

WINNERS AT THE CAVY SHOWS AYLESBURY

The spring show of cavyies staged at Walton Hall, Walton Street, Aylesbury, on April 18 was an outstanding success. It was easily the biggest and best spring show ever staged at Aylesbury. It is remarkable how popular the cavy section of this society has become, and it is indeed encouraging to see such famous fanciers as Messrs N J Stennett, W Strickland, E Brearley, Miss M Castleman Brown, Miss Joan Radeglia, and others exhibiting and visiting the shows, arriving from north, south, east and west, and with more folk in and around Aylesbury taking up the hobby.

Mrs D Hillier, who is very popular at Aylesbury, judged the Non-Selfs; she remarked how she had enjoyed the show, but oh! how tired she felt at the end of the day, saying that the cavy shows were getting bigger and bigger. Mr Alan Sole, officiating for the first time at Aylesbury, judged the Selfs. Thank you both for a grand job, and for drawing such a splendid entry—214 cavyies made an entry of 543. We hope you will both come again before long. Best in show was N J Stennett's Tortie and White sow.

Mr Walter Allen, of Chinrex fame, and vice-president of the Aylesbury Society, generously gave a camera, value £10, for the best juvenile exhibit, rabbit or cavy, which was won by Miss Sarah Hewes's (Leicester) beautiful exhibit, a Self Red. M DICKENS ALEXANDER

Mr A Sole's classes

An Aylesbury show is always a good day out, but a hard day's work for cavy and rabbit judges, whatever the time of year. This 1970 Spring Show on April 18, was no exception with a total entry of just under 2 000 from 500 rabbits and cavyies.

The cavy section mustered 542 entries from 213 pigs, which was a Spring record for the club.

I had a pleasing entry of Selfs, but the best Self, a Black sow shown by Mrs Faulkner, had to give way to Norman Stennett's well known t and w sow for best cavy in show.

I was pleased that the southern area cup show of the National Tortoise and White Club was quite reasonably successful, after our efforts to finance it and I thank all those who in any way at all, helped to make it possible.

BLACK AD 2: 1 Mrs Faulkner, sow, good all round, very good quality coat 2 Bates, boar, good shape and condition but beaten under colour and coat 5-8 mth 7: 1 r Bates, boar, good all round, nice condition and well presented, good general shape for boar 2 Faulkner, boar, larger pig, good bar a little weak on under colour 3 Burke, boar, also good all round, but a little soft in condition today r sow, coat clean and soft but longer, also beaten ears and under colour 5 mth 5: 1 Stennett, sow, very good condition and well presented, loses a little on undercolour 2 Bates, sow, also nice quality, but beaten today on body and shoulders 3 Spry, boar, little coarser in coat and loses on head and ears r Sear, boar, very young, still carries baby coat, promising, good eye **WHITE AD 7:** Some nice exhibits but condition decided several placings. 1 Mrs Lewis, sow, good condition and well presented, just beaten ears and muzzle in duplicates 2 Bates, sow, a good pig, but handled slightly soft and several small breaks in coat 3 B Hewes, sow, another fair pig, but beaten shoulders and coat r Stennett, sow, good expression and general shape, but bare under and handled little soft today 5 mth 5: 1 Mrs Lewis, sow, well presented and of good all round quality, would like to see a little more shoulder 2 Stennett, sow, coat soft but bit longer, good but loses a little on ears and body shape 3 Bates, sow, pig of fair quality, but beaten broken coat and cleanliness, nice ear r Winkles, boar, soiled and not well presented, smaller eye than leaders **CREAM AD 7:** 13 Mrs Lewis, sow, good colour bar a little light on belly, good shape, coat and eye 2 Mrs Jarvis, sow, very good condition but beaten ears and colour on flanks 3 sow, weak in undercolour and a little bare under, good eye r Sear, boar, good eye and condition, but beaten shape and undercolour 5 mth: 1 Castleman Brown, sow, good shape and condition, colour good but pale on flanks **WHITE or CREAM 5-8 mth:** 1 B Hewes, White sow, quite good all round but fails a little on ears 2 Mrs Dore, White boar, beaten head, body and ears **RED AD 1:** 1 S Hewes, sow, deserved competition, best AOC Self, good coat, colour and shape, tendency to quiff above left eye. Specials best juvenile cavy and best juvenile rabbit or cavy in show. 5 mth: 1 Chamberlain, sow, colour good bar flanks, good eye and condition **GOLDEN AD 6:** 1 2 Bates, sow, wins on depth of even colour and very good eye, good else, bar perhaps a shade long in coat and a little flatness on head 2, another nice sow, but not feet of leader and a shade soft today 3 Treadwell, sow, close, good feet, but not body colour depth of leaders, good eye and condition **RED or GOLDEN 5-8 mth:** 1 Bates, Golden sow, not yet at best, fails a little on ears **AOC AD** (one wrong class) 1 Stennett,

