



## OLYMPIC VOLUNTEERS

Like Jackie Bulmer, Marion Dawes was one of thousands of people who volunteered at the Olympic & Paralympic Games and helped to make them so successful.

What made you decide to volunteer?

The decision to volunteer was easy -I have been an avid follower of the Olympics since Mexico 1968; Paralympics interest really started when our eldest daughter first represented GB in wheelchair basketball in Atlanta 1996. Mike and I went to Paralympics in Athens 2004 to support her. The whole experience was made memorable by the volunteers.

When London won the bid I immediately applied for both the Olympics and Paralympics. Work prevented Mike from the commitment so I accepted the Gamesmaker role for both of us.

What did you have to do to volunteer? i.e. were there countless forms to fill in or a quick phone call?

To volunteer was a user friendly IT online application form. The complexity of the process started with an invitation to Excel (April 2011) where I met the majority of the Basketball management team and had a selection interview lasting about 20 minutes. I wanted to do the Basketball Test event in August 2011 as well. By November I had been selected. The training was organised by McDonalds. It was well prepared, thorough and at times challenging. Between August 2011 and 2012 I had about 30 hours training- in groups from 3 (in my base office) to 33,000 at Wembley Arena.

What role were you selected for/did you choose? i.e.. could you choose what you did or did the organisers choose for you – and if they chose for you, was that based on set criteria?

Some roles required specific qualifications and experience; others needed a lot of people, for example, spectator direction. I wanted to only do basketball and be back of house so I opted for an administrative role. I wanted to support the athletes to reduce any unnecessary stress.

Where were you based?

I was based at the Basketball Arena (BBA) at Olympic Park and the North Greenwich Arena (known as O2)

What did you have to do?

Admin office was key office - with all key staff - basketball manger, field of Play and officials managers. My main role was filming a "clean" copy of each game (ie without any graphics); make copies and distribute DVDs (usually 16 copies) within 20 mins of end of game; receive, check and file all game documentation, give additional admin support to the international federation, officials and players . Every day was varied and the period around the end of each game was hectic. Contact games makers to change their shifts/ organise taxis. Sense of humour and teamwork essential. Liaison with the people who will be running the basketball tournaments in Rio 2016. Flexibility was also required as may have had to give assistance elsewhere in the stadium.

Before the Olympic and Paralympics games there was a lot of preparation admin to do and I worked extra shifts.



## OLYMPIC VOLUNTEERS - Interview with Marion Dawes continued: -

How many days did you have to volunteer for and what shifts did you do?

There was a minimum specified of 8 days. In reality some games makers did less, some more. Basketball was two shifts a day - 8am-4pm; 3.30-11.15pm. On busiest days 6 games were played and the paid staff could work 18 hour days so volunteers made a HUGE difference.

Paid staff, regardless of their role, wore the same kit as volunteers; in basketball they had to wear dark suits from semi-final stages.

Test event - 5 shifts; Olympic Games - 10 shifts; Paralympics 6 shifts but was personally harder because every day, except one I was either working or spectating. (In the ticket ballot I had managed to get 1 set of tickets for Olympics but nearly all choices for Paralympics)

My shifts were reasonable - 8am start meant 5.50 train; luckily BR run later trains after midnight otherwise I would have had difficulty getting home. (Some volunteers would not finish their shifts until 2AM and for them a taxi was organised.)

Did you receive anything for volunteering?

Uniform - the amount of uniform received depended on role - I was not working with water so I received the normal kit:- All items were our property.

London prepares test event - 2 T shirts and a showerproof jacket; accreditation and oyster card zones 1-6; packed lunch when on shift

Olympics - cap, 2 polo shirts, 2 pairs trousers, 2 pair socks, 1 pair trainers, 1 orange watch, 1 bag with umbrella and water bottle and 1 waterproof jacket and notebook. Accreditation and oyster card.

Paralympics (Conversion) - cap, 2 polo shirts, burgundy watch, conversion kit for jacket. Accreditation and oyster card

Perks - a freshly cooked meal for shifts 6+ hours; 2 for 10 hours+; I did enter a raffle and won a ticket for the Athletes Parade on the Mall. We got some thank you awards - McDonald gamesmaker badges, relay batons with certificates and dairies.

Did you get to see any of the events - if so which and what did you most enjoy?

Games Makers did not have access to watching events as spectators BUT when empty corporate seats were noticed, opportunities became possible at very short notice either before or after a shift. I saw some basketball in the arena - the atmosphere was electric - but my favourite stadium was the Velodrome where I saw Jason Kenny, Victoria Pendleton and Anna Meares race in qualifying rounds and Ed Clancy get his Bronze medal for the Ominem.

My favourite day was 2<sup>nd</sup> September when all my immediate family enjoyed the Olympic Park together.

