

National Mouse Club Notes and News

IN DEFENCE OF MONTHLY SHOWS WITH SLIDING SCALE PRIZE MONEY

By DICK WARD, 57, Chantry Rd., Sheffield 8

July 16th—Driffield.
July 19th—Barnsley.
July 26th—Stroud.
August 6th—Cartmel.
August 9th—Eccles.
Aug. 22nd—Blackpool.

I AM grateful to Mr. Hignell, of Bristol, for having sent me his views on Ron Beard's recent letter on the subject of monthly shows. That they were a great asset to the Fancy during the war years there is no doubt. My own idea is that it should be possible to run a few of these shows during the slack period so as to keep interest alive. I would value opinions from other fanciers who acted as secretaries at these shows. Mr. Hignell is well known as both a breeder and show secretary and his views should carry weight.

There was a great deal of careful thought and organisation behind the running of these monthly events and one thing alone, to my mind, has not been sufficiently emphasised. This was that they initiated a good many fanciers into the actual running of a show and gave them an insight into a side of the Fancy which perhaps they would otherwise never have known.

When one looks back and realises that through practically all the war years the N.M.C. managed to run a show nearly every month, it is an achievement to be proud of.

Here are Mr. Hignell's views:—
"I am glad to read that Mr. Beard has mentioned the fact of our monthly shows, and I am in agreement that they should never have been dropped. My views on this matter are well known to some of our officials. For the sake of harmony I keep quiet, but after a winter and early spring of no shows, I think the time has come to see that this does not happen again this year.

"My advocacy of monthly shows is based on these advantages. First, we were sure of a show; secondly, we were sure of generous prize money and, thirdly, the shows brought more fanciers together than could have been achieved in any other way.

"The shows were governed by those grand sportsmen, Messrs. Johnson and Jude, as one who ran several of them I can vouch that the work was both a pleasure and an education. I have spoken of generous prize money and I mean it. I am talking about shows which were supported by the members as they should be; then prize money could reach big heights, but even in the very worst of seven entries one had 4/- for 1/-, surely a very fair return. When, in the big classes, one had big prize money, I failed to hear anyone say it was too much.

"To-day we must have guaranteed classes or we will not show, but I often wonder if this spirit is going to get us anywhere. We get a glut of shows in the summer with very few paying. Who proposes to do the guaranteeing? I am afraid that clubs will very soon get tired of that sort of fun. If you want sport and not commercialism, then you must be prepared to pay for it. After all it is a hobby isn't it?

"I hope some steps will be taken to see that shows are put on this winter under the old rules and would suggest that they be held in or near the Midlands. Any small loss could easily be borne by the club. I would also like to suggest that a vote of the members be taken on this matter, so as to give everyone a fair chance to express his view by ballot.—F. A. Hignell."

Mr. Walter Coles, Barnsley, tells me of an interesting experiment he has just carried out. He writes: "About six weeks ago I had three litters of silvers, one litter of six, one of nine, and one of ten. Being rather short of silver stock at the time I thought I would try to rear the lot instead of reducing to about four, my usual practice. At a fortnight old the two does with nine and ten respectively died, literally suckled to death. The two boxes with the youngsters in were brought into the house. After much perseverance Mrs. Coles got the youngsters to drink milk out of a flat tin. At a month old it was a sight to see the youngsters gather round the tin like a lot of young kittens, pushing and shoving for a place and lapping up the milk with great enjoyment.

"It was interesting to compare these large litters with the litter of six brought up in the usual way by the doe. The mice brought up on milk by hand are larger, tippier, and have coats that shine like silk, and are far ahead in every way of those reared by the doe, and I am sending three of them out to show. Which rather goes to show that milk (when we can use it again) is a good thing for mice. My other mice only get bread soaked in water."

