

Watchdog!

WALLINGFORD DOG TRAINING CLUB

January 2014



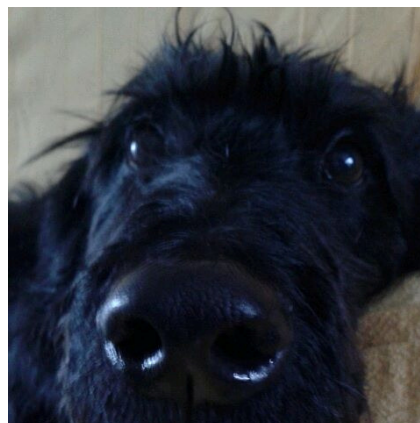
Above: Christmas Party winners: Well Done Yellow Team!
Below: The Green Team very pleased with the wooden spoons!



Editor's corner

January, the start of a new year – hello 2014! I have avoided New Year's Resolutions for years, but this year I have been persuaded to write some goals for Basil's agility, under the new format of the club's aims and objectives. I found the process helpful, and at the end of the year it will be interesting to look back and see whether having some specific objectives has made a difference.

I have also had the pleasure of reading some of the goals set by the handlers I will be teaching this year – a real variety of things to work towards, and I hope I can help you all fulfil them!



If you are not sure about setting your objectives, do discuss this with your instructor, and remember an aim can be anything – maybe you would like your dog not to eat horse poo (I worked on that for quite a while with Basil when he first came to club). Remember you can also set goals for yourself – for example, you could want to tackle your nerves.

I don't have any goals for the retired dogs (Alf (*above*) says his is to relax and eat as much as possible), but I am now thinking about setting some aims and objectives for my puppy – I have a feeling that things like being able to walk around the rings on a loose lead and watch agility without barking will be worked on all summer!

Alison Pearce



Date for your diary - AGM



The club's AGM will take place this year on **Wednesday 12th March** at the Astons Village Hall.

This is where club members elect the committee, the accounts are published, club awards are presented, the club's charities / good causes are elected for the next year - and we all have a chat over a few nibbles.

All committee members are elected each year.

This year Karen Parker has stepped down from the committee and her position as secretary; all other committee members are happy to be considered for re-election.

If anyone is interested in joining the committee please speak to Carolyn Davies.

All members who have paid their subscription will get an invitation to the AGM - which will include all details and nomination forms.

Jacky Hutchinson

Wallingford DTC Committee News

Updates for club members from the committee meeting held on 15th January 2014

- Register: please all check you are signed in on the register at training on Thursdays.
- Please all remember to let someone know if you cannot attend training on a Thursday. This helps us to know if we need to adjust any groups or even cancel (e.g. in bad weather). Instructors' contact details will be circulated by email, or please ask at club.
- Reminder of upcoming AGM – see separate notice. Nominations for charities/good causes to be made to Jo Tidmarsh before 8th March.
- Container tidying – some help will be needed with this and an email will be sent out with a date when this will take place.



Jo Tidmarsh

Agility report

We're back at Blewbury with a new class structure and your instructor will be encouraging you to consider what you'd like to achieve in 2014. Is it to enter your first show? Or get a clear round at a show? Or reach a final? Or go up a grade (or two)?

Then – when you have agreed this with your instructor – you should define 3 or 4 objectives to enable you to achieve your aim. This might be to get a reliable start-line wait enabling you to get to the second obstacle. Or improve your weaves so that your dog picks them up and completes them successfully 90% of the time. Or tighten up your turns to get faster times so that you get a top 5 place when you get a clear round. It will be easier for instructors to devise exercises to better suit those in their class when they know everyone's objectives.



If you are in the first sessions please get to Blewbury by 7.30pm to put the equipment out; leave your dogs in the car while you do this. Everyone in these sessions is expected to help. Anyone young and fit should be able and willing to help with the heavier equipment and if you have an injury, there are feet to put on jumps. Young juniors should remain in the arena and not go to the container.

Please take care with dogs in the kitchen area. Please don't bring dogs in too early before their class, and when dogs are coming out, please keep all dogs on a short lead. We used to have a one-way system, which I don't want to introduce in this wet weather, but will if there are any incidents.

