

CAT · GOSSIP

VOL. 2

Edited by H. C. BROOKE

No. 48

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NEWBURY CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW.

October 25th, 1927.

Dear Phillida,—

Procrastinating, as usual, you never turned up, as promised, and thereby suffered a distinct loss!—for the 12th Newbury Ch. Show was a splendid success!—and as you and I had planned starting a little cattery, I felt as much annoyed with you as I find it possible to be, with my best friend. However, as usual, I forgive you, and will jot down the best description of the function possible to my pen. We will start away socially. Of course, Mrs. Fosbery was the moving spirit, and a most able head of affairs, her own cattery deservedly making their mark amongst the winners, Eastbury Barron, the red self, gaining his championship. The busy folk at the secretary's table were Mrs. McLeod, Miss D. A. Wood, Miss Peggy Wilson, and Mr. Yeates, all working most expeditiously. Among the many exhibitors you will be sorry to have missed were Mrs. Glenfield, Mrs. Kennaway, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Broughton-Hawley, Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Oglethorpe, Mrs. Allen-Maturin, Mrs. Duncan-Hindley, Mrs. McLeod and Miss Tunks (Boreham), Miss Gertrude Langton, Miss Grayson, Miss Adye, Miss Joyce Evans, Miss Nesta Fisher, Miss Queenie Soame, Miss Kathleen Yorke, Mrs. Wade (who was stewarding for Miss Lea, Mrs. Forsyth-F Forrest (who acted as Referee Judge), the busy Siamese Secretary, Miss Busted, and a host of others. The Judges you already know from the schedule. Mr. F. W. Western made a most able announcer. A Siamese kit was so "run after" that it had to be put up to auction, and was knocked down to Mrs. Hindley; the breeder, I fancy, was Mrs. Scott-Russell. In the afternoon Miss J. M. Fisher sold her blue Persian kitten, Mark of Hadley, winner of three first prizes, to Mrs. Curwen, of Camberley. Mrs. O'Grady bought Prestwick Purda, a female Siamese kitten, and later on the first prize black Persian female kitten may possibly become the property of Mrs. Yeates. I know you will be sorry to hear that the blue Persian Mrs. Yeates recently bought from the same breeder, Miss J. Langton, succumbed to pneumonia. You will remember this young male kitten won as Warder at the late Sandy Show. You would just love Mock

Turtle—the sweetest of tortie and white kittens, whom Mrs. Yeates describes as her latest "pick-up." I could wish we were all blessed with her good judgment! There was a record Siamese entry, and the litters, too, came up splendidly. In Siamese, Mrs. Harvey, Miss F. Dixon, Miss Stent, Mrs. Scott-Russell, Miss Smyth, and Mrs. Calvert carried the day. The litters, of every variety, were especially taking—the "nursery" held about eleven, and were ensconced in a corner of the hall making a square—a piece of "turf" and it would have been a perfect playground! Mrs. Argent (Dame Clara Butt's sister), who has often delighted us with her beautiful voice under her professional name of "Miss Ethel Hook," took first prize for some handsome bouncing babes, sired by John of Bedale; the second prize went to a Siamese litter, by Padi of Petaling; these little ladies had already started wrangling—no doubt on women's rights! Miss Vera Murray, with three blues by Barry Prince Blue, was proud of her third place. I noticed a charming family from Mrs. Oglethorpe's lovely queen, and another sired by our old friend Blue Craggie. Really, had you been with me, we should have easily, amongst all these budding beauties, laid the foundations of a superb cattery. Now to those lucky adults who won the coveted honour—the championships.

L.H.

WHITE, M. or F.—Mrs. Cattermole, Veracity of Mayfield. BLACK, M.—Mrs. Soame, Soame Desert Chief. BLACK, F.—Mrs. Campbell-Fraser, Lorina of Hadley. CHINCHILLA, M.—Mrs. Shaylor, Boofa Boy. CHINCHILLA, F.—Miss Wardell-Yerburgh, Sweet Cicely. SILVER TABBY, M. or F.—Miss Roberts, Flora of Frampton. RED TABBY, M.—Mrs. Neate, Guards Brigade. SILVER TABBY, F.—Mrs. Soame, Seame Red Rocket. RED SELF, M. or F.—Mrs. Fosbery, Eastbury Barron. TORTIE AND WHITE, M. or F.—Mrs. Kennaway, Garb; Bobby Dazzle. TORTOISESHELL, M. or F.—Mrs. Sidney Evans, Heathside Honey Bee. CREAM, M.—Mdme. Doll, Colneside Cream Bunne. CREAM, F.—Miss Langhorne, Ch. Mignonette of the Combe. BROWN TABBY, M. or F.—Mrs. Kennaway, Ch. Garb; Mascot. BLUE MALE—Miss Langston, Dion of Allington. BLUE FEMALE—Mrs. Yeates, June Rose.

