

Watchdog!

WALLINGFORD DOG TRAINING CLUB

July 2013



Left: Sarah and Merlin with the judge Barrie James, receiving their 2nd place trophy in the Colimanor Starters Cup Final at Tuffsbury Show



Right: Gio-Gio with Arthur winning Most Handsome Dog at NAWT Open Day



Reminder:
No training on
Thursdays 8th & 15th
August.

Editor's corner

It has been a very busy month – another very successful few weeks for the club, with lots of dogs gaining places and wins and moving up, well done everyone – AGAIN! There is a detailed agility report from Ian and lots of results further on in this issue, along with some great demo pictures.



I enjoyed camping with other club members at Lansdown and Tuffsbury, and celebrate their successes. Like several other members, Basil and I did our first grade 4 show, and although I had a slight wobble walking my first course when I saw it went 1- back of 2, I actually got round it and got a clear round!

There are a few new puppies to welcome in this issue, including my own who is a collie called Herbie. I also received a puppy training DVD as a present, so I will be reviewing that in the next issue. If anyone else would like to review DVDs, including those in the club library, please let me know.

Deadline for the next issue is the 19th August, when everyone who is attending the long summer shows should be back, so remember to put your results online promptly, and please email me your pictures.

Alison Pearce

Agility Report

Successes

There have been some brilliant results from members over the last few weeks. Three members have won up a grade at KC shows over the last few weeks. And Sarah competed in the Colimanor Starter final at Tuffley in July. There are several different agility tournaments, with heats held at shows throughout the year. There are different qualifying rules, but typically the top 2 from each heat are invited to run in the final. Just to qualify for a final is a great achievement, but having done that for the Colimanor Starters Tournament, Sarah & Merlin did exceptionally well in the final, running a brilliant round to get second place - huge congratulations to her.

Talking about Starter tournaments, anyone attending the Agility Club show next year will be able to cheer on Gill R & Mindy, who qualified last week for the 2014 final of the Agility Club Starter tournament. Gill and Mindy have already qualified for this year's final!

Don't forget to add your points to the club's database and your boasts to the club's Wiki web page. If you don't have access to the Wiki page contact Ian Hutchinson to get it - and if you don't use the internet, ask someone to add your results.

Feedback

The committee is very keen to give members the opportunity to suggest any changes they think would improve the club & its training, so an online questionnaire has been sent to everyone. This is anonymous, and one member of the committee will assemble answers and

write a report for the committee. For anyone who does not have access to a computer, there are paper copies of the questionnaire at Blewbury, and a box to post your replies.

Instructors

Having lots of volunteer instructors in a club is great - providing support, and a variety of suggestions and ideas. But to ensure that they are kept up-to-date with current methods & ideas, the club organises training for them every couple of years.

This year the club is taking a slightly different route, and is sponsoring instructors to do a correspondence course run by Agility1st: "a project to establish a structured programme to develop agility instructors and coaches. The programme was launched at Crufts 2013 and following an amazing response is quickly becoming recognised as a high quality, professional agility instructors' programme" (quote taken from the web). It was set up by Steve Croxford & Mark Laker - both very experienced handlers of over 20 years (Mark was Chairman of our club many moons ago).

Many of our instructors have already taken and passed the Agility Club's instructor course, but to ensure that all instructors start with the same basic concepts, everyone is starting at the Foundation level.

Summer Break

There will be NO training on Thursdays 8th & 15th August.

Timely reminder

Could everyone please remember that those who train in the first class need to be at Blewbury by 7.30pm to set up the equipment. If everyone could get there at 7.25pm, we could get started a fraction earlier on the evenings there are no horses in the arena, and get the exercises set up by 7.50 - giving each class an extra 5 minutes.

Equipment

Recognising that almost every show now has rubber contact equipment, the club has ordered a new set of contact equipment. This will be bought using profits from the show.

Weather

The weather this year couldn't be more different from last year - so I hope everyone is enjoying their agility sport. But don't forget how hot a vehicle gets in warm weather, and make absolutely sure that if you are leaving your dogs in the vehicle that it's well ventilated, and covered with a silver sheet to keep the sun off. These sheets are available from trade stands at shows; they are a bit expensive, but do last a long time. Enjoy the sun while it lasts.

