

NAT. MOUSE CLUB NOTES AND NEWS

"FILL THE GAP" SHOWS SECRETARY'S PLAN FOR KEEPING A SEQUENCE OF EXHIBITIONS

By C. H. JOHNSON, hon. sec., Highfield, Driffield.

MOUSE SHOW CALENDAR
March 22nd—Driffield
April 5th—Fallsworth.

I DO not know what other people think, but I think we could do with more mouse shows. Just imagine, there is not a solitary mouse show in between Calder Valley on March 1st, and Fallsworth on April 5th a gap of five weeks. This indeed is far too long. Mice do not last a long time, and an eight weeks "flyer" may, in a period of five weeks, have passed forward to the adult stage and, therefore, be denied a chance of showing its paces in an under eight weeks class. We have also to consider the mouse with four first prizes to its credit and, therefore, only wanting one more for a championship. Anything may happen in five weeks and a mouse may go "right off," whereas just another show may bring a coveted ch. certificate into the hands of an anxious fancier. Apart from the foregoing, we want to keep our mice active and on the "go." We do not want to keep them at home. Shows are the life-blood of a Fancy and without them fanciers tend to lose interest and go stagnant. Five weeks of inactivity, and our mice eating their heads off without a show. It is too ridiculous for words.

I contend the mouse Fancy can at present stand a show a week, and this must be the aim from now on. Definitely we should not have to wait more than two weeks for a show. How can such a plan be accomplished, I can hear members ask? By a series of shows sponsored by the N.M.C. of a similar character to those which I ran during the war. The shows to which I refer are, of course, the war-time president's shows. Without any ego, I think it can safely be said that the president's shows were a great boon to the mouse Fancy during those trying days, and did much toward keeping the mouse flag flying.

Our older members will remember the shows in question, and for the benefit of our newer members, I would briefly explain how they functioned. First, I called for sub-secretaries who would briefly explain a show. Between us, we fixed a date and a show was advertised. The sub-secretary then got busy finding a suitable showroom and fixing up his judges.

In the meantime, will have purchased the necessary show stationery and this in good time will be sent on to the sub-secretary. The show stationery is purchased in bulk, say, twelve or fifteen lots, made up into parcels sufficient for one show. By this method, the full benefit of quantity buying is obtained.

As the day of the show grows nearer, an advertisement is inserted in FUR AND FEATHER. Reference to the show is made in my club notes. The sub-secretary receives the entries, organises the event, pays the prize money and prepares a balance sheet. A report is then submitted to me, together with a copy of the balance sheet and what money there is in hand. From the money in hand, I pay for the show secretary and advertisement; putting the remainder, if any, to the funds of the N.M.C. If by any chance there is a loss, the N.M.C. will, of course, be responsible for same.

I agree that the scheme herewith proposed does not as yet have the approval of the committee, but I shall put the matter before them at the next meeting, which will be held at Rotherham on April 19th. In the meantime, I shall make myself responsible for the cost of the shows. I am inclined to think that the scheme will meet with the unanimous approval of the committee and members, for when all is said and done, we shall in this way disburse club funds in an admirable manner. I do not, however, anticipate that the club will be called upon to make up any real deficiency, for let it be remembered that, at the war-time president's shows, I made a profit of almost £30, which was, at the end of the series, handed over to the N.M.C. for general distribution. If, therefore, by my scheme, I eat up some club funds, it can be said that I am only using money which I myself put there.

The response of members to the war-time president's shows was wonderful. I shall expect the same response on this occasion, for are they not our shows? It is, therefore, up to us to patronise them. We must see they are a success in all senses of the word.

SUMMARISED: Some worthy member does the work and the N.M.C., if necessary, finds the money.

The shows will be called "Fill-the-Gap" shows. I propose about twenty-four open classes with six duplicates, making thirty

in all, with two judges. The judges will be kept as local as possible in order to save expense, and they will be expected to give their services free of charge for the good of the cause. Prize money will generally be 6/-, 4/-, 2/-, 1/-, with additional prize money for the grand challenge classes. This, as yet, has not been decided upon. Classes of less than seven entries will, in accordance with club rule, be amalgamated, but not with classes of more than eight entries. Apart from the aforementioned amalgamations, prize money will be guaranteed. The shows will count in the cash points competition. Donations and specials will be specially welcomed.

To suit the action to the deed, and set an example, I will run the first "fill-the-gap" show on Saturday, March 22nd, at Driffield. I may have to get someone to assist me with the entries and prize money, but that is by the way. A "fill-the-gap" show will definitely be held at Driffield on March 22nd, and members can be getting ready to let me have a bumper entry.