SHORT HAIR CHAMPIONSHIPS.

RED TABBY, M. or F.—Mr. Fred Hough, Clayton Buchan. BROWN TABBY—Mrs. Taylor, Ch. Brown Star. TORTOISESHELL—Miss Mellor, Alice Hawthorn. TORTIE AND WHITE—Mr. Taylor, Ch. Evenmark. MANX—Hon. Mrs. McLaren-Morrison, Eger-

ton House Douglas. BLUE ENGLISH—Mrs. Jackson, Bilateena. BLUE FOREIGN—Mrs. L. A. Batt, Imperial Blue Prince. BLACK—Mrs. Broughton-Hawley, Gooby. WHITE—Mrs. Cattermole, Lady be Good. BEST CAT IN SHOW—Miss Langston, Dion of Allington; reserve, Mrs. Yeates, June Rose. BEST S.H. CAT—Mrs. Harvey, Pedro of Petaling; reserve, Mr. Taylor, Ch. Evenmark. BEST KITTEN—Miss Dixon, Sibö; reserve, also BEST L.H. KITTEN IN SHOW, Mrs. Aubrey, Langherne Beau; reserve, Mrs. Nathan, Parkside Rose Marie. BEST S.H. KITTEN, Miss Dixon, Sibö.

As I have come to the tit-bits of the Show, you will like, I know, to hear a word about their individuality. Starting with the best exhibit in Show, Dion of Allington, this blue of lovely shade is a well grown fellow for his age—born July 13th, 1926. He is bred from Joyous June of Henley, sired by Eros of Allington, that beautiful cat of Miss Langston's, which we admired so much together when we saw him win his first championship at Reading last year. He gave to the excellent stock he fortunately left behind him that fine texture of coat and round skull, enhanced by a most sweet expression. A Watteau ballet always rises in my mind when I see June Rose; though born as far back as 1924, her eyes are glorious, and, combined with her pale coat, quite exceptional. I have never seen her looking better and fully deserving of her honour. Mrs. Fosbery was awfully pleased at a Newbury fancier winning best S.H., and Pedro of Petaling will probably end as a full-blown champion. As for Miss Dixon among the Siamese, she was out and out "greedy!" Mr. Taylor was again to the fore with that smart veteran of 1923, his tortie and white, Ch. Evenmark. Perhaps Mrs. Aubrey's win caused "the sensation" of the Show, for Langherne Beau, only 3rd in his own Chinchilla Class (beaten by his brother and Mrs. Drake's Victor of Aldwych), won the coveted honour, and was declared best L.H. kitten! The buzz of the "Bee's Wedding" was not in it! Parkside Rose Marie was bred by Mr. Freeman, was well shown, and will make a valuable queen, as her breeding is of the best. Creams and reds always linger in your mind, and you would have lost your heart to Mrs. Quarry's five winning kits—all one litter—just little ducks. Mab of Bredon we admired, you will remember, at Sandy, and our old friend, Ch. Endymion, still holds his own for delicate cream colour. Mr. and Mrs. Neate were both at the Show, and Mrs. Neate was showing a thrilling young couple of red tabby males—a splendid pair. Of the two, if one could choose, King of Reds would be my fancy, but they will both be epoch-making. The Hon. Mrs. McLaren-Morrison's Manx, Douglas, was much admired, and there was quite a creditable show of brown S.H.; they have such kind faces, and must be most lovable. Lady be Good, the white S.H., won premier honours for her new owner. Ink runs out, so must end. Come to Croydon Show on the 9th without fail. Shall look for you.

Ship Hotel, Reading.

MATILDA.

THE SIAMESE CLASSES.

(Special Report by Mrs. Basnett.)

My visit to the Newbury Cat Show was compelled to be a short one, consequently I took notes of only the principal classes, to allow myself more time to study the exhibits, which numbered about 40 in all of cats and kittens, a very good number, and a big advance on previous years for this breed at Reading. The hall being so light, possessing a glazed roof, lends itself admirably for such a Show; judging under these conditions is a much more satisfactory and easier job than at many shows I could name.

