

Watchdog!

WALLINGFORD DOG TRAINING CLUB

February 2011

If it's not too late - Happy New Year to you all.



Just like Guinness some things are worth waiting for!

See Page 3.

Editorial Bit by Mick - the Editor!



Well hello again and Happy New Year to you. As we start to get into 2011 we look back over the last year, and forward to whatever the new year may bring. That might be personal or agility themed, although I think we all want the best for ourselves and our nearest and dearest. Whatever you hope for in 2011 I hope it is achievable and brings you the satisfaction you hope for.

Last year was rather mixed for me in all aspects, but to stick to the agility side of things, I think I may be seeing the end of an agility career for my mate Bryn, one which has lasted eleven years so far. The first signs were evident at the Kennel Club International where Bryn was measuring the jumps and struggling over - but mainly through! - spreads and long jumps. He had slowed down before then but the jumping was fine, and we were still picking up those Clear Round rosettes we covet so much.

In fact 2010 was one of our better years, 22 clear rounds from nine shows! There was icing on our agility cake too, not only did we collect four individual places, we also picked up a 2nd place in the Team Dash Heat at Caerphilly. This put us into the Final which was held at the Dashing Dogs Show near Chester! That was to be our last show of the year as we were unable to compete at Prestbury Park as Bryn was injured. So Team Dash Final 2010 could well turn out to be the old boys last

run over the big jumps! If it is, at least it was at a National Final and I have two videos of the team's run, taken from opposite sides of the ring. I haven't had many opportunities to watch Bryn's runs over the 11 years we competed, but I get an immense amount of pleasure from watching these. It looks as though we will be doing mainly UKA Casual classes from now on, K. C. shows will only give us one class usually which isn't worth getting out of bed for, never mind the cost of a day out at a show. Agility ain't a cheap sport! Anyway, enough about Bryn and me, what about you?

I know I'm not alone in retiring my dog from the highly competitive world of agility. Yes I know 'agility is fun', but you only have to loiter around the rings for a short time to see just how serious some folk take it, and it's not just those at the top of the pile either! I know of at least four other dogs who are retiring this year, some of their stories appear within these pages, either completely or dropping down to Casual, Any size, Veterans, or whatever class allows them to compete over lower jumps. I have dreaded this time but it is inevitable I suppose. Then again if you have ever stood and watched these classes you will have seen that, although they may lack pace, these dogs do not lack enthusiasm, they enjoy every second they are in that ring.

By the way, this is just a short -ish Watchdog this time, just to get back into the routine again. The season usually starts, for me at least, with our own show, April 16-17 this year, although it will be rather different this time. If you haven't already put your name down to help then please do. In agility as in many aspects of life, many hands make light work, the more of us there are the less we have to do! O.K. that'll do, take care, Mick.

A message from Rosemary Tappin KCAI

This is a short message of thanks to all at Wallingford DTC who have taught, or been taught, by me over many years, especially the dogs. I have learned so much from each and every one.

With the club I have enjoyed agility, pet obedience, Kennel Club Good Citizens and flyball, both as an instructor and handler from the early 1990's.

This wonderful background has played an important part in enabling me to achieve my ambition of becoming a Kennel Club Accredited Instructor which finally happened when I passed my assessment in the summer of last year and was awarded my certificate at the Kennel Club in November.

Thank you WDTTC !

Rosemary Tappin KCAI

Details of the scheme can be found at www.thekennelclub.org.uk/item/428



A plea from Jacky.

One short video from a series on YouTube called 'Fun Theory' making learning fun caught my fancy. Take a look at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IeAJJDRn_HO

I think this is a brilliant example of how we should train dogs. Make it so much fun to do the right thing that they want to do it.

Think about this next time your dog breaks a wait - was it fun for him to stay sitting in front of that first jump? They should be rewarded much more for staying there.

