



# Watchdog!

WALLINGFORD DOG TRAINING CLUB

*June 2012*



## A word from the editor



Hello, and welcome to June's packed issue of Watchdog! Thank you to everyone who has contributed and I hope you all enjoy reading it all as much as I have.

It was slightly strange to put my own dog on the cover, but I am so proud of Alf I think he deserves it, and you can read about our day at the rescue league finals in this issue. He would have been happy to share his cover but sadly I didn't get sent any pictures of dogs with their winning rosettes or trophies this month. Please if your dog has a win, or a first ever clear round rosette, or any other achievement, email or text me a picture, and I would love to put it in the next issue.

Please keep the articles coming – deadline for the next issue is 20th July.

*Alison Pearce*

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## WDTC Club Kit

### New T Shirts

Samples of the new kit have arrived and will be at club training on Thursday nights for the next few weeks. There are two designs:

- ❖ Short sleeved rugby shirt - £20 available in mens fit (sizes S to XXL) or ladies fit (sizes S to XL)
- ❖ Vest Top - £15 available in ladies sizes 10 to 16

The samples are available in the sizes listed above. Please feel free to try them on and sign up for your chosen size and I will place a bulk order. Please be careful when trying the kit on as several members have agreed to take ownership of these samples.



### Old Style T Shirts

There are still several short sleeved rugby shirts of the old design available at a cost of £5, as modelled by one of the club teams (left).

### Other Kit

For plain navy T-shirts, coats, cap and gillets 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.



### FREE (left)

I also have the following available free of charge to a good home (size XL)

### FREE

T shirts as left with The Knights Flyball logo (size XL)

If anyone would like to take over organising the club kit I would love to hear from you.

*Jo Tidmarsh*

# Agility news

## KC Boasts

Congratulations to Tori & Bowen for winning graded 1-2 agility class at Thames to win into grade 3, to Wendy & Tatti for winning medium G4 agility to win into Grade 5 and to Jo & Pip winning into Grade 3 at Golden Valley. There have been too many other successes over the last month to list them all, so limiting this list to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> places. Congratulations to everyone.

*Ian Hutchinson*

### Golden Valley 16th – 17th June

Rory & Ammo 1st U12

Jumping (22)

Rory & Ammo 1st U12

Jumping (30)

Rory & Ammo 1st Overall

Junior Champ

Jo & Pip 1st C1-2 Agility (106)

Winning into G3 and qualifying for the Pro Plan Final

Gio-Gio & Tatti 2nd U12 Agility (22)

Rory & Ammo 2nd U12 Agility (30)



### Thames 9th - 10th June

Saturday 9th

Wendy & Tatti 1st G4 Agility (21) Winning into G5

Gill & Bertie 2nd C1-2 Agility (43)

Sunday 10th

Tori & Bowen 1st G1-2 Agility (213 tot) Winning into G3

Gill & Bertie 3rd G1-2 Agility (38)

### Wye Valley 2nd - 4th June

Monday 4th

Gill & Shade 1st C1-7 Collie Sprint (181)

Ian & Shade 2nd Bike and Weaves Challenge

## Bikes, bumps and weaves

Members attending the Wye Valley show had the chance to show off some hidden talents. On the last day there was a charity class involving one person, a dog and a bicycle. You had to ride the bike through some poles (a lot further apart than our normal weaves!) turn round a gate, back through the poles, through the start/finish gate and then the dog had a go (no - not riding the bike!). The dog had to do a set of weaves, into a tunnel, back through the weaves and through the finish.

A few Wallingford members decided they were up for the challenge! I managed to fall off the bike half way through the first set of poles (trying to keep tight to the poles) but then managed the rest of the poles without incident. Then it was Shade's turn and she did the weaving part brilliantly! Jill and Aileen were also having a go.



As my bike riding skills left a lot to be desired I asked Ian if he'd like to run Shade. He took up the challenge and with a fault free round went into the lead. Meanwhile Jill was displaying some excellent bike riding but not doing so well with the weaves. Ian & Shade were pushed back to 2nd place so had to have another go (or two). With an excellent bike ride, a quicker change over and faultless weaves by Shade (there were 14 weaves) they went back into the lead by about 8 seconds! Jill & Cass were still trying to get the weaves right but Jill would definitely have won if it was just a bike challenge! Unfortunately Shade was pushed back into second again by the same dog and handler! It was lots of fun and a great way to raise money for charity.

