

# Watchdog!

WALLINGFORD DOG TRAINING CLUB

May 2012



WDTC Juniors Rory Tidmarsh and Gio-Gio Botto with their team mates Jack Biddle and Belle Howlett, winners of the Under 12 Team Jumping at the Open Junior Agility Championships in February – WELL DONE!

*Ed: I am not going to attempt to summarize all the happenings since the last issue in November, but as far as I am aware this is our club's only international achievement!*

## Editorial Handover

Well it has finally happened, I have handed over the editorial baton to Alison. Why? Well, for various reasons, mainly because Bryn has now retired from competitive agility, I have decided to step back from active involvement and let someone at the coalface take over. To be honest I think you need to be involved, and up to date, with all things agility to really make a good job of producing the club magazine. I hope that my offerings over the last couple of years have been appreciated, I did enjoy doing them.



I now find myself in the strange position of being just a member of a club, or society, and not actively involved with the running of it. This is the first time in over 30 years of clubs as diverse as archaeology, the early days of citizen's band radio, youth rugby and Harley Owners Group for whom I produced a monthly 12-16 page full colour A4 magazine. Only when I stopped did I realise how much time I spent producing that. I hope to turn up at any demos I can as both Bryn and Fly have shown that they still want to do some agility, and as long as they want to and can do so safely, I will let them. I hope that when I am old I will be extended the same courtesies!

I'm sure that Alison's version of The Watchdog will be entertaining and informative if her Blog is anything to go by, and if you haven't visited it yet I recommend that you do so soon at <http://4paws-for-thought.blogspot.co.uk/>

OK I'll hand you over to Alison now as I have promised an article to mark Bryn's agility career and I'm trying to make the deadline! [*Alison's note: he didn't – editor's revenge?!*] That'll do for now, hope to see you again soon, Mick and Bryn.

*Mick Chambers*

## A word from the (new) editor



"My name is Alison and I am an agility addict!" For those who do not know me, I have been a member of WDTC since moving to the area 4 years ago. Prior to that I was a member of an agility club in Somerset and I still try to attend shows in the south west to stay in touch.

I currently compete with Alf, a large black hairy lurcher, and am also training Basil, a small brown terrier cross, my first small dog, in the Improvers group. I have attended (and passed!) an agility instructor course and enjoy teaching the

Foundation group on Thursdays. Away from agility, my background is in rescue, and I have worked full time in various rescue centres for the last 9 years.

But enough about me, this is YOUR magazine. Watchdog should be about the members for the members, so please send me anything you would like included, whether that is a write up of a show, introducing a new puppy, holiday pictures of your dogs, births, marriages or obituaries, I would love to publish it all.

We all like reading about all our club successes, whether that is a win, a first ever clear round, or even "my dog stayed in the ring", so please do share, and let us all celebrate with you. If you attend any training days, courses, or finals please consider writing a review for the Watchdog. If you have an idea for an article please email it to me: [alisononline@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:alisononline@yahoo.co.uk). The deadline for the next issue is 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to retiring editor Mick for all his work on Watchdog, and I look forward to reading his article about Bryn next month.

*Alison Pearce*

# Agility news

## Competition successes

Some excellent results so far this year – congratulations to everyone. Far too many successes in total, so here are just the top 3 from the most recent UKA and KC shows. The numbers in brackets indicate the number in the class (this is required for the club points tally) and in the UKA shows, the Q indicates if the class is a qualifier for progression.

