

Amanda's Diary

We continue our monthly update with RGT co-ordinator Amanda Ainsworth on some of the issues that she and the headquarters staff have been tackling in recent weeks.



WITH rain falling across most of the country, the sun shone on Newmarket on Sunday June 5 for the Greyhound Extravaganza.

Amanda said: "We wouldn't believe our luck, it was a beautiful day without being too hot and the attendance was probably fifty percent up on last year's first effort.

"Although there was a lot of travelling for many of the people there, myself included, it was worth the effort.

"These days are great get-togethers when the branches catch up with some of the dogs that they have re-homed in recent years.

"It also enables the owners to show off their dogs and chat among each other. It is a very rewarding day - and I think we even raised a few pounds on the way."

JULIE Collier recently handed over a cheque for £5,750 for the Greyhound Girls Calendar.

Amanda said: "It was a great effort and every penny will be put

to good use.

"I felt a little sorry for Julie who I think was a bit disappointed with the total, she had something closer to £20,000 as her target given all the hard work that went into making it all happen.

"From experience, I wasn't quite as shocked. Fund raising is a lot more difficult than most people imagine.

"Just look at the effort made by Daren Johnson in his Give A Bit Back. I gather the figure has reached around £30,000 though he still intends to go for his target of £100,000."

AMANDA is self banned from internet forums - or at least she should be. Tell-tale signs that she is has logged-in include swearing at the monitor and trying to pulverise the mouse!

"I'm terrible" she confesses. "I try not to go on them because some of the people who contribute to them wind me up so much."

The most recent example concerned a seven year old dog who had been homed by his trainer.

Amanda said: "Originally I was contacted by a lady who had rehomed a greyhound. Jed is a much loved member of the family but he had broken his leg

"The family were able to get treatment by a large animal welfare organisation but the leg was not healing well and she had been advised to put Jed to sleep.

"I agreed that the RGT would pay for a consultation with an experienced greyhound vet, due to poor support and bandaging the leg was not in great shape, after attempting to save the leg it became apparent that the leg

would need to be amputated.

"Jed recovered and adjusted very well and is now a regular ambassador for greyhounds as pets.

"As many of you will be aware the Trust has been under significant financial pressure and the track Jed had run at kindly allowed the Trust to have a Fundraiser to help towards the cost of Jed's treatment, a magnificent £1,369.50 was raised, which basically covered the total vet bill of £1,422.57.

"You wouldn't believe the bitterness that this decision caused. On the forum some people were saying that we shouldn't have interfered.

"Others were saying that because he hadn't raced at the track since 2007, he couldn't be considered as being one of their ex-racers anymore. They were alleging fraudulent use of money, and much worse.

"In the end I had to post. There were just so many unjustified accusations being made. What did they want, to see the dog put to sleep?"

"The issue seems to have died down a bit now, but it does make you wonder what is the problem with these people. If greyhound racing makes them so bitter and twisted, why are they still in it?"

THE announcement that Peter Laurie will take over as the new chief executive of the RGT has been welcomed by the office staff.

Peter has had various dealings with the Trust during his time as the manager of GBGB welfare and integrity services.

The appointment came as something of a surprise, given the emphasis that fund-raising experience was given in the job description.

Amanda said: "It is true that a fund raising background wasn't Peter's greatest strength, but the trustees balanced that up with some of his other qualities.

"It is generally accepted that Peter is passionate about welfare and retired greyhounds. He has a great deal of knowledge about the industry and he has very good organisational skills.

"I think there will be mixed views from the welfareists over Peter's appointment.

"Some are strongly 'anti racing' and his GBGB background will be treated with great suspicion. As a charity, we have always been proud of our independence.

"On the other hand, I understand that quite a few of the welfare people have been impressed with what they have seen of Peter so far and are prepared to give him a chance.

"Overall, I think he is the one in for the biggest shock. He has spent recent years surrounded by young exciting people and now he is faced with a roomful of middle aged women!"

GREYHOUND trainers are like the dogs they handle. Most are kind and decent, occasionally you come across a nasty piece of work.

The volunteers at one branch took an instant dislike to one trainer who pitched up at their kennel recently.

He practically threw the lead at the staff with the instruction 'There is no point in trying to re-home this one. He's a nasty bastard, you might as well put him down now.'

Although a bit shaken by the attitude, the staff took the dog in and were quite impressed by his gentle manner.

The following weekend they decided to take him to a show. If he really was vicious with other dogs, might as well find out sooner or later.

One of the volunteers agreed to keep the rogue on a lead as the public and assorted breeds of dog walked past the stall. Not a flicker.

As she stood there, a gent wandered over for a chat. He had recently lost his German Shepherd but was still getting over it and wasn't



Retirement Plans

ready for a new dog just yet.

As he chatted, the dog gently put his head into the man's hand and nuzzled him.

The next day the gentleman turned up at the kennels and Tiny will be going to his new home very soon.

WE have been given some Greyhound Magazines from the 70's and early 80's as well as for any Doctor Who fans a complete set of magazines from 1 to 395 (1979 - 2008) plus specials, TV guides and classic comics please give me a call on 020 8335 3016 if you

would like any more details.

KEEP an eye open for Give A Bit Back and Elwick Bolero who are both doing their bit for the RGT.