You will be asked to complete a membership form and pay your annual subscriptions. The subs paid by new members who joined in or after October 2013 count for 2014 as well, so they just need to complete the form. We know completing the form is a bit of a pain, but it's only

once a year and we need to make sure we have your up-to-date information in case we need to contact you urgently.

The club isn't running a show this year, but we will be doing ring parties for other clubs when there are sufficient members attending, so do let us know when you are competing at KC shows. A notice will be at Blewbury regularly – or you can add your name to the 'Who's going to which shows' page on the Wiki. This also helps when we're trying to camp together. If you do well at any shows then you need to add these details to the Boast page on the Wiki.

You may now be wondering what the Wiki is. This is a private website for club members, which has some useful information. You need to be invited to enable you to visit this site – you need to contact Ian – the agility rep on xxx xxx, or by email xxx@xxx.com .

There is also a club facebook group – for members and a few close agility friends of the club. If you are on Facebook – search for WDC and then ask to be added.

The Watchdog editor (Alison) will be including more articles relevant to anyone wanting to start entering their first shows in future - the different organisations that run shows in this area and the types of shows, registering and measuring your dog, etc... If you need information in the meantime – do ask your instructor – or any member of club who competes that you can catch.

Ian Hutchinson – Agility rep



New Judges

Congrats to Gill Kimber and Jenny Kimber for passing the KC judging course, meaning they are now both qualified to judge at KC shows. We are all looking forward to running their courses in 2014!

Treasurer's Corner

The Christmas card collection at the Christmas Party this year raised £69.42 from all the members who signed the giant card. This money will go towards the club's nominated charities for this year. Thank you everyone for your contributions.

Kevin Pearce



Show Results

Nedlo (KC Limit) 29th Dec

Tania & Kia 1st G1-7 Agility (G3) - into G4

Gill & Mindy 1st G1-7 Agility standard class (6 G4) - into G5

Gill & Mindy 1st G3-5 Jumping special class (6 G4)

Gill & Mindy 3rd C1-7 Stch (32)

Gill & Mindy CR C4-6 agility (16)

Gill & Bertie CR G3-5 Jumping

Adams (KC) 28th Dec

Aileen & Rockett CR CG1-7 jumping (202)

Rugby (KC) 14 Dec

Jill & Cass 2nd G4-5 Jumping (~40 G5)

UKA Grand Finals 30th Nov-1st Dec

Jill & Cass 5th CSJ Final agility (10)

Club Points Leagues – 2013 and 2014

2013

For those of you who are new to the Club, each year we keep a record of all the wins, places and clear rounds that members achieve throughout the year. Individual members either record their own results on the Wiki, or let me know so that I can do it for them – I can be emailed on xx@xxx.com.

Having reached the end of 2013 those results are kept on a spreadsheet and members presented with awards at our AGM which will be held mid to late March (full details to follow). A full set of results and places will be printed in the Watchdog after that. *Oh the suspense!*

At the AGM awards are also presented to Club members who may not have been to any shows, but have made great advances during training as chosen by your trainers! *More suspense!*

2014

For everyone, it is now time to update the results sheet and if you would like to be included on the spreadsheet for 2014, you need to let me have the following information. Your name and pet name of dog, height/size of dog, and at what level you start the year competing.

Achievements and results (boasts) are accepted for any show you take part in, including things like the Winter League.

If you need help deciding, think you want to take part but don't know how, or not sure in which section you and your dog belong, please ask.

We have 4 sections

Junior – anyone under the age of 18 (no more than 3 dogs on which to record results)

Starter – anyone competing (or wishing to compete) at KC levels 1/2 or Beginner UKA

Novice – KC levels 3-5

Senior - KC Levels 6-7

You will stay in the same section you started in for the whole year – regardless of how much you may win! Good Luck everyone!

Aileen Watson

Olympia 2013

On Sunday 22nd December, at the traditional agility time of Stupid O'Clock, various Wallingford members assembled sleepily in car parks across Oxfordshire and Berkshire, and were gradually gathered into a coach to head towards London. We had a brief, enticing glimpse of the outside of Olympia, before we were spirited away to a coach park that we were not allowed to park in. Undaunted, we unloaded and began to walk...

