

## **World Agility Open Championships 2012**

### **Northern Ireland Team Selection**

The second WAO World Championships will take place at Equestrian Centre de Warre, Belgium from 18th - 20th May 2012 and I am pleased to say that once again I have been invited to organise a team to represent Northern Ireland . For full information about the event, please visit the WAO web page - [www.worldagilityopen.com](http://www.worldagilityopen.com)

This year team selection will take place in 2 stages:

**Stage 1-** Assuming there is sufficient interest there will be a 2-day qualifying competition at The Patch on Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd September. At this all dogs will be measured into their appropriate WAO height category and on both days will compete in one round of Agility, Jumping, Speedstakes, Gamblers and Snooker to earn points based on the number of dogs they beat in each class. Once the 10 runs have been completed the dog with most points in each of the 4 height categories will be guaranteed a place on the N.I. squad and will - as a minimum - be entered in either the individual biathlon or pentathlon class at the world championships.

**Stage 2** - All those that don't automatically qualify (subject to a satisfactory standard being reached and a shortlist limit of 20 dogs) will be invited to attend training sessions during September /October / November and December and on the basis of performance and commitment David Duncan and I will select the remainder of the squad i.e. a minimum of 8 more dogs - making a total of at least 12. The intention would be to have this selection process completed by 31 December 2011.

It is worth noting that training sessions usually take place on Tuesday, Thursday or Friday evenings under floodlight at David Duncan's home or on Saturday mornings at The Patch. As with this year I will make every effort to facilitate those whose work commitments make attendance at these sessions problematical.

#### **Eligibility**

Dog: KC Grades 5, 6 or 7 on 1 September 2011

Handler: To be permanent resident of, or born in, Northern Ireland

### **Costs**

Entry (to the selection process): £20 per dog (maximum per handler £ 40)

**Closing date 15th July 2011 (postmark)**

Competitors will have to pay towards their personal expenses for the WAO event but every effort will be made to minimise these costs through fundraising.

In view of the fact that we will be travelling outside the UK to compete , owners who are seriously interested in trying out for the squad should start the process of arranging pet passports and having their dogs rabies vaccinated as soon as possible.

### **Further information**

Please feel free to discuss any aspect of this event with myself or David Duncan. We want all N.I. handlers to feel a part of what is happening and a warm welcome awaits all those who come on board. My telephone number is 028 9187 8125 or mobile 07840 280276.

### **Next Stage**

If you and your dog fulfil the above entry requirements simply print this email, complete the details below and give it/send it along with your entry fees to meet the above deadline.

Name of Handler:

Address:

Home Telephone No:

Mobile No:

Email:

Dog 1

Pet Name

Breed

KC Grade

Dog 2

Pet Name

Breed

KC Grade

Dog 3

Pet Name

Breed

KC Grade

Dog 4

Pet Name

Breed

KC Grade

Signed :

Date:

*Please note: by entering this selection process you are confirming your ability to attend the entire World Agility Open event, 18th to 20th May 2012.*

Please return to:

Ronnie McAleese

N.I. Team Manager

27 Dermott Walk

Comber

Co. Down

BT23 5NU

Many thanks.