

Watchdog!

WALLINGFORD DOG TRAINING CLUB

April 2010

An introduction by your new Editor.



I would imagine that the majority of you know me, the young, good looking, fashionably grey haired chap with Bryn, the freckle faced collie? No? That's great because I can easily fill this newsletter just introducing Bryn and myself. Sorry, what was that? You have just remembered that you know who we are!

That's OK, I didn't really want to make it an autobiography, but I'll need your help to keep me out of every issue. How? Tell me how you are doing, about your dog or that puppy you have recently taken on. Have you been to a show that you enjoyed or did well at, and I don't just mean winning, although if you have qualified for a National Final or something like that then let us know, let us share in your success. That goes for those shy retiring members in the Flyball section too!

Obviously I will be looking for regular reports from the Agility and Flyball reps to keep us up to date, and I think a word from the Chair now and then would be good. My intention is to produce a magazine style issue on a roughly quarterly basis, with a smaller edition when needed such as during the peak activity periods when so much is happening.

This will have news and information that needs to be distributed asap.

This edition has a number of articles sent in, and more promised for next time. I am always happy to accept anything dog related to add to the content, jokes, funny pictures or stories etc. I would like to give it something of a magazine feel, so it will need your contributions to achieve this.

Send in your offerings to me by email, or if you don't have access to the electronic wizardry we take for granted these days, then hand written on the back of a recycled Bonio box will do, but remember I'll have to type it up. If your contribution has photos and words can you send them as separate files please, Thanks. Where to send it all? mick.chambers@btinternet.com

The Committee.

At the recent AGM there were a couple of changes to the personnel, marked in blue, the revised line up is as follows:-

Chair	Carolyn Davies
Secretary	Karen Parker
Treasurer	Kevin Pearce
Agility rep	Ian Hutchinson
Flyball rep	Gill Rhodes
Member	Pete Sanderson
Member	Kath Rayson
Member	Mick Chambers
Member	Wendy Botto
Member	Aileen Watson
Member	Jacky Hutchinson
Member	Jo Tidmarsh

Agility news

The club uses the profit we make from running the show to purchase equipment and help pay for training workshops. So far this year we have done both. Lee Gibson is one of the country's top handlers and he also trains agility across the world so I was really pleased that he agreed to run a workshop for us in February. We have also had Anthony Clarke - another top handler and international trainer - training classes on a Thursday evening. Each trainer we have brings suggestions of different techniques and handling methods - something for everyone. But there are a few common threads and one that crops up again and again is giving your dog time (and teaching him to recognise your handling) to gather itself and jump short when a turn immediately follows a jump. It might look fast when a dog charges round a course, but jumping long over a jump just before a turn can waste seconds. So this year - learn to 'shape' a turn so that your dog can power up the straights, but gather itself and turn tightly round a jump wing when necessary.

The committee had been considering renewing the leaking container in which we store the agility equipment for some time now and eventually the deed has been done. With thanks to everyone who helped out - we now have a new, dry container, complete with doors that close easily, a ramp for the trolley and racking for the planks.

Competition nights are important when we train on short exercises - handlers and dogs have to get used to running up to 20 obstacles in one go. However, members were getting a bit fed up with competition nights at the end of every course. So the plan is to hold fewer of them - but make them more significant. Members were invited to attend for the whole evening for the one held in March, which gave everyone a chance to do both a jumping and an agility course. Everyone seemed to enjoy the evening. The scoring below is for everyone who did not get eliminated. The top 5 in each class scored points - the overall position was taken from the aggregate. Thanks, as ever, to everyone who helped.



Starters

Agility		Pts	Jumping	Pts	Total	Place
Kath & Winston	CR 37.34 2nd	4	CR 33.32 4th	2	6	=1st
Dinah & Cinders	CR 37.97 3rd	3	CR 30.13 3rd	3	6	=1st
Wendy & Tatti	CR 28.91 1st	5	5F 33.42	0	5	=2nd
Aileen & Rocket	10 29.25		CR 25.82 1st	5	5	=2nd
Caroline & Todd	10 39.50		CR 27.60 2nd	4	4	3rd
Julie & Bonnie	5 24.34 4th	2			2	
Jo & Bronwen			5 24.58 5th	1	1	
Dave & Clippy	5 32.00 5th	1			1	
Karen & Merlin	5 32.40		5 25.34			
Maria & Splash	5 41.97		10 38.22			
Maria & Inca	10 50.47					

