

KiwiDogAgilty

NZDAC2012

Come and be Challenged in Cambridge, the home of Champions!

And the home of Champions it was!! With Alice Cameron making Ace up to both AgCh and JCh during the weekend, Chelsea Marriner making Ike up to AgCh, not to mention all the existing champions that were there and showing us all some amazing runs.

As I write this on the day after the event, I find I am struggling to remember the weekend. It is all a bit of a blur and seemed to go so fast. I do know that I had a fantastic time, and there are some outstanding moments that I can remember.

The Good

- ✎ The Agility Committee organising the Inaugural Certificate of Appreciation, and being able to surprise Allan Rohde with the presentation on Saturday at prize-giving. Apart from being incredibly well deserved, it was quite special that a member of the organising committee of the inaugural NZDAC, received the inaugural appreciation certificate.
- ✎ The grounds – weren't they amazing! So much space! Graeme and his team of merry helpers had done such an amazing job laying everything out and doing all that hand mowing.
- ✎ The weather on Friday, Saturday and Monday – so much better than we were expecting from the weather forecast.
- ✎ The opening speech from Mayor Alan Livingstone and Nick Chester. Both Graeme and I had a little moment during it, kind of a “Wow, what all our hard work has been for is actually starting” moment.
- ✎ Paul Remon and Fiona Hodgson instantly stepping up and offering to judge Cam's classes on the Sunday, in the pouring rain, while Cam was unable to make it due to being so sick. Allan and I were drawing straws as to who was going to do it,



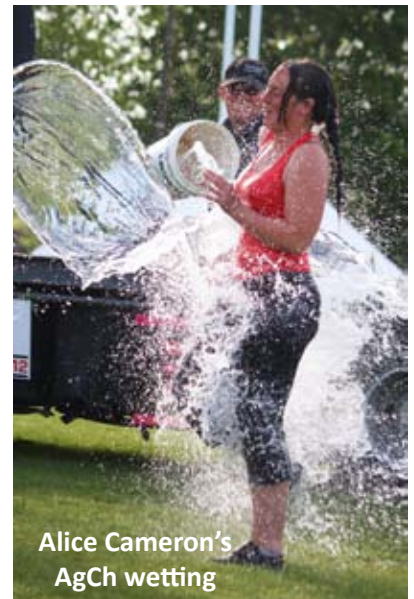
Natasha Coulter and Jonty after the A Jumpers Final

and re-shuffling jobs with Graeme when you saved us – your generosity was fantastic and so appreciated!

- ✎ The showers seemed to be a huge hit too. We had loads of people saying how much they appreciated us having brought in the shower block.
- ✎ The number of people who just stepped up and offered assistance in so many

ways. There are some really generous and awesome people in our sport!

- ✎ Some amazing agility runs! People really embraced the “go hard or go home” concept, resulting in some stunning runs!! In some of the classes there were multiple dogs all on the same second fighting for a placing.
- ✎ The Sunday night 80s party!!! The decorations were fantastic and it really set the scene. It was amazing how everyone really got into the spirit of things. The outfits people put together were sensational, and Squeeze the band was amazing. I can't believe how many people were up and dancing on the first song.
- ✎ The Saturday night BBQ was pretty fantastic as well. I loved finishing all the work for the day and walking over to have a meal cooked for me, and being able to eat it in great company. It was all so easy and hassle free.
- ✎ Zone One winning the Interzone event (against the odds of winning it in your own zone) and Counties winning the Interclub event.
- ✎ People loving their dogs, no matter what their results.



Alice Cameron's AgCh wetting

The Bad

- ✎ The weather on Sunday – so not pleasant! Though it was also a positive as I thought it was pretty awesome how lots of people stayed around in the pouring rain for prize giving to support the winners.
- ✎ People who think the “rules and requests” don't apply to them, so they turn up at 2pm instead of 4pm and want to be let in for camping, the people who pick up the goodie bags before they have been made ready and those that try and cheat the system by paying for less nights of camping than they used, or go to the social event without paying. If you think we didn't notice, we did! It has been duly noted.
- ✎ People complaining about the goodie bags. The goodie bags are not a “right” and you do not pay for them. You pay for registration regardless, and it is up to the committee as to whether they provide goodie bags. Unfortunately for us, high entries meant lots of goodie bags were required, so we had to combine some. If you have ever tried to source free product, you will have an understanding of how hard it is to get 330+ free items. I actually think we were really lucky with what we did get, and that the goodie bags were pretty awesome.

The Ugly

- ✖ The way in which a few people “had a go” at the committee members. Totally unacceptable! If you have a problem, that is fine we can discuss it and fix it, but there is no need to be nasty.
- ✖ Me losing my walkie talkie down the toilet and having to stick my hand in there to retrieve it. I am a bit of a germaphobe and still slightly traumatised by this event...

One of the things I would also like to address is people complaining about the cost of entries. The entries have cost \$8 for an NZDAC/ NDTA for as long as I can remember, so there actually hasn't been any price rise. Running a show of this size is not cheap!!! I have included a financial summary below of the show, so you can get an understanding of where there money goes. This will hopefully help you understand why entries are more expensive than a normal show.