The agility started at 9am, and we made it in time to settle into some good seats. Of the thousands of dogs who ran in the qualifiers during the year, we were down to just 36 dogs and handlers for the semi-final. As the handlers walked the course, we cheered encouragement!

Jenny Kimber & Guv (*below left*) just had 5 faults for the dogwalk contact, putting them 14th and through to the afternoon pairs final, while Carolyn & Ollie (*below right*) were unlucky with 10 faults (two poles) meaning they finished 25th and unfortunately did not get through.



The standard of competition was high – despite the nerves and the pressure there were hardly any eliminations (just four), which really shows only the best get to Olympia! The top ten who qualified for the evening final all had clear rounds, and in fact so did two of those who went through to the afternoon Pairs contest.

When the agility semi-final was over, the arena was then taken over by native pony showing – as far as I can make out this is similar to breed showing for dogs judged on shape, appearance, movement, without the animal having to DO anything. So we went shopping instead. The majority of stalls are horsey to a greater or lesser extent, but as horsey people wear boots, socks, gloves, hats, coats, etc, there are plenty of things that dog folks can buy too!

We found our proper seats in time for the afternoon performance starting, which began with a complicated knockout type of showjumping (over fences bigger than most people are tall), and the agility fell somewhere in the middle. Jenny and Guv were paired with experienced competitor Kathrin Tasker and her lurcher (with the brilliant name “Holy Moley”) and they ran well to finish 3rd. Well done, Jenny!

The rest of the performance included the hugely popular Shetland Pony Grand National, and ended with a visit from Father Christmas. The journey home took a slightly, erm, scenic route, through Slough of all places, but at least we were all dropped off at the correct car parks! Thank you Rosie for organising us all, and to everyone who made it a great club day out!

Alison Pearce

Winter League Match Results

Match 2 – 30th November

This was a tough one for us as a Club, as so many of our handlers and dogs had spectacularly gained themselves places in the UKA Finals – many congratulations to all of them. As a result those of us who were left found ourselves, on a bright dry day, down at Burchetts Green for the second leg of the League. In the main we were able to cover most (if not quite all) of our allocated runs. I spent some time juggling entries to cover for those who had (at the last minute) not managed to make the show.

Our grateful thanks go to our very own Jacky Hutchinson who took on the role of judge for the morning and to all those who ring partied for our ring. All your hard work is much appreciated.

How did we do? Well there were some notable results which meant that we finished 4th overall, so many congratulations.

There was great excitement as each of the courses provided its own challenges – like the G3-7 jumping with the only large dog to go clear was Ozzie with Jenny – otherwise the smalls and mediums nearly took the clean sweep! Go the smalls and mediums!

Results – but remember they only place to 6th in large and 3rd in combined small/medium. Numbers in each class in brackets.

It is fascinating to see how handlers/dogs with faults or even with eliminations still managed to gain points for the Club, provided they have made a good effort to complete the course.

Nursery Agility (8) 3 rd Kathryn and Loki 5 th Kathryn and Bailey 7 th Maria and Molly	G2-5 Jumping (58) – the clean sweep – well done folks! 1 st Debbie and Blix 2 nd Ian and Dino 3 rd Sarah and Merlin
G1 Jumping (41) 2 nd Kath and Tilly	G2-5 Agility (43) – won by a medium dog 3 rd Robert and Glen (4 th overall!)
G1 Agility (41) 2 nd Lizzie and Timmy (4 th overall)	G1-7 Agility (42) 2 nd Gill and Shade 6 th Linda and Milo 2 nd Jose and Pera (9 th overall)
G1-2 Jumping (46) – nothing!	G3-7 Jumping (48) 1 st Jenny and Ozzie 4 th Carolyn and Ollie (10 th overall)
G1-3 Jumping (55) 3 rd Sarah and Merlin	G3-7 Agility (39) – nothing!
G1-3 Agility (49) – nothing!	G6-7 Jumping (24) 4 th Carolyn and Ollie 5 th Rosemary and Fizz
	Veteran/Anysize 3 rd Anthony and Gimli

The two remaining matches are 18th January and the final one 22nd February.

