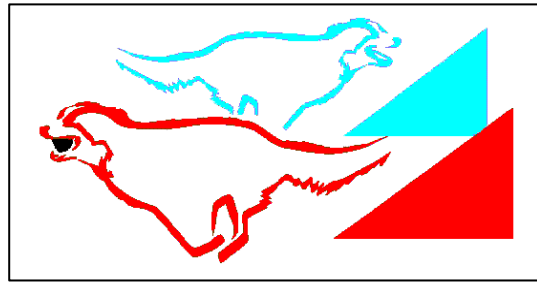


THE FLYBALL RECORD



British
Flyball
Association

ISSUE MAY 2000

Tornadoes

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Items for the next Issue of the Flyball Record must be received by 1st July 2000.

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Hello Flyballers

For my sins I have agreed to become the editor of your Flyball Record, some of you out there will know me, some won't, so perhaps I should first of all introduce myself, a bit of a c.v. if you like.

My name is Jean Meeking, I live in Northampton and have been a Community Nurse for the last 25 years.

Dogs have been my hobby since I was 14 years of age but I only competed in Open Obedience Shows until 1995, when I decided to have a go at Agility and went to see Delia & Peter Roberts who introduced me to Flyball.

From the word 'Go' (literally) I loved it, the dogs loved it, and I became a POD. I still compete in Obedience when there aren't any Flyball events and dabble with Agility when there's time but Flyball comes first.

Some 18 years ago I began editing the monthly 'Recall' for my local Dog Training Club and also took control of the quarterly edition of 'K.I.T. (Keep In Touch)' magazine for the Northants & District Multiple Sclerosis Society, these posts I retired from some three years ago, now look what's happened!

I began my editing days on a typewriter, progressing to the Word Processor, so I am still a computer illiterate (my 6 year old grandson knows more than I do). But, we now have this wonderful 'Publisher Package' and I have a lot to learn, so at this point I would like to thank Neil (my husband) for all the help he's going to give me (I bet he wishes I was a dog, I'd learn much quicker).

Now comes the 'begging bit' that all Editors have to do - Please, please send me all your news, judges reports, stories, poems, pictures, suggestions and criticisms (if they're put nicely of course), anything doggie orientated that you think your Flyball friends would like to see. I need to know what you want.

Before I close I must take this opportunity to thank Stef Banyard for all her hard work in producing the Flyball Record over the last two years and wish her well in her new ventures.

THE B.F.A. DIARY 2000

Key *Cl.D* = Closing Date for entry. *ST* = Sanctioned Tournament. *Prs*=Pairs Racing
Sgl = Singles Racing. *MB* = Multi Breed. *Fun* = Fun Classes. *D* = Demonstration

June 10/11th ...	Daventry, Northamptonshire	PODS First Summer Championship Peter Roberts - 01604 648085	Cl.D 22 nd May ST, Open, MB & Fun
June 18th	Bracknell, Berkshire	Barkshire Bandits Penny Charlton - 01753 620110	Cl.D 18 th May ST, Limited Open
June 24/25th	Mobberley, Cheshire	The Northern Bytes Doreen Smith - 0161 4940787	Cl.D 24 th May ST, Open
July15/16th	Nostell Priory	Wakefield Tykes Alison Booth - 01977 795156 D	Cl.D 5 th July ST, Open
July 22nd	Grafty Green, Kent	Mad Mutts Maureen Hiscock - 01708 557812 ..	Cl.D 8 th July ST, Open
July 22/23rd	Walsall, W.Midlands	Wolf Pack Anne Johnson - 0121 443 1535	Cl.D 22 nd June ST, Open
August ...5/6th	Congleton, Cheshire	Northern Bytes Second Summer Championship	Cl.D 7 th July Doreen Smith - 0161 4940787
August . 19/20th ...	Althorpe, Essex	Mad Mutts Third Summer Championship	Cl.D 5 th August Maureen Hiscock - 01708 557812 ...
August . 26th	Charlton Park	Bassett Allsorts Robert Henshall - 01793 762709	Cl.D 16 th August ST, Open
August . 27th	Stoneleigh, Warks	PODS Peter Roberts - 01604 648085	Cl.D 1 st August ST, Open

