

BOXER QUARTERLY

Volume 26 Issue 1 — March 2011

Guest Editorial

Vikki Van-Beck

BQ Guest Editorial

OMG! Those were the first three words I replied to the Editors when asked if I would write the Guest Editorial - what on earth could I write about that anyone would want to read - well I had a few glasses of vino and put finger to laptop! So feel free to read or not as the case may be!

Entries

As a Club Secretary how do we combat the fall in entries? We have reduced our entry fees and brought in overseas judges for our Championship Shows with no significant increase in the overall entries (except our Special 60th!). At our Open Shows we took away the Special Puppy, then brought it back, have kept entry fees to a minimum, had sponsorships (money) for Best in Show and Best Puppy in Show, continually have the support of Royal Canin and have still seen a fall in the overall entries - why? What can Clubs do to bring in more entries and ensure continuing support? We were advised by an all-rounder to add a Veteran Class at our Open Shows, we have and sure enough we did receive entries from people who may not necessarily have come if this class had not been on. Is there anything else that you as the exhibitor would like to see a Club put on in the future at the Open Shows. I, and our committee, are more than willing to try most things to help improve the entry. The bigger picture to all this is that if the judge doesn't get a good entry this then impacts on judging lists and ultimately where the breed may be (show wise) in 20 years to come! We seem to complain now about lack of variety in the annual judging list - if we can't get new people onto the A list then it will only get worse.

Training/Puppy Walk

The introduction of a Puppy Walk class seemed to be something that we all thought a great idea (except The Kennel Club). On the down side a four month old puppy having to go through a full day at a dog show is perhaps not ideal a little bit of show training in a ring, with the atmosphere of the show scene around them could be beneficial. Several Clubs, the Northern included, have had to cease their monthly training nights due to (once again) lack of support, yet at the Club Championship shows that have held a Puppy Walk class, there have been around 20 young puppies. Thanks to the KC these will probably dwindle away as the 'Judge' is now not even allowed to go over them; just watch you and your puppy stand and walk (or for anyone who was unfortunate enough to see my performance at the Anglian - let's just say an attempt of a walk, any which way except forwards and at one point even without my puppy!). It was fun, something different and definitely entertaining. Going back to my point, if the KC are not going



to allow hands-on training is there really any point? Ultimately where can we take young puppies to be trained?

Crufts

With the World's Biggest and Best Dog Show looming - are we all excited, are we all frantic to walk that dreaded mile from the car park to the door with dogs and bags galore. Ready to battle through hordes and hordes of visitors who think every dog is there to see them and them alone. Squeezing through people with their cameras, clicking away at every dog on every bench (they must be using Duracell Ultra!!) whilst trying to get to your own dog to go in your class. To go in the ring with the floor that is so un-Boxer friendly, to shop till you drop gaining many additional bags on the way and then pack everything up - not forgetting the 4pm rule - walk that dreaded mile (or may even be five miles by now!!) back to the car, then queue for hours onto various motorways before finally arriving home. Of course we are - it's Crufts!! Believe me, one 'show day' you can get just about get through, I will be there an entire week (working) and it is literally a back-breaker - I have yet to find a pair of shoes that are not painful by noon each and every day!

Breeding

The Internet is a fantastic tool for all manner of things but can also be very dangerous - I find some of the sites that advertise puppies and studs both fascinating and ridiculous. Don't get me wrong, we advertise on a couple of these sites, but have you ever actually read some of the adverts? Owners with their beloved pets, who have no pedigree to speak of behind them, advertising them available at stud - would these people actually know what to do if it came to it, never mind the likelihood of not even knowing about Heart Testing and all other aspects we, the responsible breeders, take into consideration. How can we ever control our breed when there is no way of stopping dogs being offered at stud for £50 because it's 'our Rex who is just the best Boxer in the world and will be a great Dad!!' - of course he is the best to the owners but not

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always the best for our breed! Sadly this will not change and in my humble opinion will only get worse.

Never Give Up

Lastly, something very close to my heart, when you have painstakingly attended just about every Championship Show, covering thousands of miles from Bournemouth to Edinburgh, week in and week out (year on year) campaigning one, two or more dogs - don't give up! You will always have good days, great days, bad days and days you wish you hadn't bothered getting up for - but that's how it goes. You just come back the week after (and the week after, and the week after) and try again! I became dis 

Editorial



TEAM BQ — EDDIE BANKS, TIM HUTCHINGS, KEITH JUMP

In a slight change from the usual, we are going to kick off this Editorial by helping to celebrate a very special birthday. Millicent Ingram, the first lady of UK Boxers is 90 years old. Millicent's career in dogs would be remarkable enough under any circumstances but to have achieved what she has from her home in Northern Ireland is nothing short of incredible and she is held in great affection by Boxer folk worldwide and by the wider dog show community.

