

THE EXHIBITION MOUSE

SPACES BETWEEN THE MAXEYS—A MISCELLANY

by ALF HORNE

There could be enough written in reply to Angus Ridley's articles to fill *FUR AND FEATHER*. The alteration he advocates to the championship rules has a lot to be said for it, and after seeing some of the classes at Bradford Show this was emphasised. Some excellent mice went cardless altogether never mind getting a point toward a championship.

The theoretical judging articles might make one stop and think when one is selecting stock for the next show. The first time the mice are judged they are judged by the owner when he does his selecting. How often has one had to pick one out of several which look as alike as peas in a pod and yet, although one cannot put one's finger on the reason, and one certainly could not write one's reason, a certain mouse just seems to have that something which makes it one's first choice. So that one is entered but there is another one which is difficult to fault so that one is sent too as a second choice.

On return from the show the second choice, in the judge's opinion, was the better of the two.

This is part of the fun of the game. We just cannot predict how a judge will see the mice. So many variables come into it. First and foremost the variations in the light. Look at an Argente Creme in Bradford Show light and what does one see? It most certainly does not look the same as when it is in its Maxey. Then with some of the delicate shades we have there is the fact that everyone sees colour ever so slightly differently.

I will briefly mention and answer the questions asked by Mr Ridley in *FUR AND FEATHER*.

(1) *Would you penalise or disqualify a whiskerless mouse?*
The answer is in the Rule Book so there is no problem here.

(2) *What about a tail-less mouse?*

No one would send a tail-less mouse, so again no problem.

(3) *Would you judge the colour black to the same standard in a Self black, a black Tan, a black Fox?*

In the straight classes the density of the blackness would be similar and when they meet in the Grand Challenge, as they are from three different sections, it would probably be something other than density of colour which would be the deciding factor.

(4) *What is your approach to the unstandardised class?*

There is very little laid down for guidance here, but regardless of what wins the unstandardised class it has a long, hard road to travel before it becomes standardised and this safeguards us from being cluttered up with freak mutations having to be catered for immediately. I was a little disappointed when my belted were not encouraged by the Executive Committee, but they were right you know. Allan took them over from me and for the past six months or so with a fairly large stud and a great deal of genetical study and planned breeding there is up to now very, very little improvement.

(5) *In two otherwise equal specimens would you lean to the one which is the bigger—say between a Self black and a Self champagne?*

As a general rule a good big one will beat a good little one.

(6) *How much importance should be attached to "condition"?*

Condition. Even an *Astrex*, which has no points allocated for it, is nothing without it, nor is any other variety.

So, newcomers, you too will realise the same as anyone who has been in the Fancy for some time that judges are fallible and as variable as the mice themselves as also are the conditions under which they find themselves.

We have two sets of points at present.

How many sets does Tim Heath suggest? I am looking forward to his further article giving a fuller illustration of his under eight weeks' points system. I hope he realises it is useless to be vague about it. Point by point, and variety by variety, will need to be gone into and I am pleased the task is not mine.

Tim's article carried a line which surprised me. It was the fact that the cessation of under eight weeks classes had been suggested before. Tim, if you are able to get hold of any old numbers of *FUR AND FEATHER* you will find that over the years with monotonous regularity the same suggestions for alterations to standards, Maxey cages, schedules and so on keep on recurring and I suppose they always will. Whether it hurts the mice or not please do not clip those ears. Even if it does not hurt them, the thoughts of it hurt me. You can keep records without a barbaric practice like that.

Thanks to Jack Hartley for his summary of the doings of the varieties during 1969 and to the unsigned contributor who did the same with Tans. I would appreciate it if the remarks about Champagnes could be enlarged on. Is it top colour or Tan which is their weakness now compared with those of a few years ago?

A friend of mine told me he gave his mice some Swiss cheese as a treat and they sent his cat mad with their yodelling.

Doreen, would the illustration of the Dutch mouse in the Rule Book answer your question as to the location of the saddle? It is a bit confusing isn't it?

