

THE EXHIBITION MOUSE

AIREDALE A REPEAT OF CALDER VALE Mr and Mrs Hallett's Self champagne beat J Hartley's Agouti in the final line-up

The total entry of 640 at the Airedale Mouse Club's open show on May 3 must have been most disappointing to John Kelllett and his hard working committee. It is difficult to understand because this is one of the best shows that caters for the Fancy and has all that one could wish for. The usual hospitality was given by the ladies who do a really grand job.

I had for my steward Mr N Fisher who is a master at Brighthouse Eastfield School, Lightcliffe, Halifax. He brought two of his pupils with him and they did a really grand job of stewarding for which I thank them. I hope they had an interesting day and added to their knowledge of mouse matters. ALE

Mr A L Edmondson's classes

TAN BLACK Ad 12: 1 Barnett, large buck of good type, sound top, rich tan, good feet 2 3 4 Clifton, a very good tan, not as sound feet, down on condition 3 not as good on feet or tan 8 wk 9: 1 2 Clifton, good top and tan, fails a little on feet 2 not quite tan or feet of leader 3 4 Easley, 3 good feet but down on tan **CHOCOLATE** Ad 7: 1 Cross, nice deep top colour, good tan, could be better feet 2 Sill, not quite as good top or feet 3 Kelllett, loses on tan, rather rough at root of tail 4 Heath 8 wk 3: 1 Sill, good tan and feet, could be better top 2 Todd, better top but not as good tan or feet 3 Longbottom, fails to colour and tan **BLUE** Ad 8: 1 2 3 Robb, 1 nice top and tan, fails feet 2 good feet, down on tan 3 fails top and feet, nice tan 4 Clifton 8 wk 3: 1 3 Morton, very nice top and feet, down on tan 3 good top and feet, poor tan but only a youngster, should make up well 2 Carter, shade dark top, good tan, fails feet **CHAMPAGNE** Ad 6: 1 Marriott, good top and tan, fails a little feet 2 Bright, very nice top colour and tan but tan coming up behind ears 3 Taylor, fails tan to leaders 4 Higgs 8 wk 3: 1 Bright, rather dark top, very good tan 2 Higgs better top, not as rich tan, moult mark on shoulder 3 Easley, fails tan and type **AOC** Ad 3: 1 Higgs, nice top and tan but tan coming up behind ears 2 Easley, not as good tan, fails root of tail 3 White, dove, nice top but well down on tan 8 wk 7: 1 2 3 Higgs, silver, nice top, rich tan, sound feet, full up to age 2 not as good top or feet 3 dove, good tan, fails behind ears 4 Hartley **chall** Ad 34: 1 Barnett, black 2 Cross, chocolate 3 Marriott, champagne 4 Higgs, silver 8 wk 24: 1 Higgs, silver 2 Sill, chocolate 3 Clifton, black 4 Morton, blue **JUVENILE** 8: 1 2 Sill, chocolate/tan, 8 weeks winner 2 second adult chocolate/tan 3 Wainwright, black Silver Fox 4 Easley, black Tan **AV Breeders** ad 32: 1 Hallett 2 Kitchen 3 Barnett 4 Horne 8 wk 22: 1 Hartley 2 Pearce 3 Higgs 4 Kitchen. A L EDMONDSON

Mr H Jowett's classes

I judged the self section in place of Mr Shield who was unable to make it owing to ill health. I hope Mr Shield will soon be in the best of health again and that we shall see him judge at a later date.

The classes could have been larger in number but some nice mice were on show. The best in show, the adult champagne was a real cracker and was well shown. It was a credit to its owners, Mr and Mrs Hallett. My best eight weeks was a Self blue owned by Mrs Pearce. This is another lovely mouse. I congratulate these two fanciers.

The stock was quite good in my section. Many thanks to my two stewards Mrs Hallett and Mrs Pearce who did a grand job and kept me going nicely all day, also to the Airedale boys and to the ladies (bless them) for a lovely lunch and cups of tea. I also thank exhibitors who showed under me and made my day a very pleasant one.

