

THE EXHIBITION MOUSE

Send entries in early or do without Calder Valley Mouse Club—

JACK WORMALD ISSUES A WARNING

A FINAL entry of 550 at Calder Valley on June 21 was very satisfying to the officials, but not without a scare mid-week, when only 250 arrived on closing date. I appeal to exhibitors to send entries early. The start to judging was delayed an hour because of late entries. I say quite seriously that if this state of affairs continues it could well mean the end of Calder Valley. We have not the manpower on Saturday morning to cope. Had it not been for the help of Don Taylor of Airedale, and B Longbottom, there would have been chaos.

On the bright side, it is worthy of mention that the entry is over 100 up on the corresponding event last year. The weather was very kind, and many visitors had an enjoyable drive to the show. There were many from long-distances, including Eric Jukes, Tony Jones, Ken Morton, judge Cliff Cole, and others.

The self section was not very well supported, but there was some excellent stock, particularly the winning young black, and Mr and Mrs Hallett's Champagne. H Smith had an outstanding PE White entered, but unfortunately it was showing heavy moult under.

I think everyone enjoyed himself. Thanks to the ladies, who provided thirty lunches and a non-stop buffet up to 4.30 pm. JW

Mr J Wormald's classes

WHITE/CREAM Ad 3: 1 H Smith, PE White, outstanding specimen but moult mark under 2 Jones, PE White buck, useful stud, beaten for type 3 Jukes, PE White doe, beaten under and size 8 wk 10: 1 Bright, correct colour, Cream doe, excellent condition 2 H Smith, PE White, little between them 3 Pearce, BE White doe, making progress, narrow skull
BLACK/BLUE Ad 4: 1 Jukes, big strong black buck, best colour 2 B Longbottom, black doe, slight tan under 3 Berry, blue doe, smaller, level colour, bit light on feet 8 wk 6: 1 Byworth Stud, very young black doe, best head I've seen for years, jet black to toes, excellent condition, best self, my nomination for best in show 2 Pearce, good blue doe, a bit light under only fault 3 B Longbottom, black doe, quite good, will make a good adult **CHAMPAGNE/FAWN** Ad 4: 1 Hallett, Champagne doe, clear, even on type, colour and condition, slightly light on tail root 2 Goodstock Stud, good colour, too fat 3 Gilpin, no faults except colour, which is too dark 8 wk 8: 1 H Smith, nice champagne, lovely shade, very level top and under, 2 Gilpin, champagne, again quite good, beaten under 3 Hallett, champagne, same fault as second **SELF AOC** Ad 7: 1 Jones, silver doe, correct colour, slight tan vent 2 E Longbottom, chocolate doe, large, typy, good top colour, a little rusty under 3 Pearce, red doe, glorious colour top and under but getting too fat 8 wk 2: Where are they? I can remember classes of fifteen, 1 Goodstock Stud, nice colour, silver doe, big, excellent condition 2 Jones, very similar, condition only decided **SELF** Chall ad 12: Disappointing entry 1 Hallett, winning champagne 2 Jones, silver, ran very close 3 Jukes, black buck, loses on type 8 wk 20: 1 Byworth Stud, winning young black, if this continues to grow it will be heard of again 2 Bright, leading cream, an excellent mouse 3 H Smith, champagne winner, a very tiny chip on one ear **GRAND CHALL** Ad 43: 1 S Smith, adult Argente, outstanding specimen of its breed, hard to fault 2 Hallett, champagne, my winner, quality of this stud maintained 3 Pearce, Cinnamon doe, lovely rich colour, needed two good 'uns to beat it three really outstanding mice 8 wk 54: 1 Hartley, Agouti, rich gold, even ticking, condition could not be better 2 Byworth Stud, that very pleasing baby black 3 Jones, mislaid my notes, but I think this was the winning champagne Tan. JACK WORMALD

Mr B Miller's classes

My thanks to the hard working organisers of the show and the refreshment ladies who gave all new and old visitors an exceedingly warm welcome. Thanks also to my most efficient stewards Jack Hartley and Stuart Smith.