As to the value of milk as a food there is no doubt. The trouble these days is that we have to use what we can get hold of. I will remember some years before the war having a trio of Dutch from Mr. C. W. Ford, Devon. They absolutely sparkled with condition, coats glossy as silk and not a hair out of place, a perfect picture. At that time Mr. Ford was feeding on bread soaked in milk. I spent a happy afternoon at Nottingham on June 21st and was highly delighted to see our old friend Bert Jude come back into the limelight by winning B.I.S. with a grand Cham. It was a good win and a very popular one.

We have heard a few tips as a cure for asthma at one time or another, but I heard a new one at Nottingham. This came from Mr. Stanley, Ilkeston, who mentioned casually that he had a box of mice which were "whistling" and noticed one night that there were no signs of any trouble and they were apparently cured. On investigation it turned out that the box they were in had had a candle stuck on it which had guttered into the box and the mice had eaten the wax. "Bert" asked if it would be better to give them the candle light. All leg-pulling aside however, there may be something in it and

for the sake of a candle end it is worth trying.

Mr. Harry Booth wishes me to thank all members for their mark of confidence in the recent ballot, and to assure them that he will do his best for the Fancy in the future as he has done in the past.

TORTOISE AND WHITE CAVY BREEDERS MEET AT BATLEY

(Continued from front page)
specials. (Mr. J. B. Wilkins has already given two silver medals and Mr. Metcalfe guarantees the 5-patched classes.)

JUDGES' REPORTS OF THE SHOWS

BATLEY

Batley agricultural show was held on June 26th. The weather was sultry and thundery, causing the chances of several good cavies to be smothered by excessive sweating. Best in show was Mr. Milton Baxter's White boar.

Entries were not bad considering a late season. The staging was perfect, and with such a capable band of stewards the tent was opened to the public in good time.

Mr. J. Ainley's Classes

BELGIAN.—B, 5: 1, and C.C., spl. best Hare and N.B. Hare Club spl., Cooper, long raking fellow, sound feet and well furnished sides; 2 Popplewell, not length of winner and rather choppy behind; 3 Tindell, fine bone, sound colour, short in couplings; r Rothery; vhc Watson. **DOE.** 4: 1 Watson, stylish doe, sound colour, going a bit on ears and rough on sides; 2 Hudson, built on stronger lines and fails feet; 3 Popplewell, short in front and dull on top; r Loynd. **B. OR D.** 4 MTHS. 3: 1 Brown, nice shape and well arched, hardly up in colour; 3 Ormond, shown rough and moult; 2 Poplewell, B. OR D. 4 MTHS. 7: 1, spl. best young Hare and N.B.H. Club spl., 2, vhc, hc Ellis, buck leading with doe 2nd, look like one litter and very promising; r pen 12f; c pen 12g. **SILVER.**—GREY, 4: 1 and C.C., Armstrong, good undercolour, sound chest and feet and flyback coat; 2 Watson, fails chest; 3 Newbank, soft in coat; r Smith. **A.C.** 5 MTHS. 5: 1 Newbank, grey, sound on toes and colour, wants to finish; 2 Watson, grey, fails chest; 3 Whistler, soft in coat; r Craven; vhc Smith. **ENGLISH** (amalg.)—10: 1 Carr, tortoise, nice head, one side very good, a bit plain other; 2 Lill, blue, fails one eye circle, rather plain one side; 3 Mastin, black, rather heavy one side and heavy one eye circle; r Bridge and Cunningham, grey; vhc Fairclough; hc Pety; c pen 29a. 5 MTHS. (amalg.), 11: 1 and C.C., spl. best English, Taylor, sound coloured blue, hard to fault; 2 Mastin, tort.; 3 Bainbridge, black; r Naylor; vhc Pety; hc Rothery; c Froggatt. **DUCK** (amalg.)—12: 1, C.C. and spl. best Dutch, Taylor, sound cobby black, nicely balanced; 2 pen 45a, steel, close, moult on back; 3 Russell, pale grey; r Garratt; vhc Brown; hc Wright; c Barder and Son. 4 MTHS. (amalg.), 17: 1 pen 51a, black, hard to fault and went on to win in duplicates; 2 Parrott, steel; 3 r Smith, vhc Brown; hc pen 50a; c Horton; pen 46 believed too developed.—**JOE AINLEY.**