*Gill Kimber*

*Above: Judge Hilary Bowden (centre) with the winners and runners up Ian & Shade (& the bike)*





## UKA Boasts

Quad Paws held a week long show at Mapledurham at the beginning of June. This is a lovely venue next to the river. For those of you that want an extra challenge there is a good walk to some woods at the top of the hill. Our club members were very successful at this show.

During the week we clocked up 22 wins (if added up correctly from the Wiki!) besides numerous places. Wendy and Bambi qualified for both CSJ and Masters finals. Gill and Bertie qualified for the Tug-e-Nuff final and Pam and Martha qualified for the Games Challenge final.

Young handler Gio-Gio had wins in juniors with Tatti in both jumping and agility, as well as an agility win with Fuzzy. Pam's tiny toy poodle Martha had a Champ steeplechase win with a run which was the fastest of any height dog! I have to mention Tanya's win with Dollar who, for once, kept all the poles up in Beginners jumping to win the class. Well done everyone!

*Gill Kimber*

### Quadpaws Mapledurham 2nd - 10th June

#### Saturday 2nd

Wendy & Bambi 1st Champ Jumping (3)  
Wendy & Bambi 1st CSJ Champ Agility Q (5)  
Wendy & Bambi 1st CSJ overall midi qualified for final  
Pam & Martha 1st Nov Jumping Q (6)  
Gio-Gio & Tatti 2nd Junior Jumping Q (5)  
Pam & Martha 2nd Nov Agility Q (7)

#### Sunday 3rd

Dinah & Cinders 1st Sen Agility Q (6)  
Gio-Gio & Fuzzy 1st Junior Agility (2?)  
Gio-Gio & Tatti 1st Junior Agility Q (5)  
Pam & Martha 1st Sen Steeplechase 2 Q (5)  
Pam & Martha 2nd Sen Steeplechase 1 Q (6)

#### Monday 4th

Gio-Gio & Tatti 1st Junior Jumping Q (5)  
Wendy & Bambi 1st Champ Jumping Q (3)  
Wendy & Bambi 1st Masters Jumping Q (3)  
Qualified for final  
Wendy & Bambi 1st overall Masters - won £21 but entry was £14  
Wendy & Tatti 1st Nov Agility Q (15)  
Wendy & Bambi 2nd Masters Agility (3)  
Sarah & Merlin 2nd Beg Steeplechase NQ (20+)  
Pam & Martha 2nd Sen Steeplechase 2 Q (8) up to Champ

#### Tuesday 5th

Gill & Mindy 1st Nov Steeplechase 1 (9)  
Gill & Bertie 1st Sen Power and Speed (3 or 4?)

Tanya & Dollar 1st Beg Jumping Q (40+)

Gill & Shade 1st Nov Jumping Q (18?)

Gill & Shade 1st Sen Steeplechase Q (12?)

Pam & Martha 2nd Champ Steeplechase 2 Q (4)

Gill & Mindy 2nd NQ Beg Agility -5 faults(8)

Gill & Mindy 2nd NQ Beg Jumping (8)

Gill & Bertie 2nd Sen Jumping (3 or 4 ?)

#### Wednesday 6th

Gill & Mindy 1st Nov Steeplechase (10 dogs)

Pam & Martha 1st Champ Steeplechase Q (2) but fastest time in any size!

Pera & Jose 2nd Sen Agility (6)

#### Thursday 7th

Aileen & Ozzie 1st Beg Steeplechase (9)

Aileen & Ozzie 1st Beg Gamblers (6)

Pam & Martha 1st Nov Gamblers Q qualifying for Games challenge

Aileen & Ozzie 2nd Beg Steeplechase 2 (6)

Sarah & Merlin 2nd Beg Steeplechase (9)

Pam & Martha 2nd Champ Steeplechase 1 Q (6)

#### Friday 8<sup>th</sup>

Pam & Martha 1st Nov Agility Q (5)

#### Saturday 9th

Pam & Martha 1st Nov Gamblers Q

Pam & Martha 1st Nov Jumping Q (6)

#### Sunday 10th

Pam & Martha 2nd Champ Steeplechase Q



## Witney Community Primary School Demo



The demo was much enjoyed by all of us who attended. We all ran our own dogs and Jose's dogs and then had a fun relay event. Foxy found a hole in the school fence through to a neighbour's garden; unfortunately there were rabbits and guinea pigs in a run in the garden so Foxy did not want to come back! In the end Wendy had to crawl through a very small (terrier sized) hole in the fence to catch Foxy (left).