*Ian Hutchinson*

### Worcester 19 May (KC)

Gill & Shade 1st G5 jumping (about 40)

### Adams Agility 19 May (KC)

Carolyn & Ollie 2nd Grd 3-5 Agility (80/90 G3)  
Carolyn & Ollie 2nd Comb 3-5 Jumping (124)  
Carolyn & Ollie 3rd Grd 1-3 Agility (90/100 G3)  
Carolyn & Ollie 3rd Comb 1-3 Adams Jumping Cup qualifier (136)

### GT Agility Witney 12-13 May (UKA)

#### Saturday

Wendy & Bambi 1st Ch Steeplechase Q (5)  
Wendy & Bambi 1st Ch Power & Speed Q (5)  
Gio-Gio & Bambi 1st Junior Midi Agility (5)  
Sarah & Foxy 1st Nov CSJ Agility Maxi NQ  
Sarah & Foxy 1st Nov Power & Speed Q - now in senior  
Pam & Martha 1st Nov Gamblers (7)  
Pam & Martha 1st Sen Steeplechase 1 (6)  
Pam & Martha 1st Sen Steeplechase 1 (4)  
Dinah & Cinders 1st CSJ Midi Nov Agility (10+)

Dinah & Cinders 3rd Midi Nov Jumping (7+) –  
Now in senior for performance  
Dinah & Cinders 3rd Midi Nov Steeplechase 1 (8+)

#### Sunday

Gio-Gio & Tatti 1st Junior Agility Q (2)  
Gio-Gio & Tatti 1st Junior Jumping Q (2)  
Wendy & Tatti 1st Novice Agility Q (10+)  
Wendy & Bambi 1st Champ Gamblers (3)  
Wendy & Bambi 1st Champ Agility (5)  
Wendy & Fuzzy 3rd Beg Gamblers Std Q (8?)  
Wendy & Fuzzy 3rd GLC Beg Steeplechase heat Std Q (15)

### Vyne 7 May (KC)

Jo & Pip 1st Large G2 jumping (66)

### GT Agility 4- 6 May (UKA)

Wendy & Bambi 1st Champ Agility Q (10)  
Wendy & Bambi 1st Champ Jumping Q (8)  
Wendy & Bambi 2nd Midi Circular Knockout Q (12)  
Jo & Bronwen 3rd Senior Steeplechase (8)  
Gill & Mindy 3rd Beginners agility midi Q (17)

### Dordale 5 –6 May (KC)

Jill & Cass 2nd G5 Agility (34)  
Gill & Shade 3rd G5 Agility (34)

### WBSDS (*yuk weather!*) 28 April (KC)

Gill & Shade 1st G5 jumping (about 80) -  
Jo & Pip 1st Large G2 jumping (70?)



## A sad farewell to Sharon Rowe

I attended the funeral of Sharon Rowe – a member of WDTC many years ago, and an obedience & agility competitor for many, many years. She had lots of dogs over her lifetime, and her coffin brought tears to the eyes of her many agility colleagues when it was carried into Cumnor Church. Her brothers had been busy with Photoshop and the sides of her coffin were completely covered with photographs of all her dogs – wonderfully melded into one continuous picture round the whole coffin. The red rosette pinned to the rear of the coffin was a nice touch. The service was lovely and we were all sad to say farewell to a good agility friend.

*Jacky Hutchinson*

## Hope Rescue Stall at WDTA show



Hope Rescue would like to thank the many members who kindly donated items to the Hope Rescue stall and thank you to everyone who visited the stall. They raised over £180 on Saturday, and over £50 on Sunday (everyone raced off when the rain started). The grand total for the weekend was £231.93. They also had lots of people very interested in their work and had offers for home checking and fostering so it was a very successful weekend. The money raised will keep a dog safe in their emergency kennels for 46 days, which will give many dogs the time needed to find a foster home or rescue to take them in.



*Gill Rhodes*

## WDTA on the web

If you have not already signed up for the Club's private Wiki website, contact Ian Hutchinson ([jacian@ntlworld.com](mailto:jacian@ntlworld.com)) so he can add you on and he will send you the link to sign in. When you compete successfully, you should enter your successes on the Boasts page (this is where the successes list in this issue has been copied from) – and they will also count towards the club's points tournament. At the AGM every year the winners in each category are announced and awarded with a trophy. If you use Facebook you should also sign up to the Club's Facebook group page – search for WDTA.



*Jacky Hutchinson*

## Thank you...

...to Dinah and Kathryn for their tea and coffee making for trainers on Thursdays – it really does make a huge difference to all the instructors.



