

This Issue:

Course Times & Training, Snooker Basics, Dreaded VAT, The Masters!, 2010 SHOW DIARY, UKA Supports Cancer Research,

Tug E Nuff Beginners & Novice Performance Challenge, 2009 Finals Results

A Discussion on Course Times

One of the complaints that we have received this past year is that course times are too tight. Anytime we get this complaint we set out to do a little investigating. We look at the course time and compare it to the course. Does this seem like a reasonable amount of time to get the average dog with the average handler around the course? What is the winning dog's time? Also, what time did the other jump heights get around the course?

For many people, it is a misconception that just because they were not faulted and regardless of how long it takes to get through the 17 – 20 obstacles, they deserve a clear round. After all, at other organisations, they would get a clear round (although, this would not count towards progression). Because UK Agility has a system where by handlers are able to move up the levels by obtaining clear rounds instead of having to win out, there still needs to be an element of challenge. It would hardly be fair to allow a dog who is walking around a course, sniffing, running off etc... but doesn't actually incur any course faults, to gain a score that would count towards their progression especially when it took them over a minute to do so.

On occasion it has been found that course times were indeed inaccurately calculated and / or the course had been measured incorrectly. We are striving to better train our judges and ring managers on the correct procedures for doing this.

We believe our course times have been designed (if applied correctly) to easily allow enough time for the average dog running smoothly to gain a qualifying round. Also, because UK Agility offers a clear round system, our goal is to find a balance for progression. We have unfortunately received some concerns regarding dogs who have progressed up to the Champion Level even though they are wandering around the course sniffing. It is this balance of the average smooth running dogs moving up the levels that

we are trying promote as well as maintaining happy dogs who love their agility.

If your dog is 20 seconds over the winning time, perhaps evaluating your training, rather than demanding a rule change is what is called for.

One of my favourite stories is of a woman who was on one of our training seminars whose dog was utterly disinterested in working for her around a course. When told that she needed to work on her motivation and reward with her dog, she replied "I only do agility for fun!" Well, clearly her dog was not having fun!

The excuse of not making course times because you are not a fast runner, or you are not into competitive agility, or your dog is not a border collie, your dog is a mini, it's too hot, it's too wet...(the list goes on and on) is not what is stopping you from making course times. Dogs, like any other thinking creature, do what they find rewarding. If there is no value in it for them the result is usually an unmotivated, and distracted, slow performance.

A few years ago we had one person with a small terrier complain rather angrily that she was not making course times and she believed she deserved to have clear rounds. After observing her runs, Greg took her over to the side and explained the possible reasons for her dog's slow performance. This woman went away with Greg's advice and began to incorporate it in her training, and low and behold, months later, she was running a much more focused and faster dog – making course times easily. Greg even received a Thank You!

Think of any activity that your dog **really** finds rewarding – running with other dogs, chasing rabbits, hunting, chasing a ball, chasing cars, digging holes, etc.... Have you ever seen your dog do those activities half heartedly and slowly let alone caring about what the weather is like? Chances are you haven't. Why, because the dog finds those activities highly rewarding.

One of the basic laws of behaviour theory is behaviours that are rewarded are likely to occur with more frequency and often with more speed. Behaviours that go unrewarded will decrease and at some point stop all together. Things that are rewarding are done quickly so that the reward itself is gained more quickly. That is why it is important to make sure in your agility training that your dog is rewarded time and time again for his efforts.

Too often, I observe people, whether during their training or competing, completely ignore their dogs when things are going right. Instead, they wait for mistakes to occur and then either shout or nag or give up and walk away, or worse. In training, your goal should be to reward as many right behaviours as possible. Doing this, will increase your dog's likely hood of wanting to do it again and even faster. So what is a reward? It is whatever truly motivates your dog to work for you. If you find a pat on the head or a 'good dog' doesn't improve your dog's work ethic (for most this just is not enough) that means you need to find out what your dog considers his equivalent to money. For most, this is food and/ or toys.

When your dog's training is good and reliable and you enter the competition ring it is also important

to introduce your rewarding in the ring. That is one of the main reasons you have the opportunity in UK Agility to do training rounds (NFC). For UKA training rounds – food is not allowed in the ring, so it is best to work on play drive. There is loads of information out there regarding using toys as a reward for your dog and how to make your dog crazy for toys if he isn't already. Susan Garrett's Shaping Success (sold at UKA Dog Gear) is a great book on understanding positive dog training and ways to get your dog interested in toys.

