



'HK's BLOG'

The blog of Mullenscote Dog Training
Centre and Lains Shooting School

Issue 9 - February 2013



**COUNTRYSIDE
ALLIANCE
AWARDS**

South West
CHAMPION 2012
Enterprise Award

Lains Shooting School



More often than often than not opening the daily post is disappointing, bills, bills and more bills. Today was different, we've just received notice that we have been awarded The Countryside Alliance 'South West Champion 2012 Enterprise Award.' Not only is this great to receive this much valued award but it now means we are all off 'Up London' to the The Houses of Parliament for an award ceremony and the possibility of a National Award. On a personal note a huge thank you to all of the Team here at Lains and Mullenscote and to all of our customers that make it all possible. I need to get my finger out, get my suit dry cleaned, shoes polished and book an appointment for that all important haircut!

PAWGO Course Assessments

Sunday the 20th January meant assessment day for all of the hardworking dog trainers that have been on our Foundation, Bronze, Silver and Gold courses. Six inches of snow meant that most of the dogs being assessed where not only very young but being assessed in conditions that they had never experienced before, young dogs get very excited by snow!. However



this didn't hold back our intrepid trainers, without fail every single one of them dug their cars out of the snow and navigated the treacherous roads to show off their skills. 100% successful passes including some Merits and Distinctions proved their efforts worthwhile.

Seeing owner/handlers develop and improve their own personal dog training skills by so much in just six weeks makes my job so enjoyable. The snowy conditions saw handlers with dogs that were 'on the edge,' excitable, full of beans and wanting to charge round the training field out of control, a real test of the handlers nerve and skills to keep their dogs on track. Well done everyone and a huge thank you to you all, you've been a pleasure to work with not to mention really great fun.



PLANNING PERMISSION SUCCESS

In March last year we submitted a Planning Application to site a mobile home/lodge at the Shooting School and after months of liaison with TVBC the Permission has been granted. This is fantastic news, having a visible residential presence on site will be a huge help with security so we are just delighted. Our modern alarm systems are just fantastic making us really secure, as you're all aware rural crime and theft is a risk we all have to live with so be vigilant.



TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS WITH RUBY AND MONTY

Following on from Ruby's (FTCH Western Rosie) Open win under Ian Openshaw, I took Ruby to the Cocker Championships on 16/17th January, this year's venue was a very snowy Sandringham Estate in Norfolk. We had a fantastic two days and ran number 13. Our first run was over some laid bracken covered over by 6-8 inches of snowy, initially Ruby found this ground difficult and as a result of the snow and frozen temperatures scenting conditions were poor, after about 100yds on this ground we hunted some bushes and she flushed a pair of woodcock, only one bird was shot and the judge Andy Robinson bought us out from the bushes and gave me a mark on the woodcock. The bird had dropped about 60yds out onto an open piece of ground, I set her up and cast her and she took a line straight to the area but to my horror she ran right over the bird without winding it, there was almost no scent at all, it took me

three attempts at pushing her back into the area before her little head punched down into the snowy and came up with the woodcock. That's my girl! We changed ground and hunted through a scrubby area, there was less snow in here and she very quickly flushed a hare and made a perfect job of the retrieve. Andy shook my hand and said "well done Howard that'll do for you." "Yes, yes, yes we through to the second round, all we need now is a clean run tomorrow." Easy to say!



Monty...Larford Lydd of Mullenscote

We were second to run on Day 2 and it was immediately apparent that this belt of woodland was holding a lot of game, the dog in front of us had three flushes and retrieves in as many minutes, perfect I knew this is where Ruby could shine. I cast her off and within thirty seconds she flushed a hen that rocketed upwards and out of the woods to the gun on my left, for a split second I remember thinking he'll drop that quickly and we'll make an easy job of that retrieve, (the guns had been shooting immaculately up to this point) Bang, Bang. The gun turned, looked at us and shrugged, "is it down?" shouted the Judge please say

no, we really don't want a strong runner I thought. "You'll have to be quick its running really hard," shouted the gun. The judge and I galloped out of the wood onto a track, "you see that sticky out bush about 100yds down the track on the left its run into there," said the gun. I set Ruby up and cast her straight down the track, she ran 40yds and darted right into the cover, it took me a longer than I wanted to get her back out onto the track, I sent her back again and blow me if she didn't dart back into the same gap, she was convinced the bird was in there. The judge asked me to call her up and they bought the second dog over. As second dog down the dog was taken much closer to where the running hen was last seen and they made an excellent retrieve. 'Eye wiped,' Out! "Beep...Beep..Beep." Maybe next year?

Meanwhile Monty (Larford Lydd of Mullenscote) has made his debut this year, what a lovely dog to compete with, he has finished his last five trials gaining four COM's and a fourth. He's been foot perfect but he just needs a little more punch and another gear and I think he will win early next season.

GUNDOG FIRST AID COURSES..COMING SOON!

