



## GREAT SWISS DOG CLUB NEWSLETTER 6

Having worked from an idea I did re a format, thanks to Lucy Denman's artistry we now have a sound design for our Club logo and badge.

\*\*\*\*\* Please note \*\*\*\*\*

**That our fun day is now on Saturday October 23<sup>rd</sup> @**

**Overseal village hall, DE12 6LU Derbyshire** [10 mins off M42 jn 11]

Please come and support the breed 11am start as it is a good day out. Details: Shelia & Cynthia

01539 625331

Not a Club to stand still Steve & Sue Brailey organised a walk that was a great success their account follows:  
The Great Swiss Mountain Dog Club [www.gsmdclub.co.uk](http://www.gsmdclub.co.uk) held its first organised walk on 5<sup>th</sup> September at Frensham Little Pond near Farnham in Surrey. The walk attracted a total of eight Swissies, their owners, many potential owners, children and a variety of other dogs. The Swissies ranged from 5 month old puppies to adults. The dogs were all exceptionally well behaved and all had a wonderful time. It was a good opportunity to meet other owners and view Swissies in a natural surrounding. Newcomers had the chance to talk to a variety of owners about the joys and challenges of owning a Swissy. The leisurely walk around the pond took about an hour with a few stops at the 'beaches' en route where the dogs could play and swim in the water. A heavy shower just as we arrived at the pub meant we could not all eat outside as planned, which was a shame, but the shower was short lived and food was served later as the sun came out. The children thoroughly enjoyed the well equipped play area which made the day a real family day out. This will be an annual walk and as a result of its success similar events will be added to the calendar.

*So watch the Club's website for updates Ed.*



How's that for a happy bunch and most of the dogs are laughing? Well done everybody.

It is always good to have excuses to spend time with our breed and see how much they enjoy being with everybody so if any of our members have an idea please let one of the committee know and perhaps we can get more social events organised.

The GSMD are still doing well at shows with Steve & Sue's girls gaining a 1 & 3<sup>rd</sup> prize at the Richmond Championship show. Their next event will be the patter of Swissie paws, good luck.

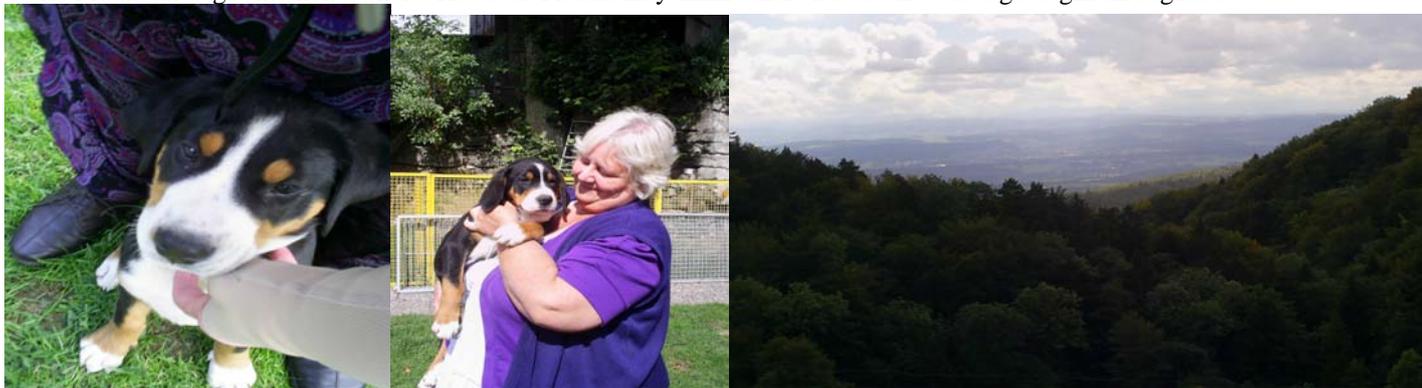
As a Club we are still trying to formulate a temperament test session but that will run into next year. These are important if you are considering breeding or just for your own information.

### Continued capers of Lynne & Julia in Europe

We decided that we would take Flossie the car and visit the homeland of the GSMD just to say we had set foot in it. So hotels and ferry booked off we set. It began with an easy run to the ferry, calm crossing and the first night in a great hotel where the food was superb, then an interesting drive to Luxembourg for the next night. A Chinese meal was on the cards for that evening in a place recommended by Peter & it didn't disappoint. Off again to see our Sid's mother in France and after a cuddle and natter to her owners we then went on to see more of Sid's relations. It was a typical French private pension where we spent the night but as we were late getting there we were too tired to go anywhere to eat so managed with some fruit we had bought and two cereal bars I had in the car.

