

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT JANUARY 2010

Happy New Year to all Lancashire Heeler enthusiasts. It looks like we are going to have a full programme of events for you this year, so here's a rundown of what the committee have been busy arranging.

Debbie Felstead and Colin Russell have been co-opted onto the Committee to fill vacancies until the AGM in May, so we welcome 'newcomer' Debbie and 'old hand' Colin back.

On February 18th Lisa Siggers has organised a Seminar on PLL at the Animal Health Trust, Newmarket. This will commence at 1 pm and details can be found elsewhere in the Newsletter and on the website. Hopefully they will be able to answer many of our questions with regard to the future of breeding now we have the DNA test.

On the recommendation of the Health Committee we have requested that the Kennel Club set up a Breed Specific Scheme for CEA/CH to ensure results of DNA testing can be published as they are for PLL, for which we were the first breed to sign up to a Breed Specific Scheme. We also discussed making DNA testing a requirement for Accredited Breeders to undertake (at present it is only a recommendation), but we felt this was a subject that needed further investigation and discussion, so will be putting this to the Members at the AGM for them to vote on. We did request that PLL DNA testing be a requirement as well, but the Kennel Club has only included it as a recommendation and we have been told we can ask for it to be upgraded to a requirement during the year.

Crufts will soon be upon us and the Club will once again be having a booth at Discover Dogs, with Tracy St Clair Pearce co-ordinating the volunteers and setting up the booth. If you have a friendly Heeler and feel able to answer questions from the public about the breed, then why not volunteer your services for a half day stint? The Club Merchandise Stall will also be there on the Thursday, so you will have a chance to see what we have on offer, including the ever popular 2010 Calendars, which have been going like hotcakes, and are being sold in aid of Lancashire Heeler Rescue. We will also be drawing the raffle for a copy of Kathie Kidd's 'red book' so if you haven't yet bought your tickets please contact me. Tickets are only £1 each and all profits will also go to Lancashire Heeler Rescue.

Our next event will be the Club Open Show on Sunday 2nd May at Roade Village Hall, in Northamptonshire. The Judge is breed specialist Maggy Jones (Welshmoor). We are also planning to run a Companion Dog Show at the same venue alongside the Open Show, and this will include two classes just for Lancashire Heelers. Schedules will be available on the website shortly. If you wish to bring your caravan to Roade contact Bill Simpson; this will be available at £6 per night (pre-booked).

This years Annual General Meeting has been set for Sunday 23rd May starting at 11 am, and will be held at Shenstone Village Hall, near Lichfield, Staffordshire. Details of Committee Elections can be found in the Newsletter and on the website, together with the shortlist of Judges for forthcoming Club shows chosen by the Judges Sub Committee for the Members to vote on. Don't forget you can apply for a postal vote for choosing Judges if you are unable to attend, which has to be applied for 28 days before the AGM..

A free light buffet lunch will be provided after the AGM, as a 'thank you' to the members who have supported the Club during the difficulties of the past few months.

The Committee have also decided to reinstate the Supermatch, which will be held after the AGM/buffet lunch, and this will be open to all Club Members whose dogs have won top awards during 2009. This will be free to enter and details are available both in the Newsletter and on the website. Please let us know if you intend entering, so we can get some idea of numbers for the catering. There will also be a raffle and any prizes would be most welcome.

There is a rescue report elsewhere, but I would just like to thank once again everyone who has helped in any way with the rehoming, transport, kennelling and socialising of those dogs who find themselves in need through no fault of their own. Fundraising continues for this worthy cause so please do support this.

The Kennel Club have announced that Heelers will be back in Stud Book Band A from January this year, due to the lower numbers being shown over the past two years. Hopefully with the DNA test more breeders will be encouraged to have a litter and maybe our numbers will pick up again. The website now has a puppy page and carries details of breeders who undertake to do the relevant health testing, so if you meet the requirements and have puppies for sale or wish to be included on the breeders list please contact Chris Norman, the puppy co-ordinator.

Thanks also go to Chris Norman for agreeing to take on publishing the Newsletter at fairly short notice. We hope to publish two a year and the next one will be out around the beginning of December, so if you have any news or articles please contact Chris.

Thanks to Jan Jones for keeping the website up to date and making sure that news reaches you as soon as its available. It is a wonderful resource so please check it regularly for news and updates, and let us know if there is anything you would like to see covered. I would like to say however that if anyone does not have access to a computer, and wishes to be sent copies of future Chairman's Reports or other items by post, please let me know and I will gladly arrange to send you one. I realise not everyone is computer savvy, but with the price of printing and postage these days it makes sense to use the internet not only to save money, but to ensure news reaches our Members as quickly as possible.

I look forward to meeting you at some of our events throughout the year and wish you an enjoyable year with your dogs.

SARAH WHYBROW
CHAIRMAN