

CANADIAN CARDIGAN

CORGI CLUB

NEWSLETTER

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**CANADIAN CARDIGAN CORGI CLUB
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executive

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NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

She achieved no major wins; her two litters produced only three champions; she didn't even finish her own championship. Yet this issue contains three memorials on the passing of Joker, more formally known as Finnshavn's Bawyni Midnite Toker, and that surely speaks to her impact on those who knew her.

Joker was my foundation bitch, the beginning of my involvement with Cardigans. She trained me; it was *not* the other way around. When it was time to retire her from the whelping box, after a frightening brush with cancer, she began a second career as major-domo in the Coleman/Elliott household. She was a well-known Kingston "character", a fixture at the antique market and welcome in many of the shops. John tells me that on the day she died, a steady stream of visitors arrived at the house, some with flowers, to say goodbye to the old girl; some of the guests he didn't even know!

Her descendants are still out there, making their mark in the show ring: Lore Lee's Spuddie is Joker's grandson, my Eli is her great-great grandson. It is from Joker that they have inherited their irrepressible *joi de vivre* and a certain, shall we say, heft: Joker was a fine figure of a dog who never, as a judge once pointed out to John's chagrin, missed a meal. She was a reluctant show dog, a proud and conscientious mother, and a wonderful friend.

Thank you: to Charlie for breeding her, to Barb for raising her, to Jim for a very unique Christmas present, to John and Kenneth for loving her. And to Joker, for being herself.

My apologies: this edition of the Newsletter lacks the stylistic flourishes that we have grown accustomed to. But I am guest-editing, and I don't have Bette's skills with the computer, so please bear with me!

Marilyn

NEWS FROM THE V.P.'S CORNER

Merrymoon Reg'd extends heartfelt condolences to John Coleman and Ken Elliott on the passing of their cherished 'Joker' (Finnshavn's Bawyni Midnite Toker). Joker lived with me for a couple of years prior to living with Marilyn where she produced the infamous escape artist 'Patches'. When she retired as Marilyn's brood bitch she went to live with John and Ken where she was unreservedly doted on. I recall Joker as a joyful puppy, optimistic and energetic, and I know from talking to others who knew her that she will be fondly remembered for the generosity of spirit and sense of humour that endeared her to those whose lives she touched.

BREED STANDARD COMMITTEE UPDATE

Work on the standard is progressing well. We are about a third of the way through a comparative analysis of the current standard, the American standard and the British standard.

Luckily I had a copy of a draft standard that former committee members Patrick Ormos and Charlie MacInnes prepared and it has been very helpful.

There has been much criticism of the quality of judging in Cardigans. Clarifying the standard is certainly not "the" solution to improving judging - there is no one solution. But, along with such things as judges' and breeders' education programmes and other activities it is an important step we can take in the direction of improvement - it can be part of the solution. And you can also be part of the solution by participating in the standard revision process. Please keep your feedback, opinions and suggestions coming - remember that it is each member's responsibility to our breed to participate as fully as possible. You don't have to be an expert to contribute. All input is valuable whether it is the experience and wisdom the "oldtimers" bring or the fresh perspective of those new to the breed.

FUND RAISING

I was recently watching a videotape of Westminster and was struck by a lightning bolt. This is what the CCCC should be doing!: videotaping our Sweeps, Specialties and Boosters. Not only could it be fund raiser, it could be a great educational tool and an excellent addition to our archives. In order to keep costs down it would be great if we could find a CCCC member with the expertise and equipment to do the actual videotaping and add titles. Is there anyone out there who could help with this? Or anyone who has information that would be useful in getting this off the ground? Please get in touch with me. Thanks!

JUDGES SEMINAR

On April 25, Club members participated in a judge's education seminar in Milton, Ontario, our first such effort. The event was organized by Dave Eadie (whom some of you will remember as the judge of our 1993 Specialty) and Gordon Garrett, while Chris Edwards marshaled the Cardigan contribution. The purpose of the day was twofold: to provide information on canine structure and movement generally, with emphasis on the benefits of slow-motion videotape as an analytical tool; and secondly to provide a focus on the Cardigan Corgi. The intended audience of judges and wanna-be judges stayed away in droves, perhaps because it was the first nice day in seven months; only two people showed up, other than the Cardigan contingent. But it was a great opportunity from the customer's point of view: Nancy and Lisa got their hands on more Cardigans in one afternoon than some judges would see in an entire career! There was lots of opportunity to ask questions, and we didn't run out of doughnuts. Our breed stalwarts

had brought out about 20 dogs, all styles, colours and ages, so there was a good cross-section to be seen and examined. We had handouts on Cardigan history and what to look for in judging a Cardi, we had an extensive display of books and pictures on Cardigan history, put together by Chris Edwards, and we had lots of doughnuts. (The handout material will probably be edited and made available to members. The doughnuts are pretty stale.)

