

MICE

What Though The Feet Were Weary The Hearts Were Light

# BRADFORD BUNIONS

By DICK WARD

SO Bradford show of 1952 is over. Over but not forgotten for a long, long time by the fanciers who were lucky enough to be present. What a show and what a crowd!

One leaves such an event feeling a little dizzy, and suffering from a sort of mental indigestion, the result of trying to see and to do too much in too short a time. It is only after some days that one is able to sort out the impressions received.

If it were possible to look down upon Bradford show from some remote height and to see the crowds assembling like iron filings to a magnet, what a sight it would be.

How they rolled up from north, south, east and west, men and women of every walk of life, but all with one thing in common, that love of small livestock that makes "Bradford" the supreme attraction it is. Surely the crowds this year were bigger than ever. After a time, one felt as if one had been in a cup tie crowd.

It would be better, perhaps, to look on the scene as a disinterested spectator but the trouble is that such a thing at Bradford is a sheer contradiction in terms. Everybody present is interested in the event. Mere males are often inclined to be a little superior about the way the women like a little gossip. This thought passed through my mind on the Saturday as I watched the crowds, and it was with an inward smile that I thought "What a grand, glorious gargantuan gossip," and, mark you, the women were in a minority of, I should say, 20 to one.

It was amazing to watch the crowd as it milled about. Anything from three or four, to a dozen heads, would suddenly group together, looking almost like an extempore prayer meeting. After a few minutes the group would break up, only to cluster together again a few yards away, while the place which had left was taken by another group. This went on continuously and the effect was most striking.

Around the judging tables the position was more settled, especially as the time came near for the challenge classes and the coveted best in show award.

One or two fanciers who were most intently concerned, evidently found the

ordeals too much for them and were to be observed trying to look unconcerned in remote parts of the hall, or fortifying themselves with cups of tea.

It seemed to me that the accents of every county in the land could be heard as I passed the various groups. If the broader vowels, and homely speech of the north seemed to be in the ascendant who should complain at this the north's own show.

How those fanciers love a real good talk. What exchange of memories there were, and what plans for the future were made, and to be truthful, sometimes glowing accounts were heard of the "good ones" left at home that would have done so well if only they had been entered.

Passing among the crowd certain individuals could have been noticed by the keen observer who seemed to be with, but not of the crowd.

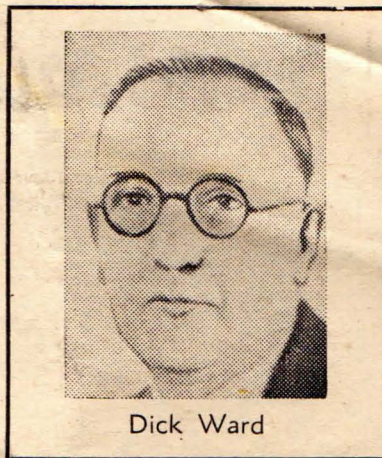
They were of all types, but seemed to have certain characteristics in common, among which were an earnest expression, a gleam in the eyes and usually a little book clutched in one hand. These were the secretaries of various local clubs and societies on the prowl for members old and new, and only too eager to save fanciers the trouble of buying a postal order. Judging from their expressions as the day wore on they had very good hunting.

One of the fashionable ailments of 1951 was "festival feet." I am prepared to wager that an equally fashionable one among fanciers of 1952 will be "Bradford bunions." What though the feet were weary, however, the hearts were light and the day seemed to fly past.

It was pleasant to see one or two old fanciers taking a keen interest, and equally pleasant to hear the interested questions from fanciers who had not yet joined our ranks.

At last the time came to leave and we had to say a reluctant farewell to friends old and new, and another "Bradford" was over.

The winners were delighted with their success, and fervently believed that the judges are the world's best, and the losers, while not quite so sure about the judges, determined like true fanciers to do better next time.



Dick Ward

Walker, Wilf, Baldwin, Charlie Carr, Stan, Dobson, Tom Keers, Walter Coles, A. L. Edmondson, Charlie Beckett, Ezra Skinner, Tom Fitzwater, Joe Otter, Ernie Higgs, Bill Collins, Charlie Peters and Ellis Fletcher. (Their names are legion.)