The school kindly provided us with a free burger or hot dog and free cups of tea, so we were well looked after. The school also made a donation to our charities for this year. We were very lucky with the weather, the rain held off until after we had packed everything away at the end of the day.

*Gill Rhodes*

***Captions for  
this one anyone?***



## Upcoming Agility Demonstrations

Agility demos are a great way to spend a sunny afternoon, get to know your fellow club members and get some extra agility practice. Dogs of all levels are welcome, as the audiences always like to see different sizes, breeds and accuracy!

*2012 dates so far ...*

30th June, Harwell Primary School Summer Fair, PM  
18th July (Wednesday) Rush Court Care Home, Wallingford  
21st July Goring & Streatley Regatta (very lovely by the river at Goring)  
8th September Dizzy Dogs Day, at Farmer Gows, Longcot Nr. Faringdon

## Alf at the Rescue League Finals



The DARL Rescue League is open to all rescued and rehomed dogs, of any age, breed and size competing in any agility events across the UK. Ever since I heard about the league, I have wanted to take part in it. I went to one of the first finals to support a friend who had qualified, and I have always wanted to take a rescue dog of my own to the finals.

The finalists are the top percentage of each category, so in large grade 1 this year there were 20 finalists invited, of which I think 17 ran on the day. Alf earned his place with five 3rd places, and eleven other top ten places in KC shows in 2011 (*right*). Considering he only had his first ever clear round last March, we had a pretty amazing year.

The official invitation arrived in February, and the finals were to be hosted by Chipping Norton. As it clashed with Thames we had a slight panic when we realised Kevin was committed to judge, but thankfully they were able to arrange his Thames appointment for the Saturday.



Once Kevin's judging had finished I took the opportunity to do a very steady agility round - perfect held contacts, perfect weaves, just had a pole, and I had my little boost of confidence ready for Sunday.

I was quite touched at how many people wished me luck at Thames, so many people have provided a little piece in the road for Alf, he has not been the easiest dog to train, and he does capture hearts everywhere he goes. So many people wanted him to do well, and it was lovely that so many people recognised this final was really important to me. I even got some good luck cards, which I took with us on the Sunday and made Alf read in the van before his runs. I think he appreciated them too.



Suddenly it was here, finals day. Kevin will tell you it was the first time I have ever been ready to leave so early on the morning of a show. I don't think I actually slept.

The venue was lovely, a little local sports club surrounded by trees. We parked up next to some friends just one row back from the DARL ring, the sun came out, and I went to book in while Kevin walked his courses in the main show. The first course was an invitational jumping as a warm up, and all dogs of all grades and sizes were to run the same course. This meant the course was a 1-7, and I think when I first walked it my reaction was somewhere between panic and, erm, panic.

We had a running order of one, and this lead to a long wait on the start line as they reorganised the ring party – I was very pleased that Alf coped with it a lot better than



I did! Finally we got to the line and it was totally surreal to hear the commentator announcing my name and "Bad Alf" as I asked him to wait and walked away. I heard nothing after that, thankfully my stomach finally flipped back to its normal location and I was actually able to smile and run.

Alf seemed to have gone up a gear and we had a comedy pull through where I completely forgot to tell him to turn, then I got left behind and had to handle the snakey bit from about 2 jumps back which he did beautifully. In the end we got to number 14 before being E'd, which I was pleased with as it was a jump trap that caught a lot of dogs.

With the first run of the day out of the way, I was able to relax enough to enjoy watching some of the others, and listen to the commentaries. There was a lovely atmosphere around the ring, as everyone clapped the good bits and shared groans at the eliminations.

My agility final course was a 1-3, as we were split into groups this time. I walked the course and felt a huge weight lift off me as I knew we could tackle this, there was nothing horrendous, it was a nice course, and it was going to be a good course for us. I had said that all I wanted from the day was for Alf to show he deserved to be there, I didn't need a clear, I certainly hadn't gone to win, the achievement was in getting there and I just wanted everyone to see him do his best.



