



## March - April 2010 Newsletter

([www.ramseydtc.org](http://www.ramseydtc.org))

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### *President's Patter*

As I start putting this newsletter together we are just days off the start of the biggest dog show in the world - Crufts, sponsored this year for the first time by DFS (the sofa company). From 11-14 March the NEC will see 22,000 dogs demonstrating beauty and brains and just about every canine activity imaginable: from Best In Show to agility, flyball to obedience, demonstrations galore and of course the Discover Dogs section. It is without doubt a dog lover's paradise! For those who are showing or competing this is the culmination of months and sometimes years of work to get to the standard required, it is no mean feat. If you are going for the first time then it is wise to take the 'plastic' or perhaps not! If you can't get there in person then the next best thing is to watch the action via the internet at [www.dfscrufts.tv](http://www.dfscrufts.tv) or see the coverage on More 4.

As for me, well I'll be getting more of a hot seat than a ringside seat as Bea and I will be representing the Isle of Man for the third time in the International Agility competition on the Saturday. We will have an early start with the jumping round at 9am followed by an agility round at 3.55pm, with the Final at 5pm. We will once again be up against some stiff competition (think world class here!) so the prospect is, to say the least, daunting but it is an honour to representing the Island and we will do our best to fly the flag!

Also on the subject of Crufts do take the time to watch the run up to Best In Show on the Sunday evening (More 4 are covering the whole event this year) and watch out for Mary Ray's heelwork to music routine that is now traditional before the grand finale. Last year's updated version of Riverdance with the two collies was breathtaking and left me with goosebumps! The club is bringing Mary to the Island on 8<sup>th</sup> October to give one of her ever popular cabaret nights at the Villa Marina so do watch this space as there will be preferential seating for Club members. Mary is one of the most talented and successful handlers I know and she will be competing in both dog and bitch obedience Championships at Crufts as well, not to mention having just come 5<sup>th</sup> at Olympia in the dog agility! If you would like to know more about Mary do have a look at her website [www.maryray.co.uk](http://www.maryray.co.uk).

Debbie

### *Members Matter*

Congratulations to **Jean & Willie** on their pre-beginner obedience win at the Lune Valley show in February! Also well done to **Voirrey & Muffin** for coming second in a beginner class of 50 dogs; **Debbie & Amy** and **Hirelle & Fleet** on their 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> places respectively in novice; and finally **Debbie & Bea** on coming 2<sup>nd</sup> in A and 4<sup>th</sup> in B! And this was all at the same show - think the UK handlers were glad to see us go back on the boat!

On a sad note Lou lost her collie **Jake** at the start of March at the grand age of 12. It is some time since Jake has been to club but he took part in obedience and agility and was the second dog from the Island to go to Crufts for the International Agility some years back. Jake was a great character and taught Lou much, he will be much missed by all who knew him.

### *Hydrotherapy Open Evening*

**Arg Beiy Veterinary Practice has invited us all to their Hydrotherapy Open Evening at 7pm on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March at 81 Parliament Street, Ramsey.** This therapy is ideal for dogs suffering with mobility problems such as arthritis or perhaps they are overweight. Dogs recovering from injury also benefit hugely from hydrotherapy sessions as they can exercise without putting pressure or strain on the affected limbs. Arg Beiy's underwater treadmill is a really fun way for your dog to get a fantastic workout too!



Personally I have seen the benefit for my collie Josh who has arthritis and hip dysplasia and would totally recommend it. Its worth knowing more about the therapy even if your dog doesn't need it now and its great to see the benefit - Josh won and passed his Stage 4 obedience test last Wednesday so is testament to its worth! He will be doing a demonstration and would be delighted to see as many of you as possible there as he loves an audience!