Mr. H. Trigger's Classes

AGOUTI, GOLDEN.—11: 1 Asquith, put down to the minute, feet not quite through; 2 Orange, splendid type, even, beaten chest; 3 Lane, good young boar, not ready for adult classes; r Watson; vhc Simpson; hc Plant; c Smith. **SILVER.**—12: 1 Ramsden, even, good feet and chest, slightly out on back; 2 Brooke and Craven, beaten chest, otherwise nice; 3 Smith, best type, damp under; r Green; vhc Turner; hc Smith; c Carter. **A.O.C.** 4 (all Cinnamons): 1 Smith, well-known pig; 2 Lodge, beaten jaw; 3 Fawcett Bros., needs grooming, beaten condition; r Green. **BREEDERS.**—13: 1 Asquith; 2 Ramsden; 3 Green; r Lodge; vhc Turner; hc Plant; c Carter. **CHALL.** 11: 1 Asquith; 2 Ramsden; 3 Green; r Turner; vhc Smith; hc Plant; c Waite. **HIM.**—7: 1, 2 Hurry, good, leader wins on feet; 3 Fawcett Bros., dense points, beaten body colour; r hc Jackson; vhc Hardy; c Critchley. 4 MTHS. 5: 1, 2 Hurry, winner a little gem; 3 Hardy, beaten density and body colour; r Fawcett Bros.; hc Critchley. **ABYS.** 1, AND W.—9: 1, r Beverley, good formation and ridges; 2 Foster, little open in coat; 3 Pateman, shade flat on shoulder, otherwise nice; vhc Brooke and Craven; c Brooke and Craven. 4 MTHS. 3: 1 Surtees, good placement, harsh coat; 2 Brooke and Craven, shade soft in coat; 3 Pateman, nice, pity it has a double rosette. **A.O.C.** 7: 1 Barnes, good ridges and rosettes; 2 Foster, close, shade soft in coat; 3 Orange, fails slightly on rump; r Surtees; vhc Billing; hc Simpson; pen 260. 4 MTHS. 4: 1 Foster, Red, typical, well set up; 2 Brooke and Craven, beaten placement of rosettes; 3 Billing, nice white, bit soft in coat; r Badcock. **DUTCH.**—A.C. 5: 1 Orange; 2, r Mallinson; 3 Kershaw; vhc Watson. Mr. Metcalfe helped me out by judging the Dutch classes but unfortunately I omitted to take any notes of the exhibits. 4 MTHS. 5: 1 Brock; 2, r Kershaw; 3 Lane; vhc Mallinson. **T. AND W.**—9: 1 Orange, best distribution and condition and neatest patches; 2 Mallinson, good placing and condition; 3 Mallinson, clean out, good colour, beaten head; r Brooke and Craven; vhc Smith; hc Mallinson; c Smith and Son. **BREEDERS, A.V. EXCEPT SELF AND AGOUTIS.** 6: 1, 3 Foster; 2 Orange; r Surtees; vhc Brooke and Craven; hc Simpson. 4 MTHS. 5: 1 Surtees; 2 Foster; 3, r Brooke and Craven; vhc Pateman. **CHALL.** A.V. **BAR SELF AND AGOUTI.** 6: 1, r Surtees, Peruvian; 2, 3 Orange; vhc Brooke and Craven; hc Wilson. **GRAND CHALL.** 18: 1 Asquith; 2 Ellershaw and Redhead; 3, hc

Sweepstake Shows.—It was agreed that the club should not support sweepstake shows.

Missing Cups.—The secretary reported that the Novice cups and one of the Summer cups were still missing. Until they are recovered or arrangements made to replace them it was agreed that these cup offers be held in abeyance. If anyone can help in tracing them I shall be extremely grateful. Or if anyone would like to replace them the club would say a big "Thank You." Personally, I wish we could replace the Novice Cup. It was at least something for our "novices" to look forward to.

