



**WDTC Newsletter**

[www.wdtd.info](http://www.wdtd.info)

**March 2004**

## Editorial

This is traditionally a very busy time for the club, committee, show organisers and members. Yes, you guessed it, we are rapidly approaching the Annual General Meeting. A month later WDTC stages it's annual Open Agility Show at Newbury Showground. This is a very enjoyable, if hectic, event and we will need everyone's help if it is to run smoothly. Someone from the show committee will contact you soon to allocate jobs - some are simple, some are complex but all are vital. You will enjoy the day(s) and your contribution will be much appreciated.

Ian Hutchinson (Editor)

We need help on Friday afternoon marking out camping pitches and rings, parking caravans and generally getting straight. On Saturday morning we'll be setting up rings, parking cars and caravans and allocating trade stands to their pitches. On Saturday afternoon and Sunday, it starts getting busy. (*Wrong - it gets REALLY hectic. Ed*) We have to run three rings - callers, scrimers, runners, people to pick up poles, etc.. - provide refreshments for ring parties and lots of other jobs.

It's hard work, but great fun - honest!

So when I come round with my clipboard - don't run away - your club needs you!

Jacky Hutchinson

## Agility Show 24 & 25 April 2004 Newbury Showground

By now all the entries for the show will be in and the show committee will be making the final arrangements. We will have over 1200 mini, midi and maxi dogs and their handlers, over 100 caravans, hundreds of cars to be parked, trade stands, food stalls - LOTS of jobs to do.

This is a great event that enables everyone in the club to work together. It raises some money for the club, but more than this, it offers all agility competitors a show to attend. If clubs didn't run shows, none of us would be able to compete!

I'll be round soon allocating all agility members, and any other club members who would like to help out, jobs for the weekend.



Carolyn, Jose and Max get in the xmas spirit. The agility xmas games night was a great success and we hope to see you all at this year's games. Many thanks to all competitors and to the organisers for providing the games, food and prizes.

# Kimber Family Fortunes

I went up to London in November to do a demonstration in the YKC ring at Discover Dogs with Mum's dog (not mine unfortunately as I don't have one...yet). Chi found the atmosphere very exciting as most dogs would and I think she enjoyed her day there as much as I did.

I did two demonstrations and two fun races. The fun races were knock-out, having to do a 'U'-shaped course (2 jumps-tunnel-2 jumps) with the dog getting the toy and carrying it back around the same course and over the finish line first to win. Chi won both times at this as she was the only dog who could actually do it properly, which was very good considering she had never done it before (although it was similar to flyball).

Going to Discover Dogs was good practice for Chi to get used to the atmosphere in a place like that. I didn't know it then but I would also qualify her for the YKC junior final at Crufts in March 2004. I had to get at least a clear round in one of the classes I ran in to get to the semi-finals at Birmingham and from then I had to actually win my age group, 12-15yrs, to get to Crufts (the rules have now changed though). There were about 30 juniors in that group and I was very nervous to see if I had won or not. This will be my second year at Crufts as last year I qualified Alison's mini, Barney. Unfortunately he enjoyed being in the spotlight too much to go very fast but I was looking forward to competing again in 2004.

Crufts was great fun for me and I hope it made Chi more confident at places like Crufts with lots of people. It was really nice to have the chance to be there. There were lots of things to do and lots of shops. There was even a climbing wall, which I had a few goes on. As always there was discover dogs with many interesting breeds.

My competition was the Junior agility handler of the year competition. Everybody there had qualified and we all had to go through yet another qualifier to get in the main ring. While I was waiting for my friend's turn Chi waited with mum outside the ring, flopped down and went to sleep! The first 3 of each category went through to the main ring to compete for the winner's trophy. Unfortunately I got 10 faults in the qualifiers so I did not get into the main finals. However we did go to watch the finals in the main ring. All the competitors ran and the winner of each category had to do a run off. The winner this year was in the Standard 19-25 category, Lee Gibson. Overall Crufts was a really exciting experience for me and I hope to qualify for next year as well.