## New Faces

A new pup has joined the Watson household, so please say hello to Mickey, who now lives with his gran Rockett and his uncle Oz. We look forward to seeing Mickey grow up and follow in their agility footsteps.



We have also gained some new members, as at the beginning of May we had a new intake of a whole class full of beginner dogs and handlers keen to learn. We have some unusual breeds and some stunning dogs, who are showing great potential and already doing brilliantly. We also welcome Helen and Milo who have joined the Improvers, and Lorna and Mint who have joined Group 3, plus we welcome back returning member Paula with Blaze.

*Alison Pearce*

## Committee Members

Chairman: Carolyn Davies  
Secretary: Karen Parker  
Treasurer: Kevin Pearce  
Agility rep: Ian Hutchinson  
Member: Gill Rhodes  
Member: Pete Sanderson  
Member: Kathryn Brocklehurst  
Member: Wendy Botto  
Member: Aileen Watson  
Member: Jacky Hutchinson  
Member: Jo Tidmarsh

## Starting to compete?

There are two organisations that organise agility shows in this area – the Kennel Club (KC) and UKA (UK Agility). The rules and the way the shows are run are very different. The list of rules for both organisers are extensive, so cannot be repeated here. But here are some of the key differences:

Kennel Club	UKA
Dogs must be registered, or at least their KC name applied for, before entering first show. This needs to be a unique name – suggest ticking box not to let KC choose (ask around club members for ideas). Because of the way the KC system works, it's best to register under the main handler's name only.	A handler can try their first show for free, then the handler & dog need to be registered (the dog's pet name can be used). Handler & each dog will be allocated a UKA number.
Three heights: small (up to 350cms at withers, jump height 350cms), medium (over 350cms and up to & including 430cms, jump height 450cms) large (over 430cms, jump height 650cms). Dogs have to be measured before they compete and details entered into the dog's agility record book.	Up to 5 heights: micro 350mm & under- jump height 200mm (nursery & casual only), toy as above but jump height 300mm, midi 430mm & under- jump height 400mm, standard 500mm & under – jump height 550mm maxi any height – jump height 650mm. All dogs need to be measured unless jumping at maxi height.
New handlers & dogs start competing in grade 1 and as the dog (or handler in grades 1 or 2) wins, the partnership works up the grade system to grade 7. To move up a dog needs one clear round win in an agility class or three clear round jumping wins. Progression also possible on points.	New handlers & dogs start competing in beginners. Progression is on points which are awarded for a qualifying (clear) round – more points if placed. Progression is beginners, novice, senior and championship.
You are not permitted to take toys or food in the ring, and there is no option to run a 'training' round.	In all classes there is the option of 'Not For Competition' or training round. You specify this before you start your run. You have the course time to train in the ring. You can handle your dog & use toys (not food) to reward.
There are three types of individual classes: graded (you compete against those in the same grade), combined (eg grades 1-3 where all three grades compete in the same class) or special classes – points from special classes don't count towards progression.	Individual classes are agility with contacts & weaves, jumping with weaves but without contacts, steeplechase with hurdles and pipe tunnels only and various games classes. Progression is separate for steeplechase & performance (agility, jumping, games).
There are also classes for pairs and teams, and other special classes like Junior agility (young handlers) and Anysize (lower height jumps for older dogs, or those recovering from injury).	Nursery classes are for young dogs from 16 months and are not a competition. Casual – you can run at a height one lower than normal for competition or CRO (clear round only) at a lower height. Some shows also have pairs, teams & juniors.
The closing date for KC shows is typically 5 or 6 weeks before the show.	UKA schedules normally specify an opening and closing date. You may not enter before the opening date.
KC shows may be limited (there is a set limit on entry numbers) open or championship (holds a Championship class). At the moment progression is not allowed from successes in limited shows (this is being discussed).	UKA schedules may specify a limit on the number of entries. When this is reached you will not be able to enter. However, if the entry limit has not been reached, you may enter the show on the day.

