

# **Sheltie Rally Training Day**

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

**Trainer Sue Garner**

**Grazeley Village Hall, Church Lane Grazeley Reading RG7 1 LD**

Kennel Club Rally has been a recognised Kennel Club discipline for 6 years now. It was introduced to the UK from the USA by the APTD a few years earlier. The Kennel Club was approached by the APTD with a view to taking over the implementation and management of Rally.

As a member of the Activities Committee, Sue Garner was asked to be a member of the Kennel Club personnel group to meet with the APTD and then subsequently form and chair the Kennel Club Rally Working Party. Her extensive experience in competitive Obedience as a handler, judge and event organiser was considered an asset to the discussions and planning process to introduce Rally.

A Rally course consists of a number of exercise signs set out in a course designed by the judge. Level 1 courses are the simplest and designed to introduce newcomers to the discipline. The course complexity increases as you move up the Levels. There are 6 levels in all. Qualification, can be in two forms. Either 6 standard qualification scores or 3 excellent (higher level) qualification scores.

Each exercise sign set out which manoeuvres the dog and handler must successfully complete and a smooth and neat manner.

Rally has come a long way in the last six years. Since the first licenced Open Competitions in 2013 it has grown in popularity. There have been minor regulation changes in the first years and the setting up of a formal training programme for judges and show organisers. Last year a major overhaul was undertaken to review the Levels, their content and judging criteria. The changes resulting from this came into effect in January 2019.

Rally has already grown in popularity due to its inclusiveness. All dogs, from the smallest of breeds to the giants, are able to compete and be successful, progressing to the highest levels. It is also possible for those who are less physically able to do well and progress.

Progression through the levels in Rally is through achieving a qualifying score, thus all those competing are doing so to 'beat the test'. Winning is not required, so any number of dog and handler teams who are of the required standard can gain a qualifying score towards progression. Once the required number of qualifying scores are achieved at one level the team progresses onto the next.

The November training day will introduce those attending to the principles of a Rally test, Sue will introduce the exercises and their signs for those starting off in Rally and move onto higher levels of competition. Handlers will be helped to teach their dogs to execute the exercises and work their way round a Rally course. The detailed content will, to a certain extent, depend on the levels of experience of those attending, but the day will be useful for both newcomers to and experienced in Rally.

Sue first started competing in Obedience in 1981 and has since been an active competitor, up to Championship Class C, Judge and show organiser.

In order to gain a greater understanding of Rally, Sue has competed with three dogs. Her first achieved RL6ex success with ease. She now has one competing at Level 4 and another at Level 1. Sue is also qualified to judge up to and including Level 6.

Training will cover all Levels and will start at 9.00 a.m. and will last until 5.00 p.m. with a break for lunch. There will also be short coffee breaks during the morning and afternoon. Teas and coffees will be provided but please bring a packed lunch with you.

**The cost of training is:**

Dog and Handler £30 for Section Members, £35 for Non Members.

Spectators £15 for Section Members £20, for Non Members.

Booking forms are available from Lesley Lubbi.

Tel no. 01784 258334 or Email: [info@esscworkingsection.co.uk](mailto:info@esscworkingsection.co.uk)

**DIRECTIONS TO THE VENUE:**

Grazeley Village Hall is easily reachable by car from A33, the Basingstoke Road. M4 J11

For sat nav, use post code RG7 1LD

A map can be found on [www.grazeleyvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.grazeleyvillagehall.org.uk)