(In a class situation, there isn't time to train a wait each time - and you both just get frustrated & upset. In fact if you don't have a strong wait I would suggest that you don't wait your dog - as long as he goes on the release command, he's following the 'rule'. If a jump is free, practise between your goes and have a great game every time he waits. Maybe do a wait towards the end of the class when he's more likely to do it. And don't push the distance until he breaks the wait! That achieves nothing.) Sorry for the lecture - didn't mean to, but I see so many handlers wasting time on the wait when they really come to training to practise handling.

Does your dog have a really good game at the end of each exercise?

Or are you upset and immediately start questioning why such and such didn't happen - leaving your dog upset and unrewarded?

Please, could everyone make a resolution to always make training fun for you and your dog.

Jacky.

Retirements and other News

Just wanted to write a few lines for the Watch dog to explain Ashley and Rowans absence from class.

I have been training with the Wallingford club for about 11 years with Ashley and 10 with Rowan. We have all enjoyed our time with you all and have made quite a few friends, both dogs and people over that time, but I feel the time has come for them to retire from training.

As many of you will be aware, Rowan has a hereditary eye condition (progressive retinal atrophy) and has difficulty seeing in very bright light, now Ashley is nearly 12 he has started to develop an age related macular degeneration. (diagnosed in the Autumn) The light at Blewbury is quite dim and Ashley has been hesitating in his jumping for a while and has now started to hit the poles. He is a bit of a sensitive little chap, and I don't want to put him off jumping completely, so it will be better for him not to come any more and still be happy to do the outdoor shows, and the demos, where the light is better. I hope both of them continue to enjoy their agility for some time yet, so we will be seeing you around.

Thank you to everyone who has helped with our training over the years, your help and encouragement has been much appreciated.

I was a bit of a late starter in the world of agility, but have found it to be a bit addictive, so you don't get rid of me that easily, I will now be concentrating on training the feisty little Martha, who seems to be jet propelled! Just hope I can keep up, wish me luck!

Regards to all
Pam Hancock

Just like everyone to know that I am retiring Hattie this year due to lameness caused by arthritis. She has been a brilliant dog throughout the years getting me to two Burgess Supadog Finals, coming third both times, and four Olympia Semifinals where, each time, she was let down by her dopey handler.

We also represented England at the Kennel Club Festival where our team came second overall (we would have done better if Hattie didn't choose the wrong end of the tunnel - thank goodness for good team mates).

As you can see she has been a dog in a million, so Moz and Vinnie have got a lot to live up to. I am hoping to retire her at Crufts this year where she is part of the Thames Midi Monsters Medium team - I'm not sure if we will actually be running but with the help of Stuart (osteopath) and Crystal (Acupuncturist) we may get our very last run together.

Lin x

I must mention Tanya and Dollar's win into Grade 4. Not before time I think but then Dollar is a very fast Belgian and, like any fast dog, not easy to handle, but it looks as though Tanya is getting there! Well Done.



Retirements and other News

Dear Editor.

This is photo is of Honey celebrating her last Agility Show at the age of 14 last year.



She also passed her audition recently to play Toto in the Wizard of Oz, which is taking place at Dorchester Abbey the 30th April & 1st May 2011, with donation to Cystic Fibrosis. This will be her third appearance in the theatre, what a little star I have .

Jose

Hi Mick,

My small scruffy black terrier, Bonnie, has been chosen to represent England at the World Agility Open Championships in May.
Lee Harfield x

Congratulations to Lee and Bonnie. This year the World Agility Open Championships will be held on 13th - 15th of May, at the Hand Equestrian Centre, Clevedon, North Somerset. If you are interested in going to watch you will find full details on the website at <http://www.worldagilityopen.com/>



There's snow stopping us!



'Hey Bambi, you little Pyrenean squirt, how come you're jumping the same height as me?'

'Cos there's 5" of snow on the ground Tig !'

The 'Big O' Birthday Bash

Jacky, Carolyn and Pam are celebrating 'Big O' birthdays in February, March and April this year and we would love you and your family to help celebrate with us. There will be music, food and good company so it will be a good evening. The party is from 7.30 pm on Saturday 26th March at the East Hagbourne Village Hall.

