

# 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.



Faced with a funding shortage following the reduced grant from the GBGB, the Trust managed to reduce the average home finding cost by around £70 per dog, according to the recently published annual review.

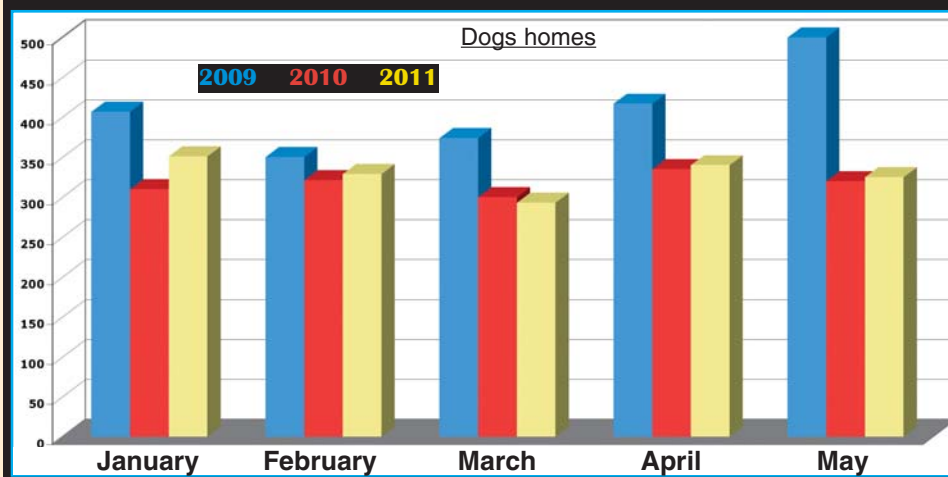
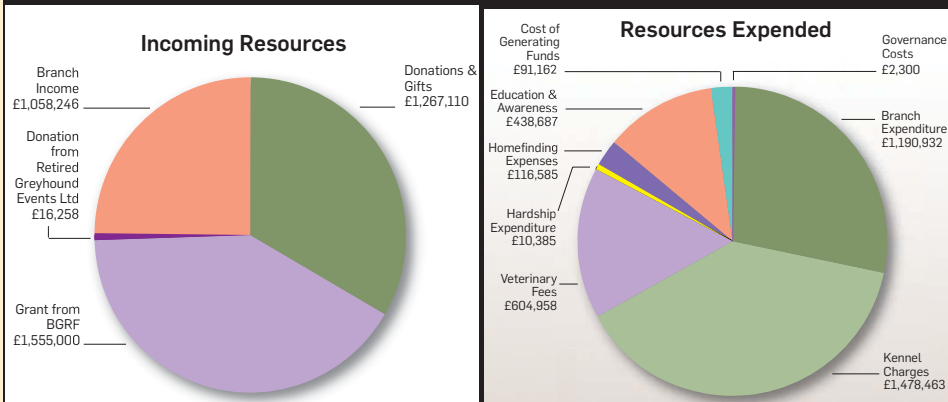
Amanda said: "Excluding the overhead costs, as we have always done, the average cost has fallen from around £750 to £670 per dog, which is pleasing. "The increase in kennel costs (up around 30%) is something we have been monitoring but there were some exceptional circumstances in the year, from one kennel alone, we had to take in 60 dogs."

"There were also increases in some kennel fees. 25 pence per day may not sound a lot, but it rapidly adds up when you are dealing with hundreds of dogs."

2010	
<b>Income</b>	
Donations & Gifts	1,267,110
Grant from BGRF	1,555,000
Donations from RGT Ltd	16,258
Branch Income	1,058,246
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>3,896,614</b>
<b>Charitable Expenditure</b>	
Branch Expenditure	1,190,932
Kennel charges	1,478,463
Veterinary Fees	604,958
Hardship Expenses	10,385
Homefinding Expenses	116,585
Education & Awareness	438,687
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>3,840,010</b>
<b>Cost of Generating Funds</b>	<b>91,162</b>
<b>Governance Costs</b>	<b>2,300</b>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>3,933,472</b>
<b>Net Resources</b>	<b>(36,858)</b>
Balance B/F Jan 2010	982,468
Balance C/F Dec 2010	945,610

**ALTHOUGH nobody has any expectations of matching the exceptional 2009 figures, the numbers homed for the first five months of 2011 (left) are most heartening, given the continued economic situation.**

## RETIRED GREYHOUND TRUST FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES



## Retirement Plans



A photo of the winning team in our charity golf day arranged by Alan Ward.

The winning team consisted of David Mullins David Sullivan, Garry Thompson and Anthony Doherty.

We managed to raise £560 on the day with a further £40 donated by trainer Jim Reynolds to round it up to £600. We had teams from GBGB, Ladbroke and trainers from Romford stadium.

A fantastic day was had by all and big thanks to all who attended and participated in the auction and raffle.

