

April 2018



# National Agility Link Association

# National Agility Link Association (formed 1989)

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Supply as Course designer or in scale  
in black pen on an A4 sheet Portrait  
size.

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# AGILITY THIS MONTH

By **Karen de wit**

## WHERE IS THE FUN IN AGILITY?

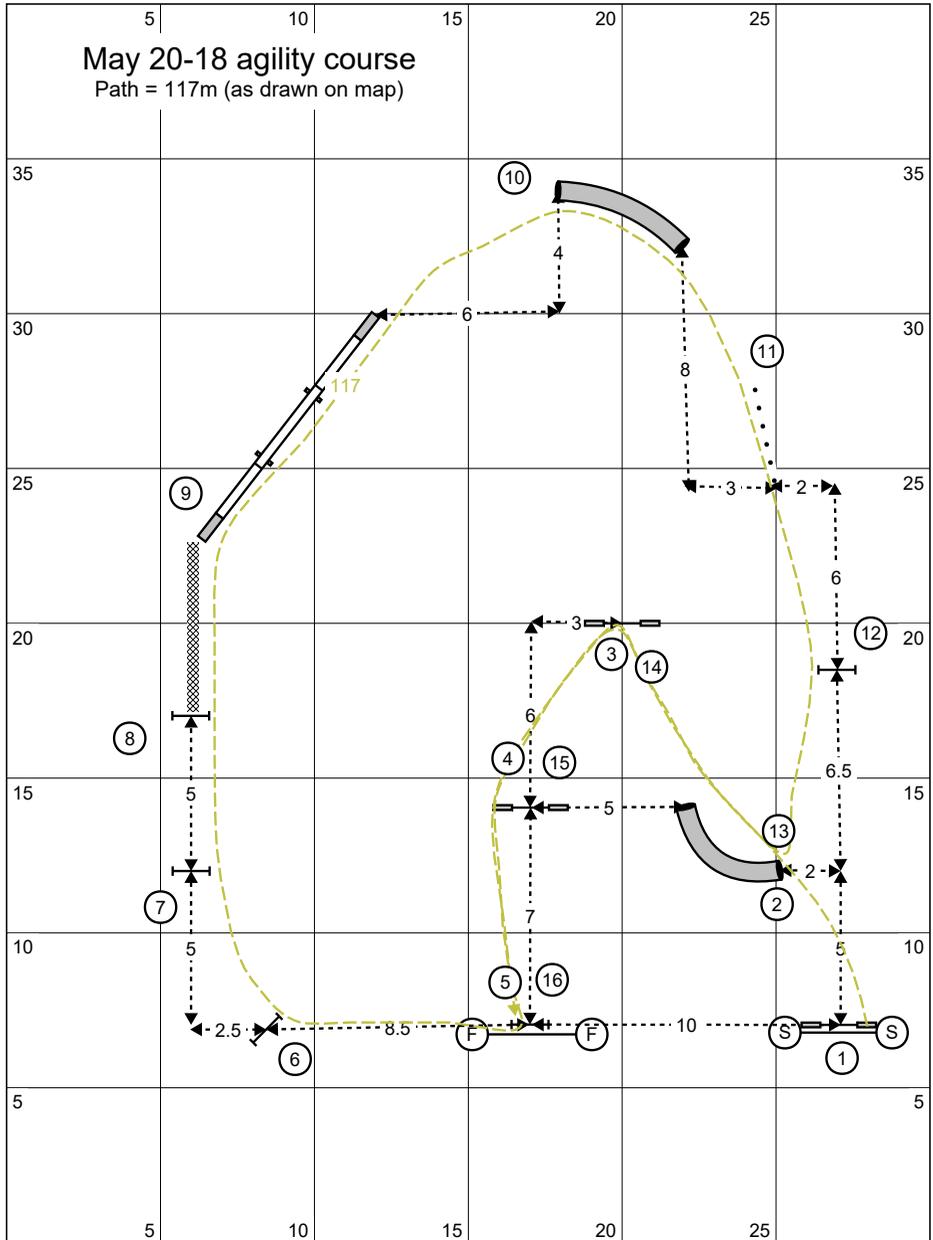
Sometimes you may wonder where the fun is or where the fun has gone, but I can tell you now that the fun is still there. It hasn't gone, you just may need to look for it in some different places.