Millicent was in her teens when she first encountered Boxers in Switzerland back in 1936 and went on to buy her first one in 1938 from Stainburndorf, having met Allon Dawson at one of the very first shows in UK where Boxer CCs were on offer. This was at Olympia, in London, just before the start of the second world war. Millicent had her love of dogs from a very early age in spite of stiff opposition from her parents, Sir Kenneth and Lady Sinclair, who were very keen that their debutante daughter should take her place on one of the London seasons. Millicent had other ideas and when she was actually due to be doing the season, she had ducked out for a dog show!

Millicent had so many interesting 'Boxer experiences' even attending the early British Boxer Club Committee meetings when the Breed Standard was being drawn up. She also went to the famous British Boxer Club championship show after the war when John Wagner of the Mazelaine Boxers came over to judge. Millicent won Open Dog that day and

she always remembered this show as a bit of a turning point for the UK Boxer, with judges beginning to seek a bit more elegance in the breed. Over the following years Millicent, eventually joined by her daughter Ann, achieved wonderful success with her Tirkane Boxers and no-one in the breed today can match her knowledge of the Boxers of yesteryear.



MILLICENT WITH STAINBURDORF BOMBARD RES. BEST IN SHOW NAVAN 1945

To help mark the wonderful occasion of her 90th birthday and having known her for a very long time, we asked former Boxer Quarterly editor Andrew Brace for his personal tribute to Millicent. Andrew wrote "What a truly remarkable lady. Apart from anything else she is the only person still with us whose recollections of the breed actually go back to the inaugural meeting of the British Boxer Club. Her life story is a fascinating one and the fact that she married the man she loved against the advice of her family is indicative of her grit and determination. Many of us have enjoyed Millicent's lavish hospitality at Cranmore over the years and she revelled in having company. Always young at heart,



MILLICENT WITH BE LANGAN AT THE BOXER SOCIETY OF IRELAND TOP DOG COMPETITION

Millicent loved a good party. However my abiding memory of Millicent is of the finest Boxer judge I have ever seen in action. I have watched her judge on many occasions and never failed to be impressed by her quiet and gentle demeanour and her instinctive appreciation of breed type. She was never interested in politics or who was showing what; she just got on with the job and always found the best Boxers. Her retirement from the judging arena robbed the breed of someone who most of us could only dream of emulating. Happy 90th Millicent!"



MILLICENT WINNING BEST IN SHOW WITH STAINBURDORF HOT TODDY KNOX RES. BEST IN SHOW WITH ON PARADE OF CRANMORE.



CRUFTS 1995 JUDGE: MRS. MILLICENT KNOX-INGRAM — DCC CH. FAERDORN FINEAS FOGG, RCC CH. NORWATCH SUNHAWK WANNEROO, BCC & BOB CH. TIME TO DANCE AT MANIC, RCC CH. SEACREST SASSAFRASS AT QUANTRO

As a breed we are exceedingly lucky to have so many long-standing enthusiasts with many years' experience and knowledge, it is just a shame, at the other end of the scale, that there are not so many new people coming into the world of showing Boxers. It's a real concern and as Vikki Van-Beck mentions in her Guest Editorial our breed clubs really are desperate for any new ideas on how we can attract more exhibitors of the future. Don't be shy – if you have any thoughts, please do share them with us. So far, the easing off of entries and puppy enquiries has affected us much less than some other breeds but we cannot afford to be complacent. Ours is such a wonderful hobby that we should not be afraid to promote it.

The regularity of judges coming around again on the judging list has caused a lot of comment this year. It seems absurd that some judges are taking appointments which are only just over a year apart. In the current climate of softer entries across the board, this seems like madness not just for the inviting society but also for the judge. It is surely much better to wait a longer period between appointments and have a decent entry rather than popping up frequently and being very disappointed with the number of exhibitors who chose to show under you. We suggest that at the moment the shortest sensible interval between appointments should be two years.

We are coming up to the most exciting time of year on the Boxer calendar. The week before you read this, the 10th anniversary Boxer Event

will have happened – reminding us that ours really is a VERY sociable breed – and the launch of this edition coincides with Crufts. We might all say that Crufts is 'just another dog show' but no-one really believes that and the excitement of a Crufts win is special. Let's wish ourselves luck for this show and for the rest of the season and let's keep in our thoughts our fellow exhibitors who are not currently enjoying the best of health. Recent times have been hard for too many of our number and we wish them all the very best for the future.



