



# GREAT SWISS MOUNTAIN DOG CLUB

## NEWSLETTER August 2012

Hi I should be asking how are you enjoying the summer, but we have not had much sun yet, so instead let's keep our fingers crossed that we will have some more sun soon.

### Carting Event - at Roade Village Hall, Saturday 19th May 2012

We held a carting day on 19th May 2012 at Roade, Nr Northampton.

The carting gave the dogs the opportunity to attain their 'First Draft' certificate and the more experienced then went forward to the Primary Carting section. This comprised a course including a gate, a bridge, water, rough ground and roundabouts all to be negotiated in a calm, controlled manner. Four Swissies attained their 'First Draft' , **Badger**, **Bliss**, **Toby** and **Cimba** and two completed the Primary Carting Test, **Sid** and **Badger**, with both attaining 'Excellent' passes. One of these two dogs, **Badger**, who is sixteen months old, completed the carting course having never been in a cart previously.

This was a wonderful achievement and highlights Badger's easily acceptable nature and calm temperament that is so important in Swissies. Congratulations go to his owners/breeders, Julia and Peter Swinburn. Congratulations also to Bliss who attained her 'First Draft' and Primary Control on the same day.

Our thanks go once again to Cynthia Bailey and Sheila Tickle for organising the day which all ran very smoothly. Many thanks also to Tom and Wendy Murray of the Bernese Carters who once again gave up their day to assist us with the carting.



The following was sent in by Sue Brailey:

## **JURA Year 2**

Well I tried, I really did, but it was just not enough to win the Springhaze trophy again this year. Congratulations to Springhaze Dazzling Gem - Roxi on her success. I have had a busy year though so I thought I'd keep you all up to speed with what's been going on.

**Agility** – I go to college to learn agility. OK so it's an evening class at an agricultural college but further education looks good on my CV. I also go to outdoors training which in some ways is more fun because there are lots of passer's by (human and canine) who get the opportunity to meet me, whether they really want to or not. I like to stop at the top of the A-Frame and gaze around. This has 2 benefits, firstly Jean thinks I'm stuck or nervous and tempts me down with sausage and it also means that everyone gets the chance to fully appreciate just how good looking I am. I am doing OK at almost all of the equipment but the weave poles are still a mystery to me. I will be entering my first show soon and all I need to do is to get measured first. It beats me why they need to measure me, it's blindingly obvious I am a **LARGE** dog and not a small or a medium one but "rules are rules" as far as the Kennel Club is concerned. Then all I need is a course with no weave poles. I'll keep you posted.

**Tracking** – well with such a finely turned nose I should be able to use it. I have done some simple tracking routes. The funniest was when the track was laid in an old closed graveyard. It seemed sensible at the time, quiet, out of the way with no passing people or dogs to confuse the scent. The lady who laid the track did get some funny looks though dribbling blood along the paths between the graves. I have had one disappointment though. I was following the track just nicely, got to the end, and someone had stolen the treat that had been left for me. Now we make sure to hide the treat in the hope it will still be there when I get to it.



**Showing** – I travelled quite a bit during the last year to go to dog shows. Furthest North was Inverurie, north of Aberdeen and furthest South was Malvern. The travel doesn't bother me one bit, after all I lie and sleep most of the time so what's not to like? I've met lots of other dogs and lots of people who didn't know what a GSMD was until they met me. The best day was when we went to Malvern and there were sooooo many other Swissies there. Sadly I didn't win but it was really great to see all the others. My best win was at Scottish Working and Pastoral Breed show where I got to do a parade of honour round the Best in Group ring – just to show all the others that GSMD are on the way up so watch out!

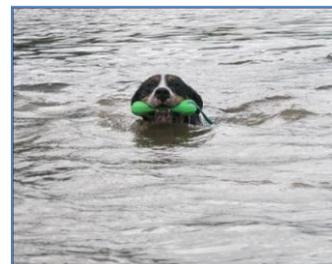
**Beating** – what a great day out this is! I get to go grouse/pheasant/partridge beating. I yomp over the heather all day with people and other dogs and I am now quite good at finding where the birds are and then I gently "push them up". There's a lot of loud banging sometimes but I ignore that. The downside is that sometimes we have to sit still and worst of all quiet, although a small snack helps make this easier. At lunchtime all of the "guns" get to come over and meet me. The first time I went they scoffed at me as not being a proper working dog and said I'd never last the whole day.



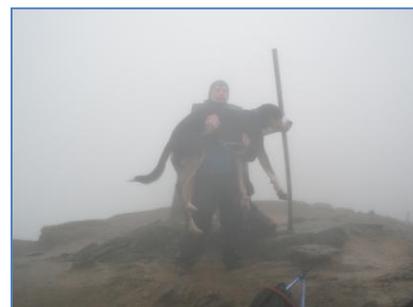
They had to take that back when even at the end of the day I was still going strong and managed to get to a dropped sausage roll before it even hit the ground.

**Carting** – I had my very first "go" in a carting harness and got to pull a huge log around the showground at Kelso – courtesy of the Bernese carters group. I don't see what all the fuss is about, I like a challenge and the log wasn't really all that big although all that mud made it a bit sticky at times. I'm hoping to have another go and maybe even get to try a proper cart next year. Jean says she refuses to dress up as Heidi no matter what so my career in carting may already have ended☹.

