

# THE LEADER

The Newsletter of the Banbury & District Dog Training Society

Autumn 2021

## AT LAST: WE ARE BACK IN BUSINESS!!

It is nearly 18 months since the start of the first lockdown and who would have thought it would take this long to get back to normality. When they first mentioned having to isolate and shield for 6 weeks, this seemed an awful long time and I remember feeling very frustrated and cross at having to cancel our training sessions and events for the Spring 2020. Little did we know, and maybe just as well as I would have been tempted to retire!!

However, like with all difficult things in life, something good comes out of everything. The lockdown periods and changes made us all think and reflect on how we were doing things, and how maybe we could do things better or easier. We were forced to run outdoor training sessions and, in the process, learned that most people prefer them to indoor training sessions. Our regular Working Trials training field, at Hinton in the Hedges, underwent a big change in that the farmer built a large 2 acre pen to rent to dog owners for exercising their pets. We decided to rent it ourselves for the Saturday morning Bronze classes and discovered that everybody loved training in a safe and secure area as everybody could relax including the instructors! Meanwhile our wonderful farmer offered us a new field for the Working Trials sessions, which involved him having to move his horses to and from his stables every Saturday morning.

This made me think that it was time for us to find our own field, which had been one of the club's aims for many years, and we had been saving the club funds for this reason, but somehow it never materialised and suitable fields are few and far between. Like they say, 'needs must' and we managed to persuade our local farmer to change a crop field to a grass field for sheep grazing and hay making, and the seeds were sown last September. We had to wait for the grass to grow, which took some time, before we could put up all the fencing, including the 5ft fence for the secure training pen. Lockdown had taught us patience (!) and

*Continued on page 2*



### Fun & Games *plus* Annual General Meeting

Sunday 17th October 2021  
9.45am – 2.00pm  
Ryelands field, Aynho



Come and join us for a morning of Fun & Games to celebrate our new training facility. The games will be followed by the AGM and a complimentary buffet lunch. Please book in advance – email [carla@ryelands.net](mailto:carla@ryelands.net)





Its all about team work!

we finally got the field ready to start the training sessions in May.

We still have not yet completed the project as we are waiting for our 35ft container to be delivered, hopefully in September, which will provide more storage for our Working Trials equipment and where we can have a chat over a cuppa and do some armchair training!

None of this would have been possible without the hard work and support from our wonderful committee and in particular David Cooke (Gill's husband), who offered (no gun in sight!) to create our super hardcore entrance. He has also been our ground surveyor to keep our containers on the level. Also John & Shirley Simpson not only organised all the trenching and cabling for water and electricity (still ongoing), they also put down all the carpark matting, just the two of them, in the pouring rain as well as the hot sunshine. So they got either drenched or frizzled in the process! (Each mat requires staking down with 150 pins and there will be a total 12 mats in the pen, so 1800 pins!).

We are now planning on celebrating our new training facility at our AGM which is due in October and instead of having our usual Thursday evening event, we shall be holding a Fun & Games morning in our field on Sunday 17th October, followed by our AGM (which lasts never more than half an hour!), and then a buffet lunch. We have rented a marquee for the occasion in case of inclement weather, and we hope you will all be there to celebrate this special day with us. For me this day will be extra special as it will be 40 years since I joined Banbury Dog Club in September 1981!! You are right, I was incredibly young!!! So put the date in your diary!!

**Carla**



Its hard work this Working Trials training!

## POOCHES KNOW IF YOU MAKE DOG'S DINNER OF SOMETHING

DOGS are able to tell when their owner has made a mistake or when they have done something deliberately, according to a study.

Recent studies have found dogs are born with the ability to communicate with humans and are able to pick up on non-verbal clues with ease.

Scientists at the Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History wanted to know if dogs were able to tell when an action was an accident and when it was deliberate.

A total of 51 dogs of various breeds were recruited, aged from one to 15 years old. They were put in a room with a human and separated by a sheet of Perspex with a gap in the middle that was big enough for a treat to be given to the animal.

Researchers performed three tests, which involved deliberately taking a treat away from the dog; dropping the treat by accident; or being physically unable to give them a snack. Researchers watched to see how the animal reacted.

"Dogs in our study clearly behaved differently depending on whether the actions of a human experimenter were intentional or unintentional," the researchers write in their study, published in the journal Scientific Reports.

"They waited significantly longer before approaching a reward that the experimenter had withheld intentionally than a reward that had not been administered due to human clumsiness or a physical obstacle."

*Joe Pinkstone Science Correspondent, Daily Telegraph*

## DOG MATH



"If I have 3 bones and Mr. Jones takes away 2, how many fingers will he have left?"