Agility is a fun sport and always has been. Why?

- Dogs get so much enjoyment from doing agility.
- There is so much to learn and so much to achieve.
- Or you can just sit back after a day's agility and have a wine!
- You can read about training, watch training DVDs, go to seminars about training and you can actually just train!
- You can buy a collar or three for your dog, in cool colours and nice fabrics and he won't give a damn but you do and that's enjoyable!
- There are shoes to buy and clothes to wear. Club uniforms are going upmarket and no longer just include a shirt! Add jackets and hats and you are sorted.

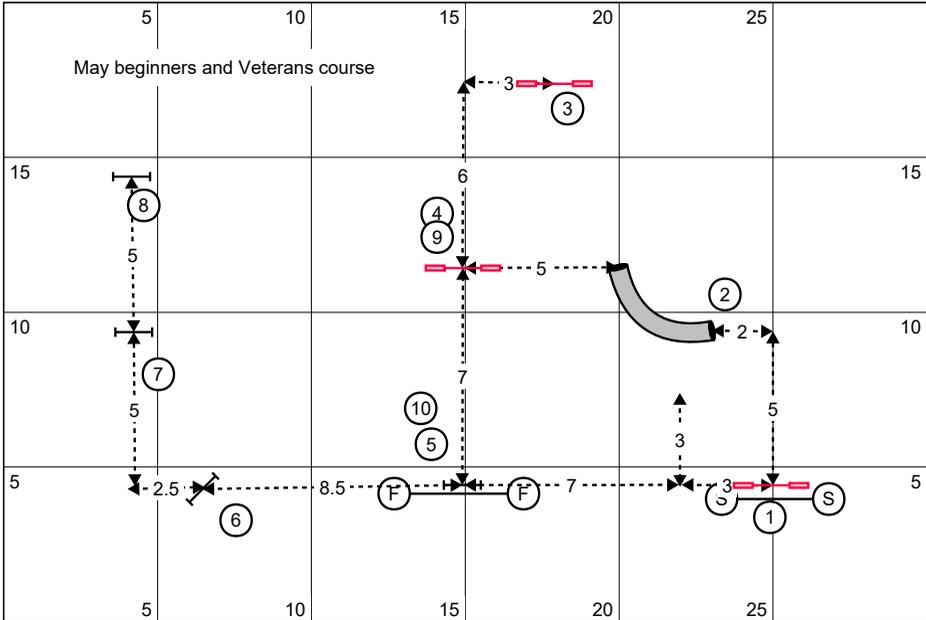
But the fun is really all about what you do with your dog and the cool people you hang out with when doing this. I find that going to club and enjoying running all our dogs around exercises together, talking about how we might do it better, challenging each other and feeding from each other's successes (or not) is what makes an evening enjoyable. This is where NALA comes in- competing at a ground just down the road!! How easy is that???

