



# Axstane Agility Club

## Newsletter November 2013

The Summer Season is now over and congratulations to everyone on their achievements. Make sure that you have recorded everything in the "Dog of the Year" points book.



Echo



Gem



Pippa



Merlot



Meg

Martine has sent a selection of photos from various shows..... don't we have some great agility dogs!



Remy



Pip



Asti



Sprout



Bonnie



Traqa

## **Thursday 12th December: Christmas Competition Evening**

This is the last evening of the year at Eaglesfield and we will be having our usual Christmas Competition, starting at 7.00. We hope to have a Pairs round and a Four Dog Team round. At the moment it looks as though there will be about 40 dogs but we will need confirmation nearer the time. There is no charge for this evening and refreshments will be provided. And there will be rosettes and prizes! Remember that we do not send Christmas Cards to each other but there will be a collection for the Dogs' Trust instead. So bring some cash!

## **Training Days**

Each year we try to arrange training days over the winter and this year we have Lisa Jordan coming to Eaglesfield on Sunday 22nd December. The day is already fully booked but if people want to come along and watch they are very welcome. There is also a day planned on the 29th at Bickley Manor Hotel.

If you are interested in training days remember that they are advertised on Agilitynet E-vents page <http://www.agilitynet.com/> and there is a Facebook group for "Available Training Days". Check them regularly as training days get booked up very quickly!

## **We return to training at Eaglesfield on Thursday 2nd January, (weather permitting)**

Training fees will be due when you return plus the annual fee for members.

## **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](mailto: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. Watch the Axstane Facebook page for announcements as well.

## **Christmas Meal**

As always our Christmas meal is not at Christmas and this year it is saved until the depths of January! We are considering the Hisar Meze Bar which is a Turkish Restaurant in Orpington. Details and the menu can be viewed here <http://www.hisarmezebar.com/>

If you are interested in coming please let Linda Armour know so that she has some idea of numbers and she will confirm details and the date in due course.



## **Axstane AGM**

This will be on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February, 7.30 pm at Eaglesfield. Save the date!

An agenda will be circulated soon.

Refreshments will be provided by the committee. (Note there is no bar available).

## Discover Dogs, Earls Court

Congratulations to Madeleine and Henry who were in the Starters Cup at Discover Dogs in November. They came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Agility round and 4<sup>th</sup> overall. Well done!



And some more photos from Martine:



Eddie not actually touching the contact!



Roxy only just fits.



Rufus.....no dog can fly like a Cavalier!

## New Contact Equipment

Money from our annual Agility Show in June not only helps subsidise everyone's training but also enables the Club to purchase new equipment. You will be pleased to hear that we have ordered a new A Frame, Dog Walk and SeeSaw from First Contact Agility <http://www.firstcontactagility.co.uk/>



We hope the new equipment will be here by the end of December, all ready for next year.

This equipment has a rubber surface so our dogs will be training on the same standard of equipment as they meet in competition. The Committee opted for the aluminium construction as this is lighter than wood and therefore will be so much easier for us when we pack away.

**Remember our 2014 show**  
**is 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> 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!

Thank you to everyone who helped at shows on the rings this 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.

**Have you joined us on Facebook yet?**



Remember there is an Axstane Agility Club Facebook group. It is a brilliant way to keep in touch and share news. Martine, Micheline and Debbie are administrators. Any one of the administrators can add people to the group but they have to become your friend first!

The **2014 ISS Diary** is now available to order and Sonic is on the front cover:



Debbie did wonder if they might use the photo below.....another flying Cavalier!



Follow this link to read the second edition of the Kennel Club "Scribe" agility newsletter  
[http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/media/344851/agility\\_winter\\_2013\\_the\\_scribe.pdf](http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/media/344851/agility_winter_2013_the_scribe.pdf)

**Millie's Amazing Agility Adventure**

Norfolk Autumn Show in October saw Millie and Kerry run their last course together to end what had been the most amazing agility career from the very special partnership that is Kerry and her beautiful 2<sup>nd</sup> hand dog.

Here Millie tells you her story. Are you sitting comfortably? Then she will begin.....

*I adopted my Mum in 2005 when she came to see me in Battersea Dogs and Cats Home – London. I was between 1 and 2 years old at the time and had been found as a stray. I could see that she needed my help and was very sad at having lost her previous dog very suddenly – also a rescue staffie –only a few weeks beforehand. So I put on very best smile and wiggled my butt until I thought it might drop off – butt (excuse the pun!) it worked and so I got my new home.*

*After a settling in period Mum took me to some agility classes at North Cray run by the very lovely Mr and Mrs Chris. (I liked Mr Chris sooooo much I showed him just how much by piddling down his leg – never done that to anyone else so he must be VERY special and I do get very excited when I see him now but I can control my bladder these days).*

*I was going great guns but then my nervous side got the better of me and so Mum thought it best if I tried a different venue and so we came to Axstane. It took a while and an awful lot of*

help from some of the trainers, especially Melanie, Martine and Linda Armour, but I regained my confidence and then we started to compete.

We got our very first clear round at Tenterden Show in September 2007. I went home with my first rosette! It was lovely to get our 1<sup>st</sup> win at Axstane's own show in 2008 and so we moved to Grade 2. Onwards and upwards we went through the grades with lots of places along the way, winning into Grade 3 in 2009 and at the same time qualifying for the Agility Club Starters Final later that year. I run my socks off for my mum in the Final and was rewarded by winning – Mum got all emotional on me (she does that sometimes), but we did go home with a big rosette and an even bigger trophy.

In 2009 we entered the Burgess Supa Dog Rescue League and we won the league for Medium grade 1-2 which also qualified us for the Final. We qualified for the Final 4 years in a row and have always been very proud to be a part of it. In 2011 we came 2<sup>nd</sup>.

2010 was the first year we were invited to represent Battersea in the Rescue Agility Display and Temptation Alley at Discover Dogs. We staffies get such a bad press and I wanted to do my bit to show everyone that there most definitely is a very big soft side to us if we are bought up correctly.

I managed 2 agility wins at Grade 6 in 2010 but alas we were pipped at the post 7 times in 2011 (by coming 2<sup>nd</sup>) to get those illusive last 2 wins to go up to Grade 7.

In 2011 I was invited back to Discover Dogs by Battersea and also to be part of the East Anglian Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club Agility Display Team. The crowd loved all of us so much that we were invited to do a display at

Crufts in 2012 and to represent Battersea there too.

The team were invited back to Crufts in 2013 but, ever the clown, I surprised everyone and delighted the crowd by legging it up into the stands. I got my 5 minutes of fame though because it was shown in the highlight TV programme on the Sunday.

At times I still suffered from my nerves and Mum always said that she never knew how I was going to be until we set off on a run – sometimes a little ploddy (especially if it was hot or was particularly noisy) and sometimes like grease lightning – I liked to keep my mum on her toes!

One thing Mum and everyone I meet can guarantee is that I will always give you a warm welcome and, if I can get close enough, a kiss and ear nibble. Now that I have become a lady of leisure I will have a lot more time for socializing and that my dear friends is where the next chapter begins....



My last competition with Mum at the Norfolk Show in October.

Millie xxx