Thanks were given to all who helped in any way. The meeting was one of the best we have had. Though many had differing opinions they all expressed them in a very friendly way and reasoned resolutions were agreed to in true fancier spirit.

New members are still joining us, but we have no limit to our membership, so you "Tortie" fans come along your "five bob" and make yourself one of the "elect." Don't miss any of the many specials we are offering.—F. F. Rogers, 55, Station Road, Featherstone, Pontefract, Yorks.

CATS

COLOUR OF THE RED TABBY

By Cyril Yeates

MANY people think it was wrong to change the name from Orange to Red, arguing that all other tabbies—Silver, Brown, and Blue—take their name from the ground colour and not the colour of the stripes. Others say that a good Red Tabby should be two shades of red, and so to call them orange would be wrong. This is true of the Eastbury strain of reds, but few others could claim to have a red ground colour. However, the G.C.C.F. decided that breed No. 9 is to be Red Tabby, so Red Tabby it is.

As I pointed out when writing on Red Selfs in the early stud books, Self and Shaded Reds and Red Tabbies were entered under the general term Reds or Orange, and as at the shows, the classes were also for Reds or Oranges, it is difficult to say, with any certainty, which cats were Self or Shaded, and which Tabby.

It wasn't until 1909 that the National Cat Club gave separate classes for Orange Tabbies and Orange Self or Shaded. The winning cats that day were Mrs. Slingsby's Aquila of Thorpe (by Ch. Red Eagle of Thorpe ex Donna Roma), and Mrs. Forsythe Forrest's Orange Marmalade (by Ch. Kew Red Spider ex Goldie).

In the early years of the present century two names stand out, Ch. Kew Red Comyn, and Ch. Kew Red Spider, litter brothers by Ch. Blue San Toy ex Kew Gipsy, born in 1905, and owned and bred by Mr. Frank Norris, who was judging at the N.C.C. show last January, and is one of the oldest members of the Cat Fancy.

When Miss Frances Simpson judged these two cats in 1910, she wrote of Red Comyn, "grand shape, size, bone and eye, extra rich in colour, well marked, in grand form," and of Red Spider "richer in colour, A.I. markings, nice coat and bone, loses in head. Two beautiful cats which appear to get better almost with age."

Of Mrs. Corner's Zia of Eversley (a daughter of Ch. K. Red Comyn), who won in females at that same Palace Show, Miss Simpson wrote "big heavily coated queen, rare bone, nice head and eye, falls a bit in colour."

To go back a year, two other famous cats were first and second in males. They were Mrs. Slingsby's Aquila of Thorpe, and Ch. Red Eagle of Thorpe. Of Aquila, Mr. Mason wrote, "Best eye markings and coat, nice brush and frill," and of his sire, Red Eagle, "Shade richer in colour, fine head and limbs, beaten eye and brush."

Of the latter's daughter, Marmalade, who also won that day, the judge wrote, "Very level and sound in colour, but a shade pale, good in head and shape, nice frill." Ch. Red Eagle of Thorpe was a fine cat and a very successful sire. He was by Squire of Benwell ex Benwell Queen and bred by Mr. Hall. Other successful cats of that period were Algette of Thorpe by Ch. Red Eagle of T. out of the lovely tort. and white Ch. Rosette of Thorpe, Swinton Tally Ho, Kew Sunbeam, a son of Ch. Kew Red Spider, and Mrs. Forsythe Forrest's pair, Ch. Torchlight and Lovelight by Sandy Dandy ex Orange Marmalade.

Mrs. Moore's Ch. Holmfeld Mandarin (Ch. Medo Infinite ex Dally), Ronaldkirk Jackal (Ch. R. Admiral ex Pearlina), and the Hon. Mrs. McLaren Morrison's Silverdale Turbine (Puck ex Honey), and Wynnstay Blazer by Ch. Kew Red Comyn, were all big winners but I have no means of telling whether they were Tabbies, Shaded or Selfs.

