

Watchdog!

WALLINGFORD DOG TRAINING CLUB

June 2011



It must be Lovington's!



Editorial Bit by Mick - The Editor!



I had hoped to do another Wallingford Show Special but a shortage of relevant copy means this will be a dog standard Watchdog. Although, even if I say so myself, that means it will be a Carlsberg quality production!

O.K., where to start? Well just for a change I'll start with me and a certain spotty faced collie called Bryn. On Sunday May 8th we celebrated the 13th anniversary of his arrival as part of our family as an eight week old puppy, the last 13 years have flown by! Any regrets? Only that he was my first (and only) agility dog, I wish I had learned the sport before I got him, he was, and still is to some degree, born and lives for agility, he loves it.

Of course as he has reached his teens the inevitable has happened and we have had to change to Veteran, Anysize or Casual classes at the shows. I wasn't looking forward to it, but Bryn is like so many of the dogs you see in these classes, the joy of having the opportunity to do what they so obviously love doing. I know many frown on the way we anthropomorphise animals, and in this case our dogs, but I am sure they smile and display human like emotions of joy and pleasure when they are in the ring.

Well I said this would be a standard edition of Watchdog but looking through the contributions sent in I have just about every topic covered that relates to the club and it's members, both 2 and 4 legged! Every time I

think about producing an issue I put out a request for contributions then wait for what seems an eternity, but is usually only a week or two, for my email Inbox to collect emails from recognisable addresses. So to those who promised, and delivered, I say Thank You very much. I can only publish what I get, so to those who think they have nothing to offer I say - I'll be the judge of that, send it in and I will use it, I may edit it slightly as is my penchant, I can be a bit of a pedant at times believe it or not!

As I didn't get much about our show sent in I'll cobble a few bits and pieces together as I recall them. The one constant in our show is the lack of complaints, justifiable ones where we do have an element of control. This year was no different, it was its usual swan like progression over the weekend, all the hard work having been done, or being done, out of sight. That and the fact that Wallingford members do seem to put in that little bit of extra effort to make things run smoothly, whether that be on the rings, or in and around the control tent. It is, I think the attention to small details, the little extras which make or break a show. The progress chart outside the tent being one, a feature now copied by other shows. Equally the only complaints were related to what might be deemed a small detail, baguettes! The ring party baguettes were not to everyone's liking and I must admit the one I had on Sunday was not up to scratch, unlike the meal I had with the Judge on Saturday! Strangely a show we provided a ring party for a few weeks later had excellent baguettes for the helpers, some cruelly said it was the best part of the show!

Wallingford was to be Bryn's first Anysize show and he enjoyed himself as he has always done, with a slight exception. The norm in the past was that our first run of the day would be awful, but now we only have one!

A bit more Editorial Bit!

This means that I have to make sure he is ready for the run not just warmed up but calmed down too! I seem to have achieved this, I just wish it could have been that way for the previous 10 years. I suppose he has slowed down now and the effort of running so fast and making mistakes has now departed with his youth? Anyway, we enjoy what we have together and that is what counts, he is after all my mate and not a tool for agility.

Whilst on this subject, I must say how I applaud the UKA shows which allow dogs like Bryn to carry on competing or just taking part, Bryn gets two runs at which ever height he is comfortable at. I am not alone in this thought and Wendy has written a piece for us about why she particularly likes to do UKA shows, and one about her success within them. Interesting read, Thanks Wendy.

OK, time for me to give someone else the chance to entertain and/or inform you so I'll close here and pass over control to those who have contributed to this bumper issue.

That'll do for now, take care,
Mick.

Goodbye Katie (03/03/1997 - 27/04/2011)

The first time I saw Katie she was a 12 week old pup in ex chairperson Caz Peachey's arms in the kitchen at Blewbury. Caz had rehomed her from Val Phillips (Valgrays Border Collie Rescue) because the puppy had been digging her original owner's garden!