Best in show, best adult and best AOV was a very hard-to-fault Argente buck shown by Stuart Smith. The standard describes this exhibit almost perfectly, the only easily discernible fault being a slight moult mark behind the ears. Best opposite age AOV, shown by Jack Hartley, was an Agouti doe

of excellent colour with very even ticking. The decision for best AOV was quite a close one, slight moult to one side of the Cinnamon and a few light toe nails being the deciding factors.

CINNAMON or AGOUTI Ad 5: 1 3 Miss Pearce, both Cinnamon does, leader has good colour and even ticking but slight moult 3 good size, type and condition, not as good colour or as evenly ticked as winner 2 4 Hartley, Agouti does, 2 excels colour, beaten size and finish 4 ticking a little patchy on belly 8 wk 8: 1 Hartley, best opposite age AOV, Agouti doe 2 3 Miss Pearce, Agouti doe, fair colour, falls belly ticking 3 Cinnamon doe, good colour, large mouse for an under eight week exhibit 4 Rushton, fair colour, nice ticking for age **CHIN/FOX** Ad 9: 1 Knight, black Fox buck, very good top and ticking, few white hairs down spine, fair belly colour 2 4 B Longbottom, Chin bucks, generally good colour and ticking, reserve had moult on belly 3 Grindell, black Fox doe, very nice type and ticking, top patchy 8 wk 10: 1 Grindell, black Fox buck, excels top colour and ticking for age, belly colour a little creamy at edges 2 B Longbottom, Chin buck, very level ticking, fair under for a youngster 3 Byworth, close decision, blue Fox doe, excellent top colour, very good ticking for age 4 Robb, black Fox buck, good colour, fair ticking AOV Ad 12: 1 2 S Smith, Argente buck, best in show 2 Argente doe, good size and type, excels colour and even silvering, pity moult patch on one side 3 Jones, Long-haired White doe, great improvement on size, good colour, very pleasing coat with giant whiskers 4 Taylor, Silver Grey doe, well distributed silvering, good undercolour, slight moult patches on belly. The four Seal Point Siamese shown were rather patchy generally due to moult. 8 wk 10: 1 Smith, Argente buck, large strong mouse in very good condition, uneven silvering, could make a good adult 2 Kitchen, Argente buck, similar, slightly rough on shoulders 3 Kellelt, another nice Silver Grey, good colour and undercolour, a pleasure to see this charming variety on the showbench **AOV** Chall ad 24: 1 4 Smith, Argentés 2 Miss Pearce, Cinnamon 3 Knight, black Fox 8 wk 22: 1 Hartley, Agouti 2 Grindell, black Fox 3 Smith, Argente 4 Longbottom, Chin **STUD BUCK** 10: 1 Jones, PE White, good colour and size, a little narrow on shoulders 2 Beach, large strong Chin 3 Taylor, Silver Grey 4 Byworth, black Fox **JUVENILE** 5: 1 2 3 4 Heap, PE White, good colour and condition 2 3 very close champagne bucks 4 Sable, moult on back 5 champagne doe, rather dark, falls condition **BREEDERS** Ad 19: 1 Smith, Argente 2 Hallett, champagne 3 Kitchen, Broken 4 Hartley, Agouti 8 wk 36: 1 Hartley, Agouti 2 Byworth, blue 3 Jones, champagne Tan 4 Cross, champagne Tan **DOE** Ad 11: 1 Hallett, champagne 2 Hartley, Agouti 3 H Smith, PE White 4 Bright, champagne Tan 8 wk 24: 1 Hartley, Cinnamon 2 Byworth, black 3 Cross, chocolate Tan 4 Bright, cream. BRYAN MILLER

Mr C Cole's classes

It was a pleasure to judge again at Sowerby Bridge. I had 65 entries in ten straight classes. I thank all exhibitors who supported me, also my steward, Mr Cunningham and, I believe, Mr Haywood.