If you need to know more about the therapy or the evening itself then please call Wendy on 812208, otherwise just turn up on the night. (please note it is not possible to take your dog on this occasion but if you are interested in following it up then Wendy will be more than happy to help)

***Pup Quiz Question - when are the Manx dog licences due for renewal?***

### *Chairman's Chat*

No doubt you're fully aware that we're already well into March and it only seems like last week that I was wishing you all a happy new year! Of course the onset of spring brings many of the things we've all been looking forward to all winter; Crufts, flyball tournaments, daffodils, lambs, the list is endless and of course, the lengthening days are truly a welcome sight! As ever your committee have been busy all winter, and you may have noticed the new-look club website ([www.ramseydgc.org](http://www.ramseydgc.org)). If you haven't already seen it, I would encourage you to check it out. Naturally I'd welcome any feedback that you may have, or even if you'd like to contribute in any way, please let me know.

You may already know that we are bringing Mary Ray over to do one of her world famous Cabaret shows and where better to host this than the Villa Maria. Keep checking the Club Website for details of the event. In addition to the Cabaret night, Mary will also be doing an Obedience training day which will be made available to the regular attendees of competition obedience training on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March.

Nick Dermott

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## ***Obedience on the Go!***

At the end of February the competition obedience dogs had the opportunity to go through their paces under the experienced eye of judge Sue Biggerstaff. Stage 3 saw a very tight test with three very different dogs putting on a superb performance and only separated by the smallest margin. Notable work came from Ramsey who decided to give the best attention I've ever seen from him with a round to die for and Muffin's scent discrimination would have made a ticket handler proud! The results of all stages are:

### Stage 1

1<sup>st</sup> withheld as not passed  
2<sup>nd</sup> Dawn & Holly  
3<sup>rd</sup> Jayne & Doona  
4<sup>th</sup> Fiona & Jet (pass)  
5<sup>th</sup> Sue & Maggie  
6<sup>th</sup> Taig & Patch

### Stage 2

1<sup>st</sup> Pauline & Alan (pass)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Andrea & Bracken  
3<sup>rd</sup> Renee & Rico

### Stage 3

1<sup>st</sup> Lou & Razzle (pass)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Jim & Marnie (pass)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Renee & Ramsey (pass)

### Stage 4

1<sup>st</sup> Debbie & Josh (pass)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Andrea & Keira (pass)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Voirrey & Muffin  
4<sup>th</sup> Jim & Kofi (pass)

### Stage 6

1<sup>st</sup> Debbie & Bea (pass)

The competition obedience class is held at 9pm and is open to anyone interested in taking up this challenging discipline with their dog. It demands a great deal of patience, concentration and commitment on both parts but is also lots of fun! Please stop and have a look to see if you would like to try it out. Anyone wanting to compete a little more seriously would do well to check out [www.obedienceuk.com](http://www.obedienceuk.com) for lots of up to date obedience info, news and show diary.

## ***Agility Action***

It has been decided to reschedule the Greg Derrett Agility DVD evening to Tuesday April 6<sup>th</sup> at Kirk Michael - full info will be given out nearer the time to everyone. It's a great DVD and lots to see and learn from a very experienced handler.

There is still quite a bit of equipment still in need of painting so we are going to hold a Painting Party on Easter Monday at 1pm at Jurby - we'll provide the materials if you provide the manpower! Full info on this too will be given out nearer the time but please pop this on your calendar in readiness!

We will be moving to our outdoor venue mid April and everyone will be balloted by Jayne on whether they would prefer to keep to the current Tuesday evenings or change back to Thursdays. Our last training session at Kennaa will be Tuesday March 30<sup>th</sup>.

The Isle of Man Dog Obedience & Agility Club will be holding their annual open show at the beginning of May for the first time this year in a change of date and venue. The schedule is

available from their own website, [www.agilitynet.co.uk](http://www.agilitynet.co.uk) or [www.agilityeye.co.uk](http://www.agilityeye.co.uk). To compete in an open show dogs must be:

- ✓ 18 months or over
- ✓ Kennel Club registered either on the breed register or the activity register
- ✓ Measured as per KC rules

Further details can be found on the Kennel Club's website or do ask your trainer for further advice on what is needed.

