



Hope Island cup

20TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS !!!!!

22/8/10

Fly Ball Demo !!

****Guest Judge****

Fun Runs for all dogs-No Charge!!

*Bring your dogs and join in the celebrations

*Old Lure machine

*Displays History of the club will be on display-photos-magazines - memorabilia etc.

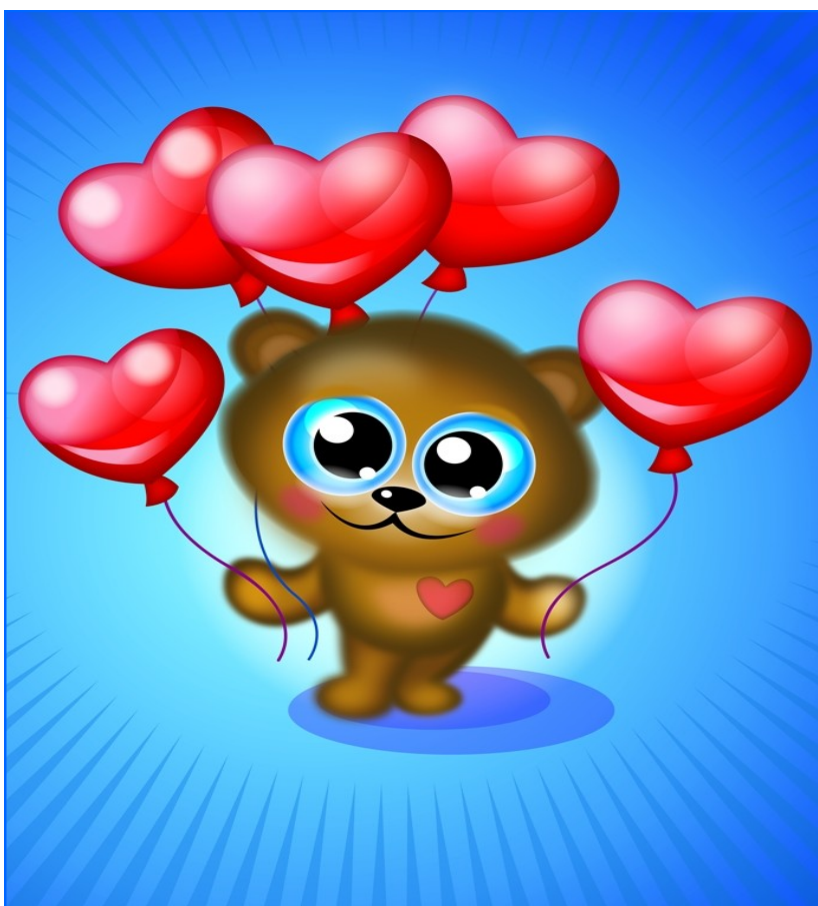
*BBQ, Tea & Coffee etc available

*Video of early Lure runs

*Parade of all Lure Coursers of merit

*Fancy dress for dogs & owners

Members are encouraged to set up breed displays for their dogs



*Hope Island Cup First up

*Come and see the best lure coursers racing!!

*See first hand how the Hope Island Cup is run

*See our vet Nigel Thomas in action.

*Presentation of Trophies to the Winners.

*Read all about the Hope Island Cup invitation Races on the next page.....

THE HOPE ISLAND CUP IS TO BE RUN FIRST, FOLLOWED BY THE 20TH YEAR CELEBRATIONS

THE PREVIOUS WINNERS OF THE TROPHIES WON LAST YEAR ARE REMINDED TO PLEASE RETURN THE TROPHIES BEFORE THE MEET

What are those invitation events held in August -September ?

Hope Island Cup: This is an endurance event for sight hounds. Originally, the dogs were required to run a course of at least 550 meters three times with a ten minute break between runs. This has now been reduced to two runs.

Shanett Trophy: This endurance event is for all registered breeds, including Beagles, other than sight hounds.

Fun is a Terrier Trophy: This endurance event is for all Terriers.

Rouge Et Noir Cup: This endurance event is for unregistered dogs.

As these are endurance events, all dogs must run a full course.

