



Nov - Dec 2009  
Newsletter

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



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### *President's Patter*

With just a few weeks until Christmas it seems that this newsletter is somewhat overdue! There have been a number of changes over the last few weeks, not least of which is a change in committee as I hung up my Chairman's hat after more years than I care to count! However you can rest assured that Club is by no means abandoned but work commitments means limited time and so the decision had to be made but I have donned a slightly different hat so please be reassured that it's business as usual at Ramsey DTC! I will be on hand to support the new committee, take my turn at training and of course to oversee Manx Action Dogs week.

There are a number of forthcoming events (not just the obvious ones!) so do make a point of reading the list at the end of this newsletter to ensure you don't miss out!

Debbie

### *Members Matter*

Our Annual Dinner and Presentation will be held once again at the Harbour Bistro on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November. There is still just time to book your place and feel free to bring friends and family - the more the merrier! Meals must be pre-booked and pre-paid so don't hang about!

This is one of the major events on the Club calendar and it is always nice to see as many of you join the faithful followers as possible! Also worth remembering that the trophies are not exclusive to those who have competitive achievements but all of you are eligible for trophies to mark progress and effort in all areas of our training and also medals to mark personal effort and achievement as well as regularly supporting club activities. So you may come home with something for the mantelpiece!

### *Chairman's Chat*

Hello to one and all, from your new Ramsey Dog Training Club Chairman! It gives me great pleasure to take on this role, and first of all I'd like to acknowledge the previous chairperson, Debbie, without whom the club simply wouldn't be what it is today. I'm sure you'll all join me thanking Debbie for all the years of hard work she has put in.

I've been on the committee for nearly three years now and only been a member of the club for about four years so I'm still a relative newcomer. It all started for me when I was called upon by my wife to help out at flyball training, and I soon got hooked, even borrowing a dog from my mother in law at one point in order to come to training! Since then I've dabbled in a bit of obedience and now I'm concentrating on agility and flyball, and you can read all about our flyball shenanigans in Ruth's Flyball Fanatics. I've only just really started at agility with my little merle puppy, Stan. He's taking to it like a duck to water, which is more that can be said for me! It's great fun though and it's great to see so many other people enjoying themselves with their dogs. That's what is most important for me at the end of the day, to have fun.

It just remains for me to wish all members a thoroughly happy Christmas and a prosperous new  
Nick Dermott.

**Pup Quiz Question** – chocolate is a popular item for Christmas trees, advent calendars and presents but is it okay to share it with your dog?

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

The competition class held its first (and only!) test night of the year recently for those taking the lower tests. Many congratulations to those who passed, which was quite a number! We will endeavour to make these a more regular event next year so watch the newsletter for dates. Many thanks to Mandy Quayle for judging and Sarah Paull for steering us round!

And so that the pet handlers don't feel left out there will be a chance to take or retake your Bronze and Silver Pet Obedience tests on 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Please note that this will mean no training that night as it can take a while!



Our Christmas party will be held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December so be sure to make this as it is always a brilliant evening with games for all and fancy dress for your dogs! Now is your chance to use your imagination and creativity to good effect - categories are Best Festive Outfit and Best of the Rest!

### ***Agility Action***

The new beginner group is now well under way in Jane's capable hands and all seem to be progressing very nicely with some promising newcomers amongst them. For the more experienced handlers there have been some interesting courses set recently for practice on handling skills. We would also like to welcome Jayne Hubble as our new agility rep, she is new to agility but with a bit of gently coaching will soon have us all organised and ship shape! Heaven help her!!

We will be having some agility fun with a Christmas Party on 7<sup>th</sup> December so you may well need to be prepared for a full evening! We take a break for the festive period then and start back fully recharged on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January with a DVD evening to prepare us for training proper the following week (12<sup>th</sup> Jan). You will each get an invite for the DVD evening with full info before we finish for Christmas. It's a fab film and is great for both new handlers and dogs and trainers alike with some really good ideas clearly demonstrated on how to train a fantastic agility dog! And we'd all like one of those!



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

It's been a fabulous season again for the flyball teams. The top team finished their season ranked about 30<sup>th</sup> out of nearly 400 teams and the second team were in the top half of the rankings around 180<sup>th</sup> - the rankings are calculated weekly so exact ranking can change literally from one week to the next.

Since the last newsletter the teams have competed in three tournaments the first was Sutton Fields near Runcorn the second was in Eastham in the Wirral and lastly was the British Championships just outside Coventry. The Ramsey Runners team remained unchanged for the whole season which was great as the team really settled into their running orders. The team consisted of Ryan & Zina, Karen & Elle, Nick & Archie, Anita & Boots and Steven & Ruby, all of the team had experience competing in open tournaments and at the Championships so we were able to concentrate on pushing the changeovers between dogs. At Sutton Fields we were seeded first in Division 2 but after a few unlucky fault lights, (a result of us pushing the change over between dogs to the limit and a little bit beyond!), they finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> place with a fastest time of 18.12, it wasn't quite as fast as the previous year's best of 18.05 but it was good enough to get the team into Division 1 for the next tournament at Eastham.

This was the first time ever that a Ramsey team have been in the top division of a tournament, we were seeded last so had nothing to lose and when we saw we were in the same division as both the 2007 & 2008 Champions we were terrified and excited at the same time. The best moment for me was when we won a leg against the reigning champions and for me that had to be a highlight of the year. The Eastham tournament is the last chance to practice in competition atmosphere before the Championships and our tactics paid off, we finished 4<sup>th</sup> in Division 1 and came home with a rosette and a new record time for Ramsey of 18.03.