"NOS AMIS LES CHATS"

THE delightful and instructive book, "Nos Amis Les Chats," has reached me from the author, M. Marcel Reney. It is most clearly written and will be very helpful both to novices and to older breeders, and will indeed be a "friend" to all cat breeders.

Monsieur Reney goes fully into all details of health and the care of the young kittens from birth and throughout their lives. Long and short hair breeds are all catered for, and there are many charming photographs of Seine, French and English cats.

Two delightful studies of Mrs. J. M. Fisher's Tiger Tim of Hadley, and Ursula of Hadley, show the lovely marking of the Brown Tabby. There is also a lovely picture of Champion Mint of Hadley, a cream of exceptional type and colour. Unfortunately Mrs. Lantenoise lost him last year. The difficulty of feeding him during the war was the main cause of his death.

A picture of Mrs. Chamonin's Champion Talisman de la Chronaie, a good blue Persian which has never been beaten, is on the cover of this book. It does not show him at his best. He is indeed a very lovely creature of the palest blue, and carries a wealth of coat of finest texture, tiny ears, and excellent tone.

"Nos Amis Les Chats" will be of the greatest interest and help to many breeders. I am delighted to have a copy.

KATHLEEN YORKE.

Mrs. Elsie Hart, secretary of the Siamese Cat Club will, from July 14th, be living at Tye Cottage, Frog Grove Lane, Wood Street, Guildford, Surrey.

Mr. Cyril Yeates will judge the cat section at Wombwell show on July 26th, support for which has been granted by the Notts. and Derby Cat Club and the Governing Council of the Cat Fancy.

In this issue appears particulars of the North Kent F.F.S. show. Owing to delay in post this advertisement reached us too late for inclusion in our last week's issue. Because of this, late entries will be accepted, provided time is allowed for dispatch of rail labels. Secretary Vic. Tate asks for the cooperation of all exhibitors.

Surtees; r, c Orange; vhc Yates and Waterhouse.—**H. TRIGGER.**

Mr. S. W. Elkington's Classes

Mr. Baxter's White boar was adjudged best cavy in show after a tussle with Mr. Asquith's Golden sow. Mr. M. Sharp was asked to give his deciding vote and he cast the dice in favour of the White boar. Apart from a trifle stained belly it was in ideal condition and was well worthy of the award. Several Northern exhibitors were present and distinguished themselves. A feature of the show was that I did not have an empty pen or one exhibit considered over age for young classes.