The Hope Island Cup event was introduced when the majority of dogs were sight hounds. Its purpose was to give sight hounds an event, which would really test their stamina as these hounds are expected to be able to hunt over great distances. A normal lure-coursing day does not really challenge their staying power.

As more and more breeds joined the club, it was decided that these dogs should also be given the opportunity to compete, so the additional events were introduced. After all, why should the sight hounds have all the fun?

To be eligible for these events, dogs must attend three of the six qualifying meetings with a minimum score of 150 in each of the qualifying meetings. The three highest scoring dogs (the highest 3 scores totaled) will compete, with the next 2 highest scoring dogs being nominated as reserves

On the day of the event, all dogs entered are vetted before and after the first run and again after the second run. The vet may withdraw a dog from the event at any time if it does not recover well following either run, or if it appears to be stressed.

Three judges score each dog and the dog with the top aggregate score in each section, is the winner...

Joshua Cup For Lure Coursers of Merit

This cup is named after Joshua, a Saluki, owned by Maureen and Greg Mannix. Joshua was the first dog to obtain the Lure Courser of Merit title, and was an outstanding courser. Joshua has taught a number of dogs to course over the years and was used to help teach some of Maureen's young Salukis.

Sadly, Greg and Maureen lost Joshua in 2002 at the age of 15.

This is an event for all dogs that are **Lure Coursers of Merit**. These dogs must have gained this title in the years prior to the year in which the competition is held. The only requirement for these dogs to be eligible to compete is that the owner is still a current member of the club. The event is held on a normal coursing day but a longer course is set for that day. The dog runs twice and are scored as for a Normal coursing day with the top scorer winning the event.

The scores for those dogs are used for the end of year points scores, as we do not expect the dogs to run again in the normal days coursing. Again, a vet check is carried out on each dog competing in this event, as quite a number of our Lure Coursers of Merit are now veterans. Entry into this event is at the discretion of the dogs owner.

HOW IT ALL STARTED

LURE COURSING IN QUEENSLAND

Is a thrill to see

by Sabine Mueller

When we arrived here in Australia, we were eager to join the Sight hound racing scene. We had brought two youngsters with us from Germany, an Afghan dog and a bitch which, when trialled over there, showed great potential. So we joined the Afghan Club, after being told that there was no such thing as an overall Sight hound Club. Apparently, Afghan racing was held by the Afghan Club. The venue was a private Greyhound trialling track, but there were only a few dogs that participated. It was a bitter disappointment. After getting to know the owners of these racing Afghans and talking to Mr Ian Smith, the man in charge of the racing, we tried to figure out ways to improve the number of participants. Easter Saturday, 1983, showed a good turn-up at the Capalaba racetrack with different breeds brought out to race. For the first time, we saw some hounds other than Afghans interested in racing. One has to imagine, we were used to racing clubs with at least two to three hundred dogs competing every weekend, with the choice of four different tracks in just half an hour's reach. We had owned a kennel with 18 racing Afghans. It was just unbelievable for us that nothing of the kind was happening here.

We were used to seeing Greyhounds, Whippets, Italian Greyhounds, Afghans, Deerhounds, Wolfhounds, Borzois, Sloughis, Salukis, and Galgos racing. The races were conducted under strict rules and regulations of the "Deutscher Windhund Zuchtund Rennverband" (German Sight hound Breeding and Racing Council). The standards set were very high and at least as professional as the Greyhound racing here.

Nevertheless, something had to happen. That was all there was to it. So Ian Smith, his wife Margaret, my husband Steven and I, shortly after joined by Patrick and Patricia Smith, sat down and discussed how we could increase the numbers of competing dogs and how to approach other breed owners and get them interested as well. The Afghans on its own just wasn't enough.

Galaxy Lodge, south of Brisbane, a private Greyhound trialling track, where the races had taken place before was the only place for the moment. The owner was kind enough to rent the place out to us on certain days. The Rhodesian Ridgeback Club arranged racing days there as well. Deerhounds came out on occasions. It was plain to see that the dogs enjoyed their "work". But the prices for having the races there rose until it became too expensive. The next step was the Beenleigh Greyhound racetrack, which allowed us - the Afghans to start off with - to use their track once a month to race. With time, the Ridgebacks came out, the Salukis, Deer and Wolfhounds also, and we were able to put on display races. The Gold Coast Greyhounds also became interested and allowed us a Show race in between their programmed races. The Toowoomba Greyhounds and finally the Gabba, followed. Naturally, the dogs not having much opportunity to get to know the tracks beforehand, things didn't always go smoothly. However, the spectators enjoyed it very much and for us it was quite an achievement.

