

Watchdog!

WALLINGFORD DOG TRAINING CLUB

August 2007

From the Chair

We're well into the 'Summer' agility season, but the weather has not been particularly seasonal! A few agility shows have been cancelled recently and we are all hoping for some sunny weather at our remaining agility shows and flyball competitions.

At the agility shows that have been held, club members continue having great successes. The member with the most successful show has to be Jose at the Ramsey show on the Isle of Man (see the wiki for details).

Agility Boasts

One significant boast missed from the last Watchdog – Lin & Hattie. As well as winning G6-7 medium agility at Watford, they also qualified for the medium semi-finals for Olympia. These semi-finals will be held at the KC International Agility Festival at Peterborough in August. Karen & Sasha will also be competing in the starter finals at Peterborough. I know a few members are going to that show – so you'll both have some support there!

Tuffley changed its venue a couple of weeks before the show, and Louise hadn't heard. Having reached the

original venue and made a phone call to find out where the show was – she headed off up the M5 to Top Barn. The journey was worth it, as she got a 9th in G1-7 agility. Carolyn & Jazz continue to pick up places with a 5th at Tuffley, John & Quest got a 5th, continuing their successful streak, and Karen & Sasha a 10th in G1-2 combined jumping. Ian & Jacky headed North to Barnard Castle where Jacky & Lazer got a 4th in G3 (graded 1-7 jumping) and a 6th in G1-5 combined agility. They also picked up another 4th in G3 agility at the Agility Club show. (Jacky was on pads and screaming throughout the class making comments when handlers got it wrong - "That command was too late!", "He pulled the dog off that jump!", "Look where he's facing!" - as one does when watching - so she had to do well really!)

At Wirral, Julie & Bonnie won G1 agility – winning her into Grade 2. This will give Julie 30 more points in the Weimaraner agility league which should keep her in the top 10 – an excellent achievement.

Jose returned from her weekend on the Isle of Man with a fistful of rosettes and trophies. Honey winning two jumping classes and an agility class (winning her out of grade 4 - joining Poppy in Grade 5), Poppy getting a 1st and 4th in agility and a 2nd in jumping, and young Pera a 2nd in jumping and a 3rd in agility. She brought a scrummy chocolate cake on Thursday so we could all celebrate with her!

Good Luck to...

• **Lin and Hattie** and
• **Karen and Sasha**
at Peterborough in their relevant Finals.
It's quite an achievement to reach a Final - enjoy it girls!

From 'Muddy Paws For Thought' by Simon Whaley

The great outdoors is all about finding the right stick. A good stick will remain stable in your jaws when you run up behind people and hit them in the back of their legs with it.



Jo Tidmarsh



Club kit

Please remember – if you are competing as part of a team, you must wear Club Kit, otherwise the club will not pay for your team entry.

A range of club clothing is now in stock. Please contact Jo Tidmarsh ([email: oxtid@hotmail.com](mailto:oxtid@hotmail.com), Tel: 01235 851 661) for any orders. Starting from September, Jo will be selling kit on the first Thursday of every month in the kitchen area.

The current kit is available:

Polo Shirts	£14.00	Navy T Shirts	£12.00
Long Sleeved T Shirt	£12.00	Sweat shirt	£18.00
Vest Tops	tbc	Gilets	£17.50
Reversible Fleece	£35.00	Badges	£7.50

Please give Jo any comments about the current kit design (colour, materials, etc), so that we can make improvements in the future.



No agility training on 9th and 16th August.

Resume on 23 August with competition night

Todd

(28th July 1995 - 10th November 2006)

Todd was the first dog I had from a puppy. He chewed most things around the house; he adored people and he loved his toys. He was always a puppy who never really grew up!



Having a cuddle from Jenny

Todd was a reliable flyball dog, but always faster going to get the ball than returning! He achieved Flyball, Intermediate then Graduate titles in flyball he retired.

Training for agility was hard work. Although he had no problems jumping, turning him for the jumps was a hit and miss affair. However after 2 years of competing before getting a clear round he went on to have lots of places, including Juniors with Richard and Jenny. He won me out of elementary and then starters and his best place in novice classes was 3rd. He was also in a winning team at Longleat, contributing a clear round.

Todd also competed at Crufts in an invitation YKC competition with Richard. Although I had retired him from full height jumping he won a casual jumping class at a UKA show in 2005, and an agility class at another local show early last year.

In October last year we noticed he had lost his appetite and was reluctant to go for walks. He had a high temperature, was given a course of antibiotics and seemed to rally. A couple of weeks later he did not want to go for a walk. The vet booked him in for an exploratory operation the next day; I think we all knew that he wouldn't come home. He had a large tumour in his intestine so we made the decision not to have him brought round.

Todd - enjoy playing with your toys.

Gill Kimber



Flyball news

We have only had one tournament since the last newsletter. This was at Frimley Park, and it was one of those "showery" days we have had this summer – it poured with rain several times, resulting in a slippery course and very damp dogs and handlers.

The Knights took part, running as Seed 6 in Division 3 of 8. We won two races, and lost 3 and ended up in 5th place. However, the dogs all ran well, made very few mistakes, and we recorded our fastest ever time of 19.97 seconds – well done to Bronwen, Flicker, Tonto and Jade who ran their hearts out.

Rico had a very good competition, gaining his Flyball Dog Award, and Bronwen achieved her Flyball Dog Intermediate. Well done!

