



Kiwi Dog Agility

Sharky's Diary – Chapter Fourteen

Well here it is, the final Sharky's diary. I would like to thank all the people who have taken the time to talk to me about their appreciation for this diary. I am very pleased to hear that it has been useful for so many, and hopefully it will continue to be. Eventually all the diaries will be on my blog – www.sharkycannon.blogspot.com so please feel free to read them and use them as you wish.

Sharky has now competed in 3 shows. I must admit I was feeling a bit nervous before the first run, and was very pleased when it was finished. Fortunately Sharky was about the 6th dog on in the first class at Central Hawkes Bay, so I didn't have long to wait. I did a slightly lateral 3 jump leadout and he waited perfectly ending up with a clear round and 2nd place! I was absolutely thrilled with that result (and because I got a ribbon, thought I could make this the final diary!). Sharky also went clear in starters 3 and was 3rd place in that. In the novice classes I was pleased with him, but very surprised in Novice 2 when he self-released off the cross-over contact. It was good that he did this so early in his agility career because it made me aware that I could not take things for granted. He had knocked the long jump shortly before the cross over so might have been a bit off balance. This was not the only long jump that he knocked, which reminded me that he hadn't really done many at full length. I did a few of these before the next show, and he hasn't knocked one since which is good.

Sharky really suffered from bad handling at NDTA. I said I was going to remember that he was a baby dog, but that went all out the window when I was in the ring. In one starters I imagined he was Cannon and ran ahead at the weaves saying "go go go". Now with all the training that I have done, I would have expected him to still weave, but with the excitement of being inside, and near the end of the course it was a bit much for him so he popped the last weave. He did some lovely work, was not worried about the mud or the indoors show which could have been quite unsettling for a young dog. I think it is all the work that I have done in different environments which has made him comfortable in

most surroundings. He did go clear in the jumpers pairs for 6th place, and also had a clear round in AD. Funny that he could manage clear in the AD, but that is the only clear he has managed with contact equipment!

At his 3rd show he seemed to suddenly find another gear and was absolutely hooning around the courses. He possibly hasn't ever trained while moving this fast either, and consequently had a few jumps down, and also was having trouble finding the 2nd weave pole at speed. He would get the entry nicely, but then come back through the 3rd pole. I did some training at home with him trying to train for maximum speed through 3 poles, and then 6. I could not get him to make a mistake no matter how many obstacles I did before the weaves to get him hooning. I will just have to see how things go – he does know how to weave, but needs to develop a bit of control while entering so he can make the turn. I am sure this will come right in time. I have watched video of his runs frame by frame and am very happy with his jumping action. He has knocked rails because he is going faster than expected, and needs to develop more control. As he is jumping well, again I will just see what happens as I think he will sort this out over time. His contacts have continued to be good, and in one class he did an awesome A-frame, leaping over the apex but still controlling himself for his nose-touch. I have been slack in the ring and often have forgotten to give a verbal marker for the good nose-touch. I need to say "yes" or "good" so he knows when he has achieved the desired behaviour, and therefore will repeat it.

My training objectives over the next few weeks will consist of training weave entries at speed, and possibly doing some more cavaletti work to encourage rear-end control.

And I must include congratulations to Susan MacKay and Rainstar Phantom of the Opera – Sharky's brother. Susan has done great training with Phantom, but obviously handled him much better than I did with Sharky at the NDTA because they ended up with the Top Dog Trophy. Awesome work Susan!

Here are some final photos of my beautiful little Rainstar Shark Attack.

Fiona Ferrar



Jan Koortse

I live in Christchurch and immigrated to NZ from South Africa in 2000. My wife Jackie and I have three lovely daughters and two dogs.

I have been a member of CCATS since 2003. I am passionate about training my dogs in agility and equally passionate about training people.

My PET HATE is people that bully or handle their dogs harshly in or out of the ring as a judge. Over the years people have known me as a person that will not tolerate any such behaviour at all. I have a great respect for people that even though they got eliminated in competition,

would still give their dog a pat and a hug - to me that's a true dog lover!

I love NZ and it's people especially the agility crowd where I have made many true friends. I would like to judge in the North Island some day and meet new friend over there.

Photos

- 1 - First big ball
- 2 - Sharky's first weave in competition
- 3 - Having a tugging good time
- 4 - Sharky's first jump in competition
- 5 - Resting after a Swim
- 6 - Living up to his name and swimming in style - 8 months



Candidates Corner

Elections for the second two-year term of the NZKC Agility Committee will be conducted in April 2009. Any and all folk interested in putting their names forward for election will be offered space in this or one of the next two issues of NZ Dog World to outline their current and future objectives relating to the running of our sport.

