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National Agility Link Association

National Agility Link Association (formed 1989)

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AGILITY THIS MONTH

By Karen de wit

I like to support ideas that encourage new people into the sport and that encourage all those who already give the sport a go to keep doing it, and to be able to gain milestones along the way, whether they or their dogs are fast or slow!

One reason I am happy to keep working for NALA - it offers a range of options for people at a venue near them for a pretty cheap price!!

We have recently added, through the efforts of Sandra Mohekey, a Veterans flygility competition.

However, I am disappointed that lately in a few areas, things are being made harder for newcomers, and don't (that I can see) help to improve the sport at all from the point of view of encouraging participation. Surely we should be making great efforts to encourage people to train, enter and compete in the sport of agility?

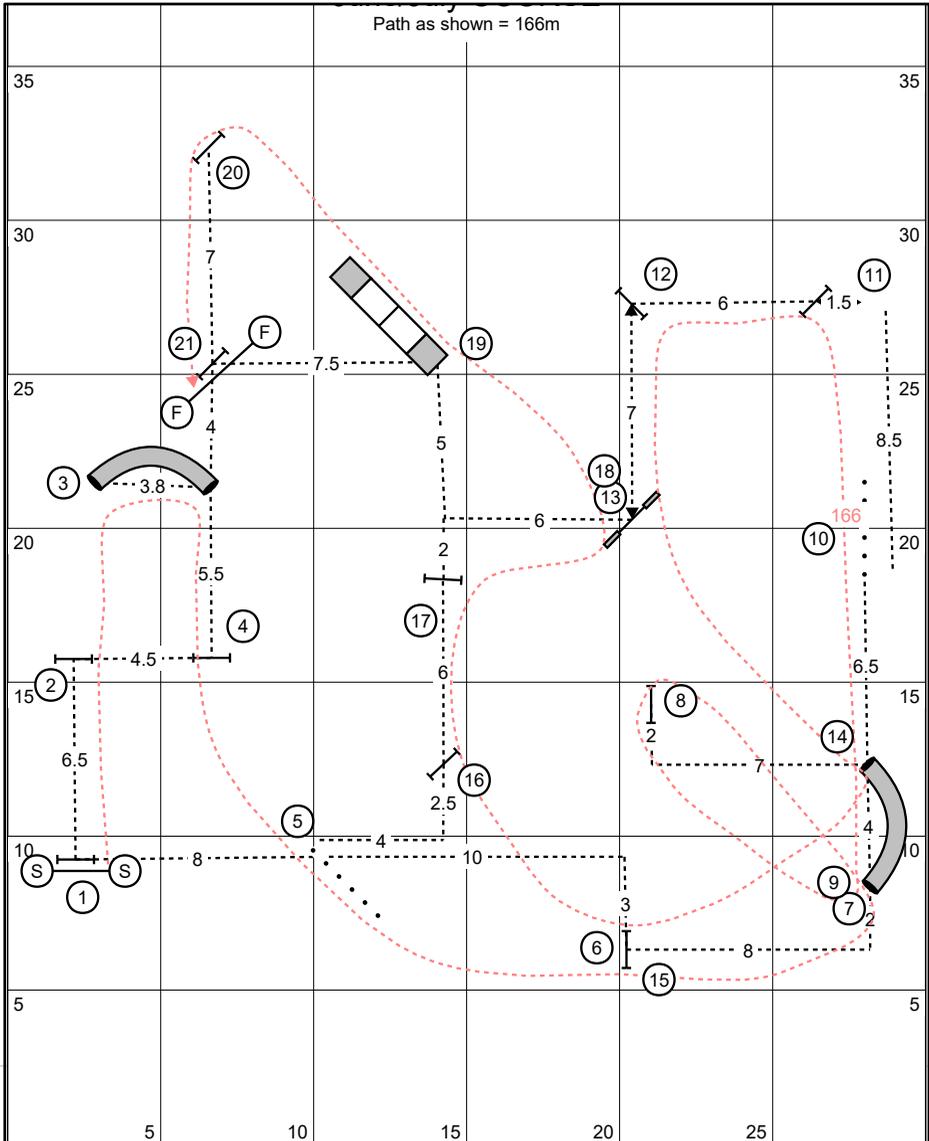
The type of courses being put out for Jumpers C and Starters dogs and handlers seem to me to be harder every event. Whilst that might be Ok for the established agility enthusiast, what do you think the new person who has no gear at home and can only train once a week can do? What happened to nice smooth courses that the cleverest dog could almost do alone??