If you decide to go into the ring strictly to compete, you can still get your dog to give you some behaviours whilst waiting in the queue that you know he will perform quickly & easily (basic commands, tricks etc...) and reward him for doing those so that he is already ready and willing to work for you and excited about the prospect of more rewards. As soon as you come off the course you can immediately run to a reward, whether it is a lead, or even a toy hidden outside of the ring.

So instead of making excuses for not making course time, be proactive and become a better trainer and partner to your dog so that you both will have a more rewarding experience.

2010 and the Dreaded VAT man

UK Agility has to become VAT registered as of the 1st January 2010. We have worked hard over the years to circumvent going VAT registered, but due to the increase in shows we can no longer avoid this. However due to the restructuring of the way shows are run, entry fees will only have to be increased by 15p or 60p a day if your dog competes in all 4 classes.

We do hope that this small increase will be far outweighed by the increasing benefits of UKA shows. The 2010 diary is shortly to be completed and we have more shows than ever and we are gradually creeping into more and more new areas across the UK. 2010 looks like it will be an even better year for competitors with several brand new events

- The Tugg E Nuff Performance Challenge
- The UKA Masters Series
- The IFCS World Cup.

Further details on these will be announced shortly

All of last year's heats and finals will also be on the UKA calendar

- The UK Agility National Finals
- The UK Agility Grand Prix
- The Beginners Steeplechase Final
- The Team Steeplechase
- The Split Pairs
- The Derbyshire Games Final
- The LAPS Knockout

Thank you for your continued support and we hope you continue to enjoy your Agility.

TRAINING TIP:

Take full advantage of NFC training rounds at your next UKA show by teaching your dog to play tug at the bottom of the contacts with a toy. Rewarding your dog in his contact position will make the contact performance stronger & faster!!!

A Look At the Game – Snooker!

Because handlers must now obtain 6 points in the games to move into the Senior Class in Performance, we would like to briefly explain a game in each of the newsletters. Once you try them, you'll find them a lot easier than you originally thought.

This is a look at Snooker! It is similar to the snooker game played by Steve Davis & Stephen Hendry but does have some subtle differences.

The course will have 3 – 4 'red' jumps designated by a 1 randomly placed around the course. These jumps can be done in either direction and are worth 1 point each. There will be six "coloured" obstacles designated by 2, 3, and 4,5,6,7. These obstacles are worth the points they are designated as. These obstacles may also be made up of a combination of different equipment designated by a, b, c etc... For example the 5 obstacle (worth 5 points, might be made up of 3 jumps as shown below.)

The judge will set a course time i.e. 50 seconds. It is your job to make up a course that allows you to acquire a minimum of 37 points or a maximum of 51 points within the course time.

You must do a course in the following order:

- a red jump followed by any coloured (2-7 point) obstacle,
- another red jump followed by any coloured obstacle,
- A third red jump (must be different red again) followed by any coloured obstacle.

If you were trying to score the highest points you would obviously attempt this scenario (red jump then 7 point obstacle, another red jump then 7 point obstacle, another red jump then 7 point obstacle.

The red jump must be done successfully in order to do a coloured obstacle. If you fault a red jump, you must go to another one without doing any other equipment first.

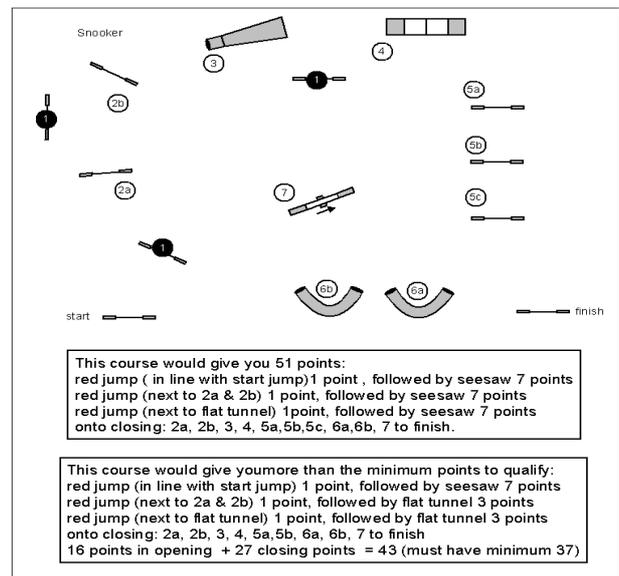
Once you have completed that part of the course, you then continue onto the 'closing' sequence which is simply doing the 2-7 point obstacles in order finishing on the 'finish' jump.

