

Watchdog!

WALLINGFORD DOG TRAINING CLUB

November 2007

From the Chair

Both agility and flyball are winding down now, and looking back on the year it's been pretty good, as covered in recent newsletters.

A few members were a little concerned that anyone could access the club wiki site so it has now been secured and can only be accessed by registered users on entering their username and password. If you have any problems accessing the wiki, or if you didn't receive an electronic invitation to join, see me at club or drop me an email.

Committee and members have been working hard organising the anniversary party (15th December), the AGM (probably 29th February) and the 2008 Open Agility Show (19th/20th April). Please put these dates in your diaries, particularly the show dates as the club needs everyone's help during the weekend of the show and additional help setting up on Thurs/Fri is most welcome.

Finally, with Xmas barely a month away, I'd like to thank the Committee (and various sub-committees) for all their help during the year and the membership for their support. I'd like to wish you all a slightly premature but very merry Christmas.

Ian Hutchinson

Agility Boosts

Club members have continued to do well at shows, right up to the end of the season. Letchworth in September was particularly successful for club members, with Mick & Chris, Cazz, Yvonne, Louise & Jacky all getting placed (many top-ten places) in many classes. Just looking at top 3 places since then, Jose & Poppy got a 3rd at Cornwall, and Jenny & Chi won Champion Snooker at UK Agility at the end of September.

Not only did Annette get a 1st with Katie in Senior Agility, but at Roxy's first 'proper' show at UK Agility at the end of October, they won Beginner Steeplechase - an excellent achievement. UK Agility shows are great shows for bringing out young dogs. Before entering a KC show, a young dog can run in Beginner and Steeplechase classes - which have nice, easy courses. This gives a young dog a gentle introduction to shows before having to tackle large, more complex classes at a KC show.

Then the club had two more first places at the UK Agility show at the beginning of November. Louise & Spangle winning the Steeplechase and Gill & Chi coming first in the Champion Steeplechase.

Great news all round.

No agility training on 27th December

Competition night 13th and Fun night 20th December

Resume 3rd January

New Agility DVDs For Club Library

The club has a library of books that members may borrow. Kath Rayson is chief librarian, and has a list of books available. The committee decided at a recent meeting that the club should invest in some of the excellent DVDs there are available - for agility training. Three were purchased, and they didn't even get to see Kath's box before they were whisked away. To be fair to everyone, we are limiting the borrowing time for these videos to 2 weeks, when they should be returned, giving another member a chance to see them.

Great Dog.. Shame about the Handler is by **Greg Derrett**. "This comprehensive video covers all the essential handling skills to gain a fast, consistent dog and to achieve your dog's maximum potential".

Teach Your Dog to Win is a twin DVD by the successful husband-and-wife team **Alan and Jayne Bray**. "Discover the secrets of Successful Agility".

Success with one Jump is another twin DVD production by a very successful American agility competitor - **Susan Garrett**. "Gives you the tools to improve your skills as a handler, regardless of the size of your back garden".

We will have reviews of these in future newsletters.

30th Anniversary Party

Saturday 15 December

Plans are well underway for what will be an amazing evening. We need some help with the catering, and a few people to help decorate the hall in advance. Apart from that, we want as many of you as possible to come along and enjoy yourselves.

Demonstrations



Thanks to all the trainers who have helped at the demonstrations and to all the club members who have attended. I am particularly grateful to everyone who helped to make Gio-Gio's fifth birthday so successful. All the parents were so grateful and it was obvious how much the children enjoyed it! The Pied Piper of WDTC (no, surely not Ian?) couldn't help but smile while Laser patiently waited on the A-frame for a million children to give the release command! It emphasized to me even more how much we need to think about a junior section in the club!!! Anyone interested?????

Just a little quote from ex WDTC member Sara Nixon who organised the Parson Jack Russell Day at Horspath where we raised £38, of the total £3,000!

"The funds were going to The Animal Health Trust (based at Newmarket) - they are doing masses of research into dog diseases and ploughing ahead with DNA tests for some of the inherited diseases which affect different breeds. Our particular breed has a problem with PLL (so too do many of the small dog breeds) and the AHT are working on trying to find the gene which is responsible. They have already found the genes that cause other eye problems like cataract and got DNA tests available for breeders, so hopefully it won't be too much longer to wait."

Wendy Botto



Letter to the Editor



Dear Madam Editor,

I am most offended by an error in the Aug Watchdog. My name was put under a picture of a spaniel, who was actually Willow, a **Springer dog**, who is a member of our Knighties flyball team, whereas I am a **Cocker bitch**, of proud parentage, and I run for The Knights. Maybe you need new specs or maybe a book of dog breeds! I have told Luce to buy these as she didn't see the mistake until Willow's Mum told her! But at least Willow is handsome - just like me!

Flicker Green

Apologies for the mistake. So that everyone can see that Flicker is, indeed, just as handsome, here's Flicker in action. Ed

Flyball news

On the August Bank Holiday weekend, we attended Binfield Heath Flower and Dog Show with the Agility team to give demonstrations for the second year running – yes, they were so impressed they invited us back! It was a very hot day, and reckoned to be the hottest demo done yet (weather wise at least). Yet again the crowd were wowed with the athleticism and cleverness of the agility dogs and the speed of the flyballers. A special well done to beginners Dinah and Cinders, who took part in the Flyball demo after only three training sessions.

The 1st September saw the Knights (Bronwen, Tonto, Jade and Flicker) at Brinkworth. We won three races and lost two, and ended up with third place overall. Thanks go to Jim for his first tournament box loading. Jim did an exceptional job, having to contend with balls not staying in place in the box, and keeping the next ball to load hidden from Bronwen, who thought she should take both of them back!