Ian Hutchinson, Agility Rep

KC Show Results



Top ten places only are shown below... well done everyone!

Rugby 13-14 July

Gill & Shade 1st G4-6 Jump (133 G6)
 Gill & Mindy 1st G1-4 Jumping (G2)
 Gill & Mindy 1st G1-3 Agility (G2)
 Gill & Bertie 1st G1-4 jumping
 Gill & Bertie 4th C1-4 Jumping
 Annette & Maze 6th G4-6 Jump (90 G4)



After a very hot summer day doing a ring party while Ian stood around (judging), we all enjoyed a takeaway.

Billingshurst 14th July

Sarah & Merlin 4th C1-2 Ag (159)
 Sarah & Merlin 4th C1-2 Jump (182)



Tuffsbury Park 5-7 July

Gill & Shade 1st C1-7 Jumping (137)
 Tanya & Dollar 1st G4 Jumping (141)
 Tania & Kia 1st G1-4 Jumping (17 G3)
 Tania & Worzel 1st G5 Agility (34)
 Pam & Martha 2nd G3-5 Agility (71)
 Tania & Kia 2nd G3-5 Agility (71)
 Sarah & Merlin 2nd Colimanor C1-2 Starters Final
 Annette & Maze 3rd C1-7 Jump (137)
 Sarah & Merlin 3rd G1-2 Ag (66 G2)
 Ian & Dino 4th G4 Jumping (70)
 Pam & Martha 5th G3 Jumping (41)
 Annette & Maze 6th CG3-5 Ag (249)
 Sarah & Merlin 7th C1-2 Agility (131)
 Ian & Dino 8th CG3-5 Jump pt1 (248)
 Aileen & Rockett 10th G3 Jump pt2 (150)

Below: L-R Tanya & Dollar, Kia, Worzel, Martha

Wellingborough 6-7 July

Gill & Mindy 1st Agility Club C1-2 Agility (17) - qualifying for 2014 final
 Gill & Mindy 1st C1-2 Agility
 Gill & Bertie 4th C1-2 Agility
 Gill & Mindy 4th C1-3 Jumping
 Gill & Bertie 5th C1-3 Jumping (59)
 Gill & Bertie 5th C1-3 Jumping

KC Show Results cont...

Lansdown 29-30 June

Carolyn & Ollie 1st KC Novice Olympia Agility (265) – *qualifying for semi finals day 2 and into G6*



Gill & Bertie 1st G1-3 Jump (G2)
Gill & Bertie 1st C1-3 Ag (G2) - *into G3*
Gill & Bertie 1st G1-3 Agility (G2)

Pam & Martha 1st Grade 3 Jump (67)
Sarah & Merlin 1st C1-2 Jumping (124)
Sarah & Merlin 3rd C1-2 Jump (146)
Pam & Martha 5th G1-3 Jumping (85)
Gill & Bertie 6th C1-3 jumping (76)
Gill & Bertie 2nd G1-3 jumping (G2) Gill & Mindy 3rd G1-3 jumping (G2) Gill & Mindy 3rd G1-3 Agility (G2)

Dog Vegas 22-28 June

Tori and Bowen 1st 1-4 Agility – *into G4*
Tori and Bowen 4th 1-4 Agility

Adams 21-22 June

Gill & Shade 1st G6 Jumping (80 G6)
Jenny & Ozzie 1st G3 Agility (140)
Jill & Cass 2nd G5-7 Agility (40 G5)
Carolyn & Ollie 2nd C3-5 Agility
Annette & Maze 6th C1-7 Jump (138)

Golden Valley 15-16 June

Wallingford Juniors (Gemma & Poppy, Gio-Gio & Bambi, Jack & Pip, Rory & Ammo, Jenny & Shade) 1st YKC Team (7) – *qualified for Crufts 2014*
Jenny & Guv 1st G5 Jumping (77)

Jack & Pera 1st Agility for Juniors Jumping (62)