When Katie was about 18 months old I was booked on the Agility Club Instructors course, but my dog Pollie was lame (as usual), and Caz lent me Katie. Over the next few years Caz retired from agility but as Katie needed to work and Pollie was unfit to continue with agility, Annette and Donna started training her regularly. Initially we borrowed her once a week for the WDTTC junior training

session, but this increased until we were borrowing her 3 evenings a week for agility and flyball training, and taking her to shows at weekends, often keeping her in between too. While on holiday and doing the Pembroke show in 2001 it was decided that she should be officially rehomed with us.

Both Annette and Donna had many successes with Katie, including Annette winning her into Novice (grade 3 equivalent) at the Pembroke show, and both competing at Crufts in the YKC agility competitions several times. Katie also loved flyball and for many years was the anchor dog in the Knights flyball team; she always had to run last or she'd turn round and follow the next dog. Katie was happy being run by anyone in either flyball or agility.

Katie was always everyone's friend. In the early days I shall never forget the time we were walking round the local park when suddenly Katie leapt onto a park bench and sat bolt upright next to a total stranger.

For the last 2 years Katie (left) has lived with Annette and Graham, and right up to the end loved running round with Roxy, never looking like she was a 14 year old dog. She will be greatly missed by all. Jill Lowe.



Why UKA suits me.....by Wendy

As well as being able to compete in competitions such as the Masters, Jacky asked me to write up what I like about UKA Shows:

It is fairer on the dogs as it based on their achievements not the handlers. ie. I can run Bambi in Champ, Tatti in lower levels which is much better for her than Grade 3, Fuzzy in nursery with her tuggy and Foxie can do a few jumps around the ringside!

There are two leagues, The performance league includes agility, jumping and games, or the Steeplechase just has tunnels and jumps. Therefore if you have a dog that has a problem with contacts or weaves you can give them a good blast in the Steeplechase which is good for both them and your own sanity!

You can decide to run NFC, (Not for Competition) so you basically have the course time to practice whatever you like and can take a toy into the ring rewarding them at the point of your choice not just the end! I have seen people using second handlers to place targets etc. but you still cannot use food.

There are practice jumps around the rings, great for warming up the dogs and bringing on new dogs experiencing the agility environment. Also useful for practising start waits.

You can pay on the day. This enables you to actually walk courses to see if they are suitable for your dogs level. This is also great if you are unsure if you or your dog are unwell as you don't lose out on wasted entry fees! I have Tatti who suffers from epilepsy so I never know how she will be on the day, plus she is very sound sensitive so certain venues will spook her, I can assess all of this on the day!

Also if you have lots of dogs you can pick and choose which ones to enter, rather than waste your money on pre-entered courses that are hideous for particular dogs

It's a much more relaxed environment, often less rings than KC, so for sensitive & young dogs its a nice way to get used to competitions. Classes are smaller so there is not so much waiting around (large handlers can find this difficult to get used to!)

You can book in while walking each course, so your name will be called if you wish. That way if you are running in another class you will not miss your run. You can help 'as and when' you have time, not having to commit to a whole morning or even day

There are often four or five runs on offer to every dog. You have to get a clear to get any points so your dog has to be capable of the level in order to progress. Course times are worked out according to a measuring system so should be fair.

I like the fact that all heights run over the same courses, so I can see how my time compares to others, it also prevents certain heights being given more challenging courses than others. You can also walk it with handlers of all sizes and watch how different handlers and sized dogs tackle the same course.

The games are fun and once again give you the chance to take your own line if you are simply training, or provides a different challenge in trying to work out how to get maximum points. (sorry I hate snooker though!)

There are lots of qualifiers and many WDTC members have qualified already this year and last year, both individually and team/pairs events. Its great confidence-building for KC shows and fantastic to see club members doing so well, particularly the new dogs.

There are plenty of local shows, so while the fees are higher, you don't need to pay to camp or travel for miles! This is great for me as I don't have to drag my daughter up early, she can (pto)

Why UKA suits me..

be brought over later which avoids her getting grumpy!

Dogs can start slightly younger and run over a lower height than KC shows. (If your first show is a UKA show, you can then progress from beginners, but if you do a KC show first you must start in UKA at the equivalent level.) The nursery classes don't have a seesaw or weaves and obviously you can start in beginners Steeplechase and just do jumps and tunnels.