Jenny Kimber

During a very busy week at Supadogs in 2003 Chi and I qualified for the Novice final with a 10<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> place! (Todd had the highest place all week with an 8<sup>th</sup> in Novice Jumping!)

The final started with the jumping course. It was a good flowing course with a few places where several handling techniques could be applied. Chi whizzed round this course and was then in 2<sup>nd</sup> place. This meant a long wait in the boiling sun (fortunately there was quite a lot of shade) before our agility run. Chi and I had a little discussion as how to do the jumps after the A-frame but remained clear then the dog walk. I wasn't sure if she was on the contact or not – time stood still – I eventually summoned the courage to look and she was! Off we went and Chi flew over the last few jumps. Overall we'd



managed to hold second place – although I was told I'd probably held on the dog walk for at least a second and could have won. However this was Chi's performance of the week!

At the Agility Club show at Luton Chi and I had a clear in the Crufts team event only to be told we had to run again as the timer was not working for our round. The judge explained that my clear

would stand except he wanted to make sure I worked the contacts as before – so no pressure! I probably held the contacts longer than in the first round but managed another clear leaving us in 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

From Luton we went on to Dogs In Need. There are few classes for dogs each day but at least these included 2 novice classes. On the whole the agility courses were not too stretching. On Wednesday I walked the course with Jenny (it's always interesting to hear her views). It didn't seem too difficult. We managed a clear round which was obviously a rare thing for this course as although we ran about three-quarters of the way through the class the ring party actually ran after us with our clear round rosette. Jenny kept going back and checking our time. We'd actually won by nearly a second and Chi had gone senior! (Last year we managed a win in a Novice Jumping class at Severnside.)

We managed a few other places after this including a 4<sup>th</sup> in both Novice Jumping and Novice Agility at Chipping Norton, a 5<sup>th</sup> in Open Agility at Wilton and a 4<sup>th</sup> in Intermediate Jumping at Longleat. We also had a win in Open Agility at a limited show at Melton Mowbray.

Now we're in seniors I hope Chi doesn't ditch me for a better handler!

Gill Kimber



## Flyball Report

Our main activity this winter has been recruiting new beginners. With improved weather they have started training with enthusiasm. There are now fewer competitions in this area, but we were able to take a team to Market Harborough as Gill reports below.

Gill with Jill Lowe also went all the way to Newark for another competition. All I can say is that they tried - what an effort to go all that way. But I think a lesson was learned - keep up the training!

So we now look forward to spring, better weather, consistent training and introducing Cleverdogs when we can get some equipment. We hope everyone has a successful summer.

Jean Hatchard

### Market Harborough Flyball Jan 2004

I sent the entry off for this competition shortly after receiving the schedule. Despite this we were informed by return that the show was already full. It seems a lot of the entries were sent return of post on receiving the schedule. However the Sunday before the tournament I was rung to see if we would be able to compete with one of our teams. A quick ring round and it seemed we had enough dogs (6) with the minimum no of handlers (my daughter Jenny agreed to help) still available so the Knights team was entered.

As the Knights did not have a current seed time I submitted one of 20.5 seconds - slightly slower than our best time of 2003. This put us bottom seed in division 3 with our 1<sup>st</sup> race against the top seed. Running Chi, Misty, Todd (swapping Polly) and Flicker. We won three legs to two recording a very creditable 20.22 seconds. This was the fastest time in the division and we had beaten the top seeds!

Unfortunately we lost our next two races in three legs so for our final race we decided to take Chi and Flicker out to give Willow a chance and to see if Todd could get those few extra points he needed for graduate flyball dog. This time I was going to run Todd as he seemed to be slowing down with Jenny running him. We managed to go to 5 legs but were beaten in the last.

We came 5<sup>th</sup> out of 6 teams in the division although we did manage the fastest time for the division. Todd needs 10 points for his graduate award which I hope he can get next time he competes.

This was the first Knights competition since July and it was good to get back on the competitive scene.

Gill Kimber

Knights and Sleepless Knights next competition is at Market Harborough on 28 March.

### Newark 14 Feb 2004

It felt like it could still have been Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>!

