



NEW ZEALAND UNITED SCHUTZHUND CLUB

“On the Grapevine”

2007 END OF YEAR REPORT

Hawkes Bay Region

With 2008 just in sight, following is a brief report on the activities of Hawkes Bay Schutzhund group for 2007.

The first significant event of the year was the hosting of the first ever SV recognized Trial to be held in New Zealand! SV judge and Teacher-Helper, Judge Raino Fluegge, now living in Canada where he is Chief Judge of the Canadian German Shepherd Schutzhund Club, passed on some of his considerable knowledge. We all appreciated the time that he spent with us. Together with the trial the club held a three-day seminar and training course, which was also very successful, with members of New Zealand United Schutzhund Club attending from the Palmerston and Auckland Regions.



It's always good to get a different perspective on training and I am sure that

everyone learnt a great deal from Raino and we look forward to similar opportunities in future. With many members new to the Schutzhund game taking part, the trial results were not as good as we all would like - but then again, Raino Fluegge had a reputation that preceded him as being one hell of a tough judge with a very sharp pencil, and it was certainly education to be judged by such a proficient and experienced SV Judge.

In mid-winter this year, Monique Verkade, from the Auckland group, arranged a weekend in Rotorua for anyone interested and a number of our members made the decision to travel there and join the Auckland group for what was a very enjoyable weekend. Monique had found a house to rent right on the shores of Lake Rotorua,

and we managed to squeeze everyone in! Monique also made a superb job of the catering, so it could be said that nobody went hungry. The training ground was also well thought out and very handy, which meant less travel for everyone.

As a fund raiser in September, the club did the night security for the Kelt Capital races over 5 nights, which worked out well as the races were only held on the Saturday.

So in October we did the same for the Hawkes Bay A&P Show. Members even managed to get in some serious training in with dogs on an entirely different level, using such things as hiding in the shadows or surprising them from behind tents to bring new vigor into the dog's work from. All the surprises certainly awakened some of the deeper instincts the young pups, and helped immensely with their level of drive and alertness.

Having the night security as our means of fundraising sure beats having numerous raffles and sausage sizzles. It also provides time for us to bond as members - every member giving of their own time voluntarily to raise funds for our area.

We did have some excitement this year when a couple of guys thought they would take the opportunity to hop the fence and help themselves to some of the goodies we were taking care of. Needless to say those of us who were on guard and alert at 3am in the morning not doubt caused them some certain dismay by disrupting their intentions!

The last official event for 2007 was the Club BBQ which was held in our clubroom at the Hawkes Bay Showgrounds complex on the 16 December. Our Secretary, Theresa, did a great job in organizing the food and the event, and had even arranged for everyone to have presents. Theresa being thereafter called, Momma Santa.



The training days and the camaraderie of the members means it's been a great year on behalf of the members I would like to wish all our fellow sportlers a great Xmas and Happy New Year!

Gary Hawkins

2006 END OF YEAR REPORT

With the festive season fast approaching, New Zealand United Schutzhund Club Inc. would like to take this opportunity to wish Eagle Heights and Gold Coasts Schutzhund club members a safe and happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

It has been a full on year and one that we can look back on with pride and satisfaction. It's amazing what can be achieved with like-minds and it is more than exciting contemplating the prospects and opportunities that lie just around the corner.

I would also like to draw your attention to congratulating the efforts of the hard working Board of Management of WGSA and of the representative clubs, who have managed to materialize what was the concept many of us shared, of an alternate progressive vision for the sport in this region of the world.

The home scene can be summed up as a good first year and it's nice to be in a position to celebrate our successes. We've held three trials in just our first year with one of the highlights watching Theresa and Grazie v.d. Talka Marda (aka "Woodie") achieving a 100 point track for the first IPO-FH done in the Australia Pacific region, in a trial judged by Australian judge, Jim Duncan.