If at any time you hear a whistle, your time has either run out, or you have done something wrong and you must run to the finish line immediately.

Typical reasons you hear the whistle:

- red jump taken, followed by another red jump.
- Coloured obstacle taken, followed by another coloured obstacle without doing red in between.
- Taking same red jump already successfully done earlier.

Below is a sample snooker course with two different courses.



Check out our selection of agility training DVD's and Books.

New & unique toys in stock now!

In Memory of Joy Richardson

Last year one of our dear friends, Joy Richardson, was diagnosed with Lung Cancer. It was a shock to us all, but Joy, never complained and continued to do the things she loved, especially agility until just a few weeks before she passed away. Many of you will remember the runs she did with her beloved BC Penny along with Shaun, Tace & Sue and the wheelbarrow. This was the start of fundraising for Cancer Research. Sadly, last month (Aug 09) Joy lost her battle with cancer. The proceeds from UKA Teejay show along with the UKA Charity show have gone to Cancer Research. Following is a tribute to Joy written by Greg who was asked to speak by Joy's family at her funeral regarding her life with dogs:

I first met Joy 8 or 9 years ago when she was just starting to get involved in dog agility. Joy would come for lessons on a weekly basis with her dog Penny. They were never going to win the world cup but her commitment and enthusiasm to her dogs and her training was evident straight away. Her knowledge of handling and training grew and she would put many to shame at the top of our sport with her understanding of the concepts and fundamentals involved. Joy and Penny became regular competitors at UK Agility shows where she has many friends and she will be sadly missed by all of those who knew her. Katie came into Joy's life and for those of you that met Katie with her unique character and problems will have realised what a special person Joy was to

train Katie and persevere with her. Sadly Katie passed away last year but that led to KJ coming into Joy's life. I'm sad to say she did not achieve her ambition of running KJ at a show but Joy was an inspiration to all of us as she continued her lessons throughout her illness. She sadly leaves behind her young dog, but it's a young dog with a great foundation and I'm sure Joy would be thrilled that Tom, who is taken him on, will be training and running him and I'm sure Tom will find out what a great job Joy has done in the first 15 months of KJ's life. I'm also sure Joy would be thrilled and ever thank full to Wendy who is giving Penny a new home.

It is not Joy's agility career though that I will remember and it's not watching her run around a course that I will miss. In all the 1,000's of people I have met through our sport, I can honestly say that I don't think I have met anyone who was as generous and as kind as Joy. The thing I will remember and miss most about Joy is that generosity and the kindness she showed to everyone around her. She was always the Good Samaritan and whenever she spoke about her life outside of the dog world it seemed that she was always caring for someone. When you needed help you could always turn to Joy, always willing to give a hand setting shows up, helping at training, baking cakes for others in our group who had had a win or a birthday or just being there as a friend to all of us someone we could talk to. I will remember and miss Joy for the person she was. They say the good die young and in Joy's case this was sadly very true.

Rest in Peace Joy we will all miss you.

UKA Royal Canin Grand Prix Final Results

Toy	1 st	Dawn Weaver & Puzzle	38.63
	2 nd	Dawn Weaver & Tigger	39.64
	3 rd	David Alderson & Libby	39.87
Midi	1 st	Wendy Clay & Scout	35.01
	2 nd	Nicola Garrett & Indiana	35.77
	3 rd	Lisa Le Sign & Chi	38.1
Std	1 st	Leslie Osborne & Fizz	35.29
	2 nd	Shaun Hunt & Oakley	43.09
	3 rd	Sue Wood & Teejay	46.04
Maxi	1 st	Dawn Weaver & Promise	35.00
	2 nd	Hannah Holdsworth & Meg	35.73
	3 rd	Angela Williams & Tiff	36.36