Sarah & Merlin 2nd G1-2 Jump (38 G2)
Ian & Dino 2nd G4 Agility (79)
Rory & Ammo 2nd Agility for Juniors U12 Ag (62)
Gio-Gio & Tatti 2nd Agility for Juniors U12 Jump (62)
Aileen & Rockett 3rd G3 Jump (199)
Gio-Gio & Bambi 4th Agility for Juniors U12 Agility (62)
Wendy & Bambi 3rd C4-7 Jump (37)
Jenny & Guv 4th G5-7 Jumping (56)
Ian & Dino / Gill & Shade 5th C1-7 Pairs (73)
Carolyn & Ollie 5th G4-5 Agility (48)
Carolyn & Max 7th Anysize (92)
Carolyn & Max 7th Anysize (104)

Chipping Norton 9 June

Gill & Mindy 1st G1-3 Jumping (35)
Gill & Mindy 1st G1-3 Agility (33)
Gill & Mindy 3rd C1-3 Jumping (28)
Gill & Bertie 4th C1-3 Jumping (28)
Gill & Bertie 2nd Darl Rescue League finals C1-3 (12)
Bertie also got a special 'Ruby' trophy for the grade 1 dog with the most points

Thames 8-9 June

Carolyn & Ollie 1st KC Nov Olympia Ag pt3 (199) – *qualifying for semi finals*
Jenny & Guv 1st C5-7 Jumping (209)
Gill & Mindy 1st C1-2 Jumping (49)
Gill & Mindy 2nd G1-2 Agility (35)
Sarah & Merlin 2nd G2 Jumping (75)
Rory & Ammo 2nd Jun U12 Jump (34)
Jenny & Guv 2nd G5 Jumping (113)
Jolyon & Pip 3rd C1-4 Jumping (222)
Pam & Martha 3rd G3 Jumping (70)
Jenny & Guv 3rd KC Nov Olympia (199)
Gill & Bertie 3rd C1-2 Jumping (49)
Jill & Cass 3rd G4-5 Jump (113 G5)
Jenny & Guv 5th G5 Agility (115)
Jenny & Guv 8th G5 Agility (113)
Gio-Gio & Bambi 9th Jun U12 Jump (34)
Wendy & Bambi 9th C6-7 Crufts Ag (88)

Wallingford Wiki Spreadsheet – 6 months on!

An update as we hit the half year. There is very little in it at the top at the moment, so now is the time to make sure you have

Put your points onto the boast – or put them onto facebook – or email Aileen direct

- a) The information you need is –
 - i. The name and date of the show
 - ii. Your place or clear round
 - iii. The number of dogs in the class – this can make a big difference in larger agility classes!
- b) If you have a problem with any of this, please let Aileen know

If you are new to the Club, competing and wish to be included, then you need to let Aileen know your name/dog's pet name and grade at which you are competing (KC grade).

So – here we go! Currently!

JUNIORS

1	Gio-Gio and Tatti	26 points
2	Gio-Gio and Bambi	16 points
3	Rory and Ammo	9 points
4	Rory and Pip	7 points
5	Rory and DJ	1 point

STARTERS (KC Grades 1-2 as at the beginning of the year!)

1	Gill and Mindy	109 points
2	Sarah and Merlin	107 points
3	Gill and Bertie	76 points
4	Dawn and Daisy	25 points (but no Tuffsbury yet!)
5	Helen and Mylo	5 points
6	Dawn and Parkie	4 points

NOVICE (KC Grades 3-5 as at beginning of the year!) – top 12 only!

1	Aileen and Ozzie	134 points
2	Aileen and Rockett	115 points
3	Ian and Dino	104 points
4	Annette and Maze	75 points
5	Carolyn and Ollie	66 points
6	Pam and Martha	60 points
7	Jose and Pera	52 points
8	Jill and Cass	47 points
9	Tori and Bowen	47 points
10	Jo and Pip	32 points
11	Alison and Basil	24 points
12	Tanya and Dollar	16 points

SENIOR (KC Grades 6-7)

1	Gill and Shade	43 points
2	Wendy and Bambi	39 points
3	Kevin and Fell	11 points
4	Wendy and Tatti	7 points
5	Gill and Chi	5 points (now anysize only)
6	Carolyn and Max	2 points (now anysize only)

Aileen Watson



Bacchus

Bacchus is a Hungarian Wirehaired Vizsla. He's broken into a kitchen cupboard and scooped a free bag of dog food we'd got from the vet (~ 2.5 days' worth of food in one afternoon) – he looked VERY fat after that, and just slept or pooped all evening!!! Steve slept on the sofa in case he was ill...

