



# GREAT SWISS MOUNTAIN DOG CLUB

## NEWSLETTER April 2013

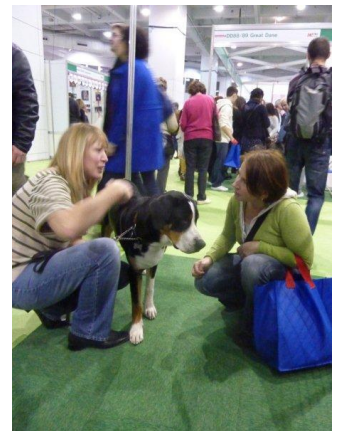
### Apology

'I have to apologise for any confusion I may have caused in my recent article about our visit to the Swiss testing in August. There is no test for Epilepsy, as I implied, The Swiss and German clubs insist that no dogs are bred from if they have any history of epilepsy within the breedline.'

Lynne Russell

### Discover dogs, Earls Court, London.

As many of you know we as a club were invited to cover the two days at Earls Court in London in November 2012 in the Discover dogs breed stand. Thanks go to all those valiant members who helped out travelling long distances only to be let out of the exhibition into the middle of the London traffic but what a super bunch and I include the dogs in that as all went well and the general public enjoyed meeting our breed, and it goes without saying that Swissies love meeting people so were in their element.



This year we were invited to cover the four days at Crufts in the Discover dog's area which together with being able to show our dogs



there is quite a milestone in our breed's history.

If anyone is interested in finding out any further information for future dates then do please call me on 01889 568 341. I have been organising DD at Crufts for other breeds since Crufts came to the NEC at Birmingham many years ago.

Julia Swinburn

### GOING AROUND

The main Championship show season of 2013 started with the Boston Championship show held at Peterborough on January 12<sup>th</sup> so having got over the Christmas and New Year festivities some of us trundled over and with our GSMD in tow. We were in the Import classes with Hounds and Pastoral and under Judge Anne Kennedy-Clifton who chose Lynne & Eric Russell's Bynton Flanders Rose at Dalynrics to win her class and then take the Best bitch award. Our [Julia & Peter Swinburn] Tamidelis Hemera at Bynton [imp] pet name Amy taking reserve best bitch and best puppy. Best dog puppy in his last eligible puppy class as he now joins the 'big', boys was Sue & Ian Parkin-Russell's [Tag] Bynton D'Artagnan, our Duke du val du Sanon [Sid] achieved a second place in open dog. Then the long trip home and as normal the dogs slept soundly all the way after their efforts it is all right for them being chauffeured about.

The following weekend was a different story with the snowy and treacherous driving conditions sadly preventing some folks from attending the Manchester Championship show held at the Staffordshire County showground. The day before it had taken me what normally takes 25

minutes, three and a half hours to get home due to traffic, blizzard and road conditions. The following day having dug their way in there was a nice turnout of Swissies and it was rather like a breed show as only GSMD's were in attendance. This time it was just Working Import and our judge Ronnie Irving awarded best dog to Bynton Joie de Vivre [Badger] best bitch to Lucy Denman's Springhaze Enchanted Lady with Badger taking Best Import Working. Other awards were Reserve best bitch and best puppy again going to our Amy and her playmate Sid [Duke du val du Sanon imp] taking reserve best dog. Sue & Ian's Tag won his class and Eric & Lynne's Tia took a second. Luckily with Import classes we do not have to stay to the bitter end of the show for the group judging so after being judged all could dig their cars out and head home at a reasonable time which in the adverse weather conditions helped and a warm drink on arrival home was much appreciated.

The next Championship show was Crufts on Sunday March 10<sup>th</sup> where history was made by the first attendance of our breed in the Any Variety Working Import classes and we have a nice number who have qualified and entered and did put up a good show on behalf of our breed.

Julia Swinburn

## Presentation



There was a competition run by Midland Counties Canine Society and Dog World newspaper for the best website. The winners of the rare breed and imported section were our Club and this picture shows our chairman Peter Swinburn and Badger receiving the cheque on behalf of the club. Also in the picture are Midland Counties treasurer Jack Randall, Dog World reporter Bonnie Scougall and Eric Russell with Tia. So many thanks to our webmaster Sue Brailey, always nice to know one is on the right tracks. The picture was taken by Dog World photographer Alan Walker at the recent Midland Counties Championship show where Badger went Best dog & best import Working with Tia taking the Best bitch award so what a great day all round.



## Crufts 2013

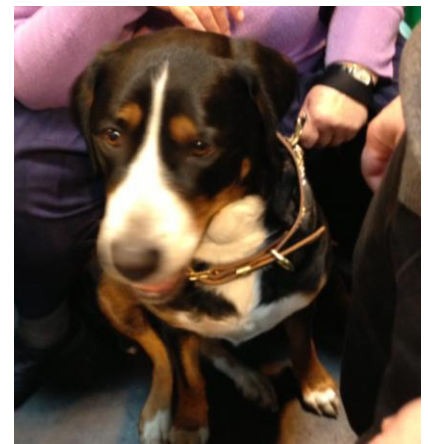
Certainly a milestone for our breed in that for the first time we were allowed to show our dogs there in the Any Variety Import register Working classes. For the non showers amongst our members this means that we can compete in our relevant class, the winners of these compete for the best of sex and the winner of each sex then compete against each other for best AV Import register Working and that is as far as they can go because we cannot compete in the Working group or anything towards best in show. Our judge also has to compare the winners of the two puppy classes [dog/bitch] and declare a best puppy.



