



The USDAA®

# OVERview™

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## Hong Kong Agility Club Has Great Success in First International Event



A competitor runs the course during Hong Kong's first major event.

USDAA influence spreads further in Southeast Asia as **Hong Kong K-9 Club** launched its first major event in December after more than a year of development. The club is expected to soon be part of the USDAA family. Headed by **Vincent John**, a former British military canine trainer and native of Hong Kong, the HK K-9 Dog Club pulled together a remarkable day-long event, offering eleven classes of competition for the approximately 30 competitors from Hong Kong, mainland China, Japan, and the Philippines. Judges for the event were **Haruo Masuda** and **Hisato Tanabe**,

key players in USDAA's Japanese affiliate OPDES, and USDAA President **Kenneth Tatsch**.

The club held an open field of classes with four levels in jumping and standard agility using USDAA rules. Competitors were permitted to enter one or more levels of the standard agility and the jumping classes to test their skills. A steeplechase-style course, a pairs relay course and a three-dog relay course were also run.

The runs finished in time for a scheduled outdoor barbecue—manned with a drum

*continued on page 5...*

# Off the Leash

Following USDAA successes at the IFCS World Agility Championship in the Netherlands last May, we began receiving an increased number of queries from other countries about USDAA and its programs. USDAA's brand of agility, as you see in this month's lead article, is starting to make a mark overseas. Since that article was written the Hong Kong K-9 Club has filed an application as an official USDAA affiliate and they will host a judging seminar and their first licensed event in April this year. The Philippines are also pursuing affiliation and are planning to host a judging clinic and event in April in Bacolod City.

Similarly, we have recently received an affiliation agreement with the Federacion Espanola de Agility y Educacion Canina (the Spanish Federation of Agility and Canine Education, or "FEAEC"), our first participating affiliate in Europe. After visiting the Grand Prix championships several times since 2001, this group began conducting USDAA licensed events late last year. Following a judging clinic this month they are planning on a more active schedule, with four events already scheduled for the first half of this year. Their competitive results, along with those from U.S.

events, can be viewed in the Subscriber Services area of the Web site. You can select them by event from the event calendar or through regional results filtering features of the Web site.

USDAA, of course, is a founding member of the International Federation of Cynological Sports and joins with other independent sports organizations around the world in promoting canine sport for sport's sake. It is the IFCS view that dog agility and other canine sporting activities are sports in their own right, with regulations that provide for the highest level of accomplishment in the dog sports community worldwide. USDAA's successes in competition abroad at the IFCS Championships in 2002, 2004, and 2006, point to the effectiveness of our competitive programs year-round at home, since they provide a sound avenue for development and training that enable us to field the best competitors with the best trained dogs in the world. We are honored to be able to welcome these new affiliates who are anxious to join in the fun and be a part of what we are building.

Ken Tatsch, *President, USDAA*

## From the Editor

Welcome to the second edition of the USDAA *OVERview*! This newsletter, along with the subscriber services news page at [www.usdaa.com](http://www.usdaa.com), is full of exciting material contributed by some of the best and most innovative trainers and competitors. In the coming months, the subscriber news page will include many training exercises, more in-

depth interviews with winners from the USDAA Nationals, event reports, stories about unique competitors and their dogs, and more.

All of this would not be possible without the contributions of the USDAA community. I'm always looking for new material—interviews with competitors, unique stories about dogs and handlers, training

exercises and advice, event reports, and other articles that would interest our readers. Please contact me with your thoughts, comments, and contributions at [BrennaFender@gmail.com](mailto:BrennaFender@gmail.com).

I hope you enjoy this issue of the *OVERview*. Thanks for reading!

Sincerely,  
Brenna Fender

# An Interview with Rich Bradley

**Rich Bradley** and **Abe** hail from Manassas, Virginia. The small animal veterinary surgeon and five-and-one-half-year-old Golden Retriever won the Performance Standard National Finals 22-inch class and were second in the 22-inch class in the Performance Versatility Snooker event. Rich also owns Ava, a one-and-one-half-year-old Golden. Rich trains at *A Click Above* in Leesburg, Virginia.

*BF: How did you prepare for the nationals in the weeks, days, and hours before your runs?*

**RB:** No change in our normal routine except I stressed getting excited about running. Fortunately, the finals were at night and the temperature had dropped and Abe was pretty energetic.

