



Axstane Agility Club

Newsletter January 2014

Happy New Year to everyone and welcome back.

**Belated Christmas Meal:
Friday 7th February**

**Hisar Meze Bar,
105 Orpington High Street,
Kent
BR6 OLG**



£23.00 per person for 3 courses & coffee and includes arrival drink and wine or drink with your meal. **7.00 for 7.30 pm.**

Winter weather conditions

If you are unable to get to training any evening please make sure you let Gina know as early as you can. It may be that we join up classes if numbers are depleted. Either email her at Axstane@yahoo.co.uk or send a text message to 07719 674 898

If training is cancelled altogether then Gina and committee members will make sure that everyone is contacted. They will send emails and ask for acknowledgement, and then phone if needed. Please make sure that the details we have for you are correct. Watch the Axstane Facebook page for announcements as well.

The menu will be posted on the board at training on Thursdays but if you don't get a chance to look at it to see details click on <http://www.hisarmezebar.com/>

We are ordering from the Party menu to keep control of finances, we have factored in some of the supplements/additional charges on the menu, i.e. steak and mixed grill, pudding, coffees, and service charges. There is no need to order your choice in advance, you can choose on the night. Please let Linda A. know if you would like come so that she can give the numbers to the restaurant. Payment by cheque to Gina by January 31st please (payable to Axstane Agility Club).

Axstane AGM
Wednesday 26th February, 7.30

Bickley Manor Hotel & Restaurant
Thornet Wood Road
Bickley, Kent, BR1 2LW

Follow this link for the directions:

<http://www.bickleymanorhotel.co.uk/location.html>

This is an opportunity to reflect on the previous year and to celebrate everyone's achievements. The trophies for "Axstane Dog of the Year" will be awarded so make sure you have submitted all your points.

If you have any items you would like added to the Agenda for general discussion please let Gina know before the 27th January by emailing her on axstane@yahoo.co.uk

Reciprocal Ring Parties 2014

Once again we will be providing reciprocal ring parties to those clubs who help with our own show. Please be aware of these particular shows when you are entering.

Our first show is Mid-Downs at Ardingly Showground on 1st March. This is available to enter now and the closing date is 24th January.

Then we have:

- Tunbridge Wells, Ardingly Showground: 10th & 11th May. We usually ring party on the Saturday.
- Keston, Orsett Showground : 1st June
- Billingshurst, Cranleigh Showground: 13th July
- Colchester 19th & 20th July
- Burnham: September (tbc)
- Magic/Tenterden: September (tbc)
- Trent Park: September (tbc)

As the closing dates for each show with a reciprocal ring party approach, we will be checking with you to see who is going so that we can let the organising Club Secretary know.

Thank you to everyone who helped at shows by working on the rings last year, especially for the reciprocal ring parties. This is an important contribution to the club because it ensures that we have the help we need at our show.

Remember our 2014 show
is 14th & 15th June

The show itself is Saturday & Sunday, but we need help on the Friday to help set up. Even if you're not competing please come along, there will be plenty to do so save the date in your new diaries!

Work has already started on our show. Judges are being invited and Smiffy's has been booked. (We need to get our priorities right!)

Some Goodbyes

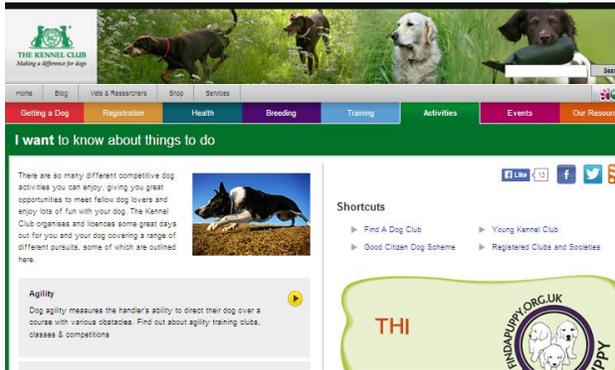
We have to say "Goodbye" to both Jacky and June. June is having an agility break and Jacky is about to move to Winchcombe in Gloucestershire. She has trained her poodles with Axstane and was part of the 2013 Small Crufts Team. We will still see her at shows and wish her well.



The Kennel Club Website

<http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/>

The KC website has been revised and is now far more interactive and well worth keeping as a “Favourite” on your PC or tablet.



Go to the main site and then to the “Activities” tab where you will find a whole section dedicated to agility.

There are specific areas:

- New to Agility?
- Agility – Competitors
- Agility – Judges
- Agility – Club Administration
- Agility – Show Administration

Please make time to have a look. For our new members you will find out about registration and measuring, information about the obstacles, how to progress through the grades etc. You can download an “Agility Beginners’ Guide”.