Ian Smith thought of leasing a paddock to build a racetrack for ourselves, but that proved too costly, as most things would have to be imported. We knew Sydney had some type of machine, that they used to run dogs on a straight. The lure was laid out by hand and pulled back by using a car battery. Here we went putting on the thinking caps again.

Steve and I were lucky to own a flat property at the time, at Hope Island. All of a sudden, it dawned on us!! Why not put up a Lure course, and forget about straights and round tracks altogether? So we gathered all our knowledge about Lure Coursing. It was revived a long time ago in Europe and America, and Steve and I had finished our training as track judges in Europe, so it wasn't too hard to imagine a course being set out.

Our biggest problem was to build a machine to pull the lure. Ian Smith, a genius in that field, built the first battery operated model together with the rollers. But the battery only lasted so long and had to be changed before it went flat. We used our own car batteries. Ian organized batteries so we didn't have to use our own anymore, and we were able to lay out the first lure course on the Hope Island 5 acre paddock.

Continued.....

LURE COURSING IN QUEENSLAND

**Is a thrill to see
(How it all started)**

by Sabine Mueller

Continued from Page 3

A “watchtower” was built and we organised our first lure coursing day.

Many trial runs were held. The press was invited beforehand and gave us a favourable write-up in the Gold Coast “Bulletin”. Russell Carter and his wife, Leigh, were to operate the video. Patrick Smith and Harry Mokosch were in charge of the BBQ. A lot of PR work was done by word of mouth and people invited to come and at least take a look. I think in the days before this first event none of us slept very well. On the Saturday, cars and more cars turned up and our knees went weaker and weaker, praying that everything would go smoothly. We had around 30 entries that day. The lure had to be laid out by PP (People Power), and the volunteers were quite sore afterwards. It was pulled back with Ian’s machine.

No judging was done, just time-keeping, and every participant received a small bag of dog food. Money-wise, we just broke even, but that wasn’t important. What was important was this first step forward towards new, yet so ancient sport – lure coursing. The video turned out very well and almost everybody on the day purchased one copy.

The second event, held on Hope Island again, was just as successful with Ian improving further on the equipment. It had rained very heavily for days before, and the dogs had to overcome fairly deep water build-ups. Some of the smaller breeds nearly had to swim, but nothing could stop the dogs in their enthusiasm to run. The owners may not have been so enthusiastic having to clean up the “muddies”. Nevertheless, it was another enjoyable day with Channel 9 sending out a camera crew. The TV clip came on in Brisbane and the TV people thought it was so great, that they sent it down to Sydney, where it was shown on TV as well. Russell Carter’s video turned out well again. Continued over.....



In between lure coursing events, we received invitations again for Show racing at several Greyhound tracks. But it didn't have quite the same meaning any more. We knew we'd rediscovered something exciting, something suitable for all breeds with hunting instinct

A motorbike model that would pull the lure continuously. As the number of competing dogs grew, it became impossible to lay the lure out through the PP, otherwise every dog would only get one run and the whole event would get too boring. So this new method was tried and tried again until it was reliable enough to be employed in the next event.

Then came the coursing at Greenbank, on acreage owned by the Williams family. Now we had to get into more serious judging of the racing performances because there were just too many competitors and the better ones had to be rewarded in some way.

Patricia had been racing dogs for years, and Steven and I could look back on 15 years of breeding, preparing and racing top performers and last but not least, assessing them.

We decided that Patricia and I would start to separate the good racers from the weaker ones, taking the American Field Association standards as a guideline.

Everything worked out very well and as time went by we saw the dogs improve more and more. The interest in lure coursing grew and it was time to get some more people involved in judging the dogs. The first trainees were Ken and Else Airens and Harry Burrige. They had been showing great interest and were generally heavily involved in all the activities. Everybody worked very hard to make it possible for the events to run smoothly and without disturbances.

