

GREATER SWISS MOUNTAIN DOG CLUB

NEWSLETTER September 2014

TAG GOES CARTING.

It was a cold, damp, Easter Sunday. The weather wasn't too bad when we first left home. We made a quick stop at an all breeds Open show down the m4 at Slough, left there just after 11am Thinking we would arrive at Roade just after 12 noon to join The Bernese Carters on their fun weekend. How wrong we were! The rain was so heavy driving down the M4 the cars all but came to a standstill as you could not see. Thankfully, that downpour passed quite quickly but the traffic on the M25 and on the M1 was quite heavy by that time so we didn't arrive at Roade until Nearly 1pm. It was damp, with intermittent drizzle, blowy and cold!

Tag was so pleased when he got out the car to see Elsie, owned by Jan Buckingham, I was shocked to see Jan in a leg brace. She had had a bad fall and torn ligaments in her leg that would take about a year to heal, just in time for next year's weekend.

Tom and Wendy were running a carting competition; open to Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced. Tag and I entered the Beginners class whilst Ian tried to keep warm with a cup of tea in the gazebo.

Once Tag was in the cart we set off on the course, first through a chicane, my driving let the side down on that one! Then a weave through several poles, trick is to go out and then back through the next set of poles rather than trying to weave as you would in agility. Round a pole at the end, stop, make a pick-up, through the water obstacle (blue tarpaulin on the floor, round a pole, back through the water. Stop, drop off what was previously picked up (a small road cone), back through the chicane, a bell is rung at one point as you pass it, to see if the dog reacts. The last challenge is to trot along for a short distance and then stop. It was quite nerve racking and any mistakes Tag made were caused by me.



Jan also entered with Elsie and managed quite well despite her poorly leg. There were also a few Bernese Mountain dogs in the beginner's competition making about eight of us in total. We watched a couple of Bernese in the Intermediate Competition and in the Advanced. The advanced course looked really difficult as that involved reversing the dog backwards in the cart as well as reversing back and round into a coned area'. We are a long way off that one.

At the end the results were announced and to my surprise Tag had won, such a clever boy and Elsie had come second, such a clever pair of Swissies. What was really nice was that the Bernese people were really pleased for us. Tag got a lovely rosette and a cup (his first). The photo was taken by Jan of Tag and Elsie chilling out after the contest.

Can't wait for next year when we can have a go at the Intermediate course, just hope the weather is a bit warmer!!!

Tag gets his Silver!

Tag had taken and passed his Kennel Club Good Citizens Bronze level in June 2013. He had been working towards his Silver level but I know it's me that usually lets him down as I get so nervous before taking any test!

The Saturday morning dawned and the weather forecast, just for a change, was not good! We set off at 9:30am for the drive to the venue just outside Royal Wootton Bassett. We drove through a torrential down pour on the motorway but were glad to see that it was not raining when we arrived at the venue. We (Ian, Tag and I) were really early! I took Tag out for a long walk down the road and back and then down the road again as this is where we would be doing our walking under control part of the test. Put Tag back in the car so I could have a coffee and comfort brake. Lou Garton, our Trainer at Jabbawock Dog Club turned up later than expected. The rain was so torrential where she lives the roads had flooded. We could hear thunder rolling round us and we just hoped it would stay off for the road exercise.

The examiners turned up, also a little late as they had had a long drive through dreadful weather and at one point they weren't sure they would make as the roads were so bad.

To my horror we would be doing our exam at the same time as six puppies of various breeds were doing their bronze exam at the other end of the dog barn, including the Alaskan Malamute and Dalmatian puppies that Tag adores and wants to play with each time he sees them, oh bother thinks !!

Tag playing with his toy was fine he always enjoys that, as was his controlled greeting and being examined by the Examiner, show training does have its advantages! It was at this time that the Examiner asked several questions (six in total) on care and responsibility of owning and looking after a dog. Those were all OK. Food manners, Tag is usually good and today he was perfect it was then outside for the controlled road walk, Tag led the three of us in this group out. He was with Molly, a German pointer and Humphrey, a Dalmatian. They were all very well behaved.

Then back to our cars for vehicle control. Thankfully, I have always trained Tag since he was a puppy to wait before jumping in or out of the car so no problems there.

Back into the arena for a few more exercises. The first was the two minute down stay. This is so nerve wrecking because if another dog moves it may cause your dog to move. Thankfully, all three were perfect. We then did the recall to handler Tag was so good and came straight back to me. The last exercise was to come away from distractions. The distractions in this case were Molly and Humphrey. Tag got a bit fidgety at this point so I was getting worried. I walked him towards the other dogs, let his collar go, ran in the opposite direction to the distraction and called Tag after me, Tag came away from the distraction but went to where the water bowl is always kept (it's there during classes) and had a HUGE drink! The Examiner asked me to do the exercise again once Tag had finished his drink and this time he was perfect!

It was then a bit of a wait whilst Dave, the Examiner, jotted down his notes. He then came a long and spoke to each of us individually saying 'Do you want the good news or the bad news!' I asked for the good news first, the good news was that Tag had passed; the bad news was that the Gold is much harder!!!!

Well done Tag you are such a clever boy!!! We are working towards our Gold, the 40 paces off lead walking past another dog and handler is our biggest challenge at the moment as Tag just wants to go and play!!!!

Sue Parkin Russell

A few photo's from the carting event, taken by Graham Slater.





ACHIEVEMENTS

A big well done to TAG who has taken and passed his Kennel Club Good Citizens award level SILVER.

This section is for members to submit details of what they and their dogs have achieved.

I am thinking for example those who have obtained their KC Good Citizen Dog Scheme awards and at what level, but there may be other achievements be it in agility, carting, obedience, PAT dogs, etc.....



THE KENNEL CLUB GOOD CITIZENS DOG SCHEME:

Has your dog obtained their Puppy, Bronze, Silver or Gold awards?

If so do let me (Tracy) know, your dog's name (Pet and Pedigree), the level achieved along with the date and venue. Details will then be published in the next newsletter

Tag has achieved his Silver(see Above)

WEBSITE

The new password for the club's members only area on the club website has now been changed to dogcart and if anyone has a photo of their Swissy, with or without a story, for the front page it would be most welcome.

Calendars

£7.50 + £1.59 P&P

Ask a committee member for details



Car Stickers

If you would like to purchase either of these car stickers, priced at **£1 each for club members** and **£1.50 for non members**, please contact a member of the committee.



Future Events

Saturday 4th October 2014

Club Event - Judges Training Seminar

The club will be holding its first breed judging seminar on 4th October 2014 at Overseal. Costs will be £20 for Judging exam and £5 just for the seminar which will be held in the morning. All enquiries to GSMDCLUB@gmail.com in the first instance please.

Saturday 15TH November 2014

Full club event.

Match completion & Fun day, all dogs are welcome to join us on this day.

All Club events will be held at Overseal Village Hall unless otherwise indicated.

Saturday 14th March 2015

Club AGM

23rd May 2015

Carting Day and Character Assessment at Chieveley Village Hall.

The location for this is by J13 of the M4 close to Newbury.

This will be a new venue for the club. Which is being tried out more details will be made available nearer the date. Don't forget to keep an eye n the club website at <http://www.gsmdclub.co.uk>

Any items you would like to put in future Newsletters, no matter how small; then please send them to the Editor, tracythornett5@msn.com