One bar jumps should in my opinion be reserved for the highest qualified dogs and the new dogs be presented with at least 2 bars.

The dog and jump heights are being reviewed again in NZ. Once upon a time we had 2 heights – maxi and mini, now we have 4 heights. There is a possibility

June/July Course

The June/July courses can be run in either the month of June or July and wont close until the end of July so you can pick your best weather to run the courses.



Agility is good for dogscontinued

from last month

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

Yeap, because of all that, I, unlike most people, think agility is good for the dogs. I think it keeps them happy, young and healthy. For some reason, my boyfriend who is a doctor, agrees with me. He is always saying I should be stressing my joints and bones as much as possible now that I'm young, so that they'll be strong enough to bear with me when I'm old. He thinks I might have problems otherwise because I'm so light and my weight itself doesn't put enough stress on the joints. I don't see why it would be any different for the dogs???*??*

*??*To read more on a subject from scientific point of view, click [here](#).

To copy-paste one extract: "*In general, high correlations exist between muscle mass and skeletal mass in exercising subjects. Under conditions of disuse and inactivity, both skeletal and muscle tissues atrophy, even in those who are in their growth periods.*"

Also, research (sorry, can't remember a source right now, but I will try to find it), done on horses, used for show jumping, showed that horses that underwent early training at young age, had longer and healthier careers since their joints were better prepared for the job that they'll be doing, as those of horses that didn't do any jumping until growth was finished.

Trust me, if I ever think agility hurts my dogs, that's the moment I'm out of the sport. I don't even nearly love it that much as I love my dogs.

But as you probably figured out, I don't think agility hurts my dogs. Even more, I think it's their secret drug that keeps them young, happy and healthy. Who wouldn't like a drug like that!?! I don't plan

to take that away from them as long as they enjoy it or as long as I don't have any sign telling me that it's hurting them. I spend 24 hours a day with my dogs, I watch them, I play with them... And everything is telling me the opposite of what people say. And you know me and how good I am in listening to others when my intuition is telling me something else... Yeah, "the majority argument" is not good enough for me.

And please don't give me the examples of professional athletes! My dogs are NOT professional athletes. They're just three happy dogs that like to play. *Professional athletes train 6 days a week, two times a day, for several hours. My dogs train two to three times a week for 5 to 10 minutes... You must be joking that this could hurt them, right?* I understand that Bu, running a course at 11 months might make you think I train agility every day with her. I don't. I train agility-related things (cik&cap, left&right, go on...) every day and then, when it comes to agility, everything is just so easy. I could run any jumpers course with no weaves with her on her THIRD time between obstacles! Why? Because **she knew everything there is to know about agility WEEKS before she was allowed to do ANY agility!** Agility is really easy, you don't need to drill things. Maybe you need a Samoyed to make it so easy with every next dog 😊. But that's pretty much it.