*BF: Did you do anything different before your run in the finals?*

**RB:** I took Abe away from the main ring and played a lot of tug with his leash and did just a few practice jumps. We watched only two runs leading up to ours so we could just play together in the cool Arizona night air.

*BF: What agility skill do you find most difficult, and how do you train that skill?*

**RB:** It took Abe a while to overcome the “Golden” teeter fears and now has no problems. Weaving speed for Abe is our greatest weakness. We try all kinds of exciting encouragement for the weaves but the speed is variable, much more so at trials.

*BF: What technique do you use to ensure that your dog will hit the down contacts and how did you train it?*

**RB:** Two on, two off/targeting skills; clicker training from early on and using a target. We hold our criteria very well in practice and tend to relax some at trials to get more speed but it is risky.

*BF: Are you happy with your dog’s accuracy on down contacts?*

**RB:** At trials, Abe, because I have not held a high enough standard in maintaining his criteria, tends to do a running contact while in all practice sessions he is very accurate and always holds his contacts. I should not have allowed the criteria to slip some in competition

*BF: Are you happy with your dog’s accuracy and speed on the weaves or do you wish you had done something differently?*

**RB:** Accuracy is perfect, speed is variable. I am not sure what I could have done to improve the speed.

*Abe’s run was good as gold in the Finals.*

*Photo by Keith Hirsch*



*BF: How often do you train and how long is each training session?*

**RB:** One hour class a week with short practices at home three to four times per week.

*BF: Have you ever had motivational problems with your dog?*

**RB:** Abe has always been pretty eager, but more so just to be with me and he enjoys his treats.

*BF: What area in performance do you feel you still have some work to do in order to further refine your dog’s performance of the obstacles?*

**RB:** Need to control my speed and flow some. I tend to just go a full speed all the time.

*BF: What area in performance do you feel you still have some work to do in order to further refine your handling performance?*

**RB:** Smoother transition in directionals. For example, front crosses at the best time and location.

*BF: What is your proudest accomplishment in training?*

**RB:** I have been pleased with our overall consistency and Q rate. We trial only infrequently and only on Saturdays so we have to make each run count. I have not stressed titles as much as accuracy and qualifying for national events. I am always looking for ways to get Abe fired up to run. There’s nothing better than the Golden beating BC happenings, which are not too often.

*BF: Do you have any comments?*

**RB:** Everyday is good day in agility—Abe never knows he hasn’t Q’d—“Just get me my Vienna wieners, Pop!”

**CLICK ON THE URL BELOW to read the full article at [http://usdaa.com/sub\\_article.cfm?newsID=420](http://usdaa.com/sub_article.cfm?newsID=420)**

Kerrville, Texas

## Remarkable Records and Runs

For our 12th trial, Hill Country Agility expanded to three days to offer Dog Agility Masters Team Tournament and Performance Versatility Pairs on Friday, with Grand Prix, PNS, and Steeplechase on Saturday. Judges were **Darlene Woz** from Bloomfield Hills, Michigan and **Adrienne Lynch** from Decatur, Illinois. One hundred-seventy dogs entered the event with 1,343 runs over the three days.

### Team and Versatility Pairs Tournament

Twenty-three Championship Teams and six Performance Pairs entered on Friday for the Tournament. The Teams and Pairs were very creative with their names. Some were quite meaningful; others very amusing. We held a name contest judged by our friends, **Luann Anderson** and **Jackie Kayne**, who are non-agility dog people.

The team of **John Badar** and his Aussie, **Max**, **Lee Entzeroth** and her BC, **Reese**, and **Sue Badar** and her BC, **Callie**, won with the name of “Mad Max and the Border Babes.” In the Pairs Name Contest, “The Odd Couple,” **Cindy Brenner** with **Zip** and **Gary Patterson** with **Jack**, was hard to beat.

We had to watch out for the “Partners in Crime Team.” They were sneaking around having way too much fun with their little handcuffs and aliases for their dogs. Shown here is a photo of **Maryann Besdea**, **Gloria Wilson**, and **Jan Tankersley**. At least one of the U numbers is a stolen identity!

First place in Versatility Pairs Tournament was taken by Team “AAA,” **Cosmo (Stacie Greene)**, and **Gracie (Jody Faulkner)**. First place in the Championship Team Tournament was captured by “All Reil’d Up on Jazz and Heavy Metal,” consisting of **Reilly (Chris Dyer)**, **Jazz (Susan Mitchell)**, and **Sterling (Gerry Brown)**.



The Partners in Crime Team “stalk” the trial grounds.