There is often Junior training organized by Anthony Clarke and Sian Illingsworth after shows have finished. Plus they have introduced many Junior classes at UKA.

It is becoming more popular (NADS was exceptional with over 400 pay on the day entries). While this is difficult in working out run times, it makes it more competitive which is exactly what it needs. Now that I have Bambi in Champ and Tatti in Novice, we don't have many firsts so I still feel I have plenty of work to do to beat my fellow competitors and its at a level that suits them both. Why travel further when I have plenty of competition close to home and can still fit in other social events with family and friends the same weekend?

Obviously there are lots of disadvantages too but I am just looking at the positives! Apparently they are looking at club and individual leagues too and on-line entries should be happening soon. More WDTC members are attending these now so we could do very well! Wendy Botto & mutts

Bambi MA (x2!)

Little Bambi with her metal pin in her leg and me, her dappy handler, have now won two UKA Medium Masters competitions, winning about £80 to date and qualifying for the final five times!

The Masters Series was designed by Greg Derrett as practice for the WAO's - ideally large spread out but complicated courses to be tackled at speed. Having never reached KC Champ status, it gives me the chance to compete under 'similar' conditions. The winner of each the agility and Jumping rounds qualify for the final, plus the fastest combined time overall. In the Masters 5 faults = 5 seconds as it is designed to encourage handlers not to go steady but to attack the course at speed. An elimination = 100 faults.

Although my heart was in my mouth in my first Masters at NADS, Bambi and I were clear and won the Jumping round so ran last in the agility. Stupidly I had not read the rules beforehand so went for a clear in my agility and was just beaten by a collie with 5 faults, despite being the only clear! However I did win the overall Masters Title, hence qualified twice. Retrospectively the collie I was beaten by has been disqualified as she did not yet have enough points to be running in champ classes, so I should have also won the agility too (and qualified again). My lovely judge was Mark Laker, who was my first ever trainer at Wallingford!

In my second Masters, judge Barry Jones set two very tricky courses that took me ages to get my head around! We were the only medium clear in jumping and in fact there were only a few other clears throughout all four heights. We won the Jumping and then unfortunately had a disaster in the agility as Bambi decided to go on a mouse hunt (literally) partway through. I managed to get



Bambi MA (x2!)

her back on track and although eliminated, so was everyone else (over most heights). Our overall time was the best again so we had a second Masters title! Wow! Well done Bambi on your fifth birthday! The final is at The Hand Equestrian Centre in December and I know a few other WDTA members will be there for other finals too! I am already quaking in my trainers!

I recommend anyone in champ performance league to have a go. Its soooo scary but great!

I think the adrenalin plus the crowd watching definitely make me work harder! I would discount running any other dogs in other classes running at the same time though as its mentally exhausting! Wendy & Bambi

UKA Split Pairs

Wendy and Bambi, partnered by Virginia Harry and Zoey, runners up in the UKA Split Pairs qualifier, hence qualifying for the final in December. Bambi did the agility and Zoey did the jumping, both clear in a great time coming in second place to two collies! There were a lot of large dogs in the class too so well done The Pyreneans!!!!



Wendy & Bambi, Emma Elliott (photographer who sponsors the UKA split pairs) and Virginia & Zoey.

The Final will be held at the UK Agility Grand Finals in December. Good Luck girls.

Ring Parties.

No not the alcohol fuelled debauchery you are thinking of, that happens in the camping area after the day's fun and games!

No, what I am talking about is the the mechanism that makes it all possible for us to partake of this addictive sport. These are the people who give of their free time to make sure the rings run smoothly, so that we can then enjoy our days out with our canine companions.

Many of us have helped out at shows, especially at our own show in April each year. Some newer members may not have had the opportunity or maybe not felt able to offer themselves. The jobs cover all skill ranges, from organisational, to the simple task of sitting at the side of the ring waiting for a dog to roll a pole which you then replace once the dog has left the ring.

