



Jan - Feb 2010
Newsletter

(www.ramseydtc.org)

President's Patter

Snow, snow, slip, slip, snow!! The snow of the last few days came as more than a bit of a surprise and there is no doubt that it has caused quite a bit of inconvenience for folk. However when I took my dogs out on that Tuesday morning I must have been one of the first to reach Poylldooey and nothing could have prepared me for the beauty of it - the familiar landscape had been magically transformed into a winter wonderland, the snow still falling yet untouched by any creature and bringing a brilliant diamond clarity to the scene. It was simply stunning. I stood for some minutes just taking in the splendour of it all and can only say that I have loved every bit of it. Seeing the collies from youngest to eldest playing in it like puppies was wonderful fun and later in the day it was just as special to see so many people turning out to join in the enjoyment that the snow had brought. It made me think that the simplest things in the world can bring the most pleasure and we should all take a little time to enjoy them and look at the positive aspects of it rather than dwell on the negatives.

I can't think of a better way to have started the New Year and perhaps we should all try a little more of a glass half full approach to our lives, I'm sure we would all benefit. Happy New Year!

Debbie

Members Matter

Our very best wishes to **Heather** as she is heading back to live in the UK mid January with the Bowker clan. Congratulations to all those who gained awards at our recent annual dinner and presentation evening, we will be posting a full list on the club website so you can see who won what! Good luck to all those who are trying out for the Crufts Inter Regional obedience team on Friday 8th January - fingers crossed! Congratulations to on **Voirrey** for finally passing her driving test (Marie will soooo relieved!) and to **Taig** on reaching the grand old age of 18 in December!

Pup Quiz Question - how much exercise should your dog get each day?

Chairman's Chat

Hopefully you've all had a Christmas full of merriment and joy, and I do hope you haven't eaten too many mince pies or drunk too much eggnog to prevent you from returning to the normal dog club activities that are slowly getting back into full swing. Weather permitting or course! We've already had quite a few weeks of flyball training cancelled due to the soggy weather at the end of last year, and just recently we've had to cancel the Agility DVD night and the return to Obedience training thanks to the snow.

The New Year brings a return to normal duties for your committee and one of the items on our agenda is to host the annual inter club meeting. This meeting is held to discuss any issues that affect all training clubs on the island and if you would like us to raise an issue that you feel is important within this forum, please let me know before the 14th January so I can raise it for discussion. Your committee are here for you for any issues that you want to raise so please do feel to contact me if you have any concerns, ideas, or questions. My contact details are below.

I'd like to wish you all a happy and prosperous new year, and I hope that all you hope to achieve this year becomes a reality.

Nick Dermott
nickderm@gmail.com

Obedience on the Go!

Congratulations to those who took and passed their pet tests in December - once again we had an impressive turn out. The successful ones are:

Bronze Test Passes

Karol	Renton	Orry
Andrea	Ball	Bracken
Phoebe	Cross	Betty
Hannah	Geoghan	Saffy
Alex	Gordon	Dexter
Louise	Kennedy	Rio
Jocelyn	Peck	Monty
Paul	Pressley	Mowgli
Jean	Vernon	Kirree

Silver Test Passes

Natasha	Brown	Stitch
Corina	Clague	Layla
Beastie	Dovey	Jessie
Karol	Renton	Orry
Sue	Adams	Maggie

We have another test night planned for end of March and more competition test nights soon so there is plenty of opportunity to put your handling to the test - literally! We hope to set a night for the chance to go for Gold outdoors when the nights get lighter.

Agility Action

Unfortunately the weather conditions did mean that it we couldn't go ahead with our planned DVD evening but we hope to reschedule this for another date. All being well we start back to Kennaa on Tuesday 13th January same times as previously. Peter Brown has kindly offered to take some of the more experienced handlers with their new dogs so they will now have someone to chivvy them along and progress their training!

Top Tip

Do you have a top tip to pass on to other club members? Please let us know if you do. Here's a topical one to start us off from Jean Young - to prevent snow balling and freezing in between your dogs pads and causing considerable discomfort liberally apply Vaseline in between the pads to keep them clear. You could also carefully (!) trim the fur away in between too as that gathers up any ice and snow.



Ruth's Flyball Fanatics

Happy new year to you all! Well there isn't much to say on the flyball front since my last mammoth instalment. The new starters course in October was much smaller than we have had previously but this was nice as it meant we could spend quality time with the new dogs and handlers. Sadly the weather has not been on our side and we have only had 3 sessions since the end of October due to the very wet weather, but despite the small number of sessions held the starters are progressing nicely and all are now able to complete a full run (good job the dogs have long memories!), we will start working on running a full relay in the coming month and then we'll look to incorporate the dogs into teams for the summer.

We will be holding another starters course beginning on the 7th February so if you are interested and your dog is over 12 months and not aggressive then get your name and contact details to me (roo@manx.net or 470589) and I will add you to my list, if you want to find out more first feel free to ask any trainer or give me a call. Training is from 10am - 10.45am on Sunday mornings and in the summer we usually switch to Monday evenings as Sunday's get taken up with shows of various kinds. There is no requirement to compete in the team or travel to the UK with us you are just as welcome to stick to training and displays. If you are keen to compete and travel to the UK then your dog does not need to be the fastest collie, we only require that dogs can complete a full run as part of a team, even if they take their time doing it.

Soapbox Sound Off!

Ever wanted to voice your thoughts on certain canine issues? Or shout about a particular doggy topic? Well now you can! Of course it will be your own view and not necessarily the view of the club and we would prefer to steer clear of anything too political but if you would like to take this opportunity then pop me an email or a line or two on paper and we'll feature it.

I'm going to kick this off with one of my pet hates - ball chuckers!! I HATE the things with a passion and can think of no worse way of exercising your dog than standing and using one of these things while your dog runs to and fro like a thing possessed!! IMHO you risk injury to your dog and (proven) you turn your dog into an 'adrenalin junkie', achieving just the opposite effect to what you had planned - rather than your dog going home in a calm, relaxed state he will still be buzzing on a total high from the rush of adrenalin and looking for his next fix. I confess to a very occasional game of ball (without a chucker!) with my collies but they benefit far more from being allowed to do doggy things like sniff and mooch around and chase the odd rabbit (never a hope of catching one!) with some training exercises thrown in for mental exercise. And on top of that I get some exercise too!!

Pup Quiz Answer - how long is a piece of string!! This very much depends on your pet's age, health and breed. Although we are all tempted to want to tire them out very young puppies of any breed or type need very steady and careful exercise to ensure joints are allowed to develop properly and you are recommended to take advice from your vet or breeder on this. As a guideline my collies as adults (ages range from 15 months to 13½ years) get an average ½ hour mix of on and off lead exercise twice daily which keeps them in optimum fitness. However as puppies they get just around the block (5-10 minutes) once vaccinations are completed and building up gradually in increments of 5 minutes weekly from about 14/15 weeks but still controlled on the lead. Larger breeds may need even more careful exercise so do take it slowly - OCD, a condition affecting the joints in young dogs, is thought to be connected to rapid growth and over exercise.

Forthcoming Events

<u>Jan</u>	5	Agility DVD evening
	6	Obedience training restarts
	12	Agility training restarts at Kennaa
	14	Inter Club Meeting
<u>Feb</u>	24	Competition obedience test night (no training)
<u>Mar</u>	31	Pet Test Night (no training)
<u>May</u>	26	Competition obedience test night (no training)