# May Course



# May 2018

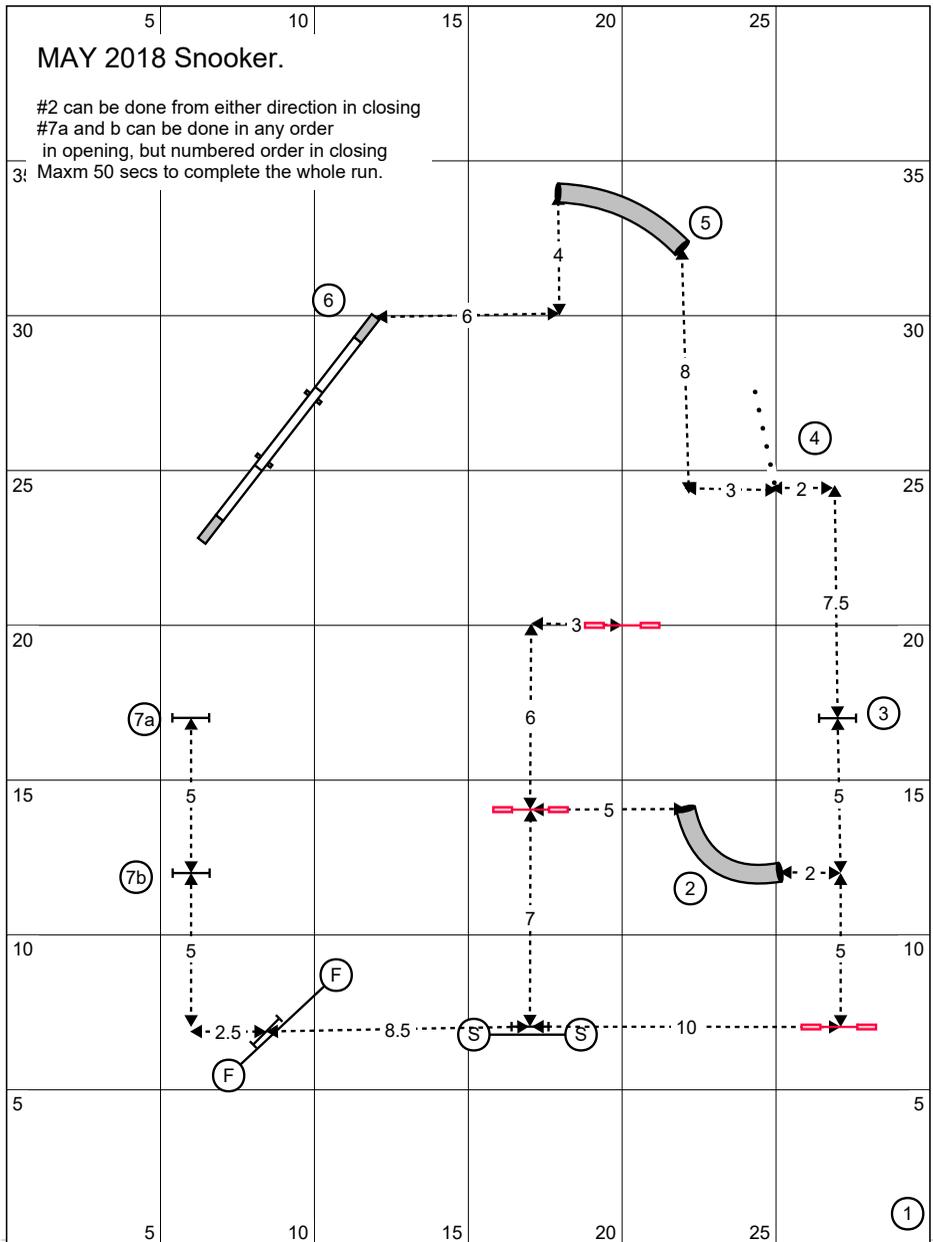
## Junior LINK handlers & Veteran dogs



Have you paid your subs?

Time is running out so best you do it now!

# Game 2, May : Snooker



# Agility is good for dogs

<http://silvia.trkman.net/>

When I started doing agility back in 1992, nobody gave any thought to a possibility that this might hurt our dogs. Back then, jumps were at 75cm and that's the height that my Samoyed was jumping for half of his career (FCI lowered the jumps to 65cm then). He was 54cm high and was diagnosed with severe hip dysplasia at age of one year, way before he saw his first jump. Since he never showed any pain, I of course went on with agility with him. When he was 8, I started to read on how stressful agility is for the joints. Stupid, naïve me, believed it and retired him at age of 9 when he was still jumping 65cm with no problems. This was my biggest mistake. That was the beginning of the end. Rear end muscles were visibly disappearing and after two years, he couldn't keep up with us when going into the mountains anymore. So I started to leave him at home... Another mistake. He was still coming with us for two and more hours walks every day till the day he died at age 16 (kidney failure), but I'm really, really sorry for all the years he was left home when we were out in the nature that he loved so much... I think I did a terrible thing to him, he changed and was never the same wild child again after I started to see him old and dysplastic despite he never showed any sign of either of the two before. I'm really, really sorry for that and I promised to him then that I'll never ever again retire another dog before she shows me that's what she wants.

