

WCRA 40th Anniversary Celebrations (Ruby Weekend 29th and 30th May 2010)

Moreton in Marsh is a lovely location and the Cricket Club ground is an ideal venue. People who supported the weekend's activities were able to stay over at the Moreton ground; families and friends using this opportunity to make the most of the Bank Holiday weekend, so by Friday morning lots of caravans and campers were settled along the hedgerow, including the odd tent.



Saturday was set aside for pedigree whippet racing; the Open event held specifically in aid of JR Whippet Rescue – all proceeds and donations to this worthy charity.

Saturday morning delivered lots of rain, as had been forecast, but racers always go prepared, so if it had to be wet then Saturday was the better day for it with the added advantage of a great running surface. Although the main challenge we had was to keep the programs from turning into tissue paper!!

Although the weather was miserable at first, it brightened up later in the day and, after some initial hiccups with the equipment, we had a great day's racing with some very competitive finishes; the supply of bags of Alpha complete food were enthusiastically received by winners and finalists alike.



Pauline Oliver kindly brought her camera and considerable photography skills on Saturday; taking some amazing action shots as you can see.

Lots of people donated raffle prizes which raised additional monies and we also had a limited edition whippet racing-scene; a delicate, detailed figureine in porcelain so generously donated by Tricia Billingham (Carlstream affix), who has bred many a winner (past and present). A separate raffle for this was held over both days (which raised a staggering £240) and the lucky, thrilled winner of this very special statue was Martin Potts, a new member of the East Anglia PWRC. Thank you Tricia.



We had 'labelled' Sunday as a 'Fun Day', with Obedience Classes, Agility Clear Round scurry, KC Good Citizen Dog Scheme and a Companion Show, all of which required planning and team work together with a dry day in order to make it a success. We were blessed to have the required elements; the sun shone and the atmosphere was brilliant.

The Whippet Club Committee provided invaluable help and advice, both on the day and in preparation, giving up their time and entering into the spirit of the weekend.



The Companion Show comprised Pedigree and Novelty show classes and the Judge on the day was Mr. Rob Dunning; a sincere thanks to Rob for a fantastic job done in a great spirit with many deserving winners. The judges had some good entries with one class attracting over 20 dogs; the 'Best Six Legs' class drew some interesting entrants and spectators were given an insight into an



altogether 'different' image for Rob Todman (known as Toddy to the racing fraternity) with his interpretation of this class. His wife Jan may not have been so impressed but the rest of us agreed he 'stole' the show with a long, platinum blond wig, very short shorts and a feminine fling of his 'hair'!! The judge joined the good humour of the day; especially when he got an unexpected hug and kiss from Toddy - the eventual, worthy winner of the 'Best Six Legs' class



was awarded to Ann Williamson's 'Crack on Tristan' who wore miniature versions of white trainers and red socks just like its owner.



The obedience classes were organised by Sharon Ireland and the judge was Jane Bailey. Sharon also brought and set up the equipment for the Agility Scurry so it was an early start and a long day for her and her team.

Anyone could have a go at the Obedience with classes for beginners, starters and tryers.

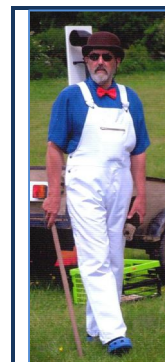


Whippets aren't known for their skills in this event; so it was pretty impressive to see eight whippets laying on the grass during the 'down-stay' section whilst all the other activities were in progress. Sue Shakespeare, amongst others, was brave enough to enter two of hers and won a class as well. Interestingly, it was a Pomeranian that won the 'tryers' class.

The Agility Scurry and Obstacle course attracted quite a number of dogs whose owners sometimes had to work as hard as their charges, including the flexi tunnel, where owners had to 'lead the way' in order to get their dog to follow - everyone who had a go at this class was given a sample bag of Alpha food as a reward and we didn't have any food left at the end of the day.

The Whippet Rescue set up their stall in the main thoroughfare and at one stage there were so many people browsing the racks and tables that it looked as if they were under siege. Lyn Chapman and her team did a great trade and equally impressive was Lyn's magician-like trick of packing a gargantuan amount of stock back into her car at the end of the day.

The Kennel Club Good Citizen Scheme also came to support the day and offered assessment levels for dogs at Bronze, Silver and Gold levels as well as puppies under 12-months; certificates and rosettes were awarded by Judge, Gay Bird, to successful participants.

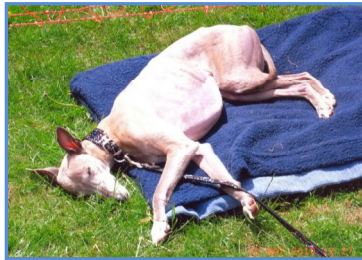


Splat the Rat – An unusual test for hand/eye coordination and Rob Rixon made it fun for everyone who tried for 20pence which raised over £23 so it was very popular.

This celebration weekend took nearly 2 years in the planning and the idea originated from Mr. Dennis Mayger. There are so many people to thank for all their help and hard work behind the scenes, too many to mention here, but you all know who you are and the WCRA Committee are very appreciative.

Even before the end of the Sunday 'thanks' and 'what a lovely day' comments were received and, since then, we've received emails, phone messages and cards along the same lines - with a couple of people asking that we organise an annual event on the same basis...

Special thanks goes to the Cricket Club Committee for letting us use their ground and a big thank you to Alpha Feeds for their generous sponsorship covering both days' whose support allowed us to



reward exhibitors and entrants with bags of complete dog food kibble (including 15kg) over both days, helped to keep down costs which ultimately meant more money going to a worthy cause very close to our hearts.



As you can see, it was not just the humans enjoying the sun!

Thanks again everyone for your considerable support.

Joint report by Sue Hoddinott and Kim Saxby
June 2010

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.win2pdf.com>.
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.
This page will not be added after purchasing Win2PDF.