The PODS FLYBALL TEAM

Present

THE FIRST SUMMER CHAMPIONSHIP

10th & 11th JUNE 2000

at

Daventry Northamptonshire

Closing Date 22nd May 2000

Open Team Tournament Multi Breed

Fun Classes

Mixed Breeds

Refreshments

Camping available

Licensed Bar

For Schedules or information contact Delia Roberts

Tel. 01604 648085

Email - PeterPODS@aol.com

www.flyball.org.uk

BRITISH FLYBALL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at

Southmoor on Sunday 16th April

They say that a camel is a horse designed by a Committee. Well, if you weren't there on Sunday 16th April you missed our camel designers being put through their paces at the B.F.A. A.G.M.

For those who couldn't make it, the minutes will be available soon on the Web Site. For those who were there, I hope you came away with similar thoughts to me. Firstly, of a hard working and committed Committee who have steered the B.F.A. into the new century, regaining its direction and purpose.

It was a heavy Agenda, and for the fifty or so members present this meant almost six hours of discussion and debate. You cannot fill a room with competitive dog racers and expect a boring meeting, but when feelings ran high it showed the passion we all have for our sport. Then again, we're not just dog racers, we're Flyballers, so there was lots of agreement and lots of laughs.

Thank you Committee and thank you fellow attendees, I think this has been a great start to a very enjoyable and successful flyball year.

Can't close without saying a big thank you to Sam Bawden, for the venue and the lovely hot lunch (especially the crumble and custard).

THE COMMITTEE 2000/2001

Chairman	Roy Hiscock	- (Mad Mutts)
Secretary	Doreen Smith	- (Northern Bytes)
Treasurer	Robert Henshall	- (Bassett Allsorts)
	Chris Fulford	- (Bad Dog Racers)
	Andy Bawden	- (Bristol Ball-istics)
	Peter Roberts	- (PODS)
	Martin Dickenson	- (Red Dragons)
	Alison Booth	- (Wakefield Tykes)
	Betty Potts	- (Yorkshire Bouncers)

A.G.M. REFLECTION

It's the day after the A.G.M. and I have had time to reflect on the outcome. All in all not a bad day, but I do have a comment to make.

One of the rule changes voted in, was to reduce the maximum jump height to fourteen inches, so how will this effect the little dogs? Will it be, "who needs them", when any fit much faster collie can jump fourteen inches. Will the year 2000 signify the demise of these valiant little dogs so loved by all who watch our sport.

The height card system will no longer have much significance and the hotly contended specific awards will become a farce. This will undermine the hard work put in to Flyball, to encourage new members without a collie, to join us.

You have my apologies for bringing up this negative point after a very constructive A.G.M., but could this be the reason N.A.F.A. rejected any jump height reductions?

ANDY BAWDEN

The A.G.M. ANNUAL AWARDS

Team of the year - 1st Barkshire Bandits - 13,224 pts
2nd Jumping Jacks - 12,512 pts
3rd Northern Bytes - 9,822 pts

B.F.A, Special Award - 1st The Jets 2nd The Jumping Jacks
3rd The Tornadoes 4th The PODS

This is calculated for the Team who have put a lot into Flyball in the last year. They earn; 10 pts for each primary team entered. 2 pts for secondary teams. 25 pts for hosting each show. 5 pts per Head Judge.

Flyball Dog of the Year - 1st Tweed 4260 pts - Maureen Hiscock - Jumping Jacks
2nd Mork 3018 pts - Doreen Smith - Northern Bytes
3rd Toby 2638 pts - Gwain Theobold - Jumping Jacks

Flyball Bitch of the Year - 1st Jet 4160 pts - Gwain Theobold - Jumping Jacks
2nd Amy 3721 pts - Sue Goddard - Barkshire Bandits
3rd Gillie 3590 pts - Penny Charlton - Barkshire Bandits

Breed Specifics:

Border Collie - 1st Tweed 4260 pts - Maureen Hiscock - Jumping Jacks
2nd Gillie 3721 pts - Penny Charlton - Barkshire Bandits
3rd Mork 3018 pts - Doreen Smith - Northern Bytes

Cross Breed - 1st Jet 4160 pts - Gwain Theobold - Jumping Jacks
2nd Amy 3721 pts - Sue Goddard - Barkshire Bandits
3rd Py 2528 pts - Pat Booth - Northern Bytes

Top Four Other Breeds

First Place - Spanish Water Dogs Total Pts. - 6833

1st Rayo - 2537 pts - Sarah Grey - Northern Bytes
2nd Azor - 2505 pts - Faye Allen - Northern Bytes
3rd Bonita - 1792 pts - Faye Allen - Northern Bytes

Second Place - Jack Russell Terrier - Total Pts. - 4239

1st Ted - 2328 pts - Alison O'rourke - Jets
2nd Binnie - 922 pts - Lorraine Fulford - Maple Leafs
3rd Spud - 913 pts - Alison O'rourke - Jets

Third Place - Labrador - Total Pts - 3309

1st Mac - 1723 pts - Julia Kearney - Jumping Jacks
2nd Freddie - 976 pts - Jean Sloman - Jets
3rd Jet - 201 pts - Debbie Lucas - Test Valley Raiders

Fourth Place - Lakeland Terrier - Total Pts - 2638

1st Toby - 2638 pts - Gwain Theobold - Jumping Jacks

Best of the Rest Award

Winner - William - 2104 pts - Samantha Spurgeon - Jets

PODS EYE VIEW ON HOSTING THREE INDOOR EVENTS

We the PODS are lucky, we have a good hard working team of people who pull together to make our Flyball successful. We do not have a sponsor (not for lack of trying) to help out financially and like most teams have to support ourselves, so any profits from Demonstrations and Shows goes back into the PODS fund, for buying and replacing equipment and hopefully one day our own set of lights. Our own teams always pay the full cost of racing at our own events and turn their hand in different ways to help with the funds e.g. Tony has become a carpenter, to replace the many slats that get broken during racing, Hilery makes Stop Pads to sell and in March, Debbie ran a Tombola, all contributions coming from the PODS members.

To find a convenient venue in winter is difficult. Handlers need to be able to get a hot drink, they need loo's, be able to chat away from the Flyball racing, to park near the action, room to exercise their dogs and to feel as secure as possible. We ran an event at Ryton-on-Dunsmore, a wonderful place with lots of room, but the venue alone cost £750 per day. We had to buy more rubber at £60 plus a roll, the rosettes were £160 and then there are items like the rolls of gaffer tape, the paper for schedules, stamps etc. etc. The total cost was £1,150.

At Market Harborough we had 105 feet to race on, just enough, and it has all the above facilities, the cost £350 per day, so we could break even by charging £35 per team. We would very much like to use Ryton again, but it's a risk financially, we would need to charge £45 per team and have a minimum of 25 teams competing.

The PODS would really appreciate some feed back from everyone!! How much are you prepared to pay for longer indoor racing lanes?? We are fully aware that with the cost of travelling on top of the racing fee and the fact that other teams are trying to get more equipment has to be considered. The sport is growing and the need for more sets of lights spread around the country is becoming important. ***PLEASE give us your opinions to help us make a decision for next winter*** - the halls have to be booked well in advance.

In any event we had some good, exciting, enjoyable racing at Market Harborough during January, February and March. Each Show brought it's own problems, mainly due to the fact that we had late arrivals at each event (not surprising really when you think of the mileage covered by some teams), one team got totally lost and went on to the wrong motorway and it didn't help losing an hours sleep at the March event (bad planning on our part). This of course meant re-scheduling some races and we would like to give a big thankyou to all the teams for their help, co-operation and patience.

Our thanks of course to all the Judges, who carried out their duties in the usual professional manner, the pressure of getting the races completed is always a problem when you have to vacate the premises by a particular time. Our thanks also to the Tornados for the use of their lights and Packington for the loan of their rubber and Doreen's carpet. Without everyone helping and working together it would be impossible to run a show.