"EVERY SUCCESSFUL INDIVIDUAL KNOWS THAT HIS OR HER ACHIEVEMENT DEPENDS ON A COMMUNITY OF PERSONS WORKING TOGETHER." - Paul Ryan

# Kennel Club Good Citizen's Dog Training

## KENNEL CLUB GOOD CITIZEN CLASSES

After what seemed to be a long absence, we were very pleased to be able to resume our classes during the winter on Saturday mornings, using the secure training pen at Hinton. Groups had to be restricted in number according to the Covid rules in place at the time, but by splitting into two sections we managed to successfully keep everything going. The weather wasn't always the best, but we coped with the cold, wind and rain, some people even invested in new waterproofs.

Once the evenings became light enough, classes switched to Thursday evenings and we relocated to our splendid new training venue in Aynho. An exciting new secure place to be with lots of space, parking and glorious views of beautiful sunsets to finish the evenings. Once regulations permitted, at last we were able to accommodate more people per class. We were also able to run several levels at the same time with the fenced pen giving us plenty of space in which to work. We also have the added bonus of more people helping to instruct.

I think we all agree that training outdoors is much better than being inside and it provides a far better experience for the dogs and their handlers.

In July several candidates took their Bronze level Kennel Club Good Citizen Test. On a rather gloomy damp day everyone did amazingly well, as this was the first time in my memory that the Bronze had taken place outdoors, so it was a true test of their training. As so often happens, the Down Stay was the deciding factor and the cold wet grass on that day was just not inviting for some of the dogs. Congratulations to everyone who took part and thank you for being our pioneers in the new venue.


We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September when we will once again revert to Saturday training.

### Ann



First KCGC session in our new field

★★★  
 ★ **KC GOOD CITIZEN**  
 ★ **BRONZE TEST**  
 ★ **RESULTS JULY 2021**  
 ★  
 ★ Congratulations to:  
 ★ Tom England and Ezri  
 ★ Helen Townsend and Maya  
 ★  
 ★★★




## KC GOOD CITIZEN BRONZE TEST B&DDTS - 7th JULY 2021

Judge: Jane Webb

Firstly I would like to congratulate Steph Gordon and Ann Ferens for preparing the participants to such an incredibly high standard. They were all more than ready, sadly two failed the stay exercise, but the rest of the exercises were brilliant.

- The participants were:
- Tom England and Ezri (P)
  - Helen Townsend and Maya (P)
  - Jan Atherton and Jet
  - Aileen Turner and Freddie

The commitment to your training shone through, you should all be very proud.

I thoroughly enjoyed my day, thank you. Added bonuses were coffee and cake (the way to my heart)!! Meeting up with all the working trials members, friends whom I haven't seen for so long. Oh and that hug, I've really missed that!

Jane

.....  
 "SUCCESS IS NOT THE KEY TO HAPPINESS.  
 HAPPINESS IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS. IF  
 YOU LOVE WHAT YOU ARE DOING, YOU WILL  
 BE SUCCESSFUL." - Albert Schweitzer  
 .....

# Ezri and Our Journey by Tom and Molly



We got Ezri when he was quite old for a puppy, he was just over 12 weeks, he came from near Nuneaton and we picked him up on New Year's Eve 2019. We are not exactly sure of his make up, we know he is a blue roan cocker spaniel, and the groomer thinks he is mostly show but has some working cocker in him too.

This means he has giant grassball catching ears and sad "I'm so sorry mummy" eyes, a trick which he has perfectly mastered.

We picked Ezri because he was very chilled, and didn't pay much attention to us when we went to see him. His mum was really keen for cuddles so we thought we were going to be getting a chilled out dog who liked snuggles. We could not have been more wrong! His first night (new years eve) we had the best time, he was very shy, but was happy to lie there and cuddle us. We overfed him on his first night and so he probably couldn't get away as his little tummy was full. After this first day of cuddles and being "shy" Ezri certainly developed his personality, it's rare for us to get any type of attention of an evening, he likes to keep watch of us from the safety of his bed. He loves us from a distance. For those who have seen him in class, he is very "chatty" always talking over Carla or Steph.