TAN CHAMPAGNE/SILVER Ad 4: 1 Bright, champagne doe, little dark top colour, good tan, good type, tan showing on ears 2 Espley, silver, shade light top, good tan, rough coat on shoulders 3 r Marriott, champagne buck, not so rich tan and light nose 8 wk 6: 1 Jones, champagne, good top with pinky tinge, good rich tan, good type, slight tan ear tufts, best Tan 2 Marriott, not quite the top colour and light nose 3 r Todd, similar top to second but light nose and tail root **CHOCOLATE** Ad 4: 1 Cross, chocolate, the correct colour top with good tan, beaten type for best Tan 2 3 Bright, not so good colour on top, small ears, tan hairs on flanks 3 beaten on feet, too much tan **BLUE** AA 10: 1 2 r Morton, leader well balanced, nice top, tan and condition 2 beaten type 3 Clifton, good top and tan but fails condition under **AOC** Ad 10: 1 2 3 Clifton, a good team of blacks, leader solid colour, rich tan, good demarcation line 2 fails condition under to leader 3 not as good feet as leaders r Marriott, a bit dull on top, no sheen 8 wk 9: 1 Cross, chocolate, should make up well, not quite ready, hope the tan brightens

BEST IN SHOW WINNERS' TABLE

Principal winners at open mouse shows to date in 1969 are:

Bradford-at-Harrogate, January 25, Broken (E Kitchen); reserve, Self champagne (Mr and Mrs Hallett).

Airedale, February 8, Self champagne (Mr and Mrs Hallett); reserve, Argente (R Morris).

Calder Valley, March 15, Self champagne (Mr and Mrs Hallett); reserve, Agouti (J Hartley).

Carlisle, April 19, Argente (S Smith); reserve, Broken (E Kitchen).

Airedale, May 3, Self champagne (Mr and Mrs Hallett); reserve, Agouti (J Hartley).

Solihull, May 24, Self champagne (Mr and Mrs Hallett); reserve, Sable (W Ridley).

Great Harwood, May 26, Self champagne (Mr and Mrs Hallett); reserve, Broken (E Kitchen).

Linlithgow, May 31, Dutch (Byworth Stud); reserve, P E White (H Smith).

Walsall, June 7, Self champagne (Mr and Mrs Hallett); reserve, P E White (H Smith).

Calder Valley, June 21, Argente (S Smith); reserve, Agouti (J Hartley).

2 Clifton, good top, not as deep tan as leader 3 Longbottom, falls feet r Heywood, black (pen 324 over developed) Chall ad 21: 1 Clifton, black 2 Bright, champagne 3 Cross, chocolate r Morton, blue 8 wk 23: 1 Jones, champagne 2 Cross, chocolate 3 Clifton, black r Bright **DUTCH** Ad 4: 1 r Berry, Cinnamon, well balanced markings, full cheeks but even, nice saddle and under, not very good colour 2 Byworth Stud, nice cheeks, fair saddle, ragged under 3 Horne, black, good cheeks, saddle slips back, ragged under, these mice generally were in poor condition 8 wk 6: 1 Grindell, black, best saddle here today, little ragged under, slightly heavy, one cheek 2 Horne, agouti, well balanced, beaten saddle 3 S Smith, blue, very clean, heavy cheek, fair saddle and under r Byworth Stud, black, very young, fair markings **AOV MARKED** Ad 7: 1 Heywood, eight spot black Broken, best head markings, well distributed, good condition, clean 2 3 Kitchen, nine spot black Broken, loses on condition 3 six spot black, very distinct but not enough spots r Horne, Himalayan, markings not plain enough 8 wk 5: 1 Heywood, eight spot black, very solid spots, rather plain one side, 2 r Kitchen, Even, chocolate, eight spots, nothing between these two 3 Jukes, seven spot black, spots not as clean, r Kitchen, six spot Even, spoilt rear markings **MARKED** Chall ad 23: 1 Heywood, Broken, 2 Kitchen, Broken 3 Berry, Dutch r Byworth Stud, Dutch 8 wk: 1 Heywood, Broken 2 Grindell, Dutch 3 Horne, Dutch r Kitchen, Even **CUP** 24: 1 Hallett, champagne, good colour, coat and type. CLIFF COLE

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY

I HAVE heard a lot lately about the lack of attention British Rall are affording livestock (although I haven't experienced any misfortune myself). I know that a lot of fanciers are getting a bit dubious about railing stock any great distance. Perhaps we should look to a form of co-operative scheme to get stock to shows.

In any one local club there must be at least one or two experienced fanciers who travel to each of the open shows. Couldn't they arrange to take other members' stock with them when they go? By nominating themselves at their local club shows and meetings they could attract the members who don't send too often (or at all), and so increase some of the entry figures.

How about it then? Next time you decide to drive up to an open put your name forward and do your club a big favour.