UKA shows are a great way to begin competing in agility. They tend to be smaller and more relaxed than KC shows. For the younger dog the nursery classes provide a smooth flowing course without the seesaw, tyre, spread jump or weave poles with lower jumps. Steeplechases are also fun for the younger dog with just jumps and tunnels. At UKA shows you have the option of running your dog NFC (not for competition) where you may train your dog in the ring & use a toy (no food is allowed). This is a great way to consolidate your start line wait and reinforce your contacts.

*Ian Hutchinson*

## Dino – Chapter 1



Liz Morgan had advertised some puppies – which looked gorgeous (but then, all puppies do – don't they?). Having lost Stig a few weeks earlier we went to have a look. There were four dog puppies – and they were all nice, but there was one we liked just a bit more than the others – and Liz & Shaun agreed that we could have him.

So, we ended up with a blue tri collie puppy – called Dino (after the Ferrari – not the dinosaur!). When he arrived, Jacky nicknamed him 'Perfect Puppy' – he slotted into our motley crew very quickly and was just so good.

I'm not sure when he lost his nickname, but he is now – without doubt – the most inquisitive puppy we've ever had. Some would say this makes him naughty, but to be honest – it's really just that he takes EVERY opportunity to taste & chew anything new. So – though he's coming up to 1 year old, he is still confined to a cage in the kitchen when we leave him. He takes anything he can reach on the side or take from the sink (knives & scissors being popular – and he doesn't

agree that they are totally inappropriate toys!). He's chewed bedding (ours and theirs), shoes, Jacky's mobile phone case – and the phone (tho' that still works).

Dino is quite unafraid of heights and regularly travels across the room above floor height – over chairs and tables. This means that the A-frame and dog-walk hold no fear at all. He has taken to the weaves so well that within a couple of weeks with the channel weaves in the garden, he's now happy working competition weaves. (We decided this time to ignore the advice to keep them wide until you get angled weaves before moving them together – and went for a speedy close up. This has certainly worked for him so far.)

Dino won't be old enough to compete in KC shows until December, so there is no rush to complete his training quickly and without a competing dog we should have a relaxed summer for a change; hopefully going to one or two of Wendy's demos.

*Ian Hutchinson*



## Upcoming Agility Demonstrations

Agility demos are a great way to spend a sunny afternoon, get to know your fellow club members and get some extra agility practice. Dogs of all levels are welcome, as the audiences always like to see different sizes, breeds and accuracy! Please add yourself and your dogs onto the list on the Wiki, or let Wendy know that you would like to attend. If you have any queries call Wendy on 01235 817932 or email [thebottos@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:thebottos@tiscali.co.uk).

*2012 dates so far ...*

June date tbc. Rush Court Care Home, Shillingford.  
23rd June, Witney Community Primary School  
30th June, Harwell Primary School Summer Fair, PM  
21st July Goring & Streatley Regatta (very lovely by the river at Goring  
8th September Dizzy Dogs Day, at Farmer Gows, Longcot Nr. Faringdon

## Toby and Bob

Many WDTC members will have seen my “old boys” out and about although they were both retired before I joined Wallingford. We sadly lost Bob in December aged 14 and Toby in January aged 15. As it’s thanks to them that I got hooked on agility I asked Mick if I could tell their story in Watchdog, little knowing I’d be editing it!

I remember vividly the first time I met Toby. My first day on a new job at a rescue centre in Somerset, and there he was, a funny little tri-colour collie, he barked a lot, didn’t trust people, yet somehow by day two I knew he was going to be my dog. I had already been working in rescue kennels for several years, so I was used to caring for unwanted dogs on a daily basis and **not** taking them all home, but Toby was different.

Toby was so hand shy if you held a treat above his head he didn’t even think about sitting, he snapped and dodged away. He hated having his collar held or being restrained so from the start the only way to train him was very much hands off. It took me months to gain his trust, and people who only met him in his latter years would see a different dog, affectionate, confident, happy to meet people and be fussed, and never believed me when I told them what he used to be like.



