

# THE LEADER

The Newsletter of the Banbury & District Dog Training Society

Winter 2021

## MOVING FORWARD TO 2022 ....

Our AGM in October was a huge success and attended by some 60 members, whose dogs all joined in the fun and games, for which no special training was required and even the puppies could have a go at all the recall and retrieve games. The day was a special celebration of our new training field and facilities and thanks to the hard work of all the committee members who put up the very large marquee, we managed to have our lunch 'indoors' just as the weather started to turn.

Farmer and horse trainer, Chris Loggin, who had allowed us the use of his fields over the last 30 years, had been invited to attend and was presented with a beautiful hand painted sign by our member and professional signwriter, Sheila Smith, as a part of our thank you present. Sheila also helped create the thank you presents for David Cooke and John & Shirley, who had done most of the hard work creating the entrance, the car park area, arranging the cabling, water and electricity connections to get the field set up and ready for action.

We are now ready to move on and are looking forward to organising some fun events in 2022 in the form of demos and competitions to give our newer members an insight into various canine sports they might like to train their dogs for.

There will be a UK Dog Sport Demo on Saturday 5th February and a Hoopers Demo on Saturday 5th March, and also a starter Tracking morning (dates to be confirmed), for those of you who would like to learn to teach your dogs to track. If you are interested in learning more, please send me an email.

Our next KC Good Citizen tests will be held on Saturday 26th February and if you would like to take part, do let Steph know on your registration form.

There will be sheep grazing the field during the Christmas holidays and the 2022 training sessions will start on Saturday 8th January. Registration forms will be sent out soon.

In the meantime, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Carla**



The big marquee took 12 people 3 hours to put this up!!

Left: Chris Loggin with Pat & John.

Below: Kate & Finn doing the Bale jump



The hand painted sign created by Sheila Smith



Heidi & Missy doing the Gundog scurry



John & Foster defending their Retrieve title!



Puppy Lily with her rosettes



# Overcoming Car Sickness by Eleanor Horton-Smith

Meet Marnie! My 6-month-old springer spaniel pup. She's a bundle of joy and loves going to new places. This hasn't always been the case though. From day 1 Marnie has hated the car and it has caused her a lot of angst. She would get very car sick and distressed, and the more I took her out in it the worse it seemed to be getting, to the point that when I picked up my keys, put my coat on or walked anywhere near the front door, she would hide in her crate, shaking and drooling.

None of the usual tricks of building up a positive association with the car were working, she wasn't interested in treats or even her favourite toys. I tried several things over the weeks including using pet remedy spray; putting her in different locations in the car; giving her breakfast before a journey and also not feeding her before; meeting one of her dog friends as soon as she got out of the car; and putting her in the car with other dogs. Nothing I tried seemed to be consistently helping, she was still quite terrified. Growing up as a child, I think all our puppies started off being travel sick, but I had not experienced anything as severe as Marnie's fear and dislike for the car and I really couldn't see it ever getting any better. I felt so mean taking her out in the car, she wasn't particularly enjoying her walks when we got to places, she just wanted to lie down and sleep.

However, I kept persevering with different arrangements and short journeys, whilst I waited for her to be old enough to be given some anti sickness/ anxiety medication. In the meantime, I also attended the Banbury Dog Club 8-week puppy socialisation course, followed by a 6 week Refresher course, which Marnie seemed to enjoy taking part in each week, even if she did not enjoy the car journey there.

Then one Saturday a couple of weeks ago, something changed. I put Marnie in the car to take her for a walk as usual and she was dribbling and shaking slightly. When I reached our destination, she was fine. She was sat up, she wasn't dribbling and got out of the car by herself (until then I'd had to extract her from the boot)! I couldn't believe it; she was also like a different dog on the walk, as I don't think she felt as unwell as usual. Since then, it has just got better and better to the point that a couple of days ago, Marnie went to



the door when I picked up her lead and jumped into the car by herself!! I was so surprised.

I'm not exactly sure what brought on this change in her, I suspect some of it was down to her getting bigger and being able to see out of the windows and maybe not feel the bumps as much, but also now looking back, I tried a lot of different things to help her and perhaps by persevering we got there in the end - she just needed time! I'm so pleased that we have overcome this issue and that taking her out and about is no longer a traumatic experience for us both!

"THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PERSEVERANCE AND OBSTINACY IS THAT ONE COMES FROM A STRONG WILL, AND THE OTHER FROM A STRONG WON'T.."  
- Henry Ward Beecher



## Seasonal stress (from the Kennel Club)

Dogs can have a lot to deal with over the Christmas period – excited and noisy children, crackers banging, presents being unwrapped and unfamiliar people, voices and smells.