well presented Chocolate sow of good quality, good coat texture, just beaten AOC by shoulder colour 5-8 mth: 1 Brearley, Lilac sow, fair colour and head, nice eye **AC SELF CHALL AD 16:** 1 Faulkner, 2 3 Lewis, r vhc c Bates, hc Jarvis, 5-8 mth 9: 1 r Bates, 2 Hewes 3 Burke 5 mth: 1 Lewis 2 hc Stennett 3 c Bates, r Castleman Brown, vhc Spry, **JUVENILE Self ad 6:** 1 S Hewes, 2 r c Sear, Black sow, good top colour, fair under, good ear and eye 3 Aldaine Stud r Black boar, fair bar white hairs and a little soft in condition vhc S Sear 5 mth: 1 C Sear 2 Winkles Pet 8: 1 Blott, lemon Agouti type, good shape, coat, ears and condition 2 Bonn, white patched silver Agouti cross, close to leader, just beaten coat 3 Ashworth, Abyssinian cross Agouti, quite good but beaten coat and ears r Smith, chocolate boar, fair but beaten condition today. **ALAN SOLE**

Mrs D Hillier's classes

ABYSSINIAN T/W AD 11: 1 Martin 2 3 Treadwell 5 mth 6: 1 Jarvis 2 West London Stud 3 Faulkner **AOC AD 7:** 1 Chamberlain 2 Faulkner 3 Martin 5-8 mth 10: 1 Treadwell 2 Martin 3 Caversham Stud 5 mth 7: 1 Martin 2 Faulkner 3 Hooper **AGOUTI GOLDEN AD 9:** 1 Daines 2 Chamberlain 3 Pittaway 5-8 mth 4: 1 Thorne 2 Bonn 3 Blott 5 mth 3: 1 Daines 2 Ashman **AOC AD 5:** 1 Chamberlain 2 Stennett 3 B Hewes 5-8 mth 5: 1 Stennett 2 Pittaway Stud 3 Chamberlain 5 mth 1: 1 Chamberlain **DUTCH RED AD 4:** 1 Stennett 2 Chamberlain 3 Strickland AC 5 mth 7: 1 Stennett 2 Faulkner 3 Strickland T/W Boar ad 9: 1 2 Stennett 3 Castleman Brown Sow ad 10: 1 Stennett 2 3 Strickland 5 mth 6: 1 2 K Brown 5-8 mth 4: 1 E Matthias 2 Blott **CHALL 13:** 1 2 Stennett 3 Strickland **PERUVIAN AD 4:** 1 2 3 M Castleman Brown 5-8 mth 5: 1 Castleman Brown 2 Gifford 3 Langley 5 mth 9: 1 3 Castleman Brown 2 Langley **HIMALAYAN AD 6:** 1 Taylor 2 Lewis 3 Aldaine Stud 5-8 mth 2: 1 Wilczynski 2 Brearley 5 mth 9: 1 Taylor 2 Aldaine Stud 3 Lewis **AV NON-SELF CHALL AD 27:** 1 Stennett 2 3 Chamberlain 5-8 mth 24: 1 Castleman Brown 2 Pittaway Stud 3 Martin 5 mth 28: 1 Castleman Brown 2 Jarvis 3 Martin.

