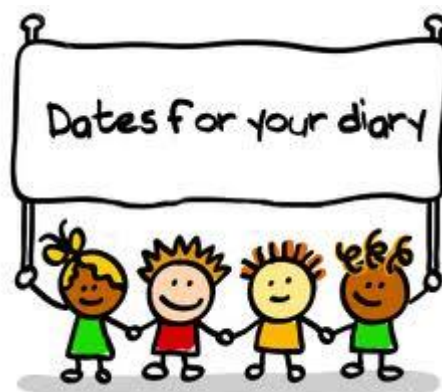


# Watchdog!

WALLINGFORD DOG TRAINING CLUB

February 2016



## February

Saturday 13th February – Away Match at Andover

Saturday 20th February – Winter League match CANCELLED due to an unavoidable issue at the BCA

Saturday 27th February daytime – Martin Reid training at the Malthouse

Saturday 27th February evening – Charity Bingo night at Upton

## March

Wednesday 23rd March – Club AGM at the Astons village hall

## April

Sunday 10th April – Free KC Measuring at Chieveley village hall – see Jacky for details

Thursday 14th April – No training due to show set up

Thursday 14th (pm) and Friday 15th April 2016 – show set up

Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th April 2016 – Wallingford DTC agility show



## About Our Club

Wallingford Dog Training Club is a Kennel Club registered club – bound by KC guidelines and rules. All Wallingford's instructors and committee members are volunteers who do not get paid for their time (instructors get one free training session for every class they take). In the past the club had sections for training obedience (particularly the KC Good Citizen Scheme), flyball and agility. However, for the last few years agility has been the only discipline.

It is run by a committee of up to 12 members – who are elected annually at the club's Annual General Meeting in March. The current committee comprises:

**Carolyn Davies** (chair)  
**Jo Tidmarsh** (secretary)  
**Kevin Pearce** (treasurer)  
**Ian Hutchinson** (agility rep, wiki)  
**Gill Rhodes** (library & loans, facebook)  
**Dawn Graham** (waiting list & new members)  
**Jacky Hutchinson** (membership)  
**Jenny Kimber** (Andover matches)  
**Wendy Botto** (winter league)  
**Debbie Hockley** (assistant treasurer)



But you don't have to be on the committee to help – for example Alison Pearce does an excellent job editing the club newsletter (Watchdog) and is always looking for articles, photos and other K9-related news.

The AGM is worth attending – after election of the committee and choosing the two club charities, the club awards are announced and presented. The current club charities are Water Aid and Pets as Therapy. There is usually a speaker on a K9-related subject, and there is time to natter over nibbles and drinks.

Annual membership is due each January. Training fees that you pay each week or month approximately cover the rent of the training venue at Blewbury. Members are encouraged to set up a standing order for training fees (which is currently £15 per

month per dog). If a member knows they will be absent for a number of weeks – e.g. due to personal illness or dog injury– they need to see Kevin (treasurer) to negotiate a refund.

Other expenses such as renewing / purchasing equipment, training workshops etc., are covered by profits from the annual agility show (more of this later).



*Picture above: club takeaway at our show*

For the last few years the club has competed in the Winter League. Wendy Botto and Jill Lowe currently organise the club's involvement in this competition involving five local clubs competing four times over the winter. Each club has a limit of 100 entries and each club has to provide a judge and a ring party for half a day each time.

The club also has a long-standing home and away match against UpAndover – another local club. Jenny Kimber currently organises the home event and liaises with UpAndover for the away match. At the home match we need to provide lunch for everyone and run the rings. We have to sign up the judges, take the equipment up to the venue, set up the courses, run the rings, coordinate the results, provide the prizes, etc. This is hard work – but great fun.

Both the Winter League competitions and Andover matches are excellent opportunities for our newer members to compete in a small, friendly environment. Even if your dog isn't quite ready to compete, we still encourage you to attend these events to help out, and learn about agility competitions.