CLASS 52, SIAMESE MALE—1st and ch., Mrs. Harvey's Pedro of Petaling (congratulations to Mrs. Harvey on her double success in the adult classes); 2nd, Mrs. Calvert's Tai-Long (a very nice cat with a particularly sweet expression for a male); 3rd, Mrs. Hindley's Prestwick Puteh Punya (I like this cat's head and eyes very much indeed, and his coat is a beautiful colour, if only his points were standard colour he would want a lot of beating); r, Miss Busteed's Jimbois (a very nice cat in every way, eye colour not as good as the former); v h c, Mrs. O'Grady's Khubsurat; h c, Mrs. Baker's Koung; c, Mrs. Allen-Maturin's Southampton Ni-Perm (a very good eyed cat, with even body colour, but not in good condition. CLASS 53, SIAMESE FEMALE—1st and ch., Mrs. Harvey's Bonzette of Petaling (this cat had improved wonderfully since her last appearance); 2nd, Miss Dixon's Ch. Simple (mother of the former winner); 3rd, Miss Busteed's Ch. Ki-Weena; r, Mrs. Allen-Maturin's Gatita (a nice type of cat, but out of condition); v h c, Mrs. Scott-Russell's Kuching Kama (why this beautiful queen was put so low I could not see!); h c, Mrs. Hallam's Chin-Lee; c, Mrs. de Lisle Mullen's Western Yum-Yum. CLASS 54, SIAMESE MALE KITTEN, over 5 months—1st, Miss Dixon's Sibö; 2nd, Miss Smyth's Ranji Rex. CLASS 55, SIAMESE FEMALE KITTEN, over 5 months—1st, Miss Stent's Herself (a very beautiful kitten); 2nd, Miss Dixon's Simzette (another pleasing specimen); 3rd, Mrs. Coles's Simour; r, Mrs. Harvey's Bluebell of Petaling (I liked the better of these last two pretty kittens); v h c, Mrs. Hindley's Prestwick Purda; h c, Miss Smyth's Rainie (there were 14 exhibits in this class. CLASS 56.—SIAMESE MALE KITTEN, under 5 months—1st, Mrs. Scott-Russell's Kuching Kara (a very charming kitten, which Mrs. Hindley could not resist, and went home the proud owner!); 2nd, Mrs. Scott-Russell's Kuching Kassim (a particularly promising little fellow, with the type of head I always admire); 3rd, Mrs. Hallam's Chin Ram (a heavier type than the former); r, Mrs. Scott-Russell's Kuching Muda (a very nice kitten of the big strong type). CLASS 57, SIAMESE FEMALE, under 5 months—1st, Miss Smyth's Princess Zaidee. CLASS 58, SIAMESE BREEDER'S CAT—1st Mrs. Calvert's Tai-Long; 2nd, Mrs. Hindley's Prestwick Puteh Punya; 3rd, Mrs. Scott-Russell's Kuching Kama; r, Mrs. Hallam's Chin-Lee; v h c, Mrs. de Lisle Mullen's Western Yum-Yum. CLASS 59, SIAMESE BREEDER'S KITTEN—1st, Miss Dixon's Sibö; 2nd, Miss Stent's Herself; 3rd, Miss Dixon's Simzette; r, Mrs. Scott-Russell's Kuching Kara; v h c, Mrs. Scott-Russell's Kuching Kassim; h c, Mrs. Hallam's Chin Ram; c, Mrs. Scott-Russell's Kuching Muda. CLASS 60, SIAMESE NOVICE CAT—1st, Mrs. Harvey's Pedro of Petaling; 2nd, Mrs. Hindley's Prestwick Puteh Punya; 3rd, Miss Busteed's Jimbois; r, Mrs. Maturin's Gatita; v h c, Mrs. Baker's Koung; h c, Mrs. de Lisle Mullen's Western Yum-Yum; c, Mrs. Maturin's Ni-Perm. CLASS 61, SIAMESE NOVICE KITTEN—1st, Miss Dixon's Sibö; 2nd, Miss Stent's Herself; 3rd, Miss Dixon's Simzette; r, Mrs. Scott-Russell's Kuching Kara; v h c's, Miss Smyth's Ranji Rex and Miss Chichester's Chichester Belle; h c, Miss Smyth's Princess Zaidee; c, Mrs. Scott-Russell's Kuching Kassim. Miss Dixon's Sibö proudly carried off nine specials as well as his class honours.