The one thing we did not expect but had at all three Shows, was good weather - surprise, surprise! **THANKS AGAIN EVERYONE.**

Market Harborough Results - 23rd January 2000

Division 4

1st	Buccaneers	21.94
2nd	Sleepless Knights	22.73
3rd	Brat Pack	23.56
4th	Border Patrol	24.58
5th	Wakefield Terror Tykes	24.83

Division 2

1st	Tomadoes Too	19.90
2nd	Maple Leafs	20.16
3rd	Mega Bytes	21.13
4th	Northern Bytes	20.77
5th	Four Runners	21.48
6th	Knights	20.73

Division 3

1st	Nuneaton Flyers	20.96
2nd	Podlings	21.08
3rd	Test Valley Raiders	20.80
4th	Bristol Ballistics	20.95
5th	Running 4 Mutts	21.00
6th	Melton B's	22.28

Division 1

1st	PODS	18.54
2nd	Mad Mutts	18.32
3rd	Podlets	19.50
4th	Melton Rovers	19.55
5th	Wolf Pack	20.27
6th	Wakefield Tykes	20.95

Market Harborough Results - 20th February 2000

Division 5

1st	Phoenix Flashbacks	22.47
2nd	Green Dragons	22.05
3rd	Bristol Ballistic Missiles	23.72
4th	Border Patrol	23.81
5th	Brat Pack	23.61

Division 3

1st	Podlings	20.98
2nd	Nuneaton Flyers	21.10
3rd	Test Valley Raiders	20.88
4th	Rugby Renababes	22.00
5th	Running 4 Mutts	21.62
6th	Melton B's	23.09

Division 4

1st	Buccaneers	20.54
2nd	Tomadoes Too	21.81
3rd	Blade Runners	23.10
4th	Wakefield Terror Tykes	24.09
5th	Nuneaton Flyer Bees	24.35

Division 2

1st	Wakefield Tykes	20.40
2nd	Rugby Renagades	20.84
3rd	Bristol Ballistics	20.49
4th	Mega Bytes	21.04
5th	Knights	21.32
6th	Rocket Reaction	21.51

Division 1

1st	Mad Mutts	18.19
2nd	PODS	19.16
3rd	Melton Rovers	19.35
4th	Maple Leafs	19.92
5th	Northern Bytes	20.63
6th	Wolf Pack	20.62

Market Harborough Results - 26th March 2000

Division 6

1st	Border Patrol	23.13
2nd	Melton Foxes	23.19
3rd	Brat Pack	23.72
4th	Bristol Ballistic Missiles	24.51
5th	Yorkshire Bouncers	25.26

Division 4

1st	Melton B's	21.02
2nd	Nuneaton Flyers	21.34
3rd	Blade Runners	21.47
4th	Podlings	21.72
5th	Green Dragons	21.23

Division 2

1st	Melton Rovers	19.15
2nd	Wolf Pack	19.77
3rd	Podlets	19.56
4th	Northern Bytes	20.89
5th	Knights	21.71

Division 5

1st	Pheonix Flashbacks	21.18
2nd	Tomadoes Free	22.80
3rd	Wakefield Terror Tykes	23.73
4th	Rugby Renababes	23.80
5th	Nuneaton Flyer Bees	25.51

Division 3

1st	Maga Bytes	20.57
2nd	Test Valley Raiders	20.12
3rd	Rocker Reaction	21.00
4th	Bristol Ballistics	20.86
5th	Buckaneers	21.41

Division 1

1st	PODS	18.66
2nd	Tomadoes Too	19.11
3rd	Rocketeers	19.02
4th	Wakefield Tykes	19.92
5th	Red Dragons	19.82
6th	Maple Leafs	20.28

JUDGES REPORT - MARKET HARBOROUGH 26/03/00

Thankyou to the PODS for once again hosting a fabulous show. Due to Peter and Delia's hospitality we were able to lie in till 6am and still present ourselves for dog measuring at 7.30.

All in all 31 Teams took part - I don't know how the PODS managed it, but with re-scheduling (how was Manchester Steph?) and run offs we still finished around 5pm.