We started agility at a fun club – well of course we had no aims to compete, nobody ever does do they?! The only reason I moved to a competition club was that the outdoor fun classes stopped over the winter. I remember confidently telling the club secretary that Toby knew all the agility equipment, we just needed a class to join for the winter. On our first training session I discovered that the dogwalk was twice as far off the floor as we were used to, there was a reason for the yellow bits, Toby was supposed to do jumps a foot higher than he had been doing, and there was a right and a wrong side to enter weave poles! Oh dear!!



Toby and I took part in our first KC show when he was 8 years old, and he got a clear round in his first ever class. I had sneaked away from a family party to compete, and when I returned to the house Toby and his giant rosette stole the show (*left*)!

At around the same time, my second dog Bob joined the family. Bob grew on me more gradually – I looked after him on a daily basis in the kennels, and Toby was his friend even then. He was a long-termer who had been at the centre nearly 3 years, and I felt I had to take him home as no-one else ever would have done, I couldn’t stand seeing him stressed in kennels any longer, and I knew I could work with him.

My dad is also called Bob, and the first time I went to stay with Bob-the-dog my dad kept appearing in doorways thinking someone was talking to him, so we ended up referring to the furry one as Bobdog! My dad remembers Bobdog as being one of the most aloof dogs he had ever met, with his OCD kennel behaviours of pacing and circling. He became a very cuddly dog, and I have a picture from the following Christmas of him draped across my dad’s feet.

Bob was 7 years old when I adopted him, and had the unusual distinction of making his competition debut in a veteran class – the lovely lady calling on the ring was lost for words when I said it was his first ever show aged 8 years old. He was also a cover star (*right*)!

Toby was honest and reliable – I don’t think we ever came home from a show without a rosette. Bob had more speed less accuracy but often got placed when I got him round the right course. After only one full season Bob was retired from agility completely due to injury. Toby retired to anysize the following year, where we continued our start line ritual of him rolling on his back growling fake-fiercely.



Of course agility was only a small part of their lives, just a game we played. Toby was the dog of a lifetime, and Bob was the dog I couldn’t bear to leave behind. They have always been very much a pair, and it seems fitting they left me so close together, as I could never imagine them being apart for long.

*Alison Pearce*

# WDTC Book and DVD Library



The club has a collection of books and DVDs that are available for any member to borrow. I would suggest a period of about 2 weeks for borrowing is reasonable.

I am trying a new system of recording who wants to borrow what. If you go onto the WDTC wiki and then find the library tab <http://wdtc.wetpaint.com/page/Library> you will find a list of books and DVDs available. Click on the book or DVD you would like to borrow and this takes you to a page for that item. Enter your name under the 'Borrower' column and I will be sent an email letting me know that you want to borrow a book or DVD. I will then bring it to the next training session. If someone already has borrowed the book you can still add your name to the list and as soon as the book is returned I will bring it to club for you. I will fill in when a book or DVD is borrowed and returned so you can see if the book/DVD is available.

I will bring the entire library to training on the first Thursday of the month and anything

borrowed there can be written in the library book and I will update the Wiki library page. Anyone without access to the Wiki needs to contact Ian. If you have a problem using the Wiki I am happy to be emailed requests for books or DVDs and you can email me reviews too, [gill.rhodes@ocnmail.net](mailto:gill.rhodes@ocnmail.net).

On the page which lists the current borrower there is a column for rating the book or DVD and at the bottom of the page is a section where you can add a review of the book. I'd be very really grateful if as many people as possible could write book reviews and add them to this page. This will help others decide which book or DVD is right for them, particularly relevant for the agility training section. The current library list is below but we are hoping to purchase some new books and DVDs shortly and these will appear on the Wiki.

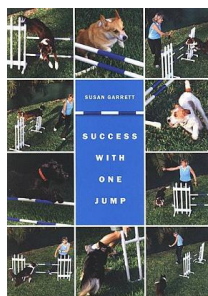
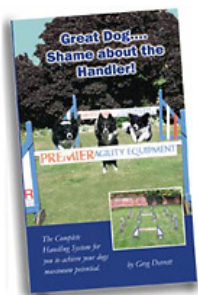
If you have a suggestion for the club to purchase for the library, please let me know, or add to the bottom of the library page in the 'Suggestions' section. If anyone has any suggestions to improve the way the library is organised then please let me know.