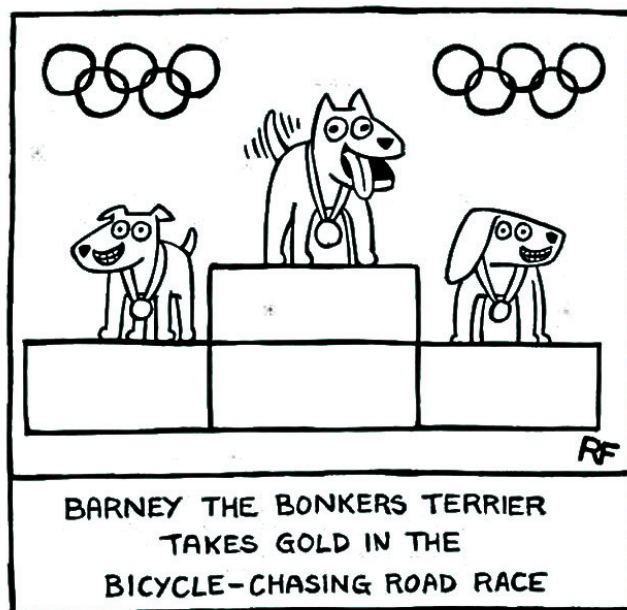
Ezri is our first dog together, however we both have family dogs and so always wanted a puppy when we had the chance. My family were in Chacombe when we got our family dog in 2005, and so we attended the puppy classes and so when we got Ezri I looked up to see if the club was still running and low and behold it was!

At first, we thought "how on earth are we going to get Ezri to do that" to each of the "tricks" Carla showed us. However, we quickly found little cheats to help us out, sausage and cheese! Being a spaniel, Ezri will do anything for a tiny piece of sausage.. or cheese.. or kibble... anything he can eat really! So that helped us to teach him different things, however we have really enjoyed seeing the different ways that you can teach a dog recall and seeing how each dog is different and how tricks can be tweaked to suit the dog.

If we think back to the first few weeks of puppy class, or even the first week of Bronze, we both thought there was

no way that Ezri would get as good as the other dogs. But it's really great to see your own dog, and other peoples dogs improve and learn with the owners. It's very easy to overlook how well your dog is doing when watching other peoples, and so I would say to any new dog trainer out there, your puppy will get there and is already better than when you started!

We have really loved coming to the classes over the last year, from the Lockdown Thursday nights on Zoom to meeting the puppies in real life for the first time in Carla's paddock and then progressing to the tennis court and then the secure dog field to where we are now, in the fancy new field. We have met so many great people and dogs along the way and can't wait to keep going and keeping Ezri thinking and learning, maybe one day he will stop speaking his mind when Steph is talking. We have said this countless times over the last 12 months, but we were very lucky to get our boy when we did, he helped us get through the lockdowns by getting us out and about and he can be an annoying little so and so sometimes but we really love him. Thank you to everyone at BDDTS from trainers to helpers and handlers, you all make it so much fun!



## GRAPE TOXICITY

The forever puzzling reason as to why grapes and their dried fruits are toxic to dogs may have been found!

In the April edition of JAVMA, the ASPCA animal Poison Control Center proposes potassium bitartrate and tartaric acid, which are uniquely present in high concentrations in grapes, as the cause, after discovering a similar clinical course of acute vomiting and renal failure in dogs exposed to Cream of Tartar. The amounts of potassium bitartrate and tartaric acid vary with grape type, growing conditions and ripening, which may account for the variability in clinical signs in dogs exposed to grapes and dried fruits.

" FOCUS ON THE JOURNEY, NOT THE DESTINATION. JOY IS FOUND NOT IN FINISHING AN ACTIVITY BUT IN DOING IT." - Greg Anderson

## Learning to train my first dog by Helen Townsend

It has always been my intention to get a dog, but never while I worked a 9 to 5 job as an assistant accounts manager. Last year due to the pandemic I was made redundant. I wasn't particularly looking for a dog due to the lockdown, but Maya became available November 20. Her previous owner was about to surrender her to the RSPCA, so I decided to take her on, having been told she was six months old by her previous owner. However, when I took her to my vets for a medical check-up to ensure she was fit and able to work with me, I was told that she was more likely to be just 4 months old!

Maya was therefore not a trained dog, she was not house trained or had any obedience skills, she was and still is a very playful and sociable puppy willing to meet and greet anyone! As she was my first ever dog, I contacted Carla for a one-to-one session and some guidance. I was then offered a place on her next Puppy Class starting in January this year on Zoom. Never having trained a dog or pup before, Maya was certainly hard work. I tried to practise all the exercises given and it was very hard, almost to the point where I was considering rehoming her again!!!

