

Watchdog!

WALLINGFORD DOG TRAINING CLUB

February 2013



Home match against UpAndOver Club

Another really enjoyable event at our lovely 'new' location on Churn Estate with (very unusually for our home match) the sun shining.



First, thanks to everyone who helped, with particular thanks to Jo (who was recovering from a recent partial removal of a wisdom tooth - ouch!) and her small team for the spreadsheet and the scoring, to Aileen (who had been working in the days leading up to the match) and everyone who provided the fabulous food, and to Sue & Carolyn for managing the rings - along with everyone who helped out on the rings. Thanks also to Sue for the loan of the gas urn & heater, Carolyn for getting the prizes (we recovered well from our misunderstanding over the number of prizes!), Jo for printing the certificates, Kevin for handling all the money and Alison for running the raffle (and everyone who provided the vast array of prizes) which raised just under £100 for our charities. What a great lot of members we have!

These events are great for those with newer dogs as a stepping stone before competing. Some of the courses for the nursery classes were a tad tricky - but club members did really well. Whatever the course, it's really important to take away the good bits from every round (there is always something that goes well) and think about what future training is needed. Here are two that I was aware of (there will be others - let your trainer know what they are).

In the agility round, there was a tunnel after the first jump - and Jack ducked under the first jump to run straight to the tunnel. A tunnel after the first jump is a well known trap that will catch out a few dogs not jumping the first jump (because the dog focuses on the tunnel - looking under the jump pole) - and this is something we need to work on with everyone.

Basil suddenly decided he didn't like this strange-looking person (the judge) standing near him in the ring. I'm not sure how many of our members would admit to being 'strange-looking' but we obviously need to do some training with people standing near the equipment so dogs are not put off by a judge in a competition.

Well done to all those who won classes (Belle, Bertie, Blix, Dino, Kia, Loki, Max, Maze, Shade) and also Rory who came second, a great warm up for Crufts, and Sue Rodger with Ella who was the best nursery competitor overall.

I also wanted say how good it was to see Jill Lowe competing now she's recovered from her detached retina. (I liked that she specifically asked if she could run round in a dusty environment - does this sum up indoor agility?)

Although we won, the event and the training opportunities and the opportunities to get to know other members are the important things. The full results are in a separate annexe.

Jacky Hutchinson

A word from the editor



Well this is different, the first Watchdog I have done without a Boasts section! To put it another way, all of the Boasts are in their own publication, as there were too many from the match to fit in, so Jacky has asked me to print them separately. Well done to everyone who attended, I saw some really nice rounds, and lots of promise for the future. I hope you all enjoyed it and are looking forward to the return match. If you have not had a schedule and entry form come through on the email it has probably been eaten by gremlins so please ask Jacky for another one.

January was interesting, we have had floods, snow, ice, gales, and now starting February with some lovely sun! Despite the lack of shows over the winter, there has been lots to write about – thank you to everyone who has submitted articles, and I have been told there are some more to come for the next issue too. In this issue you can read about how to set effective goals, enter teams, qualify for finals, enter leagues, and don't forget to buy your club kit to do it all in!

Alison Pearce



Our condolences go to club members Lisa-Marie and Harvey on the loss of their young Schnauzer, Lily, who died in an accident recently. It was only last June that Lily first joined us at WDTG, but I know that those who have trained her thought she was a very promising young dog, and we were all very saddened to hear the news.

Well done Gill and Bertie on qualifying for the Supadarl Rescue League Finals by finishing the year in 5th place in the Medium G1-2 league for 2012. The finals take place at Chipping Norton Show KC Open Show on Sunday 9th June 2013



Agility for Juniors

Congratulations to Rory Tidmarsh and Ammo who won the "Agility for Juniors Primary League 2012". Throughout the year all the Juniors are encouraged to send in their results from KC and UKA shows to Agility for Juniors. The results are converted to points, like our own club league. Rory also came 4th with Pip.