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Event	Date	Branch
Next GRSB Meeting	Tuesday 2	Shropshire - Borders
Promenade Shopping Centre	Wednesday 3	Bridlington
Lissett Fete	Saturday 6	Bridlington
Oswestry Show	Saturday 6	Shropshire and Borders
Hornsea Tabletop Fundraiser	Saturday 6	Hull
East Sussex Walks	Saturday 6	Brighton & Hove
South West Greyhound Gathering	Saturday 6	Devon (East) - Honiton
Emley Show	Saturday 6	West York. Hudders/Wakef.
Redruth Fun Day	Sunday 7	Cornwall
Heacham Carnival	Sunday 7	Coastal
Roden Open day	Sunday 7	Shropshire and Borders
ESHA Heavy Horse & Country Show	Sunday 7	Essex - Ockendon
Wayland Show	Sunday 7	East. Counties (Norf/N Suff)
Cheshire Game & Angling Fair	Sunday 7	Cheshire
Lions Carnival	Sunday 7	Bridlington
Pets in the Park	Sunday 7	Hull
Store Collection - Tesco	Thur 11& Fri 12	Cornwall
Pets at Home	Saturday 13	Bridlington
RGT Fun Dog Show	Saturday 13	Dorset & Somerset
Coldham Village Fun Day	Saturday 13	Wisbech
Stourbridge Motor Show	Saturday 13	Birmingham - Hall Green
Brooke Animal Hospital Show	Sunday 14	Cornwall
Russett Greyhound Sanctuary Open Day	Sunday 14	Cornwall
Family Fun Day	Sunday 14	Birmingham - Hall Green
Wimblington Fun Day	Sunday 14	Wisbech
Far Forest Countryside Show	Sunday 14	Birmingham - Hall Green
Blue Cross Open Day	Sunday 14	North Yorkshire
Denbigh and Flint Show	Thursday 18	Shropshire and Borders
Scarborough Festival	Saturday 20	Hull
Bancroft Gardens, Stratford upon Avon	Saturday 20	Birmingham - Hall Green
Hatfield House Country Show	Sunday 21	Essex - Waltham Abbey
Monthly Walk - Tunstall Reservoir	Saturday 27	Durham - Hollin Hall
Brooksbushes Meet n Greet	Saturday 27	Northumberland
Railway Station	Saturday 27	Bridlington
Glyn Ceiriog Sheepdog Trials and Show	Saturday 27	Shropshire and Borders
Ellesmere Carnival	Saturday 27	Shropshire and Borders
Belbroughton Horticultural Society	Saturday 27	Birmingham - Hall Green
The Havering Show	Sunday 28	Essex - Ockendon
Aylsham Show	Monday 29	East. Counties (Norf/N Suff)
Lickey Hill Country Park	Monday 29	Birmingham - Hall Green



Amanda & Wayne Hennessey cut the ribbon, supported by Alison Bandurak and one of her elderly residents

TO many observers, Monmore's retirement scheme is a model of what can be achieved at a good RGT branch, when all the essential elements come together.

So Amanda was particularly pleased to be invited, along with Wolves goalie Wayne Hennessey, to open Monmore's new isolation block.

Amanda said: "We are so lucky in the RGT to have so many brilliant dedicated volunteers but in the case of Monmore, the whole package is in place."

"It all starts with Alison Bandurak who just has the most incredible enthusiasm for homing dogs, it's infectious."

"She inspires all the volunteers, even husband Michael gets caught up in it."

"Then of course there is the track itself which is incredibly supportive."

"General manager Richard Brankley is genuinely interested in the scheme and was present for the opening."

"Out of interest, Wayne Hennessey has a retired greyhound and he is also a real enthusiast for the scheme."

The conversion of an old chicken hut to an isolation block is graphically covered on the website [www.rgtwolverhampton.co.uk](http://www.rgtwolverhampton.co.uk) and it should prove a big asset to the kennel.

Amanda said: "The major benefit of an isolation block comes when you get a dog in who is not in the best condition, or one who is recovering from an operation and doesn't want the bustle of the main kennel."

"The whole day was very inspiring and they are doing such a good job."

"In June alone, the Monmore branch homed 31 dogs, more than one a day."

GREYHOUND racing's enemies have always disputed the sports claims that trainers keep thousands of ex-racers in their kennels.

The sad irony is, the only time that their existence is acknowl-

edged is when something goes wrong.

Among the latest SOS calls was one from Oxford trainer Ian Wills who relinquished his licence in July.

In addition to the 34 racers who will need to be moved on by the trainer, the RGT have been asked to take on 27 golden oldies.

With another 26 from Tommy Wade, plus half a dozen from the retiring Peter Payne, within a week, Amanda found herself with an unexpected 66 additional mouths to feed.

She said: "Thankfully, in most cases the trainers are able to hold onto the dogs for a couple of weeks to allow us to filter the dogs into the system."

"It is important for owners to realise that we can't just take the dogs at a moment's notice. We always have to anticipate these kind of emergencies."

AMANDA is confident that the RGT's recent fund raising mail-out will be money well invested.

The charity was given a six figure grant by the off-course betting industry with the instruction that the cash should only be used for fund raising activities.

They opted to spend between four and five thousand pounds on sending donation requests to 10,000 people who had homed a greyhound in recent years.

Amanda said: "We have already received over £4,000 and the responses are still coming back by the day."

"What is particularly pleasing is the number of standing orders that have been completed."

"I am told that the average timescale for a standing order is around two and a half years which, in theory, would bring us around £6,800 per year for the next two and a half years."