Aileen Watson

Gunner – 30 January 2000 – 10 November 2013

Gunner had a completely black head as a puppy. Kaye Faiers bred him and Sharon Rowe's Storme was his dad and he was the definition of the nutty collie – doing everything at 120%.

In his first summer one of his games was to race through the house – out through the patio doors – round the garden – back in through the kitchen door – then through the house and back out of the patio doors again. He mis-timed his dash through the patio doors once – catching his shoulder. He squealed and rolled head over heels into the garden.

He recovered OK – but over the next couple of weeks was lame on that leg, so the vets X-rayed his shoulder but could find nothing wrong. He was referred to an orthopaedic specialist at Burchetts Green. There they spotted a tiny piece of cartilage that had been chipped off the ball joint in his shoulder. This was OCD – or osteochondrosis of the shoulder – which is usually an inherited problem in large dogs, but can be a result of trauma (as in Gunner's case). They would normally recommend this is left, but knowing that I wanted to do agility, they suggested operating – which was very successful.

While he was recovering from the shoulder injury I decided to have a bash at Working Trials. Gunner was pretty good at searching and tracking (although laying the track is bloomin' hard work) and it kept me fit and Gunner mentally stimulated.

Jacky decided to train him for flyball – and he was quite awesome (like his dad Storme). He was completely focussed on getting the tennis ball and so could run in any position. In agility Gunner was just as focussed. He either left a trail of poles on the ground – keeping the ring party busy – or (more rarely) a spectacular clear round. He won out of both elementary and starters by over 6 seconds and reached Grade 5 – but I found him so frustrating that as soon as I had a second dog (Stig) I admit I stopped running him. However, Jenny Kimber gave him a new lease of life, running him with some success in his later years.

Although he was a very loving dog to humans, he was not an easy dog with the other dogs at home. He was a poor (possibly insecure) pack leader who kept control by intimidation - and injured Lazer, Dash, Stig and Dino before they learned to keep out of his way. But outside of the home he was better behaved and mixed well with other dogs.

Latterly he was suffering from painful hips, had a growing tumour under his tail and lost a lot of weight. He usually woke us 2 or 3 times a night but when that became 5 or 6 we decided that it was better to call it a day before the tumour destroyed his quality of life. We all miss him.



Ian Hutchinson



30th November – 1st December 2013

UK Agility run shows throughout the year, and at these show there are qualifiers for a number of competitions for which the finals take place at the end of the year at The Hand Arena in Clevedon near Bristol.

CSJ Grand Prix

This year Cass & I and Dinah & Cinders qualified for the CSJ UK Agility Grand Prix final. This is an Agility competition for all Novice, Senior & Champion dogs. All of the 20 finalists in each height ran in the semi final and then the top 10 went on to compete in the final later.



Above left: Dinah & Cinders; right: Jill & Cass

Dinah was unlucky in the semi final when an unusual burst of speed from Cinders caught Dinah out of position and they were eliminated. Cass did a fast round but was faulted for leaving the seesaw just before it hit the ground, but in 7th place we had got through to the final.

Unlike most agility competitions you have to run in strict running order and just as I entered the ring for my turn, I realised my nose was running... blood!

I didn't know what to do, but I needed to run then if I was going to, so off I went with my nose dripping blood! Despite this Cass was again brilliant & although I had allowed a very wide turn we were clear, and finished in 5th place (*right*).

Tug-e-Nuff Challenge

Wendy & Tatti and Gill R & Mindy qualified for the Tug-e-Nuff Challenge. This is a competition for Beginner and Novice dogs, combining the best overall performance in Jumping and Agility both in the qualifiers and also in the final.



At the final both Tatti & Mindy went clear in the jumping round with Mindy lying in 2nd place. In the Agility, Mindy was unfortunately drawn to the A frame instead of the long jump and was eliminated; Tatti was so keen to get to the finish line, at the penultimate obstacle, she collected 5 faults by coming out of the weaves early. This gave Tatti 4th place overall, absolutely brilliant especially as has overcome so many nervous problems to even get to the final.

Gio Gio qualified Bambi & Tatti for the Junior Open Championships. This competition involved both a jumping and an agility round. Tatti went clear in Jumping but despite Gio Gio's perseverance Tatti really didn't want to complete the weaves correctly, adding lots of time in the agility, and putting them out of the places. Bambi was eliminated in the Jumping (I didn't arrive early enough to see this one!) and just 5 faults in the Agility.