I honestly loved his final run. I never thought I would, but I really did love it. It wasn't perfect, but he was happy, and I came out of the ring buzzing. We had been E'd for putting in an extra jump and tunnel, but Alf didn't know that, and I certainly wasn't about to tell him. I didn't know whether to laugh or cry, we'd done it, competed in a final, who would ever have thought it? I think the last bit of my commentary sums it up:

*"Alison says he has taught her more than all of her previous dogs put together, and her greatest achievement in dog training is just to get him here today and happy to be in the ring. He was a dog so many trainers gave up on, but somehow he has proved them all wrong, and every clear round is a bonus."*



I would recommend the rescue league to anyone who has a rescue or rehomed dog competing in agility. You can collect points for KC, UKA, and unaffiliated shows, including unplaced clears and games classes. All of the information is on the website:

I also have to thank Andrea Russ for taking photos during the runs and allowing the finalists to download them all.

The finals were a brilliant experience,

to be surrounded by people who appreciate just how long the road has been for some of these dogs, the atmosphere was so supportive, every single person stayed for the presentations, and it was a really special day.

*Alison Pearce*



## **A Golden Weekend @ Golden Valley**

Rory and I left for Golden Valley under a storm cloud – not just the actual rain, but I was awarded the “Worst Mother in the World Award” as somehow, despite entering him, me, YKC and Grown Up teams, I hadn’t actually entered Pip to run with Rory in the Juniors – big oops!! Not only that, but we were 3 hours late due to childcare “c\*\*\*up”. Still by the time we got there, we were friends, I was almost forgiven and we were ready for a weekend of Agility – and wow what a weekend.



Rory, Gio-Gio and Anthony had entered the Agility for Juniors event over the weekend, which included Agility and Jumping on both days with all scores being combined towards an overall championship at the end of the weekend. Saturday’s jumping course started off well with the obligatory wet stuff falling from the sky. All Junior rings seem to have an element of disorganisation around them since Judges/Ring Managers never seem to know if they are running all Unders at all Heights, followed by all Overs OR all large, then medium, then small dogs.

Becky Leighton set a lovely flowing jumping course that gave most handlers something to think about. In the Under 12’s Rory had a good run with Bronwen (after she decided she was going to jump), and since she did a full set of weaves, she had to pull an E out of the bag by running away from him and back jumping a pull round. Rory then had an absolutely cracking round with the fantastic Ammo Peachey, who seemed to be able to read the numbers. Gio-Gio also had a great clear with Bambi who had a good look for Wendy after jump 4, but didn’t glimpse the back jump. In the Overs Anthony had a cracking clear with Gimli (who looked at the back jump, but behaved). After an agonising wait – we heard the fantastic news that Rory and Ammo had won the Unders!!! Hooray!

Onto Saturday’s agility, quite a tricky course for the Juniors, but they all rose to the occasion. Bronwen managed 3 lovely contacts, so of course that meant she had to do a weave flyby and her obligatory back jump (something we need to work on there). But then the heartstopping agility with Ammo. Rory got most of the way around the course to about 15 and then fell over whilst shouting at Ammo to weave – Ammo looked at Rory in disgust and then dutifully went off and did a beautiful set of weaves, allowing Rory to catch up. This grabbed the attention of the bystanders and Ammo was on for a cracking clear – right up to the last jump, the crowd was ready to cheer – and he ran under – Nooooooo!!!!!!! (Note to self – do not let Ammo talk to Bronwen – another of her tricks). Gio-Gio had a cracking clear with the lovely Tatti and ended up with a well deserved 2nd!

Anthony and Gimli had a steady weekend through both Juniors and “Adults” competitions - all in all I think he had 3 out of 4 junior runs clear with Gimli (all Es with Bea), plus mostly clears in his G4 runs. In his Graded 4/5 jumping the course was altered after he’d walked it - he got a 5R for trying to do the original pull-through then realising and managing to get Gimli back through for the snake it had become - jolly well done for getting that one!!

By Sunday Wendy had adopted the title of “Worst Mother” by not feeling great so not bringing Gio-Gio back. However, Rory had realised if he could pull another couple of clears out of the bag with Ammo – the Overall competition was within his grasp. So off we went to walk the Agility with some nerves. Another nice flowing course with a tricky box, but again not a problem for our boys (Anthony and Rory) after Sue’s firm course walking instructions. Bronwen’s choice of E was you guessed it – a back jump, but that allowed her to do her 12 weaves in comfort. Of course Ammo couldn’t allow us any comfort. Half way around the course Rory and Ammo had a long dither over the last jump in a “diagonally across the course gallop” and he was



very lucky not to get a 5R. However the clear stood and gained him a 2nd place, behind fellow YKC team mate Jack Biddle.