Novice

Agility		Pts	Jumping		Pts	Total	Place
Sue & Gimli	CR 27.88 1st	5	CR 24.80 3rd		3	8	=1st
Wendy & Bambi	CR 28.16 2nd	4	CR 24.57 2nd		4	8	=1st
Kevin & Fell	10 26.38		CR 21.06 1st		5	5	2nd
Jose & Poppy	CR 32.07 3rd	3	CR 28.41 5th		1	4	3rd
Jose & Pera	5 30.14 5th	1	CR 26.26 4th		2	3	4th
Pam & Ashley	CR 36.28 4th	2	CR 30.82			2	5th
Pam & Rowan	CR 36.60						
Gill & Tess	10 26.59		5 27.00				
Carol & Nell	15 47.78						

Senior

Carolyn & Max	CR 31.50 2nd	4	CR 27.60 1st		5	9	1st
Chris & Fly	CR 32.16 3rd	3	CR 29.23 2nd		4	7	2nd
Kevin & Solo	CR 30.41 1st	5				5	3rd
Mick & Bryn			5 30.22 3rd		3	3	4th
Carol & Tig	CR 33.16 4th	2				2	=5th
Ian & Stig			10 33.54 4th		2	2	=5th
Carol & Chi	CR 35.63 5th	1				1	

Match against UpAndOver Agility Club in March

This was a return match, and having lost our 'away' match earlier this year, there was pressure to redress the balance. This was done - so after 4 matches (2 last year, 2 this year) each club has 2 wins. This seems to be a very fair result. Thanks to Aileen for catering, Jo for scoring, Wendy for prizes and Steve for going back to Blewbury to get the weave poles we'd forgotten!

Results

Nursery

Agility			Jumping			Steeplechase		
Wendy & Tatti	1st	2	Caroline & Todd	1st	4	Caroline & Todd	1st	3
Caroline & Todd	2nd	1	Andover	2nd	3	Andover	3rd	1
			Wendy & Tatti	3rd	2	Wendy & Tatti	3rd	1
			Andover	4th	1			
Wallingford 13 - Andover 5								

Starters

Andover	1st	10	Andover	1st	10	Andover	1st	10
Wendy & Bambi	2nd	9	Wendy & Bambi	2nd	9	Wendy & Bambi	2nd	9
Andover	3rd	8	Gill & Bertie	3rd	8	Andover	3rd	8
Andover	4th	7	Andover	4th	7	Andover	4th	7
Dave & Clippy	5th	6	Kath & Winston	5th	6		5th	6
Dinah & Cinders	6th	5	Dinah & Cinders	6th	5	Dinah & Cinders	6th	5

Continued on page 4

Results - continued

Kath & Winston	7th	4	Steve & Milo	7th	4	Dave & Clippy	7th	4
Wendy & Tiggy	8th	3	Andover	8th	3	Andover	8th	3
Julie & Bonnie	9th	2	Andover	9th	2	Andover	9th	2
Andover	10th	1	Andover	10th	1	Steve & Milo	10th	1

Wallingford 86 - Andover 79

Novice

Agility			Jumping			Steeplechase		
Gillian & Berry	1st	10	Andover	1st	10	Kevin & Fell	1st	10
Ian & Lazer	2nd	9	Gillian & Berry	2nd	9	Andover	2nd	9
Andover	3rd	8	Ian & Lazer	3rd	8	Andover	3rd	8
Jose & Pera	4th	7	Andover	4th	7	Gillian & Berry	4th	7
Andover	5th	6	Jose & Poppy	5th	6	Lin & Mozzie	5th	6
Lin & Mozzie	6th	5	Carolyn & Jazz	6th	5	Andover	6th	5
Jose & Poppy	7th	4	Kevin & Fell	9th	2	Ian & Lazer	7th	4
Andover	8th	3	Andover	9th	2	Jose & Pera	8th	3
Sue & Gimli	9th	2	Lin & Mozzie	9th	2	Sue & Gimli	9th	2
Kevin & Fell	10th	1				Andover	10th	1

Wallingford 102- Andover 59

Senior

Carolyn & Max	1st	10	Andover	1st	10	Andover	1st	10
Andover	2nd	9	Lin & Hattie	2nd	9	Andover	2nd	9
Andover	3rd	8	Andover	3rd	8	Andover	3rd	8
Andover	4th	7	Ian & stig	4th	7	Carolyn & Max	4th	7
Lin & Hattie	5th	6	Carolyn & Max	5th	6	Lin & Hattie	5th	6
Jill & Chi	6th	5	Andover	6th	5	Chris & Fly	6th	5
Chris & Fly	7th	4	Chris & Fly	7th	4	Mick & Bryn	7th	4
Mick & Bryn	8th	3	Jill & Chi	8th	3	Jill & Chi	8th	3
Sue & Bea	9th	2	Andover	10th	1	Andover	9th	2
Andover	10th	1	Andover	10th	1	Sue & Bea	10th	1

Wallingford 85 - Andover 79

Final Score = Wallingford 286 - Andover 222

Whilst we are talking about agility shows this is a good time to remind you that our own annual 2 day show at Newbury Showground is on April 17-18. Now I realise that not everyone competes but we could still use your help over the 2 days of the show. If you haven't already offered please do, as the saying goes - many hands make light work (I thought it was electricity but what do I know!) Whatever your talents we can find you a job. Our show is where we make the extra income to pay for the new equipment and bring in guest trainers. See you there?