"The Grimsby crowd, Mrs. Marsden, Bill Horsley, Mrs. Plant, Mr. and Mrs. Ford, along with many others in whose company I have found happiness.

"My own local crowd for instance—Messrs. Simpkins, Wain, Young, Bateman, Kitchen, Birkenshaw, Jowett, Harrison, Stan and Don Taylor, Moorhouse, Richardson, Lumb, Rawnsley, and the rest. Last, but by no means least George Mayes and his son, Derek, who actually introduced me to the mouse fancy and from whom I obtained my first 'thoroughbreds', Chin and Cham. Yes, the mere recital of their names, makes me realise anew, how much I owe the fancy for hundreds of happy hours and for friendships that will last as long as life itself.

"On through autumn, into winter. The club shows kept the ball rolling, and so to the end of another year, a year that to me will be memorable in so many ways.

"To the fancy as a whole, I say, 'Thank you and good luck to you all.' To prospective fanciers, I say, 'Hurry up and join us. You do not know what you are missing. The mouse fancy may be small, but believe me, it is great!'

On Feb. 9th there are two mouse shows, one at Airedale and the other at Hillingdon. Airedale needs no introduction. One of our premier clubs, it can be said that Airedale is setting the ball rolling for the local mouse club shows of 1952. Let it be a "bumper." One knows what to expect from Airedale, attention to detail, prompt payment of guaranteed prize money and "spot-on" efficiency. Will breeders who have not received a schedule, send entries without delay to Mr. C. Simpkins, 30 Belmont Crescent, Shipley, Yorkshire? He will sort them out.

What can we do for our friends at Hillingdon who have recently inaugurated a local mouse club? There will be no less than 27 classes, and the cards will be placed by Messrs. McGree and Nix. Some of the classes will be guaranteed. Here again will fanciers who have not received a schedule, send on entries to Mr. E. N. Smith, 133 Windsor Avenue, Hillingdon, Middlesex? And explode the theory that Northern Fanciers will not, or do not, patronise the Southern shows.

SANDY SHOW

READERS OF FUR AND FEATHER will be pleased to know that, despite very heavy losses over the past two years, and the fact that all cash reserves have been exhausted, it has been decided to hold Sandy show once again. This is possible because a guarantee fund of over £800 has been raised. The date of this year's show will be Thursday, Aug. 28th, and I appeal to fanciers everywhere to lend their support in making the show a success.

There is no doubt that this year is a vital one, and success or failure will set the seal on whether or not future shows will be possible. Arrangements are going swiftly ahead to engage judges, arrange classes, etc., but these will have to be on a reduced scale compared with previous years unless offers of guarantees are forthcoming. It would be a disaster if this well-known classic were allowed to fall through lack of support from the fancy itself, and I ask everyone to give that little bit extra this year, whether it be by way of specials, guarantees, donations or entries. No help, however small, will be refused.

It has always been the custom of the show committee during the whole of its 75 years of existence not to retain any profits which may have been made in any year, but to return them to the following years' shows by way of increased classes and prizes, and I hope fanciers will all reciprocate by giving us extra support during this critical year. The Livestock Committee will be meeting again very shortly and I shall appreciate any offers as early as possible.

W. B. HANFORD,  
Chairman, Livestock Committee, Sandy Show, Sandy, Beds.

## B.R.C. CHALLENGE CERTIFICATES OFFERED

February 13th

Newhaven Open Pen: Angora, Belgian Hare, Dutch, English, Flemish Giant, Him., Polish, Tan, Argente, Bev., Chin., Fox., Chin. Gig., Lilac, N.Z. Red, Satin, S/Pearl, Rex Self, Rex Shaded, Rex Agouti, Rex A.O.V. Three diplomas.

February 16th

Bolton Progressive Open Sweepstake: Dutch, English, Silver, Tan, Polish, A.O.V. Fancy, Sable, Chin., Fox, Rex, A.O.V. Fur. Two diplomas.

Greenford Annual Special A.S.S.: Chin., Chin. Gig., Bev., Sable, Fox, N.Z. Red, Havana, S/Pearl, A.O.V. N. Fur, Dutch, English, Polish, Tan, Neth. Dwarf, Him., A.O.V. Fancy, Rex Self, Rex Shaded, Rex Agouti, Rex A.O.V. Three diplomas.