Both judges

AV Boar 21: 1 2 Chamberlain 3 Bates Sow 16: 1 Stennett 2 Faulkner 3 Castleman Brown Members 13: 1 2 Chamberlain 3 Gifford Grand chall 46: 1 Stennett 2 Faulkner 3 Chamberlain **JUVENILE Non-Self ad 11:** 1 S Lear 2 J Ashworth 3 Bonn 5 mth 1: 1 Parr 2 Ashman 3 Aldaine Stud **AV CHALL 21:** 1 S M Hewes 2 S Lear 3 Parr Pet ad 8: 1 Blott 2 Bonn 3 Ashworth 5 mth 1: 1 Abbit.

ST AUSTELL

I had a very happy time judging the St Austell open monthly pen show on April 25. Entries totalled eighty-eight from forty-five exhibitors. Brian Passmore, the secretary had everything well in hand for a prompt start and I thank my stewards for their help. Best in show was a very nice Self White, put down in lovely order by B Passmore. Many thanks also to the ladies and juveniles who all worked hard to make this show a success.

SELF WHITE AD 3: 1 2 Passmore, wins on type and shorter in coat, put down well 2 nice boar, put down well but longer in coat 3 Bennett, not as good colour as leaders, longer in type **BLACK AD 4:** 1 Buse wins on coat quality, short and silky 2 3 Budge nice shapely boar, loses on coat quality 3 fails badly colour **AOC AD 3:** 1 Bale nice Cream sow, good muzzle and eye, wins on type 2 Miss Dann nice coloured Golden boar, long in type 3 Miss Parish, Golden, long type and pale colour, up against it today **AGOUTI AD 1:** 1 Pascoe, very fit Golden of good type, slightly dark on front feet and wide belly **DUTCH AD 1:** Bennett nice Red, fair cheeks and stops **HIMALAYAN AD 4:** 1 3 Dyer very nice Black, wins feet and ears 3 nice Black, wins feet and ears 2 Parish, much younger pig but should come through nicely **ABYSSINIAN AD 4:** 1 Miss Hooper dark brindle boar, wins on evenness of rosettes and ridges 2 Bale, roan boar nice big pig, but slightly twisted main ridge and flat mane 3 Buse, roan boar rather flat back and open rosettes **SELF 5 mth 5:** 1 Bennett, White sow nicely put down and excelled head and muzzle 2 Bale, White sow wet under, nice pig, but dark ears 3 Parish, Black boar young pig, nice colour but long in type **NON-SELF 5 mth 4:** 1 Pascoe, golden Agouti sow lovely feet and coat quality 2 Dyer black Himalayan sow, good feet, not quite through on ears 3 Miss Hooper, Abyssinian boar flat back and side rosettes, down on condition **AV 5-8 mth 6:** 1 Buse, roan Abyssinian sow very nice pig 2 K Dann, Cream boar good colour but long in type 3 Bale, White boar nice pig but dark ears **Breeders chall 15:** 1 3 Pascoe 2 Buse Grand chall ad 19: 1 Passmore 2 Pascoe 3 Bale 5 mth 9: 1 Bennett 2 Pascoe 3 Bale Girls single colour 3: 1 Miss Dann nice Cream sow, nicely put down 2 Miss Parish, Golden boar nice pig, fails type to winner 3 Miss Evans, Abyssinian boar, rather open rosettes More than one colour 5: 1 2 Miss Dyer, Himalayan nice feet and ears 3 Miss Brown, T and W, one black side Boys single; colour 2: 1 Parish very nice White boar 2 Bate Golden boar long in coat More than one colour 3: 1 3 Evans very nice Abyssinian boar 3 not show pig 2 T and W, very good try S C TREMEER

THE EXHIBITION MOUSE

THAT GREAT FEELING ERNIE HIGGS RECALLS THE DAY HE WON BEST IN SHOW

WHAT is it like to win best in show? I will take you back to the National Mouse Club's summer cup show held at Liverpool in 1955. The man responsible for putting on the mouse classes was our old friend, Dick Espley.

On a few occasions I have paid a visit to this event as a judge. On other occasions I have been an exhibitor. This show is, in my opinion, one of the best agricultural events I have had the pleasure of visiting. The show is situated between acres of ground and everything possible is laid on to please everyone.

I shall always keep in mind the show held in 1955. A party of us from the Notts and Derby Mouse Club arrived in very high spirits. The judges were Messrs Fletcher, Welch, Watts and Coles.