He's also escaped from the kitchen and stolen a load of cat food. Eaten a lip salve. Eaten the mortgage bill (not such a bad thing!). Destroyed and eaten the notepad which we leave messages on for our dog-walker. Stolen some fudge (but left the fizzy cola bottles – clearly not to his taste!). etc.

We've now got child-proof locks on the kitchen cupboards, and clear work-surfaces for the first time ever! And now he's just started teething..... Poor Loki for having to put up with all of this – he does get upset whenever Bacchus misbehaves, but the rest of the time I think he likes having a little brother to play with!

Kathryn Brocklehurst



Gremlin



Gremlin is a five month old German Spitz Klein who came to live with Tania, Worzel and Kia at the end of June – apparently he lives up to his name!

Herbie

Herbie was born in Devon and is an ISDS registered Border Collie.... Yes according to the Kennel Club that will make him a Working Sheepdog. His parents are both genuine working sheepdogs who work with sheep, on a farm with about 1300 ewes and lambs.

Herbie was chosen very early on, and I visited the litter numerous times until he was old enough to come home with us. All of his eight brothers and sisters have gone to learn to work sheep, except for one who has gone to an agility friend.



Herbie comes to work with me daily and last week he attended a centre managers meeting so he has also stayed in a hotel at 11 weeks old! He now has an up to date knowledge of health and safety and financial matters – his occasional squeaks from the puppy cage in the corner of the meeting room were a good distraction.

So far everything is going well, the other dogs seem to like him, he sleeps (although if he could stretch beyond 5.30am for a few days that would be great), and even scaredy Alf decided to play with him after the first week.

As Herbie is my first non-rescue and my first pup to train from scratch it is going to be very exciting times ahead!

Alison Pearce

The 2013 Rescue SupaDarl Finals

The SupaDarl agility rescue league is open to any rescue dogs. I joined last year after reading about it in Watchdog when Alison got through to the finals with Alf. This year Bertie, my unpredictable parsons Jack Russell, qualified for the finals.



The finals were on the 10th June (same as Thames show) so we went to Thames KC show on the Saturday and up to Daventry in Northamptonshire for the Chipping Norton KC show on the Sunday.

The Chipping Norton show host the Darl Rescue league finals. We had to report in at 8:30 and at about 10am we had a 1 minute practise run, to do what we liked and make up our own course. I

decided to practice the A frame as Bertie has a bad habit of stopping at the top of the A frame to look at the scenery, or maybe he's waiting for me to put down a treat...I'm not sure! True to form I took Bertie over the A frame 3 times and each time he stopped, but the last time he didn't stop as long, then the whistle blew and our practice was over.

The Grade 1-3 mediums were not running until later so we had a lovely time competing in the Chipping Norton show and chatting to the other competitors until the afternoon. The course was lovely and flowing and only one cross behind required so except for the dreaded A frame I was happy.

Bertie was third in his class to run. During the run they read out a commentary on Bertie that we had provided, after the first few obstacles I found myself listening to the commentary and wasn't concentrating on the course so had to firmly focus on Bertie and switch off my mind to the commentary. I don't remember what they said after that, so it must have worked.

Apart from a slightly slow dog walk and a hesitation as if he was about to sniff, all went well. As we got to the A frame I said go, go, go then touch as he was coming down the other side and put my hand down as if I had a treat in it! Thankfully Bertie came down beautifully...maybe he's had enough of looking at the scenery ☺.

He sped around the rest of the course and I was really pleased with his run. You can watch Bertie's Darl Final run on Youtube https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=rcWPHOiD-yA



We spent the rest of the afternoon watching and chatting to the other competitors. About 3pm we had the presentations and I was amazed when Bertie came 2nd in the grade 1-3 medium dogs. We received a beautiful trophy.