Photo courtesy [www.FastClickPhoto.com](http://www.FastClickPhoto.com)

### Tremendous Accomplishments

**Gina Hofner** and her wonderful Belgian Tervuren, **Riley**, were really on a roll in Kerrville. On Friday, Gina’s birthday, no less, Riley became the first Belgian Terv to earn a Tournament Master-Platinum. Riley is the first Terv to earn the TM, first to attain the TM-B, first to capture the TM-S as well as first to earn the TM-G. On Saturday, Riley and Gina earned their Relay Champion-Bronze with Pairs partner **Deborah Bridge** and her wonderful **KC**. This leaves only two Jumpers for her to become the second ADCH-Bronze Terv. Riley also placed first in Team Jumpers, Steeplechase and the Grand Prix.

**Stacie Greene** and her Aussie, **Cosmo**, were proud to celebrate their LLA Platinum. **Lucy Long** and **Chile**, her Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever, earned the APD. Over the weekend, 36 titles were earned!

### Next Time

Who knows what will happen at our next trial in April. Rumor has it that there will be an Easter Egg Hunt. Tune in for more agility fun.

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# Hong Kong... *Continued from page 1.*

full of skewers and pans of beef, pork, chicken, fish, corn on the cob, wieners, and sausage. Half-height drums were fired up with logs and the wine was uncorked as people from different countries mixed it up, sitting around the drums grilling up their favorite meats. It was reminiscent of the early days of USDAA events in the U.S., where social functions were as much a part of the event as the competition itself. It was refreshing to see people of different countries mingling throughout the evening as they all wanted to know each other better and learn about their situations back home.



Top performers on the day were handlers with a remarkable German Shepherd Dog from Hong Kong, an outstanding Border Collie from mainland China, and a Cocker and Corgi from Japan. The general public turned out to watch with interest, most hanging on through

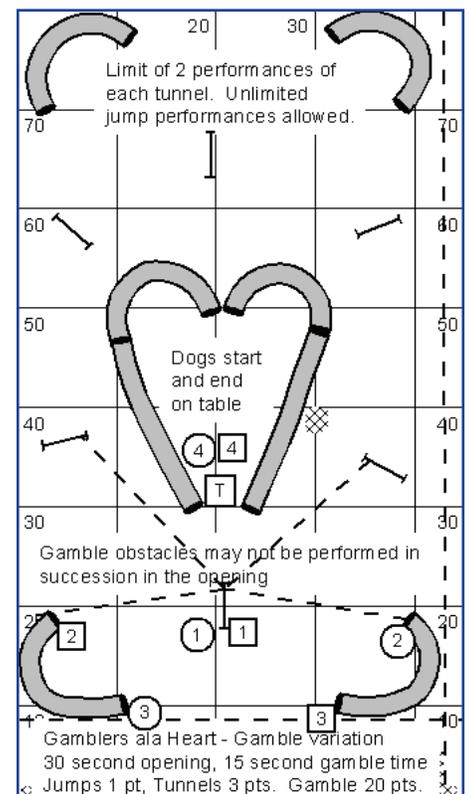
the unseasonably cool evening to the very last run.

Said Kenneth Tatsch, "Having seen agility start in several countries over the years, this is the best beginning anyone could hope for. It's been an honor and privilege to be their guest and a part of such history."

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[http://usdaa.com/sub\\_article.cfm?newsID=391](http://usdaa.com/sub_article.cfm?newsID=391)

## Valentine's Day Themed Course

Enjoy this Gamble practice course inspired by this month's holiday.  
—L. Hellesvig



### Looking for more?...

Sign up for Subscriber Services at [www.usdaa.com](http://www.usdaa.com) and enjoy expanded versions of many **OVERview** stories and much more! These articles have appeared in recent months.

#### The Dog Nobody Wanted

by Annie DeChance

Bullets didn't keep this dog from playing agility!

#### Training Your Dog to Like Repetition

by Sassie Joiris

Learn how to teach your dog to enjoy repetition to help maintain motivation when things go wrong.

#### Do Dogs Know When They Make Mistakes on Course?

by Sam Banks

One competitor shares his views about dealing with agility errors.

#### Keeping Warm at a Cold Trial

by Leona Hellesvig

If you are in a northern climate, you will occasionally be attending a trial where keeping warm may be a concern. Here are a few ideas for you.