SELF, BLACK.—8: 1, c Ellershaw and Redhead, sow, wonderful colour and condition, hard as a brick, was reserve to White boar for best Self in show; 2 Asquith, sow, not far behind; 3 Waterhouse, boar, nice colour and condition, not developed yet; r Foster, nice shape and condition, hardly as good colour in sides; vhc Plant; hc Hinchcliffe. 4 MTHS. 14: 1 Ridley, sow, not big but full of quality, sound colour; 2 Hinchcliffe, bold eyes, nice colour, close; 3 Ellershaw and Redhead, sow, good colour, fails head and shoulder; r, c Noble; vhc Orange; hc Smith; this was a very good class except that many without cards had long coats and white hairs, which is a bad sign in a younger. **WHITE.**—14: 1 and best in show Baxter, best boar seen for some time, wonderful depth of shoulders and as hard as nails; 2 Whitfield, pure white, boar, hard to fault, both these boars a credit to their sex; 3, c Yates and Waterhouse, sow, very small and compact, nice texture, not big enough; r, vhc Atkinson; hc Orange. 4 MTHS. 7: 1 Baxter, sow, baby, lovely colour and shape; 2, hc Yates and Waterhouse, sow, nice colour and condition, beaten only boldness of eyes; 3 Atkinson, sow, nice, not such well shaped head; r Whitfield; vhc Harris and Sayers; c Orange. **BEIGE.**—4: 1, 2, 3 Brooke and Craven; r Baden-Turner, placed according to colour chart of E.S.C.C. 1st and 2nd nice shade; 3rd and 4th appeared to have been sweating and coats were rough, showing undercolour. 4 MTHS. 5: 1, 2, r Brooke and Craven, correct shade, nice level colour; 2nd darker head and fails shape; 3 Waterhouse, a bit too dark. **A.O.C.** 6: 1, r Orange, Cream sows, nice colour and good condition; 2 Lark, Choc, sow, rich undercolour, fails depth of shoulder; 3 Baxter, Cream, sow, fails levelness on head and shoulders; vhc Plant; hc 206a. 1 MTHS. 3: 1 Hollingworth, Choc, sow, nice colour and condition; 2 Baxter, Cream, level, longer face; 3 Hollingworth, Choc, sow, good colour, fails shape. **BREEDERS.** 16: 1 Baxter; 2 Ellershaw and Redhead; 3 Orange; r Whitfield; vhc Brooke and Craven; hc 206; 2 Lark; this was my hardest class to decide the premier places. 4 MTHS. 16: 1 Baxter; 2 Ellershaw and Redhead; 3 Brooke and Craven; r Yates and Waterhouse; vhc Noble; hc Atkinson; c Waterhouse. **SELF CHALL.** 18: 1 Baxter; 2 Ellershaw and Redhead; 3 Orange; hc Yates and Waterhouse; vhc Waterhouse; hc Whitfield; c Baxter. 4 MTHS. 13: 1 Baxter; 2 Hinchcliffe; 3 Ellershaw and Redhead; r Noble; vhc Waterhouse; hc Atkinson; c Harris and Sayers.—**G. W. ELKINGTON.**

AGOUTI CAVY CLUB YOUNG STOCK SHOW
The entry was fairly good but stock was only moderate and more attention will have to be paid to grooming. Golden sows were not too good, and sows were far better than the boars; worst faults were chests and belly colour, and some had odd feet. Silver boars were better than the sows; chests and odd feet were the worst faults. Cinnamons were very good indeed, and they have improved. The best Agouti was shown by a new member, Mr. G. A. Brach; it was a good Silver boar.—**J.S.**

Mr. J. Smith's Classes

GOLDEN B.: 1 Wilson, won on colour; 2 Reynolds, beaten colour and head; 3 Pipe, many red hairs, beaten chest and feet; r Turner, too dark; vhc Lane; hc Sowerby. **SOW:** 1 Simpson, nice shape and colour, good condition; 2 Reynolds, nice shape and colour, beaten feet; 3 Collett, nice colour and chest, not ready yet; r Lane, nice but too long in coat; vhc Milner; hc Carter; c Smith and Son. **SILVER BOAR:** 1 Brach, grand all round, fit; 2, r Lodge, nice, just beaten chest; r nice, very under; 3 Duffton, beaten coat; vhc Ramsden; hc Turner; c Pipe. **SOW:** 1 and 2 Lodge, nice, light hind feet; 2 fails chest; 3 Waite, fails chest, sides and eye circle. **CINNAMON BOAR:** 1 Cooper, nice all round, fit; 2 Green, grand, would have won if it had been older, grand colour; 3 Reynolds, nice, long coat; r Lodge. **SOW:** 1 Reynolds, nice all round, dark in colour; 2 Lodge, better colour but beaten chest and feet; 3 Green, fails chest and eye circle; r Carter. **BREEDERS (GOLDEN):** 1 Simpson; 2 Wilson; 3 and r Reynolds; vhc Collett; hc Lane; c Pipe. **(SILVER):** 1 Lodge; 2 and r Reynolds; 3 Duffton; vhc Waite; hc Lodge; c Turner. **CHALL. BOAR:** 1 Brach; 2 (Continued on following page).