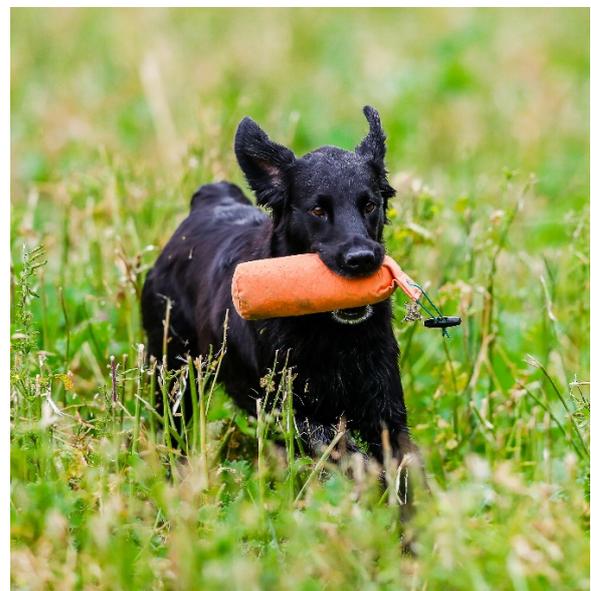
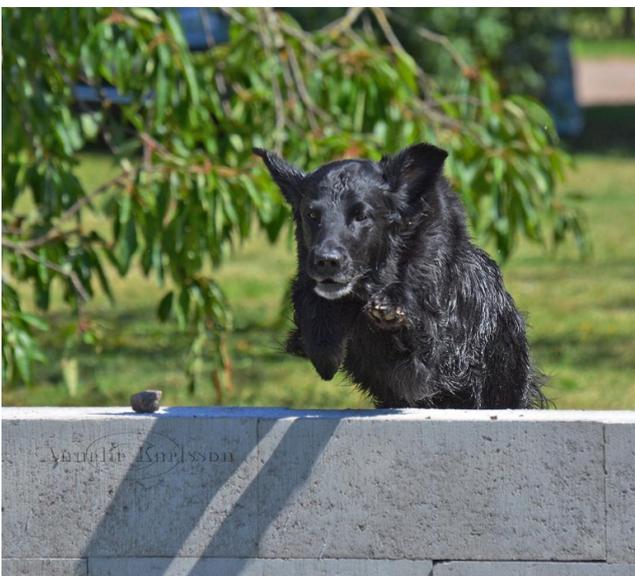


# Euro Challenge at Gamefair - Hatfield House, England



SE J CH Flatterhaft Fay Crocker goes to the top at the 2017 Euro Challenge in Britain – a great day for Pingla and a great day for the Flatcoat

*SE J CH Flatterhaft Fay Crocker, or Pingla, was awarded best European dog, and second-best Retriever overall at the prestigious Euro Challenge, Hatfield House Game Fair in 2017. Mrs Camilla Jakobsen, the handler/owner of Pingla, tells her story about the amazing journey they made together.*

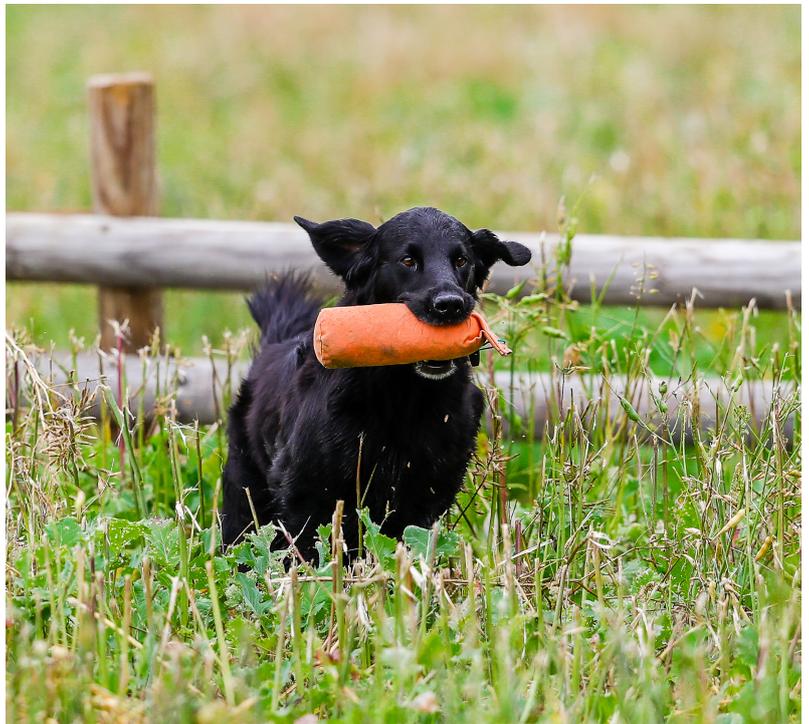


“We had a few marvellous days in Britain, representing Sweden and the Flatcoat breed jointly with my friends Charlotte Wallmark, with her working Labrador Puma and Anne Charlotte Bengtsson with her working Golden Baccus, conquering the bronze medal for Sweden.

Me and Anne Charlotte took the car on an early Tuesday morning. It was a long journey traveling with the ferry to Denmark between Helsingborg and Helsingör, then getting to Germany via the Rödby – Puttgarden ferry and then at last via Hoek van Holland by ferry to Harwich in England. We arrived on Wednesday morning and went off directly to Hatfield House, the residence of the Marquis of Salisbury, about 40 km north London, where the great event was about to take place.

The day before the event we were offered a training day by the Danish Labrador trainer Henrik Vilendal, to get some additional experience for the dogs and to get some good advice from Henrik.

