

BARKAWAY NEWS LETTER

Christmas has been and gone and the New Year has arrived, the agility diaries are now being looked at with earnest. The serious business of planning which agility shows we will be going to has started.

Just a few things to look back on, at Bark away in the last couple of months 2008.

On A serious Note

An out break of kennel cough was reported in the later part of September, fortunately this did not affect Barkaway to much, Jackie and Becky missed training for a few weeks after Jazz started to cough and then passed it on to the other K9's in the family. They are all well and recovered now and back at training.

October weather turned out to give a few pleasant surprises, there were a few warm sunny days with crisp chilly nights and mornings had a sprinkling of frost but, as the month came to a close and November approached cold wet weather blasted in.

The training field was quickly divided into sections so as to rotate the equipment to save the field from churning up to much and training was able to continue.

Wednesday 3rd December and the night training became the first victim of the bad weather. Temperatures dropped, frost formed on contacts, even the weaves froze and with that it was decided to call it a night the safety of the dogs being top priority.

Training Saturday 13th December was a wash out heavy rain flooded the lane to the field (something Ian had not seen in the 10 years he has been at the field). So all even for training one night session and one day session cancelled

November Training Day

You can only imagine that agility people would get up early on a cold wet Sunday morning to work their dogs for three hours.

Places for the training day had been as usual snapped up very quickly and those of us that had got a place went back to basics to reinforce contacts and weaves.

Some people seemed to relish training in the mud.

Heavy rain the night before and cold drizzle in the morning did not make for the best running conditions (football boots were a must) but it soon became clear that speed was not the issue, consistency on getting the contacts was.

The first part of the training was on individual pieces of equipment starting with dogs on the lead. This was followed by putting equipment together and then the weaves.

By the end of the morning it was felt that getting out of bed was well worth the effort, contacts and weaves that by the end of the agility season had become a bit hit and miss were now back on an even keel, so with very wet muddy dogs and handlers to match it was back home to warmth and sanity.

December training Day

A hard frost made the field look like a Christmas card picture, white and glistening in the early morning sun, but there was very little time to enjoy the scenery.

Ian had put together a "tuff" (he claimed it was easy) training morning

and he wanted to get as much done as possible (as usual).

There was no time to feel the cold with a full class of participants with visitors from Southam Agility joining the group it was straight to work.

No two training days with Ian are the same and this again proved to be the case, working on turns, diagonals and pull through's and avoiding the discreet traps, the morning finishing with a course, this was a simple grade 2 course according to the chief, yeah right.

The saying "time fly's when you're having fun" is certainly true because all too quickly the time was up and training came to end giving everyone something to think about.

Social Night

A Christmas night out on the 20th December was held at Bowl X-treme near Worcester, this was the chosen venue by social club members it has proven to be a popular night out in the past, this year again was great fun.

New Arrivals

Vee has a lovely little pup a black and white bitch called Quiz, sired by one of Vee's own dogs.

Becky Fellows has a red and white bitch pup called Ruby.

Watch this space for these little stars of the future.

General News

Training closed on the 20th December due to Ian's impending op to be carried out on the 24th. Ian was allowed home on the 25th and was in good spirits when visited a few days later.

The news looks good the op went well and Ian should be able to weight bear within a couple of weeks.

We all wish him a speedy recovery lets face it we are all bored and want to get back training, only joking about the training. It will be great to see him back on form for the coming season.

Well that's the little bit of news from Barkaway to end 2008, looking forward to the new season.

Finally: A big thank you to all the social club committee for all the hard work carried out on our behalf in 2008, Thank you!

To all members **A Happy and Successful New Year** to you all!

Remember to keep an eye on the web site for training news.