UKA Nationals

Sponsored by CSJ, First Contact, Norton Rosettes, Taryntimers & Field of Dreams Agility

Midi	1 st	Dawn Weaver & Tigger	32.14
	2 nd	Gloria Tucker & Pia	36.87
	3 rd	Lee Harfield & Pip	39.55
Midi	1 st	Angela Williams & Ten	29.22
	2 nd	Bernadette Bay & Zen	30.74
	3 rd	Juliet Dearbergh & Woody	36.23
Std	1 st	Leslie Osborne & Fizz	28.98
	2 nd	Matt Rouse & Bailey	29.12
	3 rd	Nicola Garrett & Wych	30.07
Maxi	1 st	Angela Williams & Dot	28.66
	2 nd	Dawn Weaver & Freeway	28.89
	3 rd	Mark Powell & Trigga	29.36

EXCITING NEW QUALIFICATION EVENT FROM UKA ENCOURAGES SPEED AND PERFORMANCE AT CHAMPIONSHIP LEVEL: THE MASTERS

UK Agility is launching a new and exciting qualification event in 2010. The UKA Masters aims to encourage more competitive running in top UKA classes and to improve the overall standard of agility in the UK. With prize money on offer, this event has been designed especially for top level dogs and handlers whose goal is to compete at both national and International level. UKA will hand-pick judges, based on their high standards and ability to design testing but intelligent courses.

The Masters will consist of a Jumping round followed by an Agility round (heats). The combined results of these heats will determine the overall winner of that Masters. An annual Masters final will be held at the UKA Nationals Week to find the UKA Masters Champion, a status that will remain with the winning dog.

In 2010, the UKA Masters will be open to registered UKA dogs of all heights, competing at Championship level. For KC handlers not yet registered with UKA and wishing to compete in the event, Grade 7 dogs may join UKA and transfer straight into Championship classes. In 2011, the UKA Masters will only be open to dogs that have achieved a CAP and in 2012 that standard will be raised again, with only WCAP dogs being able to compete in the Masters.

UKA has chosen venues where the ground conditions are known to be good and picked dates where there are not too many other big KC or UKA events on. Next year, the UKA Masters Series will be held at the following shows:

Prize money for the overall top four places at each Masters in the 2010 series will be £100 for 1st place, £35 for 2nd, £20 for 3rd, and £15 for 4th.

Date	Show	Venue
Saturday March 27 th	Waverunners (March 27 th & 28 th)	Newbury Showground, Newbury, Berks, RG18 9QZ
Sunday May 2 nd	GT Agility (April 30 th - May 2 nd)	Newbury Showground, Newbury, Berks, RG18 9QZ
Monday May 31 st (Bank holiday)	Quad Paws Week (May 31 st - June 4 th)	Apps Court Farm, Walton on Thames, Surrey. (TBC)
Saturday July 17 th	Hereford (July 17 th & 18 th)	Fownhope FC, Fownhope, Hereford. HR4 4PJ
Wednesday July 28 th	UKA Nationals (July 27 th - August 1 st)	Tewkesbury Sports Centre, Ashchurch Rd, Tewkesbury, Glos, GL20 8DP

For more information about the UKA Masters Series and a complete set of rules, please visit www.ukagility.com.

Summary of 2010 Rules Amendments & Clarifications in the 5th Addition UKA Rules & Regulations

- Snooker & Gamblers rules further clarified
- A new game, Snakes & Ladders, has been included in the Performance Games.
- A new competition, Masters Series, has been included for Champion level dogs.
- Electric collars are prohibited at all UKA shows and lemon (citronella) collars are not allowed within 50m of a competition ring.
- The use of a "No Loitering" rule has been included for Champion Gamblers.
- Courses must be submitted by show managers 21 days prior to shows for approval. Show managers failing to do so will be fined with all money being donated to charity.

New copies can be purchased at a cost of £3 a copy from UK Agility. All new members receive a free rule book when registering and all members renewing will receive a new rule book.

Introducing the Tug E Nuff Beginners & Novice Performance Challenge

UK Agility is introducing a new Final sponsored by Tug E Nuff Dog Gear which yet again caters to a different part of the UK Agility competitor – the Beginners and Novice Performance Dogs.