PINK EYED WHITE OR CREAM Ad 6: 1 Smith, really nice white doe, purest colour in class, good head, nice tail set, in first class condition 2 Collings, nice cream doe, lovely top colour, good head, again in first class condition, just beaten on under, very close 3 r Beckett, white doe, nice condition and lovely top colour but failing under r white doe, same again failing under 8 wk 9: 1 Hartley, nice type doe, good pure colour, good head and tail set, in tip top condition, what one expects from this stud 2 3 Collings, cream doe, another nice one, good top a nice under but white just had that finish, very close indeed 3 cream doe, again nice top colour but fails slightly on under r Beckett, white doe, not as pure colour as winner and fails thin under which is not just through yet

BLACK Ad 4: 1 3 Sill, buck, good dense colour, nice feet, good head and nice thick under in beautiful condition 2 B Longbottom, good top colour, nice feet but fails on under, not quite as thick as leader, a nice doe all the same 3 buck, not as dense in colour as leaders and fails badly tan vent r Wormald, doe, few tan hairs on top and rusty under, watch those tan hairs 8 wk 4: 1 Wormald, bonny little doe, black down to skin, good under, nice feet and head and in lovely condition 2 3 Sill, buck, another good one lovely top and in tip-top condition, the doe just had that little extra 3 buck, nice top but fails on tan vent r B Longbottom, not just through on top colour and fails thin under **CHAMPAGNE** Ad 4: 1 2 3 r Hallett, real spanking doe, the first three took some sorting out, what one expects from this stud, marvellous top colour, had that pinky tinge, good broad head, nice level under, strong tail set and beautiful type very level and in lovely condition, shown to the minute, went on to win best self and best in show, congratulations 2 doe, again a lovely mouse, good all round, I gave it to winner which just had that stronger under 3 lovely doe, shade darker on top colour and not just finish of leaders r buck, darker top colour, an ideal stud buck, plenty of bone here 8 wk 3: 1 Hartley, nice little doe, lovely top colour and under, good head nice type in excellent condition 2 Wormald, doe, good top colour, good head, nice condition, winner just beat it on under 3 Harlow, fails on colour to leaders, very light shade **AOC SELF** Ad 12: 1 Bleazard, very pleasing blue doe, excellent top colour, good head, nice feet, lovely type in first class condition, a good win 2 E Longbottom, lovely fawn doe, lovely top colour, nice head and type, in lovely condition, just fails on under, very close 3 Beckett, silver doe, good top colour, nice type and condition, thin under held it back r Pearce, lovely blue doe, shade darker than winner and failing slightly on under, in nice condition 8 wk 7: 1 Pearce, smashing little blue doe, beautiful top colour, good head, nice feet, nice level under, a lovely mouse, what one expects from this stud, I made this mouse my best 8 weeks 2 3 Beckett, a really nice little black-eyed White doe, good top colour, a pity it just fails on under which is not just through, in nice condition 3 black-eyed White, not the finish of leader, the second had the better colour r E Longbottom, little chocolate doe, nice top colour but fails on under **Chall** ad 25: 1 2 Hallett, 1 champagne 2 champagne 3 Smith, 1st white r Sill, black 8 wk 20: 1 Pearce, 1st blue 2 3 Hartley, 1st white 3 1st champagne r Wormald, 2nd champagne **AV Stud** buck 20: 1 Hallett, champagne 2 Cross, cream 3 Taylor, champagne Tan r Cooper, cinnamon Doe ad 29: 1 3 Hallett, champagnes 2 r Hartley, Agouti 8 wk 17: 1 3 Hartley, Agouti and Self champagne 2 Pearce, blue r Ridley, Sable, H JOWETT

Mr S Smith's classes

An entry of 640 was very welcome although the society lost £3.

The exhibits on the whole were quite good the outstanding mice being Eric Kitchen's Broken and Colin Horne's Dutch in the marked section and Jack Hartley's adult and eight week Agoutis. These four mice were way in front of any other exhibits both in quality and condition.