I had the pleasure of judging divisions 3 and 5. Obviously the teams were aware this was my first official "Head Judge" tournament and assisted by making sure I had grasped the rules. Thanks must go to my Line and Box Judges - where would I have been without you.

I congratulate the teams on their good sportsmanship; I really appreciate being told the team is ready by a smiling face.

Well done to those teams bettering their time since their last outing and welcome to all those competing for the first time. There were several dogs that I should have liked to take home. I think their handlers know who they are.

Thanks for the experience, see you round the shows.

LORRAINE FULFORD

THE NORTHERN BYTES
Will be hosting
THE SECOND SUMMER CHAMPIONSHIP
5th & 6th AUGUST 2000
at
CONGLETON, CHESHIRE
Closing Date 7th JULY

Contact - Doreen Smith Tel. 0161 4940787 Email - Dsmith910@Btinternet.com

- + Have you completed the BFA Height Card Application?
- + Does it have your dogs Name and BFA Number ?
- + Does it have three measurements, all the same?
- + Does it have two Head Judge signatures on each line?
- + Have you signed it?
- +
- + **Then send it with a SAE to:**
- + **PO Box 263, Fareham PO16 OXB**

BONNIES FAREWELL

My mum and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in Flyball who helped us during the year from May 1998 to May 1999. I ran in my first competition at Knebworth in May '98 (boy was my mum scared)!! Everyone was really nice and helpful when I went wrong on my first few runs especially Lorraine who's always taken an interest in what I've done. I ran my first three competitions for the PODlets and then progressed to the PODS where I ran mostly as last dog through a very busy Flyball year.

After being part of the winning Flyball Team at Crufts in '99, like a lot of the other dogs, I caught Kennel Cough and was out of action for a while. After that we went on a lovely walk round this big watery place that mum called a reservoir, it was a great walk but unfortunately the path was very rough and I cut my front paws badly and was out of action for five weeks. Just after this we moved to a new house with a big garden, on one of the first few days after we moved I was playing in the garden (with something I'd stolen out of one of the boxes!) I jumped in the air and landed badly and pulled a muscle in my right shoulder, after four weeks rest and treatment from the vet I was allowed to play again but the muscle went again. This time mum took me to see a chiropractor who did some very strange things to me and said the muscle had a small tear in it. I had to go for walks on the lead for weeks!! (Boring), but by the end of August she said I could do a little bit of Flyball at Stoneleigh. I was only allowed to take part in a few demonstration runs on Saturday and Monday and everyone was pleased that I seemed O.K. at the end of it.

After a few days at home I started to have bad pains in my shoulders and couldn't walk properly on my front right leg and then both my front legs hurt. The vet sent me to an Orthopaedic specialist who did lots of tests and said I had Tendonitis in both my shoulders. So it was back to walking on a lead and no playing and jumping! After about ten days my right back leg started to hurt and I had to go back to the specialist again, he did lots more tests and discovered that I have Hip Dysplasia, my left hip is not too bad but my right hip is worse and it has Arthritis in it.

I've been doing a lot of swimming and water treading to build up my muscles again and I've had several sessions of Acupuncture and that has helped with the pain in my shoulders but as I'm always going to have a problem with them I can no longer do Flyball.

So this is to say that sadly, I have now officially retired from B.F.A. Flyball. I would have liked to have gained enough points to be an Advanced Flyball Dog but I have really enjoyed my one year of competition and winning at Crufts in '99 was a great way to end a Flyball career.

Thank you to everyone who has helped make the sport so great, Mum says thanks for the sympathy and support from all those who know us, especially Lorraine and Chris and friends in the PODS, I shall still be around at competitions and soon there should be a new addition to the family and I can pass on a few tips!!

BONNIE (3years 8months) & Mum **SUE OWEN** (?? years old).

