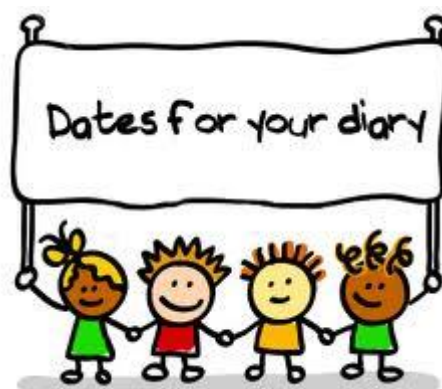


Watchdog!

WALLINGFORD DOG TRAINING CLUB

February 2017



February

Thursday 9th March – Trial evening training at the Malthouse, Steventon

Saturday 11th March – Away match with UpAndover (at Andover)

March

Wednesday 8th March – Entries to Wallingford KC Agility show close

Monday 13th March – Club AGM at the Astons village hall

April

Thursday 20th April – No training due to show set up

Thursday 20th (pm) and Friday 21st April 2016 – show set up

Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd April 2016 – Wallingford DTC KC Agility Show

May

Bank Holiday Monday 1st May – Vyne Show (Newbury Showground) - Wallingford reciprocal ring party – we are running a ring in return for Vyne running a ring at our show

Letter from the Chair

Dear All,

Firstly welcome to our newest members. We have all been really impressed with your enthusiasm, how well you are working with your dogs and how quickly you have progressed.

On the 13th March we have our club AGM and we would like to see as many members as possible there. We try to keep the committee reports to a minimum so it is more of a yearly social event. We always have an interesting presenter, enjoy lovely refreshments and present yearly awards.



Each year our club chooses one dog charity and one human charity to support. Any member can nominate charities, and at the AGM we vote for which charities we will raise money for that year. Please get your nominations to Jo by 1st March.

Our club is run by a committee and this year we are looking for some new committee members. The only criteria is that all committee members must have been members of WDTC for at least 1 year, be enthusiastic and willing to help. We only have about 4 committee meetings a year. Please get your nominations' to Jo by 1st March for voting at the AGM.

The committee organises our participation in the Winter League series, interclub matches, Christmas party, other social events and talks, visiting trainers, training for trainers, club library and makes decisions on club equipment. We also have a separate show committee to run our annual agility show in April. We welcome any suggestions from our members on how to improve the club and love anyone who offers to help. ☺

That doesn't mean you have to be a committee member to help; if you would like to help more at club please ask me or another committee member. There are always jobs to be done such as mending broken equipment, making cups of tea for the trainers, and if anyone can weld, we need some hooks welded in our equipment container! We are also looking for volunteers to update our club website and keep our club wiki site up to date, print out club results 'Boasts' and someone to take charge of the club library of books and DVDs.

I look forward to seeing you all at the AGM

Gill Rhodes ☺



WDTC AGM

You are cordially invited to attend the Club's Annual General Meeting

Date: Monday 13th March 2017

Venue: Astons Village Hall, OX11 9EQ

Time: 7.00pm for 7:30pm start

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 1st March 2017. (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 1st March 2017. The Club normally supports one human and one animal related cause each year. Voting will take place at the AGM.

The current list of nominated committee members are as follows:

Committee post	Nomination
Chairman	Gill Rhodes
Secretary	Joanna Tidmarsh
Treasurer	Kevin Pearce
Member	Jill Lowe
Member	Claire Jones
Member	Debbie Chapman
Member	Caroline Howes
Member	<i>Vacancy</i>
Member	<i>Vacancy</i>
Member	<i>Vacancy</i>
Member	<i>Vacancy</i>
Member	<i>Vacancy</i>

If you would like to nominate anyone can you please advise me of role and name by 1st March 2017. Nominations as they stand to date are attached.

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 7th March 2017.

Jo Tidmarsh

Thank you

A BIG thank you to members of the Wallingford Dog Training Club for our lovely agility jump (see Dino trying it out for size).



We joined WDTC (then at Silverdown riding centre in Harwell) around 1990 to do agility; me with a silver standard poodle - Roxy, and Ian with an Aussie - Digger. Agility was very different in those days – trotting round with your dog on your left. I recall a training session when we started to run with our dog on the right; jumps were put up against the wall of the Blewbury school and we ran them in a straight line with the dog on our right (strange for both dogs and handlers). Weaves were taught by walking alongside the dog, stepping into the dog to ‘push’ them away through alternate poles. Jumps were higher then – and no small & medium heights - and A-frames were higher and steeper.

Some of the members in those early days (not all with their current partners!) included Mark (who was chairman when we joined) & Karen Laker, Lorna & Simon Peachey, Rosemary & Robert Tappin, Sue & Tom Cuddon, Jill Lowe, Gill Kimber and José Rostagni. Then there were the youngsters, including Simon Tappin, Tanya Cooper, Jenny Kimber, Annette Lowe & Tasha Wise.

We took our dogs to the obedience section (on a Wednesday evening) run by José, then Rosemary & Sue, who helped pioneer the Kennel Club Good Citizen Scheme). We helped out with the training, and eventually took over running that section. One of the highlights was to have the Blue Peter dog Mabel join Sue’s class for training with its

owner, then take the Good Citizen test with presenter Katy Hill. The local dog warden visited to test the class, and (thankfully) Mabel and Katy passed! (At about the same time WDTC appeared on another children's TV programme when Rosie & Jim stepped off their barge to have a go at dog agility.)