Even before the racing started we were struggling

1. Because Newark is quite a long way North, only Gill & I were happy to travel there. Between us we have 5 good flyball dogs, however we had to persuade our families to help as we needed to have at least 4 handlers from the Knights team - so thanks go to Michael, Richard, Jenny and Donna. We were also indebted to Simon, Dave and Jean from the Molton Magnets team for box loading, watching changes and generally giving us advice.

2. We had been put as bottom seed in Division 1 - with teams that could run over 2 seconds faster than our fastest time ever.

3. It started raining as we left the M1 and headed for Newark and didn't stop until we got back on the M1 on the way home!

For me the day hit rock bottom during the first race when the muscle in my calf went "ping"; it was, and still is 3 days later, very painful.

Even though we remained in our seed position (last) there is no doubt that all the dogs enjoyed the days racing as always.

The good news - both of Gill's dog have qualified for Flyball awards - **Congratulations:**

- Chi is now an Intermediate Flyball dog, having gained over 1000 points
- Todd is now a Graduate Flyball dog, having gained over 3000 points

Jill Lowe

## Reminders

### Flyball

Neither you nor any of your fellow team members will be awarded points if you compete without current membership, so don't forget to renew your BFA subscription.

### Agility

The Agility Eye magazine runs an agility league system, awarding points to each handler/dog partnership for places won in Open competition (1 point for 15<sup>th</sup> place up to 15 points for 1<sup>st</sup> place). Points won are also added to those of the training club you registered with the Eye, so please re/subscribe to the Eye now before the agility season gets into full swing. Ask for a form on Thursday evening.

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## Agility Points, Awards and Club Leagues

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I only started to compete with any real chance of getting rosettes last year, which is when I got interested in the 'points' and 'awards' that lots of agility people were talking about. It's all a bit confusing, because there are two schemes; I thought you might like to hear what they are.

**The Agility Club** holds annual awards for different categories, including Starter Dog of the Year, Novice Dog of the Year, Mini dog of the Year, Veteran Handler of the Year etc... This year, it has started a league for clubs, with a Premier Division, and four other Divisions (Division 1 to Division 4). Wallingford has been put three from the bottom in Division 2 (this equates to club number 66 out of 123 clubs - pretty much in the middle).

At the end of the year, just like football divisions, clubs at the top of each league get promoted, those at the bottom get relegated. For the Agility Club League, the top three clubs go up, the bottom three drop down a division. The winners of each division are awarded a shield.

The award year runs from 1st October 2003 to 30th September 2004. Anyone who has joined the Agility Club is eligible to gather points for any placings better than 11th in their nominated category (eg for me it's 'Starter Dog'), and these points are awarded to your nominated club too. You have to send these points to the Agility Club (10 points for 1st place, 1 point for 10th place).

When I started agility (many moons ago), handlers trained with only one club. These days, many handlers train at different clubs, nominating one club to receive their points. We'd like our 'new' members who train at agility and will start competing for the first time this year to join the Agility Club and nominate Wallingford as your Club.

The Club has several new dogs with the potential of getting points this year so we would like to aim to get the Club into the top half of Division 2.

If you'd like to join the Agility Club (annual membership for an adult is £24, and £30 for a family) see a member of the Club for a form (they get three free months attendance if they nominate a new member). Other benefits for joining the Agility Club includes a Starter Dog Agility Challenge, 'winning out' certificates, reduced entry

fees for their annual shows, and you get the monthly magazine 'the Voice'.

Check out <http://www.agilityclub.co.uk/> and use the navigation bar on the left of the screen to look at 'Annual Awards' for all the details.

Another monthly magazine that agility people subscribe to, and through which points can be awarded to you club, is the **Agility Eye**. The advantage of this scheme is that results are sent automatically to 'The Eye' by Show Secretaries, so you don't have to send in your results. Another difference is that you get points up to 15th place (15 points for 1st place, 1 point for 15th). Results are always printed when they receive them from show secretaries, and a list of the different categories (Starter, Novice etc in the different regions) and the 260 clubs for which they keep scores (in the last list Wallingford is just below half way with 339 points).