IT HAILED AND IT RAINED AND IT SNOWED—BUT AIREDALE PROVIDED ITS HEART-WARMER—AS ALWAYS

I set off in the rain and wind for the Airedale Mouse show on Feb 7. I was a bit wet when I arrived but a grand cuppa awaited me. After a little chat with a few fanciers I set about my task of judging the Tan section. The two black or chocolate classes were very good in numbers and quality, but although the other classes were small in numbers some good mice were on show. My best Tan was a black adult buck which had everything and was very level, shown by Mr Heywood. My best eight weeks was a silver doe, very nice indeed, shown by Mr Higgs, two good mice and well shown. Best in show went to an adult Self black shown by Mr Sill.

Sorry to hear about Mr Beckett who was taken ill and could not judge, so Mr Wormald took his place doing the self section. All the fanciers and I wish him a quick recovery to good health again. Many thanks to my hard working stewards Mr Ronnie Walton and John Mackerill. They looked after me well. John Kelllett and Don Taylor were kept busy at the table and all the Airedale boys worked hard. I must not forget the ladies, bless them, for making a lovely lunch and cups of tea. To the exhibitors who showed under me congratulations to the winners and better luck next time to the losers. The weather outside was dismal but I and everyone at the show had a very enjoyable time. A grand show with a nice total of 722 entries. HJ

Mr Harry Jowett's classes

TAN BLACK or CHOC 15: (13 Blacks, 2 chocolates) 1 2 Heywood (a class of quality here, some good mice) black buck, marvellous top colour, sound feet, good head and strong tail set, nice rich even tan, in fact for depth of tan never seen feel like it, went on to win best Tan, a good win 2 that stud again, another black buck, this was very good all round and could change places easily, just a matter of choice, both these bucks would make ideal stud bucks 3 Higgs' black buck, nice mouse, good top, nice feet and in first class condition, depth of tan decided it r Clifton, black doe, good top and feet, but not the depth of tan of the three bucks 8 wk 15: (12 Blacks, 3 Chocolates) 1 r Heywood, oh what a beauty, a little black doe, good

top colour, sound feet, good head and nice tail set, in tip top condition, will make a nice adult 2 Higgs, beautiful black doe, good colour, nice feet, good head and condition, very close indeed, tan decided it 3 Todd, best of the chocolates, a little doe, nice top and condition, but fails on tan and feet, could be better r that stud again, black doe, nice top, good condition, could be better on feet and tan not just through Blue 5: 1 2 r Parkinson, lovely doe, beautiful shade of top colour nice even tan, excellent feet and nice type in tip top condition 2 lovely does, nice top colour, good feet and again in lovely condition, just beaten on tan, very close 3 Heywood, buck, darker top colour, nice tan, but not the finish of leaders r buck, not the colour and fails on tan 8 wk 8: 1 3 Mackerill, a bonny little doe, excellent top colour, nice tan, good feet, very level and in tip top condition, a credit to one of our juvenile members, nice to see them win now and again 2 Heywood, sweet doe, nice pleasing top colour, good feet and in excellent condition, tan decided it, could have changed places, very close indeed 3 that juvenile again, buck this time, nice top colour, but fails tan to leaders, not just through r Taylors, buck, nice top again but fails on tan, not just the finish of leaders CHAMPAGNE 4: 1 Marriott, typy doe, good shade of top colour, best in class, lovely tan, good head, no tan ears, stood out for condition 2 Holland, nice doe, good colour and lovely tan but just a little on fat side 3 Taylor, doe, lovely top colour, nice head and tail set, but not as strong on tan r Horne, too dark on top colour for me, falls condition 8 wk 4: 1 Holland, lovely little doe, beautiful shade of top colour, nice level tan, good head, nice feet, lovely type and in first class condition 2 r Marriott, bonny doe, good colour, head and type, lovely condition, depth of tan decided it very near 3 Espley, buck, darker top, not the tan of leaders r doe, darker top colour and fails on finish to leaders AOC 4: 1 r Espley, Silver buck, lovely shade of silver, strong tan, good head, nice feet, strong tail, no tan behind ears here and in tip top condition, a grand win 2 Holmlea, Silver buck, nice colour and feet, good head but failing slightly on tan, tip top