Jo Tidmarsh

Wallingford Kit

NEW T-SHIRTS and VESTS available to order IN TIME FOR OUR SHOW



The new style T-shirts and vests (in sports performance materials) are now available to order. Sizes are available in Mens or Ladies fit for the T-shirts and Ladies vests. I have a limited supply of sizes to try on that I hope to have available at Club over the next couple of weeks. I will be placing the next order at the end of February to ensure delivery in time for our show.

STOCK CLEARANCE

The old style heavy weight T shirts (*right*) are available for £5 per item while stocks last.

BARGAIN BIN.

Any very old stock is available at £1 per item while stocks last.



COATS/JACKETS OTHER Kit

For plain navy T-shirts, coats, caps and gilets we have a supplier who will take your order directly via phone or online. There is no minimum order and the kit can be personalised with you and/or your dogs name.

Jo Tidmarsh

AGM

The Club's Annual General Meeting will take place on Wednesday 6th March at the Aston Tirrold & Upthorpe Village Hall, Thorpe Street, Aston Upthorpe Oxon OX11 9EQ. Everyone is welcome. Karen (club secretary) will be sending full details soon, but in the meantime, please think about the following.

The committee who runs the club on your behalf is elected at the AGM and there are vacancies. If you would like to be considered for a post on the committee please let the chairman (Carolyn Davies) or any other committee member know.

The club supports 2 charities each year and these are also voted for at the AGM. One is dog-related – the other (to show that we dog-owners also care about people) is a people-related charity. Please let Jacky Hutchinson have your nominations for these charities.

Jacky Hutchinson



GOAL SETTING

A few years ago I attended a Sports Psychology for Dog Agility seminar run by Mark Laker. The course was very thought-provoking! It covered the principles of agility psychology and reasons that affect our performance, and ways of overcoming the problems. One of the sessions was to do with goal setting which I have tried to keep up. Taking time to set some goals helps focus your agility training.



When I got Shade (*left*) I was determined to get the basics right and not try to progress too quickly. We spent a lot of time on groundwork - stays, recalls, send ahead. Once she was nearing 16 months I thought about setting goals. These were very simple at first such as completing an obstacle correctly. At the magic 18 months (when you can compete at KC shows) she was not doing full height jumps, a seesaw or weaves in a straight line.

We all want different things from agility. Some are competitive, some are not. This article may make you think about how you address agility whatever your point of view.

Think how your dog has progressed at agility over the last year or past few months for dogs newer to agility. Will your dog wait at the start; will they go on ahead of you; complete contacts successfully?

Now think about what you want to achieve with your dogs over the next few months – your goals. The criteria for goal setting (SCCAMP) are:

- Specific – e.g. Get 12 points in UKA Performance rounds as compared to ‘some’ points.
- Controllable – Not dependent on others.
- Challenging – e.g. If your dog has already got 9 points in UKA Performance and you specify 12 points the goal above would not be challenging!
- Attainable – If you are a Grade 1 competitor setting your goal for Grade 2 (compared with Grade 7) is realistic.
- Measurable – Not vague - so you know when they are achieved.
- Personal – Relating to you so goals may be different depending on your outlook on agility.

Some suggestions for your goals depending on the level you are at:

- Successfully complete the seesaw as part of a course (e.g. jump, seesaw, jump)
- Weaves in a straight line.
- Run my dog at a Wallingford demo.
- Compete in a nursery event at a UKA show.
- Wait at start with 1 jump lead out.
- Wait at start with another dog on the course
- A top 10 place at a KC show

Think about how you can achieve these goals i.e. if you want to run your dog at a Wallingford demo find out when and where they are and arrange to attend one. If you want to run at a KC show for the first time arrange to get your dog measured. You may benefit from an external training course. A variety of training events are listed at agilitynet.co.uk/clutch/events.htm.

