



KiwiDogAgility

by Karen de Wit

INAUGURAL GAMES CLASS

September 2014, Upper Hutt

The first ever Championship Jumpers pairs competition was held at the end of September by Upper Hutt Dog Training School, at Maidstone Park. The first two competitors to run were local club members – Karen de Wit with a Lowchen called Benji, and Paige Aukett with a Sheltie called Bobby. They achieved a qualifying certificate in the Jumpers pairs class which will count to further promotions and awards for the dogs. A number of other competitors from all over the North Island and as far away as Auckland, also ran in the class.

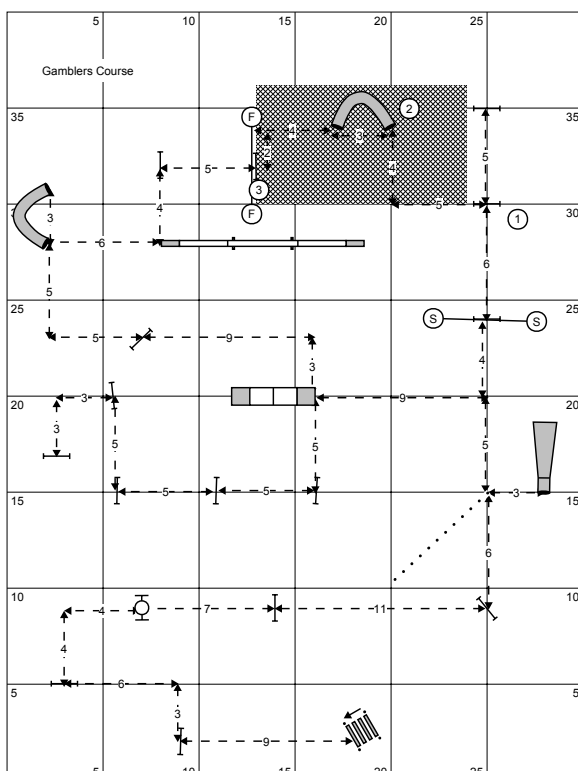
Agility is a national sport in New Zealand that has been going for nearly 30 years and recently a whole new category of events, called Games, was introduced. The Upper Hutt Club was the first to hold one of these games. Jumpers Pairs is a Game where a course of 18 obstacles is divided into two even halves. One dog runs the first half of the course and then the other dog and handler run the second part of the course. If they both go clear (no mistakes are made) they receive a Qualification certificate.

On December 14th the Upper Hutt DTS will hold two more games – Gamblers and Snooker, at Awakairangi Park, also in Upper Hutt. Gamblers is a game with two halves – the first half the handler and dog run around doing the obstacles and accumulating points. When the horn sounds they run as fast as possible to complete the gamble which is a distance challenge – the handler has to stay behind a line while the dog goes and does 3-4 obstacles by itself. In Snooker the obstacles are labelled much like the balls on a snooker table – there are three ‘reds’ or jumps, and there are colours numbered 2–7 which are six other obstacles. The handler directs the dog to complete a

sequence of red-colour-red-colour-red-colour and then proceeds to the closing sequence and attempts 2-3-4-5-6-7. All these games have maximum course times, in addition to the other challenges. Points are not gained if the obstacles are incorrectly performed, eg a pole is knocked off or a contact is missed.



Karen & Benji (left) with Paige & Bobby



The winners in the classes were:

Level C1

Place: 1	0/20.36 sec	Alphabeta Fickle (Border Collie)	Ngairé O'Rourke
Place: 1	0/20.36 sec	Alphabeta It's Business Time at Tagteam (Border Collie)	Kevin Burnette

Level C2

Place: 1	0/19.01 sec	Seaquest Hide'n Zeke (Border Collie)	Rochelle Jager
Place: 1	0/19.01 sec	Seaquest Black Magic (Border Collie)	Katrina Jefferies

Level B1 and 2

Place: 1	0/27.77 sec	Zip-A-Dee-Doo-Dah of Mordor (Border Collie)	Polly Catlin-Maybury
Place: 1	0/27.77 sec	Illawarra Lets Start a Riot (Australian Working Kelpie)	Celina Lovejoy



Other Games classes coming up

Date	Club	Game
6 Dec	Mangawhai	Blackjack
14 Dec	Upper Hutt	Gamblers, Snooker
7/8 Feb	Wairarapa DTC	Jumpers Pairs
21/22 Feb	Hawera DTC	Jumpers pairs and Gamblers
28 Feb/1 March	Upper Hutt DTS	Gamblers and Snooker