Wendy & Foxy qualified for the Beginners Steeplechase, a competition for beginners over a course of only jumps and tunnels. Well done for getting to the finals, but an elimination meant no place for Foxy.

For full details of the UK Agility organisation see www.ukagility.com or talk to me or one of the other trainers.

Jill Lowe

The Incident of the Caravan in the Day!

For those of you who do not know, I had my caravan stolen from in front of my house on 2nd December. As you can imagine, I was pretty devastated, but friends far and wide have been wonderful.

On Thursday 12th December at 3.20pm the police phoned to say there was good news and bad – the good news was the caravan had been found – the bad – found in Germany. Still don't know the full story, but it appears the people towing were stopped on an autobahn just outside Frankfurt where they realised the caravan being towed was stolen.



After several conversations with the insurers and the loss adjustor, it has been agreed they will repatriate the caravan to British shores. Still awaiting news of its return, but so pleased it has been found. Thank you for all your support during this time.

Aileen Watson

2013 – One Amazing Year in Agility

This is the end of an amazing year for my lovely dogs; Mindy and Bertie, now both KC grade 5 and in May 2013 we were still grade 1. I would never have believed that they could both achieve so much in one year.

Bertie and Mindy have now both earned their KC silver and bronze agility warrants. Between them in 2013 they won; 47 x 1st places, 21 x 2nd, 24 x 3rd, 37 other place rosettes and 40 trophies. The photo below shows both dogs with the rosettes and trophies won in 2013 (although the DARL trophy is still to come!). Mindy and I qualified for and competed in both the UKA agility finals (Tug-e-nuff) and Agility Club Starters Challenge 2013. Mindy and I also qualified earlier in the year for the Agility Club Starters Challenge 2014.



Just over 3 years ago I fostered, and then adopted Mindy (then about 18mths old), who was rescued from the pound by Hope Rescue. I decided on the Kennel Club name of 'Hope's Messenger' as she was a message from Hope Rescue that all rescue dogs should have a second chance in life. Mindy is certainly proving that she deserved a second chance!

Bertie was my first agility dog. He is also a rescue, adopted at 1yr old, he is now almost 8, a typical cheeky, lively, mischievous terrier, very independent, stops to sniff at the most inopportune moments and likes to think he is in charge but he also loves agility and is very good when he wants to be! For Bertie to have come so far this year has really meant a lot to me.

I have just heard that Mindy and I achieved first place in the Medium Gold division of the Senior Agility League 2013 with 1607 points. The senior agility league is open to any handler over 55 and you compete in a different category depending on your age. If you wish to take part this year go to

<http://www.agilitynet.co.uk/Senior%20Agility%20League/intropage.html>

Mindy and I have also won the grade 1/2 medium category in the Dog Agility Rescue League for 2013. Mindy and Bertie have both been invited to compete in the DARL rescue league agility finals in June 2014. Last year Bertie competed and came 2nd in his category at the finals. Anyone with a rescue dog can compete in this league and you can find out more information and join here <http://www.darleague.com/>

I have just today heard that Bertie has just qualified for the Agility Terrier League 2013 Final Grade 1-4 at Dog Vegas on June 21st! The top 10 dogs in each category qualify to compete at the finals. If you have a terrier and want to find out more or join then visit <http://agilityterrierleague.wordpress.com/>

I would like to thank all my trainers at club for the help they have given me to achieve this. I can honestly say I really look forward to coming every Thursday evening and love every minute! Also many thanks for all the support from club members at shows - it really helps when you are feeling nervous!

Any members thinking of competing this year please 'have a go' at shows. There will always be lots of club members around who will be happy to help you. Don't expect great results immediately – it took Bertie and I six years to get out of grade 1, but we had a lot of fun and enjoyment on the way!

Gill Rhodes



Lee Harfield and Pip have been chosen to represent England at the WAO's in Italy in 2014. A number of WDC members train with Lee and she has been a club member herself for a number of years.



Don't forget to send your pictures, successes, stories, show reports, judging reports, demo reports and anything else you think might entertain us for the next issue xxx@xxx.co.uk