Income		\$ 68,500.00
Entries, registrations, badges etc	\$ 38,000.00	
Social Events	\$ 8,000.00	
Camping & day tents	\$ 7,000.00	
Sponsorship	\$ 13,500.00	
Food stalls	\$ 500.00	
Raffle	\$ 1,500.00	
Expenses		\$ 67,000.00
Ribbons	\$ 5,000.00	
Prizes	\$ 15,000.00	
Sponsor product	\$ 10,000.00	
Judges and Helpers (gifts, accomodation, travel, food etc)	\$ 10,500.00	
Venue	\$ 2,500.00	
NZKCAC Levies	\$ 3,000.00	
Facilities (toilets, showers, rubbish, sound system, warratahs etc)	\$ 7,500.00	
Administration (stationery, catalogues, badges, CRCs and general)	\$ 4,000.00	
Social Events	\$ 8,000.00	
Refunds	\$ 1,500.00	
Excess of Income over expenditure		\$ 1,500.00

There are all sorts of different reasons that people accept a role working on a NZDAC/NDTA committee, for me it was because I wanted to be part of creating an event that people really enjoyed. All of the positive comments that have been posted on our Facebook page and were made to myself and the committee during the event have been really heart-warming. I especially loved one from one person who came up to me on the Monday and said “I wanted to thank you and the committee. This was my first Nationals and I have had the best time. Thank you so much.” Hopefully we have hooked someone else into this sport! Thank you to all the competitors who have expressed your appreciation, it means a huge amount to the committee. Wonderful payback for all the hours of work we have put in.

There are literally loads of people that need to be thanked for putting this event together. This truly was a team effort, not something done by an individual, and it could not have happened without any of the people that contributed. First, all our wonderful sponsors who contribute much needed funds to support the event, thank you so much for time and contributions! Eukanuba, 1 Day, Agility Stuff, Animal Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation Ltd, All Print, All Sew Embroidery and Uniforms, ANZ, Auckland Canine Agility Club, Back on Track, Black Bean Coffee, Carousel Catering, Counties Dog Training Club, DoggYum Natural Dog Treats, Equinox Animal Chiropractic, Hydropaws, JAC (Whelans Group), L'Oreal Group, Manukau Dog Training Club, McKeeBuilt, Mega Mobile BowTech, Mid Canterbury Canine Obedience Club, Mt Maunganui Dog Training Club, Naranja Dog, Netherton Meat Processors, New World Cambridge, North Shore Dog Training Club, Papa Col's Baked Potatoes, Patricia Eggman Photography, Pinnacle Steel, Real Fruit Ice-Cream, RV Engineering, Shoe Clinic, SMARTPUPS Dog Grooming Services, Steadfast Dalmatians, Super Fly Dogs, The Breeze, Waikato Agility Group, Whangarei Dog

2012 NZDAC Committee - Marie Wales, Allan Rohde, Kirstin Graves, Graeme Jefferies & Tarah Hunt



Training Club, Woofa Wares. Secondly, the amazing committee who have put in hundreds and hundreds of hours of work for this event, and even gave up running their own dogs in some cases – Allan Rohde, Marie Wales, Graeme Jefferies, Tarah Hunt and our associate committee members Nick Chester and Dannie Jefferies, you are amazing! It has been a pleasure and a privilege to work with such a dedicated team. Third, the team of judges that officiated at the event and gave up running their dogs to stand for hours in hot sunshine, wind and rain, you were an important part of setting the scene for a great weekend with your courses. I hope you enjoyed yourselves and saw some runs on your courses that thrilled you. Thank you Nick Chester, Heather Drewett, Fiona Hodgson, Graeme Lawson, Cam List, John Muir, Paul Remon and Roy Thorndyraft. Third, all the agility people who have contributed in countless ways to decorate and coordinate social events, fill goodie bags, take photos, help with the event set up, coordinate sponsors, provide Oz Tents, pack up and transport gear and so much more. You all know who you are, and you have our heartfelt thanks. Fourth, all the competitors who came along and joined in with the spirit of the competition and showed us some incredible agility runs. We wouldn't have an event without you, and we appreciate the time and cost involved in coming to join us. Fifth, the Show Secretaries Dannie Jefferies and Wendy Bragger, with assistance from Rebecca Roper. Dannie and Wendy worked so hard they didn't get lunch breaks and I had to bring them in food. Sensational work done by those girls!

Finally, the Ring Managers and Zone One helpers that worked so hard to actually run the rings and the show. You guys were phenomenal! We worked through record numbers of competitors and finished at reasonable times, especially awesome on the Sunday in horrible conditions, giving people time to prepare for the Sunday night social event. I have been amazed and thrilled at how Zone One has gotten behind this NZDAC. You have made your committee incredibly proud! Zone One rocks!!!!!!

Looking forward to the NZDAC next year in Bulls in zone three - I am sure it will be Incredi”bull”, Unbelieva”bull” and very Enjoya”bull”!