Did you meet any famous Olympians?

Not meet (apart from Ade Adepitan)- I saw many around, especially the millionaire USA men's basketball team. Quite a few Olympians and Paralmpians came to the training at either Excel or the Venues. I was beside the VIP lounge and we were not allowed to ask questions,/autographs and take photographs. Mike and I met silver medallists on the tube; one had his medal with him- it was heavy.

What do you feel you gained from volunteering?

A huge smile that still hasn't gone. It has given me a self confidence to try new things and talk to strangers - so many people talked to me on the tube and train. I was the only member of my team to do all three events so the paid staff could leave me to help other volunteers.

## OLYMPIC VOLUNTEERS - Interview with Marion Dawes continued: -

And would you do it again?

YES , WITHOUT HESITATION. I had relevant experience as a volunteer at events before and thoroughly enjoyed it but had done nothing like London 2012. I would happily do it again. Some gamesmakers have already applied to volunteer at Glasgow for The Commonwealth Games in 2014 and some intend to be volunteers at Rio in 2016.

Any highlights or special memories?

The memories for me are the walks at night through the Park when I came off duty- the lights shows, cheers from the basketball arena, groans from the hockey pitch, a national anthem rising up from the athletics stadium and roars from the aquatic stadium. Once on the final bridge by the gate, a final look back across the canals, the meadows and seeing the score board shine GOAL on a board 40 minutes' walk away.

Another thought- I was privileged to meet many people whilst in training and on duty. Many people I met were unsure of themselves, talked into their shoes and seemed unlikely to present the professional image that was expected. However, during the Games these same people were talking cheerfully into their megaphones , maintaining eye contact and were a lot of genuine fun.

Remember there were many volunteers not in games makers' uniform - the welcoming ambassadors at stations, the St Johns, the translators and many other organisations. It was a HUGE effort by so many - paid and unpaid, including the Athletes and spectators.

There's been a lot of talk about 'legacy' and this can take many different forms. For some it will be taking exercise or playing or supporting a bit of sport, but equally it can be getting involved with a project (not necessarily sport) and seeing where it leads. I am still looking for this new project.



## Members News

**Pup Aid, Primrose Hill Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September**

SCRUFTS Prettiest Bitch 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Lulu handled by Becky Beauchamp

My Dog's Got talent 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Murphy handled by Pat Beauchamp

## For Sale



Guardsman Tailgate Guard. Top Quality. Good condition.

Purpose made for Vauxhall Astra 2001 Estate. £70.00 ono.

Width 92cm top, 108 cm middle, 105cm bottom

Height - Adjustable - With fittings 78cm. Without fittings 74cm

Contact Vicqui on 07949 249247 for more details



# Agility News

## In House Results:

### CM1 September Competition

- 1<sup>st</sup>: - Polly handled by Robert Hammond
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: - Olly handled by Carl Miller
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: - Bella handled by Lauren Reeves
- 4<sup>th</sup>: - Daisy handled by Rosie Chambers

### CM2 September Competition

- 1<sup>st</sup>: - Scooter handled by Gary Copestake
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: - Jenni handled by Jacqui Reeves
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: - Roxy
- 4<sup>th</sup>: - Bailey handled by Vicki Burrige

### CM3A September Competition

- 1<sup>st</sup>: - Maddie handled by Emily Stevenson
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: - Roxy handled by Faith Rowe
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: - Artful handled by Adrian Turner

### CM3B September Competition

- 1<sup>st</sup>: - Summer handled by Cary Morgan
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: - Scooby handled by Susan Marsland
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: - Boogie handled by David Southern
- 4<sup>th</sup>: - Devon handled by Barbara Endersby



### CJ4A September Competition

- 1<sup>st</sup>: - Oscar handled by Lynn Gibney
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: - Jay Jay handled by Steve Wherlock
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: - Murphy handled by Becky Beauchamp
- 4<sup>th</sup>: - Fred handled by Sue Hedges



### CJ4B June Competition

- 1<sup>st</sup>: - Riley handled by Simon Colborne
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: - Archie handled by Clare Pitts
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: - Mackie handled by Jackie Bulmer

## News From Around the Shows:

### Mapledurham Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September

Beginners Gamblers - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Mackie handled by Jackie Bulmer

# NEW CLASSES STARTING THURSDAY 11<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER

7pm - 8pm

## YOGA WITH YOUR DOG

After successful taster sessions, Jacqui & Lauren Reeves will be offering YOGA WITH YOUR DOG classes on Thursday evenings on a "Pay As You Go" basis, starting on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> October with a **FREE** class. From Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October, classes will cost £5 per session.

Classes are open to everyone who has a close relationship with their dog - or wants to develop one! The exercises each week are based on the trust between dog and owner. As well as relaxation and stretching exercises for both dog and owner, these classes are aimed at improving the bond between you and your dog and are therefore open to everyone to have a try. You only pay for the weeks you can attend, so if you turn up, you pay, if you're not there, you don't pay.