The discipline out in the field was remarkable, especially with everybody being new to this game. By the end of 1987, it was decided to try and get a club off the ground. The response was great and the first meetings were held in Ian Smith's house. A newsletter was published to keep people informed about the happenings

Many members had made connections, through their breed clubs, with interested people in other states, and they responded by setting up their own events. I'm sure the "bug" has spread quite well.

Subsequent meetings of the club were held at the Oxley Obedience grounds where some lure coursing events also took place until the grounds proved too small.

In 1988, Russell Carter made it possible for us to get a more or less permanent ground at the Runcorn Pony Club, which actually consists of two different venues. We also had the use of our own clubhouse together with the "horsie" people, canteen and other facilities.

Floodlights had gone up in order to hold show training classes to help support the club. The future might see race training as well.

In 1989 we finally became the "Queensland Lure Coursing Association Incorporated".

In the meantime, we had held countless lure course meetings on the Pony Club grounds and the number of participating dogs and new members was growing steadily. We were now training three more judges, who would be ready by the beginning of 1990.

We look back on 7 years of hard work, teeth-grinding and pushing forward, setbacks, and achievements.

But it doesn't stop here. There is no time to sit back. We have to keep working even harder to give our dogs what has been kept from them for too long. Just to see them out there chasing that bit of plastic and enjoying themselves the way they do makes every effort worthwhile.

EQUIPMENT DOWN UNDER

Although people had been trying lure coursing since 1985, it wasn't until 1990 that we had suitable equipment to run meetings. Lure coursing officially started in Australia with the forming of the Queensland Lure Coursing Club in 1990.

Here is a brief history of the sort of problems and solutions we had along the way trying to build equipment good enough to get lure coursing started in Australia. Right from the start we made the decision to run all breeds, so the equipment had to handle the slowest breeds right through to the fastest Greyhound.

In 1986 we built a pull out by manpower and pull in by a Ford starter motor. But after only two days of fun days we realised this was too slow and was no good for the slower breeds. We also kept running out of people to pull the lure back out late in the day!

We then put a 10-inch pulley on the starter motor shaft to make a continuous loop system. This really sped the meeting up and was much better for the slower breeds. However, we then ran into trouble with the starter motor overheating and had to keep stopping to allow the motor to cool down. The extra load on the starter motor for the continuous loop also flattened batteries very quickly. Once again the result was fun days that took too long to complete.

After only three fun days, we machined new end caps for the starter motor to take ball bearings at either end. So in 1987 we had a new starter motor which ran faster and cooler. However, by this time we were getting 60 – 70 dogs to the fun days, which caused difficulties keeping batteries up to it. The number of dogs also meant that we were still having overheating problems.

The next step was to water cool the starter motor, which we did by wrapping copper pipe around the motor and using a 12v pump to pump water through it.

In 1988 the first fun day was run with the water cooled starter motor and we got through the day without any overheating problems.

The next major problem was keeping batteries up to the starter motor. A few cars had to be jump started by the end of the day! Also, this system was not really suitable for the slower breeds as it was very jerky and hard to control at slower speeds. The Ford starter motor was never designed for what we were trying to do, and kept breaking down. At this time around 100 dogs were coming to the fun days, so it was determined that there had to be a better way.

In 1989 we came up with a much better way to drive the lure. We threw the starter motor away and replaced it with a motor cycle. We used the 18 inch back rim as the drive pulley in the system by building a frame on the back of the bike to lift the rim off the ground.

We had the perfect drive system. The bike had a 5 speed gear box so any breed fast or slow could be catered for. The throttle gave very smooth control of the lure, making it look very natural in its movement. The lure could be stuck right under the dog's nose and be pulled away at will, or dropped smoothly back to the dog if required. The speed of starts could also be altered. The clutch could be let out slowly to get a dog interested in the lure, or let out fast for dogs such as the Greyhound.

Suddenly we were doing a 100 runs around our courses in about 2 ½ hours, so by 1990 the equipment was good enough to start a club.

You might think that this was the end of our problems. However, this was not the case. In 1991, believe it or not, we had our first wet meeting and discovered the wheel rim would not drive the rope in the wet. Therefore, running in the wet was out of the question.