condition 3 Clifton, Silver doe, a shade darker top, good head, nice feet, fails on tan, in nice condition r Silver buck, nice top colour good condition, but same fault, not as strong tan and a white tail root 8 wk 4: 1 Higgs, grand little Silver doe, beautiful top colour, nice level tan, lovely type, good head and grand feet, in first class condition, and clear of tan behind ears, this was my best 8 wks, a credit to its owner 2 Holmlea, dove buck, good colour, strong tan and in nice condition but spoilt with tan behind ears, hard lines 3 r Espley, Silver doe, lovely top colour and nice condition, fails on depth of tan r Silver buck, nice mouse but hard lines it was in two coats Chalf 24: 1 Heywood, first black and Tan 2 Higgs, winning Silver 3 Parkinson, first Blue r Holmlea, second silver Tan 8 wk 28: 1 Higgs, winning silver Tan 2 Holland, first champagne Tan 3 Heywood, first black Tan r Mackerill, first Blue. HARRY JOWETT

Mrs D Cooper's classes

It was a bit cold at Airedale, but it was a smashing show. The quality of my sections was very high. My thanks to my super efficient stewards who did all the hard work and enabled me to concentrate solely on judging. Some of the exhibits were shown without any sawdust in the maxeys and were badly soiled. Honesty was the policy. A few white hairs in the backs of the Foxes, easy to remove, but left in. This always proves that the owner is completely honest to me and I do not approve of a mouse being tampered with in any way. It should be washed if soiled. The mice I would have liked to have confiscated were a near perfect pearl, a small Dutch with a standard width of white showing between the blazes at the front, which is rare these days, a young red with a rich belly colour, and two huge Foxes with flank hairs like fans which again is rare these days. A super turn out of seal points, although most of them were too young for the points to show up. The Seal Points and Himalayans which are as different as chalk and cheese, are gaining fast in popularity. I am pleased to see, against the fore-bodings of a few critics recently, My thanks to the ladies for a red hot dinner and

Mr J Kelllett who did me the honour of asking me to judge.