Crufts 2010

As seen by two of our younger members

Two different view points from this year's Crufts.

Ladies first so over to Miss Giovanna Botto Age 7

I had fun at Crufts. I love Crufts. Crufts is the best dog-place ever. We took Tatti and Bambi. We went on the stand of the Pyrenean Sheepdogs because we were working to tell people about the breed. I was off school and we went on Thursday. One lady said I was very lucky to have Tatti. There were lots of people that liked Tatti and Bambi. Tatti and Bambi behaved beautifully but Tatti wanted to play and Bambi ate the Jammy Dodgers from mummy's bag.

Five words I use to describe Pyrenean Sheepdogs are: scruffy, monkeys, funny, minx's and weird. They are weird because of their fringes!

I also liked the Parson Jack Russells as we have one called Ernie who is 15! **Gio Gio.**

Next is Ben Crone Aged 7 and 1/4!!

I started competing at Cani X in January

this year with Izzy. She is a brilliant dog for me as she is happy to go my pace and doesn't pull me over, unlike Spangle!!! (Daddy does the bikejoring with her). Cani X is racing across country with your dog attached to you by an elasticated lead and a belt around your middle. We usually run over 2.5km. I couldn't wait until I turned 7 so that I could run in my 1st Cani X race.

Our 1st event was a 2 day competition and we won on both days. Our next event was also a 2 day one and we were 1st one day and 2nd the next. Since then we have had one more win and two 2nd's, including at Crufts! Crufts was the best thing ever. I was last to go as I am the youngest. We had to do a lap of the Main Arena and then out and around the lake. When we ran around the arena the crowds clapped and cheered us on, it was ace! I can't believe Crufts only happens once a year, it should be more. Izzy loved it when everyone cheered and mummy said she looked like she was smiling.

We would really like to try and win the 7-10 year old championship this year which finishes at Cheltenham Race-course in May. We will let you know if we do!!! We have 4 more events over Easter when we go up to Kielder and then on to Peebles, Scotland! We have made lots of friends doing Cani X so we will spend the week camping with them.

Ben Crone



CANINE TETANUS

I have to Thank Jenny Lovegrove for this article, a sad tale with a happy ending and a cautionary theme. First the scientific bit as the bimbos in the shampoo ads say!

Types

1. There are two types. Localized tetanus causes rigidity in a focused area of the dog's body. The other is generalized tetanus, which causes all-over symptoms and eventually affects all areas of the animal's body. (Guv has the generalized tetanus)

Symptoms

2. Tetanus bacteria create a toxin, which affects the nervous system and produces muscle spasms. The dog's jaw can become "locked" by these spasms, creating the condition known as lockjaw. Early on, ears will become erect, and movement becomes difficult. Late-term symptoms can move to vital systems, making breathing and other processes difficult.

Causes

3. The bacterium is introduced through a wound in the dog. A powerful toxin targets the neuromuscular junction--the area between the dog's nerve and muscle--and creates the recognizable muscle stiffness in sufferers.

Incubation

4. The time it takes between exposure to the bacteria and display of symptoms ranges from between two days to two months. Most often, symptoms will begin within fourteen days of initial injury.

Treatment

5. If found early on, veterinarians can administer an antitoxin, antibiotic or muscle relaxer to help symptoms subside. In more advanced cases, supportive care to help with respiratory problems or other side effects may become necessary as a purely palliative approach.

Prognosis

6. Tetanus is rare in dogs, but if it is caught early enough and care is provided, most animals will recover. If the bacteria goes unchecked for too long, the toxin may have spread too far to treat effectively.

Resources Vet Explains Tetanus<<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fh7rJh3oTCK>>

Photo left is young Guv, Christmas 2009.

..and now Guvnor's story as told by his Mum Jenny

We first noticed something was wrong with our little man Thursday 14th January, he seemed to have a bit of a snuffle in his nose and as there was kennel cough about I phoned the vet to ask if it could be the start of this, she said it was possible and let them know if he started to cough. The next day it was worse so I took him to see the vet in the evening, he checked him over thoroughly and gave him an injection of antibiotics and told



me he should improve by the morning. We had a bad night with Guv his breathing was getting worse he didn't have co-ordination his face and eyes had changed shape we were really worried, we phoned the main surgery Saturday morning (15th) they told us to bring him straight in, our vet Stephen Masters saw him and within minutes told us the devastating news that he had tetanus, he had treated only two dogs in about 15 or so years of practice, it is thankfully a very rare condition in dogs as they have a natural immunity, that is why there is no vaccine for them, we thank God that Stephen was on duty as the other vets had never seen a dog with tetanus so probably they may not have started treatment so early on. Guv was put in their intensive care on a drip with all the medication required, we had to leave him there and wait at home for the vet to phone us later in the evening, we dreaded the phone ringing as we were praying that it wasn't bad news, when we got the call it was to tell us that Guv was doing as well as expected, and we could phone them in the morning.