Having qualified by showing at one of the many Championship shows held around the Country and being placed in the requisite classes [those specified by the Kennel Club as being Crufts qualifying classes] there was a good contingent qualified and certainly a nice gang of supporters and folk generally interested in our breed.



The day started early for most people who had dogs entered as travelling to the NEC Birmingham, getting in and parked, waiting for the bus to take dogs,



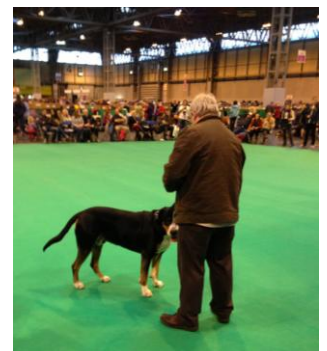
folk and accompanying paraphernalia up to the halls, fighting ones way through the various stands & folk up to the hall we were showing in certainly takes time. Then the dogs needed time to say hello to family and friends then settle in for the long wait until our judging began.

Being our first year there, there was an excited, cheerful and expectant atmosphere helped along by the beautiful cake that our Club had supplied together with the drinks brought along by the Committee to help it



down, most I hasten to add was non alcoholic, had it been otherwise the exhibitors wouldn't have known which way to run with their dogs eh? So with welcomes done and even the dogs were certainly not forgotten with a 'goodies', treat for them courteously prepared by Shelia Tickle & Cynthia Bailey for all including our welcome visitors and

their dogs who had come in from Europe to show.



Our judge Steve Hall arrived and our classes began, my goodness the ring with its green carpet looked huge but set the dogs off beautifully and most enjoyed having a run round on it and gave of their best some of the owners were less keen on all the running especially if more than one dog was being shown.

Prizes were awarded and I must say the Great Swiss Mountain dogs did us proud against the Beaucerons [the other breed that competes in the same classes as us under AV Working Import] and came out top in both the dogs and bitches so well done and I must say that most

went home clutching a precious prize card from the first ever showing of our breed at Crufts a historic memento never to be repeated.

Top spot went to Steve & Sue Brailey's Cimba & Best puppy to Steve & Julie Watson's Alfie and I expect they don't even remember driving home, well done.

So let's see how many more you can get qualified for next year and even if you don't then come along to support date for next year Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2014 so plenty of time to organise things.

Julia Swinburn.



## **DISCOVER DOGS, CRUFTS 2013.**

This year we were lucky enough to be invited by the Kennel Club to cover all four days at Crufts in the breed booth at Discover dogs. This is where every dog breed present in the Country is offered a booth in which to put up a display and have examples of the breed present for the general public to see and as a result find out about all the specific breeds from folk who know the breed over the four days of the Crufts show.



On the Wednesday prior to the show starting on the Thursday Peter Swinburn & Eric Russell went in to set up the décor for our booth and despite Eric trying to knock himself out on the metal bars holding the roof part together a good job was done. Manning the stand from 9am until 4pm is no mean feat and initially was all set in place for the four days thanks to all who agreed to help & support. Unfortunately as they say despite the best laid plans one lot backed out. Nevertheless undaunted we sailed on and I cannot say a big enough thank you to all those who agreed to help and what a brilliant job was done. The days were tiring but all the dogs sailed through like the troupers they are. Other than trying for a bit of 'nooky', when available as they do the boys behaved very well and all got on, the girls took everything in their stride with their usual aplomb.

The interest in our breed had to be seen to be believed and some very positive questions were asked and our handouts were well received. I must say that in general the public is far more aware of the sort of sensible questions to ask about a breed than they used to be. I know this because I also have organised the Dalmatian breed booth since Crufts moved to the NEC from London many, many years ago. In this it is important to build up a good team and for certain we have set out on the right foot.

I thank all who have helped in making it possible for our breed to be well represented on all four days, especially their long suffering Swissies who I think secretly enjoyed themselves so treats all round.

Julia Swinburn

### **Future events**

#### **Saturday 27th April**

The Bernese Mountain Dog Rescue are holding a fun day on **Saturday 27th April** in aid of Bernese rescue

In Hungerford. They have kindly invited the Great Swiss to join them on the day. All breeds are welcome

#### **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2013**

The GSMD Club will be holding its AGM together with the planned carting event, as due to unforeseen circumstances (our normal dreadful weather) we had to cancel the AGM in March. This will be held at Overseal Village Hall in Derbyshire, DE12 6LU. 11:30am start. After a short lunch break where tea, coffee and biscuits will be served (please bring your own lunch)

The Heel Work to Music display will, hopefully, be carried over to next year's AGM. AGM 2014 is provisionally booked for Saturday 15th of March 2014.

***Any items you would like to put in future Newsletters, no matter how small; then please contact the Editor, [tracythornett5@msn.com](mailto:tracythornett5@msn.com)***