For further information contact Jacqui Reeves on [jacquireeves1@ntlworld.com](mailto:jacquireeves1@ntlworld.com) or call her on 07816 771218.

Give it a go - you may surprise yourself!



NB Each week, participants will be required to sign a disclaimer accepting full responsibility for themselves and their dogs

# Laleham Dog Training Club Calendar 2013

It's that time of year again when I need you all to start looking out your favourite photos of your dogs to include in next year's calendar.

For 2013, we are very fortunate for the calendar to be sponsored not only by Oscar Pet Foods and KDS Agility, but also by: -

A.E.Proctor Ltd - Builders Merchants

Animals Are Us

Car Doctor

DTS Window Cleaning

Little Jo's Pet Business

On Site Services

Passiflora

Red Box Teacher Recruitment Ltd

All these local companies/tradesmen are connected to the Club and provide excellent services. The exact nature of their services and how to contact them will be advertised in the 2013 Calendar.

So what we need now is your photos -  
Photos of your dogs (other pets are allowed, but no people in the photos please).

Please send your photos to me by the **end of October**. You can email them to me at [lynn\\_gibney@talktalk.net](mailto:lynn_gibney@talktalk.net)

Post them to me at Kingfisher house, 9 Rex Avenue, Ashford, Middlesex TW15 2DA

Or hand them to me at classes.

(All original photos will be scanned and then returned)

**MANY THANKS!!**

## COOKING FOR YOUR DOG

If you want to give your dog a change from his/her ordinary diet why not try cooking some healthy treats. Each newsletter, we'll feature a different treat or meal for your dog.

**This month: -**

### **Apple & Carrot Dumplings**



1 apple

1 carrot

150g (5oz) spelt flour (or ordinary all purpose flour)

150g (5oz) coarse rolled oats

2 eggs

3 tablespoons molasses

Water & flour as required

Finely grate the apple and carrot, then mix with the other ingredients to make an easily shaped dough. If necessary add a little extra water or flour.

Preheat the oven to 180°C (350° F). Line a baking tray with greaseproof paper.

Use two teaspoons to shape the mixture into little dumplings and place the dumplings on the baking tray. Bake for 30 minutes, then turn off the heat and let the dumplings dry in the oven. Store in a paper bag. The dumplings will keep for about three weeks.

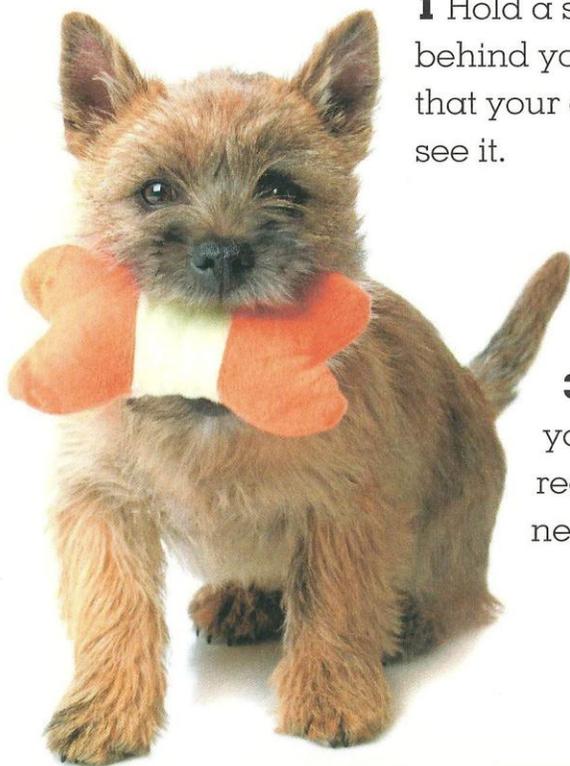
# HOW SMART IS YOUR DOG??

Continuing with this month's test to see how clever your dog is.

## Squeaking



**Life would be dull without a squeaky toy to chew on. But what if pooch can hear the toy and not see it?**



**1** Hold a squeaky toy behind your back so that your dog can't see it.

**2** Start squeaking.

**3** See how your dog reacts to this new sound.

**When the squeaks start, does it:**



Realize the squeaks are coming from behind you?

**5 points**



Stand in front of you wagging its tail?

**4 points**



Appear confused?

**3 points**



Lift its head for a short time?

**2 points**



Not react at all?

**1 point**

**NB:** Your dog should enjoy carrying out these exercises as it will think you are playing, rather than testing it.

If your dog should show signs of distress or becomes agitated, stop the exercise immediately. Keep track of your dog's score by noting the number next to how your dog performed.