Half the club members compete regularly over the Summer months at KC, UKA and independent shows. Points from successful rounds in these competitions are fed into the club's award scheme (but you have to let Richard Kimber know) and awards are presented at the AGM. You should also post these on the Wiki Boasts page. The Wiki is a private club web site for members where they can post their successes in the Boasts pages and state which shows they are attending over the summer (this can help arrange for club members to camp together). Members need to liaise with Ian Hutchinson or Gill Rhodes to get access to the Wiki.

WDTC also has a Facebook page which members can sign up to. Gill Rhodes oversees this. Gill also looks after the library of books and training DVDs.

The club has 2 weeks off in August – and 2 weeks off at Christmas – and it also closes on the Thursday before our show (Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April this year). On the last training evening before Christmas we go festive. Everyone comes for the whole evening and there are festive drinks and nibbles along with some team competitions. Some form of Christmas clothing – for dog or handler – is encouraged.



Now to our show. The club runs a KC registered weekend show every year towards the end of April at the Newbury Showground. This year it takes place over the weekend of 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> April; please put this date in your diary if you haven't already. There is a huge amount of work involved – a lot of it has already started – and we expect everyone in the club to help out.  
*Left: at the club show*

This is quite a large show – it will have at least 10 rings and about 250 camping units. As well as helping over the weekend, members who can help set up the show on the Thursday afternoon and all day Friday are very welcome. Alison will be coming around at training with a sign-up sheet to check when everyone will be available to help out. Despite moving away and no longer attending training, Aileen remains a club member and is the show secretary again this year.

This is a fantastic club – with great members and lovely dogs. There's plenty to do to keep it running, so if you want to get involved and help – please don't be shy – let us know.

*Jacky Hutchinson*

---

## WDTC 2016 Show Update

The Show Committee met on 20<sup>th</sup> January. Planning and preparation for the Show continues. Kevin and Alison took a trip to Newbury Showground in January to look at the new large stock shed being built (*see picture on following page*). This has involved the committee considering and planning slight changes as to camping areas and where we might put the main marquee. A lot of work has been (and is being) put in, with the hope that we **may** still be able to allocate camping to everyone on the waiting list. Exciting times!





Other news is that we have looked long and hard at the paperless system (similar to UKA) and feel that the option for us to incorporate this came too far into our planning to make it viable for this year. Please if you are at a KC show where this eAgility system is in operation (*Editor's note: this is different to the UKA e-gility system*) it would be good to give the committee feedback ready for next year's Show. It definitely looks like the way forward. More exciting times!

Remember that the closing date for entries for our Show is 4<sup>th</sup> March (paper) and 8<sup>th</sup> March (ISS). Have you entered yet? If you are unsure about what or how to enter, please talk to your trainer on Thursdays, and ask for help filling in the forms if you need it. Remember that if your dog is not yet doing full height, there is what should be a fun and flowing course in Anysize each day. Exciting runs!

An amazing job has been done in enlisting other clubs to take on being a ring party for which they will be paid. There will, however, be a need for everyone to take a part in keeping all rings running, supplied with hot water, running quizzes to raise money for our charities and of course working in the marquee. Some have already been asked (or have asked) about specific jobs, but please – we need everyone – and you will be allocated a job/ring closer to show date, which should not affect you running your dog(s). I know I am looking forward to running mine. Exciting times!

A big, big thank you to the Show Committee who have all taken on to ensure this year will (hopefully) be as good as last! Thank you to Alison (helpers, etc), Jo (rosettes, etc), Kevin (trophies, etc), Jenny (judges, etc), Carolyn (supplies, etc), Ian (showground, etc), Claire (trade stands), Debbie (liaising), Jacky (show manager) – couldn't do it without you! Exciting teamwork!

*Aileen Watson*



## WDTC AGM

**Date:** Wednesday 23rd March 2016  
**Venue:** Astons Village Hall, OX11 9EQ  
**Time:** 7.00pm for 7:30pm start

**Guest speaker:** Karen Ambrose,  
McTimoney Chiropracter, working on people and dogs

All members are encouraged to attend the AGM. As well as the official business of reporting on the past year and electing the committee for the forthcoming year, annual awards are issued, there is a presentation from a guest speaker and the evening closes with a light buffet.