**Swimming** – well to be honest I do this to keep Jean happy. Personally I can take it or leave it. The first few times I did not really get the hang of it so Jean had to come into the water with me. For obvious reasons this is a summer only activity with me – Jean’s not so daft as to go in the sea any other time! I am now quite confident in the water and can easily pull her along. It’s fun on a hot day but unless there are other dogs that need my help with a particularly large stick or toy I usually restrict myself to “chest high” water.



**Munro bagging** - A Munro is a mountain in Scotland with a height over 3,000 ft and bagging is the hobby of climbing all 280ish of them. Well I started my bagging career by climbing 3 Munros last year. Frankly, as a mountain dog, you would expect this to be easy for me and it was. However the people who accompany me – well let’s be honest follow my lead to the top – think it’s a big deal and so they bring treats for me. It would be rude to refuse after they have carried them all that way. I have to admit to a slight error on navigation on one climb – for me it’s simple keep going up until you get to the top and then turn round and go down until you get to the car and sleep all the way home. One time the weather was atrocious and after we got to the top we didn’t turn round properly and set off down, but not back the way we came up. It took us 2 hours to get to the top and then 4 hours to get back down again! At least the treats didn’t run out but maybe I need to pay more attention rather than worrying about making sure that the summit photo gets my best side in future.



**Visit to Isle of Jura** – I was named after a range of Swiss mountains, a Scottish island and a whisky distillery and so I dropped in on the island and the distillery during the year. Lexie my Bernese best friend and I had lunch at the island’s only hotel, named after me. It’s a lovely place but too small for me to stay for too long especially as the distillery seemed to be in its silent season and no distilling was going on – well that’s what Jean and Robert said.



Now if I manage to perfect a tightrope walking act I’d be bound to win the trophy next year. The downside is that 2 cats have just moved into our house and I’m not sure exactly how they work. They might distract Jean and Robert and take over some of the attention that really should be lavished on me.

## Swissy Walk 15<sup>th</sup> July 2012 at Liphook in Hampshire

The GSMD Club held its 5<sup>th</sup> Swissy Walk on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2012 at Liphook in Hampshire. Twelve Swissies attended plus four non-Swissies. The 1 hour walk took us through mainly woodland on sandy tracks, which meant we did not get too muddy considering all the rain in the past few weeks.

The dogs were all very well behaved and had great enjoyment running together. After the walk most of us had lunch at the nearby pub which had a huge outdoor seating area where the dogs were made very welcome. Tables had been reserved inside the pub for us to eat but for once this proved unnecessary, as it did not rain all day and in fact the sun came out. It was a most enjoyable day and we would like to thank Stephanie & Darryl for organising it.



N.B. If anyone has a nice walk in their area with a dog friendly pub and would like to organise a walk please get in touch with a committee member.

Don't forget to send your photos in; the closing date is **31<sup>st</sup> August**.

## **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



Entries will be £1 per class or £10 to enter all 12 categories (cheques payable to GSMD Club) or ask for bank details to pay via BACS.

All entries to be received via email: [smbrailey@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:smbrailey@tiscali.co.uk) (Please send photo's one at a time)  
Or post to: S M Brailey, Hudds Mill House, EDINGTON, Nr WESTBURY, Wiltshire, BA13 4NH  
By 31<sup>st</sup> August 2012 stating which category each entry is for. *Please note photographs will not be returned.*

The judging will take place in September and will be judged by Brian Brooks, MD of Kudos Pet Products Ltd.

The winning photograph in each category will feature in the GSMD club calendar for 2013. The overall winning photograph will feature on the front page of the calendar and will receive a prize donated by Kudos Pet Products Ltd of Westbury. [www.kudospetproducts.co.uk](http://www.kudospetproducts.co.uk)

The GSMD calendar will be on sale from November 2012 and will cost £10 Inc postage and packing.

*Rules: The judge's decision will be final. Entry into the competition means permission is granted for any photo to be reproduced on the GSMD club website and calendar. All entries must feature a Great Swiss Mountain Dog. Professional photographers are excluded from the competition. Any photos submitted of a GSMD not belonging to the entrant, must have permission from the owner of the dog. The competition is only open to paid up members of the GSMD Club.*

### **Website**

Please take time to have a look at our website [www.gsmdclub.co.uk](http://www.gsmdclub.co.uk) we have a forum featured on here which you may be interested in, or if you would like a photo of your swissy for the front cover or if there is any photo's stories etc you would like to add to the site please let us know.

## **Dates for your diary**

### **Sunday 28th October 2012**

Character Assessment and Fun Day at Overseal Village Hall, Derbyshire DE12 6LU.

Fun and games for all the family, everyone welcome. The temperament test which is pre-booked only and limited to the first 7. Cost £7.50 per dog.

To book please contact Steve Brailey [smbrailey@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:smbrailey@tiscali.co.uk) Tel: 01380 830386

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

Well its bye for now, but remember if you would like an article or just a photo of your swissy 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](mailto:tracythornett5@msn.com)***