

DUBLIN JOINT SHOW

It seems so many years ago that I first broached the idea of a double show that I can't believe it has at last happened.. It was exciting anyway but when Karen our chairman rang to say she'd been contacted by Pet Expo things really took off! New show and a new venue? Could I cope? Only with a huge amount of help from Chairman Karen and Hall Manager Gloria to sort out the RDS end of things. So after a lot of discussion we decided to go for it.

To be honest the Show end of things was just like any other show, a bit more paperwork but nothing I couldn't handle, but the RDS end – well what with the complications of buying tickets on line, sorting out car passes, change of hall at the last minute Gloria and Karen were really kept on their toes. The biggie for me is – as I live 80 miles away (you know the saying – 'You've heard of the back of beyond? Well I live next door') I have no idea how to find the RDS. You Dubs take it for granted but us country bumpkins find Dublin a nightmare to get around. And my Sat Nav ('Emily' – doesn't everyone name their Sat Navs?) went on strike on the way.

We all bowled up on Friday to set up; a long day but it all went pretty smoothly. Saturday was open to the public as Pet Expo was a 2 day exhibition; we had a great variety of stalls thanks again to Gloria's hard work and persuasive powers, but unfortunately a lot of the public were miffed that there were no cats there. Still, come Sunday they flooded in.

It was a huge hall but looked nicely full what with our wonderful 105 cats and the array of stalls. As the public was in from 11am I was a bit worried that the judges would be disturbed but bless them they all managed to get round and were very understanding of the public with their frequent queries.

A big thank you to all our super judges, especially the ones who brought workers with them! Bruce brought wife Gillian; they are show managers themselves, so we had an extra very experienced table worker and Dorothy brought husband Colin who can turn his hand to just about anything, a real godsend on showday

An interesting side comment; when we did our Show Survey many exhibitors said they wished they could speak to the judges after judging. So we set up a judges area so exhibitors could 'corner' the judges – and hardly anyone did!

Everything ran very smoothly thanks to Carmel Byrne and her 2 teams; the tables were headed by our own Caroline Wren (at present taking care of registrations) and Gillian Bennett

There are so many people who put in that little bit extra for this experimental show; Carmel who ran the 2 tables and took all the extra paperwork in her stride, Lorna, our GCCFI chairman, who organised all the workers, ran the information table, had husband Ken working on the Pot Draw and brought 3 cats along as well! Teresa Monahan who did a brilliant job as our 'facebook' contact; plus designing the prize cards, decorating the Trophy and Pot Draw stalls and generally being everywhere at once. Our wonderful vets – Mark Heffernan who turns up show after show, works his socks off with not a word of complaint; John Bainbridge who came out of retirement in our hour of need, bringing his colleague the delightful Lorraine along as an extra pair of hands. Georgina who guarded the door to stop any dogs coming in – 157 at the last count!! Karen, who was the main contact with the RDS organiser, Hugh our Cup Secretary, Tony who designed the two front covers; Dorothy Jack who

fed the workers and kept everyone supplied with home baked cakes – ably assisted by Klaus (Karen’s husband) But mostly Gloria who is the Dublin end of the show management team - so much more than Hall Manager, did a huge amount of work on organising the stalls, vetting in, on the run all day then organising Best in Show. Thanks pal, couldn’t have done it without you. Nor forgetting the most important of all; you, the exhibitors, who brought their wonderful cats, especially all our northern friends who travel so far to support us. THANK YOU ALL!

Ronnie Brooks
Show Manager