Kirstin Graves
NZDAC 2012 Show Manager

Photo credit to Emily O'Brien

For up to date information on NZ Agility
go to the website www.dogagility.org.nz



A NZDAC ODYSSEY

By Karen de Wit

In October all roads lead to NZDAC in Cambridge. Commonly known as the Agility Nationals, this is the pinnacle event of the year when people from all over the country meet and compete in a range of agility and jumpers classes, and the traditional Inter-Zone Teams competition. This is the story of one such odyssey.

Our road trip began on 11th October. Our doggy chiropractor gave the dogs the once over, so we all got into the Motor-home and we were off. Our preparation began much earlier than this – Rego and WOF for car and trailer, a bunch of supplies, and plenty of changes of clothing including towels for wet weather, and a supply of lollies too. Other people had longer trips than us, and as I write this at least one South Islander is ferry bound, more than 6 days after the competition ended. Many take the opportunity to catch up with family, making a dog competition into a real holiday trip!!

We left home Thursday night because there were gale force wind warnings for Friday, and with a motor-home you can get tossed around! We travelled over the Rimutakas in good weather stopping at ANZAC Park for the night. Agility People aren't the only hardy ones in NZ – an elderly couple were staying in a tent and recounted a story - a few days earlier rain filled their tent up with water like a paddling pool, they were dry on top of their mattress but nothing else was!!

Waipukurau was the venue for the warm-up competition. The winds started, and kept going all weekend, trying to take our new tent away with them!! Saturday night was awesome, no wind or rain and a great crowd of people seated around the “campfire” (actually a small candle) just chatting. Agility events often provide the whole raft of emotions and CHBay was no different – the sorrow of hearing about a young Agility dog's death, to the joy of gaining titles. There were 3 wettings that weekend – two agility champions – Marie Butterworth and Jet and Lex Clare and Abby, and our own personal triumph with Pete making Quick up to Jumpers Grand Champion, only the 3rd in NZ. Tana also triumphed at 11 ½ years, winning a senior. We thanked Fenella's healing hands!!

After CHBay many of our friends went home to work, but we continued northwards, visiting friends and stopping at Deb Jacksons place where we breathed, talked and practiced agility. Our Heading dogs are city dogs, and showed they aren't sheep dogs – the closest was Ali who barked at the sheep. However, all the dogs enjoyed the sheep “treats”!! Deb turned off her electric fences which was kind of her as I am sure one of the dogs (and me too probably!) would have gotten blasted!!

The weather in the days leading up to NZDAC was horrible. I think we should hold this competition in March when the weather is much nicer, however tradition is a hard thing to let go of. Arriving at Cambridge adrenalin levels started to rise – it is soooooo exciting finding your campsite, look around, catch up with friends, get set up etc. The camp sites were marked out with mowing strips, what a great idea!! The four agility rings looked really tiny sitting in the big park. The Leamington Rugby grounds had room for Flygility, practice area, agility rings, day tents, camping, exercise area and more – it was a very large and picturesque complex.

Organising such a major event is a huge undertaking, some of the workers had been there during the week to setup, and all weekend there was a hoard of people working hard, from small tasks like distributing water bottles, to major ones like keeping Portaloos operational!!

Traditionally, Friday was a day to arrive and catch up with friends and attend the opening ceremony, but over the last few years Flygility has been added and this year AD, ADX and YKC were added. Over the whole weekend the Zone One organisers offered:- 3 x Championship agility events & finals, 3 x Championship jumpers events & finals, AD, ADX, Flygility, Inter-zone teams event, Inter-club teams event, Champion of champions and YKC, as well as some fun social events! Phew!!

For us the agility competition differed from a normal event in a number of ways. Firstly, the numbers were about tripled. Finn won a Novice that had 112 MIDI dogs in it, and well over 200 dogs in total ran. It is unusual for us to walk a course and then to wait for 4 hours to actually run it!! There was huge congestion around the call boards, and wind break separated off the assembly area from the ring. In other regards the competition was similar to usual – give your number to the scrimers assistant, make sure the judge is ready, complete your run, gather all your gear from the bucket –all done! The Judges do a tremendous job at such a large event, big thanks to - Nick Chester, Heather Drewitt, Fiona Hodgson, Cam List, Graeme Lawson, John Muir, Roy Thorndycraft, and Paul Remon.

The weather varied over the four days, from nice to (frankly) appalling, but through it all agility people just seem to smile and carry on. We enjoyed the BBQ provided by the Scouts, avoided the skinniggers of the 80 s night, took part in some finals and the Inter-Zone and then, in no time at all it was all over!! The last prize-giving was held and then it was the exodus home – a second portion of fence had been dropped so the campers could get out, and then we were on the road again. Some people travelled home in one day but we took two, a stopover in Taupo (and soak in a hot pool), and Bulls, (the venue for next year's NZDAC). We checked our wet weather plan will work. We are optimistically hoping for 3 out of 4 days to be wet!! 2013 Bulls – Get set to get wet – and that's no BULL!!!