We also ran two races at full height, using Bronwen, Tonto, Jade and Rico. The dogs all took on the challenge, and the fastest full-height time we ran was 20.61 seconds – very good as it was our last race of the day, and we have not trained at full height very much.

We were entered to run at Capstone Park on 21st July, but Rico has gone lame and we had to pull out. Flicker is also out of running at the moment, having got caught on some barbed wire, resulting in some deep cuts. We wish both these dogs well and a speedy recovery – we need you!

The flyballers joined the agility dogs for a demonstration at South Moreton Village Show. The weather was kind, and the joint demo meant that although we only had a few flyball dogs, we were able to borrow some agility dogs. Thank you Jill for your commentary!

Training

August

Tues 7th – Training, 6.30 pm beginners, 7.00pm everyone else
Tues 14th, 21st and 28th - Training as above

Forthcoming Competitions

Please sign up if you have not already done so

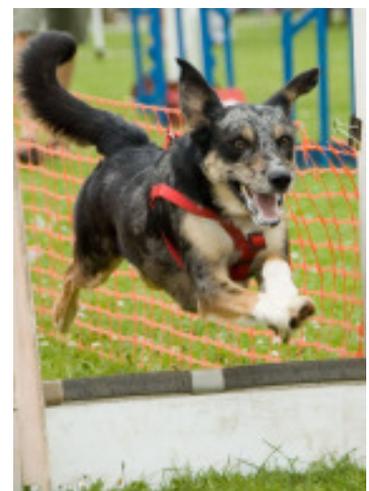
Sept 2nd – Brinkworth, Wiltshire
Sept 22nd and 23rd - Paws in the Park, Paddock Wood, Kent
Oct 6th – Rose & Crown, Portway
Oct 14th – Maidstone, Kent
Nov 18th – Maidstone, Kent

Forthcoming Demos

Sat 25th August – Binfield Heath Dog & Flower Show (with agility).

Please contact me with flyball-related news, boasts or comments.

Lu Potter, Flyball Rep
Tel: 07967 278 293
lupotter@btinternet.com



Jade stretching out

Rekindled from the ashes, Saved From the Floods..... Club Agility Points

Which ever way you want to look at it the **Club Agility Points Competition** has been resurrected. (*In a moment of madness I agreed to take over this task from Alison.*) The competition is open to all WDTC members and is for Starters (grades 1&2), Novice (grades 3-5) and Seniors (grades 6&7).

If you have been successful in any competition from March this year you can email/send your points to me. Please enter them on the WDTC Wiki site "Boasts" page (details below), email them to me (email id below) or write them on the new "boasts" sheet on the club notice board. After a bit of wizard trickery (HP take note) to make it fair between jumping and agility events and class sizes, your points will be entered into the competition.

To enter we need: **your name, dog's name, competition & class (grade / combined or graded)** entered and **date, result** and in what discipline (**Jumping/Agility/Helter Skelter/ABC** etc) and the **number of dog entries in that class**. If you can't give the number of entries and these can't easily be found then a default entry size will be used. If this isn't as clear as mud, please ask Karen or consult the rules that will soon be posted on the WDTC website or on the board at club night.

Remember Points mean Prizes (corny I know) and these will be presented at the club's annual AGM, so get your boasts in.

Karen Parker

To access the WDTC Wiki site, open to ALL club members, please contact Ian Hutchinson's email: jacian@ntlworld.com
Karen's email: karen.parker1@environment-agency.gov.uk

Honey hits the stage · again

I would never have believed it if I had been told that my rescue dog from Cardiff would be a star one day. When I picked Fern up from Pine Ridge Dog Sanctuary I renamed her Honey and chose the 5th November for her birthday. After all - she reminded me of a firecracker as she would pick a fight with any dog she met; not a promising beginning for agility and all that queuing! Her best characteristic was that she loved children. When we were asked in 2005 to go for an audition in Newbury to play Sandy in Annie, she got the part. And she revelled in the spotlight, and loved all the youngsters in the cast, who made a great fuss of her. This year we auditioned in Maidenhead against 9 other dogs. As soon as we walked into the hall, Elaine, who played Annie, took to Honey and she was taken on as one of the Sandys. My job was to send Honey on at the right time, so I spent my time behind the curtain. It was great listening to the comments from the audience. Like "That dog was brilliant", and "We would have like to have seen more of that dog".

I have the DVD of the production if anyone would like to see it let me know. I think my little welsh rescue is worth her weight in gold.



Honey strutting her stuff on stage

Jose Rostagni (proud owner)

Dates for your diary

Thursdays 9th & 16th August - no *agility* training - Summer break.

Thursday 23rd August - competition night at *agility*.

Saturday 25th August - Binfield Heath Flower Show and Fete. *Agility* and *flyball* demonstrations.

Sunday 2nd September - East Hendred Family Show. *Agility* demonstration.

Sunday 2nd September - *Flyball* competition, Brinkworth, Wiltshire

Saturday 22nd & Sunday 23rd September
Flyball competition, Paws in the Park, Paddock Wood, Kent.

Saturday 6th October - *Flyball* competition - Rose & Crown, Portway.

Sunday 14th October - *Flyball* competition - Maidstone, Kent.

Sunday 18th November - *Flyball* competition - Maidstone, Kent.

Thursday 13th December - last *agility* training before Christmas break.

2008

Thursday 6th - Sunday 9th March - Crufts at the NEC, Birmingham.

Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th April 2008 - Wallingford's Open *Agility* Show at Newbury Showground.



Flicker - ready for take-off!