The first thing we did as soon as we arrived was to see how we had fared. I had a feeling that I was going to win. Even so, I was really surprised when I saw I had won best Self and best AOV and also best in show, and quite a few more prizes with Tans. This was the first time I had won best in show at a National Mouse Club Cup Show. I felt on top of the world.

It is a nice feeling. Everyone is your

friend. Congratulations are showered upon you. The late C H Johnson was one of the first to give me the handshake and with that usual smile on his face replied 'Well done Ernie'. I thought of the time when he shook hands with me after he had won best in show at the annual in 1953 under Ezra Skinner. He must have felt the same as I.

C H Johnson waited patiently for nearly thirty years before he won a best in show at the annual. That was his proudest moment. He said to me, 'Ernie, I cannot believe it. I have done it at last.' That is just how one feels.

Why did C H Johnson keep mice when he was without doubt one of the richest men in Driffild. Because he loved mice and enjoyed the company of fanciers. He treated men as men. He was the kindest person I have ever had the pleasure of meeting.

That is how it goes on and on with all of us. To win a first is an achievement but that best in show is a moment of glory.

To the young mouse fanciers of today I say keep plodding away. You will get your share of coddling cards the same as we older fanciers did but do not lose heart, for who knows, some day you will get best in show at one of the NMC cup shows.

CENTRAL ENGLAND SHOW REPORT

RED LETTER DAY FOR JACK HARTLEY

I was very pleased to be able to judge at this venue for the first time for the Central England Mouse Club, along with my co-judges.

I had thirty exhibits in the Tan classes, but stock was only moderate. I thank my steward Tony Kettle, who assisted me most capably.

TAN BLACK AD 7: 1 Marriot, good top and tan with good feet, could be brighter in coat 2 Heywood, buck, as good as leader for major points but falls on feet 3 Higgs, buck, largest mouse in class, good colour with rich tan but badly let down on feet, too much tan on them r Bagshaw 8 wk 7: 1 2 Heywood, leader won best Tan, good colour, rich tan, good feet, slight fault tip of tail 2 doe, not so good tan and not so bright top 3 Kellett, solid top but tan not so forward, looked younger r Bagshaw, falls tan **BLUE AND AOC (amal) 2:** 1 Bainton, blue, nice type, a bit light on top, needs richer tan 2 Mrs Cooper, choc, beaten type only, fair top and tan **BLUE 8 wk 5:** 1 3 Holmea Stud, very young, solid top and good tan, nice sheen, should make up well 2 Heywood, not so good condition, lacks density under 3 similar to leader but tan not so bright r Bainton **CHAM/SILVER/DOVE AD 5:** 1 2 Espley, delicate top with good tan, slight tan tufts, nice bloom 2 a shade too dark on top otherwise similar 3 r Higgs, beaten condition, similar shade to second but rather rough tail root, pen 411 had fit whilst handling 8 wk 5: 1 2 Higgs, two promising youngsters, nice delicate top with nice tan, plenty of fur under 3 r Espley, darker top but good condition **AC CHALL ad 13:** 1 3 Espley 2 Marriot r Heywood 8 wk 15: 1 r Heywood 2 Higgs 3 Holmea Stud **JUVENILE 5:** 1 2 3 O'Neill, leader cinnamon Dutch, good saddle well up with under to match, falls one cheek, pulls too much 2 argente Dutch, again good saddle but not so level under, even cheeks slightly heavy 3 seven-spot Broken, too even on shoulders r Mack, seven-spot Broken, some spots too small **AV Ladies 13:** 1 r Beach, Choc, good sound colour, very level, only young 2 Pearce, Cinnamon, good type, nice colour and ticking needs a bit more fire 3 Mrs Cooper, Siamese, best of four in class for being level, shadings fairly well blended r black Dutch, good cheeks, falls under Stud buck 24: 1 Tait, Argente, well shown, nice shot appearance, good colour and type 2 Cooke, argente Dutch, well balanced head, with nice saddle and under 3 Espley, reported previously r Holmea Stud, Cham, good strong mouse, nice colour, just fails condition. Many thanks to all exhibitors who supported me with their entries. **CLIFF COLE**

It was a red letter day at the Central England Mouse Club for Jack Hartley in more ways than one. For the second time in succession Jack's red Self won best in show and this is something for a Red. It is certainly a good mouse and one of the best of its breed that I can remember.

