



Words Sarah Elliott – Photo Sarah Elliott

NIGEL STAINES TRAINING WEEKEND

On 5th and 6th November the club invited Nigel Staines over to train at Ballagarey.

Nigel has been 2 x Crufts ABC champion and 3 x Olympia champion with his Kelpie, Zico, he has also been 4 x National Champ and competed in the World Open Agility championship this year where he came away with a Bronze medal, so we were very much looking forward to gaining from his expertise and getting some tips on how to progress up the grades with our dogs.

I had a particular interest in seeing Nigel as he bred my new pup Roux. As Nigel was staying with me I was able to show him how well Roux was doing and even managed to get in a short agility session.

Twenty one handlers and dogs took part on the 4 sessions and Nigel took us back to basics to ensure we had the fundamentals right which proved quite enlightening. It was obvious why Nigel has reached the highest level in agility as he was able to quickly pick up and help with different handling techniques and different dogs and by the end of the training we had all gained some new ideas and training tips to take forward.

I should also mention the Saturday Night at the Terminus where a few of us went with Nigel for a lively night that involved numerous pints of Groundhog, a large mixed grill and talk of running agility in Mankinis , Steven, Carole, Sharon, Sarah and Mandy will know what I mean!

Feedback from Nigel was that he thoroughly enjoyed his first trip to the Isle of Man. He was very complimentary about the standard of the handlers and dogs and looks forward to seeing us all again. We in turn enjoyed the training and hope to invite Nigel over again in the future.