be available.

So she particularly welcomes donations of healthy, culled female chinchillas, surplus to one's needs through various reasons. The pelts, after the wear and tear of the breeding unit, would, of course, be unmarketable.

Rather than solemn burial in the garden, Dr Weir would be pleased to have them. You have only to meet her to know that care and kindness will be lavished on them and at the same time the rancher in the future will benefit from the discoveries made.

Dr Weir will now be on a trip to the Argentine and other parts of S America to explore the territories and habits of the animals she is interested in as relatives of the chinchilla, and possibly collect to bring back. October to November is the time she likes to set up her breeding units for her work.

The Harrogate branch really did enjoy the evening Dr Weir spent with us, and we wish her every success with her studies, and hope to hear of great progress being made, though maybe we'll draw the line at test tube chins!

V WARNER, PRO

2 Davis **CHAM** Ad: 1 2 Davis 8 wk: 1 Holland **AOC** Ad: 1 4 Robb 2 3 Jukes 8 wk: 1 2 Robb **AC** Chall ad: 1 Robb 2 3 Davis 4 Holland 8 wk: 1 3 Holland 2 Robb 4 Davis **DUTCH** Ad: 1 2 Jukes 3 4 Cooke 8 wk: 1 3 4 Cooke 2 Coe **AOV MARKED** Ad: 1 2 3 Cooke 8 wk: 1 Cooke **AC MARKED** Chall ad: 1 3 Jukes 2 4 Cooke 8 wk: 1 Cooke **AGOUTI/CINNAMON** Ad: 1 Pugsley 2 Miss Crowe 8 wk: 1 2 Struff **CHIN/FOX** Ad: 1 Pugsley 2 Holland 3 Robb 4 Davis 8 wk: 1 2 Robb 3 Pugsley 4 Davis **LONGHAIRD**: 1 2 3 Jukes 4 Crudgington **AOV** Ad: 1 2 Jukes Chall ad: 1 Pugsley 2 Holland 3 Robb 4 Jukes 8 wk: 1 2 Robb 3 Pugsley 4 Jukes **AV Stud** buck: 1 Holland 2 Pugsley 3 4 Cooke Brood doe: 1 2 Davis 3 Cooke Juvenile: 1 Pugsley 2 4 Robb 3 Miss Crowe Novice: 1 2 4 Davis 3 Miss Crowe Supporters: 1 4 Robb 2 3 Cooke Grand chall ad: 1 Davis 2 Cooke 3 Jukes 4 Pugsley 8 wk: 1 Holland 2 3 Cooke 4 Robb **RAT**: 1 2 3 4 Crudgington. MARY DOBSON, Press rep