



GREAT SWISS MOUNTAIN DOG CLUB

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2012

Hi and welcome to your February newsletter.

Firstly I would like to introduce myself for those who do not know me, I am Tracy Thornett and I am now the News Editor for the GSMD club. I have 1 swissy, Bynton Viscount but we call him Chester here he is when he was a bit younger pictured with my daughter Kacie.



Graham & Karen's experience of Denton's first show.

I must confess that I was not a great fan of dog shows and it took a lot of arm twisting to get me to agree to show our Denton (Bynton Scaramouche). However I did agree and now I had to fulfil my promise.



With Julia's help we had entered him for the Manchester 2012. She'd patiently explained the classifications - more than once and we did manage to enter him into the right class. Denton had been to the companion dog show at Overseal without us and so the dog was more experienced than the handler. I had had lots of advice, poured over the YouTube ring craft videos and mentally I was prepared.

On 21st Jan Saturday with dog routines done we arrived at Stafford Showground just after nine - time enough to settle his nibs. The butterflies had started for me but for Denton everything was exciting.

We parked up, unloaded and made our way towards the Argyle Centre, past a woman fitting miniature wellies onto an OE sheepdog, into a hall passing ranks of coiffured Beardies sitting obediently in their benched areas. Further along there was another long haired dog patiently standing on a grooming table. Bizarrely, we were following behind a cage on wheels decorated with pink drapes with a pair of shiny dark eyes inside looking out at Denton. We wondered what surreal world had we entered into.

We made our way to the allocated benches where the other Swissies were waiting calmly. Both of us knew that the tranquillity was about to end and we braced ourselves for the short black/white/tan play-tangle that is a typical Bynton reunion where Denton is involved.

It was good to meet Eric with Tia, Peter with Badger and Sid and other Swissie owners too. Everyone was offering advice, but to be truthful I was already in information-overload mode.



When we were called for judging, I made sure we followed Peter with Badger into the ring. The plan was to watch experienced ring craft in action. When it was their turn, handler and dog were moving as one. At first sight it's fairly simple; get the dog moving to show him at his best and get him to stand to show him at his best.

I think that it must have been stage-fright, but it crossed my mind that if I adopted a gentle lope my dog would move nicely. It was our turn, the trotting lap. Halfway way round I was pleased with my own movement and decided to check my dog's action. Unfortunately, he had adopted a slow bouncy canter which wasn't the plan. Next was the examination by the judge and I felt confident because Denton enjoys vet's checks. However the judge took him by surprise when he wanted to have a look at his teeth, the dog moved rapidly backwards and showed his teeth -



albeit for a brief moment. The walk across the ring was uneventful and I relaxed. There we were all in a row, so I followed the advice I had been given and enjoyed the moment. As I was looking at the audience I became conscious that the judging was still under way. Denton was standing well on his own, also looking at his audience. Quickly I set him in position, but I am not sure that I had done it properly. All the others were looking right, we were the opposite way.

We made Reserve, not out of a big class I admit, but we have learnt so much. It was a huge success as far as Denton is concerned, he is a typical Swissie and has taken everything into his stride: the journey, new experiences, smells, dogs and people. Thanks to you all who supported us that day. Incidentally we did do a better performance the following week at the Coalville Open. The challenge is on to win a class!

Karen and I would like to especially thank Julia and Peter Swinburn for their continued support throughout this past year with their advice, guidance and providing a holiday destination for Denton.

Great Swiss Mountain Dog photo competition sponsored by KUDOS PET PRODUCTS LTD

Categories for 2012 GSMD Photo Competition

1. Snow Scene
2. Puppy (6 months or under)
3. Carting
4. Showing
5. Young photographer under 13yrs(any photo of a Swissy taken by a child under 13yrs old)
6. Young photographer 13-18yrs(any photo of a Swissy taken by a child 13-18yrs old)
7. Water
8. Action Shot
9. Playing
10. Relaxing
11. Best Friends
12. Favourite GSMD photo



For further details please see the website www.gsmdclub.co.uk

Showing News

Tia [Bynton Flanders Rose at Dalynrics] owned by Lynne & Eric Russell, GSMD top puppy for 2011

Sid [Duke Du Val Du Sanonimp] owned by Julia & Peter Swinburn, GSMD overall top dog.

Dates for your diary

Saturday 17th March 2012

Great Swiss Mountain Dog Club AGM - at Overseal Village Hall, Woodville Road, Overseal, South Derbyshire, DE12 6LU. Starting at 11:30am.

Lunch Break after meeting (Please bring your own lunch) Tea, Coffee and biscuits will be provided.

After lunch:

- Raffle - prizes will be most welcomed.
- How to show your Swissie - Ring Craft Class with Sue Parkin-Russell
- Introduction to the Control Test with Cynthia Bailey and Sheila Tickle

Saturday 19th May 2012

Carting Event - at Roade Village Hall, Bailey Brooke Lane, Roade, Northamptonshire, NN7 2LS
Start Time: 10:30 am. Charges will apply should you wish to take part in the test.. Tea, Coffee and biscuits will be provided.

With Tom & Wendy Murray

Sunday 28th October 2012

Character Assessment at Overseal Village Hall, Woodville Road, Overseal, South Derbyshire, DE12 6LU, also lots of fun games on the day.

Starting at 11am. Details to follow.

If you need any other info please visit the website www.gsmdclub.co.uk or contact Sue Parkin-Russell, Tel:01635 299353 email: spaclere@btinternet.com

Well its bye for now, but remember if you would like an article or just a photo of your Swissie in the news letter please send it to me at the e-mail address below.

Regards

Tracy

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