In conjunction with my Sporting Shooter Magazine co-writer and Vet Vicky Payne we have plans afoot to run a Gundog First Aid course. Watch this space! Don't forget to take a look at my Monthly Dog Training and Shooting Tips in the Sporting Shooter Magazine and even better you can visit Sporting Shooters new Website where you can find Video clips and allsorts of fantastic articles and all things country. <http://www.sportingshooter.co.uk/home>



NEW COURSE DATES

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| Foundation Course | Basic course for young gundogs at the start of their training. Instruction will concentrate on the basics of heel work, sit, stay, recall and introduce the dog to basic retrieving. Socialisation with other dogs and handlers will also be covered. | This course will start on Sunday 17 th March 2013 running from 9.00am until 10.30am. This course will be meeting for 6 SUNDAYS with Assessment on the sixth meeting, at the price of £125.00. Dates are: 17 th , 24 th , March, 7 th , 21 st , 28 th April and Assessment on 12 th May 2013 | Open to all breeds of gundog aged 20 weeks to 1 year*, including non-pedigree and non-KC registered dogs. Dogs should be non-aggressive. |
| Bronze Courses | Entry level course following on from foundation training aiming to prepare handlers and dogs for taking the Kennel Club Working Gundog Certificate. Dogs will be streamed into classes to match their stage of learning. | This course will start on Sunday 17 th March 2013 running from 11.00am until 12.30am. This course will be meeting for 6 SUNDAYS with Assessment on the sixth meeting, at the price of £125.00. Dates are 17 th , 24 th March, 7 th , 21 st , 28 th April and Assessment on 12 th May 2013 | Open to all breeds of gundog including non-pedigree and non-KC registered dogs. Dogs should be capable of remaining focused in a class of multiple dogs, be able to walk on a lead, demonstrate a desire to retrieve and be non-aggressive. |
| Silver & Gold Course | A follow on to Basic Training courses, aiming to produce a well trained Shooting Dog that is now handled off lead and continues to advance retrieving skills to multiple retrieves, blinds, Gunshot and steadiness. | This course will start on SATURDAY 16 th March 2013 running from 2pm until 3.30pm. This course will be meeting for 6 SATURDAYS with Assessment on the sixth meeting. at the price of £125.00. Dates are 16 th , 23 rd March, 6 th , 20 th , 27 th April and Assessment on 12 th May 2013 | A follow on to the Entry Level courses. Course Open to all breeds of gundog including non-pedigree and non-KC registered dogs. Dogs should be capable of remaining focused in a class of multiple dogs, and be non-aggressive. |

Please call the office if you would like us to tailor a package to meet your specific requirements. 01264 889467.

AIM HIGH! BACK BY POPULAR REQUEST

By popular request we have two Aim High dates for early spring, Sunday 10th March and Sunday 7th April both to start at 2pm prompt . The afternoon is aimed at dogs that are doing all of the basics and are reliable retrievers, dogs will be tested for steadiness, hunting and general retrieving skills we will be using gunshot and looking to generally increase the experience of young dogs that are being prepared for the shooting field. Book early as this class has limited places. Cost =£35 01264 889467 to book your place.



AIR GUNNERS

Our Field Target Air Rifle facilities continue to go from strength to strength with growing interest and continuing development. We now offer regulars a new attractive membership package designed to cater for all types of shooters.. There is a two tier Membership available,

Premier Membership

£120 per year this package allows Members to shoot as often as you like with no further range fees, a Membership Badge and card. There is a joint membership available at a discounted price of £180. Membership is due on the 1st of April

Club Membership

£60 per year with this package giving members a 50% discount on daily range fees (members rate £5) , a Membership Badge and card.

Non Members daily range fee is £10 per visit.

This year will see Lains Shooting School entering a Team into the UKAHFT National Competitions and hosting monthly Sunday HFT competition days led by World Champion Steph Kirkwood and her partner Mike, these will be £5 for Non members and £3 for Members.....Anyone can enter and shoot for the Lains team, and can compete at any of the UKAHFT Events, if you are interested in learning more about Hunter Field Target, or wish to enhance your skills, please enquire at the Clubhouse and we can organise a private lesson with an HFT expert.

Shoot dates are, 10th March, 14th April, 12th May. Get the dates in your diary.

KEEP TRAINING!!!



Howard

HOW WAS IT FOR YOU DARLING?

Well the seasons over, "how was it for you?" Good, bad, indifferent, well the best thing to do is keep practicing, if you were good then you need to continue to deliver and practice that technique in a smooth, positive and confident shot. Indifferent? Well there's obviously room for improvement, maybe have a lesson or two and then spend the Spring/Summer raising your game. If you were rubbish then don't keep practicing you definitely need to get some lessons in asap, if you go out now and keep practicing poor technique you will continue to get much, much better at being rubbish! Shooting Lessons aren't that expensive and certainly represent great value for money if you get sorted out now we can help to iron out all those problems and make sure you're right on target for next season!



Mullenscote Links and Information

Club Membership – free access to rabbit and bird pens, 10% discount on dog food and much much more for just £48 for the year. Call for details on 01264 889467

Course Dates - <http://www.mullenscote.co.uk/courses.html>

Shows and Events - http://www.mullenscote.co.uk/shows_and_events.html

Training DVDs, Hunter Wellies and more



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