

PRESS RELEASE
BRITANNIA BEAGLES - CENTENARY PUPPY SHOW

The Centenary Puppy Show of the Britannia Beagles took place at the Royal Naval College at Dartmouth on Saturday 10th July beginning with a traditional Breakfast in the Gunroom attended by 165 members of the Hunt and their guests.

The Master, Admiral Sir James Eberle GCB, welcomed everyone and said how nice it was that some of the families who had been at the original Show in 1910 were represented today. These include the Tonks (three generations were at the Breakfast), Bond, Heath and Mainwairing. It was Guy Mainwairing who had formed the Britannia in 1878 nearly thirty years before the Naval College was opened in 1905.

Admiral Eberle then paid tribute to the principle guest, the Chairman of the Countryside Alliance, Kate Hoey who had just been returned as the Labour MP for Vauxhall with an increased majority.

Although the first Breakfast was held on the 5th March 1884, it was only this year that the Hunt celebrated its Centenary Puppy Show as these were not held when the Hunt was formed or during the two World Wars.

After the Breakfast, some 250 people gathered for the Show itself with Kate Hoey presenting the prizes and special centenary glasses to all puppy walkers and a horn to George Alder who has been the Huntsman for the Britannia for the last three Seasons.

To celebrate the occasion, the Hunt has commissioned a special limited edition Centenary Puppy Show Badge. These cost £15 and can be ordered from Rory Jackson on telephone number 01803 215959.

After a Parade of Hounds, tea was served in the marquee where there was also an exhibition "A Hundred Years of Puppy Shows". The exhibition included photographs of the many Royal visits to the Britannia amongst which there was a unique photo of Alfonso, King of Spain with the two Trant brothers at their farm at Strete. Another unique photograph was of a Meet in 1894 with Farmer Ferris on his horse celebrating his 100th Birthday! Another showed a Meet on the parade ground at the College in 1927 with the then Master Captain Martin Naysmith a submariner who won a VC at Gallipoli and a young Naval Cadet, Malcolm Wanklyn who was to win a VC whilst in command of the submarine Upholder in World War II.

Copies of "Jim First of the Pack" a history of the Britannia written by the current Master, Admiral Sir James Eberle can be obtained from the Secretary, Commander Rory Jackson Telephone 01803 215959

FOR EDITORS

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