Agility is really small in Slovenia, nobody takes it too seriously, it's pretty easy to qualify for WC... Maybe that's my advantage. I just don't take it so seriously. I take it so easy that I take my hot-shot world-class agility dogs climbing in the mountains on weekly basis, risking really bad injuries that could never happen on a predictable terrain like agility course, stressing their joints way more as they could ever be stressed on agility course... They also don't go to physiotherapists, messages, chiropractors and are not on any special diets. *They're not treated as athletes, because they're not. They're just three happy, healthy dogs that like to play.*

Yeah, it's just a play, it's just a game, our favourite game. That's why I never understood that you should leave your puppy it's puppyhood and don't start working with him too early... *Hm... I thought puppyhood is all about playing, no? And I thought that agility is all about playing, no? Hm... I would say: what a perfect match!* And no, I don't think that drilling puppies over jumps is a good thing. Even more: I don't think that drilling ANY dog over jumps is a good thing. Take it easy, it's just agility.

And no, I also don't think that I'm putting any mental stress on my puppies. I think mental stress is put on dogs that start training agility later in their life and their owners try to prepare them for competition in shortest time possible. Since I start training them at 2 months, I have 16 months to go and trust me, you don't need to put any pressure on anybody if you have 16 months of time! What I see in my classes is that those that are in a hurry, want to train more as I would advice and tend to skip basics are exactly those that waited till one year of age and then try to prepare a dog for competition in 6 months. I don't need to do that.

I do agree that adult dogs learn faster, but my goal is not to train a dog in shortest time possible. I have all the time in the world and I love spending it with my dogs, so I'm not interested in fast results. It just doesn't impress me, I prefer to take the time.

I also don't think you need to wait that dogs are mentally ready for competition. I think **YOU** must be mentally ready for competition before you go to one. Dogs don't know they're at competition. They just want to have fun. If you make sure they do have fun, they have nothing to be prepared for. My dogs are mentally ready for competition at 4 months. Because I know I can assure them a winning feeling after it, no matter what happens.

One final thought: *we don't stop playing when we grow old. We grow old when we stop playing.* Aiken was my last dog that I took a youth from. All my other dogs will stay young 'till the day they die, no matter how hard it is to lose a young dog. But I owe them that. I owe them to allow them to die young, they deserved that. That's why Lo is not ever going into retirement and considering how well she does at 10 years make me think I must be doing something right...

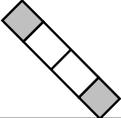
Yeah, I know this was long and you probably got to know more as you ever wanted to know... But hey, you asked! And after all, this is my favourite topic...



Games results, top 10.

JUMPERS PAIRS RESULTS, APRIL 2018				
Maxi				
Ali	Pete de Wit	UHDC	0	22.015
Edge	Sue Whitwell	EBOP	0	24.09
Spell	Una Forrester	EBOP	0	24.09
Blaze	Shelley Stewart	Mt Maunganui DTC	0	24.953
Glen	Justine Dale	Mt Maunganui DTC	0	24.953
Che	Jackie Olley	HBDC	0	25.312
Airik	Joanne Allan	EBOP	0	26.19
Prada	Una Forrester	EBOP	0	26.19
Trick	Joanne Allan	EBOP	0	27.72
Tayghen	Martin Bush	EBOP	0	27.72
MEDIUM				
Finn	Karen de wit	UHDC	0	22.015
Brazil	Dianne Reid	Wairarapa	0	23.915
Jamica	Dianne Reid	Wairarapa	0	24.275
Lace	Chrissy Harris	HBDC	0	25.312
Joy	Tina Mitchell	EBOP	0	25.51
Lusi	John Carbin	HBDC	0	28.975
Monti	Chris Kenny	Mt Maunganui DTC	0	30.439
Teaga	Kelly Rutherford	Mt Maunganui DTC	0	30.439
Soda	Jacky Carbin	HBDC	0	32.909
Flo	Briana Edwards	Gisborne DTC	0	33.68
SMALL				
Fern	Caragh Briggs	Wairarapa	0	23.915
Rusty	Stacie Clark	Wairarapa	0	24.275
Millie	Alison Derbyshire	EBOP	0	25.51
Shuffle	Robyn Fargher	HBDC	0	28.975
Tegan	Tracy Swart	Mt Maunganui DTC	0	30.373
Patrick	Justine Dale	Mt Maunganui DTC	0	30.373
Scallywag	Jackie Olley	HBDC	0	31.934
Buddy	Maggie Marriner	Mt Maunganui DTC	0	33.523
Kahli	Mandy Ward	Mt Maunganui DTC	0	33.523
Fergus	Anne Packer	UHDC	0	33.638
Cameo	Gillian Cruickshank	UHDC	0	33.638