Then at the end of September it was off to Paws in the Park with the same dogs. Again we came third, winning three races and losing three. However, we ran fairly slow times with only one leg under 21 seconds. In the fifth race, Bronwen decided she should wait for the other team's box loader to let her have their balls too. This together with the fact that Bronwen looked pretty pooped (having done Agility on Saturday and pairs agility on the same day as Flyball) meant that we rested her for the last race, and brought in veteran Willow. Jean did some breathtaking changeovers

with Willow (Jean you must train us how to do them like that!). Times were in the 23 seconds + category, but we still won the race as the other team made lots of mistakes. Thanks to regular box loader Kate for her usual great job.

October saw us at Portway, again with Bronwen Tonto, Flicker and Jade. We won the first race, but unfortunately in the second race Bronwen was forced to run around someone towards the oppositions box whilst we were warming up, and during the race she tried to bring back the opposing teams' balls again. Willow stepped in for us, and we managed to run all our races. However, we only came 5th (though we were the 5th seed). However the good news is that Tonto attained his 5000 points, and has achieved Advanced Flyball dog level – well done Tonto and me!

The Starters were due to have a tournament, but due to Foot & Mouth, this has been cancelled.

As you will see, Flicker has made a full recovery from her encounter with the barbed wire, but sadly Rico will not be running with us for some time due to the bone problem he has with his leg. We hope that Linda manages to get the treatment he needs, and that he will be given the go-ahead to do more flyball at a future date. We have decided not to enter any further tournaments until we have a fifth dog. Having only four dogs means there is no fall back should any of them have an off day or get injured. Willow has stepped into the breach for us a couple of times, but we cannot compete at Knights standard with two small dogs. So Beginners – train hard!

Flyball Dates

Demos

28th November: An agility and Flyball demo will be held at Blewbury Riding School on Wednesday 28th November, at 7.30pm. If you are interested in attending, please contact Lu Potter.

Training

Training has now switched to Sundays, 10.30am for beginners and 11am for other dogs. If you cannot make it to training, please call Jean on 07950 028711, giving her as much notice as possible.

Nov 18	Training for Beginners 10.30am Others 11am.
Nov 15	As above.
Dec 2	As above
Dec 9	As above.
Dec 16	Xmas competitions for all at 10.30am. Prizes & refreshments.
Dec 23	NO training.
Dec 30	NO training
Jan 6 2008	Training for Beginners 10.30am Others 11am.

Tournaments

Future tournaments to be confirmed at a later date



Lu Potter, Flyball Rep (07967 278293)

Agility news

Over the past few courses, outgoings have slipped below income, a situation the Club needs to address. At its last meeting, the Committee discussed a proposal by the Treasurer to raise agility fees to ensure that income from fees covers the cost of the hire of the venue. The committee agreed to a modest increase which will start in January.

The standard fee for an 8-week course increases from £24.00 to £28.00 (effectively £3.50 a week). Members paying directly by bank transfer will have the monthly amount increased from £11.00 to £12.00, still giving them a £4.00 reduction. The one-off weekly fee will increase from £4.00 to £4.25.

The committee continues to agree that each discipline needs to cover its own costs, with show and demonstration profits used for one-off payments, replacing and maintaining equipment, subsidising training workshops, etc..

I have been thwarted in my efforts to organise extra training workshops this Autumn. Blewbury have told us that they won't take bookings for weekends, and the indoor venue that Jo Fraser was trying to organise has fallen through. I am still working on getting access to an indoor venue - and would love to hear from anyone with an un-used barn!

Guest trainers have been very successful - and I'd like to thank them all. Natasha Wise, Iain Fraser, and currently Lorna & Simon Peachey. I have plans to entice them back in the Spring, and for one or two others!

The club has finished 11th in Division 3 in the Agility Club league table. This position doesn't reflect the success the club has had, with points from only a handful of members. I'd like to encourage more of our successful competing handlers to join the Agility Club - and to put your points to Wallingford. Those who have put points to Wallingford this year:

Jenny Kimber & Tess - 21st in the Over 12s Junior handler league

Karen & Sasha - 27th in large grade 1

Carolyn & Max - 39th in large grade 6

Jacky & Lazer - 43rd in large grade 3

Carolyn & Jazz - 75th in large grade 3

I know Louise has joined the Agility Club - and any member 'recommending' a new Agility Club member get 2 months free.

Jacky Hutchinson

Dates for your diary

Thursday 13th December - Competition night at Agility

Saturday 15th December - Wallingford's 30th anniversary party at East Hagbourne Village Hall.

Sunday 16th December - last flyball training this year, with fun and games.

Monday 17th to Saturday 22nd December - Olympia Horse Show, with various agility finals.

Thursday 20th December - Last agility training session - with fun and games..

2008

Thursday 3rd January - 1st agility training class for the year.

Sunday 6th January - 1st flyball training.

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.



Members corner

Since the last newsletter, members have been getting up to all sorts of things - not all related to canines. Pete was seen earlier in the year with a huge grin after he beat some of his retired colleagues at his other sport - golf. Jose passed the magic 70 years, and has just been told that Honey's recent audition was successful and Honey has another starring role on the stage. This time, Honey will be playing Toto in the Wizard of Oz at the Haymarket Theatre in Basingstoke between 6th December and early January. She will be sharing the role with three other dogs.

And Karen, having seemingly sailed through her pregnancy, produced 2 strapping boys. On 28th October Luke Robert was born at just after 2am weighing 6lbs 7ozs, and 45 minutes later Jamie Peter entered the world weighing in at 5lbs 8ozs. Congratulations to the whole Waggott family, and thanks for the opportunity for having a non-canine photo for a change. Luke and Jamie sleeping peacefully; long may it last!