Motherhood, relocation, motherhood and new hobbies took several trainers away and the Good Citizen section closed. We both held positions on the Club committee, covering just about all the roles – except treasurer. And continued agility training with subsequent dogs, some more successful (Ian's dogs Stig, Dash, Dino & Darcey) than others (Jacky's dogs Inky, Lazer, Kip & Harri).



The club and its members have been a significant part of our lives for around a quarter of a century and we have made a huge number of friends. We wish the club and all its current members a happy and successful future – and end with another thank-you for the jump. If any of you are up Lincolnshire way, do come and see us.

Jacky & Ian Hutchinson

Entering Wallingford Agility Show

This year the club show is available to enter online at First Place Processing. Or, you can download the schedule and entry form from the website and enter by post. If you do not have access to a computer please ask for a printed a copy. 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.



If you enter online, please make sure you select the option for "Helping Club Member" in order to get reduced entry fees and free camping. This will show up as a deduction at the end when you come to pay. Remember that the closing date for entries is 8th March.

Alison Pearce

Helping at Wallingford Agility Show

Each year the club runs a two day agility show at Newbury Showground (in this context show means competition not display). This is a VERY important event for the club as financially, the show pays for new equipment and helps towards training days etc. But more importantly it is our chance to offer a lovely friendly, well run show for people to enter.

This year the show takes place over the weekend of **22nd and 23rd April** – please put this date in your diary if you haven't already! All club members are asked to come and help out, any time from 8am till about 5pm.



If you are a beginner who started training recently then you will not be able to enter your dog this year, but it is a brilliant opportunity to see what you are aiming for, learn how competitions work, and get to know your fellow club members. Don't worry if you have never helped at an agility competition before, you will be buddied up with someone who will show you what to do, and we also supply food and drink all day long in return for your hard work.

We also need help on the two days before the show. On Thursday afternoon we mark out the camping spaces. This is over 200 spaces which need a little L to show where each of the corners are. This is a team job as we have a pre-marked rope and everyone moves in formation down the showground, marking as we go!

On the Friday there are lots of jobs to do and we need helpers all day. This is really all hands on deck to get ready. The agility rings have to be marked out (last year we had 11), the courses for Saturday set up, the score tents put up, campers directed to their pitches, the marquee organised, ring boxes and refreshments prepared for Saturday... and a thousand other things I have probably forgotten. Everyone who helps on Friday also gets fed!



Picture above: club takeaway at our show

The club show is hard work but it is good fun and very rewarding. Jill Lowe has already been coming around at training with a sign-up sheet to check when everyone will be available to help out – please ask if you are not sure about helping and we will be happy to answer any

questions! We also welcome partners, parents, children and other non-agility helpers – plenty of the things that need doing don't require any specific agility knowledge!

If you are not entering the show and want to camp (for free) please speak to Jo Tidmarsh.

Alison Pearce

Rowan: 10th September 2000 – 6th November 2016

I Did It My Way

Rowan arrived at 10 weeks old, a very small bundle of black fluff, looking for all the world like a baby hedgehog! Ashley fell in love with her straight away (as did we all) and from that moment on they were inseparable.



Rowan was quite a shy little girl, and didn't really enjoy her puppy classes. In fact she spent the entire 8 week course sitting mainly behind my legs! Not a good omen for a budding agility dog?

Things went better when she was old enough to go to proper agility training, and as long as she wasn't expected to interact with anyone she was fine, and seemed to quite enjoy it. I can remember Jacky saying one day that she was faster than Ashley!

Unfortunately she seemed to lose a bit of confidence in the ring. She always got a clear round and was quite good and steady in a team. Later, she lost confidence on the seesaw. Partly through being pushed to do it when she didn't want to, and partly, as I found out later, because of a problem with her sight.

Rowan was diagnosed with Progressive Retinal Atrophy when she was 7 years old. The vet said to keep her out of bright light, but that she would go blind within a couple of years. I'm sure many of you can remember Rowan sporting a pair of very snazzy goggles! She took to them straight away, and the UV filters in them preserved her sight for many more years. She couldn't see in bright light at all, so agility was confined to cloudy days.

I remember one show when she was about 10. It was a bit bright and I told the judge, she wouldn't be able to see so we would go round very slowly. Rowan had other ideas and on the command "over" jumped every obstacle and did the tunnels beautifully, even managing 12 weaves. She was a bit slow, but got a respectable clear round. Later that day the Judge gave her a special rosette, and with a tear in her eye said "This little dog is what agility is all about. She is never going to win anything as she can hardly see, but she



has such trust in her handler that she did it anyway." I must admit that it was one of my proudest moments.

Rowan retired at 12 and still enjoyed coming to shows to support Martha and Magnus. She loved the caravan and was usually seen sitting in the front window on a cushion. Always the lady. Her nickname was "The Duchess".



She was a very special little girl and although she was quiet and shy she had a very strong will. You could never make her do anything she didn't want to do, and sometimes on a walk she would just stop dead and refuse to move. Good job she was small, as after that she had to be carried the rest of the way.

She was very clever in her own quiet way and seemed to know stuff. My daughter always said that if we knew what Rowan was thinking we would be afraid! She had a way of looking right into you as if willing you to understand.

It was with great sadness that I had to say goodbye to her during a prolonged fit that she had no hope of recovering from. Sleep tight special girl, we all miss you. xx

Pam Hancock



Annual Membership subscriptions are now overdue. Please complete the membership form to ensure we have any changes to your details, and return with the appropriate fees to Gill R or Kevin. If you wish to pay by bank transfer please speak to Kevin.



***Congratulations to Helen and Richard
who were married in January
and are expecting a baby in April!***