Game 2, June/July : Blackjack

	5	10	15	20	25		
			<p>June/July BLACKJACK.</p> <p>To qualify need 21 points Start and finish jumps = 0 pts Start jump can be used duuring your run for 1 point. Finish jump ends scoring. Jumps = 1 pt, tunnels = 3 pts, Aframe & weave 5pts</p>				
35						35	
30							30
25							25
							
20							20
							
15							15
							10
5							5
	5	10	15	20	25		

Rally-O Club results

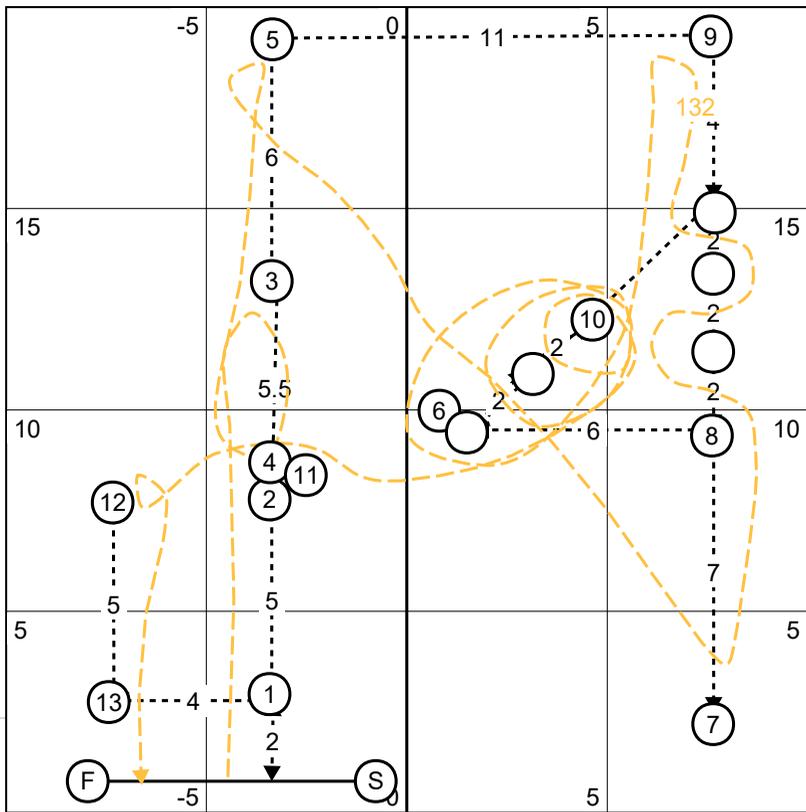
1	Wanganui DTC	Glenn Armitage & Buddy, Christine Warren & Charlie, Betsy Gleeson & Suede	100.0	258.040
2	Wairarapa	Elaine Herve & Merlin, Elaine Herve & Tio, Nicky Detheridge-Davies & Rufus	100.0	261.500
3	Canterbury COC	Kelly Walker & Gael, Helen Scott & Mac, Kelly Walker & Kep	100.0	285.180
4	Hawkes Bay	Chrissy Harris & Lace, Lorraine Lennox & Phoenix, Chrissy Harris & Biggie	100.0	320.894
5	Norwest	Sarah Ridley & Keara, Karen Smith & Teddy, Karen Smith & Lottie	100.0	382.800
6	Upper Hutt	Jane Aukett & Holly, Jane Aukett & Quinn, Karen de Wit & Finn	99.7	250.720
7	Central ADTS	Jan Voss & Halley, Jan Voss & Maple, Mike Butler & Idol	99.0	275.430
8	Sunshine Whk	Maria van Beek & Buddy, Helen Barnes & Cookie, Maria van Beek & Edison	98.0	312.620

If you have any interesting tips or articles about RallyO please feel free to share on this page E; kpdewit@xtra.co.nz

JUNE/JULY course signs.

