



**WDTC Newsletter**

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

**January 2006**

## Editorial

Well, another hectic year has come and gone but there is no rest for the wicked and committee and show committee are busily trying to catch up and finish preparations to get both the Annual General Meeting and our Open Agility Show on track. Show preparations have been a little slow getting off the mark (it doesn't help that the show date is a week earlier than usual this year) but since the majority of entries are done electronically via ISS now the delay should not prove too detrimental. As usual we will require the help of all members to make the show a success so please make sure you reserve the weekend of 22/23 April.

I can only apologise for the scarcity of Watchdog in 2005 - I guess I over-committed myself with shows and training (more than ever in about 15 years involvement in the sport!).

One thing I can no longer blame is KCGC training on Wednesday evening. Sadly WDTC had to cancel these popular classes in the summer when, over a few months, many of our regular trainers found they could no longer spare the time. I would like to thank them for all the time they gave the club (free of charge - like all our trainers).

Finally, the committee and I and the trainers would like to wish everyone a **happy new year** and good luck in the coming season.

Ian Hutchinson (Editor)

## Jon and Flag at Olympia

Jon Szegota and Flag, having qualified at Stoneleigh during the summer for the *KC / Pedi-*



*Image courtesy of Roger Stacey*

*gree* finals at Olympia, made the trip to London on Sunday 18 December.

Sunday saw the debut of the new Novice Agility Stakes Final. Sixteen heats were held during the year at shows throughout the UK which produced 45 handlers and dogs to compete in a semi final at the City of Birmingham Show in September. The top 35 competitors from this semi final were subsequently invited to compete in an Olympia Semi Final on the Sunday morning with the top ten going straight through to the Novice Agility Stakes Grand Final in the evening.

Unfortunately Jon didn't make it to the final but nonetheless it is a fantastic achievement to get to compete at Olympia so huge congratulations to Jon.

Olympia is a great afternoon or evening out and is recommended viewing for anyone interested in all things agility (it helps if you are also interested in horses - so doubly exciting for Sheila!).

Tasha was also competing alongside Jon, with Fats, a dog borrowed from the Frazers. Tasha made it to the evening final but unfortunately fell foul of John Gilbert's course and was eliminated.

Good luck to them and the rest of our agility competitors in 2006.

## 2006 show

On Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April a contingency from the Wallingford Dog Training Club will have set up camp at Newbury Showground ready to set up for our annual open agility show. Components for the show will start to arrive: the marquee (for judges lunches and secretarial paraphernalia) and 2 large lorries full of agility equipment are the first key arrivals. But some punters also start arriving with their caravans, so one of the first jobs is to mark camping pitches. Then helping to unload the lorries ensuring that the right equipment goes to the right rings, and booking in the Friday night campers. There is usually something of a get-together of members who have helped, and the following Saturday morning courses are set up during the morning for the small and medium dogs, judges welcomed, trade stands set up, and the show starts around midday.

This year we are holding a very exciting event at our show. A colleague from another club, Karen Stanbrook, is organising a Guinness World Record attempt – for a dog doing 60 weaves. She is aiming to raise money for the Meningitis Research Foundation. If you've never seen this, it is really impressive watching the superfast weavers in action over 60 weaves. The current Guinness world record for 60 weaves is held by Jazz, a collie, who gained the record in December 1999 in South Africa. If you have access to the internet, check out the Guinness World Record website ([www.guinnessworldrecords.com](http://www.guinnessworldrecords.com)) and enter 'weaving' in the search window, and you can see it. Oh – I forgot to say the time: an impressive 12.98 seconds.

There is also special training ring being run by an ex-member of our club – Jo Fraser. Jo is an excellent trainer - encouraging, inspiring and entertaining – all rolled into one. We will be giving club members who help out at the show priority. Details later.

Running a show is tremendous hard work, but it's something I always look forward to. It's a time when club members all join forces and work together. And we really do need all your help. From Friday 21<sup>st</sup> to (and especially on) Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April - when the show starts early in the morning – we have jobs for everyone.

Please book out this weekend in your diaries, and we will be in touch with you all with more details.