SEED	TEAM	TRN	SEED TIME	SEED	TEAM	TRN	SEED TIME
1	Bad Dog Racers	53	17.70	30	Ball Busters	43	20.78
2	Mad Mutts	54	18.19	31	Melton B's	35A	20.81
3	PODS	15	18.40	32	Rugby Renegades	32	20.84
4	Barkshire Bandits	17	18.94	33	Podlings	15D	20.98
5	Tornadoes	4	18.96	34	Rocket Reaction	34A	21.00
6	Tornadoes Too	4A	18.98	35	Nuneaton Flyers	51	21.10
7	The Rocketeers	34	19.02	36	Pheonix Flashbacks	56	21.18
8	Melton Rovers	35	19.15	37	Green Dragons	37A	21.23
9	The Jumping Jacks	22	19.17	38	Tornadoes Free	4B	21.26
10	Wakefield Tykes	46	19.35	39	Four Runners	40	21.47
11	Podlets	15A	19.50	40	Bassett Allsorts	11	21.66
12	Maple Leafs	49	19.64	41	Barkshire Bullets	17C	21.71
13	Wolf Pack	50	19.77	42	Rugby Renebabes	32B	22.00
14	K9ers	33	19.80	43	Sleepless Knights	36B	22.03
15	Red Dragons	37	19.82	44	Bassett Doggy Mixtures	11A	22.34
16	The Trekkies	24	19.98	45	Katies Cruisers	22A	22.42
17	Wacky Racers	44	19.99	46	Blade Runners	40A	23.10
18	Bassett Hotdogs	11B	20.11	47	Border Patrol (uk)	23	23.13
19	Test Valley Raiders	45	20.12	48	Melton Foxes	35B	23.19
20	The Knights	36	20.14	49	Start-Rite Wizards	14	23.22
21	Multi Jumping Jacks	22C	20.22	50	Wakefield Terrortykes	46A	23.24
22	Scallywags	59	20.28	51	Stonechats	30A	23.34
23	Running 4 Mutts	54A	20.29	52	White Knights	36A	23.36
24	Bristol Ball-istics	18	20.49	53	Fylde Coasters	38	23.40
25	Springbok's	8	20.51	54	Brat Pack	50A	23.56
26	Buccaneers	25	20.54	55	Bristol Ballistic Missiles	18B	23.72
27	Whinchats	30	20.56	56	Nuneaton Flyer Bees	51A	24.35
28	The Mega Bytes	27A	20.57	57	Yorkshire Bouncers	52	25.26
29	The Northern Bytes	27	20.63	58	Chatterboxes	30C	25.45

THE PODS FLYBALL TEAMS

Invite you to a FLYBALL Training Day

On SATURDAY 20TH MAY

At their Training Field, Moulton, Northants

All day, starting 10.30a.m.

Cost - £7.50 per handler. Coffee & biscuits supplied. Bring your own lunch or use village facilities.

**Contact PETER & DELIA
01604 648085 or 07803 124998**

MISTY - Gone but 'never forgotten'

As soon as we saw the litter of puppies on the 12th January '92 when they were only 13 days old, Liz knew instantly which one she wanted. I asked her how she could possibly choose a puppy at that age, she turned to me and said "this is the one for us". She wasn't wrong, Misty definitely was for us.

Liz and Misty became inseparable, they joined the local Obedience Club and their bond grew daily. Whatever Misty turned her paws to - Obedience, Agility or Flyball, she excelled at it, she was Liz's 'golden girl'. During her short Flyball career she achieved:- 200 points - FD Award - 2nd July 1994, 1,000 points - FDI Award - 10th December 1994, 5,000 points - FDA Award - 12th September 1996, and finally 10,000 points - Silver Award - 5th December 1998.

Misty loved her Flyball, would run for anyone, she even had a helping paw in making Nige & Debs see what fun it was to run a 'black n white'. She didn't even mind Nigel in his shorts, she found his shins were ideal starting blocks.

Unfortunately, Misty started to suffer epileptic fits, but she was a fighter and when Daisy Bell joined our pack just before Christmas she took to her as though she was her own. Both dogs knew what the other needed, whether it was space, love or affection.

Sadly, Misty experienced her last fit on 17th January (just 18 days after her 9th birthday) we knew then we couldn't watch her suffer anymore. Those final moments with Misty will be with us forever.