If you have any items that you would like to see on the Agenda can you please forward them to me by the 9th March 2016. (Contact details below)

If you would like to nominate a Charity or Good Cause for the Club to support over the coming year, please can you also forward them to by 9th March 2016. The Club normally supports one human-related and one animal-related cause each year. Voting will take place at the AGM.

The current list of nominated committee members are as follows:

<b>Committee post</b>	<b>Nomination</b>
Chairman	<i>Carolyn Davies</i>
Secretary	<i>Joanna Tidmarsh</i>
Treasurer	<i>Kevin Pearce</i>
Agility rep	<i>Ian Hutchinson</i>
Member	<i>Gill Rhodes</i>
Member	<i>Wendy Botto</i>
Member	<i>Dawn Graham</i>
Member	<b><i>Vacancy</i></b>
Member	<b><i>Vacancy</i></b>
Member	<b><i>Vacancy</i></b>
Member	<b><i>Vacancy</i></b>
Member	<b><i>Vacancy</i></b>

**If you would like to nominate anyone can you please advise me of role and name by 9<sup>th</sup> March 2016).**

**In order to plan for refreshments can you please let me know if you are planning to attend the AGM.**

Further information concerning Directions, Agendas, Club Reports, Guest Speakers and Charities will be sent out by 11th March 2016.

*Jo Tidmarsh*



**WALLINGFORD DOG TRAINING CLUB**  
**CHARITY BINGO NIGHT**  
**SATURDAY 27TH FEBRUARY**  
**DOORS OPEN 7pm "EYE'S DOWN" 7.30pm**  
**AT**  
**UPTON VILLAGE HALL**  
**<http://www.uptonvillagehall.co.uk/find-us/>**

**TICKETS TO INCLUDE A JACKET POTATO WITH CHOICE OF FILLING**  
**"BRING YOUR OWN " BOTTLE**  
**£5 ADULTS £2.50 CHILDREN**  
**(BINGO FLYERS EXTRA)**  
**RAFFLE!**  
**ON SALE FROM ROSIE DAINS AT WDTC**  
**ALL WELCOME!**

Don't forget the club is hosting a Charity Bingo Night, on **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February**, to raise money for the club's chosen charities: WaterAid and Pets as Therapy. **Everyone** is very welcome and if you are new to the club it's a great way to get to know people better outside the hectic environment of training.

As usual, I am looking for raffle prizes which can be brought to me at club on Thursday nights. Anything is greatly appreciated from unwanted Christmas gifts to vouchers for any skill you might have like hairdressing or nails, dog grooming etc. I've had some great prizes promised so bring extra money for the raffle!

I'm also looking for help setting up from 6 pm on the actual evening if anyone can help please let me know so I can allocate jobs! Finally, a plea to all our fantastic bakers in the club if anyone can provide a desert in the form of a cake or other pudding I'd be really grateful! Let me know if you can help. ☺

It should be a great night and I look forward to seeing everyone there. Tickets on sale from me at club. If you don't know me already, get someone to point me out!

*Rosie Dains*

## Wallingford judges and ring parties at KC shows 2016

There are several types of ring parties at KC shows. Firstly, there are those where the club runs a ring as a reciprocal arrangement for a club running a ring at our show in April. This arrangement is in place for Vyne and Thames.

Secondly, there are shows where the club gets paid for running a ring. Often this will be when a club member is judging. The club gets £100 to £150 for a ring party and this either buys a takeaway for the group or if there are not many people camping it goes to the club charities.

Last of all, there are times when the club judges are judging and there is no specific ring party arrangement in place, but club members offer help as individuals. In return for this helpers usually get lunch and sometimes other benefits too – read the schedule to find out!

The list below will be kept up to date on the facebook group. We still need a volunteer to make and update a UKA list.

