Regional Representative’s Blurb

I have just returned from an O E and I am very thankful to Arend who carried the torch for me while I was away. A Remit was passed which changes the way that teams are chosen, they will now be selected at Obedience Shows beginning in June so the first therefore will be Nelson. I will present a document on this as soon as possible and guidelines on how to enter for the Team Trials
Kind Regards
Alastair

Dog Obedience Committee Report

A meeting of the NZKC Dog Obedience Committee was held on April 20th, which was also attended by the NZKC Director/Secretary, Peter Dunne, which was a real pleasure. It also gave Arend and I an opportunity to express to him how awesome this Region is. It is hoped that one day he may well come down to find out for himself, in person.

A fairly full day’s agenda the (arguable) highlights being:

- Confirmation of Miriam Dobson’s appointment onto the Obedience Judges Championship Test C Panel, and Dawn McCracken’s appointment onto the Obedience Judges. Well done to both, and I am sure many new appointments will soon be heading your way.
- Ongoing work to establish an Obedience website that does not require a degree in cybercryptics.
- The establishment of the NZKC Dog Trainers Association, with the founding President being Karen Sadler.
- Companion Dog administration being formally accepted as a task of the NZKC Dog Obedience Committee administration. The Committee then appointed Arend as being responsible for overseeing this area.
- Agreement to change the current National voting system to allow Region Representatives to become the Returning Officers rather than as present, the Club Delegates. This topic was the subject of much discussion, but was finally agreed upon by a majority vote.
- Rejection (by a majority vote) of the establishment of a National NDOA Committee. The topic of whether future NDOA’s should compose of Zone or Region teams continues however to be hotly debated, with two Regions currently opposing a return to Zone teams and one supporting the Zone team concept. Each of the opposing parties has again therefore been asked to further submit support for their opinions to the next Dog Obedience Committee Meeting.
- Some adjustments being made to the Rally-O Regulations to better reflect their original intent.
Appointment of NZKC National Obedience Judges and officials.
Submission of a final (9 page) 2012 NDOA report from Arend.
Proposal to raise the NDOA Registration Fee to $10.00.
Rejection of an attempt to secure a National Region Representatives Job Description. It was agreed instead to provide a “Roles and Responsibilities” (for Region Representatives) Section in each of the Region’s Standing/Administration Orders

New Zealand Kennel Club Intelligence
The New Zealand Kennel Club Executive Council last met on March 2/3rd, the outcome of which (relevant to Obedience) was detailed in the last issue of the Southern Rapport. There next meeting is scheduled for 14th June, which also leads on to the Annual Conference of Delegates (a.k.a. NZKC AGM). So, this section of the Southern Rapport may be quiet for an issue or two.

Region/Area Rumours
This is the grand month in which we have our Region’s AGM, which this year was held at my residence, as a way to support electronic accessibility to those who wished to attend, but were unable to attend in person.
Attending this meeting were representatives from eight of the thirteen clubs in the Southern Region, which established a quorum being attained.
Highlights of the meeting were:

- Re-election of Janet Bainbridge as Southern Region Secretary. A role she has wonderfully filled for the past six years.
- Election of Dave Donachie as Southern Region Treasurer following Margaret van Oosten standing down after three years of absolutely excellent service.
- Unanimous passing of Southern Region Committee Remit One, which rewrites Southern Region Administration Order 13. Essentially, this scraps the awarding of annual Region sashes to handlers who had obtaining the highest cumulative points in any one test over the space of any one calendar year, which was proving to be very difficult to administer. An alternative Southern Region Awards proposal is now being investigated by the Southern Region Committee that will be presented to the Southern region clubs when finalized.
- Unanimous passing of Southern Region Committee Remit Two which substantially rewrites Annex B of the Southern Region Administration Orders concerning NDOA Inter-Region Team selection. It is hoped that the new amendments will allow for a greater ability for Southern Region members to trial for NDOA Team selection, taking into account the large geographical area of this Region.
- Unanimous passing of Southern Region Committee Remit 3, which rewrites Annex D of the Southern Region Administration Orders. The passing of this remit effectively means that the administration and hosting of annual Mini Assemblies will now become the responsibility of individual Southern Region clubs rather than the Southern Region Committee.
- Unanimous passing of Southern Region Committee Remit 4, which allows for the formation of an ongoing Southern Region NDOA Committee.
- Majority passing of Southern Region Remit 5, which essentially means that all NDOA’s hosted in the Southern Region will, for the present (and definitely in 2015), be located in Christchurch.