I know everyone misses their pets when they go, and despite the fact that Liz tries to keep her feelings close to her heart, she misses her more than she lets on, as do Jess, Sheena, Blue, Ben & Daisy Bell.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all our family and friends who supported us through our loss. Misty may be gone, but she will never be forgotten. Rest in peace 'Mizzy Moo' you were our pet first and foremost, a competing girl second.

Andrew Payne & Fellow 'Buccs' - (especially for Liz).

Now some glad tidings:=-

THE BAD DOG RACERS

**CONGRATULATE
MO & TWEED**

On attaining

FLYBALL DOG GOLD

We are privileged to have this Exceptional dog in our team

FLYBALL DOG of the YEAR 1999
CURRENT CLEVERDOGS CHAMPION

DIARY OF A LUMP

August 16th took the dogs swimming - well Grace swam, Tigger, Pia & Midge just paddled! Later, brushing Tigger's leg I felt a lump. Was very surprised because it wasn't there in the morning after their swim.

August 17th Took Tigger to the vet to get the lump examined. She took a sample.
pm The vet phoned ... there were Cancer Cells. She would send the sample away to find out if we could leave the lump until after the Stoneleigh Tournament .

August 18th I phone the vets - I'm told the results aren't back, try to convince myself no news is good news. Failed miserably!!

August 19th Vet rings, the results had arrived yesterday but the nurse hadn't found them. They were inconclusive, definitely Cancer, but because of the speed of the growth the laboratory recommended that it came off as soon as possible. Tigger booked in for surgery the following morning. As Tigger would be "nil by mouth" after 9pm, the dogs were fed early. They thought it was great, until 11.30pm that is. This is their normal feeding time and having eaten three hours earlier, had forgotten!!

August 20th The day had arrived and Tigger went to the vets. I hated leaving him and found it hard to concentrate at work.

pm Went to collect him and burst out laughing when I saw him with a bright pink bandage on his leg. Pink on a boy! Whatever next!

The lump had been sent off to find out exactly what it was and if it had spread. Results back in about a week. Tigger had chicken for tea, so the others had chicken too. So did the cats - the only way to stop them mugging the dogs!

August 21st Back to the vets, the bandage had slipped. A smaller one put on.

pm Had to take the bandage off; his foot had started to swell. Later, I had to put the bandage back on, but looser, he'd started to lick the stitches.

August 22nd Off to the Chemist to buy Micropore & Melolin dressings, have to change the dressing twice a day.

August 23rd Back to the vet for a check up, all fine and they gave me some blue bandage.

August 26th Vet rings with results from the lab. There's good news and bad news! The good news, It was a type of Cancer that has a low malignancy and doesn't normally spread. The bad news, Tigger's lump was showing a higher malignancy than it should, and they'd found Cancer Cells in the surrounding tissue!

He could have restricted lead exercise as he was going 'stir crazy', I was running out of ideas to keep him busy. We ended up playing 'dinosaur tug' for hours on end. It kept him happy and didn't put any stress on his front legs.

August 29th Left home very early with Grace, Pia and Midge to go to the PODS Tournament. I felt awful leaving Tigs at home, it was the first event I'd ever been to without him, missed him terribly all day. I was very touched by the number of people who came and asked how Tigger was.

September 15th Tiggers stitches came out. His leg looks like it should be on a poodle (no offence to poodles). When we got home he chased Grace round the garden for ten minutes. The Vet said that Tigger was very lucky, because I had the lump examined as soon as I had spotted it and it had been dealt with so quickly, she felt the chances of it recurring were probably slight. So the moral of this story is simple - If you find a lump, don't wait, get it looked at straight away.

Tigger is fine and was back in training the weekend after the stitches came out. So far no more lumps have appeared and long may it remain so.

I know just how lucky I am that I still have Pia and Tigger, and my heart goes out to those who haven't been so lucky.