It can be overwhelming so avoid forcing festive fun by making sure their routine isn't disrupted – take them out on their usual walks and keep dinner time the same – and make sure they still have their usual space and bed so they can retreat and settle in their usual spot if and when they want to. Everyone is busy at Christmas with many spending more time away from home, but don't forget about your four-legged friend or leave them alone for more than four hours. Remember too that many dogs will have got used to their owners being home more due the pandemic, so any transition to spending more time apart will need to be prepared for. While this Christmas might be more restrictive for us, our dogs may still be noticing quite a change.



# Our first ever UK Tracking Dog Assessment Day!

What a great day we had last Sunday, running our first ever UK Tracking Dog Tests with 6 dogs out of 7 passing their tracking tests, thanks to some brilliant tracklaying by Nicky Downes and Steph Gordon – thank you, girls! There were 5 breeds taking part: 2 GSDs, 2 Springers, 1 Cocker, 1 Golden Retriever and 1 Beagle. Although the ground conditions were excellent: one large, lush grass field for all the tracks, the weather made it harder than it looked with a very strong and extremely cold wind.

Our judge, John Turtill, did a great job setting different Level One patterns, so that all participants could watch each other's tracks, making the day very social and great fun with everybody cheering other members on.

We all loved the certificates and rosettes and really enjoyed the day despite the bitter cold weather!

The successful teams were:

**Foundation Level:** Sheila Smith & Forti (Beagle) and Di Ashbow & Smokie (GSD)

**Level One:** Kate Wilton & Finn (ESS), Ann Ferens & Rosie (Cocker), Angela Howe & Sabre (GSD) and Sharon Lord & Echo (Golden Retriever)

Congratulations to all the above and Keep on Tracking folks!

We hope to be organising another Assessment day maybe in February next year, availability of land and judge permitting.

**Carla**



## What is Tracking?

Training a dog to track involves teaching a dog to use his nose to follow human footprints on different types of terrain, initially this will be on grass. Dogs love using their noses and any breed of dog can learn to track. To start a dog tracking we use the dog's motivational toy or food to encourage them to track, but eventually we teach them to find any article that has been dropped by a human (track layer) on the track. You can never force a dog to track so all tracking training has to be motivational and fun, hence all dogs love it!



**Banbury Dog Training Club** has a reputation of being proactive and ahead of the game when it comes to all things dog related. Sunday proved this yet again as Carla had organised the first Club style UK tracking event !

7 of us had entered running at 3 different levels.

We worked under the watchful and supportive eye of John Turtill and tracks were laid by experienced trackers Nicky and Steph, so we were in good hands.

Only strong bitter winds proved an issue, but looking on the positive, no rain!

It was a day of success by all the dogs. Handlers learnt so much. We watched others track (which we could do as everyone had a different track ) and we then worked our own dogs on lush grass in strong winds full of wild animal tracks.

We retired to The Cottage for very welcome hot soup and goodies to dissect the day and debrief.

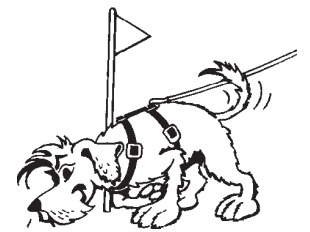
We received our certificates and rosettes and we all went home with a big smile proud of our dogs as the day confirmed how clever they really are!

Huge thank you to everyone for such a successful and enjoyable day which we trust will be the first of many more to come!!

**Sharon Lord**



# Working Trials News



This Autumn saw our Saturday training sessions get back into full swing in our new field with John & Shirley doing most if not all the organising. On the weekends that John was competing with Rafa, other volunteers, mainly Steph & Nicky, Di & Ann Clarke helped organise the sessions. Thank you all. It would be nice to see some more experienced members take a turn at organising a session to give John & Shirley a break.

We also had Gill Cooke run the UK Dog Sport sessions at the same time and at present they are mainly attended by experienced working triallists who are having a go at this new sport.

However, we are hoping to see new members participating in both sports and we therefore organised a 7 week Foundation Course to attract new members for both Working Trials and the UK Dog Sport. This course was well attended, and we had a good mixture of dog breeds: a miniature Schnauzer, a mini Labradoodle, a Border Collie, a Labrador, a Cocker, and 2 Bracco Italianos and a Rottweiler, who sadly did not attend many sessions due to the owner breaking her hip (I am pleased to say not in any session!). All the dogs progressed very well including the ones who had never done any advanced training before, thanks to the enthusiasm and commitment of the handlers.

Some of them will now be joining the competition training group in the new year, like Kiska, the Bracco Italiano, who was already an experienced and well trained gundog, and the younger, lesser experienced ones will hopefully enrol on the next course!

