

BAYER/DRONTAL CHALLENGE FINAL

ADELAIDE - 11th SEPTEMBER, 1993

It's 8 a.m. Friday 10th September - Horts are here; packed (thrown !!) into the back of the car. Dawn, Alastair, Cathy and myself with Mindy Teddy and Toto. An element of concern has raised its ugly head - we still have to fit Pat and Annika on board.

9 a.m. - we arrive at Pat's place right on time, throw everything in the back (including Pat) - it fits, and head for Mascot.

10 a.m. I park outside the terminal and we unload people, dogs and luggage - where did it all come from? Anyway, check in and down to the loading bay with the dogs. The attendants were warm and friendly to our concerns - the trailer with the dogs being held in the building until last thing before loading - we know, we were paged for holding up the passenger check list.

A great flight, touching down just after lunch. Dennis Upton, President of the host club, Para District D.T.C. was there waiting and delivered us safely to our caravan park. Waiting at the park was the loan of a dog trailer, compliments of our South Australian friends. They were great.

After settling in and a short rest it was off to dinner and then over to the Para Club grounds to reconnoitre the scene of battle! The first observation was the weaving poles - 50 mm. diameter, black/white banded - something very new. And if you the reader think this was just a little mole hill you weren't travelling with Pat and Alastair.

We were advised that no practise was allowed until the Saturday morning.

Saturday morning - raining - yuk! After breakfast it was off to the grounds to find crowds of people from S.A., W.A., VIC., A.C.T., QLD. and ALICE SPRINGS!! Fortunately by now the rain had eased, so a bit of running to familiarize with the surroundings and then off to buy Dawn a pair of running shoes (football boots!) to run on the wet ground. Then back to the oval for a 12 O'clock start. All the teams lined up and introductions made and the judge quizzed on the rules - all O.K.

Then the numbers were handed out - guess who drew No. 1 - Alastair. Have you ever seen a "wibble wobble jelly" on a plate?

Well after a bit of a scarey start we all settled down (I sent Cath shopping in Adelaide) and at the half way mark we were holding down a tight third place, some 8 seconds behind a very professional looking W.A. team (complete with dog names embroidered on their shirts).

FIRST ROUND

W.A.	S.A.	N.S.W.	A.C.T.	QLD	VIC	N.T.
186.7	194.9	195.0	197.8	209.7	226.1	398.5

Of course this was the lunch-time break!!

Into the second round and with N.S.W. being the first to complete its 4 runs we set a blistering time of 155.1 secs. ALL CLEAR. This proved to be too much pressure for the other teams and faults started to mount up.

FINAL SCORES

N.S.W.	S.A.	A.C.T.	W.A.	QLD	VIC	N.T.
350.1	365.8	368.1	386.7	418.8	421.7	605.9

With the event over, time to relax (did you know Dawn and Alastair are quite affectionate?!). Back to base, clean up and off to the official dinner to be feted with the laurel leaves of victory.

One other important announcement - 1994 will be run in Alice Springs in August.

Home on Sunday. Thank you Pat, Dawn and Alastair - the effort was great.

Thank you also to the members and friends of the Agility Dog Club who took us there.

Warren Millard (Captain)

"Speed to Burn"

1993 Bayer/Drontal Champions