I had another surprise as our name was read out again and we were presented with a special trophy 'Ruby Trophy' for the grade 1 medium dog with the most points. This trophy was donated by someone who had lost her dog and she said the story was so sad she couldn't read it out, so I'm still waiting to hear the story of Ruby.

We had a lovely day and I would encourage anyone with a rescue dog to enter the Darl agility league. All the details are on their website

We had quite an amazing weekend and came home with a total of 8 place rosettes and 6 trophies between Mindy and Bertie!
(pictured right)

Gill Rhodes



Agility Demo at Rush Court Care Home



On the 11th June, a Tuesday lunchtime, we met at Rush Court care home to give a demonstration of dog agility to the elderly residents. This has become an annual event, arranged by Wendy and much enjoyed by all. Wendy set a lovely course, which all the beginners had a really good go at, even though it was quite a challenging course for beginners! Despite some light rain the residence watched from the balcony and after the demo we joined them all for tea and cakes inside. The residents loved meeting all the dogs and making a fuss of them. This is a lovely venue and well worth the afternoon off work! I was also there with my dogs, and Jazz also went along with Bailey, but had to go off to work before we took the photo!

Gill Rhodes

SPOTTED!



***Bailey and Jazz
pictured in the
Oxford Mail
following the
WDTC Demo
at Didcot
Town Fayre***



Demo at Harwell Feast

On a sunny Bank Monday in May, Loki and I joined other members of Wallingford at the Harwell Feast to do an agility demo. This is only the second demo that Loki and I have done (we tried last year but were washed out!).

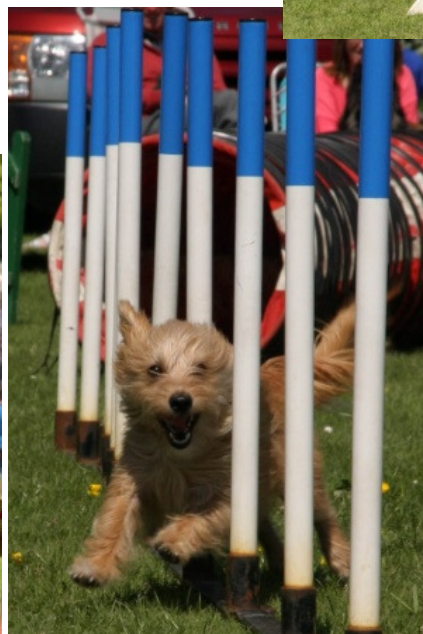
As we aren't competing yet, I find this a great way to practice doing a full round outside, with lots of distractions, but less of the pressure! It's also a relaxed way to meet other members of the club.... though I'm useless at people's names so still know several members only by their dogs' names!

Being a keen photographer, it was an ideal opportunity to get some action shots of everyone... I took several hundred, so here's just a small selection to give you a taster of the day!



I'd thoroughly recommend going to summer demos to new members of the club as a great way to meet other members and get in some additional training! Thanks to Wendy and the team for organising this!

Kathryn Brocklehurst



Rewards

The club supports 'reward-based training'. So what is that?

"Thanks for brushing the dog – sit down and I'll make you a cup of tea".

"Thanks for scriming – here's a bottle of wine".



These are rewards – pleasant, and helping to ensure you'll repeat the task. But they're only rewards if you like them. If you are a committed coffee drinker – a cup of tea isn't a reward; if you don't drink alcohol – a box of chocolates might have been a better option than a bottle of wine.

A reward is something your dog really likes which is given after a behaviour, with the anticipation that your dog will repeat the behaviour to get another reward. "Bozo, Sit" - Bozo sits and gets a titbit. "Bozo, Come" – Bozo returns to handler and they have a tuggie game. Bozo enjoyed the response to the two actions - and the chances are that he'll repeat them – with the anticipation of the same enjoyment.



Food and play are the two most commonly used rewards, and if your dog likes both treats and a game of tug – your training is made much easier. Food treats are most commonly used in the 'static' situations – teaching a wait, or the stop on a contact. Tuggers are often used at the end of an exercise, a more 'active' situation – for example, at the end of the exercise.

