

London English rabbit fanciers are winning the battle of the rail

When we hear so much these days of the difficulties of getting stock to shows through what can only be termed non-co-operation of the railways together with the higher freight charges, it seemed to me that with sixty-seven exhibits making a grand total of 326 entries the members of the London English Society are winning the battle of the rail.

It was indeed a great pleasure to me to judge this show, especially as my co-judge was Jim Sodey all the way down from County Durham. I only hope Jim enjoyed it as much as I.

Stock generally was good but one failing was size. The standard does call for a 6lb to 8lb rabbit. If many exhibitors were to weigh their rabbits I am sure they would get a surprise.

My co-judge and I differed very little in the awards. When all was said and done we had chosen the same seven adults with no more than one placing different. A referee judge decided the final placing. We agreed on the placings in the under five month classes.

Many thanks to my stewards, Messrs Stone, Chalklin, Buttle, Bailey and Langley, and others whose names I missed, together with Fred Bacon for keeping my book. JAA

Mr J A Armes's classes

BLACK Ad 17: 1 CC Jones 69D02427 nice well balanced body work, good coat, type and colour, spot near ear root and little white up ears 201 Leedale, nice type and colour, good coat, one leg spot missing, late start one chain, good head 3 c Heath and Wilkins, nice type and colour, weak one chain, nice sweep, moult sides, good head r Midwood, nice exhibit but fails show condition vhc Chalklin hc Davis **TORTOISESHELL Ad 5:** 1 CC Eaton and Heath 68D10610 nice type and colour, work right through, trifle long in coat 2 Gresswell, nice colour, square cut rump, break saddle tail end, good coat 3 Sparkes, fails nose fork, little too lightly marked r Mrs Stone (pen 30 abs) **BLACK or BLUE 5 mth 15:** 1 Heath and Wilkins 69D 10899 black, nice type and colour, good balance and coat, work right through, front leg spot missing 2 Buttle, blue, just a baby, nice sweep and gradation, not in good show condition today 3 Jones, black, nice type and colour, good coat, nice sweep, stray spots front legs and white up ears spoils r Bacon vhc Joyce hc Belding c Banks **AC Breeders buck Ad 20:** 1 Buttle, blue, very good colour and coat, well graded 2 Jones, first black adult 3 Bancroft, blue, work right through, little long in coat, nice colour, chopped rump, nice clean exhibit, fails a little size r Otley vhc Nash hc Sparkes c Heath and Wilkins new members AA 7: 1 3 Gresswell 2 Bancroft r vhc Joyce hc Bartlett c Mrs Shield Cocker Novice exhibit AA 27: 1 Turnbull, grey, nice type and colour, single line chain spoils, nice sweep and gradation 2 Heath and Wilkins, first B or B 5 mth 3 Mrs Stone, tortoiseshell, nice type and colour, good sweep and gradation, fails one chain r Buttle, second B or B 5 mth vhc Jones hc Chalklin c Bacon Home Counties Cup 13: 1 c Buttle, blue, very good head, colour, coat and gradation, a really nice exhibit but fails pattern 2 r Mrs Stone, third novice 3 Sparkes, third tort adult vhc Prior hc Bunyan London English members 22: 1 Mines and Son, grey, best in show, very good type, colour, coat and gradation, nice chains, very fit 2 Buttle, first Home Counties 3 Leedale, second black adult r c Heath and Wilkins, third black adult vhc Turnbull hc Banks Sportsman 25: 1 Buttle 2 3 Gresswell r Joyce vhc Bacon hc Otley c Miles Silver medal 14: 1 Mines and Son 2 r Buttle 3 Bancroft vhc Chalklin hc Bailey c Langley Breeders 5 mth 18: 1 Heath and Wilkins 2 Mrs Stone 3 Turnbull r Buttle vhc Jones hc Mrs Anderson c Eaton and Heath Chall 5 mth 19: Repeat Grand chall 26: 1 Mines and Son 2 Buttle 3 Jones r Leedale vhc Prior hc Nash c Gresswell. JOHN A ARMES

Mr J Sodey's classes

It was a pleasure for me to visit the London English Club as a judge and also to meet fanciers from that area.