When people ask me when good old Lo will deserve retirement, I always tell that good old Lo certainly deserved *to never be retired*. She is in agility since her 7<sup>th</sup> week, she is over 10 years old now and still easily beats much younger dogs on grass. Apart from her epilepsy, she is as healthy as it goes, but let me tell her epilepsy story too: she had her first seizure at age of 5 years, in my exam period at University. I was told that seizures are provoked by stress and that agility might be seen as stress. Stupid, naïve me again believed that

and stopped with agility on the very same day. But things only became worse. When she had seizures every day for several days, we put her on medication. Seizures stopped, but she became strange, absent, with no fire in her eyes. It was just not her anymore. I was thinking and thinking and came to the conclusion that I prefer to spend one more year with Lo to spending 10 more years with that strange black dog. Lo is way too cool dog that I would be ready to trade her for that. I put her off medication, took her on training, next day to hiking, then to training again, we did something every day, I tried to make it up for the weeks that she was on medications. And every next day, she was happier and healthier. She didn't have another seizure for next 10 months. Then, it started again: it was long, long winter with lots of snow and she again started to seizure... The only thing in common with first case was that she didn't do agility for several weeks before her first seizure. So I put her in a car and worked her on snow and ice and cold every day, I preferred to risk an injury to another seizure. She got neither of the two. She got her next seizure in summer, when we were traveling and not doing agility for three weeks. She was having seizures till we started to train again... The same thing happened two more times. Enough to make me believe that agility is her drug against epilepsy. If she doesn't get her dose for two weeks, a seizure can happen any day. When she doesn't do agility for three weeks, you can bet she'll have a seizure the very next day. That's another reason she will never be retired.

Anyway, to talk some more about terrible stress that my dogs' joints are under: I admit, I'm guilty, their joints are terribly stressed. They run in the woods every day for hours, go to the mountains for a whole-day running every weekend and spend two times for 3 weeks climbing mountains every summer. And oh, yes, they do some jumps two, three times a weeks for 5 minutes or so. Hardly worth mentioning. Yeah, *when they do agility, their joints think they're on vacation*. Still, average age at what my dogs die is **17,5 years** and they go for a two hour walk every day till the day they die.

Apart from one car accident and one dog attack, ***neither of them was ever injured in their life.*** Apart from those two cases, ***you could never see any of my dogs limp one single step.*** La did have some kind of discomfort last September: she wasn't actually limping and was totally normal in normal life, but I noticed she is slower in agility. I thought she is just tired from preparations for WC, so I gave her three days rest before WC, but she was still slow (6-seconds-faster-than-the-rest-of-the-world-slow, but slow in her terms...) and also knocked her "one in a lifetime" bar. So I knew something was wrong, put her on rest for a month after WC, but it wasn't better at all after it, so I took her to a vet, X-rayed her from toes to ears and all her joints looked perfect... A vet did find some discomfort when moving her left shoulder, but from that day on, after all the stretching a vet did when trying to locate her pain, she is good old La again. My guess is that something was a little out of place (probably thanks to Bu that sometimes bumps into poor little La with full speed and send her flying for several meters... See La, time to get some weight on you!), but was accidentally moved back in right position after that vet check.

To discuss my two other encounters with vets (vaccinations not included, I don't want to bore you with THAT!): when Aiken ran on a street, chasing a cat, he was hit by a car and his bone in front left leg was not only broken, but smashed, just above the elbow joint. It was ugly open fracture and after seeing x-rays, vets advised me to put him to sleep. They said operation would cost a fortune and that he probably wouldn't be able to use the leg after it anyway. He was 3 years old and he meant everything to me. So I said no, I didn't care if he didn't use the leg again as long as he stays with me. He was back to competition 3 months after operation and he not only walked, but also ran and jumped for next 13 years of his life without a limp.

When Lo's joint was badly hurt in dog-attack, she was said to limp for the rest of her life. She stopped limping after 10 days and ran her **NINTH** (!!!) World Championships one month later.