DUTCH 9: 1 Longbottom, black, good blazes and saddle, poor ears 2 3 Cooke, Argente, pull on right cheek, good saddle 3 Argente, good except for uneven saddle 4 Chocolate, fair mouse, tail stops and feet stops poor 8 wk 5: 1 3 Byworth, black, little beauty, good stops, lovely head markings 2 4 Maynard, agouti, nice even blazes, fair saddle, little ears 3 Agouti, pull on left blaze, tail mark poor, fair saddle 4 Cinnamon, good condition, blazes too far under chin Pen 345 Ad entered in wrong class AOV Marked 9: 1 2 Kitchen, Himalayan, typy, with well defined points, good broad skull 2 chocolate Broken, six spot, attractive patterning, tops for condition 3 Byworth, Himalayan, mouly on back, tail damaged 4 Heywood, six spot even, pity one patch spoilt good mouse 8 wks 4: 1 4 Kitchen, seven spot chocolate Broken, pleasing pattern and tops for condition 2 Byworth, Himalayan, close to winner, clear points, typy 3 Maynard, six spot black Broken, patches clear and well placed 4 Himalayan, colour not through yet on points Marked chaff 14: 1 2 Kitchen, Himalayan 2 chocolate Broken 3 Longbottom, black Dutch 4 Cooke, argente Dutch 8 wks 12: 1 Kitchen, chocolate Broken 2 3 Byworth, black Dutch 3 Himalayan 4 Cooke, black Broken AGOUTI/CINNAMON 9: 1 4 Hartley, Agouti, full of fire, excellent ticking under 2 Parkinson, Cinnamon, very even throughout, beaten on colour 3 Pearce, Agouti good head but a little rough under 4 Cinnamon, little bare on cheeks 8 wks 5: 1 2 Hartley, Agouti, good all rounder 2 Agouti, bit of tan on tail root 3 Pearce, real baby, colour not through yet 4 Parkinson, same remarks CHIN/FOX 9: 1 3 Emmett, blue Fox, big and strong, snowy under, solid top and lovely flank hairs 2 Holland, black Fox, quality mouse, near to winner 3 Fox, colour could be better demarcation line, solid top 4 Wainwright, lovely mouse, spoilt by bad staining (no sawdust) 8 wks 6: 1 2 Morris, blue Fox, good all over but needed far more flank hairs 2 blue Fox, good mouse, solid top, few white under hairs showing at tail root 3 B Longbottom, chin, lovely typy mouse, spoilt with moult marks 4 Wainwright, black Fox, good top and under, scar on tail ARGENTE 4: 1 Morris, good broad head, tulip ears, even silvering 2 3 S Smith, mouly on shoulders, too much silvering 3 same remarks 4 Dyer, silvering too much in evidence but lovely type 8 wks 4: 1 2 3 S Smith, head light but the best out of four 2 moult on back left leg, whippy tail 3 very young, colour not through 4 Byworth, colour not deep enough, light under AOV 10: 1 2 Kelllett, Pearl, slight moult only fault 2 Seal Point, good points and correct degree of shading 3 Oxley, Seal Point, tiny bit dark, slight face moult, should do well later 4 B Longbottom, Sable, good rich under, but black nose cap 8 wk 10: (seven Seal Points) 1 2 3 Kelllett, Silver grey, even ticking, good condition 2 Pearl, slight moult, otherwise very good 3 Silver grey, brown at vent and throat, dark nose 4 Furness, Seal Point, a little young yet, points not properly through AOV Chalf 26: 1 Hartley, Agouti 2 Emmett, blue Fox 3 Holland, black Fox 4 Kelllett, Pearl 8 wk 23: 1 Kelllett, Pearl 2 blue Fox 3 Hartley, Agouti, 4 S Smith, Argente Doe 24: 1 Kitchen, Himalayan 2 Marriott, champagne Tan 3 Kitchen, chocolate Broken 4 Emmett, blue Fox 8 wk 23: 1 Halletts, Champagne 2 3 Byworth, black Dutch 3 Himalayan 4 Higgs, Silver Tan Breeders 38: 1 Heywood, black Tan 2 Kitchen, Himalayan 3 Marriott, champagne Tan 4 Heywood, black Tan 8 wk 37: 1 Kitchen, chocolate Broken 2 Halletts, Champagne 3 Hartley, Red 4 Byworth, black Dutch Cup 51: 1 Heywood, black Tan Grand chaff 66: 1 Sill, Self black 2 Hartley, Agouti 3 Heywood, black Tan 4 Kitchen, Himalayan 8 wk 58: 1 Kitchen, chocolate Broken 2 Hartley, Red 3 Halletts, Champagne 4 Byworth black Dutch Gift class 3: 1 2 3 Byworth, D COOPER

NEWCOMER TO MICE

I WOULD like to express my appreciation of a newly found pleasure in my membership of the National Mouse Club through the medium of *FUR AND FEATHER*.

I am very much a novice and recently experienced the thrill of attending, purely as a spectator, my first show at Shipley. I was made to feel most welcome and was given every consideration and plenty of advice, especially by Messrs A Kettle, J Hartley and S Smith whom I thank most sincerely.

I am now of course an avid reader of the mouse section of *FUR AND FEATHER* and was particularly impressed by a recent article by Mr Jukes entitled 'Down Your Way'. As a novice I found this all good stuff and full of sound practical hints. More please.

One problem I have encountered which is giving me some concern, especially as I am a Public Health Inspector, is the presence of small whitish worms, about 1/4 in to 1/2 in long in the droppings. I would welcome any advice on this matter which readers may be able to offer. D G L MONTGOMERY

MICE AT GREAT HARWOOD

MR AND MRS HALLETT are organising another mouse section at Gt Harwood show, on Monday, May 25 (Spring Bank Holiday).