In New Zealand, when we say the FH track is 2 kilometres long we see to it that it definitely IS two kilometres long – maybe longer☺



To understand just how long and demanding an FH track is we encourage people to walk every little bit of it behind the judge. In Jim's case he had to walk the distance more than once (as an IPO-FH is twice over the two days), laying the second track himself in downpours ala New Zealand style. Judge Jim

often lays the competitor's tracks and when the first day's IPO-FH track had to be re-laid because the tracklayer had accidentally laid the last leg over the third and fourth legs, Jim stepped out the second one himself the following day. Theresa and "Woodie" got 97 for the first track and 100 point track for the second track, New Zealand's first 100 point track and an IPO-FH track at that! A stupendous effort and in spite of all the heavy rain falling while it was ageing. Both Floyd Wilson and Mark Pryzbilski have praised the meticulous tracking focus of this bitch and that weekend was no exception under very difficult conditions.

And best of all, it took our New Zealand United Schutzhund Club branch of Working German Shepherds Australia to do it! It's been members of Working German Shepherds Australia that can boast of having achieved almost the total (99.9%) of all FH titles earned in our part of the world and more often than not with Very Good or Excellent grades!

Our President, Paul Achten, handling Coal, put in a solid SG performance under Harry Masuda for his IPO 1. At the same trial a number of BH and TR entries also complemented our trials, giving a number of new and inexperienced handlers an opportunity to gain the necessary basic trial experience.

There is still plenty of hard work to look forward to as Dogsport is a demanding sport that often requires a great deal of commitment from a small number of people in order to properly service the sport and its infrastructure. An element of fragility still exists for the developing training groups, and together over the coming twelve months we are working on cementing the pieces into establishing a stronger, more cohesive and pro-active club than what has existed in the country to date.

Forming a new club, let alone a new organization, has presented us with many challenges, of which I am pleased to say have been all diligently met and overcome in turn. In our part of the world there is no long standing culture for the sport and consequently we are not large in numbers with only a small number of our dogs ready at this stage to compete at the higher levels of IPO. What is lacking in numbers in the sport is made up in enthusiasm and although it has probably been said more than once, *“here he goes again about trialling”*... but trialling is really the essence of what we are about and why we exist as an organization. The sport is about doing the best with what we have, looking and acting in a professional manner - even if a performance turns to custard, take the initiative to trial at every opportunity and in the process have fun and enjoyment in our sport.

Having dogs on the trial field gives us all an opportunity to learn and to benchmark our performance levels. Time and time I have seen handlers hold back an entry so at a later date they can deliver what they envision will be the “perfect performance”, only to become undone on the trial field through missteps and inexperience caused by a lack of familiarity with the trial processes. Sometimes never knowing where they are in the program unless the whole scene is staged to fit the limitations of their own untested understanding of the trial process.

I believe this is one reason why both our sister clubs in Australia have been so successful in developing competitive teams and growing the dimensions of sport in that country, because they do their talking is on the trial field, and their work ethic includes an expectation that all their teams will also be actively supporting their events by trialling, which is also a powerful and motivating force to encourage people to train and prepare. It is certainly an ethic that here in NZUSC share and that we intend to emulate. Or, as the world famous Dr. Helmut Raiser once said to a fellow WGSa member, “there are no special conditions attached for joining our club or being in our training group....only that you do the work and trial your dog.”

The change the sport has undergone in just the last year has been inspiring. One week you have a small group at training and you wonder and fret if we ever going to grow, then over the next weeks new people hear about the activity and start to arrive and engage your time and skills, and before long we find ourselves running out of training time for everyone. It's been the same organic evolution with the calibre of dogs that are coming into the sport today; and underlines how the depth of talent can quickly change with additions from successful working line litters. As a consequence a number of our club members are undertaking breeding programs with a view to supporting the sporting base, with a number of working line litter planned for this year and into the New Year. Hopefully amongst them will be new candidates to strengthen our handler's future trialling prospects.

We want to congratulate Adrian May, Gary Hawkins, Monique Verkade and Mike Baragwanath on passing their BH under Harry Masuda. And congratulations to Monique Verkade, and Sean Foster on passing their TR1s. The Hawkes Bay Schutzhund Club has had every one of its members trialling over this past year, which is a credit to the group and to all the hard work Paul has done to encourage us all. – THANK YOUR PAUL!!

From all of us in NZUSC we once again wish our sporting colleagues a Merry Xmas and we are looking forward to catching up with old and new friends in the New Year.

In life the firmest friend, the first to welcome, the foremost to defend.