# Things a Newbie Learned at USDAA Nationals

## 1. Treats or Tricks?

There will be lots of tempting new treats being given out as free samples and sold by the many vendors. I appreciate free samples as much as anyone. But unless you're sure your dog has a stomach of steel, save them for AFTER nationals. Nationals is NOT the time to discover that your dog has an intolerance to pregelatinized corn starch!

## 2. Best Seat in the House

Bring a chair that you can easily carry to ring-side, preferably one with a strap that you can hang over your shoulder. You might also want to bring an umbrella for shade. Your chair should be as tall as possible. A beach chair might be comfortable on the sand where you can stretch out your legs and recline backwards, but when there are two rows of people in front of you trying to watch the pairs finals, you'll want to be sitting as high as you can.

## 3. Next to Cleanliness...

So you've got a pair of lucky shorts? A great team T-shirt? By the time nationals rolls around, you should have FIVE complete outfits to wear. Those shorts will seem yucky, not lucky, after wearing them for five days. Don't be seen in the same outfit twice!

## 4. Watch Out for Miss Gulch!

If your Toto doesn't like bicycles, get him used to them before you arrive. You'll see LOTS of people riding bicycles all over the grounds. Bicycle seems to be the preferred mode of transportation from the RV park to the trial site. Other wheeled vehicles you'll come in very close contact with are motorized carts and, on the first few days, forklifts and other construction vehicles.

—S. Harvey

CLICK ON THE URL BELOW to read the full article at [http://usdaa.com/sub\\_article.cfm?newsID=378](http://usdaa.com/sub_article.cfm?newsID=378)

# TRAINING CORNER Exercises

Here are two completely different practice sequences that can be done with the same set up of jumps.

Use the sequence in Figure A to work on crosses. Plan to cross between #4 and #5 and again between #10 and #11. Try doing both front crosses, both rear crosses, and then a combination. Find out what works best for your dog.

Renumber the sequence as shown in Figure B to work on distance.

Try to stay within the center square as your dog moves out to take jumps #3–#6. Can you be stationary while your dog takes the outside jumps? Make sure to support your dog with an outstretched arm as you increase the distance that he must work away from you.

For dogs that are just beginning to work on distance, move the outer jumps in closer to make the exercise easier as shown in Figure C.

Gradually move the outer jumps to their original position. Don't move them too quickly. Aim for success!

—D. McDonald & B. Fender

This is one of many exercise sets available on the Subscriber Services news page. —Editor

Figure A

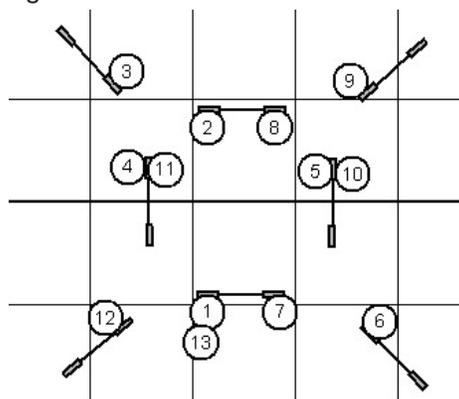


Figure B

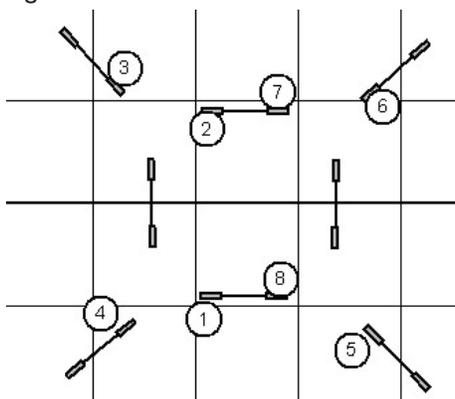
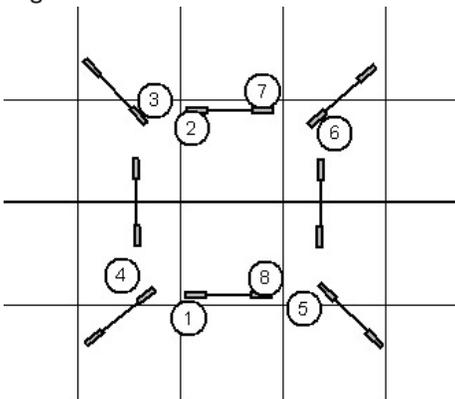


Figure C



A quarterly publication "promoting competitive excellence in dog agility.<sup>SM</sup>"