No matter what you feel you can do there will always be a welcome waiting, even if it is a 'Thank You but we are OK at the moment'. If you are new to the sport and feel you would like to take a bigger part, not just competing, just ask one of the many seasoned members who will be only too happy to give you a run down on what is involved in each job.

As our own show has grown in size each year the demand for ring parties has grown too. It's too late for this year, but I think that we should have a ring party training session, or incorporate them into the competition nights? Just a thought.

On this thought, I have written a piece about ring parties, too big for this edition but I'll maybe put it in the next one, something for you to look forward too! Of course if you think you could write one for me, maybe a humorous one? There are many funny stories around about ring parties so why not write them down and send them to me at my home email address at mick.chambers@btinternet.com or anything else agility or dog related, all offerings are welcome.

Confessions of an Agilityaholic

Zak is now 8 - I got him at 9 months allegedly! after he had been through 5 homes (we think). He was my first dog - and so the learning process began. We had an introduction to Dawn Parsons who came to visit us to try sort out some of his/my problems and she helped me with initial recall lessons and getting him to accept people, and other dogs. I wanted to get to know him better and so we began the next phase!



Gillian Johnson had a new dog, Berry, and the two of us decided to try out an introduction to agility at a barn down towards Newbury. We thoroughly enjoyed our trial session and came away very excited - so took the dogs to their first lesson - that was a disaster. Those of you who know Zak know he cannot cope in close proximity to dogs he does not know. We were in a barn with a lot of other very noisy dogs (worse than Blewbury!) and both of us left saying never again. Luckily for us the 'eagle eyed' Gillian saw a notice at the vets of someone local who was advertising agility lessons - and hence our introduction to Rosemary Tappin.

Rosemary, bless her, met Zak and suggested we come to a 'puppy' class in their

local scout hut. However, there were 3 other dogs in an inside situation and after a very short spell Rosemary suggested I took Zak for a walk outside - he was so wound up. I took him for a walk around the playing field in tears - what was I going to do? Rosemary did not give up on us and allowed us to come and train in the field - and Zak, bless him, settled into agility and thoroughly enjoyed the lessons. However, shows were a different thing altogether - it was impossible to queue with Zak and I had to depend on others if we were to get anywhere near a ring. In the ring he was a bit of a character - I will never forget the time he did the first few jumps and then went off, sat at the feet of the judge and had a good scratch (oh for a camera at that point!) Agility did what I wanted it to, it gave me the chance to get to know Zak better and we had a good time together, but he was never really an agility dog (although we have some good photos of him jumping and weaving). When he started going under jumps rather than over them I thought it was about time to think about another dog - I had 'The Agility Bug!'

I was advised to get a grown dog rather than a puppy as it would take at least two years to train a puppy - and a grown dog you could start training immediately! Rosemary suggested I contact Kathy Napper who had advertised a dog on Agility Net. I phoned on a Thursday - dog had gone BUT there was another dog desperately looking for a home - they came on the Friday to see if I was suitable AND - Rockett had arrived - she was 18 months and a collie. Hence *my* training had to start all over again! Rockett turned out to be quite a madam, very strong willed and quite a

By Aileen Watson.

revelation. It has been quite a long, steep learning curve but I believe we are at last beginning to work as a team.



I suppose I then became a bit selfish, I wanted a puppy. I decided to breed from Rockett so she was mated with 'DJ' Peachey. The resultant 8 pups was another first for me. I am so thrilled with all of them and am always delighted when I see them. The experience of delivering the first pup (Sarah's Merlin!) - this tiny rather still and silent bundle! - luckily Rosemary turned up in time to instruct in the rubbing down and warming up and he survived (less than 6 ozs when first weighed). We told Rockett that she could stop after delivering number 5, but then out popped the next two. At that point all went quiet, so I took Zak for a walk returning to discover number 8 had arrived and been revived (Robert and Rosemary's Glen) - bless them they are all amazing and can be seen around the circuit - Merlin, Leia, Glen, Tyke, Emma, Miage, Toby (family pet) and of course Ozzie!

Having retired I decided it was time for me to start putting something back into this 'newly found' activity that I enjoyed so much.