## Dates for your diary

**Saturday 11 February – start of the Yukon Quest International dogsled race.** 29 teams are scheduled to start. This race is the "Toughest Sled Dog Race in the World". Teams comprising one human musher and 14 dogs compete against each other over 1026 miles (1651 kms) – the winner taking just over 11 days. [www.yukonquest.com](http://www.yukonquest.com)

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January – start of the Chinese New Year.** The Chinese New Year starts on the first new moon of the year and celebrations last until the full moon 15 days later. 2006 is the year of the dog, one of 12 animals that are assigned to each year in turn. You were born into the year of the dog if you were born in 1946, 1958, 1970, 1982, or 1994.

**Thursday 9 to Sunday 12 March – Crufts at the NEC in Birmingham.** For those interested in going, Thursday is for Working and Pastoral breeds, Friday for the terrier and hound group, toy and utility breeds will be shown on the Saturday and the Gundog group on the Sunday. There are also agility, flyball and obedience competitions and many demonstrations and displays. There's not much on the Kennel Club website yet, but I'm sure this will be populated soon.

**Wednesday 22 March - WDTC AGM at East Hagbourne Village Hall.** Come along and elect your committee, cheer on all those who receive awards, natter while you nibble cheese and sip wine, and listen to a canine-related presentation. Normally I would have the name of our guest speaker, but we are still organising this so you will get this information later.

**Saturday 22 April to Sunday 23 April – WDTC Open Show at Newbury Showground.**

**Saturday 22 &  
Sunday 23 April 2006  
Open Agility Show**



**Newbury Showground**

# Still life in the old dog yet!

On Friday June 3<sup>rd</sup> Chris and I packed our camping gear into the car and set off in the rain heading west towards the Land of my Fathers. We were off to the Wye Valley Show in Monmouth and our first camp of the year. We were in good spirits especially as the weather improved the closer we got to Offa's Dyke. In fact the sun was shining bright and there had been no rain, a welcome fact when you have a large tent to put up. Once established we cooked a gourmet meal, pasta and sausage for Chris, melted corned beef and baked beans for me, washed down with our favourite beverages sat in the evening sunshine. Life doesn't get much better!

Saturday morning was warm but overcast, good agility weather. With a good cooked breakfast inside us we set off to walk the early courses, meeting and greeting familiar faces as we did the rounds. Chris and I both had 4 classes each day and were looking forward to getting a good run or two and taking some ribbon home. The day didn't start too well with neither of us in tune with our dogs, Bryn even suffering temporary claustrophobia, refusing two tunnels in one class.

In the afternoon I had Intermediate Agility Part 2 to look forward to. The course would be the same as Part 1 and didn't look too difficult, but I had doubts put into my mind as the results were called out, only 9 clear rounds! Had I missed something, or walked the wrong ring? (Wouldn't be the first time!). Better walk it again when it was open for walking. Once in the ring I just worked Bryn and made more effort with getting the contacts (just for a change) and ran out clear which pleased me as it is not a regular event. Before I could get things together a friend told me that I was in the lead by 2 seconds. However, this was early days with half the class still to run.

As the afternoon progressed I watched the odd run and as the 'end of class' went out I had to move away; the tension was making me feel ill. We were still leading although there were a number of handlers/dogs in the queue I knew could beat us. As I sat by the tent Chris came running up beaming 'you've won' he called, more pleased than I was. It took a while to sink in; we had won a class for the first time in nearly 2 years, not only that but Bryn and I were now Senior and a quarter of the way to Advanced! It could not be a better end to an agility day - or could it? At the presentation it was announced that the win had made us Senior which made me smile. I gave Bryn a fuss - he had done

me proud at 7 years old. We accepted our rosette and large cup and prepared to make our way back to the tent, but there was icing to be put on the cake! Putting the results of both parts of Intermediate Agility together put Bryn and me on top and earned us the Intermediate Agility Shield for a year. Previous holders included Sarah Jane Davies who had won it 3 times and the holder for the last 2 years was Steve Paterson who I train with on Mondays. He says I have it on loan, but we'll see!