- ✚ 23-24 April – WBSDS (Thame Showground) - Wallingford ring party – probably Sunday (TBC)
- ✚ 30 April – 1 May – Dordale (Top Barn, Worcestershire) - Aileen judging
- ✚ 2 May - Vyne (Newbury Showground) - Kevin judging - Wallingford reciprocal ring party – PLEASE NOTE – we are covering TWO RINGS in return for Vyne running two rings at our show
- ✚ 7-8 May - Hatton Agility Festival (near Warwick) - Kevin judging
- ✚ 13-15 May - Adams (Catton Hall, DE12 8LN) - Aileen judging
- ✚ 21-22 May - Clevedon (Bath Racecourse) - Kevin judging
- ✚ 27-29 May – Dog Vegas (DE4 3RQ) - Aileen judging
- ✚ 11-12 June – Thames (Newbury Showground) - Kevin judging - Wallingford reciprocal ring party
- 18-19 June - Golden Valley (Top Barn, Worcestershire) - Kevin judging
- ✚ 17-19 June - Adams (Catton Hall, DE12 8LN) - Aileen judging
- ✚ 25 June - 3 July - Lune Valley (Cumbria) - Ian judging
- 25-26 June - Wraxall (near Bristol) - Aileen judging
- ✚ 1-3 July - Tuffley (Monmouth) - Kevin judging – Wallingford ring party
- ✚ 11-14 August – KCI Festival (Rockingham Castle)  
*Jo/Kevin/Aileen are ring-managing a ring between them for all 4 days – all help appreciated*
- ✚ 15-18 August – Pembrokeshire - Ian judging
- 3-4 September – Gillingham - Ian judging
- ✚ 16-18 September – Adams (Catton Hall) - Kevin judging
- ✚ 23-26 September – Dog Vegas (Southwell) - Ian judging
- ✚ 1-2 October - Chippenham (Bath Racecourse)  
- Wallingford ring party on Champ ring  
Kevin judging – possibly also Wallingford ring party on this ring (TBC depending on numbers)

*Right: Ring party takeaway in the sun at Tuffley*



*Alison Pearce*



## Christmas Party 2015



*Above: the Purple Team – the winners!*

The Christmas party is always great fun, and this year was no exception. Thank you to our lovely judges Jacky Hutchinson and Gill Kimber and also to Carolyn for organising and buying all the prizes. So much food! Thank you everyone for bringing a feast!

Unfortunately the actual results sheets have been put somewhere so safe I can't find them, but I do remember that everyone ran really well, dogs and humans alike, despite the fancy dress, and we all had a great time!

*Alison Pearce*

*Below: the wooden spoon team....*



## Jenny & Guv Olympia 2015

In December 2015 Guv, Jenny and I were lucky enough to not only run at Olympia but to qualify for the evening final and then achieve 3<sup>rd</sup> place in that final! An incredible achievement for all three of us and we couldn't have been happier!



Getting there was a major challenge and wasn't originally one of our goals at the start of last year's season. We'd been to the Novice Semi-Final at Olympia in 2013 and Guv had been twice before that with Jenny so we had had the experience we had wanted before. But when we were competing in the senior qualifying heats we knew the competition was even tougher and getting a top five place in one of those classes, usually with over 200 dogs in, just seemed impossible.

We know our boy's strengths and weaknesses – he's tight on his turns but can sometimes lack in speed compared to other dogs. You wouldn't necessarily notice him being any slower but taking that little unnecessary stride can make a big difference and is something we've been working on with him using grid work and conditioning. Jenny has done an amazing job keeping Guv fit! We work as a team to get the best out of Guv with both of us doing skills training with the equipment and Jenny (Lovegrove) puts in the extra hours of Guv's fitness programme which consists of his conditioning. It's a shame this is thought of as 'extra' as I believe it should be standard practice for our canine athletes as it is with human athletes.

Since taking time out due to injury and then being rehabilitated before Olympia – Guv came back fitter and faster! Maybe that little extra stride was because of a niggle that he just wasn't showing until it became very apparent at the WAO England tryouts in September and the right thing to do was to pull him out because we both knew he wasn't right and neither of us want to cause him unnecessary pain.

The fact that this happened in September I think actually had an effect on our placing at Olympia. The training prior to Olympia consisted of mainly conditioning work and then built up to skills training. The courses at Olympia are longer than the average

competition as the arena is so much bigger. We have to account for this in our training and work on long spread out gaps between obstacles.