Yeap, they're fighters. They will fight as hard as it's needed to go back to things they love. Luckily, they have something they love. They're passionate enough for their Thing that they will fight. Remember that I think that dreams always come true when we're really passionate about something? That's how my dogs keep proving vets wrong. They're passionate enough to overcome problems that might look impossible to scientific look.

You can check my vet's record: apart from the cases described, they're all clear. No illness, no injuries, no soreness. Sorry vets, I know you can't make much money on my dogs! I always joke that it's vets' mafia, saying to not exercise the dogs too much. They would get out of their business otherwise! *Can you imagine how many vet clinics would go bankrupted if everyone's dog would live for 17,5 years and would visited them on average 0,6 times in all those 17,5 years* (if we don't count vaccinations)?!? That's once in 29 years!

Yes, if I count in a little mix that I picked up from the street when I was 6, average age at which my dogs die is almost 17,5 years... And both of them were coming with us for long walks 'till the day they died... And from those 5 dogs, only 3 EVER visited a vet from any other reason as vaccination! **Now, aren't my dogs every vet's nightmare?!?**

**(Part Two next month...)**

# Last month's Poll

## Round tags or long tags for dog registration?

After losing a tag from a dog collar I went to the local council to get a new one. I thought I would get a round disc this time as they seem easier to put on (they have a metal ring) and I have never lost one of them, but according to the lady at the council they had run out – they are the most popular. So I wondered what type do agility people find most popular.



The results: Round tags 47

Long tags 34

The round discs are pretty large for a small dog to wear, and the long tags can lie flatter against the dog's neck on the collar. Many people revealed their dogs don't even wear collars, and others put the tag on the lead, or even on the dog crate.

The legal position appears to be: (Dog Control Act ) dogs **MUST** display the registration tag on their **COLLAR**. Fine is \$300. A dog without one is deemed unregistered and can also be impounded if found on any property other than the owners and deemed not under control. Your dog also has to be wearing a tag if you want to pass your canine good citizen test! (And you have to be carrying a bag or more)

# Games results.

<b>Games series April 2017- March 2018</b>					Best 8 scores
<b>MAXI</b>					
1	Ali	Maxi	Pete de Wit	UHDC	12
2	Blaze	Maxi	Linda Cummins	Sth Rangi	30
3	Yay-lo	Maxi	Joanne Allan	EBOP	48
4	Thane	Maxi	Jorja Mulholland	UHDC	49
5	Niko	Maxi	Sandra Mohekey	Sth Rangi	53
6	Lucy	Maxi	Trish Bush	EBOP	55
7	Rogue	Maxi	Trish Bush	EBOP	73
8	Cash	Maxi	Wayne Turner	UHDC	96
9	Spell	Maxi	Una Forrester	EBOP	99
10	Ginny	Maxi	Jo Moody	Hawera	98
11	Moss	Maxi	Diane Haydon	Hawera	114
12	Richie	Maxi	Jen Kemp	Hawera	117
<b>MEDIUM</b>					Best 8 scores
1	Joy	Medium	Tina Mitchell	EBOP	13
2	Finn	Medium	Karen de wit	UHDC	15
3	Taco	Medium	Darren Lilley	UHDC	46
4	Rojo	Medium	Malcolm Ward	Mt Maunganui DTC	47
5	Rider	Medium	Margaret Lilley	UHDC	56
6	Ray	Medium	Anneke Lilley	UHDC	76
7	Inky	Medium	Mandy Ward	Mt Maunganui DTC	85
<b>SMALL</b>					Best 8 scores
1	Holly	Small	Jane Aukett	UHDC	14
2	Smudge	Small	Erin Mulholland	UHDC	31
3	Sky	small	Gillian Cruickshank	UHDC	46
4	Cameo	small	Gillian Cruickshank	UHDC	51
5	Monty	Small	Trix Jaggi	UHDC	54
6	Faith	small	Sue Boyle	UHDC	67
7	Eddie	<i>small</i>	Kirsten Pierson	Hawera	68

# Agility results

## Junior Link 2017/18

### Beginners Under 12 years

Niamh Lappin	Baz	CCATS	1st
Zack Lappin	Halo	CCATS	2nd
Niamh Lappin	Topsy	CCATS	3rd
Danielle Cook	Toby	CCATS	4th
Danielle Cook	Chance	CCATS	5th

### Experienced 8-11 years

Katelin Drummond	Dude	Wairarapa	1st
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### Beginners 12-20 years

Holly Findlay	Ella	CCATS	1st
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### Experienced 12-20 years

Jorja Mullholland	Thane	UHDTs	1st
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# INDIVIDUAL AGILITY COMPETITION.