Get a diary specifically for your agility. I find two pages to a week is suitable. Think about your training session. Were there things you had difficulty with but were able to resolve? Draw a sketch of this part of the course. Write down what you couldn't do and how you resolved the problem. If this was a big issue highlight it.

Perhaps you couldn't sort the problem straight away but there were things you could continue to work on until your next training session. Write these down shortly after your lesson or the

next day if possible. You don't need to record the whole lesson just a couple of things that were beneficial or that were specifically helpful to you.

Aim to have three to five goals. Write them down. Then go back and look at them again. Do they meet the SCCAMP criteria above? If necessary rewrite them.

After a month look at your goals. Are there any you can tick off? Have you made progress with any of the others e.g. If your target was to do a jump, seesaw are you now able to do the seesaw on its own? If not, then look at the goals again. Are they too challenging? Are they specific and measurable? If you've achieved all your goals perhaps they weren't challenging enough so set some new goals.

Keeping a diary helps you keep track of your achievements and also problem areas. Look back through the months. You may be amazed at what you and your dog have achieved. I find this helps me remember things I may have forgotten! I'm not very good at using a stop hand – I tend to use the whole arm but I should be bending my arm at the elbow! Seeing this in writing is a good reminder.

On the Wallingford Wiki website on the Training Classes page after the lists of the classes there is a table which is for you to enter your aims and improvements you want to make. There is also a chance for the instructor to enter some feedback. Contact Ian for an invitation to the site.

Make your goals realistic for the level you are at but challenging to you. You want to be successful but achieve something worthwhile. Make them specific so you know you have obtained them.

I have always enjoyed agility whatever level my dog was at but I tended to drift from one show to another without reviewing our performance – just recalling perhaps we had a missed contact or a refusal. Having no goals meant I was just 'hoping' rather than working towards an outcome. Having goals means you are thinking more about 'why' that happened and 'how' to correct it. Having goals means you are able to measure your achievements.



I am very lucky to have a very talented dog. One of my goals for last year was to get a top 5 place in a Novice Agility Olympia qualifier. I achieved this the last weekend we were eligible to run in Novice! So then I set another goal for the semi final – not to be eliminated! Fortunately this saw us through to Olympia itself where our goal was just to have fun!

Gill Kimber

[Ed's note: Gill's Olympia article will be coming up next month – watch this space!]



In January we have had a whole fleet of new members, some in the Foundation group in the first session of the evening, and some in the last session. It is great to see a whole range of breeds trying agility and enjoying it, and there are some really lovely dogs. I have also noticed many of the new handlers watching the training going on in the middle session and hopefully getting some ideas and learning lots from watching. Please do find someone in the kitchen area to ask if you have questions about the training.

Alison Pearce

Qualifiers for Grades 1 and 2

We all had great fun watching Gill at Olympia and were inspired to greater heights. Qualifiers are not just for the dizzy heights of Grade 3 and above!!! In Grades 1-2 there are a series of events that allow you to qualify for finals. I've summarising what is available, when and where to help you decide which shows to aim for! Check the rules for each show for exact qualifying criteria as it sometimes changes from year to year and according to dog height.

Agility Club Starters Challenge

Each heat consists of a G1-2 agility course from which the 1st & 2nd place AGILITY CLUB MEMBERS from each heat qualify for the final. The final is held on Saturday evening at Agility Club's July show at Ardingly. Some nice crystal on offer! Heats at:

Norfolk, June,	Dogs in Need, Aug	Dartmoor, April
Golden Valley, June	Dordale, Aug	Worcester, May
Wellingborough, July	South Downs, Sept	BATS, May
Billingshurst, July	Wyre, Dec	Packington, May
Newlands, July	Wallingford, April	Agility Club Show, July

Pro Plan Starters Challenge

Each heat consists of a G1-2 agility course from which the two go through to the finals. For the first time in 2012 the finals were held in their own show. Prizes included nice crystal and free food for all qualifiers. Heats at:

Mid Downs, March	Packington, May	Scunthorpe, Aug
WyeValley, March	Hinckley, June	Dordale, Aug
Kernow, April	Golden Valley, June	Prestbury Park, Sep
Lincoln, April	LuneValley, July	Bromsgrove, Sep
Worcester, May	Weardale, July	Finals Day – Oct

KC Starters Cup

Anyone in G1 or G2 with a top 10 place throughout the year, or 50 Agility Warrant points (check rules for dates) can enter the heats held on the Friday of the KC Festival (August). The top 30 combined scores from Agility and Jumping rounds go through to the Semi's on the Saturday. The top 12 in the semi's go to Discover Dogs at Earls Court in November for the final.

Comlimanor Starters Cup

Heats at Kernow, March and Thames, June +8 others. First 6 places in each heat qualify for final at Tuffley, July 2013

Omni-Pro Starters Cup

No info on 2013 heats available

Winners get a large bag of dog food and qualify for final at Lansdown in June.

Drontal Challenge

Open to G1-3 large dogs. The top five competitors from each of the eight heats will be invited to compete at The Drontal Agility Challenge Grand Final on Sunday, 29 September 2013 at the Malvern Autumn Show. Heats at:

Easter Egg'Gility, Easter	Rugby, July,
Warwick Races, May	Holkam Hall, July
Beacon, May	Herefordshire, August
Rockingham Castle, June,	Pembroke, August

Dog Vegas

A competition for Large dogs Grades 1, 2 & 3. There are 10 qualifying heats. The top 5 dogs from each heat (top 3 if the heat is split into 2 parts), will qualify for the "£ Dog Vegas £" Grand Final at the Dog Vegas show at the end of July. Heats at:

Dog Vegas, March	Wigton, June
Wallingford, April	Otley, June
Worcester, May	+others TBC

There are also some non-KC events you might like to consider aiming for.

UKA Ultimate Agility Beginners Steeplechase

Each heat consists of a steeplechase course of jumps and tunnels. Top 2 from each heat qualify for the Semi Final. The top 10 from the Semi Final will progress to the Final. The Semi Final and Final will be held at the UK Agility Grand Finals (30 Nov-1 Dec 2013). Heats at:

Lydiard Park, April
K9 Sports, April
HJ Agility, May

Cambridgeshire, May
Somerset, May,
LAPS, July

Teejay, Aug
Hawbridge, Aug
UKA Charity, Sep

UKA Tug E Nuff Performance Challenge

Each heat consists of a jumping round and an agility round, the results of which are combined. Top 2 from each heat qualify for the Final. The Final will be held at the UK Agility Grand Finals. (30 Nov-1 Dec 2013). Heats at:

Ajax, March
NADS, March
Broadlands, April
GT Agility, May

Just Dogs, June
Sands June
UKA Week, July
NADS, Sep

AJAX, Sep
EASS, Sep

Disclaimer – this list is not exhaustive, and combined from information available on AgilityNet in January. No reliance should be placed on this data.

Jo Tidmarsh

Crufts

Crufts takes place at the NEC from 7-10 March 2013. Last year all the main ring events were streamed live on Youtube, as well as being available to watch afterwards. There is lots of agility, including the Novice Cup, Teams, International, ABC and various displays. A full programme is available on the Crufts website, and there should be a link to the live stream nearer the time. Look out for the WDTA members making an appearance this year...



Rory Tidmarsh & Ammo will be in the YKC ring in Hall 3 on Thursday at 11:15am, U12's Large Division. The YKC ring is unfortunately not live streamed, but if you are there in person be sure to cheer him on. Jack Biddle our YKC team member will also be in this event. 1st-3rd in each "group" (handler age and dog size) qualify for the final in the Main Arena at 5.15pm.

Jo has asked "Please can I put a plea in for someone to volunteer to video it for me so I can watch? I can't do both at the same time."



Alison Pearce & Basil will be representing NAWT in the rescue agility display in the Main Arena, 12.35pm Thursday and 10.45am Friday.