Rory and Jack then spent the rest of the day in the caravan trying to work out which of them stood the best chance of winning the Overall, and to be fair it was going to come down to the results of the jumping. My nerves were too high and I couldn't video, but Rory and Ammo had another round with no mishaps to clinch another win. So two wins and a second gave Rory & Ammo the Overall Agility for Juniors Challenge Title for the weekend.

Rory would like to thank Lorna and Simon for the loan of Ammo, and would also like to thank Jill Lowe and Lorna for being patient with him at training (something his mum fails to do).

I also have to put in a special mention for Anthony's Team Dash round – for some reason poor Anthony had to follow Dollar which meant the odd pole or 3 on the ground (sorry Tanya). However the Ring Manager decided to fix a jump and took about 10s to do so – which meant Anthony and Gimli hanging around by the jump for 5s while she blocked the course - good job Gimli isn't the "what can I do instead?" kind of dog. They went on to have a nice clear!



In the meantime I was having a bad weekend with Pip. I had 2 rounds where she just decided to jump everything in sight and not in the correct order! We'd lost her weaves and I'd just about given up for the weekend. That illusive win seemed a long way off. I went into the Pro Plan Agility with no expectations, especially since I'd decided to run the course completely differently to everyone else – (Thank you Carolyn for introducing me to "the wrong side"). What can I say – Pip was on form, Carolyn's wrong side trick meant she had to listen, she turned like a dream, picked up weaves from a long distance and even managed not to down a pole that rocked quite badly. Luck was with us and a clear was ours! Not just a clear, a win by 7.3seconds to take us to G3. I'd like to thank everyone who has helped Pip and I – special mention to Lorna and of course Rosemary Tappin without whom I wouldn't have my special girl.

### **YKC Team – The Wallingford Kiddermonsters**

(Anthony, Gio-Gio, Jenny Kimber, Rory and Jack from Kidderminster)

First of all Thank You to Jenny for agreeing to be the "U24" on the YKC team with some kids less than half her age.

Never work with kids and animals – and what could be worse – 12 teams of 5 of them. You can imagine the hassle and disorganisation at the ring. A tricky G4 ish course that wasn't designed with the teams in mind – 12 weaves to a trap of the finish jump, where they actually had to handle a box before turning back to finish. Lots of dogs jumped the final jump stopping the timer – BUT every child needed a time – so there were endless re-runs!!!!

So how did we do – Jenny took Ammo out to show the youngsters how to do it! They had a lovely clear and set the standard. I didn't see the times, but it looked fast. Then Rory went out with Pip and were going really well until Rory turned a bit too fast and almost pulled Pip past a jump – he went to flick her back and Oh no – showed her the tunnel and a big fat E! Anthony and Gimli went next and followed Jenny's example with a lovely clear. Poor Gio-Gio started off really well with Bambi, but the tricky handy bit was right near the scime tent and Bambi desperately needed to see Wendy, giving us 2 clears and 2 E's. Jack got a clear – so some great handling for the 3 clears and 2 E's was enough to give us 5th place, but not quite enough to qualify for Crufts.

In the second team we had 4 E's and an absolutely fantastic clear by Gio-Gio and Tatti! Well done the Juniors!

*Jo Tidmarsh*

## Judging Agility

My first judging appointment (at a Kennel Club show) was ... well I can't remember exactly but it may have been WDTC's 2000 show. Mick may remember as he won one of my classes with a young Bryn. I've judged at between 2 and 5 shows each year since then. In those days there was no formal training or qualification process – someone invited you to judge and if you were happy you accepted. The KC has imposed more control since then - first introducing a one day seminar followed by classroom exam and more recently adding a practical course design/safety exam for anyone who wants to become a judge. There are guidelines but no explicit rules (yet) governing what classes you may judge but it is recommended that you judge up to the level at which you have competing experience.