The annual subscription for the Agility Eye is £22 (no additional cost for a household), and details can be found on their website:  
<http://www.agilityeye.co.uk/>

If you want any information about Agility - checkout the Agility Eye website (see above), and Agilitynet ([www.agilitynet.com](http://www.agilitynet.com)) which are both excellent sites for general information about the sport and shows.

Jacky

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## Wallingford Club Annual Agility Awards

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When you win a place up to 15th, don't forget to enter points into the Club's own award scheme. You need to claim your points by putting the information in the box at agility; your name and that of your dog, the name and date of the show, details of the class, and the category. These define your level - those starting out in agility will be in the Elementary category, then there are categories for Starter, Novice and Senior levels, and for Mini and Midi dogs. For anyone who feels they are unlikely to get placings, for example if you have a slower, but accurate dog, you may choose to enter it into the 'Clear Round' category. The scheme runs from 1st January this year, to the end of December 2004, and awards will be presented at the AGM in March 2005.

You can get a copy of the rules from Alison (who is running this scheme) or me.

For this, and the external award schemes, it is important to realise that only points from 'standard' classes at approved KC registered shows are accepted. So you aren't able to register points from fun or limited shows, from team or pair competitions, or from special classes like helter skelter or gamblers.

David

# **WDTC AGM**

**Wednesday 24 March**

**East Hagbourne Village Hall**

**7.15pm for 7.30pm start**

**Election of committee**

**Reports from:**

*treasurer*

*agility*

*pet dog obedience*

*flyball*

**Presentation of awards**

**Light refreshments**

**TALK BY  
ANIMAL  
PHYSICAL THERAPIST  
JESS HIGGINBOTTOM**

**All welcome**

**Please let Ian Hutchinson**

**Tel: 01235 835 442**

**Email: jacian@ntlworld.com**

**know if you're coming**

**(to cater for the right number).**

## **Dear Protector of Dogs and Fools:**

When that intelligent, hardworking, honest judge finally sees what I see in this dog that I've worked so hard and long with, help me to accept my win with grace and dignity.

And, when that blind, clueless idiot—I mean, judge—somehow fails to see what a fine job we've done, (well, at least better than the so-and-so he placed ahead of us!), help me to accept my defeat with some of that same grace and dignity.

Lord, you alone know how I've sweated blood over this dog, the hours I've spent getting her ready (and, Lord, are any of them ever ready?).

You (and probably only you!) understand why I've spent good money on this animal—money I could have spent on lots of other things—things that just might have afforded me a little more pleasure and a lot less frustration.

Lord, tolerate my disappointment when I lose, and help me keep it all in perspective.

Help me remember that when some dog show judge gives me the gate, it's not as if St. Peter just gave me those pearly ones.

Lord, clear my eyes and help me see, \*before\* I open my big mouth, that the so-and-so with the cow-hocked, pony-gaited dink walking out of the ring ahead of me is actually a fellow exhibitor who has also worked hard, maybe even sweated blood over his dog too, and probably deserves to enjoy this moment to its fullest while it lasts.

Lord, you know there are sometimes—but not nearly as often as I intend to suppose when I lose—such ugly things as Politics, Prejudice, and Unethical Practices, which may cause my dog to get beaten unfairly—sometimes. Help me, then, to remember that several wrongs won't ever make a right, and that none of the wrongs gives me an excuse to act like an idiot.

You know I'm a competitor, Lord; I make no bones about that. I love to win and I hate to get beat. There are few things more abhorrent to me, Lord, than placing sixth out of six. If I didn't love to compete, I'd stay home and knit afghans. But then, there are probably afghan shows, and people who hire professional knitters with high-tech knitting machines, and most likely there are afghan show judges who raise sheep whose wool goes into some of the winningest afghans, and there I'd be—still frustrated, still getting beat, and without a dog to share the blame.

This year, Lord, help me to have a little more faith in my fellow dog folks, and for Heaven's sake, help me win, or lose, with a little class.

*Anon (from thw Web)*



# BOASTS

The following list was compiled from results written on the boast sheets (please use them) and other results that have come to my attention. As ever please let me know of any successes, large or small, in any discipline, and I'll endeavor to include them here.