Maya's training really started to take off once lockdown had eased and we were allowed to meet every Thursday. What a difference working together with other puppies who seemed



to have similar issues as Maya. Walking on a loose leash certainly didn't happen, she was always pulling, even after doing what Steph had instructed, obvious bad owner not bad dog!!! The Recall: Maya seemed to pick that up quite quickly during our zoom lessons. That has been fun and she now, always returns to me. Waiting at the gate, she picked that up quickly as well because I live on a street where cars are speeding passed my home, so we really needed to master that skill. I am proud to say that Maya will not leave the front door or go out of the gate, until she has been given the permission word to do so.

Maya and I now have a very good working relationship, the advice I was given was to play with your puppy and to enjoy the training, but also to let the pup know who's the boss!! ME. Maya looks to me for guidance and I look forward to being her guardian, as each day she gives me so much pleasure with each new exercise she learns.

So far, I have learned to never give up. There are times when I almost threw in the towel, but perseverance was the key. Learning to work with your dog, and to enjoy the training. And once you have your first success, like we had in the July Bronze test, believe me, it is the most wonderful feeling of euphoria.

## 'Britain's most dangerous plant'

**One dog owner has issued a giant hogweed warning after her dog's head doubled in size after he came into contact with the toxic white plant.**

Emma Ferrier, from Prestonpans in East Lothian, said her two-year-old Working Cocker Spaniel Hector went into anaphylactic shock after he was foraging in long grass. After he fell unwell, his face began to swell up and he was quickly rushed to the vets for treatment.

*"Hector was on a walk on a long lead with my step-dad just near to Seton Sands Holiday Park in Port Seton when, as usual, he ran headfirst into the long grass in a field,"* Emma told the Daily Record.

*"He has been in there on countless occasions but this time it was very different. As soon as he came out he just didn't look right and he was pawing furiously at his face. After a few minutes his face was almost twice its normal size and he went into anaphylactic shock and spent all afternoon in the vets on an IV drip."*

Thankfully Hector quickly recovered, but the vets told Emma that her pup had come into contact with something toxic hiding in the grass.

"It is hard to pinpoint the actual cause but I've been up to the field to have a look and there is a lot of giant hogweed in there," Emma added. "I hadn't noticed it before and I believe the recent hot weather has really brought it on."

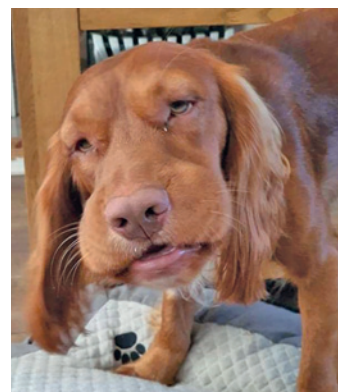
Known as 'Britain's most dangerous plant', giant hogweed might look harmless, but the plant harbours toxic sap on its stems — and can be extremely dangerous when it comes

into contact with bare skin.

Giant hogweed was first introduced to the UK in the 1980s as an ornamental plant, but quickly spread across the country. As well as being very invasive, it can lead to skin inflammation and blisters, with a reaction to the plant happening around 15 minutes after first coming into contact with it.

Keep an eye open when out on walks to ensure young children and dogs don't come into contact with the plant. If you, like Emma, spot your dog has come into contact with the plant, head to your local vet straight away.

*"I just hope other dog owners, not just in this area, are vigilant against their pets coming into contact with that plant as it could prove fatal if not treated right away."*



Article by Lisa Walden, Country Living magazine

# How to Prepare for the Stay Exercise in a Test

Whenever we run either KC Good Citizen Tests or Working Trials Progress Tests the exercise that a lot of our beginner dogs fail is the Stay exercise. The reason for this is not just lack of training (although a lot of people don't think this exercise needs training as 'He Does it At Home!'). It is also and maybe even more a matter of not having done the correct type of training and therefore not enough preparation for a test. Of course, sometimes something unexpected happens in a test which can make dogs break their stays, in which case you can just write that one off as bad luck. But if your dog never does the Stay exercise in class or only sometimes, then he is not going to do it in a test with 'strange' dogs or in a 'strange' field etc. So here is a check list to find out if you have prepared your dog for a Stay in a test:

## How relaxed is your dog in the position you have asked him to Stay?

Whichever position you ask your dog to stay in, he should be 100% happy to be in that position, so when teaching your dog the Down stay, teach him to roll his hip over into a Relaxed Down and not a 'pounce' position, which he can easily move out of. Make the Relaxed Down a rewardable position and reinforce that position only, not the 'pounce' position. With the Sit Stay make sure your dog is not slouching, but sitting upright and square on his haunches and again, only reinforce and reward in that position.