I like to give myself at least a couple of weeks to design my courses. They often only take an hour or so but then I'm in the habit of constantly tweaking until I'm happy with the dog's approach angles to obstacles (particularly contacts), that the design is safe and helps the ring party (e.g. start/finish not too far apart or close together), that it is easy to observe contacts, weave entry and tunnel entries from the 'judging position', and finally that the level of complexity is right for those classes. To get a second opinion, Kevin and I usually run our courses past each other (if we're not going to be in the class). Without saying what level the course is aimed at, we make a guess at what we think the level it is – we almost always agree using a starter/novice/senior scale.

If possible, I set my course up the evening before; again, as in the design phase, tweaking to ensure I'm happy with distances, angles etc. It's then left, usually without the numbers, to allow competitors the fun of guessing the route (judges have been known to leave dummy obstacles, or have the see-saw the wrong way round, to add confusion to the fun).

On the morning of the show I get there early enough to check no-one has 'improved' the obstacle layout for me, I put the numbers out, check everything is safely pegged, obstacles are correctly dimensioned and the timing gates work. Finally, I decide on the course time and let anyone at the ring know it can be walked. If I'm not already changed I'll do that now (not forgetting my judging tie). I'll often wait around the ring to catch the odd comments or concerns from walking competitors or go for my breakfast butty (usually judges get fed during the day) and maybe do a course briefing if required. I check the ring party is ready to start, do a final course and timing check and we're off.

A judge can officially judge a total entry of up to 450 dogs in a day and fortunately we very rarely see classes of 400 dogs these days as show management normally split classes to around 200 or fewer entries. It is hard work especially if you have an agility ring (as opposed to jumping) of over 400 entries. This represents a considerable physical as well as mental effort.

Some judges like to let key ring party know their requirements e.g. they may want no more than 10 dogs in the queue if it is particularly hot, but I normally leave the running of the ring to the ring manager. Having WDTC provide the ring party is great as club members are very experienced and work as a team to keep things running quickly and smoothly. (If you're ever at a show with a club member judging – do offer to help on the ring!)

There are often decisions you wish you had/hadn't made. But with luck, handlers make another mistake relieving your quandary; and you can always change your decision at the end of the run. There are also moments of amusement. One of particular note was while judging a starter jumping class - a lady sat her dog in front of the first obstacle walked round to the other side and recalled her dog over the jump before walking to the second obstacle and repeating the process. And yes she did it for every obstacle! No jumping faults – but boy did she rack up some time faults. I hope someone suggested to her that she wasn't quite ready for competitions.

Why do it? Good question – I like to give something back to the sport; having competed most weekends (except winter – don't like cold, wet, muddy etc) I think it's reasonable to give up the odd day to help out. By the way, for those who don't know, on the day you are judging you aren't allowed to compete and no dog registered in your name can compete with another handler either. It is largely an enjoyable experience provided you are correctly dressed for British weather and there are no mishaps in your ring. (It's also nice if your course gets the generally expected 10% clear rounds.)

Of course judging is not always motherhood and apple pie. Referees/umpires/judges throughout the sporting world can make a decision that can incense some people in the heat of competition and I know some judges who have given up judging as a result of particularly vitriolic abuse - usually via Facebook etc. Fortunately this is rare and I'm happy to continue judging while I can and would recommend anyone interested to go on the course and then, if you're happy, offer your services. Like Kevin and I do, it's always worth checking out your course designs with experienced judges.

Finally it's nice to get one or two "Nice course" comments, so if you think a course is good, and the opportunity arises, the judge will appreciate you saying so. However, all judges know that no matter what happens the winner will always like your course ;-).

*Ian Hutchinson*



## **Tight turns and timing**

I've 'scrimed' a couple of times at recent KC shows. This entails sitting in a chair at the side of the ring with a pad containing a score sheet for the dog – marking down any faults marked by the judge, then writing the time from the timing equipment, before swapping the pad with that for the next dog on the line. This means spending most of the time just watching the judge. Yes, it can be a bit boring!

However, it is possible with peripheral vision (and after a dog has been eliminated) to see the handling, and I was reminded how important it is for the handler to 'warn' the dog when there is a turn after the next jump. Time after time, fast dogs would go charging round the jumps, making really wide turns, because the handler was racing alongside the dog, trying to reach the 'turn' before the dog to do a front cross. This doesn't work – as a racing handler will be 'pushing' the dog to go faster. The other scenario I regularly spotted was the handler suddenly throwing their arm down to signal a pull through – but done when either the dog is in the air (usually the pole down) or just as its landing (often with the poor dog nose-diving into the ground in an effort to turn on the spot. Both scenarios lose valuable time.