Hampden Park Open Pen: Belgian, Dutch, English, Flemish, Tan, A.O.V. Fancy, Argente, Bev., Chin., Chin. Gig., Fox, Havana Nor., N.Z. Red, S/Pearl Nor., A.O.V. Nor. Fur, Rex Self, Rex Shaded, Rex A.O.V. Three diplomas.

Ilkeston Open Pen: Silver, Dutch, English, Polish. One diploma.

Nat. Silver Vase Show: Silver Grey, Silver Fawn, Silver Brown. One diploma.

Newport & Dist. Grand Open Pen: Dutch, English, Tan, Silver, A.O.V. Fancy, Rex, Bev., Chin., Argente, Fox, Sable, Havana, S/Pearl. Two diplomas.

Pontefract Open Pen: Dutch, English, Silver, A.O.V. Fancy, Chin., Sable, N.Z. Red, A.O.V. Fur. Two diplomas.

Portsmouth Dockyard: Angora, Flemish, Dutch, Silver Grey, Polish, Tan, Neth. Dwarf, A.O.V. Fancy, Chin. Gig., Bev., Satin, Havana, N.Z. Red, A.O.V. Nor. Fur, Rex Self, Rex Shaded, Rex Agouti, Rex A.O.V. Three diplomas.

West Herts. (Berkhamsted) Open Pen: Belgian, Dutch, English, Polish, Tan, A.O.V. Fancy, Bev., Chin., Fox, Chin. Gig., Havana, N.Z. Red, Sable, A.O.V. Fur, Rex Self, Rex Agouti, Rex A.O.V. Three diplomas.

February 17th

Royston Open Pen: Angora, Belgian, Dutch, English, Flemish, Polish, Silver, Tan, A.O.V. Fancy, Bev., Chin., Havana, N.Z. Red, Siberian, A.O.V. Nor. Fur, Fox, Rex Self, Rex Non-Self. Two diplomas.

## NEWS FROM THE SHOWS

PINCHBECK F. and F.S. will hold its open pen show on June 14th. Will any specialist club secretary who would like to hold a young stock show in conjunction please communicate with Mr. G. Smith, Parson Drove, Pinchbeck, Spalding, Lincs.?

Owing to a mistake Mr. F. Maynard has been advertised as judge at Mid. Bucks. show on Feb. 9th. He will be judging at Hastings on this date.

Mr. Power and Mr. Dowle will judge the rabbit section at Suffolk Agricultural Association's show at Ipswich on June 4th and 5th.

Kirton and Frampton Agricultural show will be held on Aug. 9th. Boston D.F.A. will hold its show on Nov. 1st.

Witham, Silver End D.R.C. will hold shows during 1952 on July 26th, Sept. 20th, Oct. 18th, Nov. 8th, Dec. 13th and Jan. 17th, 1953.

Barlestone D.S.L.S.S. will hold shows on April 15th, July 26th and Nov. 1st.

In order to avoid clashing of shows, will East Anglian secretaries please note that Wymondham F. and F.S. will hold its annual show on Oct. 4th?

The National Tan Club will hold its young stock show at Bedford on July 12th. The All-Tan Show will be held at Coventry on Oct. 18th.

Mid Bucks R. and P.S. will hold open pen shows on Feb. 9th, June 28th, July 5th and Nov. 8th.

Glamorgan County, Cardiff R.C. will hold an open pen show on Sept. 20th. Mr. F. Maynard will judge.

Crook D.H. and L.S.S. will hold a show of rabbits, cavies and mice on Sept. 27th.

Chertsey R.C. will hold shows on March 9th and April 6th.

Peterborough D.E.F.R. and C.S. will hold members' shows on March 15th, May 24th, July 12th, Sept. 6th, Nov. 8th, and table shows on March 6th, April 3rd, May 1st, June 5th, July 3rd, Aug. 7th, Oct. 2nd and Dec. 4th.

Mr. E. H. Woodman will judge at North Herts. on July 12th, not Mr. Wardman as advertised in FUR AND FEATHER.

Eastbourne open pen show will be held on Feb. 16th. Eight cups will be up for competition.

Wigston D.F.S. will hold shows on March 1st, April 5th, July 5th and Dec. 6th.