With some encouragement I decided to apply for two things - the Agility Club Instructors Course and a KC Judging course. They both came very close together last October and I was able to pass both sets of exams and practical sessions. As a club you then allowed me to start instructing - thank you. After being invited to judge a diploma night at Thames, I was invited to judge at the June Thames show. My name was also put forward to Vyne to judge there. I have to admit that I felt very self-conscious as I stepped into the ring on Monday morning at Vyne - it was so good to have so many club members there to support me - thank you.

Once the dogs started running I stopped worrying about whether the course would work, what other people were thinking and thoroughly enjoyed concentrating on the dogs - how they coped with different parts of the course, how people handled the different sections. It was a tiring but enjoyable experience - so once again - many thanks to all of you who made it a great time. (Future judging assignments - Thames, Agility Club, Caerphilly and Burnham).
pto



....last bit.

What does the future hold, who knows? I have decided that the stress on both myself and Zak is too much - I can't cope with him now running out of the ring for the treat at the end of the Anysize jumping courses - he did get a few clear rounds and I am very proud of him and so glad I did not lose him last June when he was very ill. He got me into this sport, but in fairness it is all the good friends I have made through training, shows and club that keep me wanting to participate and try my best. I am 'just a little!' competitive and get upset with myself when I let Rockett down - but am so proud of her when we do well.



I am really enjoying the new challenge of Ozzie and look forward to him being solid on both his contacts and in the weaves - and then who knows? I had personal goals at the beginning of the season and have managed to achieve some of them. As I write this we are sitting in 2nd position on the Agility Club points in Grade 1, we have gained the necessary place to be entered into the KC Starters Cup and I have a pile of placed rosettes that I would never have believed possible this time last year. Thanks to all of you. Aileen.

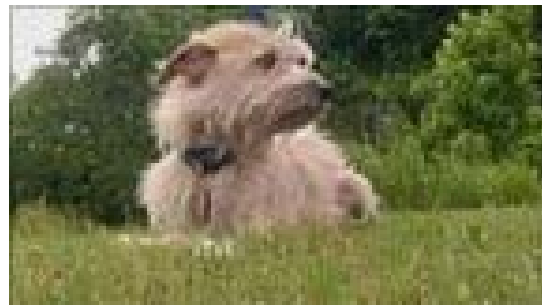
Dogs in the News.

Did you read about the dog who went missing after tornadoes hit the US state of Alabama on 27 April? He turned up 20 days later having found his way home despite having broken both his front legs.

This remarkable dog is called Mason, a terrier cross who was actually picked up by the tornado and whisked away. His owners believed that he had been killed when the tornado destroyed their home in North Smithfield, Alabama, a logical assumption when you see the devastation, and number of deaths, this latest batch of tornadoes have caused in the area.

When his owners returned to their damaged home a few weeks later, they found Mason waiting for them on the porch, looking bedraggled and with both front legs broken! You can imagine the joy, and the tears that day. Now, thanks to the generosity of a local animal care centre he is making a remarkable recovery. After undergoing three-and-a-half hours of surgery to fix his broken legs, Mason is now recovering and learning to get around on his splints, see him below.

I thought I would tell you this story out of all the ones I found because it has a happy ending. Others did too but they were not so nice to start with, let's just say I despair of the human race sometimes! Mick.



Shades Progress

At the start of the year I had a young dog who was not yet jumping full height, no seesaw and no upright weaves! By her 1st UKA show at Cheltenham in February we had mastered full height jumps. There were 3 runs at steeplechase so only jumps and tunnels! Shade was so excited and had to have a go at all those tunnels but on our final run we managed to do the correct course and won the class! By the beginning of March we had mastered the weaves and the seesaw, and we had some good rounds at our 1st Kennel Club show.

At the Newbury UKA show at the end of March we had another good steeplechase run to win (just ahead of her litter brother) and put us into novice. It was also really great for Shade's breeder to see her doing well in action!