*Gill Rhodes*

## Wallingford DTC Library - DVDs

(Categories: H – Health, S – Story, F – Factual, T – Training)

Title	Author	Summary	Category
Agility Foundation Training	Greg Derrett	Covers all the essential basic training techniques to give you and your dog a strong foundation	T
Great dog... Shame about the Handler!	Greg Derrett	The complete Handling System for you to achieve your dog's maximum potential'	T
Teach your dog to win!	Alan & Jayne Bray	Discover the secrets of successful agility.'	T
Success with one jump	Susan Garrett	..the tools to improve your skills as a handler regardless of the size of your backyard.'	T
Ultimate contacts	Toni Dawkins & Stuart Harmes	...techniques to produce fast, accurate and independent competition contacts.'	T
Improve your dog's health through canine massage	Galen Therapy Centre	Canine massage is a gentle non-invasive treatment that can help to reduce the symptoms of many problems.	H

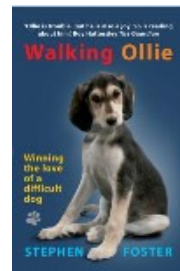
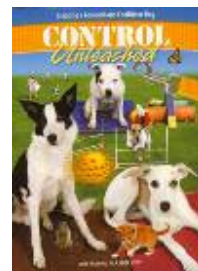
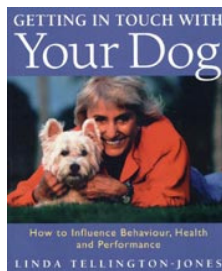




## Wallingford DTC Library - Books

(Categories: H – Health, S – Story, F – Factual, T – Training)

Title	Author / Editor	Information	Summary	Category
Raw meaty bones	Tom Lonsdale	Softback: 314 pages plus appendices, glossary, references & index	A case for feeding the BARF diet (Bones and Raw Food)	H
Shock to the System	Catherine O'Driscoll	Softback: 214 pages	The facts about animal vaccination, pet food and how to keep your pet healthy.'	H
Wild Health	Cindy Engel	Softback: 215 pages plus references and index	How animals keep themselves well and what we can learn from them.'	H
Getting in Touch with your Dog (x2)	Linda Tellington-Jones	Softback: 118 pages – an introduction to her Tellington Touch method.	Using touching and positive, no-force training to influence behaviour, health & performance.	H
Magnet Theory	Gloria Vergari	Softback: 97 pages plus glossary of treatments	Discover the powerful new force in health and recovery.'	H
Who Killed the Darling Buds of May. 1 Vaccination	Catherine O'Driscoll	Softback: 300 pages plus references and index	What vets don't tell you about vaccines'.	H
Marley & Me	John Grogan	Softback:	The story of Marley 'an uncontrollable ninety-seven pound steamroller of a eliably retriever'.	S
Walking Ollie	Stephen Foster	Softback:	A hilarious and touching account of one man's struggle to turn a decidedly difficult animal into something resembling a domestic pet.	S
Scruffs – the alternative dog show	Peter Mayle & Arthur Robins	Hardback	A humerous, pictorial guide to the scruffy mongrel.	F
Control Unleashed	Ledlie McDevitt	Softback: 223 pages	A program designed to help 'dogs with issues' learn to relax, focus and work off leash eliably.	T
The Big Book of Dogs	Edited: J C Soares	Hardback: 377 pages	Black & white photos with captions of dogs of all shapes & sizes.	F
Knowledge equals speed	Dawn Weaver	Paperback. 320 pages; colour photographs and over 300 colour diagrams.	Dawn's successful training method – never discipline a dog during agility – this should be the most fun they ever have. Loads of exercises.	T



*Don't forget to send your articles, pictures, questions and reports to [alisononline@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:alisononline@yahoo.co.uk) before the 22nd June for the next issue!*