Lee Harfield & The Amazing Mr Pip will be in the Agility Championship in the Main Arena on Sunday at 9am and 11.10am. Anyone who has entry tickets to Crufts is able to watch this in the main arena on the day. The Final is at 4pm and is "Best in Show" tickets only, but it will be on the internet too and I for one will be glued to my computer!

Alison Pearce

In it to win it! Or points make prizes!

Have you heard these expressions before? Well it is so true of our own club competition. We are heading up towards our AGM when some very special – nay clever – nay fast – nay consistent – owner/dog combination will be presented with a club award. Who will it/they be this year? Come to the AGM and find out!

You mean you didn't know that there is a club competition? Let me tell you how you too can enter. On the Wiki there is a tab called 'Boasts'. It is what it says it is - a place where you can enter all your positive runs at any competition you enter. So if you go to a KC, UKA or independent show and you get a clear round or, better still, a place, then we would love to hear about it and would love to see your 'boast' on the Wiki. From the 'Boasts' tab, click on the relevant year (that would be 2013 now!) and type in your boast under the name of the show – don't be afraid – but if in doubt then let me know and I will willingly help!

Okay – boast registered, but how is then turned into points. On the main 'Boasts' page, if you scroll down to the bottom, there is an Excel spreadsheet which it is possible to download (you will need to download it, suggest to your desktop screen, to add information – and then re-load it once completed!). If you click on this and open it you will find a list of dogs and owners. Dogs and handlers are put into one of 4 categories – juniors (under 17 years of age) Starters (new to agility or the equivalent KC grade 1/2), Novice (KC grades 3-5) and Senior (KC grades 6/7) and the chance to enter your boast to be turned into points.

If you are not yet included on the spreadsheet let me know and I can arrange for you to be added – **everyone** should get themselves onto the spreadsheet. Once you are on the spreadsheet then the information you will need to enter is whether it was agility or jumping, your place or CR (clear round) and the number of dogs that were entered in your class. The spreadsheet will do the rest. If this is too daunting, or you would like some assistance – then let either Karen Parker or myself know and we will help. With so many great new dogs and handlers the competition is getting hotter – 2012 may be decided, but could you be on the list for recognition at our 2013/14 AGM?

We will start the new season for points after the March AGM – just in time for the start of all those UKA shows, Easter and of course our own show. Good luck everyone!

Aileen Watson

Going to a Show this year?

If you are going to start competing, then consider this. There are a number of leagues you might be eligible for.

Did you know that if you are a member of Agility Club, you can enter your points into their league – any 1st – 10th place (or clear rounds) gained at a KC show, and, if you have registered you are a Wallingford member, then your points are included in the inter club league.

There is an annual fee to become a member of the Agility Club (not too much), and this gives you access to a monthly magazine, reduced entry to the Agility Club KC show in July, as well as eligibility for the Agility Club Starters (G1-2) challenge cup.

[Ed's note – see Jo's article on G1-2 qualifiers]

If you want to check out more then go to www.agilityclub.org where you will find a better explanation of the benefits of becoming a member – but remember to put Wallingford as your club – look up the Club league – there are only 5 dogs submitting points to our club - well done Alison, Kevin and Jill L (and me!) Who else can/could/should be submitting points? We are in Division 2 and sitting 9th but surely we have the dogs and results to be doing better than that!

Other leagues that might be of interest to you – there are a goodly number of rescue dogs at Wallingford, so consider entering the Agility Rescue Dog League. Others include Gun Dog League; Lurcher League; Agility Terrier League – or if you are an old 'git' like me then there is a league for the over '55's' (and that's handlers!) – Senior Agility League (SAL).