Sunday was more relaxed, I had done what I had wanted to do for a long time although not quite the way I imagined. We ran the team with Lisa and Carol, not bad but not clear and I was really mentally packing ready for the journey home. Novice Agility before lunch in Yvonne Goode's ring looked like a fast one, just a couple of subtle traps to catch the unwary.

On our run Bryn showed that getting his contacts the day before was no fluke by doing it again. The run home was a straight run of 4 obstacles; I have a habit of racing Bryn over sections like this so eased back a bit just to keep the round clear. Chris checked my time and said that I was in second place, one hundredth of a second behind the leader who apparently would have been happy to swap places! A 16<sup>th</sup> in a jumping class rounded the weekend off for me. I could not have wished for more, three rosettes, two large cups and a shield to take home. Sam (Stevens) is right, there is nothing like a bit of silverware to put on your shelf to remind you of days like these. The downside to the weekend was that Chris had problems with Fly refusing to weave properly in all his classes, typically in training the next week he hardly put a paw wrong!

Mick Chambers



## My Dog Honey



Honey was chosen to play the part of Sandy in *Annie* which was playing for 4 days at The Corn Exchange in Newbury. Other than at dog events she has never performed in public but she took to her stage role with gusto and was loved by all the children in the cast, especially Annie (Georgina). They became good friends from the moment they met. On stage, Honey had to go to Annie on her own which she did perfectly every time. She received eight congratulations cards and two toys and I am very proud of her achievement. Honey and I enjoyed every bit of the show. The cast were brilliant - I couldn't have asked for nicer people. It was certainly a show to remember.

And this is the newest addition to the Jose house-



hold - Pera (the Terror). He was an unwanted waif (big Ahh) who now spends his time trying to boss around his two newly acquired sisters Honey and Poppy (Grrr). He is looking forward to appearing on stage in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*.

Jose Rostagni

## Measuring at KC Shows

This year sees two significant changes in Kennel Club agility. The height of the jumps and other equipment has changed, and the height limits for dogs has also changed. Also, from now on, *all* dogs need to be measured prior to their first show.

- Mini dogs will be called '*small*' dogs (original, or what?) and are those measuring 35cms or under at the withers. Jumps will be 35cms.
- Midi dogs will be called '*medium*' and are those measuring over 35cms and 43cms or under at the withers. They will jumps at 45cms.
- *Large* dogs are those measuring over 43cms at the withers and they will be jumping 65cms jumps.

All dogs need to be Kennel Club registered and measured before they compete at a Kennel Club agility show. The measuring needs to done after the dog is 15months old, and obviously if they are to compete when they are 18months, this gives handlers a 3 month window. If your dog is microchipped, you only need your Agility Record Book (see Luce to get one) which has been completed with your dog's KC registered name and the owner's details. If your dog is not microchipped, you need a good photograph of your dog fixed to your Record Book.

We are hoping to book measuring at our show, and will ensure that club members get priority. Do ask your trainer if you need more information.

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## Vets Prescriptions

The Supply of Relevant Veterinary Medicinal Products Order 2005 came into force on 31st October last year. The Order implements the recommendations of the Competition Commission in their [2003 report on the supply of prescription-only medicines for veterinary use \(POMs\)](#).

The Order requires:

- veterinary surgeons not to charge for writing prescriptions for three years;
- manufacturers of relevant veterinary medicinal products to provide veterinary surgeons and pharmacists with information about the prices of relevant veterinary medicinal products; and
- veterinary manufacturers and wholesalers to supply relevant veterinary medicinal products to pharmacies and veterinary surgeons on the same terms for the same volumes supplied over the same time period.

## Rhea (5/3/91 - 2/4/05)

Rhea came to us as an 8-week-old working Cocker Spaniel puppy and died suddenly (heart attack?) 13 years 11 months later aged 14.

Rhea was always an outdoor dog. As a youngster we took her out on our small motor boat on local rivers and canals. She tried to chase ducks, but never caught them.

But she particularly enjoyed mountain and cliff climbing and scrambling, which she did at every opportunity. After a climb to the top of Cairn Gorm and down again, when her feet were raw between the pads, she still managed to chase ducks in the evening!