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1. Fast pace | 8. weave once |
| 2. Normal pace | 9. about turn left |
| 3. about turn right | 10. spiral right |
| 4. Left about turn | 11. moving side step |
| 5. 270 left turn | 12. 270 right turn |
| 6. Halt 1-2-3 steps | 13. Call front finish left forward |
| 7. Halt sit walk around (don't forget the pause) | |

You can find NZARO signs at
nzaro.webs.com



A Rally Foundation course – Week Four.

Course

START –

1 – HALT – SIT – DOWN [4]

2 – LEFT TURN [6]

3 – SPIRAL LEFT – DOG OUTSIDE [22]

4 – CALL FRONT – FINISH RIGHT – HALT [16]

– FINISH

Heelwork =

- Handflick to position.
- Pivot block.
- Nose to hand.
- Backchain to jackpot – (ask for nose to hand then send back to food).

Variable reinforcement exercise in pairs.

From a plan by Linda Guinness, Feilding and NZARO.

RALLY-O CHALLENGE COURSES.

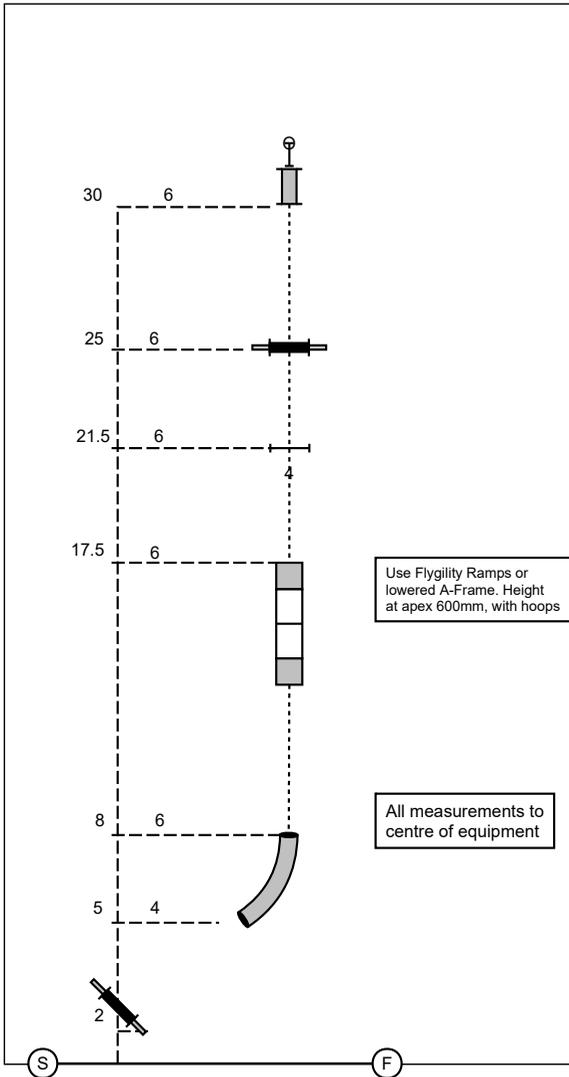
This year we will have 3 CHALLENGE COURSES for Rally-O.

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

STANDARD FLYGILITY COURSE
S045 JUNE / JULY 2018
Raewyn Saville



Notice. Agility and Flygility results will be published as soon as they become available on new website.

FLYGILITY - VOLUNTEER ANYONE???