We shall be starting our regular Saturday training sessions again on Saturday 8th January.

Anybody interested in joining the next Foundation Course, please contact me for the details.

## HINTON OPEN TRIAL

Shirley is hoping to organise another trial next year after a 2 year absence due to the Pandemic. The dates will be Friday 15 April to Sunday 17 April, which is the Easter weekend. The judges have all been booked, so put the dates in your diary! Schedule will be out soon.

**Happy Training!**  
**Carla**

## WORKING TRIALS ACHIEVEMENTS AUTUMN 2021



There haven't been many trials since I last reported at the end of the summer but a few of our members have been competing and qualifying.

**Kaye Littlehayes** and **Richie** continued their climb up the ladder by qualifying UDX at ASPADS Saxton. They went on to qualify and win the WD open at Wessex.

**John Simpson** and **Rafa** qualified WD open at ERWTS and then again at NWWTS, this time in 2nd place.

**Len Newman** and **Ennis** qualified TD open at Surrey with a 3rd place.

**Steph Gordon** and **Kessie** also qualified TD open at Surrey. Lots of trials are scheduled for 2022 so, Covid willing, there is a lot of success out there to be had.

**Shirley Simpson**

## Bred to Hunt Point and Retrieve by Tricia Empson

Bred to Hunt Point and Retrieve Kiska my 4 year old Bracco Italiano is an amazing working gun dog, but I wanted to do something different with her. So, after taking advice I started to research Working Trials. I went off to Fareham and watched some dogs in action in CD and TD classes. I was made to feel so welcome and learnt so much about WT's, it was great to see the bigger picture. I met some lovely people from B & DDTS and was advised to contact the club. Before I knew it, I was on a seven week WT Foundation Course.

Over the seven weeks we met on a Sunday for two hours at the clubs training ground, Ryelands Field which is superb, I feel incredibly honoured benefitting from all the hard work the club members have done to create such a training facility. On the course we went through the basics of a WT test, heal work, re call, articles, dumb bell retrieve, sit / down stay, tracking and we started on basic jump work. It was wonderful to watch all the other dogs and handlers who were from such mixed backgrounds and experience, start to get to grips with each section of the WT test.

I feel Kiska and I have really developed as a team and I am hoping to do my first WT test early next year. A big thank you to everyone who has made me feel so welcome and given me great support.



# UK Dog Sport by Gill Cooke

The Club's UK Dog Sport training is going well. We meet on Saturday mornings at 9.30am alongside the Working Trial group in the Ryelands field at Aynho and on Saturday 5th February we are going to do a short demo of the UKDS exercises, so please come and watch, have a chat and you might decide to join us the next week!

A few of us have already competed at UKDS shows and are looking forward to more in the Spring including our own Banbury Dog Club Show which will be happening on Saturday 14th May. So far, the shows we have been to have been lovely friendly days out and Banbury members have had plenty of success, I am nervous of mentioning any names in case I miss anyone out!

If you haven't seen it yet we now have a Banbury Dog Club UKDS Facebook page and there is also a UKDS Facebook page with lots of links and info about the UK Dog Sport and future events.

Hope to see you soon.



[!\[\]\(0aff635c4179ba9e710b00f4b01d3b20\_img.jpg\) Banbury & District Dog Training Society](#)

[!\[\]\(830769b31eeeaca920791081939ff8ba\_img.jpg\) UK Dog Sport](#)

## FORTI GETS 3RD by Sheila Smith

Since my first report of training a Beagle, we mastered STOP the dog, and achieved our KC Gold Certificate in Feb 2020. We've gone on to further training in Working Trials and have recently started in UK Dog Sport (UKDS), the newest sport open to all shapes and sizes of dogs. We are doing well with our training and so we decided to take part in our first UKDS competition in October at Great Billington near Leighton Buzzard. Hosted by Rita Banfather.

I'd never taken part in any competition before and told myself to not be nervous! Luckily we were third in the running order which meant we could watch the two before us take their turn. For those not familiar with the disciplines of UKDS there are various elements that we are marked on with the final score being out of 100.

Search square - the aim is to find 4 articles within a set time. Forti loves his searching and quickly found 3 articles within the time, with the final one being found just after time was called. Maybe if he hadn't stopped to have a wee in the square during the allocated time!

Next was the control round of Heelwork at different paces, all on lead for beginners. Our heelwork was OK although I could sense Forti was distracted by something. I carried on but his attention was not fully on me. Too many new smells. Which is why we're told "Always have your dogs full attention" (how many times have I heard that?).

Then it was a Sendaway, which started well, set up was good, and he went straight towards the marker. Unfortunately a pile of horse poo just before the sendaway

point was more than he could resist! So he had a good roll. Thankfully I was given a 2nd attempt, which was good!