Burgess Hill, Hassocks, D.F.C. will hold shows on March 1st, July 12th and Oct. 25th.

Mr. Hunt and Mr. R. Wilson will judge at Beccles on March 1st.

Queensbury H.S. will hold shows on March 5th, April 2nd, and May 7th.

## AS I HAVE FOUND IT

Arthur Day writes to the Secretary of the National Mouse Club

By C. H. JOHNSON, hon. sec.  
Highfield, Driffield,  
MOUSE SHOW CALENDAR  
Feb. 9th—Airedale  
Hillingdon  
Feb. 23rd—N.E.M.C. (Shildon).

ONE of my new year resolutions is to let members take a more active interest in National Mouse Club notes by furnishing from time to time articles which will be of interest. The advantages of such a scheme will be three-fold. (1) It will put other people's ideas before our members.

(2) supply the articles in mouse keeping which are so often asked for, and (3) ease my lot as secretary of the N.M.C. Writing comes pretty easy to me, but at times it is nice to have available articles which are, as it may be, ready for publication. With this in mind, I shall welcome articles from members on any topic connected with the mouse fancy, anecdotes, methods of keeping mice, etc.

I would, however, remind my readers that space in FUR AND FEATHER is still limited and, as a consequence, I may not be able to publish all the articles that are sent to me, and in some cases there will probably be a long wait. At all times, shall I want consideration and indulgence, for it must be remembered that a goodly proportion of club notes must of necessity be devoted to current matters, such as championship certificates, cash points competition shows, and so on.

The first article I have for publication is from Mr. A. Day, Keighley. As our premier "mouser" for 1951, could I have decided on anyone better? Here is the article, entitled "As I have found it."

"The advent of the new year made me realise that N.M.C. subscriptions are due once more, and tempted me to review in memory the period that has elapsed since first joining the club.

"I recall, for instance, my first visit to a show, how I arrived during the lunch break and, a perfect stranger, approached a steward and asked if I could see some of the principal varieties.

"I remembered the cheery enthusiasm with which he showed me some of the class winners, the return of the judges, and how I sat beside one of them for the judging of his next class, and his helpful remarks during the process.

"I had to leave after an all too brief hour, and in leaving decided to be back next time as an exhibitor. Due to circumstances beyond my control, this had to be postponed for some months. But the time was far from wasted, as during that period I made the acquaintance of 'Charlie' Simpkins and F. W. Coles, each of whom did his best to teach me the rudiments of 'mousing'.

"Eventually the show did come at which I tried out a mouse or two. What a thrill to obtain a 'second' with a Chinchilla—a second to C. H. Johnson's great champion. Here I made the acquaintance of Dick Ward, then secretary of the N.M.C., and stalwarts, Harry Booth, George Oliver, Reg. Moore, Peter Scott and 'Bob' Mullins.

"Six months passed, all full of interest, then a Calder Valley show, and like a bolt out of the blue, which left me speechless, a best in show. Shall I ever forget it? The congratulations and good wishes showered on me by the assembled experts, 'Fern End', A. F. Erswell, Jim Litterick, Ray Lockwood, the C. V. Quartette, Ernest Day and many others. Yes, it was an occasion to be remembered.

"What next? Ah yes, the Bradford championship show. What a show, what a crowd of mousers—twelve crowded hours, meeting for the first time C. H. Johnson, the present hard-working N.M.C. secretary, J. W. Hustler (late of Shipley), now of Christchurch, the one and only Dick Easley. I would not have missed it for worlds, even if the best I could do was a vhc.

"A few weeks passed and I received an unexpected surprise in the shape of a letter from Mr. Erswell, offering me his stud of Champagnes, an offer which I eagerly accepted, as also his 'follow up' letters crammed with good advice. Incidentally, one of this foundation stock, which I do not think was ever shown by Mr. Erswell, eventually gained a treble championship which is a tribute to his breeding skill and care.

"Visits to club and later agricultural shows followed. What memories are evoked by the names, 'Dusty Miller', 'Oldfellows Hall', Shildon, Wolsingham, Cleethorpes Pier, Heighington, Driffield, Blackpool, Didsbury, and a host of others. Of the friendliness and helpfulness of 'mousers' I met, who previously had been merely names in a show report, Jack Watts, Les