Rewards have 'value', and the 'value' of a reward has to be appropriate to the dog, the situation & the task. If someone gave me an expensive gift as a reward for brushing the dog, I would be suspicious and confused (as well as delighted). The offer of a cup of tea wouldn't entice me to dig the garden on a hot day in June when an exciting Wimbledon match is on the TV.

If you are teaching your dog a new exercise in a distracting environment like Blewbury on a Thursday evening, the reward has to have a much higher value than rehearsing some already established tricks in the garden. High value treats might be cheese, chicken, liver cake, sausage (I suggest that most dogs would rate the dried, packaged 'treats' bought in a packet as 'low value').

Treats should be cut up quite small and are best kept in a small, sealable Tupperware carton – which can be used as a target (see below). Some handlers have a special tugger that their dog loves – which is used only at agility.

Rewards have to be given at the right time – immediately after the action. Anyone training a recall who sits their dog before treating them – is actually reward the sit. Because a recall is 'active' (you want the dog to return to you quickly) – a game of tug as soon as the dog returns might be a better reward.



If you're teaching the weaves, the reward needs to be given immediately after the weaves – not after the following couple of jumps.

Used in a timely way, rewards are used to 'refine' an action. For example, your dog may come through a gap between two jumps (we call this a pull-through) – but it may be working wide (and therefore, slow). A reward immediately the dog comes round the jump wing (even if the first attempt is still wide) will ensure the dog turns tighter next time to get the reward quicker. (The handler also needs to be giving the dog a 'steady' signal before the jump – so the dog knows that a tight turn is coming after the jump and he knows not to jump long.) The dog will then respond to the handler's signal with the action – and get the reward.



Rewards need to be in the right place. In the example above, the reward has to be delivered not just at the right time, but in the right place, too – close to the jump wing. When we start agility training, we might help our young dogs understand the agility game by holding the tugger / pot of treats in our hands.

However, dogs can run much faster than (most of us) can so you want your dog to work on ahead of you. Therefore the reward has to be ahead of you – to stop your dog continually turning round to you to see if it's time for their reward. Your instructor may hold the tugger at the end of the sequence – and the handler would run up to take over the tuggie game.

If your dog prefers food, a sealable treat pot left at the end of a sequence that the handler rushes up to open up and give a treat effectively separates the reward from the handler and rewards at the end of the sequence.



I haven't covered 'luring' or 'bribing' your dog. Nor how you 'fade' the reward so that it doesn't need to be used every time. And of course, not all dogs like treats and tuggies, and handlers need to determine what reward to use with their dog. This may be a cuddle and fuss, or a tennis ball, or a squeaky toy (though in a class situation a noisy toy can upset, or over-excite other dogs, so has to be used with caution).

Many dogs can be 'taught' to play – but this can take ages. And then there are the dogs for whom doing agility itself becomes the reward – which can bring different issues. I will stop here – we'd love to hear from you. Have you found any strange way to motivate your dog? Have you taught your dog to play – and how did you do it?

Jacky Hutchinson



Gio-Gio's fundraising event



Agility for Juniors
European Cup 2013
Team GB

***“Courses £1 per run,
come & have fun!!!”*** Gio-Gio!

3 separate rings:

beginners, novice & 6/7

Set by Wendy Botto, Lee Harfield & Lorna Peachey

Thurs 25th July, 11.00-dark!

at Alden Farm, Hollow Way, Upton, Oxon

OX11 9HS, Enter from Upton, beware some sat navs take you cross country!

- * Rubber contacts on 6/7 courses
- * Training weaves optional on beginner courses
- * Courses changed every couple of hours
- * Not judged unless requested
- * Timed and recorded if possible
- * Advice & feedback on course walking if required
- * Paddling pools for dogs



Refreshments available. Toilet. Pub nearby
***Raffle including 3 unframed sketches of your dogs by
Wendy Botto (other prizes gratefully accepted)***



It would be great to know whos coming but you can just turn up throughout the day!

Don't forget to send your pictures, successes, stories, show reports, judging reports, demo reports or whatever else before the deadline of 19th August for the next issue