We don't want presents, but would really appreciate you helping to provide food for the bash. Please contact either Aileen Watson or Maureen Sanderson who have kindly agreed to coordinate savoury (Maureen) and sweet (Aileen) food but please bring your own drinks.

Please let Jacky know if you are coming so that we can cater for the right number.

Note this invite is for members and immediate family.

A Reminder of Safety Rules etc on training nights.

I know you have seen this before but they warrant a repeated publication. These are examples of safety and general rules that should be followed. There have been an increasing number of small incidents that we don't wish to become big incidents so please adhere to the following rules which are there to make it safe for you and your dog to train.

Rules:

- Your dog **must** be on lead while waiting it's turn and immediately on completion - you can play with / reward it on lead.
- Pay attention to what your dog is doing while on lead while you are chatting.
- A long lead is not a safe way of controlling your dog so please use a lead of sensible length.
- Do **not** congregate near the end of an exercise - this is dangerous. Please queue away from a dog's exercise path.
- Take extra care going through the narrow passageway between the kitchen area and the school. We will have to reinstate the one-way system if people are not being careful.

Also:

- We expect people in the early classes to be there at **7.30** to help set up the equipment and people in the late classes to help put away.
- Do **not** use the equipment without a trainer attending - you and your dog will not be insured.

Trainers:

- Please ensure that your class follows the rules.
- We expect the odd excursion across/under the netting especially with young dogs (and the new beginners) so please be vigilant and, if necessary, position yourself in an intercept position.

Remember:

The above rules are in place to ensure that you and your dog trains safely and is neither hurt nor frightened by actions that could easily have been prevented. Please be a responsible member and remember to follow them. Thank You. Ian Hutchinson.

STOP PRESS!

I have just had an email from Jose with the sad news that the Harwell Feast has been cancelled for this year! I don't know why but this is sad, it's an annual day out for us with the dogs at a typical village fayre. The Agility and Flyball demos, and Pet Dog show, are a great opportunity to promote the joys of dog ownership and have fun with them. Let's hope it returns soon.



bordeaux collie

This is one of Simon Drew's fabulous pictures, the same chap who designed my 'still life in the old dog yet' T-Shirt. Simon, like me has/had a spotty face collie, see above. Check out his work at <http://www.simondrew.co.uk/>

Wallingford Dog Training Club Annual General Meeting 2011

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

Date: Wednesday 23rd March 2011

Venue: Astons Village Hall, OX11 9EQ

Time: 7.30pm for 8pm 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.

This year an updated version of the club rules will need discussion and agreement. Suggested updates will be sent out at least 14 days before the AGM.

We will also be discussing Charities that as a club we would like to support - Details to follow.

If you have any items that you would like to see on the Agenda can you please forward them to me by the 8th March 2011. (Contact details below)

The current list of nominated committee members are as follows:

Committee post	Nomination
Chairman	<i>Carolyn Davies</i>
Secretary	<i>Karen Parker</i>
Treasurer	<i>Kevin Pearce</i>
Agility rep	<i>Ian Hutchinson</i>
Member	<i>Gill Rhodes</i>
Member	<i>Pete Sanderson</i>
Member	<i>Kath Rayson</i>
Member	<i>Mick Chambers</i>
Member	<i>Wendy Botto</i>
Member	<i>Aileen Watson</i>
Member	<i>Jacky Hutchinson</i>
Member	<i>Jo Tidmarsh</i>

(Changes to roles or new nominations are printed in bold. We no longer have a Flyball section and therefore the Flyball rep converts to a member post. Currently everyone is willing to remain in their roles.)

If you would like to nominate anyone can you please advise me of role and name by Tuesday 8th March 2011)

In order to plan for refreshments can you please let me know if you are planning to attend the AGM. Anyone interested in assisting with the refreshments should contact Jacky

Further information concerning Directions, Agendas, Club Reports, Changes to club Rules, Guest Speakers and Charities will be sent out by Wednesday 9th March 2011.

We will also be presenting at the AGM club trophies, all points therefore need to be entered on the club Wiki site by the 28th Feb 2011.