All of the changes to the Southern Region Administration Orders are effective immediately, and it is hoped that a revised version will soon be available to all the Southern Region Clubs.
My especial thanks to all the clubs who not only had representatives at the Southern Region AGM, but who also clearly had some very robust discussion concerning the remits before submitting their votes. It was very heartening to realize that many clubs were taking the right to voice their opinion on Southern Region matters seriously. What a fantastic Region we have!

**Club Information**

On the positive side, Christchurch Dog Training Club has pulled off another stunning Triple Obedience Show, which saw all the Obedience Tests being judged by overseas (North Island) judges. It may have been a long day for most on Saturday, and even for those travelling on Sunday, but the benefits of being judged by a largely unfamiliar judge can only have positive benefits for competitors.

Well done to the Christchurch Dog Training Club for providing such a wonderful opportunity.

Ever here one of those stories that start off… “The good news is…but the bad news is…” Well I sort of have one of those, but in reverse order. Firstly the bad news. While I have yet to receive a formal notice of their intent from the Blenheim Dog Training Club, it appears that they will no longer be hosting Championship Obedience Show until there is greater support for such efforts within their own ranks. Now for the good news. While it may be a little presumptuous at this stage to say that it will happen, all the indications are that it will. Through the efforts of Arend and me, it appears that Nelson may host a second Championship Obedience Show, probably in September.

If it all goes through, then it is all up to you. Nelson members have generally been fantastic in supporting Obedience Shows in the Canterbury Region and sometimes even further afield. Would it not be great to make an effort to reciprocate their efforts by supporting them, and in particular, maintaining the number of Championship Obedience Shows we currently have.

In today’s activity climate, a weekend that becomes spare may very quickly be picked up by another pursuit and the availability of that weekend possibly gets lost for any future ventures to occur. We can make a difference if we try, but have no reason to complain if we do not.

**Individual Newsflash**

It would be inconceivable not to place the spotlight on Margaret van Oosten in this issue of the Southern Rapport. Margaret has been the Southern Region Treasurer for the past three years, and committed more effort to the task than any other Club Treasurer I have ever known. Remember that Margaret has had to deal with thirteen clubs within the Southern Region, the New Zealand Kennel Club (which at times had proven to be very taxing (pun intended)), and a Southern Region National Dog Obedience Committee. In short, a huge job for very little return, and all as a volunteer. Add to this that despite having had to finance another NDOA last year, our Region finances, through very careful management engineered largely by Margaret, has remained almost (by approximately $100-00 in the deficit) static compared to last year financial position.

Sadly, Margaret has expressed a desire to stand down this year, but she not only leaves large clogs for her successor to fill, but has still indicated a willingness to continue serving on the Southern Region NDOA Committee, which is by far the largest expense to this Region. So, we can still look forward to continuance of the excellent financial management we have been absolutely blessed with.

Incidentally, Margaret was also personally thanked recently by the financial management of NZKC (the only Region Treasurer to have been), for her excellent work and detail.

*The unselfish effort to bring cheer to others will be the beginning of a happier life for ourselves.*

*Helen Keller*
Rally Résumé
Well I thought I might have a lot to share with you, but the truth is that I have heard absolutely nothing about the Southland Dog Training Club Rally-O or South Canterbury one, other than Gail Hamling has done it again! Prior to the South Canterbury Dog Training Club’s Championship Rally-O Event, Gail was the only person in New Zealand to have a dog (Robbie) with and NZKC RAE Title. Now she has another dog (Jade) with this title, and is STILL the ONLY person in New Zealand to have been awarded these Titles. Way to go Gail and the Southern Region.
Both Alistair and I have often stressed that we cannot be in all places at the same time, and therefore are very reliant on information being fed back to us. Particularly if there is something you would like to have mentioned, for the benefit of all, in the Southern Rapport.
Anyway, I will be attending the Championship Rally-O Event in Dunedin so, I should be able to report something in the next issue of the Southern Rapport.

What I can report on in this issue however is that following a rather “strange” but legal interpretation of the current regulations relating to Rally-O, that the NZKC Dog Obedience Committee have unanimously agreed to alter some of the wording concerning Dog Obedience Regulation 25.5.2 and 25.5.3 to better indicate the true purpose of these regulations.
Also mentioned at the Dog Obedience Committee was that Southern Region clubs have been failing to submit applications for the running of Rally-O Events through the Rally-O subcommittee. This is in fact a breach of Dog Obedience Regulation 7.3.3 so please, if you are a club/show/event secretary, please submit your plans to have a Rally-O Event to Diana O’Kane (diana@mudpuppy.co.nz), before assuming your club can hold such an event.
The Rally-O subcommittee also expressed concern that the NZKC Rally-O website (www.rallyonz.com) was either not being recognized as the official NZKC site or not known at all.