While the turnout was disappointing, given all the effort that went into the day, I think we all learned something, it was very useful to see the videotapes of the dogs moving, and it was a nice day to be out in the country. Thanks to Dave, Gordon and Chris for their efforts, and to Barb Hoffman, Charlotte Ambeau, Sherry Saunders and Charlie MacInnes for bringing out the dogs. Thanks also to Lisa and Nancy for their interest; we might just want to keep them in mind for future boosters and specialties!

YUKON/NWT REPORT FOR 1996 **by Al Alcock**

Cardigans north of 60! When most folks hear that they chuckle at the thought. Their eyes twinkle and a knowing smile with a wink is given and an expression of "Sure-e-e, there are, and I suppose they have parkas on too?". Unlike their southern neighbours, northern Cardigans enjoy wide expanses of wilderness, mountains and of course long cold winters. Probably the 5 toughest Cardis to be found anywhere in the world are currently residing in the north as this report is being written, all of whom are in the Yukon. One of the advantages of living in God's country is that Cardis do not go through the problems of blowing their coats that their counterparts in the south do. That means that vacuum cleaner sales folk don't make big bucks off of us. Northern Cardis shed their undercoat but it generally doesn't last more than a couple of weeks at best. Of course they continue to shed some of their undercoat throughout the year but in small amounts.

This past winter saw temperatures reach lows that fell short one degree of breaking the all time North American record of -74°F. Now typically you would think that the little fellows would huddle close to the fire and not venture out at all. Not true! Don't let anyone tell you that Cardigans are not tough little dogs. All of them continued to go outside to do their 'chores' which also included going down to the barn to help in feeding the horses; and while the kids didn't stay out long they never-the-less were undeterred because of the weather. After all a chore is a chore!

This past year saw a lot of Cardi action here in the north. Three new Cardigans arrived in March and May, all being introduced to two levels of obedience training at the tender age of 4 months. Another Cardi achieved her Championship (after a mix up with CKC over her points) in June and also added a Tracking Title in October to her pedigree (CH Finnshavns Alynn Ruby Red TD, "Bubbles"). As well, Finnshavn Alynns Black Diamond TD, "Squeaky" picked up her Tracking Title at the same Trial. For some of you who

know the "Squeak" she is also running for top dog as the champion cuddler. Nothing but an Oscar is expected in that area.

Some of you may have read the tracking exploits of "Bubbles" and "Squeak" in the winter CCCC newsletter. The article has also found its way into several magazines in four countries and will be featured in Cardifair in June as well as the CWCCA 1996 year book. In July "Squeaky" and Lynn participated in the first ever Hoof and Woof fun day in the Yukon. Now for those of you who do not what Hoof and Woof is you are missing the epitome of a dog and horse combination in agility. While the "Squeak" didn't win she did keep the spectators amused at a 'big dog in a little body' appearance.

Al & Lynn Alcock attended the Canadian Nationals in Markham in August and brought back stories not only of the show and the good time they had, but also shared in the starring of "Bubbles" and "Byron" (Robinhoods Dusty Diamond) in a Japanese film shot in Vancouver airport on the way home. The take was 25 minutes in duration that drew a good sized crowd. Of course their contracts have to be rewritten to now include extra biscuits because of their new found stardom. Brymist Meghan's Holly, "Holly" who is "Maggie's" sister (Brymist Flaming Garnet, also part of the Welgem menagerie) found a home with Meghan Juby who is very much involved with 4H activities. "Holly" enjoys being the center of so much love and affection and is a real ham when it comes to entertaining folks with her tricks and obedience skills. Meghan is expecting great things from "Holly" and we believe she won't be disappointed. Even now "Holly" hones her herding skills by herding their four cats around the house. For "Byron" and "Maggie", well they have been waiting anxiously to hit the tracking trails so they can start their own northern lore.

During the long winter months "Bubbles" and "Squeaky" were and are active participants in Pet Therapy visitation with their friends at the local seniors lodge. They often dress up in various costumes and simply love it when their pictures are taken. We are sure that all of the some 40 residents have a picture of the two adorning their bedside tables.

Well that wraps up the highlights of what went on here in the north in 1996. From all of us in the 'Great White North' we wish our southern neighbours the best for 1997.

IT'S RAFFLE TIME!!!!

The Oscars. The Kentucky Derby. The World Series. And the Canadian Cardigan Corgi Club Annual Raffle. Great events that return, year after year, by popular demand!

