



# Axstane Agility Club

## Newsletter March 2014

### Axstane AGM 26th February

The AGM is a time to reflect on and celebrate the achievements of dogs and handlers in the previous season.

Once again our small dogs have been exceptional, gaining many top places in 2013. Zep, Bonnie and Bubbles all won into Grade 6. After coming back from injury, Sonic zoomed through the grades for Richard, from Grade 3 to Grade 5 by the end of the season. And so, not to be outdone, Debbie made sure Merlot did the same! What a great pair. Alex and Roxy went to Grade 4 – well done. Then Madeleine and Henry won into Grade 2 at the Agility Club Show and went on to have 5 wins at the KC International Festival. One of these qualified them for the Starters' Cup Final at Discover Dogs in November – where they went on to come 4th overall. What a good year for that partnership.

Axstane also qualified a small dog team for Crufts; and Martine and Bubbles represented us in the Novice Cup there. Amanda and Sprout flew the flag for the club at Dogs in Need in August by coming 2nd in the Small Classic Final for Grades 1 & 2.

Just to give you an idea of how successful we've been this year, from the Dog of the Year records (and remember this is only if people record their points in the book) we have obtained 36 first places, 42 second places and 19 third places, plus of course many clear rounds. That's pretty impressive! Well done everyone.

### Dog of the Year Awards



For those who record their achievements in the Dog of the Year book we present annual awards based on points gained in competitions:

#### Grades 1-3

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sonic and Richard
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Merlot and Debbie
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sprout and Amanda

#### Grades 4-7

- 1<sup>st</sup> Bubbles and Martine
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Asti and Debbie
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Bonnie and Melanie

We also present Achievement Awards. This year they went to Vicky and BJ and Madeleine and Henry.

Vicky and BJ have worked hard this year and it is a credit to her that she is competing with BJ as he is now almost 11 years old. Vicky has also come and helped on several ring parties, including some when she hadn't even entered. You can read their story later in this Newsletter.

Madeleine and Henry also won an Achievement Award for their outstanding performance in competitions this year.

**If you are unable to get to training any evening it is essential you let Gina know as early as you can.** If it is a planned absence then please tell her the week before. If not then either email her at Axstane@yahoo.co.uk or send a text message to 07719 674 898.

It may be that we join up classes if numbers are depleted and that needs to be arranged in advance to ensure everyone else knows what is happening.

### **There will be no training on:**

- **17<sup>th</sup> April, the Thursday before Easter**
- **12<sup>th</sup> June because of our Show.** 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 diaries!

The show season is now well under way with many of you having been to at least one show already. Thank you to those who helped with the reciprocal ring party at Mid-Downs. And well done to Suzy and Ollie who have started the way they mean to go on by getting a 4<sup>th</sup> place there.



### **Some up and coming shows:**

Keep checking on Agilinet for the forthcoming shows. <http://www.agilinet.com/> This lists KC shows and other s.

**Easter Celebration, 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> April at Ardingly Showground.** Entries for this show have closed. Martine is judging on the Sunday so some of us will there to ring party for her.

**Tunbridge Wells, 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> May at Ardingly Showground.** Entries for this show have closed. Remember this is a show where we provide a Reciprocal Ring Party on the Saturday. (Martine is judging). Thank you in advance for all those who have offered to help. On the Sunday are the Crufts Team qualifiers; good luck to everyone that is in a Team

**Spring Paws in the Park, 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> May at Ardingly Showground.** This is a new show organised by Stour Valley and WAG. The agility competition is just one part of the Paws in the Park Dog Show <http://www.pawsinthepark.net/> Entries for this show close on 12<sup>th</sup> April. Melanie will be judging on the Saturday.

**Dartford & Keston Shows, 31<sup>st</sup> May & 1<sup>st</sup> June at Orsett Showground.** Once again the two clubs are running back-to-back shows. The closing date for entries for both shows is 19<sup>th</sup> April. Martine is judging at the Dartford Show on Saturday. On Sunday we will be providing a Reciprocal Ring Party for Keston.

**Thames, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> June at Newbury Showground.** On-line entries close 26<sup>th</sup> April. Martine is judging on the Sunday.

**Axstane, 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> June at Orsett Showground.** Make sure you enter! The closing date is 9<sup>th</sup> May.

**Dog Vegas, 21<sup>st</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> June at Thetford Rugby Club.** Seven days of agility and days off for a holiday with your dog. Debbie is judging on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Billingshurst 13<sup>th</sup> July at Cranleigh Showground.** This is another show where we provide a Reciprocal Ring Party. Although it is only a one day show they do allow camping on the Saturday night. The closing date is 7<sup>th</sup> June.

**Colchester, 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> July.** As yet the schedule has not been released but remember this is a show where we do a Reciprocal Ring Party. Martine will be judging there.