The Ramsey Raiders were a little short on dogs at the beginning of the season so we had to call on two of the starter dogs to make a leap from starters to open in just one weekend, which they did brilliantly. The team was made up of Emma & Benji, Sarah & Eddie, Laura & Flash, Carole & Roxy and Jemma & Jess. Roxy and Jess raced the previous day for the first time in starters and hadn't put a foot wrong and they did the same again in open. The team did fantastically well and ran their best ever time of 20.74, they were seeded first in their division but were sadly beaten into 2<sup>nd</sup> place on the day. For Eastham Flash wasn't able to come out to play so Sarah's Dash stepped in. This tournament was not one of Benji's best as a prevailing wind coming from the burger van proved too much for his Labrador nose and he decided that fetching a ball when burgers were being cooked was a bit much to ask! The team had to have a last minute shuffle of dogs and change of tactic so they didn't lose any ground and came home with another 2<sup>nd</sup> place, sadly they didn't beat their best ever time on this occasion.

The Ramsey Rebels were our starter team for this year, their first ever tournament was Sutton Fields and on the Saturday the team was made up of Carole & Roxy, Jemma & Jess, myself & Clio, Sarah & Dash, Danielle & Charlie and Mandy & Poppie. They did brilliantly: it was the first time racing for all of the dogs and I was very proud that they came home with a 2<sup>nd</sup> place. For starters the object is not only to win but also to make sure the dogs gain confidence and settle in the competition atmosphere. On the Sunday Roxy and Jess were abducted by the Ramsey Raiders but luckily for the Rebels another team offered use of one of their dogs called Zeta. The team sadly came last in this division not least because 2 out of the 5 (think spaniel!) decided that flyball was a fair weather sport and the downpours seemed to coincide with our division! The most important thing was that dogs and handlers had fun and when things went wrong they kept their chin up and didn't forget to smile.

At Eastham Roxy, Jess and Dash moved into the Raiders team leaving Clio, Charlie and Poppie. Clio had a new handler for this tournament, Josh my nephew came along for the first time, also joining Josh for their first trip to a tournament was Vicky and her son Jordan. Vicky and Jordan ran Clifford together and Danielle brought along her other dog Lola for the first time. All dogs ran well but sadly not all at the same time, which meant the team only managed a 5<sup>th</sup> place and we were out of the rosettes - the same burger van that got Benji's attention played havoc with the spaniels noses and they were more interested in their stomach's than flyball! Poppie, I have decided, is a true lady and balls are like handbags you have to have the right one for the right occasion. Mandy duly purchased enough of the 'right' type of balls for Poppie and de-squeaked them only to find that the right ball on the day was a standard tennis ball, the others are only for training it would seem!

This year the British Championships were bigger than ever with 1,000 dogs competing over 3 days. The Runners were seeded last in Division 4 and the Raiders were seeded first in Division 20 out of 32 Divisions. In the last 12 months flyball has been getting faster and faster than ever before, the British record set 12 years ago was beaten several times over by several teams. Seed times that would have got you into Division 1 at the championships in 2008 would only have got you in Division 3 in 2009. In addition to the racing there are social nights on the Friday and Saturday and it's a great chance to get to know other teams outside the flyball ring. Most teams camp on site and the camping field this year was 10 acres and filled to the brim, we were treated to a mobile shower block which saved on trips to the local swimming pool for a shower!

The Raiders (Benji, Eddie, Dash, Roxy, Jess and Charlie) were the first to race on the Saturday, the weather was perfect and care was taken not to walk Benji and Charlie anywhere near the food vans. Racing

at the Championships is always much tighter than at any other tournament and for this team it was their first taste of the atmosphere. The dogs really took it in and they managed to smash their best time and ran 20.34 secs. Charlie also gained his first ever flyball points and where better to do it than at the Championships! The team didn't manage to defend their seeding of 1<sup>st</sup> place and had to settle for 4<sup>th</sup> this time but there is always next year!

The Runners raced on Sunday, the weather was really quite warm and our dogs are used to Manx summers! We were seeded last and had nothing to lose, we had improved our tactics and practised keeping our cool when racing was close at the Wirral and it really paid off. We kept changes safe until there was no option but to push it and let the other teams make mistakes under the pressure. We managed to win enough races to finish in a very respectable 3<sup>rd</sup> place against some teams we hadn't met before. The weather really slowed the teams down and we only managed an 18.35 sec leg, we had hoped to break the 18 second barrier but it wasn't to be.

Next year will see some very different teams competing as Zina, Elle, Ruby & Roxy have decided to concentrate on agility so won't be coming to tournaments however we hope that they'll come out to play at training once in a while.

Hope to see you at the annual dinner!  
Ruth

**Pup Quiz Answer** - the answer is definitely NEVER! Chocolate meant for human consumption is potentially poisonous to your dog, as are grapes and raisins! Doggy choc drops are okay but do remember that these are not really a high value treat for training purposes. There is a very informative leaflet out at obedience with even more do's and don't to ensure that you and your dog both enjoy a fabulous and safe Christmas.

## ***Forthcoming Events***

### November

- 22 Agility Fun Day inc Crufts Autumn Qualifying classes & measuring session (The Glebe)
- 28 Annual Dinner & Presentation
- 29 Obedience Fun Day @ The Glebe, St Marks (IOM Club)

### December

- 2 Pet Obedience Tests 7.15pm (no training)
- 7 Agility Xmas Party
- 9 Training as normal
- 16 Obedience Xmas Party (last session before Xmas)



\*\*\* Break for Christmas and New Year \*\*\*

### January

- 5 Agility DVD evening - details to be confirmed
- 6 Obedience training restarts
- 12 Agility training restarts at Kennaa