The road to Olympia actually started at Easter Celebration when we came 8<sup>th</sup> in a qualifier. An absolutely incredible place that I was thrilled with! I didn't think we would get a top 10 place in a qualifier like that. Only the top five qualify for the quarter finals at the KC Festival. We achieved a few clear rounds in the Olympia Qualifiers for the rest of the year but didn't achieve a top ten place again.

It was unfortunate that in order to get our place in the quarter final another dog was injured and dropped out. This dog had qualified at Easter Celebration and I was the first reserve in line who hadn't already qualified so I got the place. In the quarter final we achieved a steady clear. It was touch and go whether a clear round would be good enough to be in the top 36 of the 72 – the standard was so high and we ran fairly early. We came 29<sup>th</sup> – phew! And Yay! Senior Olympia – our impossible goal achieved – we couldn't ask for any more.



Last time Guv and I were at Olympia, Guv just missed the down on the dog walk. I wasn't going to let that happen again! You don't usually get long to walk the course at Olympia because they are on a tight schedule. But in the morning things are a bit more relaxed and we were provided a few minutes after having been given the course plan on paper to look at.

I discussed with Jenny how we would handle the course. There was one section I was particularly worried about so I focused the majority of my walking there – I didn't want to waste my energy walking the whole course endless times unnecessarily – I needed to be able to run! And shout!

We ran fairly early but with time to see some others identify any 'handling points' (aka traps) we might not have thought of. We did the course and got a clear – goal achieved! A clear at Olympia. Now on tenterhooks seeing where we placed. I went to the back to watch the screen showing the live rankings after each run. I could see others going clear and pushing me down the rankings. The top ten qualified for the evening final. I was in tenth place when the final dog ran. She finished clear – I thought "that's it, I'm out. We were so close!". Then to my surprise the other competitors in front of me turned around and congratulated me. I was shocked and did a double take,



checked the screen again and I was 0.1 second faster than the last dog. I couldn't believe it – we made it to the final!

Qualifying for the final in tenth place meant that we would be running first and this time in front of 7000 people. Just a little bit scary. We were given the course on paper as we would have very little time to walk it in the evening. We made sure Guv had plenty of rest but wasn't kept in the van too long so we could stretch him and do some mental exercise with him to keep his motivation up. Olympia is a long day for dog and human! The final wasn't going to start until 8pm and we had got there at 8am!

During the day unfortunately another dog that had qualified for the evening had started to show symptoms of injury. Despite the prestige of Olympia and the knowledge the dog would do whatever was asked of it no matter the pain, the handler made the courageous decision to pull the dog out of the competition. This meant that a reserve was pulled in from the morning semi-final – the handler who had come 11<sup>th</sup> and I had beaten by such a small margin.

This also meant I was no longer going first. She did and she put the pressure on by going clear. It can often be the case that the first dog going clear puts the pressure on the rest of the handlers as then it is all about time and trying to get the fastest time can sometimes result in mistakes. I didn't get the chance to watch that first handler properly as I was getting Guv ready to run next. I wasn't entirely sure how she had done so maybe that gave me a psychological advantage.

We then ran in front of thousands of people and Guv ran amazingly and achieved a clear round. So pleased with his jumping technique, his contacts and his ground speed. I didn't have a clue if we had beaten the first handler or not – I tried to look at the screen but my eyes were blurry from tired eyes and I crashed out on the floor after putting all my energy in to that run. We both continued to watch the rest of the handlers run, breathing a little sigh of relief when each made a mistake.

Greg Derrett ran and beat both our times - not exactly unexpectedly. Then the last dog to go was on the start line, I was in third place and he had won the morning competition. I watched with baited breath as he started and that dog then knocked the first pole. That meant we'd done it, we had made the top 3 in the final at Olympia.

So I think the lesson we've learned is never believe anything in agility is impossible! You can do it if you put your mind to it!