At 18 months she managed to escape and run across a main road. Inevitably she was hit by a car and sustained a

broken pelvis and dislocated hip. Amazingly, these eventually healed, despite her tearing out stitches and breaking the pin holding her hip so that half the pin was left in her body for the rest of her life!

When she was 4, she and I started agility, initially to try to keep her occupied. We soon joined WDTC and she proved to be a small midi dog, but one rather lacking in both speed and



concentration! In particular, she was attracted by stalls selling food such as pigs' ears (not in her normal diet) and often ran out of the ring to visit them. At shows, I had to position myself between Rhea and the stalls throughout every run! However, she did manage a few clear rounds and

minor places. Probably her best effort was achieving 5<sup>th</sup> in Midi Agility at Mid-Downs in her last year of competition. This gained 11 points for the Club, the only Club points for a month or two!

Rhea retired from agility at 11 due to a tumour on her backside, which was eventually removed successfully. But she still liked jumping logs and ditches when out on walks, her favourite occupation in her old age. Even near the end of her life she always

did her walks with our other cockers, including two 30 min walks the day before she died!

Rhea was definitely her own person - *she* decided what *she* would do or not do! So she died in her own time, no messing about with vets. That's Rhea for you! But her legacy is - two more cockers, Willow and Flicker, with whom I'm trying to do better. *'Rest in Peace, Rhea'*.

Luce Green

### A Dog's Plea

Treat me kindly, my beloved friend, for no heart in all the world is more grateful for kindness than the loving heart of me.

Do not break my spirit with a stick, for although I should lick your hand between blows, your patience and understanding will quickly teach me the things you would have me learn. Speak to me often, for your voice is the world's sweetest music, as you must know by the fierce wagging of my tail when your footsteps falls upon my waiting ear.

Please take me inside when it is cold and wet, for I am a domesticated animal, no longer accustomed to bitter elements. I ask no greater glory than the privilege of sitting at

your feet beside the hearth. Keep my pan filled with fresh water, for I cannot tell you when I suffer thirst.

Feed me clean food that I may stay well, to romp and play and do your bidding, to walk by your side and stand ready, willing and able to protect you with my life, should your life be in danger. And, my friend, when I am very old, and I no longer enjoy good health, hearing and sight, do not make heroic efforts to keep me going. I am not having any fun. Please see that my trusting life is taken gently. I shall leave this earth knowing with the last breath I draw that my fate was always safest in your hands.

Unknown

# That was Elementary my dear Fly!



At the end of our first season of agility Fly (Flynnstastic Firefly) and I had managed 4 clear rounds, the best one was 10<sup>th</sup> in Elementary Jumping at Corton giving us 6 points in the Agility Eye tables. My target for 2005 was to get at least 10 points. Fly was still young and liked to try to herd me around the ring, this meant I sometimes came home with bites and torn clothes. Things were slowly getting better, sometimes I came home without any new rips or blood on me.

In April 2005 we started our season with the Wallingford Show, pole picking for the minis in the cold and damp on the Saturday and doing our own classes on Sunday. With 10 faults in each of our runs we were awarded Best Junior!

Vyne was not very successful but at Caerphilly, where Mick was celebrating his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday in the village where he grew up, things were much better. In Open Helter Skelter Fly and I got round clear but were slowly nudged out of the places. A 12<sup>th</sup> place in Starters Jumping was followed by a good 5 point run in Starters Agility. I was happy; two rosettes to take home and no torn clothes! Worcester and Chippenham brought more Clear Round rosettes. Wye Valley was a great weekend for Mick who won Intermediate Agility to go Senior; he also got 2<sup>nd</sup> in Novice Agility to prove it wasn't a fluke. The least said about Fly and me the better, 7 E's out of 8 runs ☺.