The show was in the good hands of Mr Bunyan. Everything was ready for a good start. Rail exhibits were down by ninety-five per cent—effects of treatment by British Rail to small livestock keepers. This matter is the talking point at the shows.

Best in my classes was the blue, the adult grey being my second best. This order

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THE EXHIBITION MOUSE

SELF CHAMPAGNE DOES IT AGAIN

BEST IN SHOW AT WEST MIDLAND CLUB SHOW

Thanks to the hospitality of Pat and Ken Morton Nancy and I had a very nice break from work during our stay in Walsall, where I judged at the West Midland Mouse Club's open show on October 4. We drove down from Carlisle on Friday and stayed overnight, after the show on Saturday we drove home, a round trip of just over 400 miles. We thoroughly enjoyed it. Fanciers from north, south, east and west were there and it was very nice to meet new faces and have a yarn with them. There are several new members these days who are proving the point that you don't have to be in the Fancy for years before making your mark; they are doing very nicely.

It was a very grey day and the light did not flatter any of the mice but they were all judged in the same light. Jack Hartley stewarded for me and both the exhibitors and myself owe him a debt of gratitude because the temperature was just a degree or two below comfort for the mice and they were not very active when the hay was removed and Jack made sure they were without hay for the minimum time. AH

Mr A Horne's classes

AGOUTI/CINNAMON Ad 9: 1 Hartley, Agouti, exactly right for colour 2 3 Mrs Pearce, both very even and a good colour 8 wk 3: 1 Hartley, Cinnamon, exceptionally good skull and ears and beautifully ticked for a baby, when it came out in the challenge classes my co-judges thought it wasn't quite red enough 2 Hartley, Agouti, eyes could be bolder 3 Taylor, silver Agouti, better than the adult silver Agoutis in the previous class but two faults, dark ridge on back and light near tail root **CHIN/FOX/ARGENTE CREME Ad 8:** 1 2 B Longbottom, Chin, big strong buck, very even 2 Chin, another good buck but not as bright as winner 3 Taylor, Fox, very nice under, really thick but at the expense of white on tail set (should be accompanied with sticking plasters) 8 wk 9: 1 Kellett, the best Chin in the two classes 2 3 Morgan, Fox, nicely ticked and good under 3 Fox, as second but not as good under. These Foxes are getting away with far more than the Tanners get let off with. The white is not being kept within its bounds as per standard **AOV Ad 12:** Four Sables, four Siamese, two Argentes, one Longhair and one Pearl which unfortunately had to be disqualified as it had no whiskers 1 2 Jones, Argente, when the shading is as intended in this variety it is truly a beautiful animal, this one was in this category 2 Longhair, all credit to the plodders with this variety, now they really are Longhair. This one had a wealth of fur, the first one I have seen which did have hair under its armpits, my criticism is that it is not a true white as the PEW so they are not out of the wood yet 3 Ridley, Sable, the easiest variety to fault, this one failed on its shoulders 8 wk 8: 1 Jukes, Argente, colours very evenly blended and in first class condition 2 3 Ridley, Sables, really rich under and nicely dark on top 3 just fails slightly under to second AOC Chall ad 28: 1 Hartley 2 Jones 3 B Longbottom 4 Taylor 8 wk 18: 1 2 Hartley 3 Jukes 4 Ridley **AV Grand chall ad 54:** 1 Hartley, Agouti 2 Jones, Argente 3 Heywood, Broken 4 B Longbottom, Chin 8 wk 53: 1 Hallett 2 Hartley, Agouti 3 Heywood 4 H Smith. These last two classes were finally decided by calling in Harry Smith and Ken Morton as each judge favoured his own nomination. Just a final comment, what a lot of bucks are being shown at present. Is this because judges fail does which have test spots showing after rearing a family? ALF HORNE

Mr S Smith's classes

Apart from the winners the rest of the exhibits were only moderate. The main failings were in size and type, especially in selfs. Best self and best in show was Mr and Mrs Hallett's under eight week champagne.