### ***Top Tip***

Some of you may find that your dog slips on the floor at the hall but this can be helped by either wetting his paws or using Paw Wax from the pet shop!

### ***Ruth's Flyball Fanatics***

It's a scary thought that there will only be 8 sessions until our first tournament of 2010! The teams are starting to gear up training to get ready in good time, it will also be really good to meet up with all of our UK flyball friends again after an 8 month break from tournaments. The next month will be spent training under tournament rules and getting the newer handlers well prepared for their first tournament, it's always good to remind some of the more experienced handlers too as they can slip into bad habits.

We also have a new group of starters who are coming along nicely, they have only had a few training sessions but I think both dogs and handlers are having fun which is what flyball is all about. Hopefully the new starters will be able to complete a full run in the next week or two. It will be another 4 weeks before they attempt their first relay but it's worth waiting for and preventing any problems rather than trying to fix them after rushing the first stages.

Next time I write it will be with results from our tournament!

Ruth

### ***Soapbox Sound Off!***

This has to go to Jean this time round as her pet hate is dogs that have not been groomed regularly! And this does include cleaning your dog's teeth! Those in the 8pm class at club have been subjected to regular checks and it is only a matter of time before she is checking handlers too!!

On a more serious note, did you know that gingivitis can occur in pups as young as 9 months of age and it is a sad truth that over 85% of dogs over 4 years old have periodontal disease? Of course dental work on a dog requires a general anaesthetic and this could easily be avoided by regular brushing of teeth but you must use a doggy toothpaste not your own as these are not suitable. So we may groan at Jean's regular soapbox stand on this issue but she has a good point!



**Pup Quiz Answer - 1<sup>st</sup> April each year** and this is for ALL dogs, the only exceptions are:

- a) Puppies under 6 months **providing the current owner is also it's breeder**
- b) Guide dogs for the blind
- c) Dogs used for law enforcement
- d) Working farm dogs

### ***Bursary Applications***

It is that time of year that some of you will be considering venturing across the water to take part in a UK competition for obedience, agility and/or flyball. The Club holds a bursary to give Club members some financial assistance so you may feel you would like to apply for this - applications should be made in writing and you should indicate which shows you hope to attend. Please pass your letter to any committee member by 13<sup>th</sup> April for consideration at the next meeting. There are a few conditions that apply:

- ❖ Members should have belonged to the Club for at least 12 months.
- ❖ The applicant should be considered suitable both competitively and in attitude as they will be considered to be representing the Club when sponsored.
- ❖ That member should attend training regularly and may only apply for consideration for that particular discipline i.e. agility, obedience and/or flyball.
- ❖ Any points gained in competition must be credited to RDTc.
- ❖ Applicants will receive a maximum of one allowance (this being set at £50 for Agility and Obedience) per discipline. For flyball applicants this is extended to £25 per dog. The Box Loader may also apply.
- ❖ Monies will be paid after the event to allow for the possibility of cancellation.
- ❖ Any bursaries granted will be at the Committee's discretion.
- ❖ All applicants receiving a bursary should report back to members via the Newsletter.

### ***Forthcoming Events***

<u>March</u>	30	Last agility training session at Kennaa
	31	Pet Test Night (no training)
<u>April</u>	5	(Easter Monday) Painting agility equipment at Jurby 1pm
	6	Agility DVD evening at Kirk Michael
<u>May</u>	1-3	IOM Club Open Agility show
	26	Competition obedience test night (no training)
<u>June</u>	13	Douglas DTC Companion Dog Show - fun, obedience, breed & agility classes
	19/20	IOM Club Open Obedience Show
<u>July</u>	17/18	Ramsey DTC Open Obedience Show
	24/25	Ramsey DTC Open Agility Show
<u>August</u>	13	Royal Manx Agricultural Show - Open Obedience and Agility Show
<u>October</u>	8	Mary Ray Cabaret Evening at the Villa Marina