I know this goes on a lot now, without any prompting, but by getting it on a larger and more organised scale we may read less of those two hundred entry open shows. ANON Y MOUSE

For the beginner

WHEN STARTING in the Fancy there are many mistakes made which are fairly general. Perhaps the greatest error is to be over-ambitious. That, mark you, is quite different from being just enthusiastic. Do not think you are going to reach the heights of success in no time. Do not be disappointed if your progress is fairly slow. This way you get a better chance to gather knowledge and avoid the dangers of a too early flush of success.

Make up your mind that you have a really big job on hand. If you do meet some success early on, look on it as 'beginner's luck', and carry on as though it had not happened.

There are so many varieties to choose from that you may find it difficult to decide which to go in for, but remember it is folly to start with more than one or two varieties at the most.

Having selected your variety, get to know which breeders are generally successful on the show bench and, if possible, go and see them and their mouseries. Listen to what they have to tell you and be guided by what they say. Put the advice you receive from different breeders together and then, by careful thought, act accordingly. One point you naturally have to decide for yourself is what you can afford to pay for your initial stock. Do not be afraid to pay those odd few extra shillings if you possibly can. It is an investment, and you have to remember that it is on this small beginning that your future stock depends.

Presuming that you now have your mice installed in suitable boxes and housed in dry draught-proof quarters, there are one or two things to do if you are to follow the road to success.

Feeding.—Do not try to think up some sort of feeding which is better than anyone else has yet thought of. Keep to the accepted diet of oats, bread soaked in water or milk, and a liberal supply of sweet meadow hay. The addition of a little green food is appreciated and helpful owing to the mineral content.

Arrival of litters.—Do not be tempted to retain too many youngsters. My advice, at least for your beginning, is to gradually reduce your litters to three per doe.

When it comes time for using these youngsters for breeding use only the best, and do not start them until they are about three months old. Be patient. These last two points are important. Seek by the matching-up you are planning to improve each successive generation.

Do not trust the recording of breeding operations to memory, because mice breed quickly and because many can be housed in a small space it is even the greater reason why very careful pedigree keeping is necessary. The record giving the performance of ancestry cannot be done without. It is the white line down the road of success.

Solihull's record

I WAS very pleased to be asked to judge again at the Central England Mouse Club's show at Solihull on June 15. Since the club started earlier this year it has gone from strength to strength and the entry this time was a club record of 222 from thirty-four exhibitors. I thank everybody concerned for a very pleasant afternoon, particularly the Beach family, my co-judge, George Harlow, and not least my most attentive and efficient stewards, Mr and Mrs English, two comparative newcomers to the fancy of whom I am sure we will hear more. Quality of stock on the whole was very good and I had no hesitation in accepting my co-judge's nomination for best in show. AGL

Mr A G Low's classes

PE SELF/BE CREAM Ad: 1 2 Smith, white and champagne, both of the quality one expects from Harry, not much between them 3 Gilpin, champagne, good mouse but lacks finish of winners. Several fanciers in this class showed promise but were up against it with this company. How about putting them in the AOC class? 8 wk: 1 Harlow 2 Gilpin 3 Beach. Very little to choose. All good **AOBE SELF** Ad: 1 2 Beach, winner a massive chocolate buck, I wish I had bred one like this 2 red, sound colour, smaller and in moult 3 Caine, chocolate doe, out of condition 8 wk: 1 Harlow, blue, could make up very well if tan on vent doesn't develop too much **SELF CHALL**: 1 2 Smith 3 Beach **DUTCH** Ad: 1 Gilpin, cinnamon doe, easy winner 2 3 Heart of England, blue and black, big mice 8 wk: 1 Heart of England, chocolate, very promising, solidly marked chocolate 2 Hickman, blue, poor saddle **AO MARKED** Ad: 1 Harlow 2 Passmore 3 Sutherland All Broken, not much between first two, winner more spots, second better demarcation, third had fewer and bigger spots 8 wk: 1 Gilpin, small spots and very well placed, two more and it would be in the flier class 2 3 Heart of England, more heavily marked but still good mice. Pens 410 to 414 were chocolate on white. These weren't really of show standard and in any case were far too young to be shown. **MARKED** Chall: 1 Heart of England 2 3 Gilpin. GORDON LOW