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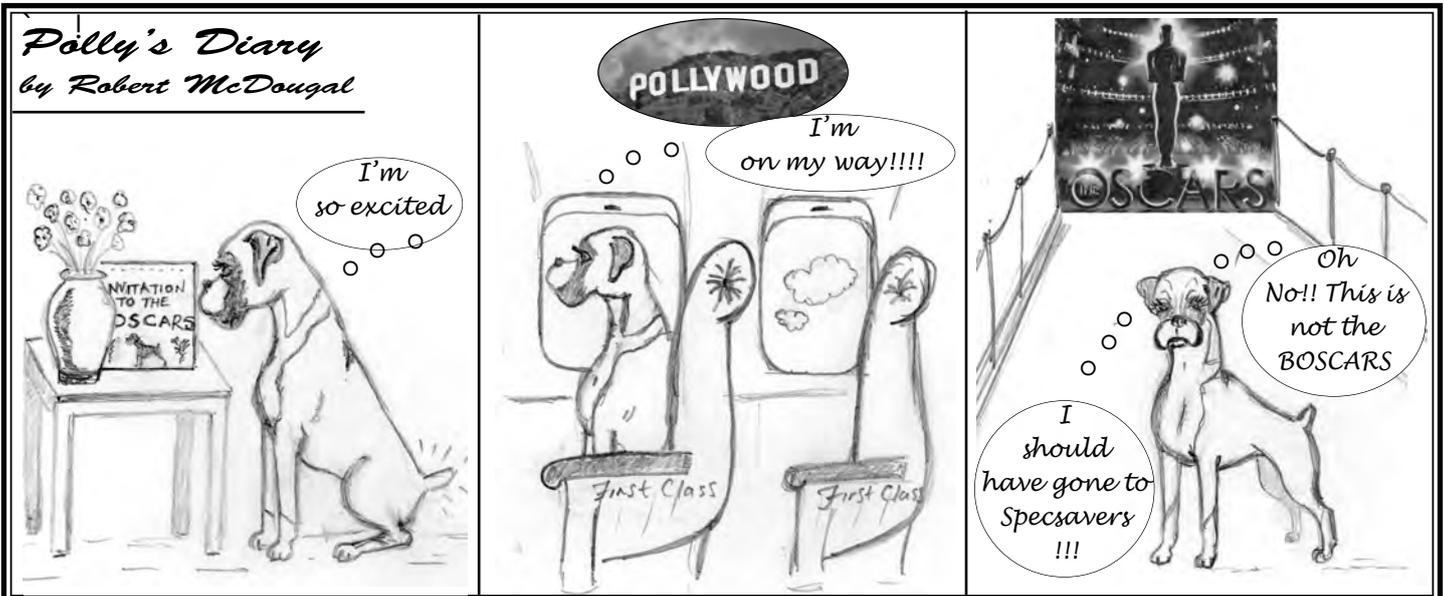
heartened with showing one of our girls who had won her way through all the classes finally making it into Open - with the 'Big Guns!' certain this would be the end of what had been really a fantastic showing career (for both of us). However with perseverance and determination we did it and in fine style - so, although we are there again now with one of our boys, in the words of the wise "Don't lose faith - after all it's only a hobby!"



Hello! New Zealand



4 STARS BUT NO STRIPES - LYNNE KINCLA WAS MARRIED TO WARREN MCKAY ON 22ND JANUARY IN NEW ZEALAND



Front Cover

Featured on the front cover are our two pups, **NORWATCH PLAY TIME** and **PLAY MATE** aged 9 months. Play Time (Buttons) has won 3 championship show firsts in only 4 shows entered. She won Best Puppy in Show at the first breed championship show of 2011, the Anglian Boxer Club, under breed specialist Jean O'Connor and in total agreement with Alex Palacin, highly respected international judge from Spain. Play Mate (Marmite) has gained two 2nds and Best Puppy dog at Manchester Ch. Show in January under breed specialist, Lynn Mair.

At Stud we have **CH. NORWATCH SUNHAWK HEYPRESTO**, 4 CCs, 6 RCCs, sire of Ch. Abythorn All Wrapped Up for Carmondene, and the history making **CH. NORWATCH SUNHAWK MAIN ISSUE**, 4 CCs, 2 RCCs, the first undocked (tailed) Champion ever in the UK.

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