So here comes the raffle again, folks! Your tickets are enclosed with this edition of the newsletter, and are two dollars for three. Please write your name and address on the back, and send them (along with the money) to Marilyn Boissonneault (address on the masthead) by June 27th. You can get additional tickets from me, or they will be available at the Specialty. You can also send items to be raffled to me, or bring them to

the Fun Day or the Specialty. And don't worry if you can't attend: as always, if you win, we'll pick out something nice and mail it to you.

Please support the raffle generously: it is our biggest (and currently, only) fund-raising event of the year!

From the Whelping Box:

Barb Hoffman has a litter of nine born the last week of March: four brindle males, 1 red male, 3 brindle females, 1 red female. Barb says "a nice uniform litter, with good necks, shoulders and upper arms; short hocks, good bone, good body length. Lovely rich brindles with very attractive markings."

Contact Barb at (613) 359-6212.

Merrymoon March litter

- Am Ch Joseter Geefax
- Am/Can Ch Phi-Vestavia's Pirate Patch
- Am/Can Ch Kentwood Lyneth
- Am/Can Ch Phi-Vestavia Evan Evans
- Ch Merrymoon Dear Heart
- Ch Phi-Vestavia Unforgettable

Lore Lee Bruder is also anticipating the pitter-patter of little paws; two litters worth, in fact (oh, that Spud!). Both girls are due in early June. Lore Lee can be contacted at (403) 627-5368.

Blutrix Litter #1

- Ch. Aberwyvern Wagner
- Ch. Caerphilly Blue Mordred
- Beckrow's Black Madonna
- Can/Am Ch. Davenitch English Toffee
- Finnshavn Patch of Trouble (tri-colour)
- Ch. Finnshavn Patch of Trouble

Blutrix Litter #2

- Ch. Aberwyvern Wagner
- Ch. Caerphilly Blue Mordred
- Beckrow's Black Madonna
- Blutrix Trahern Paris Sandy
- Ch. Blutrix Zing Here There
- Contee's A Tiny T

Reminders:

Don't forget!!: the second annual Fun Day, Sunday May 25 at Shelley Camm's place!

And don't forget the Specialty: a whole weekend of Cardigan activities, July 4 to 7. You should have received your premium list in the mail by now; if not, contact Sarnia Kennel Club at P.O Box 874, Sarnia, Ontario, N7T 7J9; telephone (519) 542-1020. Or contact Chris Edwards at (519) 287-5818.

Club membership **dues** for 1997 were due on April 1st. If you have not paid yet for 1997, **this is your last chance!** There are about 15 members who are in arrears: nearly 1/3 of our membership! *Please support your Club.*

Notice of Annual General Meeting:

The annual general meeting of the Canadian Cardigan Corgi Club will be held on Saturday July 5th, on the Specialty show grounds somewhere in or near the Cardigan encampment. We will try to get the meeting underway at 7 pm (let's hope judging finishes a lot earlier this year!) and follow with the raffle and relaxing. Items on the tentative agenda include: treasurer's report; report of the Breed Standard committee; up-coming Specialties news; report on the Constitution and Code of Ethics; rescue; trophy policies; new membership rates; fund-raising; and more! Please try to attend: the annual meeting plays a very important role in setting direction for the Club, and everybody's input is welcome...in fact, it's necessary!

Life's Little Adjustments

Adding a baby to one's life requires a lot of adjustments; but in a household with dogs, the adjustments become their responsibility too! See, for example, this note from a friend of mine:

"....the dogs have adjusted reasonably well. They seem a little unsure about whether or not they are permitted to sleep with us on the bed, though they are gradually becoming more comfortable with the idea of having Nicholas on the bed at night while he feeds. A bigger adjustment, actually, is when we go in the car. Our little Honda Civic hatchback is definitely small for all five. Ceilidh rides up front with me in her seatbelt. She can be quite excitable in the car and even in the seatbelt we worried that if she were in the back seat she might be able to step into Nicholas' car seat. Putting her in the front, of course, relegates Tamara to the back with Nicholas and Pushkin. Pushkin is not impressed by being belted into the back seat, because she has spent most of her life riding up front with Tamara. While Pushkin is quite dejected in the back now, Ceilidh is really quite proud of her position in the front!Nicholas, of course, snoozes in the car, so he is quite peaceful!"

**FINNSHAVN BAWYNI MIDNITE
TOKER (JOKER)**

Our dear friend Joker died in her sleep at home on 5 April 1997. She was approaching her sixteenth birthday in May. Although suffering from arthritis, she enjoyed her life until near the end. Finally, her heart gave out. She has left behind a number of friends who will miss her very much. Everyone who met Joker knew what a wonderful character she was. She is missed particularly by John Coleman, Kenneth Elliott and her son, Duke.