National Dog Obedience Assembly News Update
At the Southern Region’s AGM, three remits were passed concerning NDOA’s in one way or another. One concerns Team Trial selection. In a nutshell, to allow for the significant geographical area of the Southern Region, and hopefully encourage more Southern Region to trial for the NDOA Team, the Southern Region will be administratively (without change of governance) divided into three areas. These being: Otago/Southland; Canterbury/West Coast; and Nelson /Marlborough.
Should any Southern region member from any one of these areas wish to trial for the NDOA team, they may nominate up to three Championship Obedience Shows in either their area or that of another, where there must be at least one selector present to observe, and have videotaped, the applicant team member. Any Championship Obedience Shows selected must fall within the commencement of Queens Birthday weekend dates and August 31st of each year for which team selection takes place.

“All things are subject to interpretation whichever interpretation prevails at a given time is a function of power and not truth.”
Friedrich Nietzsche
Final selection of NDOA Team members will be made by a panel of no less than three but no more than four Southern Region senior Judges who shall review the team applicants test scores and video footage before a final decision is made.

Another remits concerning NDOA’s passed at the Southern Region AGM was for the establishment of an on-going Southern Region NDOA Committee, which will provide ongoing administrative continuity between NDOA’s being hosted in this Region. Headhunting will now resume with some vigor.

A final remit concerning NDOA’s passed at the Southern Region AGM was to establish Christchurch as the sole hosting location for future NDOA’s hosted in the Southern Region. This is not to say that it could not be changed back to a rotating policy should there be sufficient support for this from club’s within the Southern Region. However, because of the passing of this remit at this time, Christchurch will DEFINITELY be the venue for the 2015 NDOA.

**Obedience Events Calendar**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 May 2013</td>
<td>4 May Canterbury Canine Obedience Club Championship Rally-O</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 May 2013</td>
<td>5 May Selwyn Dog Training Club Championship Rally-O</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 May 2013</td>
<td>4 May Nelson Dog Training Club Ribbon Trial</td>
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<td>5 May 2013</td>
<td>5 May Blenheim Dog Training Club Ribbon Trial</td>
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<td>11/12 May 2013</td>
<td>11/12 May Mid Canterbury Dog Training Club Championship Obedience</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/12 May 2013</td>
<td>11/12 May Mid Canterbury Dog Training Club Championship Rally-O</td>
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<tr>
<td>18/19 May 2013</td>
<td>18/19 May South Canterbury Dog Training Club Championship Obedience</td>
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In accordance with Dog Obedience Regulation 7.2 **ALL** official Obedience events must have prior approval from the Region Representative. This includes Ribbon Trials and Rally-O Events.

When requesting for permission to do a CD Trial, you need to specify what level(s) of CD you are providing. For example, CD only, or CD and Silver etc.

Following the last issue of the Southern Rapport, Alistair received some unwarranted flax for an error in the dates regarding one of the events listed in the calendar (as have I from time to time when I was writing the Southern Rapport). Very occasionally, oversights are made, and I am sure I speak for Alistair on this, we unreservedly sincerely apologize. In such cases, every attempt is made to rectify the error. However, I do draw your attention to a paragraph that is written before **EVERY** issue of the Southern rapport in this section. That is: *All of the following information is given in accordance with what information has been supplied to me by NZKC and various clubs at the time of writing.* For this reason, an at least four month forecast is given, but subject to change. [Emphasis all mine].
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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>18 May</td>
<td>South Canterbury Dog Training Club</td>
<td>Championship Rally-O</td>
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<td>25/26 May</td>
<td>Obedience Trials Association (Christchurch)</td>
<td>UD/WD/TD</td>
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<td>25 May</td>
<td>Otago Canine Training Club</td>
<td>Ribbon Trial</td>
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<td>June 2013</td>
<td>1/2/3 June Nelson Dog Training Club</td>
<td>Championship Obedience</td>
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<td>1 June Nelson Dog Training Club</td>
<td>CD; CD Silver; CD Gold</td>
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<td>15 June Canterbury Canine Obedience Club</td>
<td>Ribbon Trial</td>
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<td>July 2013</td>
<td>6/7 July Selwyn Dog Training Club</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6/7 July Otago Canine Training Club</td>
<td>Championship Rally-O</td>
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<td>20/21 July Obedience Trials Association (Nelson)</td>
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<td>August 2013</td>
<td>10/11 August Southland Dog training Club</td>
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<td>31 August Tairei Canine Training Club</td>
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