Everything at present is sketchy and hurried, but later on we shall settle down to routine. I shall have a list of members willing to run a show and, as I see a gap, or gaps, I shall, as it may be, fill them in. We can, by this method, then have a continuity of shows from one end of the year to the other. Our sub-secretaries need not, of course, be individuals only. The shows can be run by a local mouse club. I know that our local mouse clubs have a set schedule, but possibly to fill a gap they can run another event.

With this advice, will members who would be willing to help me with my plan please let me have their names? I shall be very grateful indeed, and thank them in anticipation.

Winners at Shildon

(North-Eastern Mouse Club Show)

North-Eastern Mouse Club held its show at Shildon on Feb. 23rd. Total entries were 460. Mr. Peter Scott (secretary) got us away to a good start, and all the stock was fed and on the way home by 4.30 p.m. Many thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Moore for a pleasant weekend spent with them at West Auckland. Also my thanks to Mr. Mawson and Mr. Wilson, my stewards.

SELF.—WHITE. 14: 1 Johnson, big doe, good colour; 2 Skinner, good doe, close up, beaten finish; 3 Wyatt, new name, good effort. 8 WKS. 13: 1, 2 Downs, both easy winners; 3 Skinner, black eye, beaten colour. **BLACK.** 11: 1 Harrison, buck, good under and condition; 2 Evans, buck, beaten finish; 3 E. Day, beaten size and under. 8 WKS. 10: 1 Moore, only young but extra good colour; 2 Baldwin, doe, very good closeup; 3 E. Day, buck, well up to age, will improve. **CHAM. OR FAWN.** 16: 1 Marriott, cham., excellent condition, was best in show; 2 Longbottom, very good, up against it; 3 Marsden, well done Terry (among the cracks). 8 WKS. 10: 1 A. Day, typy doe, a bit dark; 2 Walker, close up, may win next time out; 3 Watts, fawn, beaten under. **A.O.C.** 15: 1 Moore, cream buck, good win; 2 Watts, red, very good, a bit small; 3 Butterfield and Son, choc., best under seen for a long time. 8 WKS. 13: 1 Watts; blue, good colour, clear win; 2, 3 Moore, both creams, will be heard of again. **CHAM., SILVER OR TAN.**—15: 1 Marriott, cham., good win; 2 A. Day, cham., beaten top and tan; 3 Ashley and Kenyon, cham., dark top, good tan. **STUD BUCK.** 24: 1 Evans, good self black, fit for any stud; 2 A. Day, black and tan, very close up; 3 Moore, cream, little to choose (three good mice). **JUVENILE.** 17: 1 Low, a really good ox, will win open classes; 2 Marsden, cham., another good one, close; 3 Harris, self black, moulty face held it back. **GRAND CHALL.** 45: 1 Marriott, a real point getter; 2 Foulds, agouti, very good, up against it; 3 Moore, cream, close to 2nd. 8 WKS. 48: 1 Watts, blue, very good win; 2 No name; 3 A. Day, self cham. Specials.—Best in show: Mr. and Mrs. Marriott. N.M.C. Specials.—Best Self, best Tan, Marriott; best Marked, Dobson; best A.O.V., Johnson.—C. SIMPKINS

Mr. T. Keers' Classes

Quality was good generally, but one or two varieties require improvement. Thanks to my admirable stewards, Mr. Belderby and Mrs. Cooper.

TAN.—A.C. 14: 1 Moore; 2 Ashley and Kenyon; 3 Ridley. 8 WKS. 12: 1 Moore; 2 Ashley and Kenyon; 3 Longbottom. **DUTCH.**—14: 1 Scott; 2 Butterfield and Son; 3 Gregory. **EVEN OR CROKEN.—A.A.** 14: 1 Dobson; 2 Skinner; 3 Garwood. **AGOUTI.**—13: 1 Foulds; 2 Higgs; 3 Butterfield and Son. 8 WKS. 8: 1 Cooper; 2 Sowerby; 3 Watts. **A.O.V.** 19: 1 Johnson; 2 Low; 3 Lumb. 8 WKS. 12: 1 Ridley; 2 Carr; 3 Marsden. **DOE.** 22: 1 Marriott; 2 Foulds; 3 Moore. **N.E.M.C. MEMS.** 30: 1 Moore; 2 Cooper; 3 Moore. **PRESENTATION.** 34: 1 Marriott; 2 Foulds; 3 Moore. Best Marked, Dobson; best A.O.V., Johnson.—T. KEERS.