Up and a continental breakfast and off into Switzerland through Basel then, phew what a super drive we had over the mountains, the road was more like a cart track but the views if you didn't suffer from vertigo were spectacular and we were nose to nose with the cattle in the fields with their bells sounding wonderful in the clear air. Finally we reached the home of some Swissies so were in our glory. To our delight there were more to come as not long after our arrival a van arrived with 3 x 12 week old puppies and three adults so we were surrounded with a total of 8 Swissies playing about, heaven indeed. All too soon we were back en route for home and wanted to get up as far as Luxembourg if possible which was 285 miles away [4hrs 45mins according to the sat nav] so no pretty way this time just the fastest route but it was still winding round mountains. We did get diverted at one stage and lost about an hour through hold ups on the motorway and we had not booked a hotel for this night as I was not sure how far we would get after our visit to see the GSMD's so whilst Lynne swatted up the books I had on hotels in Europe I batted north. It was decided that we would possibly make Metz in France which would leave a 273 mile run to the port the next day. Obviously we took the quickest route which involved toll roads and having joined a very long one we were tootling along when ups we had a flat tyre. Over to the side and out with the triangle. Phoned the insurance who were helpful but because we were on a French motorway they could not just send in a garage to help we had to go through the international emergency phone, so fun and games there trying to get them to understand us with their pigeon English, not easy and took time which ran my phone battery down. Then back to the insurance who needed the number of the garage the emergency folk were sending out which they wouldn't give me so had to wait for an explanation on what to do next. In amongst this they needed the number on the centre reservation so they knew exactly where we were, I had to wait whilst Lynne sprinted off to find one down the road to find one, remember it was dusk by now and one could hardly see anything in that light and not that much traffic with lights and it was forest all along the side of the motorway. During the conversation with the emergency woman I had tried to explain that I was disabled but the word failed her but she ended up by saying she would send security. Not 20minutes later the flashing security arrived and out jumped two men full of intent that I was having a heart attack, Lynne who was being a good girl and standing on the side took the full force and when asked if we spoke French she said she did 'un petite peu', only to be inundated with French to no avail but with lots of arm waving and gesticulations she managed to get the one to understand that it was not that serious and then they wanted Lynne to drive but had not related we had a flat tyre..... Finally she got them to understand and the one said he would change it. So we hunted out all the relevant equipment and told him where the spare tyre was, he worked like a beaver only to come round 15 minutes later to say that the wheel spanner was no good as it would not take the nuts off. ??? We found this difficult to understand as it was in the set for the car but who were we to argue, he then said he would phone the garage to come and get us. He was most attentive and sorry and he with Lynne and my French dictionary had quite a good conversation. The garage lorry duly arrived and lots of French conversation went on between the two men [the other security man had retired to the van unable to communicate] and out came the tool kit again and the garage man with help from the security bloke made short work of putting on the spare wheel. What had been the trouble before; he had not woken up to the fact that the nut covers needed to be taken off before trying to loosen to nuts!!!!

Then it was on the phone to the insurance and as a result the garage man wanted us to follow him to the garage to sign a form that the insurance folk were faxing to his office so that I would not have to pay. Try following a maniac driving a truck off the toll road round a small city at nearly 90 miles per hour in the dark where he bounced over every roundabout and there were lots of them with his rear tyres and me trying to negotiate all with a new tyre hoping to keep up and make it to the UK alive. Then he wanted the registration documents for the car which I had not got as I don't carry them in the car for obvious reasons, try explaining that to a non English speaking mechanic at 9.30pm after the day we had had? Then we had to find a hotel and don't ask us which city we were in the speed we went through we saw nothing relating to signs just the tail lights of the tow truck. Luckily he did manage to point us towards a hotel a Formula 1 one, so out Lynne got and in she went, looking at the few folk hanging around the entrance we were very hesitant and dubious as to what was in store but in no position to go elsewhere at that time of night. Having booked in Lynne then had to tell me that there was no en suite rather it was down the corridor and me who needs a port of call in the night, no way was I going down the corridor of this place on my own at night. Our room was just habitable the bed rock hard but clean sheets so we at least had somewhere to be horizontal for the night. The toilets were an experience, been to better at dog shows so that says it all, giant step in flushes when it thinks it will 1 -3 times some times and blows hot air at one, not the best experience. Of course we had not eaten since breakfast which was not much so with our last two cereal bars and a peach each we settled in for the night. Not much sleep but the breakfast was OK and off we set. We obviously were now far behind where we had wanted to get so I will just say that to get home I drove 600 miles on the Friday, with a 2 hour stop for the ferry crossing plus off and on loading. The meal on the ferry tasted good as well. I had begun driving at 9am Friday and having thrown Lynne out at Coventry got home at about 1.20am Saturday morning, at least I was in time to let Peter go showing on the Saturday. Was it worth it you may ask a resounding YES we met some super Great Swiss Mountain dogs and their owners. However Flossie may think otherwise but she was a good girl throughout.



Perhaps one of you has a tale to tell that I could print, then do let me know please.

**Don't forget our Fun day: October 23<sup>rd</sup> at Overseal Village Hall. See website for further information:**  
[www.gsmdclub.co.uk](http://www.gsmdclub.co.uk)

**Ed: Julia Swinburn: 01889568341.**

**Club hon sec: Sue Parkin-Russell 01635 202607 Treasurer: Steve Brailey 01380 830386**