



Welcome to our  
Second Agility  
Newsletter

Included:

- Welcome
- Judges Show Report
- How I got into agility
- Judging Seminar
- At the show
- Kay & Henry's agility story
- Final word



## Welcome to the August issue of PWDTS Agility Newsletter

Welcome back. It has been a wonderful Summer of agility for the club and I look forward to bringing you all the news. The hi-light has of course been the first PWDTS agility competition and I will tell you all the news and results from the two day show in my Judges show report.

The club has run evening agility classes for the first time this year and these have proved to be very popular. In fact this September between Kate, Linda and myself we will be running nine agility classes on Tuesdays and Wednesdays a record for the club. That's about 50 of you taking part!! A huge and important part of the club. I am always looking for ways to improve and extend so if anyone has any feedback or ideas, please let me know.

### Judges Show Report

The first PWDTS Fun Agility Show took place on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> August. The weather was wonderful for once and over 25 of you had booked in to take part.

I had split the days to include classes for Beginners which was the majority of the dogs who had been training with me for 6 months or more and some starter classes for the dogs who had only started classes recently.

Our winners on the days were:  
Tuesday

Beginners Agility: [Amanda & Percy](#)

Beginners Jumping: [Jane & Jamie](#)

Beginners Steeplechase: [Amanda & Percy](#)

The PWDTS Challenge: [Jane & Jamie](#)

Starters Agility: [Alison & Harry](#)

Starters Jumping: [Brian & Maisie](#)

Starters Steeplechase: [Alison & Yoshi](#)  
Wednesday:

Beginners Agility: [Louise & Pixie](#)

Beginners Jumping: [Jane & Jamie](#)

Beginners Steeplechase: [Kay & Henry](#)

[Well Done to you all!](#)



## Judges Show Report (cont)



Jamie the Irish Terrier who won three classes at the PWDTS Show

So very well done to Jane and Jamie who completely excelled themselves. But well done to everyone who competed and I hope you all enjoyed it as much as I did.

I would like to thank Linda and Emma my two wonderful stewards without whom the show could not have run. I would also like to thank Brenda who helped set up on Tuesday and also Sue Cooper who offered to organize and then brilliantly ran the Raffle. We raised an amazing £160

for Stokenchurch Dog Rescue. Thanks again to everyone who kindly donated prizes and spent their money on the day.

I now hope to make the PWDTS Agility show an annual event.



## How I got into agility



I started doing agility a long time ago when Jake was a year old. The club I went to however was not run very well and we didn't stay very long. I then went into Competition Obedience with both of my dogs and whilst I enjoyed the training and working in partnership with my dogs, I found the sport a bit repetitive and wanted to go back to agility. I did a beginners course at Aylesbury club when Meg was a puppy but as I preferred 1-2-1 training I then looked for someone else to progress with. Tom Green, an excellent instructor who works for the Hearing Dogs and competes at the highest level with his own dogs taught me for several years with both my dogs.



Jake

started training with her. Although I have always enjoyed the sport and working my dogs I never had the time available to go to many shows and we only did two or three a year. This year I decided that had better change. Jake is eleven and he is now retired from agility and Meg will be nine in September so it felt a bit like Meg's last chance.

I am really pleased to say that Meg has excelled herself this year and is still improving. We have been focusing on the UK Agility shows as I prefer their smaller, friendly atmosphere. This weekend she progressed from Beginners to Novice - no wins but she has had two thirds, a fourth a fifth and a sixth.

Then the following day got a third in her first Novice agility



three day show got four clear rounds. This means we already have 12 of the 36 points needed to progress up to Senior level - beyond that is the Champion Class which is my aim before I have to retire her. I think she has done very well in her six months of competing and considering she is nearly nine!!

Meg and I prefer the complicated courses, in those we stand a chance of being placed. She can't compete with the speed of the fast young collies but they often miss a weave or mess up contacts or go the wrong way. The harder courses test my handling though!!

Most importantly she is having fun, still enjoying it and still getting better. I love working in

partnership with my dog, knowing I have trained her to this level and that a successful round requires our synchronicity!!

I will keep you updated on her progress.



## Judging Seminar

Linda and I are off to a UKA judging seminar this weekend. This will cover course planning for competitions and all the rules. This means both of us will be able to Judge at future UKA shows and it will also give us invaluable information for planning the courses we set you and what we teach. UKA is very keen on promoting the Agility Games Classes. These include

Gamblers, Snooker, Power & Speed and Time Fault & Out. These classes are complicated but great fun and we will be including more of them in our teaching and they will also feature in next year's show. If you are interested in learning more about them go to [www.ukagility.com](http://www.ukagility.com) to see the rules.



## Kay and Henry's Agility Story

### Henry's story:

Henry is a 7 (very nearly 8) year old English Springer Spaniel, he has been part of our family since he was 14 weeks old rescued from a life in the show ring. I had also wanted to do agility with him but when he was younger there wasn't a suitable club nearby so I resigned myself to watching fabulously well trained collies at Crufts – Henry watched too clearly thinking he could do better. But could he!!

One day I just happened to google 'Agility Bucks' and up came Pauline Whittaker Dog Training Club, maybe here was our chance to get to Crufts too! We started our agility classes in September 2007.