*Jenny Kimber*





## Winter League

### Match Three – 16th January

Once again well done everyone who competed at the January Winter League. Tracy Ryan would like to pass on her thanks for asking her to judge and for making her feel welcome, she really enjoyed it. Hopefully we all had fun. Unfortunately there were so many injuries to both handlers and dogs this time that lots of last minute changes meant lot of dogs had 3 if not 4 runs.



I think was great for everyone having more chance to get used to the environment but felt it was harder to support others this time. Poor Pam had an unfortunate breakdown in a nasty place and couldn't get her dogs out to a safe place so thanks to everyone who helped her. Andrew Dicker kindly delayed the start and I think most people managed their runs. I remember leaving my phone on the table while shuffling around last minute runs so thanks to whoever answered that for me.

The final round was due to take place on Saturday 20th February, but unfortunately has been cancelled. Tania Kelly had agreed to judge for us, so thank you Tania, and sorry we didn't get to run your courses.

Also thank you to Claire Jones for all your hard work with refreshments across all of the matches, and to all those that have supplied cakes.

Don't forget I am attending a meeting to discuss any changes to the Winter League for next year. I have a feeling the Nursery class may be replaced (unless they can relax the rules on it to include new grade 3 dogs too). We need ideas on what people would like instead e.g. a lower grade steeplechase course? Many people have commented constructively on the facebook group, especially about the scoring for small/medium, however any other comments to me as soon as possible please. Courses, classes, points, anything that you would like discussed please.

*Wendy Botto*



## Winter League places and points

Despite lots of problems in the run up to the January Winter League match we succeeded in doing many excellent runs. So pleased Pam made it despite her break down on her way. Special congratulations go to Jenny & Guv who boosted our points with a good place in every run

Well done to all those gaining place rosettes this time:

Class	Handler & Dog	Place
Grade 1-3 Jumping	Ian & Darcy	1st
Grade 3-7 Agility	Jenny & Guv	1st
Anysize	Kevin & Fell	1st
Grade 3-7 Agility	Gill & Bertie	2nd
Grade 1-7 Agility	Jenny & Guv	2nd
Anysize	Alison & Basil	3rd
Grade 3-7 Jumping	Carolyn & Ollie	3rd
Grade 1-7 Agility	Claire & Indy	3rd
Grade 1-2 Jumping	Helen & Mylo	3rd
Grade 4-7 Jumping	Jenny & Guv	3rd
Grade 1-7 Agility	Jill & Cass	3rd
Grade 1 Jumping	Kathryn & Bacchus	3rd
Grade 2-5 Jumping	Lizi & Timmy	3rd
Grade 3-7 Jumping	Wendy & Bambi	3rd
Grade 1-7 Agility	Carolyn & Ollie	4th
Grade 3-7 Jumping	Jenny & Guv	4th
Grade 1 Agility	Caroline & Chippy	5th
Grade 1 Agility	Steve & Loki	6th

### Top 10 point scorers for the Large dogs after 3 matches:

Handler / Large Dogs	Total points
Carolyn & Ollie	64
Jenny & Guv	54
Jill & Cass	53
Caroline & Chippy	37
Dawn & Daisy	33
Jo & Pip	30
Rory & Sonic	27
Sue & Ella	27
Alison & Herbie	22
Sue & Mischief	20



**Top 10 point scorers for the Medium/Small dogs after 3 matches:**

Handler / Small Medium Dogs	Total points
Helen & Mylo	51
Gill & Mindy	49
Claire & Indy	46
Leigh & Molly	26
Brigid & Rosie	20
Wendy & Bambi	20
Gill & Bertie	19
Kevin & Fig	18
Ian & Darcy	17
Lizi & Timmy	17



*Jill Lowe*

---

**Agility Club news**



Congratulations to Claire and Indy, who attended the Agility Club AGM recently and picked up their trophy for coming 2nd in the Agility Club Small Grade 1 league last year. Indy is now starting this season in Grade 6 – what an achievement! Well done!

---

*Don't forget to send items for the next issue*

*This is YOUR newsletter, let's hear from YOU! Deadline for next issue is 7th March 2016.*