Dogs slow up in two situations: when the handler slows up, or when it's been taught to slow up with a cue (verbal or with a hand signal). Most handlers I know use a 'stop hand' to steady their dog. The handler has the hand nearest the dog pointing forward to the jump (indicating the dog should take the jump) and as the dog approaches the jump, they bring their other hand in front of them with a 'stop' or more accurately 'steady' signal. But timing is crucial. Bring the stop hand up too soon, or drop the 'go on' arm – and the dog doesn't take the jump. Too late – and the dog can't check its stride and slow up.

The handler should be slowing up as the dog approaches the jump as well. Too many handlers, when they first get a fast dog feel the need to rush everywhere on the course. You don't have to. Because dogs have far better peripheral vision than us humans, they can see us even if we're quite a bit behind them – and they will still respond to 'steering' by the handler's shoulder position.

And for those young handlers with energy & long legs – just because you CAN run fast doesn't mean that you SHOULD. A very important thing to learn with a fast dog is when to slow up and when to stand still. The dogs who do well are those who can power along the straight lines, and slow up and do neat, tight turns, before powering away to the next tight turn.

*Jacky Hutchinson*



This month we welcome new members Lisa-Marie and Harvey who are sharing the training of their Schnauzer, Lily in the Foundation group. We also welcome Paula's new puppy Maverick, known as Mav, who is also training in the Foundation group.

*Alison Pearce*





## Mischief – DoB 19.4.12

Well, she's arrived and I'd forgotten just how disruptive puppies are!!!

Not entirely her fault of course – picked her up from deepest darkest Cornwall on Thursday and subjected her to a 4½ hour car journey, arriving home to 3 strange and unwelcoming dogs at 7.30, then left to sleep in a strange place all on her own... still she only woke us up twice, second time at 5.15. (Photo left taken the day after she arrived.)

Then on Friday off in the van to a dog show weekend in the caravan – more strange places to sleep. But she coped brilliantly, and met Sophie's Dexter and had 2 lovely puppy playtimes with him (below).



Sunday night obviously far too tired to worry about sleeping on her own – but Monday night she got in such a stress that we put a small cage in the bedroom and brought her upstairs – with the light on 'cos she didn't like the dark.. But she didn't wake up all night.



She has now settled in and Bea and Charcoal accept her, Bea has even let her sleep in her own bed under the stairs. Gimli still isn't sure, and is naturally jealous, but he'll get over it.

Not stupid, our Mischief – she's twigged that I feed her in the cage downstairs, so when she's hungry

you'll find her sitting in it looking at where her bowl should be. And last night she followed Tom up the stairs to bed and lay down in the cage ready for her bedtime biscuit!

She loves her toys and has quickly found the toybox... ....but her favourite has to be chewing the kindling!

Watch out for her causing havoc!

*Sue Cuddon*



## Arabianmagic Photography

I am a mother of two grown up children and now doing what I love, photographing animals in particular horses and dogs. I owned the grey Arab mare pictured whose name is Arabian Magic and was my most common subject along with my dogs - Tynka a 3yr old Patterdale Terrier whom some of you may have met and Ringo a 1yr old Jack Russell Terrier. Horses and dogs are my passion and also therapy for dealing with my illnesses of Parkinson's Disease and Rheumatoid Arthritis. I am willing to travel to you and take several photos of your animals or in fact anything that you hold dear to you, and I am sure you will be happy with the results. I will show them to you on my laptop and retake any that you are not happy with. I will send your pictures within a couple of days. For no obligation quote, please feel free to contact me for more information.

Here are just some of the services we can provide:

- 4 different 6x4 photos for £3.50
- 6 blank greetings cards of one design for £5
- 8x6 photo £8
- email with attachments of photos £10 for 8 photos
- copies of any photos on the website are available
- download of photos onto disc, depends on how many photos starting price £12 for 15 photos (you will have the copyright to print off any photos as and when you like), then £2 for each additional 5 photos

The photos will be downloaded for preview prior to leaving for you to choose the prints and items required. You have the chance to do more if not quite what you are looking for. Minimum order is the 4 photos and mileage of 45p per mile or £20 whichever is the greater, plus payment in advance for the order. I accept Paypal.