Jack deserved his many wins on the day, in fact he cleared the board, as he won best opposite age with an Agouti and best AOV, also best Self, both the challenges and the members class, taking away four Solihull spoons.

We must not forget Mr and Mrs Tom Hallett, who were running Jack close all through the show with seconds, each time round. L Heywood got best Tan and he is one of our most consistent exhibitors and usually does well.

Mr and Mrs T J Cooke got best marked with a Himalayan, this too was a nice mouse.

There was a reasonably good entry of 641, although I think for the type of schedule and the specials on offer, it could have made two or three hundred more. We shall have to reconsider the schedule if the response is not better in the future. Some of the classes had been put on for the fanciers with the lesser kept breeds, but they have still been reluctant to enter.

No rats were entered this time. What has gone wrong you 'ratters', there are many fanciers keeping and breeding rats today, so why not enter them.

I am perfectly willing to run a rat club and/or a gerbil club here at this venue. I would prefer to keep it separate to the mouse club. I am sure a British rat and Gerbil club would go down well.

WHITE/CREAM AD 10: 1 Smith 2 Halletts 3 Mrs Mack 8 wk 4: 1 3 Halletts 2 Holmea **BLACK/BLUE AD 9:** 1 Berry 2 Higgs 3 Reice 8 wk 8: 1 Higgs 2 3 Berry **CHAMPAGNE/FAWN AD 9:** 1 3 Halletts 2 Bagshaw 8 wk 8: 1 3 Halletts 2 Chynoweth **RED AND AOC AD (amal) 5:** 1 Hartley 2 3 D Cooper 8 wk 7: 1 Hartley 2 Pearce 3 Goodstock **AC SELF CHALL ad 32:** 1 Hartley 2 Halletts 3 Smith 8 wk 26: 1 3 Halletts 2 Hartley **DUTCH/RUMP AD 11:** 1 2 Maynard 3 Cooke 8 wk 10: 1 O'Neil 2 3 Maynard **AV MARKED AD 6:** 1 T and J Cooke 2 3 Maynard 8 wk 3: 1 3 Maynard 2 O'Neil **CHALL ad 15:** 1 T Cooke 2 3 Maynard 8 wk 12: 1 O'Neil 2 3 Maynard **AGOUTI/CINNAMON AD 8:** 1 Hartley 2 3 Skipper 8 wk 8: 1 2 Hartley 3 Pearce **CHIN/FOC AD 3:** 1 Longbottom 2 Goodstock 3 Heart of England 8 wk 2: 1 Longbottom 2 Heywood **AOV AD 23:** 1 Smith 2 Bainton 3 Jukes 8 wk 11: 1 Bainton 2 Kellett 3 Clews **CHALL ad 32:** 1 Hartley 2 Skipper 3 Smith 8 wk 20: 1 2 Hartley 3 Bainton **AV Doe ad 26:** 1 3 Hartley 2 Halletts 8 wk 21: 1 3 Hartley 2 Halletts Stud buck 24: 1 Tait 2 Cooke 3 Espley **JUVENILE 13:** 1 2 3 O'Neill **Unstandardised 8:** 1 Cooper 2 Jukes 3 Kellett **Ladies 13:** 1 Beach 2 Pearce 3 Cooper **Trio gift 2:** 1 Holmea 2 Hartley **Members 58:** 1 2 Hartley 3 Halletts **Grand chall ad 70:** 1 3 Hartley 2 Halletts 8 wk 50: 1 3 Hartley 2 Halletts **Pets 4:** 1 D Mck 2 S Mack 3 Edwards. F and J BEACH, secs

LEICESTER SHOW CANCELLED

OWING to the difficulty experienced in obtaining a judge, the Leicester Mouse Club show, intended for Saturday, May 23, has had to be cancelled.

Volunteers for judging at the next two shows, on July 25 and October 17, would be very welcome. **STEPHEN MARTIN** and **TINA THOM** (joint secretaries), 77 Haddenham Road, Leicester LE3 2BH