Sunday Guv no worse but still very poorly, we went to see him to let him know we hadn't abandoned him, Stephen had to catheterise him as he couldn't empty his bladder, we managed to hand feed him tiny bits of food.

Monday went to visit him, managed to take him outside carrying his drip he was panting very heavily and it was like he was encased in a suit of Armour, so distressing to see him like it but we were encouraged that he was fighting well. Tuesday vet phoned us to say he was taking Guv off the drip to see if he will drink on his own, if he drank a litre of water in 24 hours then we might be able to bring him home, this was a step forward and good news.

Wednesday vet phoned to say he could come home, we picked him up in the morning with loads of tablets and instructions, he was still needing to be hand fed and was still very stiff. Later that evening he had a spasm which was like a massive fit, we weren't prepared as we weren't told this could happen, he was to have many more especially through the night so we had to contain him in a small room off of our bedroom where we could see and hear him, we had quite a few sleepless nights because of these, also as the poor little lad was completely incontinent we had to put sheets down all over the floors, I was constantly washing them and vet bedding, but a small price to pay as he was home with us and slowly improving.

Thursday same as Wednesday no change. Friday had a check up saw a different vet and she was very pleased with him and thought we were coping well. He actually managed to pick up his favourite fluffy football and giving it to us to roll across the floor, also managing to eat more food with his tablets crushed into it as he still finds it difficult to chew and swallow properly.

Saturday still improving stiffness gradually easing and his eyes look a bit more focused, still incontinent also drools a lot which is one of the symptoms, he sometimes bites his tongue so drools blood also which looks awful, am constantly wiping his mouth. Sunday and Monday still improving but still very restless at night.

Tuesday took him to see Stephen for a further check up, he was very pleased and said what a difference to when he last saw him he expects him to make a full recovery-FANTASTIC NEWS. No need for any further check ups either.

Wednesday Guv can now jump up on to the sofa, he is eating full size meals but we have to fork it up for him, can manage soft treats too. Taking him for two 20 minute walks a day and notice he is walking less like a robot bless him.

Thursday and Friday great improvement have taken sheets up as no need for them, he is asking to go outside now what seems like every 10 minutes as he is getting more feeling back, also able to trot and run about now, feeding him his normal dried food without having to soak

it, also managing biscuits and eyes more focused.

Saturday best day yet, everything has improved and although there is still some stiffness he is looking so much better and almost normal. We reckon in a couple of weeks he might be able to start doing a bit of training, he learns really quickly so hopefully he won't have forgotten all the months of foundation training we did last year. Derek and I once again thank our wonderful family and friends for all the support they have given us through a really bad time.

Love Jenny, Derek, Deke & Guv xxxx

P.S. The Guvnor is now fully recovered, as some of you have already seen, and his agility is coming on really well. Now it's me that's holding him up as I'm out of action for a while, in and out of hospital. Thanks for all your good wishes and thoughts, hope to see you all soon-
Jenny xx



Poor young Guv recovering from Tetanus

Flyball news

No Flyball news as yet but as soon as I hear anything I'll let you know. I really must pop along to a Flyball session one day, Bryn and I used to have a go many years ago. I recall he was

fast on the outrun but not as fast coming back! Fly has never had a go, but as he is tennis ball obsessed it might appeal to him, not so sure about the change overs though. Mick.

Flyball related is this news flash from our Harwell correspondent Jacky Hutchinson.

Flyball trailer foils youth on the run

The end of a cul-de-sac is usually very quiet, no passing traffic, no excitement. However, all that changed one Friday night when a couple of youngsters driving an elderly Vauxhall Corsa were being chased by the police. They obviously didn't know the area and turned down a cul-de-sac in Harwell. At the end, realising the road went nowhere, they turned left, jammed on the brakes, and sandwiched a brown bin between their car and the caravan sitting on the drive. The driver leapt out, ran down between a red van and a car sitting on the drive, and jumped onto a trailer sitting behind the van ready to leap over the fence. The trailer, sadly for him, had a soft top. His foot slipped, he lost his balance, and the strong arm of the law was there to grab him, wrestle him to the ground and handcuff him. His mate was also apprehended by the police.

Yes - all this happened in our drive. Sadly we missed the exciting part - but having checked that the trailer and caravan both escaped damage, and having a good understanding about forensics that Miss Marple would be proud of - the photograph showing the evidence was taken the next morning.
Jacky Hutchinson.