## MAXI

1	AG CH Q T Pi	Sharon Simonsen	Hawkes Bay DTC
2	Rocky	Paul Needham	Tokoroa DTC
3	AgCh & JCh Spark	Julie McCONKEY	Cambridge DOC
4	AgCh Q	Sheryl Vincent	Blenheim CTC
5	Thane	Jorja MULHOLLAND	Upper Hutt DTC
6	Edge	Sue Whitwell	Eastern BOP
6	Finn ADX JDX	Sandra Goodwin	Blenheim CTC

8	AG&J CH QuBa	Colleen O'Connor	Hawkes Bay DTC
9	AG GR CH Ali	Peter de Wit	Upper Hutt DTC
10	Fern JD	Jocelyn Jensen	Tauranga DTC

## **MEDIUM**

1	Ag/J GrCh Jamaica	Dianne REID	Wairarapa DTC
2	AgCh Loose	Kim LOYE	CHB DTC Club
3	Brazil ADX JDX	Dianne REID	Wairarapa DTC
4	FdCh Tasman	Sharleen DRUMMOND	Wairarapa DTC
5	Maddison	Karen Bealing	Wairarapa DTC
6	Lia JDX AD	Nartarsha Gorrie	Nelson DTC
7	Teal ADXB JDX	Kim Orlando-Reep	Huntly & Districts AC
8	Finn	Karen de Wit	Upper Hutt DTC
9	Belle ADX FD	Carol Taylor	Kaipara DTC
10	Breeze	Annette Flannagan	Kaipara DTC

## **SMALL**

1	Zoe AgCH	Paul Needham	Tokoroa DTC
2	Snoop AD JDX	Bernice Shearman	Tauranga DTC
3	Ag Ch Rusty	Stacie CLARK	Wairarapa DTC
3	Ziggy	Jenny D'Arcy	South Canterbury DTC
5	AgCh Holly	Jane Aukett	Upper Hutt DTC
6	AG CH Viper	Kathryn Snook	Canterbury CATS
7	Fern AD JDX	Caragh BRIGGS	Wairarapa DTC
8	Smudge	Erin Mulholland	Upper Hutt DTC
9	Milly ADX JD	Alison Derbyshire	Eastern BOP
10	Dot AD	Jill Payne	CHB DTC

# **TOP CLUBS**

Division 1: Wairarapa

Division 2: Huntly

Division 3: Tauranga

Division 4: Tokoroa

# Flygility results -Standard

1	FD Ch Meggie	Nichola Cole	South Rangitikei DTC
2	FD GrCh Willow	Sandra Banks	North Taranaki DTC
3	Cougar AD JDX	Marilyn Lambert	Counties DTC
4	Blue JDX TT1	Lynn Pillette	North Taranaki DTC
5	River ADX JDX RA	Sue Neale	Selwyn DTC
6	FD Ch Blaze	Lynda Cummins	South Rangitikei DTC
7	FD Ch Fya ADXB JDX	Lynda Cummins	South Rangitikei DTC
8	FDGCH Bounce	Marie WALES	Counties DTC
9	FDGrCh Echo	Nichola Cole	South Rangitikei DTC
10	Misty	Chrissy Harris	Hawkes Bay DTC
10	AG&J CH QuBa	Colleen O'Connor	Hawkes Bay DTC

# Flygility results -challenge

1	FD GrCh Willow	Sandra Banks	North Taranaki DTC
2	FD Ch Meggie	Nichola Cole	South Rangitikei DTC
3	Blue JDX TT1	Lynn Pillette	North Taranaki DTC
4	FDGCH Bounce	Marie WALES	Counties DTC
5	AG&J CH QuBa	Colleen O'Connor	Hawkes Bay DTC