DUTCH Ad 10: 1 Horne, black buck, often reported, easily the best Dutch here today 2 r Byworth Stud, chocolate doe, very good cheeks, fair top, pulls under and odd white hair in saddle 3 Abbott, good cheeks, long stops and pull on side of saddle r chocolate buck, fair cheeks, saddle well up but wavy 8 wk 4: 1 3 Abbott, chocolate buck, good cheeks, longish stops, perfect top on saddle but skewed under 2 r Byworth Stud, chocolate buck, equal to winner but for very full left cheek 3 chocolate buck, long stops and wavy under r black buck, almost solid black head **AOV MARKED** Ad 12: 1 Kitchen, nine spot Broken, often reported needs no further comment, best marked 2 Morris, Himalayan buck, very good points, size and type but could have had a purer body colour 3 Harlow, ten spot black Broken buck, tendency for three spots to be even, slight brindling r Horne, Himalayan doe, fair size, good body colour, points could be clearer 8 wk 4: 1 Kitchen, six spot black Broken buck, spoilt only by larger spot on ear 2 Morris, Himalayan buck, colour on feet not quite through, should make a good adult 3 Bleaz-

BEST IN SHOW JUDGE'S COMMENTS

The four section winners placed before me were good specimens of their respective breeds and only very minor points separated them.

Best in show Mr and Mrs Hallett's Self champagne doe. This mouse I found very hard to fault. It had good colour top and under, lovely shade and was level as a die, beautiful type and in sparkling condition. This was a young adult and so it was not the size one expects. Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Hallett.

Runner-up was a golden Agouti doe shown by J Hartley with top colour and ticking exceptionally good and well carried out under, good eye and type but not quite as immaculate as the champagne, no doubt it was showing the effects of a lot of handling.

The Broken, winner of the Marked section was E Kitchen's well-known buck. This is a wonderful mouse but I think it is just past its best. Colour of spots is not as dense as it used to be and it had not the condition of the leading pair.

The winning Tan was a black buck by J Barnett. This had good top, nice rich tan but failed a little on type and feet and it had a slight throat spot

C BECKETT

and nine spot Broken buck, spots not as well distributed as winner r Sutheran, six spot black Broken buck **Chall** ad 17: 1 Kitchen, Broken 2 Horne, Dutch 3 Morris, Himalayan r Byworth, Dutch 8 wk 7: 1 Kitchen, Broken 2 Abbott, Dutch 3 Morris, Himalayan r Byworth, Dutch **AGOUTI/CINNAMON** Ad 8: 1 r Hartley, golden Agouti doe, easy win, well ticked, best belly I have seen for ages, lovely condition, easily best **AOV** 2 Reice, silver Agouti buck, good condition, well ticked, fails belly to winner 3 Pearce, Cinnamon doe, big mouse, good condition, fails tail set and too much tan round vent r golden Agouti doe, fails moult and condition to winners 8 wk 4: 1 2 Hartley, golden Agouti does, leader a good mouse all round 2 fails moult: 3 r Reice, silver Agoutis, good mice but too young to show **CHIN/FOX** Ad 11: 1 Byworth Stud, blue Fox buck, good top colour, belly could be better ticked 2 Longbottom, Chin buck, good belly and top but moult 3 Taylor, blue Fox doe, fair colour, fails belly and ticking r pen 491, black Fox buck, good ticking and belly colour but white hairs in back 8 wk: 1 Knight, black Fox buck, lovely condition, top colour belly and ticking but white hairs in the back 2 r Longbottom, Chin buck, fair top, belly colour not through 3 Emmett, blue Fox doe, good type and belly colour, fails ticking and odd white hairs in back r Chin, fails belly colour and condition. Many of the Foxes in these two classes failed badly from white hairs on the back. If this becomes prevalent then the variety will be spoilt. The only way this can be cured is in the breeding pen. **ARGENTE** Ad 4: 1 2 3 Jukes, leader a doe, good top colour, moult on neck, very poor belly colour 2 doe, too dark 3 buck, better colour but very moult 2 Morris, doe, dark and moult **AOV** Ad 7: 1 Ridley, Sable doe, good belly colour and shadings, shade light on nose 2 Horne, Seal Point Siamese doe, good nose and tail shading but fails colour on feet 3 Jukes, long-haired White, length of fur very good but fails badly on type 4 E Longbottom, Sable doe, fails top colour and belly, good type 8 wk 8: 1 Taylor, Silver Grey, well ticked, level all through, tan vent 2 Kelllett, light Silver Grey, nice mouse but moult 3 Ridley, Sable doe, very young, good shadings, odd white hairs in back r Mrs Cooper, Seal Point Siamese, fails condition and too dark round hind-quarters **Chall** ad 26: 1 Hartley, Agouti, easy win 2 Byworth, Fox 3 Ridley, Sable r Longbottom, Chin 8 wk 15: 1 Hartley, Agouti 2 Knight, Fox 3 Taylor, Silver Grey r Longbottom, Chin **UNSTANDARDISED** 5: 1 Kelllett, Brown Chin 2 r Mrs Cooper, Sepia Fox, really a very pale Martan Sable 3 Jukes, oatmeal or Smoke Agouti r Lilac **AV Cup** class 31: 1 Hallett Grand **chall** ad 67: 1 Hallett, champagne 2 Hartley, Agouti 3 Kitchen, Broken 4 Barnett, black Tan 8 wk 46: 1 Hartley, Agouti 2 Pearce, Blue 3 Higgs, silver Tan 4 Kitchen, Broken. S SMITH

The NMC secretary writes...