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GOSSIP OF THE WEEK.

"EDITH WHERRY" (Mrs. E. M. Muckleston), the author of those delightful books, "Jade Mountain," "The Red Lantern," and "The Wanderer on a Thousand Hills," writes us from Los Angeles: "Although I spent eleven years in China I never saw the drop-eared variety of cat; being much interested in your inquiry, I wrote to an old friend, Mrs. J. L. Whiting, who has spent forty years in China, but can give us no information; she is, however, making further inquiries." We fear the quest is in vain, and that our theory (see "Cat Gossip" No. 44) as to these remarkable cats is correct.

THE "Cat Courier's" letter from Mrs. Beard about breeding torties brings this reply from Mrs. Tomlinson: "I mated my tortie, Sphinx, to Lancashire Evening Sunset, the red self; result, three black males, one red tabby female; this last, mated to Little Slam, gave two red tabby females. My tortie, Lady Maythorpe, mated to the blue Kemlin Mask Marvel, gave one blue male, one red tortie female, one red self female. From Lady Maythorpe, mated to her black son, Zebo, I obtained one tortie female."

REFERRING to losses of cats on rail, Mrs. Stevens writes: "Once when I was weighing my cats at Paddington the porter said to me: 'One of our carters had a cat to deliver once, and it got out of the package, but he said there are plenty of cats in this neighbourhood, so he delivered a cat all right!'" Moral: Examine your packages before signing.

MRS. DUNCAN-HINDLEY sends the following amusing item: "Do animals think?" ("Evening Standard"). Sometimes I wish my Siamese thought less. On entering my largest cattery I found they had opened the cupboard door, though secured with two catches, top and bottom. The contents strewn on floor comprised, from top shelf, pan containing bottle iodine, ditto eucalyptus, ditto boracic powder (corks out). From middle shelf, packet of Force, all over the floor. From bottom shelf, pan of fish gravy, pan of rabbit gravy—fortunately not much of this had reached the floor. N.B.—Cats and kittens doing well at present. Moral: Keep your cattery cupboards locked. For sale, several brainy Siamese cats and kittens."

MRS. CAREW-COX has sent a brace of Abyssinian kittens to Paris. We trust they may live and show the French judges what an Abyssinian is—though it will be hard on the S.H. blue, which has hitherto been winning in France, and, we believe, Belgium, as an Abyssinian!

CONTINENTAL gun-dogs of many kinds have sterner work to do than those in this country, and are frequently called upon to polish off a wounded fox, or even a badger, and also that very bad enemy to game, the house-cat run wild, for which we have no name, but which the French call chat marron, to distinguish it from the chat sauvage or true wild cat. At many, if not most Continental trials of gun-dogs, these requirements are taken into consideration, but

as a poaching cat does not always obligingly appear when wanted, ordinary house cats are provided, some of which must have belonged to someone, and may have been pets. Against this practice we observe an increasing opposition in the Press of several countries. Although such methods are not customary here, let us not assume any airs of virtue about the matter, for the lot of a cat picked up in a foreign street, turned down before a dog and more or less expertly worried, is **envious** compared with that of one picked up in a London street and sent to be tortured, perhaps for weeks, by vivisectors at Cambridge or elsewhere; practices **greatly on the increase**, and to which cats in ever-growing numbers fall victims; and it is very little that cat-lovers trouble about it! though anyone's pet or show cat may happen to be a victim if it is caught by one of the cursed two-legged vermin who supply the torturers!

CATS AT EXETER.

By Miss RUBY COOKE.

Bad weather and the clashing with Reading caused few entries and poor attendance, which must have been disheartening for the hard-working promoters. Miss Sedgemore and another lady were very busy supplying the wants of exhibits and exhibitors, the former receiving best English meat and good creamy milk. A very regrettable incident of the Show was the death of Mrs. Lander's Billy Boy of Exmouth, who apparently had a fit in his pen, and was allowed to leave the Show, but died on the way to the station; I am told he was a very fine cat and a great pet. His companion, Benita, was 3rd in A.V. kitten. Miss Sedgemore, as usual, was well up in the list. Miss George's pen also was covered with cards. Amongst those present we also noticed Mrs. Welham (who now only has one Siamese, her pet, Pearl), Miss Bate (whose Saucy Sal, recently sold to Mrs. Hallett, was 2nd), Mrs. Sharland (Exmouth), Rev. R. Collins, Misses Swift (Teignmouth, who took special best kitten from Devon), Mrs. Dalby Smith (up from Cornwall with Blue Blaise), and Miss Cathcart. Miss Benthall, being still abroad, was not showing. Possibly Exeter Carnival also detracted from the attendance.