**Will your dog Stay in the above positions when you move around him?** Have you proofed the above positions by moving around your dog and/or standing in different positions without him moving out of the correct position? By teaching your dog to remain in the rewardable position, regardless of where you move to (forward, sideways, or around him) you give him a 'job' to do. He will learn: I must not move out of this position, as I will not earn my reward.

**How does your dog know when he is allowed to get up?** Before progressing any exercise, you need to teach him

when you want him to stop doing the exercise. So, what is your Release or Permission Word? Do you use the same word every time? How consistent are you when training the Stay exercise?

**How have you prepared your dog for distractions?** Are you one of those people who like to set their dogs up for success, so you only train in quiet places or at club in a controlled environment? Have you ever trained your dog to Stay whilst bouncing a ball up and down or tossing it in the air, or kicking it around your dog? Have you ever trained your dog to Stay whilst moving a treat in front and away from him? Can you place a treat or toy in front of him, without him grabbing it, to test if he has learned to wait for your Release/Permission Word? By the way: all these distractions should be introduced **one at a time**, gently and slowly without over phasing your dog, so he understands never to get up, regardless of any distractions unless you have given him permission to do so.



THAT'S NOT HOW YOU DO DOWNWARD FACING DOG!

**How many places have you trained the Stay exercise?** If you only ever train your dog to Stay in familiar places, he will learn to stay only in those places. Like with all other exercises you need to train your dog in at least 6 or 7 different places before he will generalise and stay anywhere you ask him to.

**How many ways have you 'proofed' your dog?** Do you only ever quietly walk away from your dog, hoping he will stay where you left him? Have you ever tried to 'skip' away, trip over, sit or lay down at a distance or practised a Yoga move in front of him? Like with any training for distractions, only ever proof one different position or action at a time and immediately reinforce and reward when your dog stays in your chosen position!

HAPPY TRAINING!

*Carla*

## DOG ANAGRAMS

The answers are a breed of dog with its letters scrambled up.

1. Riot welter
2. Sos nude bath
3. Old lice borer

4. An inbred star
5. Bled frog lunch

**THE 4 STAGES OF LEARNING – WHICH ONE ARE YOU AT??!**

<p><b>UNCONSCIOUS INCOMPETENCE</b></p> <p style="font-size: small;">You are unaware of the skill and your lack of proficiency</p>	<p><b>UNCONSCIOUS COMPETENCE</b></p> <p style="font-size: small;">Performing the skill becomes automatic</p>
<p><b>CONSCIOUS INCOMPETENCE</b></p> <p style="font-size: small;">You are aware of the skill but not yet proficient</p>	<p><b>CONSCIOUS COMPETENCE</b></p> <p style="font-size: small;">You are able to use the skill, but only with effort</p>

Anagram Answers: 1). Rottweiler 2). Basset Hound 3). Border Collie 4). Saint Bernard 5). French Bulldog

# Working Trials News

What a great day we had at our Progress Tests last weekend, and it was a very motivational day for all our members and especially our newer members who have not yet attended any open trials. Most of our Progress Test days are held just for that very reason: to give the beginners a taste of Competition. However, our previous tests were held in March 2020, which was also very successful day, but sadly a week later the country went into lockdown. The intention was for our newbies to enter our Open Trial in April which of course had to be cancelled, as did all events up and down the country. We were all hoping that we would be up and running again in April this year, but it was not to be.

So it was particularly encouraging to have a nice entry after such a long absence and to have judges who kept the tests simple and straightforward and we had lots of successes as a result. Huge thank you to Jane Webb (Control & Agility), Anne Shepherd (Search squares) and Steph Gordon (Elementaries) for giving up their time to judge these tests, and all our helpers, in particular Colin Bricknell for keeping the scores and producing the certificates for the successful entrants, a difficult job in the midst of all the chaos and distractions.

These last 18 months have been very trying for every body and a lot of us lost our mojo, but thanks to Shirley and John Simpson we managed to keep the Working Trials training sessions going in between lockdowns. This required a lot of juggling, sorting out timings and running 2 sessions on Saturdays, as we were only allowed 6 handlers & dogs in each session. They kept our Trials section going during these difficult times.

The beginner handlers kept each other going by meeting in my paddock every Sunday and keeping in touch via WhatsApp setting themselves tasks and sharing video clips and information. We finally managed to get back to our regular Monday evening sessions in May.

So here we are setting up our Autumn training schedule again with both Saturday and Sunday sessions for those who work on a Saturday. We are also starting up a new **7-week Beginner course** for people who like to learn about both Working Trials and the new UK Dog Sport which have the same basic exercises. So we shall be working on the Foundation exercises for both sports and people can decide which sport they would ultimately like to train their dog for. Start date is **Sunday 26th September**.