Onto the Dumbbell retrieve, he was focused on the ground ahead and waited for me to throw the dumbbell. I sent him to retrieve and off he went, at full speed, up the field to the stewards tent! Great hilarity from the stewards and I collected him for the next exercise.

This time it was the Recall, so again I set him up and on instruction walked away to turn and face Forti. I called him. He took one look at me and, with a glint in his eye, decided that whatever it was in the stewards tent needed further investigation!

So, I collected him again and prepared for the agility section, consisting of an A-frame, a tunnel and a clear jump. We were awarded almost full marks! Phew. He does love his agility !!

And finally it was the down stay. His least favourite thing to do so I was really pleased when he stayed in the down. That was until somewhere a whistle sounded. This time he ran off to my husband who gathered him up for the last time.

So what did I learn? Unusual surroundings and a whole day of hanging around waiting. I think what I need to take into account is that I must have been nervous which Forti picked up on. Dogs know

when you're not yourself!

I don't know how we achieved 61/100 and came 3rd! Something to do with only 3 beginners taking part! We had a lovely day out, enjoyed good company, and there was lots of laughter! Here's to the next one in March, if Rita will have us back.



3 Successes at their first event: Sheila with Kate & Finn (winners) and Ange with Sabre (not in pic)

# Noticeboard

## 2022 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Saturday 8th January** – First Saturday Training Sessions  
**Sunday 9th January** – Start of Sunday Training Sessions  
**Wednesday 12th January** – First Wednesday Training Session  
**Thursday 13th January** – Start of January Puppy Course  
**Saturday 5th February** – UKDS Demo  
**Saturday 26th February** – Kennel Club Good Citizen Tests  
**Saturday 5th March** – Hoopers Demo  
**Thursday 10th - Sunday 13th March** – Crufts Dog Show at NEC  
**Thursday 14th April until Saturday 23rd April** – Easter Break - no training  
**Friday 15th to Sunday 17th April** – Open Working Trial at Hinton in the Hedges  
**Saturday 14th May** – UK Dog Sport Show at Ryelands Field  
**Saturday 16th July** – Kennel Club Good Citizen Tests  
**Thursday 21st July** – End of Term Fun & Games evening



### HOOPERS DEMO Saturday 5th March 2022

*Want to find out more about 'Hoopers'. A new, fun, fast, low-impact dog sport. Heather Donnelly has offered to come and do a Demo on Saturday 5th March at our field 11am (after the KCGC classes) to introduce this relatively new sport to our members.*

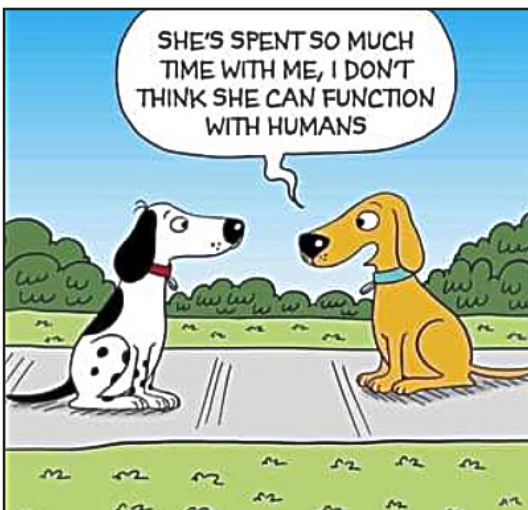
Hoopers focuses on the partnership between dog and handler, with competition courses being smooth and flowing protecting the long term well-being of the dog. Courses can include optional handling challenges too for extra points! Unlike many other dog sports, progression is based on consistency rather than winning. Hoopers dog sport is accessible to all dogs and handlers, in particular large and tiny breeds, dogs which require a little extra space, patience or understanding and also to handlers with limited mobility.

*There will be 6 handler places available during this Demo. For more details contact Carla.*

### ODE TO FOSTER by Shirley Simpson

Fos has retired.  
Too old to compete.  
But no-one has told him that fact.  
His spirit is willing.  
His mind is still keen.  
Still desperate to get in on the act.  
He is our "Best Boy".  
So Clever and Bright.  
To please is his only ambition.  
He's gentle and kind.  
So loyal and true.  
John's side is his default position.

He got to the top.  
But a Kennel Club Champ  
He was sadly not destined to be.  
But our beautiful boy  
With his big gentle eyes  
Will always be a Champion to me.



### Your Committee

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Ann Ferens	01869 277398
John & Shirley Simpson	01869 346942
Stephanie Gordon	01869 346881
Nicky Downes	01869 346788
Gill Cooke	01295 720055
Sheila Smith	07721 378653