**Kennel Club International Festival, 7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> August at Rockingham Castle.** This is now available to enter and Axstane will have several people helping there as well as competing.

Debbie, of course, is Show Secretary. Melanie and Micheline are on the announcements team, Linda and Martine will be managing a ring and others will be helping with ring parties. Margaret organizes the trophies and rosettes and Richard helps all over the place! Remember although this is a huge show the classes are for your grade so you will only be competing against your peers.

**Foal Farm Agility and Fun Dog Show Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2014.** Once again Sarah and her team of “willing volunteers” will be organising an agility competition as part of the Foal Farm Open Day event in October. This was great fun last time with Traqa putting all the other Axstane dogs to shame. So keep this day free if you can.



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

**Can you teach an old dog new tricks? We certainly seem to be able to where agility is concerned. Two articles about our older and very active dogs:**

**Vicky has sent this so that BJ can tell his story:**

*“I am BJ and I am a Border Terrier. I was born on the 15th May 2003 and my registered name is Chunky Monkey, a great name for me as I love food!*

*I was Mum’s first dog, and came home at the start of the school summer holidays so we had lots of time for me to settle in and learn about my new home before she went back to school in September. I was quite a naughty puppy and got into everything... even the cat litter which I helpfully spread all over the kitchen floor!*

*When mum went to University I had to stay at home for the first year as she was living in halls and I wasn’t allowed to stay, but she came home to visit me lots. During her final two years I moved to Bristol and lived in a student house with Mum, some friends and two guinea pigs. While at University, mummy and I went to a selection evening for an agility club there but wasn’t selected to join their beginner class. That didn’t put us off though, we just enjoyed our walks and practiced jumping over anything we could find.*



*After University, Mum got a job in Sevenoaks so we moved to Kent. We enjoyed a quiet life in Kent for a year or so before I got a new brother called Jack. He is a big goofy Labrador and tries to stand on me all the time.*



*After another house move (as Jack was too big for our flat!) we moved to East Peckham where we first started agility lessons. By now I was 9 years old but I absolutely loved it and gave the younger dogs a run for their money.*

*In 2013 we moved back to Sevenoaks and Mum decided that it would be nice if I could give competing a go. So we made enquiries at few different local agility clubs and had lots of responses from people telling us I was too old and couldn’t join their beginner class! I was*

*giving up hope when Mum heard back from Axstane who asked us to come along and see what I could do. Since then I have been coming to classes and am really enjoying myself.*

*We went to our first show in May 2013, it was the FAB show in Tunbridge Wells. It was very exciting and during my first run I did a lovely wait on the start line but as soon as Mum told me to go I forgot I was meant to be doing agility and ran up to the weaves and did a wee! We got eliminated and we decided to go home and maybe do a bit more training before we did anymore shows.*

*Since then I have started KC shows and thankfully just measured into small. To begin with, I ran out of the ring every time as the burger van and other things going on were more interesting. But the more shows I do the better I'm getting at staying with Mum, and we have even had a couple of runs where I wasn't eliminated. I just hope I can get a clear round soon. I would love to have a rosette!"*

**We all dream of winning our way up the grades and at last Amanda's dream of getting to Grade 3 came true. However she wasn't sure until the actual presentation where she had a heart stopping moment!**

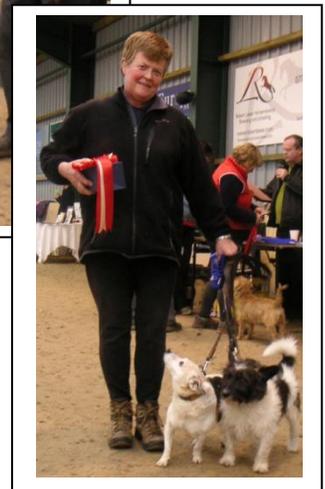
Amanda was at the JDA show at Houghton. Sprout had done a lovely round in G2 Agility and after checking the scores Amanda was thrilled to see he was in first place ---with just one dog to run. That dog was Meg, who did a nice clear round as well.

So Amanda went to the presentation expecting to get a red rosette and a trophy for Sprout. His name was called out in 2nd place. Amanda's heart sank. Who had beaten him? Had she misread the score sheet? Had someone made a mistake? Was there a faster dog who had run earlier and Amanda had missed seeing it?

Imagine her surprise when Meg's name was called. Her very own Meg .....who beat Sprout by ½ a second !

So, Amanda is now G3 thanks to a very special 13½ yr old Meg!

*Amanda says "Meg is shattered. Sprout is pretty cool about it---after all, why make the effort if someone else can do it for you? Boris is truly amazed to be G3 and Ben is blissfully unaware of the implications !*



*So, thanks to everyone that has helped us achieve this ----- after so many years !"*

### Get well soon Chris



As many of you know Chris Barrett is having to take things a bit easy while he recovers from heart surgery. We wish him well and wish Christine the best of luck keeping an eye on him!