# Flygility Teams

**Standard:** South Rangitiki

**Challenge:** South Rangitiki

# Rally-O results – Top 10

1	Norwest DTC	Rosalind Walkington	Fletcher	15
2	Sunshine Whk	Helen Barnes	Cookie	22
3	Wairarapa	Nicky D Davies	Rufus	63
4	Upper Hutt	Karen de Wit	Dee	72
5	Upper Hutt	Jane Aukett	Holly	75
6	Norwest DTC	Rosalind Walkington	Katie	80
7	Hawkes Bay	Lorraine Lennox	Jantsee	88
8	Hawkes Bay	Chrissy Harris	Misty	94
9	Canterbury COC	Helen Scott	Mac	109
10	Canterbury COC	Kelly Walker	Gael	121

# Rally-O Club results

Club	Total	Place
Hawkes Bay	16	1
Wairarapa	20	2
Upper Hutt	21	3
Norwest	31	4
Canterbury COC	34	5
Sunshine Whakatane	35	6
Central ADTS	48	7
Wanganui	173	8
Mt Maunganui	209	9
Nelson	236	10
Sth Rangitikei	310	11
Gisborne	322	12



# A Rally Foundation course – Week three.

## Course.

START – 1 – 360° RIGHT [11]

2 – STRAIGHT FIGURE EIGHT – WEAVE TWICE [23]

3 – CALL FRONT – FINISH RIGHT – FORWARD [13]

4 – MOVING DOWN [27] – FINISH

## Heelwork

- J to position.
- Pivot block.
- Nose to hand, static stands.
- Call fronts (in chair, against wall).
- Variable reinforcement exercise in pairs.

**From a plan by Linda Guinness, Feilding and NZARO.**

## RALLY-O CHALLENGE COURSES.

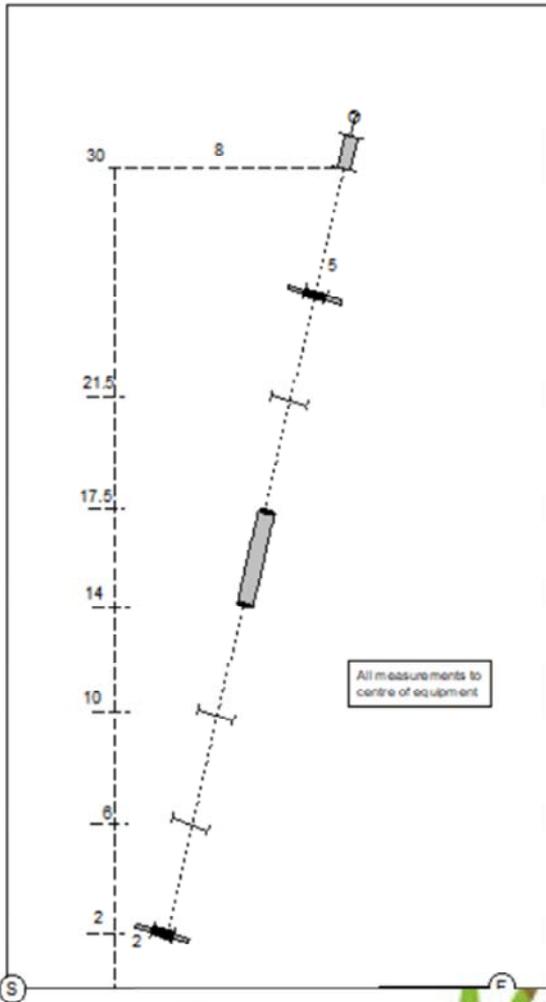
**This year we will have 3 CHALLENGE COURSES for Rally-O.**

The dogs will have to be off-lead and we will incorporate a few Advanced and maybe even Excellent signs. This will include: send around pole, send over jump, stand, changes of position, backing up, changes of side too!! So get practicing now!!

Months: September- November - February

STANDARD FLYGILITY COURSE  
S044 - May 2018  
Raewyn Seville

# Standard Flygility course



**FLYGILITY - VOLUNTEER ANYONE???**

# Challenge Flygility course