He’s been active as a dog trainer in Britain for many years with a lot of personal experiences of working Labradors, Golden Retrievers as well as Flatcoats. We were pleased to see that there was a Flatcoat pup in the kennel when we were there. Charlotte Wallmark, the third team member, joined in when we arrived at the training grounds, being located on classical championship grounds at the Nevill Holt estate, where the Retriever Championship took place in 2011. Thank you, Henrik, for a nice and rewarding training day.



### **A pure steeplechase – fences everywhere!**

The next day the time had come for the event and I must admit I have never seen so many people at a gundog stake. It was the Game Fair of course, with numerous different arenas for clay pigeon shooting, various kinds of gundog competitions, continuous gunfire and the shouting and whistling from an enthusiastic crowd. My god, how could our dogs hear anything from us, trying to handle them with all

these other events going on in parallel. I heard a crazy number telling that there were around 200 000 spectators at the Game Fair.

Now it was time to get started, we had our tickets and was informed about the day. The Swedish team was about to start as number four, so we had a chance to get a quick glance at the first teams.

In the first round there was a walk up with marked and handled retrieves for all the tree dogs in the team. There were numerous fences to jump and the cover was rough with kale and nettles making scenting a bit of a challenge.

In the afternoon there was a drive with marked and handled retrieves, which were supposed to be collected in a certain order. They were laying close, so you really had to mark well yourself and keep your dog in the very right area. It didn't make things easier that the rain was pouring down when it was our turn. One of the retrieves turned out to be a real challenge for most dogs. A dummy was thrown into an octagonal pen being covered with solid woodwork all around, with no options for the dogs to watch the dummy nor the scent of it. The dogs had to face and jump over a solid wall! The fact that the pen was located very close to the



fence that surrounded the grounds didn't make it easier and most dogs just ran around the pen. This was one of the occasions where Pingla scored with 20 points. What a wonderful day we had at the Euro Challenge, bronze to the team and you could imagine the feeling when we stood on the winner's stand. There were just five points dividing the three top teams! Gold to Great Britain, silver to Belgium and bronze to Sweden! Congratulations to England for the win and for being the most welcoming host.

### **A great day for the Flatcoat**

It would show as well that my Pingla was the Top Dog on 94 points (20, 20, 20, 19, 15) jointly with another Flatcoat, Mr Gary Ellisons bitch Ollersett Sparkling Nymph. The crowd was delighted when a run of took place between the two of us, two Flatcoats! Chief Stewardess Mary Jane Opie declared what the delicate task should be, a marked retrieve in water far down in the field with two fences to cross. Pingla made a perfect mark, flying down through the field, over the fences and back again. Mr Ellisons bitch did the same but had a shorter way back giving her the first price. Congratulations to Mr Ellison and congratulations to Great Britain! The fact that Pingla was awarded for being the best European dog, getting the highest number of 20-point wins, was completely magic.



To start at the Euro Challenge was an extraordinary experience. The enthusiastic crowd on the stands and the speaker presenting us by name and loudly giving expertise comments on all the running dogs was special and a memory I will never forget. I'm so proud of my wonderful eight-year-old little bitch who loves to compete and to do it perfect.

At last a great thank you to the Swedish Flatcoated Retriever Club for sponsoring me and Pingla, a great thank you to the other team members for the Swedish bronze medal and a great thank to Great Britain and the Euro Challenge team for arranging this wonderful event!



<b>Euro Challenge Winners</b>			
	Country teams	Breeds	Points
<b>1</b>	<b>Great Britain – Gold</b>		<b>272</b>
	Ollersett Sparkling Nymph, owned by Mr Garry Ellison	Flatcoated Retriever	94
	Warrenbank Fen, handled by Mr. Paul Birkbeck	Labrador Retriever	89
	Funny Fieldquest Kelbrook, handled by Mr Phil Wagland	Golden Retriever	89
<b>2</b>	<b>Belgium- Silver</b>		<b>271</b>
	Flying Kangaroo Ighor, handled by Mr Nils de Peuter	Golden Retriever	93
	Kay of the Charmed Angel, handled by Mr. Gaston Maerievoet	Labrador Retriever	92
	Flaming Rockstars Lord Watson, handled by Mr. Jelle Huysmans	Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever	86
<b>3</b>	<b>Sweden – Bronze</b>		<b>267</b>
	SEJCH Flatterhaft Fay Crocker, handled by Mrs Camilla Jakobsen	Flatcoated Retriever	94
	Whispering Oaks Longrunner, handled by Ms. AnneCharlotte	Golden Retriever	92

	Bengtsson		
	Viltvårdarnas Puma, handled by Ms. Charlotte Wallmark	Labrador Retriever	81
<b>4</b>	<b>Germany</b>		<b>244</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Italy</b>		<b>230</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Finland</b>		<b>222</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Switzerland</b>		<b>197</b>

### The five best dogs

<b>1</b>	Ollerset Sparkling Nymph, Owner: J Matthews/Handler: Mr. Garry Ellison, Great Britain	Flatcoated Retriever	94 <b>Winner after a run off</b>
<b>2</b>	SE J CH Flatterhaft Fay Crocker 94p Mrs. Camilla Jakobsen, Sweden	Flatcoated Retriever	94 <b>Best Euro dog</b>
	Flying Kangaroo Ighor, Mr. Nils De Peuter, Belgium	Golden Retriever	93
	Kay of the Charmed Angel, Mr. Gaston Maerievoet, Belgium	Labrador Retriever	92

	Whispering Oaks Longrunner, Ms. AnneCharlotte Bengtsson, Sweden	Golden Retriever	92
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