More information of some of the leagues available to you can be found at www.agilitynet.com – scroll down the home page and you will find a section headed 'Leagues'



A lot of these leagues (except Agility Club) allow you to include wins and clear rounds from shows other than KC – it can be worth it. 2011 saw my dog Rockett gaining a lovely crystal vase for coming 2nd in G1 Agility Club League (*left*) and then two lovely gifts for wins in the SAL – 1st in the Ruby section and an amazing 1st overall. This year Robert Tappin's boy Glen (Ozzie's brother) won the league set up for Rosmarinus dogs and their offspring – well done Glen.

You will be amazed how your points can add up if you are entering shows and I will look forward to seeing others 'boasting' of their achievements. Good luck everyone.
Aileen Watson

Teams 2013

The schedule for the Wallingford 2013 Show is out and is the first show to organise teams for.

If you're interested in being part of a team at this or any of the team competitions this year, please add **your name & dog's pet name** to the Wiki or let me know before "TEAM closing date". For the Wallingford show this is Tuesday 12th February – Just over 2 weeks before the ISS closing date Sat 2nd March to allow for the teams to be sorted

At the Wallingford show on the Team day please note that there is a maximum number of 3 classes a dog may be entered in, excluding juniors. Large dogs Graded 3-7 could do Skinners pairs instead – Please DON'T put your name down for teams if you'd prefer to do pairs + 2 individual classes.

All members will be considered for teams provided the dog / handler are able to complete a course with all the equipment likely to be in the competition.

Please ask Ian if you haven't used the Wiki as you will need an invite to access it.

The Wiki is still to be updated for other 2013 shows but the WDTC team page is ready for names to be added - the rest will be updated in due course.

If you are new to the Wallingford teams, or have a new dog, I will need to have the following details:



Your name & phone number(s)

plus for KC competitions

Dog's KC name

& Dog's KC number, breed, DOB & sex

& for UKA competitions

Dog's UKA pet name

Dog's UKA number

Handler's UKA number

*Jill Lowe
that's "Jill with a J" (sorry about the confusing
email address)*

Dates for your diary

January 2013 is the start of the new year and your **membership subscriptions** are now **overdue**. A form has been emailed to all members (and is available to download from the Wiki). Please return this asap to Jacky or Kevin.

Saturday 16 February - WDTC Barn Dance, 7-11pm at Manor Primary School, Didcot. We are holding a barn dance, with the same brilliant caller and barn dance group as last year 'Grandma's YoYo' with legendary caller DON ROUSE. Jacket potato with variety of fillings and salad included. Bring your own drinks. Tickets £10 adults, £5 children - all WDTC members and family welcome. Tickets available from Gill Rhodes at training. A great opportunity for us all to get together, you don't need to know how to barn dance - the caller tells you what to do and going wrong is half the fun.

Saturday 3 March - away match against Andover. All club members are welcome to attend and have a go - this is our return match so we are not running the rings, and plenty of people will be available to help with the courses if this is one of your first competitions.

Wednesday 6 March - the club AGM - see separate notice. As well as the election of the committee and a review of the year, we make a few presentations and partake of nibbles & drinks. It's a good opportunity to meet & chat with other club members.

Saturday 16 March - agility training with Toni Dawkins (postponed due to snow in January). Instructors who have taken at least one 8 week session in 2012 get first refusal (and it's free for them - a small thank-you from the club for all their work) and it will be offered to others if there are spaces.

Thursday 18 to Sunday 21 April is our **club agility show**.

We do expect ALL club members to help out as the income from the show funds the equipment for the club (though obviously if you're invited to the wedding of a close relative in the Bahamas, we would understand it if you chose the Bahamas over Newbury Showground!).

From early afternoon on **Thursday** we'll be marking out the 250 camping slots, the rings and the trade stands.

On **Friday** we need ring parties to set up each of the nine rings and direct the caravans as they arrive.

Then we're down to the show itself on **Saturday & Sunday** where lots of help is needed on the rings and with all sorts of things in the marquee and around the showground. No agility knowledge is necessary for many jobs, so family members are also welcome to help out. This is a busy weekend, but with lots of members helping out it is also great fun.