By April we were really getting into the swing of things, a good run in the Olympia Novice Agility qualifier at the Easter Celebration, only let down by the handler! and another good round in the Combined Grade 3 to 4 jumping, watched by Shade's breeder and the owner of her dad. We went into 3rd place and stayed there - Shades first place in a Kennel Club show with 140 dogs in the class.
http://youtu.be/ThZ8ML_kNbs

The following week we had a UKA win in beginner's jumping and then another 3rd at Vyne in Grade 3 Jumping.

Shade is a joy to handle and is very forgiving when I make mistakes. She is really focused on the job in hand (although quite vocal!) and I'm over the moon with the way she has advanced. Many thanks to Lin and Jackie for their training on Thursday nights.

Gill Kimber.

Shade and her winnings.



Club Demonstrations

Tuesday 31st May 3.00pm Rush Court Nursing Home, Shillingford (set up from about 12.30 for anyone that wants to come over for some extra practice.) This is Half term and the first day of Quad Paws but no qualifiers on that day!

18th June at Drayton CP School, Hilliat Fields, Drayton, Nr. Abingdon OX14 4JF Fete 12-2pm, set up from 10.30 then training throughout with set displays

25th June, Witney primary School

10th July NAWT Gt Shefford Rescue Centre (where Alison works) 11am - 3pm Vehicles in the show field must be in by 10.30 latest. This is a really good fun day out - there will also be a fun dog show, lots of stalls, bbq, cakes, music, etc etc. <http://www.nawt.org.uk>

14th August Rotary Car Show, Oxford - I need to confirm this in a couple of weeks

4th September East Hendred Fun day.

For more details check the club's Wiki site at <http://wdtc.wetpaint.com/> speak to Wendy at training, email or call Wendy on 01235 817932 thebottos@tiscali.co.uk

These are a good excuse for a family day out with the dogs, and get in some outdoor training in front of an appreciative audience.

'Poodle Pam's' Piece

I just wanted to say a few words of thanks to all involved in giving me my very own "badge of office" to wear at our show. It was greatly appreciated and worn with pride! It was a great idea.

I went to the Vine show on May Bank Holiday Monday, and I have to say that their organisational skills are not a patch on Wallingford, although the ring party lunches were great! and to cap it all the toilets were just awful!



As you all know I do take pride in my work and have never minded doing this little service for the club, I really don't find it a chore. Strange, but true. I suppose me having the poodles was a gift really, as it would have been difficult to think of a title with "collie" in it. I'm just glad I don't have a Shih Tsu, as the puns could have got out of hand!

I had a great weekend, and the dogs enjoyed all the extra attention we got as loads of people asked me about my badge. It was hard to miss as it was such a big rosette! On the competition front, Ashley and Rowan had a good time and got a couple of, very slow, clear rounds. They are really winding down now, but still having fun. It was just a shame that this could not have been Martha's first show, as she was just a few days too young. Watch his space next year.

Leaving the best until last, I have to say a very big THANK YOU to Tanya for designing my fantastic plate, which now has pride of place in my living room. Seriously, thank you all, it was such a lovely thought.

All the best to all from Poodle Pam!

This is Gio Gio raising money for the Many Tears Animal Rescue based near Llanelli, Carmarthen. Gio Gio, with a bit of help from Mum (Wendy) and Gran (Maureen), worked her little cotton socks off raising money and awareness of the charity. A number of members have re homed dogs from there.

Giovanna worked all day collecting money at the Didcot Orchard Centre, and raised £245, a tidy sum when you consider they were not allowed to stand outside the main shop Sainsburys. The dogs, Fuzzy and Foxy, were well behaved too including a little ex breeding Bichon Frise bitch. Well Done Gio Gio.

Many Tears website is:-

<http://manytearsrescue.webs.com/>



Jenny and Deke - the Hat-Trick Hero!

I won into grade 5 (twice) towards the end of the season last year with Deke, and thought, you deserved that little fella as he'd really been working well. So was looking forward to the next season perhaps doing graded and combined grade 5-7 classes for this year. Then unfortunately I got really painful sciatica which lasted for about two months (March & April mainly), so one of my club members and a good friend Kerry Martin handled him for me, the first show was Wallingford and he got a 6th place in grade 5 jumping which I was really pleased with.