THE EXHIBITS.

L.H., OPEN, BLUE, M. or F.(8)—1, George, Flick-a-Maroo (palest colour, gorgeous eyes); 2, Sedgemore, Fairy's Boy (also 3rd in A.V.); 3, Sharland, Barbe Bleu. BLUE KITTEN—1, 2, 3, George, Puff Ball, Powder Puff, and Bunkered (lovely trio). CHIN-CHILLA, SMOKE, Etc.—Only one entry, the much admired nine-year-old Prince Peridot. NOVICE, A.V.—1, George, Puff Ball; 2, Dalby-Smith, Blue Blaise (a wonder at six months, tremendous coat and tail); 3, Sedgemore, Fairie's Fluff. A.V. KITTEN—Miss George's above-mentioned trio. A.V. NEUTER—1, Killey, Teddy Bear; 2, Sedgemore, Boy; 3, Evans, Peter, SIAMESE—1, Hallett, Saucy Sal (nice shape, colour, and eye); 2, Bate, Little Zip. L. or S.H., OPEN—1, Puff Ball; 2, Fairie's Fluff; 3, Little Zip. PAIRS, A.V.—1 and 2, George; 3, Sedgemore. BRACE KITTENS—1, George; 2, Sedgemore; 3, Hallett.

WHY NOT SUB-DIVIDE?

Personally we should not dream of interfering in L.H. matters—we are too well trained! But we do think Lady Eardley-Wilmot's suggestions worthy of all consideration by the leaders of the L.H. section. Lady Eardley-Wilmot writes us as follows: "After the heated discussions that have taken place about pale-coloured blues, it seems to me that blues might well be sub-divided, or, in fact, made into two classes—as in the rabbit fancy. The blue clan has now become such an enormous one that this sub-division would make things more alluring, and bring in something novel. My second suggestion is, that all shows should stick to the same ages for kitten classes. At one show they are for five months, at the next six months. Why should they not be all alike? And, further, I think that in these classes the age of each kitten should be on its pen,* so that the judges can judge of a kitten taking age into consideration. So often I hear exhibitors say, 'What is the good of showing my kitten of six months against one of nine?' and so they do not show. But if the age of each exhibit were given I think it would appeal to many people."

[* There is much sound common-sense in this contention, but we doubt if the prospect of making out dozens of "age tickets" will be acclaimed with great joy by show secretaries! Still, the scheme is well worthy of trial.—Ed.]

HOW I BECAME A CAT EXHIBITOR.

By Miss RICHARDSON.

To vilely paraphrase: "Some are born exhibitors, some achieve exhibiting, and some have exhibiting thrust upon them"!! I think I may put myself in the last category.

Some years ago I lost, and deeply mourned, two dear old neutered pets, who had died full of years after long and loyal love and service given and received. After some time of grieving and sense of loss time mercifully dulls our pain, and so I again felt I must have something soft and loving, someone who would run to the accustomed voice, someone who would always be ready to welcome.

Years before I had seen a blue shorthair in my part of the country, so I tramped to a distant farm, but the people who had owned her had moved long ago. I then advertised for a male blue shorthair, "any breed or cross-breed, cheap." I had an answer—a little male Russian, slightly mismarked, could be had at a reasonable price. I had him sent, and loved the little chap. He was a lovely colour, and he loved me and no one else much. Time went on, and he must be neutered, so all arrangements were made, and a kindly friend took him to be "done." I met her half-an-hour or so afterwards looking very hot and annoyed. She eyed me with disgust, and spoke briefly and to the point: "He'd got all the instruments and so on ready, and he ran after me in the street, laughing, and said, 'You did say castrated? It's a female!' I'll never do a thing for you again!"

Well, I kept my female, and what could I do but mate her properly, and as she was well born her kittens were presentable, and to sell one must show, and showing grows so on one, and that's how it all began!

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