The site also keeps us up to date with any news and changes in regulations. You can download the current “Agility and Flyball ‘H’ Regulations” and “The Scribe” Agility Newsletter.

You may have wondered why Amanda can be seen accepting strange parcels and bags on a Thursday evening and stashing them in her van. This is what she is up to:

Up Market---the Albion Street Community Charity Shop



Albion Street was once the main shopping centre for Rotherhithe---then Tesco opened, local shops began to close, then the local library shut and the street became dilapidated accompanied by youth crime & many ASBOs. A group of us formed a steering group to work with Southwark Council to regenerate the street & improve footfall for the remaining shops. Four shops remained empty and we took over one as a community shop to raise funds for local youth projects. We are now a Limited Company (8045622) and a Registered Charity (1153318) and through the shop have helped a number of people gain work experience and get into employment. Donations of wearable clothing, toys, bric a brac, (but not furniture, videos or electrical) etc are very welcome & we sort them for sale as well as passing on items we are unable to sell to other charities eg all bedding, towels & dog/cat items go to Foal Farm via Sarah on a Thursday at Axstane. I am happy to accept any contributions you may have on a Thursday, unless of course you already support a specific charity shop.

Amanda Squires

In the last Newsletter we had a piece about Millie and a lot of you said how much you enjoyed it. So I thought it would be nice to continue this theme by featuring some of our more “senior” dogs who, although they no longer do agility, still come to the shows and have a very active life. I shall be self-indulgent and start with my Theo.

Theo’s Story

I am a Pomeranian and I was born on the 6th March 1997. My Doggy Mum also did agility, and my sister and my auntie. I only weigh 3½ kg and Mum reckons I have won more than my weight in rosettes!

I first met my new Mum at an agility show at Newbury. I was still too young to go home with Mum and Madeleine (it was long before the current KC regulations about puppies at show) so I had to wait a couple of weeks.



I have arrived!

They registered me as Theoza Bundle of Fun on my Pedigree. I certainly intended to live up to my name!

I was the first dog Mum had from a puppy so she had a lot to learn! I went to agility shows with her to watch and then started training. Then we moved to Kent and I became a farm dog riding in the back of the Land-Rover with my best friend Jess.



The farm dogs

We joined Axstane Agility Club in 1998 and worked very hard. Our first show was Stour Valley in September 1998 when I was exactly 18 months old. It was fun but I couldn’t get the hang of the weaves and decided that sniffing around the grass was much better. (Mum still has the video). My first clear round was at the BATS show in April 1999. It was the Pedigree Schmackos Mini Agility, the course time was 49 seconds and I did it in 48.87 PHEW! (She still has the video and the rosette!) My first “place” was 9th in Novice Jumping at Tunbridge Wells Show at the Hop Farm in the May. (Yes...she still has the rosette!!)

After that we were on a roll. I LOVED AGILITY!

In 2000 I won out of Starters at the Axstane Show and also qualified for the Dogs in Need Starters Final. Mum was really nervous but I did her proud by coming 4th. (My Doggy Mum came 3rd!). I qualified the two following years as well coming 5th and 4th.



Dogs in Need Finals 2000

Now I was a fully fledged agility dog and proved it by qualifying for the Eukanuba Circular Knockout at Crufts. Now Mum really was nervous!! We had had a bit of practice by joining in with the demo knockouts at Discover Dogs....but this was very different.



A proud moment: Crufts 2002.



Madeleine also entered Junior Competitions with me and I took her to Crufts as well in 2003 and 2004. Good practice for her and Henry!

In 2004 Echo arrived to join the pack and needed to be shown who was boss.



Even though I was tall for a Pom I began to find the jump heights a bit much but fortunately

they were reduced by three inches...hooray, I could keep doing agility! Changes in the grading structure put me into Grade 4 with lots of fast young dogs. So we simply aimed to get my Agility Warrant. From August 2004 to June 2008 it took me 104 clear rounds and 5 places to achieve my Bronze Agility Warrant. My 200th point was at our Axstane Show! (Yes, Mum still has my record book.)

In 2008 Echo had puppies but I wasn't allowed near them as I was a bit grumpy. I am friends with Bonnie now as long as she does what I tell her!



Pub visit at DIN 2008

My last agility season was 2009 and then Mum decided to let me retire after the KC Festival where I was 6th in G4 Agility but I took 62.788 seconds to do it. She was worn out!

I will still have a go now as long as I don't have to jump anything. I LOVE the dog walk. But best of all at a show I like to sleep-in the garden and then go for a walk around to show people what a proper agility dog looks like.



Dogs in Need August 2013