Dyson Beasley

My Name is Dyson Beasley I live in Rotorua and belong to the Rotorua Dog Training Club.

I started working or Training dogs when I was 19 years old with the Mount Maunganui Dog Club, my first dog was a Boxer, I worked her in both Obedience and Agility at that time before I moved to Rotorua about 11 years ago.

In the past 5 years I have been president of the Rotorua Dog Club for 3 years, have now got 2 Border Collies in which I compete in Senior Agility with both dogs and Test A & Novice in Obedience. I have been on the Agility Judging Panel for a year in February in which I find both rewarding and challenging and enjoy it a lot.

What can I offer as being part of the Agility Committee, that is something I have thought hard on and to be honest I have come up with this conclusion, I have been in the dog world for now 17 years, Competed in Agility and Obedience and love both Codes, I would have to say that I am very passionate about my Sport and would like to have the opportunity to be part of the next incoming Committee as I personally believe it's not what 1 person alone can do, it's what a group of people can do as this Committee has shown everybody by the extraordinary amount they have done. I believe I have the Passion and the Skills to contribute towards the next Committee in a positive way so that the good work already done can be carried on into the Future for the benefit of Agility as a Sport in New Zealand.

Paul Beswick

As someone who was fairly out spoken regarding some of the changes proposed within the Agility docs early in 2008, I thought I would put "my money where my mouth is" and put my name up for the Agility Committee elections taking place next April 2009.

Agility in New Zealand needed a bit of an update and I am excited that in 2007 the Agility world finally got to make its own decisions rather than them being made predominately by the NZKC. I would like to be part of the next team of elected members to continue growing the sport we all love.

If elected I would take the job of representing the Agility fraternity very seriously. I would bring a lot of passion, dedication and good work ethics to the table.

Something I would like to see changed is the matters discussed at the meetings held by the Agility Committee being published within the Kennel Gazette. I believe we members should be more informed about what is being proposed. I also believe we need some growth plans implemented to help the sport grow in popularity especially here in the South Island.

For those large number of agility members who don't know me I will try and give you a personal brief.

I co-own and manage an optical wholesale company which imports and then distributes eyewear to optical outlets throughout New Zealand. Being responsible for

and managing a large number of staff and servicing client's needs have given me numerous attributes in dealing with people, from their concerns to their personalities. I believe these attributes will be beneficial when representing the Agility members.

Around 10 years ago I caught the Dog Agility bug after getting a very cute but crazy BC huntaway cross puppy and have been hooked ever since.

My wife Mia and I, have five pooches' four border collies' crosses and a new addition for me to run (much to the other lad's disbelief) a mini "powder puff" bichon cross. We all travel extensively around the South Island competing at agility events.

I enjoy not only competing but also the fact that I have met some real good buggers within Agility, some who have become very close friends.

A lesson I have learnt is needing to have a sense of humour is very important when competing with and training dogs and another lesson learnt is, when agreeing to do a NDTA 2009 fundraising calendar photo shoot, make sure the day of the photo shoot is going to be warm!

For anyone who would like to know more or have any questions regarding my views on Agility NZ please feel free to flick me an email paulbeswick@eyebiz.co.nz or give me a call 021 714 265

I look forward to hopefully working hard for you all next year. So go on, you know you want to..... VOTE PAUL BESWICK!

Lyn Sayers

I have always tended to think of myself as something of a newbie in Agility as I don't have the years of experience of some in the sport but I guess with ten years of dog training and eight of competing I probably can no longer claim such a title.

Right from the outset I was keen to contribute and served for some years on committee and as Chair of what is now the DAWG club. I also served for some years on the NZKC sub committee responsible for the Wellington Exhibition Centre and now as an Executive Councillor have a liaison role again with the Porirua property.

Since being elected to the Agility Committee I have had a specific interest in increasing Agility's presence in the Gazette, have served on the regulations sub-committee and in recent times had a hand in most matters as Chair of the main Agility Committee. I have served on the organising committees for the last two NDTA events held in the historical Zone 3

I have a great interest in trying to make the sport as fair as possible to all competitors which gave rise to my development of the rubber chip surfacing method for contact equipment and the discovery of a workable electronic timing system both of which have been eagerly embraced by the Agility fraternity.

In 2007 I took our two eldest Schnauzers to Australia which convinced me that we are well served by what we have in our country and wouldn't swap anything we have in our sport here, even though I thoroughly enjoyed the experience and made some great friends who share our passion.

A number of the current committee have signaled that they intend to step down at the election in April which has convinced me to stand again as I believe it is important for a number of us to be there for continuity.



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