Henry really loves coming to the classes particularly as there are 2 other springers, Pauline calls it the naughty class, maybe it is, but it's definitely the laughter class and the highlight of our week. Henry is always very keen to tell everyone his opinions on how to tackle the equipment or run the course and then show the other dogs how it should or should not be done.

After about six months I felt we were getting on really well; clearly a fantastic talent, that when Pauline sent around an email in February 2008 about going to a show and would anyone like to join her what else could I do, although I'm not sure Pauline had Henry in mind when she said about entering! We decided to do the nursery class for extremely beginner dogs and handlers; this class has no weaves and no tricky handling.

The day arrived and off we went to Walton on Thames. The nursery agility class is always the last class and naturally we arrived in plenty of time – after all what's a 3 or 4 hour wait for an extremely hyped up Springer. Fortunately Pauline was there to calm nerves and walk the course. Finally, we are waiting in the queue, tensions mounting, hearts pumping. It's our go. I take Henry's lead off, tell him to 'Wait' and move forward to just beyond the first jump. But hold on –

there's no Henry – he's gone. No, not back to the car but to check out the A frame (to make sure it was safe no doubt), and say 'hi' to the judge and look for treats – I mean Pauline always stands in the middle and has treats. For a few seconds I wasn't quite sure what to do but then went to retrieve him, hearing sympathetic noises from others including 'that dog is certainly having a good time'. Fortunately, one of the best things about agility competitions is that your round doesn't start until you've jumped the first obstacle and even if you are eliminated you just carry on as nothing has happened. So that's what we did – Henry and I did complete the course, he went under a few jumps but hey it had been a long day. It was a great feeling and I thoroughly enjoyed it but wasn't quite ready to repeat it until this year.

The same show, same venue, same day but I promoted ourselves to the Casual jumping. Not wanting to be caught out again with the long wait, I went for the first class of the day, this, of course, meant an early start and the M25 in the morning rush hour. In casual classes the dog can jump one height lower. I was determined that the same thing was not going to happen again, I had my master plan, just let go and run for the first jump. We were second to go, Pauline was watching, Laura was videoing. We were off; well I was but again no Henry. He had decided that a little bit of shopping was the order of the day – he hadn't had much breakfast yet and there was a super tasty stall selling rather nice smelly doggy treats – what else could a dog do – well a springer spaniel anyway. Luckily Pauline is pretty nifty on her feet and quickly retrieved him before anyone noticed, well I hope they didn't notice and we were off with a great round, almost a great round except for the weaves...



### Henry's Story





## Kay and Henry's Story...

### Henry's story continued

... (of course) and missing a few jumps. Once again the feeling of 'that was brilliant' came over me – I'm definitely doing that again.

So we did, we journeyed down to Walton on Thames over the half term and promoted ourselves to Beginner classes. This meant we could do 3 classes, agility, steeplechase and jumping. This time Henry did stay with me and completed the agility and steeplechase courses, yes we had faults and made errors that ended in elimination but just being able to keep Henry in the ring is a major breakthrough, and I was thrilled to bits that he stayed with me all the way round and so was he! It was like winning a major agility championship!!

I have such great fun doing agility with Henry, he is 'my best friend' and we have a wonderful bond between us; yes, you can teach a middle aged dog new tricks! I know one day soon we will get round the course with just faults and maybe in the not too distant future we will get a clear round. Watch this space. You don't have to have clear round success at the shows to have fun and feel a great sense of achievement. Don't think all the dogs will be brilliant because most of them are not. Have a go – you won't regret it.

Henry's Post Script – Wednesday  
19<sup>th</sup> August

My human appears to be exceptionally pleased with me and herself. I did enjoy myself at "The PWDTS Agility Show", it was so hot though and clearly us spaniels, being of a more superior mix, realised that jumping and running around was not the best idea. I had a good bark at Pauline and being an exceptionally bright human she put the height of the jumps down for the Steeplechase. So despite a poor showing in the other two classes I did what I was told and did a rather

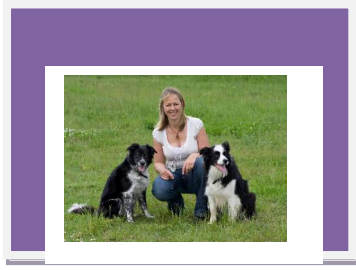
fantastic clear round and was reasonably speedy – I thought it about time I showed those young pups how to do it – YES, I WON, WON, WON. I have rather a nice pink and purple rosette (not quite my colours but who cares) and a rather smart trophy both with 1<sup>st</sup> on! I rather like this winning lark and now I've realised that you are supposed to follow your human's instructions all the time, go over the jumps and go in the right end of the tunnels maybe I'll do it again .....

By Henry Lunnon – definitely top dog.

Well what can I say apart from well done Kay and Henry, I will have to be careful what I say about Springers now we have a winner in the group!! Take heart all you other Springer owners out there – there is hope!!

Pauline





## Final Word

Again I would like to request articles for future editions of the newsletter. Or any suggestions for what you might like to see featured.

All feedback is gladly received!!

Best Wishes

Pauline



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