Since the last Watchdog magazine, **Rosie Dains won out of elementary, winning elementary jumping with Daisy. Congratulations to Rosie.**

**Yvonne** was successful at **Newton Heath** in November, getting 19<sup>th</sup> with **Tali** in ABC Novice Agility and two other clear rounds with **Tali**, and one with **Ice**. They also did well at the WAG fun show, getting 7<sup>th</sup> in Starters Agility and 9<sup>th</sup> in Starters Jumping with Ice, and 8<sup>th</sup> in Starters Jumping with Tali.

A small contingency of minis went to **Solihull** in December, with clear rounds for **Pam & Ashley** in Jumping and Agility. It's good to see **Honey** still going well for **Jose** – getting a clear round in the jumping, and 11<sup>th</sup> in the agility.

**David** and **Alison** were at **North Downs** on 7<sup>th</sup> February, and **Alison** was delighted to beat Diesel when she came 5<sup>th</sup> in **Intermediate Jumping** with **Teak!** (For anyone who hasn't kept up with results from Crufts Agility, Simon and Diesel won the Singles Agility final, and the Agility Championship.) **David** had a 1<sup>st</sup> with **Saffie** in **Senior Agility**, and had two 2<sup>nd</sup> places with **Billy** – in both **Intermediate** and **Senior Agility**.

On the same day that David and Alison were at North Downs, several club members were at the **Corton** Limited Show. **Yvonne** had two clear rounds and a place with each of her dogs (8<sup>th</sup> with **Tali** and 9<sup>th</sup> with **Ice** in **Open Agility**), while **Jacky** got 7<sup>th</sup> in the **Clockwatcher** with **Lazer**. Among the mini handlers at **Corton** (see separate report from Jose for the full story) **Luce** and **Flicker** were 7<sup>th</sup> in **Mini Starter Jumping**, while **Pam** and **Ashley** had two clears, and a 5<sup>th</sup> in **Mini Starter Agility**.

**Yvonne** had success in October when **Shankly** went **Best Puppy** in breed, qualifying for **Crufts**, where she got 3<sup>rd</sup> in **Special Junior**.

And finally, a short note from Jose: *"I would like to thank very much all my trainers for helping me and Poppy, who got her first clear round rosette at Golden Cross on 28<sup>th</sup> February, coming 14<sup>th</sup> out of 90 dogs"*.

## Minis Step Out

Corton in February was our first show of the year. Pam and I set out at 7.30 to be at Wootton Bassett in good time for our competition. As usual at this time of year the exercise area was very muddy. The first round was agility with a course time of 50s. Honey and I went first but she forgot what a tunnel was and got 5 faults. Pam had a cracking round with Ashleyin 34.75 and finished 5th.

Poppy was next but she was overwhelmed by the noise, people and dogs. She waited behind the first jump but when we set off she was all over the place, thoroughly enjoying herself. She did eventually start to listen and I was encouraged she would be OK.

The second run was jumping. Pam and Rowan were first and to Pam's delight Rowan kept going and finished with just one second time fault. Then it was Poppy again and this time she had 5 faults - my mistake for disappearing too quickly when she went in the tunnel - but it was a fast round. Ashley had a good run for a clear round rosette and Honey got herself eliminated.

Next round was clockwatcher - Ashley again getting a clear round rosette, Poppy had 5 faults in the weaves and Honey again forgot what the tunnel was. Do you think she felt a bit put out by Poppy's competition?

Jose Rostagni

## Dates for your diary

**Wednesday 24 March 2004 - Annual General Meeting – East Hagbourne Village Hall – start at 7pm**

**Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 April 2004 - WDTC open agility show - Newbury Showground**

### Is Your Dog Too Fat?

This seems very unscientific but could prove useful survey material.

Measure his waist circumference and his length from nose to tail. Divide his length by his girth. If the resultant figure is < 0.75, he is obese. If it is < 1.0, he is fat. If it is < 1.5, he is average, < 2.0 equals slim and over 2.0 is too slim.

Or not.....?

## Watchdog

Please give articles, results, letters and news items to Ian Hutchinson or a trainer to pass on, or you can email to [jacian@ntlworld.com](mailto:jacian@ntlworld.com).