Golden Valley was our next show where we managed a Clear Round in Elementary Jumping, so I was smiling again. We only did one day at Tuffley because someone left it too late to enter and we couldn't camp! My Mum came to watch

for the first time and saw us get 5<sup>th</sup> in Elementary Jumping, we had also managed to meet our points target, at the half way point in our season we had 15 points. The next week we did the Soxon Limited Show and won both the Beginners Classes, starters/elementary equivalent. The Agility Club weekend saw all the good things happen at the same time. We got 3<sup>rd</sup> in Starters Agility and Elementary Jumping, and 4<sup>th</sup> in Starters Jumping. At Aylesbury we were 4<sup>th</sup> in Elementary Jumping, 3<sup>rd</sup> in Starters Jumping at Dordale, a clear round in Novice Jumping at Trent Park and 2<sup>nd</sup> in Elementary Jumping at Chippenham. I was enjoying my agility more and often had people come up to me to say 'Well done' or 'Good round' which was nice.

My agility trainers often say 'finish on a good one' and as the Bromsgrove Weekend show was our last show for this year that is what we did. We were 2<sup>nd</sup> in Elementary Agility, 6<sup>th</sup> in Junior Jumping with Bryn, 7<sup>th</sup> in Starters Jumping and 23<sup>rd</sup> in Novice Jumping. What a great way to end the season. I had wanted at least 10 Agility Eye points, we got 125! Mick only managed 73 points, but then he did go Senior and has to do harder courses now. My favourite class was Starters Agility at The Agility Club Show where we were 3<sup>rd</sup> as this was a good run and won us out of Elementary.

I am now looking forward to next year and my targets are 80 points and to win out of Starters, it would be nice to do that at our own show. Thank you to all my trainers who have helped Fly and me in 2005, we hope we can do the same next year.

Chris Chambers.

# 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.

## Chippenham

Lin & Hattie, 4th in Int Mid J, 2nd in Open Mid J,  
2nd Open Int Mid A.

Chris & Fly, 2nd in El J.

## Shuttleworthe

Yvonne & Shankley, 5th in NJ.

Yvonne & Tali, 10th in NJ.

## Hazlemere

Sam & Dylan, 1st in Int J.

## Wallingford

Sam & Dylan, 1st in Int A.

Carolyn & Max, 3rd in NJ.

Gill & Lexie, 12th in SJ.

## Otley

Sam & Dylan, 2nd in Sen A (Olympia).

Alison & Jinx, 5th, Sen A (Olympia) & 1st, Int A.

## Scrambles (UKA)

Jenny & Chi, 3rd in Sen A.

Sam & Dylan, 3rd in Champ A.

## Easter Celebration

Ian & Gunner, 2nd in NA(KC).

Sam & Dylan, 1st in IntA & 5th in Sen J.

Gill & Chi, 15th in Int A.

Alison & Jinx, 6th in Int J.

David & Jinx, 1st in Sen J.

Alison & Teak, 7th in Int J.

## Thame

Gill & Lexie, 3rd in StA, 5th in OA, 4th in OJ.

## Dashin Dogs

Jill & Misty, 5th in Sen A & 9th in OA.

Donna & Katie, 4th in NJ.

## Dordale

Sam & Dylan, 1st in Int A, 1st in OJ, 1st in Sen J,  
1st in OJ, 3rd in Int J. **WOW!**

## Thames

Sam & Dylan, 1st in Int J, 5th in Champ A.

## Vyne

Sam & Dylan, 1st Champ A.

Luce & Willow, 17th in SA.

## Tonbridge Wells

Sam & Dylan, 1st in Int A.

## Bats

Sam & Dylan, 1st in OJ.

Alison & Jinx, 3rd in Int A.

## Cranbourne

Kevin & Solo, 1st in NA.

Alison & Jinx, 1st in IA.

## Supadogs

Sam & Dylan, 1st in Sen A, 1st Int J, 2nd Ad J,  
2nd OJ.

## Golden Valley

Sam & Dylan, 2nd in OJ.

Alison & Jinx, 3rd in Int J.

## Isle of Man

Jose & Honey, 3rd in A.

Jose & Poppy, 2nd in A.

## Tuffley

Chris & Fly, 5th in El J.

Jenny & Razz, 12th in Sen A.

Sam & Dylan, 2nd in Int J.