The first named will be running at Newcastle for Tom Edgar and all his winnings will go to the Daren Johnson fundraiser which is split between the Help For Heroes and the RGT.

Meanwhile any winnings earned by James Brown's open racer Bolero will go in full to the homing charity.

Coasters

Crafted from black hide leather, these handy items are stamped with the RGT logo highlighted in white, red, blue or green.

The white option has a matt finish, the other colours are metallic.

Available in sets of 4: choose 4 of the same colour, or buy one of each colour.

Diameter: 4" (10 cm)

£3.50 per set inclusive of P&P.

<http://www.retiredgreyhounds.co.uk/Merchandise/>



Richard Rocket from sponsors Burgess presents the Supreme Champion award at the Greyhound Extravaganza. The winner is Lottie owned by Louise Ogle from Polgate. The June '02 daughter of Split The Bill would be familiar to Hove racegoers where she raced as Blushing Rainbow.

JULY EVENTS		
Event	Date	Branch
Morrisons, Bilston	Friday 01	Shropshire and Borders
Isleham Fate and Fun Dog Show	Saturday 2	Mildenhall, Suffolk/E. Cambs
Wolverhampton RGT Sponsor Night - Monmore Green Stadium	Saturday 2	Wolverhampton - Monmore
Hagley Fete	Saturday 2	Birmingham - Hall Green
Ditton Priors County Show	Saturday 2	Shropshire and Borders
PDSA dog show, Wrexham	Saturday 2	Shropshire and Borders
Meet n' Greet - Freeport, Hornsea	Saturday 2	East Riding
Cars in the Park - Beacon Park, Lichfield	Sat 2 & Sun 3	Wolverhampton - Monmore
Robin Hood Country Show - Garon Park, Southend	Saturday 2	Essex - Ockendon
Morrisons, Bilston	Saturday 2	Shropshire and Borders
Dunsford Show	Saturday 2	Cornwall
Hatton Country Park, Warwick	Saturday 2	Birmingham - Hall Green
Pelsall carnival	Saturday 2	Shropshire and Borders
Annual Greyhound Day - Sherburn	Sunday 3	Hull
The Square, Shrewsbury	Tuesday 5	Shropshire and Borders
Worcester Racecourse Collection	Wednesday 6	Birmingham - Hall Green
Ossett Gala	Saturday 9	WYorks -Hudder/ Wakefield
The Taunton & Somerset Show	Saturday 9	Devon (East) - Honiton
Nantwich Family Fun Day - Barony Park	Saturday 9	Cheshire
Wolverhampton City Show	Sat 9 & Sun 10	Wolverhampton - Monmore
Old Town Dog Show	Sunday 10	Bridlington
Family Day - Stratford Racecourse	Sunday 10	Birmingham - Hall Green
Country Fayre at Burton Constable	Sunday 10	Hull
The Taunton & Somerset Show	Sunday 10	Devon (East) - Honiton
Great Yorkshire Show - Harrogate	Tue 12 - Thu 14	WYorks -Hudder/ Wakefield
Sainsbury's, Wednesfield	Saturday 16	Wolverhampton - Monmore
Holkham Country Fair	Saturday 16	East Counties (Nor/ N Suff)
The Dagenham Town Show	Saturday 16	Essex - Ockendon
Barmby Fest	Saturday 16	Hull
Mary Stevens hospice - Oldswinford	Saturday 16	Birmingham - Hall Green
Broadwaters Fayre - Kidderminster	Saturday 16	Birmingham - Hall Green
West Felton Carnival	Sunday 17	Shropshire and Borders
Fun Dog Show - Wisbech	Sunday 17	Wisbech
Meet & Greet the Greyhounds - Tiverton	Sunday 17	Cornwall
Penkridge Summer Fair	Sunday 17	Wolverhampton - Monmore
The Square, Shrewsbury	Friday 22	Shropshire and Borders
Tellington Touch Talk - Waltham Abbey	Friday 22	RGT Head Office
Wolverhampton, Queen Square	Saturday 23	Wolverhampton - Monmore
Table Top Sale - Bromsgrove Market	Saturday 23	Birmingham - Hall Green
Green Fayre 2011 - Beacon Country Park, Ormskirk	Sat 23/Sun 24	Lancashire & Belle Vue
Dunnington Fayre	Saturday 23	North Yorkshire
Gainsborough Meet and Greet	Saturday 23	Lincolnshire
Vintage Rally - Bishop Wilton	Saturday 23	Hull
Ashwood Garden Centre - Kingswinford	Saturday 23	Birmingham - Hall Green
Hollybush Garden Centre - Essington	Sunday 24	Wolverhampton - Monmore
Blakemere Countryside Fair	Sat 23/Sun 24	Cheshire
Ryedale Show	Tuesday 26	North Yorkshire
Meet n' Greet @ Tesco Hexham	Saturday 30	Northumberland
GREYHOUND GATHERING & DOG SHOW	Saturday 30	Durham - Hollin Hall
Suffolk Dog Day	Saturday 30	Greyhoundhomer Suffolk
Trimpley Heavy Horses Show	Sunday 31	Birmingham - Hall Green
Huby and Sutton Show	Sunday 31	North Yorkshire
Woolstock! - Angel Inn, Yarwell	Sunday 31	East Counties (Nor/ N Suff)
Sewerby Cricket Club	Sunday 31	Bridlington