Over the next 12 months we built another bike using a 250 water-cooled Honda. We used a pan drive system in the rear similar to the Enjoy but with a much bigger diameter to give more ft per revolution. This ensured the bike not having to rev as hard. A disc brake was also added to the side so that the rope could be stopped instantly. The Honda was put into service in 1992 and runs in all weathers. It is also very easy on the rope.

The only disadvantage with the bike is that you need a trailer to transport it around. However, the much greater control of the lure and 100% reliability far outweigh the inconvenience of the bulk of the bike.

Another bike has been built for another club which has started up. This bike is also running trouble free.

I hope that this gives an insight into the development of the drive system we use in Australia.

Foot Note

Since this article was written we have even moved on from the VT250 to a GPZ400 with a greatly improved drive system which gives us much better control over the lure and it is much easier on the string giving us much longer life out of the string and more important a lot less breakages during the day.

As you can see the development of the equipment goes on, we are always looking at ways to improve the gear and over the past 20 year the equipment has changed dramatically to a point we never dreamed of all those years ago.

Ian Smith

HISTORY OF LURE COURSING IN AUSTRALIA

In 1984 Steve and Sabine Muller arrived from Germany bringing with them their Afghan hounds, they were involved in Lure coursing in Germany, so after racing their Afghans on the Greyhound tracks with the Afghan hound club for a few months, decided there was a need to get a more natural form of chasing for the dogs, so Steve and Sabine floated the idea of Lure coursing, of course no body knew what this was and after a lot explaining it was decided to try it.

A small group of people got together to try and figure out how to make this happen. After many attempts and many hours of building machines and rollers and holding fun days trying to get equipment to last the day with out blowing up we finally in 1990 had equipment good enough to form a club In 1990 Steve and Sabine called for people interested in forming a lure coursing club to meet at Ian Smiths house, well that many people turned up we had to move into the double garage, so that night a club was formed.

At that first meeting it was decided the club would run all breeds in competition but also be dedicated to the preservation of the functional hound which became the club's motto. It was also decided to have a section where dogs without papers could run as most breed club's had a rescue arm and this section would allow the people who took these dog's into their homes something they could take part in with their dogs. We also decided that there would be no interbreed running so each breed could show it's full potential while on the coursing field.

With the starting of a new sport and the forming of a new club a lot of things had to be put into place like, rules had to be formulated, how to actually run a competition, how to judge all breeds the list just went on and on.

As you can imagine the first elected committee was meeting every week late into the night trying to put this together, we relied heavily on Steve and Sabine Muller's experience with lure coursing to put a system in place that people would be happy with.

The first competition meeting was held late 1990, this was a very nervous moment for the hard working committee but it proved to be very successful with people having a very enjoyable day.

As the months pasted we learned a lot and improved with every meeting, A grading system was finally worked out that suited all breeds and the judging was fine tuned so all breed's were on equal terms. This has worked really well, as we have had every thing from a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel to Greyhounds get best in field.

One of our big problems was getting somewhere to hold meetings. Steve and Sabine had 5 acres which we used but they had to move. A Pony club came to our rescue and allowed the club to use their grounds, but horse's cut up the ground up rather badly which is not good for fast running dogs. So a decision was made to get our own grounds.

We approached the Brisbane city council for land and after a lot of meetings (and I mean a lot) the council granted us a lease on 15 acres of land, a great step forward for the club.

With the help of some great sponsors we put a dog proof fence around the running area and around the spectator area to keep the people separated from the dogs running, we even have toilets on the grounds now.

The club is now holding meetings once a month and twice a month during the winter months and running a summer cup in the mornings during the hottest months of the year, Our championships are held in September where after qualifying during the year the top 3 dogs of every breed run a 500m course twice in 15 minutes with vet check in-between , a good meeting to watch..

Well that's a brief out line of how lure coursing started and progressed up to the present day.

Ian Smith

'The Pursuit'

Magazine of the Queensland Lure coursing Association Inc IA05669

PO Box 249 Acacia Ridge LPO QLD 4110

ABN 23 309 329 683

PRINTED MATTER ONLY

Magazine of the

Queensland Lure Coursing Inc.

25th July 2010

"Dedicated to the preservation of the functional Hound."