## Agility Club

Pippa & Daisy, 8th in SA & 6th in SJ.

## Wrexham

Kevin & Jess, 10th in Int J.

Kevin & Solo, 6th in Sen A.

## UK A

Luce & Flicker, 2x1st moving into Novice.

Jon & Flag, 1st in NA.

Jenny & Kimber, 2nd in 24" National Finals.

## EMDAC

Luce & Flicker, win Dog of the Year for most points..

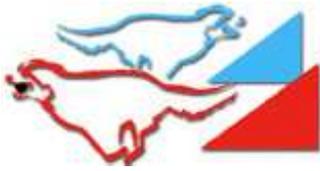
## Winning out in 2005

Huge congratulations to:-

Louise & Spangle	out of	Elementary.
Chris & Fly	out of	Elementary.
Sue & Sky	out of	Starter.
John & Quest	out of	Starter.
Carolyn & Max	out of	Novice.
Mick & Bryn	out of	Novice.
Kevin & Solo	out of	Novice.
Alison & Jinx	out of	Senior.

## ... and at Bewdley Regatta (where?)

John (without Gypsy) came 1st in Novice.



## Flyball Report

### Thame at Easter

The Sleepless Knights consisted of Luce & Flicker, Jenny & Razz, Joanna & Bronwen alternating with Jean & Willow, and Lin & Hattie, promoted to Division 5 after our success at Maidstone in Jan. But we didn't manage to win any races, although we did win a few legs. Our best time was 23.06s.

Then we lost Jenny and Lin to agility for the summer and Joanna to the birth of a second son! So we had to start again with a new team. It took a few months to bond and work together and to learn racing techniques and changeovers. Finally, we felt ready.

### N. Warnborough (nr. Basingstoke) in July

The new team was Luce & Flicker, Kim & Millie, Lou & Tonto and Martha & Tyler, with Willow as reserve and Serin as emergency reserve. Millie, Tonto and Tyler were in their first competition. In



training they were all running well with and without netting on the run but we felt sorry to lose John's Jasmine who was in season. We were to run as the Knightmares, with a seed time of 27.09s, in Division 3.

When the day came I was really worried, not knowing what might happen. I'd convinced myself we'd have to go NFC and use the day as a learning experience. This began to look likely during our first race. Tonto ran out on the way back, so we replaced him with Willow, then Tyler started going out, but even so we only just lost that race.

During the warm-up for the other races we recti-

fied the running-out and Tonto and Tyler got it together. We won all the rest of the races and our best time of the day was 20.95s - and we came 2<sup>nd</sup> in our Division! The dogs all got over 300 points and qualified as "Flyball Dogs".

### Wimborne in September and Portway in October

In our next tournament we ran as 'The Knights', our top team. It was Jon + Jasmine's first competition and mistakes were made by all the dogs, though we got our seed time down by 0.08 s! For Portway, I was ill and could not go, so Sam Bawden acted as Team Captain. Thanks, Sam for the help you gave. Mistakes were made again, but lessons were learned, one race was won, rather than just legs, and the seed time was reduced to 20.74 s.

### Maidstone in November

Our last tournament of the year was run indoors, another new experience for most of the dogs. As well as The Knights (Flicker, Tonto, Tyler and Millie), we ran a new team as the Knight-Mares - Luce & Willow, Anette & Cleo, Karen & Sasha and Jill & Jade. It was super to see Cleo run

successfully; she had previously been to 2 tournaments but had never felt confident enough to complete a run. Sasha and Jade also ran well in their first competition. Both teams won 2 races and lost 2, mostly due to mistakes, but both came 3<sup>rd</sup> in their respective divisions, with best times of 21.04 s for The Knights and 27.62 s for the Knight-Mares, very gratifying, especially for the Knight-Mares.

I want to congratulate all dogs who have run this year and their handlers, who have worked really hard.

We have brought 9 new dogs and handlers up to competition standard and run them successfully. We are also fortunate in having an excellent box-loader in Kate, who also encourages the dogs to run. Well done, everyone!

Jean Hatchard, Flyball Rep

## 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).