We shall also be organising a **Starter Tracking Day** on **Sunday 24th October** for those of you who would like to learn how to teach your dog to track, which involves following human footprints and learning to ignore other (game) scents.



Echo eagerly waiting for training to begin

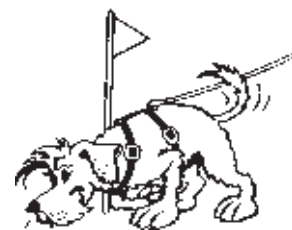
Finally, on **Sunday 5th December** we shall be organising an **Advanced Tracking Training Day**.

If you are interested in booking on any of these above courses

or training days, please let me know and I shall send you the details.

Happy Training!

**Carla**



## WORKING TRIALS ACHIEVEMENTS 2020/2021

Competitions have been few and far between in the last year due to the dreaded Covid. In between "lock downs" SATS managed to put on a CD only Championship which we all hoped might kick start things again but it turned out to be the only trial to run in 2020 post Covid.

However, trials are now back in full swing, adhering to covid guidelines, which means no bacon butties!!!!, but it's great to be back meeting up with old friends again.

**John Simpson** and **Rafa** entered the SATS trial in 2020 and qualified CDX at their first attempt. Still a bit of a "wild child" Rafa went on to qualify another CDX at Surrey and qualified UD open at NWWTS and South Beds, the latter with a 4th place. They qualified UDX at Hampshire with a 2nd place.



**Kaye Littlehales** and **Richie** got their feet on the ladder by qualifying CDX at SATS and UD open at NWWTS with a third place. On both occasions, Richie's only marks lost were for the clear jump.

**Pat Golding** and **Kizzie** also qualified CDX first time out at SATS and came 3rd.

**Nicky Downes** and **Poppy** made it into the big time when they qualified TDX at Surrey. Great Achievement.

**Anne Thorpe** and **Hati** were another team that qualified CDX this time at YWTS and they won the stake. They went on to gain their 2nd UDX at Hampshire, again with a red rosette. A few days later they qualified WD open at South Beds.

Well done everyone for keeping on training in these trying times.

If I've forgotten anyone, please let me know and I will update my records.

**Shirley Simpson**



"SUCCESS IS WHERE PREPARATION AND OPPORTUNITY MEET." - Bobby Unser

# Progress Tests

## JUDGES REPORT

### LEVEL ONE TO FIVE - CONTROL & AGILITY by Jane Webb

Thank you for the invitation to judge your Progress Tests; it is a day that I always enjoy. It is lovely for me to catch up with old friends and new, to enjoy your dogs all of whom were happy and enjoying their work and to be a part of such a well oiled machine that is B&DDTS!

In particular thank you Lynn for your superb stewarding not made easy by the fact I kept changing my mind!

Thanks also go to, Colin on the scoreboard, Shirley, Lynn and Carla for stewarding the stays and John et al for putting up and taking down the jumps.

Congratulations to those that were placed (well deserved) and to those that had a personal triumph on the day. It was a joy to be a part of.

### LEVEL ONE TO FIVE RESULTS

- 1st** Kaye Littlehales and Richie. Lab. 93.5/100pts
- 2nd** Angela Howe and Sabre. GSD. 90/100pts
- 3rd** Ann Ferens and Rosie. Cocker. 82.5/100pts
- 4th** Pat Golding and Kizzie. Kelpie X. 75/100pts

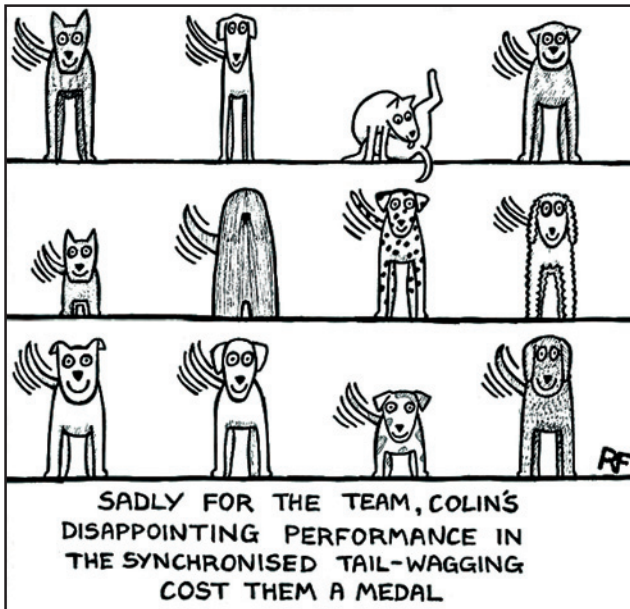
Finally thank you for arranging the amazing weather and the delicious lunch!