WHITE/CREAM/CHAM Ad 13: 1 Smith, champagne buck, big typy mouse, good colour and condition, just fails under 2 3 Hallett, champagne doe, good colour, moult on head and small 3 PE White doe, very good size and type, biggest mouse in my section but let down by moult on head and belly 8 wk 15: 1 3 Hallett, champagne doe, very good type, condition and colour, best self and best in show 2 Todd, PE White doe, good colour and type, failed condition and not the make-up of winner 3 champagne doe, again good colour, almost equal to winner but moult on head **BLACK/BLUE Ad 5:** 1 2 Reice, blue doe, very good colour down to the toes, evenly carried round on the belly but fails white hairs on top 2 blue doe, equal in colour to winner

but fails light toes 3 Mrs Pearce, blue doe, fails colour to winners 8 wk 6: 1 2 Jukes, black doe, very good colour all round and good feet, odd white hairs near tail root 2 black doe equal colour to winner except for white hairs on the toes 3 Reice, blue doe, good colour on top but fails belly colour and tan vent **AOC SELF Ad 6:** 1 Mrs Pearce, red doe, good top, fair under, fails condition 2 Watt, fawn buck, fails size, colour too pale, especially on the belly 3 Bagshaw, fawn doe, same applies as to the above but had poorer belly colour 8 wk 3: 1 Byworth Stud, red doe, good colour all round 2 Jones, silver buck, good top colour but fails thin belly and moult across the belly 3 Hartley, red doe, pale in colour and fails belly colour **Chall ad 20:** 1 Smith, champagne 2 Reice, blue 3 4 Hallett, champagne 4 white 8 wk 23: 1 4 Hallett, champagnes 2 Todd, white 3 Jukes, black **AV Doe 8 wk 22:** 1 Hallett, champagne 2 Todd, white 3 Hartley, Agouti Stud buck 15: 1 Smith, champagne, wins on size and bone 2 Jones, Argente, good colour, fails size to winner 3 Homelead Stud, champagne Tan, good top and tan, fails tail set, S SMITH

Mr E Kitchen's classes

DUTCH Ad 5: 1 B Longbottom, black, good cheeks, saddle under and stops, fails a little on size and condition 2 Beach, blue, good cheeks, saddle, under and condition, odd stops, could be bigger 3 Whitehouse, Argente, good saddle, under and size, shade heavy cheeks, r pen 262, black, heavy cheeks, odd stops, out under 8 wk 4: 1 Byworth, black, good saddle and stops, shade heavy cheeks 2 Whitehouse, black, not just as good on cheeks, odd stops 3 Maynard, Cinnamon, heavy cheeks, saddle high but ragged, very wild r pen 281, Agouti, dip in saddle, very wild **AOV MARKED AA 5:** 1 2 Heywood, eight spot blue, good placings, shade heavy middle of back 2 seven spot black, light back end 3 Byworth, black, eight spot Even, short of one rump patch

r pen 304, black, eight spot, some brindling Marked chall ad 5: 1 r Heywood, winning Broken, 2 B Longbottom, winning Dutch 3 Beach, blue Dutch r black Broken 8 wk 6: 1 2 3 r Byworth, Dutch 2 Even 3 r Broken Best marked L Heywood's blue Broken; best opposite age, Byworth's Dutch **TAN BLACK/CHOCOLATE Ad 10:** Only one chocolate, 1 Bagshaw, good top and tan, good feet 2 Heywood, good top, fair tan, good feet 3 Cross, chocolate, good top and tan, tan on front feet, small throat spot r pen 124, good top and feet, fails on tan 8 wk 8: one chocolate, (one abs) 1 Heywood, good top and tan, best feet in class 2 Cross, chocolate, good top and tan, fails front feet 3 Todd, good top, fails a little on tan r pen 148, good top, fails a little on feet and tan **BLUE Ad 11:** 1 Bainton, good top, tan and feet 2 3 Clews, good top and feet, shade paler tan 3 equal top and feet r pen 165, tan decided 8 wk 10: 1 2 r Morton, best tan and feet, not finished on top 2 better top, way behind on tan 3 Bainton, equal tan and feet, shade behind on top colour r similar, feet decided **AOC Ad 7:** (one abs) 1 3 Jones, champagne, good top and tan, best feet in class but still tanned 2 Hfggs, silver, best top colour and tan, fails tan ears and feet 3 champagne, fails tan, ears and feet r pen 203, silver, fails tan ears and feet 8 wk 10: (two abs) pens 243, 244 and 247 OD, 1 2 Jones, champagne, lovely top, good tan, good feet, clean ears, went on to win best Tan, but was not duplicated 2 champagne, good top, shade better tan than winner, fails feet and ears 3 Hartley, Agouti, good tan, patchy top r pen 245, champagne, fails tan Tan chall ad 25: 1 Bagshaw, black 2 Heywood, black 3 Jones, champagne r Bainton, blue 8 wk 26: 1 Heywood, black 2 Cross, chocolate 3 Jones, champagne r Morton, blue Best Tan, T Jones's champagne; best opposite age, J Bagshaw's black **AV Doe ad 21:** 1 Hartley, Agouti 2 Heywood; Broken 3 Reice, self blue r Jones, champagne Tan. ERIC KITCHEN