CAVY CORNER

Conducted by

C. V. B. TAYLOR
16, Buile Hill Drive,
Salford, 5.

"I HAVE visited several cavy shows during the past two years," writes Mr. S. J. Jones, "and have followed with particular interest the awards in Himalayans, as I was at one time a prominent exhibitor in this variety, and may 'return to the fold' in the near future.

"To me it appears that breeders and judges have different views as to what is required in the ideal Himalayan. These differences of opinion on the various values of the allotted points in the show standard of 'the darkies' has made me wonder at times if judges are placing the pigs according to their own particular ideas. Some judges will not tolerate a Himalayan that is not pure in body colour, no matter how dense the markings may be. Others go 'the whole hog' for density of nose, feet and ears, irrespective of a smoky or dirty yellow body colour. Surely this is all wrong."

While agreeing with my correspondent's remarks to a certain extent, my own opinion is that not enough points are allowed for the purity of the body colour. I consider that the white is one of the greatest assets of the Himalayan, whereas, that yellow tinge detracts from the lovely contrast.

At the same time I do not want to convey the impression that a Himalayan with a white body colour and pale markings should head the class. But it should be reasonably pure white, combined with density of points, with a well-shaped body and head. These two points have shown wonderful improvement in recent years.

If we breed for density of markings alone it will only lead to deterioration in what is otherwise a lovely variety. I am fully convinced that no lover of the Himalayan wants them approaching the Self black or Siamese in body colour.

A Norfolk fancier writes, "I have a red Dutch sow which had a litter of five, and all went well till the youngsters were about six weeks old. Then one day I saw two of them dart round and round the hutch as though they were terribly afraid. They suddenly rolled over on their sides, and one died immediately. The other 'came round' in about a couple of minutes, and started eating with the others. But the next day two more jumped around and both died. Can you suggest the cause of this sudden illness?"

It appears to me that death was due to a fit or convulsion which may have been caused through sudden fright, or the cavies may have been too closely in-bred. The feeding mentioned by my correspondent is on the usual lines, and could hardly have accounted for these happenings.

In reply to Mr. F. J. Campion, young cavies should be sex separated when not more than five weeks old. It is not safe to leave boars and sows together after this age, for young boars are often very precocious, and cases are not uncommon where the dam has proved in kindle again by leaving a young boar with her too long. Young sows, may, of course, be left with their mother for a longer period if necessary.

AROUND THE CLUBS

PERUVIAN CAVY CLUB

I HOPE that all members will have had their ballot papers. Please use your votes and return your papers to Mr. C. Wilson, secretary of the English Self Cavy Club, who has offered to act as scrutineer for us.

If the club is going to stage the young stock and adult stock shows together this year, the question is: which month? It mustn't be too late because of the young stock show section, so I shall put down several months on the ballot paper. Please vote for the month you think will be best to hold the show. The months which receive most most will be show months, provided we can get some society to stage it.

I was sorry to hear from Mr. Field whose son John owned treble champion Violet Elizabeth, that they had had to give up all their stock. This is sad, as we can ill afford to lose such a good member. There are still a few members who haven't paid their 1952 subscriptions, and we still want more new members.—Miss M. Castleman Brown, hon. sec. and treas. The Dell, Otham, near Maidstone

SOUTH WEST OF ENGLAND CAVY CLUB

THE special for best cavy exhibited by a member who join the West of England Cavy Club for the first time at Cullompton, show was won by Mr. V. Bennett.

The club's books have been audited, and on behalf of the club I have sent letters to Messrs. Hocking and Taylor thanking them for their services.

A club special of 2/6 for best cavy and two certificates of merit have been offered for Coalville show on April 5th. The judge will be Mr. G. R. Lodge, and prize money 10/-, 6/-, 3/- (guaranteed).

Many more new members are required. I shall be pleased to receive subscriptions as

soon as possible.—Gordon C. Tremear, 16, The Crescent, Bude, Cornwall.

SOUTHERN CAVY CLUB
WELCOME to new members to the Southern Cavy Club, Mr. Martin, Chichester, Hants.; and Master French, Haywards Heath, Sussex.