### LEVEL ONE TO FIVE - NOSEWORK by Anne Shepherd

Thank you Carla for asking me to judge the nosework at the Progress Tests. We were blessed with good weather and a lovely venue. Not a lot to say really except I was extremely pleased with the standard of all the dogs. They were all well motivated and the handlers were all lovely with them.

Thank you to Le for stewarding for me, doing exactly as I asked. We are a pair of the oldies!!!

A really nice meal at the Rose and Crown finished off the day well. Lovely to be altogether again.



Colin our Chief Scorer

Judges Jane & Anne

### ELEMENTARIES by Steph Gordon

How lucky we were to have the lovely weather for this Progress Tests. Thank you to Carla for allowing me to judge the Elementaries, Colin for taking the scores in his usual efficient way and Nicky for stewarding the competitors always making them feel at ease.

We only had two competitors, which made it very relaxed. Thank you both for accepting my scores.

The results were as follows:

- 1st** Sheila & Forti. Beagle. 77.25/100pts  
Lovely round Sheila, only a few points dropped here and there. You should be really pleased with Forti
- 2nd** Di & Smokie. GSD. 66.25/100pts  
Well done Di, again apart from the down stay only the odd point dropped. You were worried that Smokie might run back to the van, but she coped with it all so well done.



### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**SUNDAY 26 SEPTEMBER:**  
Start of Foundation Course

**SUNDAY 17 OCTOBER:**  
Fun & Games & AGM

**SUNDAY 24 OCTOBER:** Starter Tracking

**SUNDAY 5 DECEMBER:**  
Advance Tracking Day



## UK Dog Sport by Gill Cooke



The UKDS is the latest new dog activity. It was launched last year by two working trials enthusiasts who had the great idea for a sport that has some of the challenges and interest that makes working trials so enjoyable but that is accessible to any breed of dog, does not require large amount of land for training and

isn't too physically challenging for either dogs or human.

The emphasis is on making the UKDS an activity that's fun.

There are 6 levels of classes in the UKDS, suitable for complete beginners to experienced trainers. Classes go from Foundation to Expert level.

The basic exercises include heelwork, recall, stays, a search, a clear jump and an A frame. For those who progress through the classes there are further scenting exercises and at expert level there is a search and rescue exercise where the dog needs to find and alert their owner to the whereabouts of an injured person.

Judges at competitions will award achievement. In other words you will get points for what your dog attempts instead of losing points for every mistake (I like that idea!)

Due to COVID, shows and training sessions have been slower to happen than might have been the case in normal times but some shows are now being planned for the autumn.

So lots to get your teeth into and something to have fun with whether you are an experienced competitor in another dog

activity or a beginner looking for an fun activity for you and your dog.

If your dog has basic obedience and can retrieve why not join us for training and have a go.

There is a UKDS Facebook Page where you will find lots of information, including excellent videos with demos of all the exercises.

If you are interested in UKDS call Gill on 01295 720055 or email [gillcooke9855@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gillcooke9855@hotmail.co.uk)

### UK DOG SPORT ACHIEVEMENTS

The very first UK Dog Sport Trial was held on 5th September at Bedfordshire. Well done to all who competed in the Intermediate Stake. Congratulations go to **Di Assheton-Bowtle** with **Inca** who after a recount missed out on first by half a point. **Michelle Mahony** with **Myah** who came third and **Le Newman** with **Woody** who came 4th.



Banbury members at the very first UK Dog Sport Trial.

Photo courtesy of Rosemary Turner

## A Working Holiday! by Di Assheton-Bowtle

Not joining the display team this year due to other commitments, my little caravan missed it's usual outings. So I decided to take Smokie & Kia on a nosework weekend up at Cannock Chase.

Taken by a very interesting Lady from Norway. Anne Lil Kvam had been all over the world training all sorts of nosework with all sorts of dogs.eg. explosives/drugs, search & rescue, mine detection in Angola and just plain fun.

Dogs can be trained to search for any individual scent apart from diamonds! ( unless handled) apparently their carbon is too hard to hold a scent. Metals always have their own residue that a dog can detect. Truffles are good and the dogs don't eat their finds like pigs!!

All the work was done using positive reward methods (like us). She preferred food, this being a calmer training aid to toys. A mine detector dog has to search slowly in a straight line and freeze when he scents a mine which could be meters down.