STEPH RENDALL

Just a short note to all teams about the Box Loader, that lonely figure who stands at the other end of the lane. You know, the area where the box is (that's the black fronted thing the ball comes out of). Now, you probably wouldn't recognise them if you passed them in the street, so if I say it's the person you shout at when there's no ball loaded or it's in the wrong hole, you should know who I'm talking about.

Now that spring is here, I've a few suggestions to try out when you're practising, to help you retain this most valuable member of your team, unless of course you have perfected the self-loading, self-shouting box.

1. If you have a two or three holer, let us know what dogs are running and what side they prefer the ball. In the kick and rush at the box end I have been known to load my crystal ball on a few occasions.
2. Nice if you could let us know when you are about to start running the dogs, nothing worse than breaking off halfway through a pee to load.
3. A totally new idea amongst most teams is to let us know when they have stopped practising. This could be a nice time to meet your box loader, say when you stop for a chat and a cuppa.
4. Following on from number 3, at the end of racing, please try and make it a habit to let us know we can go home. My team was made very aware of this when they had to do without me for a week, I'm pleased to say the frost bite in my fingers is much better and they have now put a reminder note on the gate to ensure it doesn't happen again.
5. I am thinking of marketing bumper stickers "Box Loaders Like Humping". It would be good if you could find time between your cups of tea and race training to help carry the box and set up a jump or two. Just because we don't run a dog it doesn't mean our only aim in life is a hernia.

I won't go on because hopefully after reading this you may meet your box loader and in the ensuing chat find out all sort of likes and dislikes i.e. white coffee with two sugars, as opposed to the cold tea without, that you have been taking to them all last winter.

HAPPY FLYBALLING - the anonymous box loader.

MEMBERSHIP

Since the last Flyball News we have received 74 new members from across the country. We extend a warm welcome to these people and their dogs.

We also have 8 new teams.

Yorkshire Bouncers from Selby
Bad Dog Racers from Hampshire and Essex
Mad Mutts from Essex
Greetland Grasshoppers from Halifax
Phoenix Flashbacks from Leicestershire
Lochaber Flyers from the Highlands
Sheffield Speeders from Heeley
Sallywags from Warwickshire

Good Luck to you all, **LORRAINE FULFORD (Membership Secretary)**

THE MAD MUTTS
in conjunction with
THE BAD DOG RACERS & THE MAPLE LEAFS
Are Hosting
THE THIRD SUMMER CHAMPIONSHIP
19th & 20th AUGUST 2000
at
Althorne, Essex

Closing Date 5th August

Open Flyball Competition	Fun Events	Pairs & Starters (time permitting)
Camping Available	Barbecue Evening	Pub nearby
Contact No's - Mo Hiscock - 01708 557812	Sue Hagger - 01245 223568	
E.mail - Madmutts@btinternet	E.mail - Sue@madmutts.fsnet.co.uk	

CREATION

On the FIRST day God created the dog.

On the SECOND day, God created man to serve the dog.

On the THIRD day, God created all the animals of the earth to serve as potential food for the dog.

On the FOURTH day, God created honest toil so that man could labour for the good of the dog.

On the FIFTH day, God created the tennis ball so that the dog might or might not retrieve it.

On the SIXTH day, God created veterinary science to keep the dog healthy and the man broke.

On the SEVENTH day, God tried to rest, but he had to take the dog for a walk.

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Co-ordinator:

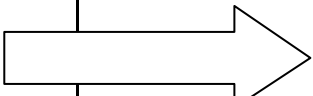
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We desperately need Regional Representatives for the following areas, they are currently being covered by our very hard working co-ordinator Peter Roberts, Please HELP!!	<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> Kent & East Sussex Scotland Devon & Cornwall </div>

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STOP PRESS

The PODS were going 'up north' to Selby for the Flyball Tournament, and Peter thought he ought to take his Snow Chains for the van!! Everyone laughed - no snow came - but they were very useful in the mud.

As a one off, because the next issue of the record won't be published until August, I decided to produce an insert with the Easter Tournament results from Selby & Thame

All articles featured are the opinions of the writers and not necessarily those of the Editor or the B.F.A. Committee. The Flyball Record cannot accept any responsibility for errors or omissions in factual content.