I was pleased to see several exhibits from the south win at the Bradford Championship show. Among them were Mrs. Edward's Double Ch. Hillcrest White Poppy and Miss Castleman Brown's two Peruvian. Both these exhibitors won their National Cavy Club breed trophies. Other prominent winners were Mr. Gilbert's Abyssinian, Mr. Tremear's Golden Agouti, and Mr. Treveal's young Beige. Congratulations to the above members and also to the following members, who were well to the fore at this great classic: Messrs. Billing, Hustler, Lawrence and Mr. Matthews with a much admired Self Red. A double championship certificate has been awarded to Mrs. Edward's Ch. Hillcrest White Poppy for wins at Strood (Blake), West Malling (Bareham), Southern Cavy Club A.S.S. (Radeglia), Redhill (Armes), Bradford National Cavy Club A.S.S. (Elkington).

Mr. Wright has been granted a championship certificate for his Tortoise and White Abyssinian for wins at Willenden (Armes), Hertford (Armes), Wickford (Blake), Enlo (Lawrence), Enlo (Blake).

Certificates offered at shows have been won as follows. Western Championship Show best Self, Mr. Treveal; best member's Non-Self, Mr. Tremear, Medway Towns, best adult, Miss Castleman Brown; best young, Mrs. Edward. Diploma best cavy at the Saffron Walden table show was awarded to Master Brooks.

Will members please note Mr. Saunders' change of address to Hut 2, Whitebridge Camp, Weybridge, Addlestone, Surrey. Subscriptions 5/- per year; partnerships 8/-, juveniles, under 16 years 2/6 per year.—Miss Radeglia, Hon. Sec. and Treasurer, 7, Dorking Road, Epsom, Surrey. Tel.: Epsom 9208.

DURHAM AND NORTHUMBERLAND CAVY CLUB

THE Durham and Northumberland Cavy Club will hold its young stock show at Chester-le-Street (Durham County), on Aug. 2nd, with W. Vickers as judge. The adult stock show will be at Shildon on Sept. 27th, with Joe Ridley as judge. I hope that all cavy fanciers will give these judges, who are breeder-judges, record entries.

The club's financial position is good. A hearty invitation is extended to all cavy fanciers in our counties who are not members to join at once. Subscriptions are 5/-, joint membership 8/- per year.

Officials for 1952 are: President, Mr. J. Appleby. Vice-president, Mr. W. Pipe. Committee: Joe Ridley, Jack Ridley, J. Smith, G. Lane, R. Graham, W. Vickers, W. Sowerby, F. Wharton. Judges: J. Appleby, W. Denning, W. Vickers, W. Pipe, Joe Ridley, R. Graham. Judges: Y.S.S., W. Vickers; A.S.S., Joe Ridley.

I regret the delay in publication of these notes which has been due to the recurrence of an old complaint which also kept me away from Bradford show.—W. T. Dinning, sec. & treas., 39, Albert Road, Consett.

YORKSHIRE CAVY CLUB

MR. C. J. WILSON will judge Self classes Mr. J. Jenkinson Agoutis and marked varieties, and Mr. H. Craven the Y.C.C. members and Mrs. Yates Memorial classes, at the Yorkshire Cavy Club show on April 5th. There will be 39 classes in the full classification, and several specials have already been promised. Among them are 10/- each best Self adult, best young Self and best intermediate Self, by Mr. R. Tetlow; 5/- best in show by Mr. H. Craven; 2/6 best adult Agouti, 2/6 best young Agouti, by Mr. G. R. Lodge; a silver spoon to the winner in each Himalayan class by Mr. D. R. Critchley; 5/- best adult Self, 5/- best young Self, 5/- best A.O.V. adult, 5/- best A.O.V. under five months in Y.C.C. members' classes by Mr. A. Robinson; 2/6 each second best in each of the above four classes by Mr. H. Waterhouse 10/- to third in Mrs. Yates' Memorial class by Mr. B. Waterhouse and Mr. H. Craven; one Yorks. Cavy Club rosette in each of the Y.C.C. members' classes. The Spalding Trophy, a silver spoon to commemorate win, for best Himalayan by Mr. and Mrs. Wyborn for N.H.C.C. members.

Will fanciers who would like to offer further specials drop me a line? Any received will be acknowledged through these notes. No schedules will be printed for this show, but full classification will be published in the advertisement columns of FUR AND FEATHER.

I have received the Abyssinian classification from Mr. Pegler for the Abyssinian Cavy Club's spring show to be run in conjunction with our show. This comprises 11 classes and will also be a points show. A challenge

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SHREWSBURY CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW, MAY 21st & 22nd, 1952 FROM Mr. E. WOODHEAD, 31, MEOLE WALK, MEOLE BRACE, SHREWSBURY