There will be 10 heats throughout the year where the Agility and Jumping class results will be combined. The 2 dogs from the four jump heights with the best combined scores will qualify for the Final to be held at the UKA Nationals week show to be run on the Friday. There will be prizes for the top 3 dogs of each jump height with First Place winning £200. See the Show Diary for the scheduled heats for 2010.



Sew What Split Pairs Final

1 st	Lauren Langman & Reef	39.831
	Matthew Rouse & Bailey	
2 nd	Tace Allen & Oakley	41.314
	Shaun Hunt & Phix	
3 rd	Sarah Crouch & Tally	42.316
	Rebekah Fallon & Peg	

Trophy Team Steeplechase Final

1st	Lisa Jeffery & MISTY
	Rachel Draper & KONNOR
	Lauren Jeffery & AMBER (clear in 89.878)
2nd	Laura Derrett & SPIDER
	Karen Laker & TORRO (5 faults in 72.426)
	Michelle Spencer & MAVERICK
3rd	Jane Tatam & JAGGERS
	Rosemary Anson & JACK
	Jeanette Hurrell & Jess (5 faults in 81.465)

www.Dog-Games.co.uk Beginners Steeplechase Challenge Final

Toy	1 st	Carla Willey & Stig	35.71
	2 nd	Anna Rayne & Isla	36.77
	3 rd	Lara Robbins & magners	38.50
Midi	1 st	Janet Jessop & Mac	32.95
	2 nd	Heather Lee & Scamp	35.09
	3 rd	Cathryn Timker & Spider	35.33
Std	1 st	Helen Perryman & Jinxy	28.92
	2 nd	Caoline Ashby-Daniels & Hunch	29.07
	3 rd	Danielle Cross	32.58
Maxi	1 st	Mike Bacon & Jet	30.41
	2 nd	Ian Harvey & Flash	30.53
	3 rd	Charlotte Davidson & Knight	30.78

2010 Show Diary

(as of 1st October 2009)

Jan 2 nd & 3 rd	GT Agility	Cheltenham
Jan 17 th	UKA Cornwall	Bugle, Cornwall
Jan 23 rd	East Anglian Winter Series	Snetterton, Norwich
Jan 23 rd	Lakeland Winter Series	Maryport, Cumbria
Feb 6 th	East Anglian Winter Series	Snetterton, Norwich
Feb 13 th & 14 th	Valentines Show	Cheltenham
Feb 27 th	Lakeland Winter Series	Maryport, Cumbria
March 6 th	Hereford	Bromyard
March 13 th & 14 th	AJAXS	Newbury Area. TBC
March 21 st	UKA Cornwall	Bugle, Cornwall
March 27 th & 28 th	Waverunners	Newbury Showground, Newbury, Berks
April 2 nd -5 th	UKA Easter	Beckford, Glos
April 9 th – 11 th	Thatcham	Walton on Thames, Surrey. TBC
April 17 th & 18 th	Stonebridge Agility Spring Show	Prested Hall, Kelvedon, Essex
April 24 th & 25 th	Patenden	Dial Post, W. Sussex
April 30 th – May 2 nd	GT Agility	Newbury Showground, Newbury, Berks
May 8 th & 9 th	HJ Agility	Witney, Oxon
May 14 th -16 th	IFCS World Cup	The Hand Equestrian Centre, Clevedon, Bristol
May 22 nd	Phoenix Agility Club	Bristol
May 29 th – June 4 th	Quad Paws Week	Walton on Thames, Surrey. TBC
June 5 th & 6 th	Spring by the Thames	Walton on Thames, Surrey. TBC
June 12 th & 13 th	SandS @ East Devon Agility	Honiton, Devon
June 19 th & 20 th	Aldon	Yeovil, Somerset
June 26 th – 27 th	GT Agility	Newbury Showground, Newbury, Berks
July 10 th & 11 th	Derbyshire	Broomfield Hall, Morley, Derby
July 17 th & 18 th	Hereford	Fownhope, Hereford.
July 27 th - August 1 st	UKA Nationals	Tewkesbury
August 6 th & 9 th	Tamisje, Cornwall	Newquay, Cornwall,
August 14 th & 15 th	UKA Cornwall	Wadebridge, Cornwal