NEW MEMBERS

Blair Bros, 92 Rotherby Avenue, Leicester.
W Morgan, 23 Richard Williams Road, Wednesbury, Staffs.

FORTHCOMING SHOWS

May 31—Scottish and Border (Linlithgow Agricultural).

June 7—West Midland.

Please give these two shows full support.

ANNUAL SHOW

The Airedale committee, who are running the National Mouse Club's annual show on September 13, have decided on the schedule which is up to the usual standard. Another class has been added to the market section and it will cater for Variegated and Even.

This will give a chance to those fanciers who are trying to bring back the Variegated to show us the progress they have made. It will also help the Broken and Even breeders to decide whether they have a Broken or Even to show.

ASTREX WANTED

I have received a letter from Miss Pat Nielsen, British Columbia, who asks if anyone is keeping Astrex. If so, she would be interested in buying some. Her address is RRI Seclott, British Columbia.

THAT BROKEN

I have just received a letter from Mr Dick Ward who is a past secretary and president of our club. He writes:

'During the last few weeks I have read with increasing unrest the outpourings of Mr T Heath. Never in all my years in the Fancy have I read such a load of rubbish.

'Who is T Heath? He appears to have been in the Fancy about five minutes but is ready to put us all to rights.

'He has never seen Eric Kitchen's Broken but with all the tact and delicacy of a wounded rhinoceros is ready to condemn it. In passing he cheerfully wipes out the eighteen judges, of whom I am one, who have allowed it to win.

'After Mr Kitchen's dignified and tolerant letter (April 17) I was looking for an apology from Mr Heath. The nearest was his ill-natured and grudging letter in FUR AND FEATHER of May 8.

'I am annoyed that none of the other judges concerned have written to FUR AND FEATHER.'

Although I am secretary of the NMC and perhaps should remain neutral, I feel that I must comment on the recent criticisms of Mr Kitchen's Broken, especially as I have judged it several times myself.

I agree entirely with Mr Ward's comments. A mouse of this calibre is bred once in a lifetime and all some fanciers do is criticise and condemn it.

This must put our Fancy in a bad light with fanciers of other livestock who read the mouse columns in FUR AND FEATHER. Why not just settle down and try to breed one better. It should give much more satisfaction. S SMITH (secretary), 26 Grasmere Road, Bradford 2, Yorkshire

ANNUAL SHOW JUDGES BALLOT RESULT

SELFS 2: J Wormald 41, J Hartley 24, A L Edmondson 21, H Jowett 13, B Miller 5.

TANS 1: L Marriott 26, A L Edmondson 13, H Jowett 9, J Hartley 3, B Miller 2.

MARKED 1: B Miller 32, A L Edmondson 9, J Hartley 9.

AOV 1: J Hartley 25, Mrs D Cooper 19, A L Edmondson 7, B Miller 2.

Best in Show Judge: E Kitchen 32, A L Edmondson 9, J Wormald 9, B Miller 3.

Papers sent out, 165; papers returned, 53. (Mrs) P WORMALD (Scrutineer)

As Jack Hartley has obtained his highest number of votes in the AOV section, Mr A L Edmondson will judge the Self section. S SMITH (sec)

Books on Mice

THE FANCY MOUSE. By A C Jude. This book by a former president of the National Mouse Club is the standard work on mice. Every aspect of breeding, showing, management, colour inheritance and simple genetics is fully covered. Price 8s 4d post paid (full cloth).

MICE FOR THE HOBBYIST, EXHIBITOR AND SCIENTIST. By J Wood. A practical guide to their breeding, general management and exhibiting. Price 2s 10d post paid.

From Book Dept, FUR AND FEATHER, Idle, Bradford, Yorks.