

Norwegian Elkhound Notes 3rd March 2026

Having spent an hour on these notes and accidentally deleted them I'll start again. Apologies for the delay but I spent several hours on Sunday working on the Journal. More of that later.

Yesterday Southern Counties sadly announced the death of Rainer Vuorinen at the age of 88, a much-loved member of the "Flying Finns" and a judge who totally understood our breed. I used to love just watching him judge. If you are on Facebook, Simon Parsons has also written a lovely memorial to him.

I'm sure I speak for everyone who knows Sarah Thomas when I send sincere condolences on the passing of her mother this past week. Sarah has looked after her mother for several years so it's not just a sad loss but a huge change for Sarah. I feel sure her beloved Puppy Frank would be there waiting for her mum.

Back to the Journal which is now a year overdue. Members will definitely get a copy but I feel you need an explanation for the delay. Last year was dreadful for Karen. She was looking after her mother until her passing and couldn't find the time or the quiet to do the Journal at home so she was doing it in her lunchtimes at work. She then changed jobs and didn't realise all her work was done in the work account section. Her boss then locked the account which eventually was deleted so she had to start again from scratch. Luckily the adverts were all in her personal emails but everything else has to be typed out word by word; an enormous task. Last week I managed to get and put in the pages she was missing and sent it back to her to add the adverts. So when it comes back to me after Crufts, I can finalise it and format it for printing and send it to Vanessa who has kindly offered to proofread it. Then it can, at last, be printed and send out. The journal is a massive amount of work so despite the unavoidable delay, thanks must go to Karen and Cathrin for all their work. It's a wonderful history of our breed which needs to continue but it needs your help by putting in adverts to help defray printing costs. It's long been discussed whether to put it online instead but the vast majority of people want to keep the hard copy both for security and for private collections. Technology changes so rapidly that future security isn't guaranteed. In October the Publishing programme we use will cease to exist and we won't even be able to read old copies. I have photos stored on USB sticks, not very old, that my present computer can't read. It also costs either monthly or annually to store things online. If the Club were ever to end, so would the history.

Now to show news. Last week was great for Maggie and Sally with the Welsh pup of the year Contest. Maggie said to me "We spent a long day at the Welsh Puppy of the Year competition at the Royal Welsh and had a really lovely time. We had invited Babs and Anne Spencer to be our guests and join us for the buffet luncheon midday and they stayed all day and really enjoyed themselves watching the various competitions they had (Puppy, Junior and Veterans). There were some really lovely puppies and Kari made it down to the quarter finals amidst some 60+ puppies so no complaints there. Just a really lovely atmosphere and everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves."

Then this past weekend, while taking a short break on their way down to Crufts, Karen and Alan Gold entered Whitehaven & District Canine Association Open Show. Karen wrote :

"Kara - 1st Special Yearling, Best of Breed (£10) & Best Puppy in Breed (£5) under Breed Specialist Craig Tyson (Starceylon).

Marco Polo - Reserve Best of Breed (£5).

Kara then went Hound Puppy Group 1 under Hound Specialist Ilex Whiting (Cragvallie)."

Marco then added to the Pawket Money winning Reserve in the Open Stakes.

I'm sure some of you will have seen the announcement that in 2027, Richmond Ch Show will be moving to Stoneleigh and changing date to November 12th, 13th and 14th. This should allow better facilities, more reliable conditions and a stronger position in the show Calendar. Nice to have another show during the quieter time of year.

Safe journeys and best of luck to everyone at Crufts.

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