All the work started from a retrieve. She maintained all dogs could be taught, just some took longer than others. The latter probably reacting to "shaping" eg. Clicker method.

One game that the dogs enjoyed, using brain and nose was

the `sausage tree`. Just place some tasty treats on some low branches, fence etc. Say nothing just observe and let the dog work it out. He will enjoy his finds and learn to search high up as well as on the ground.

We had great fun making tracks through the woods and heather. I thought my two would struggle, only ever having tracked on `flat` ground with shortish vegetation, but they charged round and were very pleased to find the lost person or article.

It was hard work ( for me) but very enjoyable. All the emphasis was on calm stress free handling.

There was quite a bit of theory and information. Eg. What a single footprint could contain ie. Crushed vegetation, insects, water vapour as well as any human scent. Another point of interest. Dogs cannot cut out superfluous information the same as us, so we have to be aware and allow the dog time to digest and concentrate on the `wanted` behaviour. ( a point for all our training?)

All in all a very interesting few days which we all enjoyed, and yes the caravan site was good too, with a river running along side that the dogs managed to `fall` in, luckily not when any fishermen were about!!

# Working Trials – The Road to Qualification

by Kaye Littlehales

Working Trials is not an easy sport, we all know that. It requires a lot of hard work and determination as well as a dog physically and mentally capable of the exercises in all of the sections. However, when it all comes together it is so worth it. I am delighted to be able to add the title CDex to my dog's name and to have achieved a UD Open qualification too.



My competitive Working Trials journey began with my Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever, Dora. Unfortunately the jumps were to prove her downfall, but she showed fabulous consistency in everything else and even won a couple of CD Open stakes. Although her lack of qualification was disappointing, she taught me a lot and gave me invaluable experience as a trainer and a competitor.

My Labrador came along in 2018 and made his debut at the Hinton sessions at about 10 weeks old, I think. Since then he has gone through the stages of being an adorable puppy, a truly terrible teenager and a prisoner of Covid - just when we should have started competing.

Eventually we made it to our first trial in East Anglia, just as the lockdown restrictions were relaxed. It was a UD Open judged by our own Shirley & John Simpson. It was the first time I had entered a tracking stake and although we didn't quite qualify, it was a great experience. The following weekend we were back in East Anglia again, this time for CD Championship. Frustratingly we missed out by just half a mark!

Not to be deterred, the sat nav came out again and this time we ventured to East Sussex (be prepared to put lots of miles on your car if you want to succeed in trials!) What a day for us, with full marks on all the exercises except for the pesky clear jump. My first qualification. I floated home! Suddenly all the years of training and effort were worth it, there's no better feeling. Of course Richie didn't care. I think he just wondered why tea was late that night!

This was quickly followed by another near perfect round at North West where we attained our UD Open qualification and a 3rd place rosette. I was so proud of my boy. We were on a roll.

As yet, we haven't attempted a UD Championship but I'm sure we will soon. Watch this space...

In conclusion, Working Trials is probably one of the most demanding dog sports. You need time, land, determination, and acceptance of what happens on the day! But the highs definitely outweigh the lows. Qualifying is a bonus. You will meet many fabulous people to help and guide you and to share in your success. They are the best and I am so grateful for the support of this club.

Please let me introduce ... Kaliture Appollo of Kayendor CDex. Richie to his friends (Richard when he's naughty!).

## ABOUT A PUP

By John Simpson (old)

When I was young and in my prime  
I could cope with a puppy all the time  
But now I'm old with hair turned grey  
I sometimes wish he'd go away.

By Foster (dog 10+)

We have a pup, weird looking dog  
Ever so wild, and as thick as a log  
Got no manners, got no grace,  
Doesn't even know his place  
But dad will sort him, have no fear  
We've only one pack leader here  
I watch him trying, got no brain  
Does it over and over again  
He might make it, who can tell,  
Once he gets a second brain cell.

By Clover (bitch 6 years old)

The boys are at it, young and old  
I watch them trying to be so bold  
They try to do stuff that ends in disaster  
I can do better, and a lot faster.

They say testosterone's mainly to blame  
It hypes them all up and shuts off their brain,  
So if your wondering what to get next,  
Go for a Bitch, we don't get so vexed

By Rafa (dog 1+)

I am a sparky growing hound,  
A year plus now and feeling sound  
The world out there means nought to me  
I know it all, it's plain to see  
Dad knows better, so he says,  
Wants to do things all his ways  
But I'll beat him, of that I'm sure  
For he is old and insecure



"AGE IS SOMETHING THAT DOESN'T  
MATTER, UNLESS YOU ARE  
A CHEESE." - Luis Bunuel