We then had the WBSDS show the following weekend, Deke ran well on the Saturday, but had a pole down on a couple of runs, then on his last run he did a brilliant clear round on a challenging course and held on to the lead to win it, we were thrilled to bits with him. On Sunday he again he went clear in a further challenging jumping course which again he won, I couldn't believe it he doesn't get very good places in jumping as a rule but he proved me wrong. I said to Kerry that's it he won't win three as he'd already run two jumping rounds that day, we had one more class to run which was graded 4,5, agility right at the end of the day, yet another real handling course set by Michele Guerin but I thought it was very good as it allowed you to get into the right places.

I told Kerry just take him round, and when we walked the course I pointed out where she would be able to get in the right positions. I said to just keep going whether you get faulted or E'd as I was grateful for her running him for me. They were nearly the last to run and they started off well, brilliant weave entry then a tricky bit around near the dog walk, they were on fire, I thought no way would they win this after two wins previously, someone went to check his time as they ran

clear then went to the score tent and came back to say he was in the lead, there was only about four more to run and they were good fast dogs but we didn't know which grade they were in, anyway I was stunned to find out that Deke had won yet again, just unbelievable to have three wins in one weekend, have to admit I was in tears, in fact quite a few friends were also. So now we face grade 6 much sooner than I had bargained for but was so proud of Deke and Kerry they were just awesome.

I would very much like to dedicate Deke's wins to Wallingford club as it was where we started our training in beginners, a huge thank you to all of you who helped us, Deke and I do miss you all but I will continue to be a member and may you long continue to be a great club.

Love and Best wishes,
Jenny & Deke



Jenny, Deke and Kerry
with the WBSD Haul.

How was it for you? Our Show that is!

The View from The Chair.

Another very successful show! Well done to all who put in a lot of preparation hours it certainly paid off. Thank you to every one who worked so hard to make this another great show. Yes the B,s are back in the loft - just.

The weather was excellent which adds to the enjoyment for the many competitors and their dogs. Congratulations to the many club members that had runs that resulted in clear rounds,rosettes and trophies.

The combination of our glass and plate trophies were very well received along with the quality of our rosettes especially the clear round ones of which we had many and they all went!!!!

Well done Wallingford DTC once again we showed the agility world how it can be done.
Carolyn - The Chair.



Here's a Brag from us. Fig Szegota has now competed at three KC shows, has not got round a course clear so far but he has stayed in the ring and - a major milestone - at Vyne he was calm enough to queue for the first time ever. Priceless! Sheila.

As it was our first KC show, it was all rather overwhelming - a nine-ring circus - but great fun! Jig and I had a brilliant time - although we had no officially clear rounds, there were things I was very pleased with in each run. Some runs we even managed to do 23 weave poles! Good fun for everyone, even 16-year-old Abbey who sauntered through the show like she owned it. Thanks, Mary Leneis.

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the Hope Rescue stall tombola with prizes etc and to all those who visited the stall too! It was a great weekend raising about £300, full details in the post show newsletter! Thank You, Gill Rhodes.

Here is a photo of me during my stint at the show as a cow. We went clear in the G3-5 Agility in this get up and got 8th place! Also raised £113.22 at the show which was topped up by a tenner by an American contributor (Tim Dyer) to the Agility Forum.

Cheques sent to Many Tears and Valgrays!

It is often said that life begins at 40 but some people disagree.

In America a competition was run to find out when people thought life really began.

Some said at birth.

Some said at 18.

Some said at 40 and so on.

The winning entry was

"When your children leave home and you get a dog!"

Pam

The hard working members at out our show.....



.....and the dogs, by Pam.



A bit of fun for you.

When Wendy sent me this photo she accidentally put two copies in the email. At first I thought they were two different photos and looked hard to see what differences there were. There were none, at least not until I played with one of them in my clumsy way using a the basic Paint program. I have made 6 changes to the original which is the top photo, can you find my changes? Some are fairly obvious and some are a bit more subtle. Have fun, Mick.