Heavyweight competition for rats

I AM pleased to say that entries are now pouring in for the mouse section of the London Championship show at Alexandra Palace, on November 1. It is very encouraging to learn that many fanciers will be journeying many miles to the show. I am confident that the long trek will be well worth the effort. The whole show is being run by dedicated fanciers whose only concern is in making this a great show for you.

And now as an added attraction, on Saturday there will be a national heavyweight competition—for rats. Mr R Hogarth, Devon, a very keen rat fancier, has offered 5s for the heaviest rat at the show and I will

add 5s to this so the owner for the heaviest rat will get 10s. I will have some scales at the show and I will be weighing the exhibits. Mr Hogarth stipulates that the heaviest rat must not be grossly fat.

Mr Hogarth has also offered 5s each to the following:

Best pink-eyed Japanese any age; best black-eyed Japanese any age; best Irish any colour any age; best unmarked other than pink-eyed white; best marked other than Irish or Japanese any age; best adult pink-eyed white and Mr Hogarth stipulates that the pink-eyed white must be white. ERIC JUKES

Whence came judging panels?

I HAD an enjoyable run to the West Midland Mouse Club's annual trophy show at Walsall on October 4, thanks to Stuart Smith and his Austin A30. During the show I was disappointed to see a 'panel' (or so it appeared) judging one of the sections. By this I mean I saw one or two people sat behind the table with the judge. They, and other people at this side of the table, were passing comments to the judge about the mice on the table.

At one time a mouse was taken off the

table, passed to another member who combed it and returned the mouse to the table to be judged.

Are we having judging panels on some sections? I have not read or heard about it. This was not the only show I have seen it at: I saw it at Carlisle on April 19.

I would like to ask Mr Don Taylor why the Broken, Jandoric King of Clubs, owned by Mr E Kitchen, was not listed among the champions in FUR AND FEATHER of October 2. K MORRIS, Bradford

Mice on exercise wheels

I HAVE just finished reading a book about mink farming, entitled 'Mink On My Shoulder'. Perhaps readers are wondering what mink have in common with mice. Well, the one thing is use of an exercise wheel. Now, although I do not use wheels all the time, I have made use of them for my show stock in the past, for a week or so before a show, as advised by some breeders. After reading this book, however, I have had second thoughts.

The author bought some mink cages with wheels already fixed. He wondered why the mink in these cages did not attain the same size as animals in non wheel cages, so he fixed a mileage clock on one wheel for the night. The morning after, on checking the clock, he found that one solitary animal had run a marathon of fifty miles. I have not noticed such a difference in my stock but it is something to think about.

I don't know if anyone has had a lazy buck before, but I put four does with a buck a fortnight before my annual holiday.

On arrival home and checking my stock, these does were still as slim as ever. The buck just ignored them.

Perhaps, I thought to myself, if I put him in a cage belonging to another buck, the strange smell would brighten his ideas up. On trying this he immediately lashed his tail and led his wives a merry dance until he was exhausted.

One fancier at the annual put forward an interesting point during a discussion at lunch. He did not agree with a remark made in FUR AND FEATHER earlier in the year that I was a novice; a newcomer to the mouse Fancy certainly, he said, but as my husband and I have had some success in exhibiting dogs and tropical fishes we are not novices in breeding and exhibiting livestock. I think he has a point, as many people who have kept and shown one type of animal with some success are likely to do the same in other branches of the Fancy. As gardeners are green fingered perhaps we are fur fingered. Anyway it's an interesting theory. JEAN HALLETT