I also attend local shows within a 35 mile radius. I would spend the day with you and cover all your classes for £40 which is inclusive of an 8x6 print and 2 6x4 prints. I will post them to you within 2 working days. You can then choose additional from the above options for any other photos. I prefer taking the photos outside as the pictures are of a far better quality. If there are more of you I can do a combined mileage and a reduced rate depending on how many of you there are.

As a hobby I also design and hand make greetings cards to incorporate individual personalities/likes etc £1 to £2 depending on size of card from 6x4 to 8x6, all I need is as much information about the recipient.

My camera is normally with me, if you see me please say hello and have a chat as I love meeting all 4 legged animals and their owners.

*Karen Sexton*

**Ed's note:** Or you can catch Karen training Tynka (below) in the Foundation group on Thursday nights.





## Arabianmagic Photography





## Royal Oak Bryn Brith May 2000 - May 2012

That sounds like an obituary title but it is Bryn's competitive agility career span. Starting at the 2000 Vyne Show and, appropriately I thought, finishing at the same show this year. Luckily the shows had different results, in the first one we had 4 E's and in the last we had a clear round.

So how did we get here? It started with a visit to Wellington Country Park for a Hug A Husky Day in 1997 followed by Crufts the next year to see them on show. On the way home from Crufts we discussed getting a dog and what breed. I wanted a Husky but was out voted; a Border Collie was the choice of Lorraine and Chris. A few weeks later an ad in Dogs Today took us to Lisa Jeffery's house to look at a litter of week old pups. Bryn already had his name and was the first born, he came out tail first! Lisa told us that Bryn's Mum, Rosie, and his Dad, Moss - owned by Simon Peachey, did agility. This sounded exciting and so we decided to give it a go when Bryn was old enough.



We started training when Bryn was 11 months old and quickly moved up the groups, based I think on Bryn's potential rather than any skills I possessed! (*Photo above: Mick and Bryn at a club demo.*) Then came our first show, Vyne 2000, and those 4 E's! I still remember Jill Lowe telling me I had done well, Bryn had stayed in the ring and we had only made errors anyone could have made, in fact Jill said that she had had 12 E's that weekend at a show! That first year our best round was 10 faults in a Starters Jumping at the Bretford Summer Solstice show.



We persevered and finally, at the Aylesbury Limited show in 2001 we had our first clear round in an agility class, not only that but we had won the class! Just to show what problems I had, Bryn had a 5F in the weaves in Elementary Jumping, we came back to redo it and still had the fastest round by 4 seconds! I had to learn to fit in with Bryn. Two weeks later in Witney we were 2nd in Starters Jumping and qualified for the Agility Needs Final at Stoneleigh. Due to a mistake by me we were 2nd. Oddly Bryn's sister Raid was 2nd the previous year! We were now on a roll and got a 2nd in Starters Agility, 9th in Novice Agility, another win in a Limited show before the round I enjoyed most, 3rd in the pairs at the Rugby Christmas show with Shelley Stevens, Sam's sister, who now lives in Tenerife.

2002 had some more clears with the odd place here and there, best was a couple of 2nds and a 3rd in Starters classes and an occasional Novice place, and had limited success, literally! We entered a number of limited shows and had a win in each one. It was not until Vyne in 2003 in Ian's Starters Jumping that real success came our way with the win that got us out of Starters. The effect of that win was that it lifted that weight off my shoulders, that of trying to prove that we could do it. This manifested itself at Packington three weeks later where we won Starters Agility and Jumping, 4th in Novice Agility and 11th in Novice Jumping! If I hadn't let my Agility Club membership slip that Starters Agility win would have got us into the Club's National Final for that class. At Letchworth we won Novice Jumping and got 3rd in Novice Agility. A good year and one where I felt we were in the same groove more often than not.



In 2004 we had our first camping weekends and more placed than just clear rounds. Putting both those things together made this year one of my favourites. The Wye Valley location was, and still is, my favourite. A great location close to the historical town of Monmouth, but still feeling like it is in the countryside. It was here that in 2005 Bryn and I won Intermediate Agility and the Intermediate Shield, stopping former Wallingford member and trainer Steve Paterson from getting his Hat Trick of wins. There are some well known names on that shield and I am proud that Bryn and I are amongst them (*left*). We also got 2nd in Novice Agility by 0.001 seconds, much to the disappointment of the lady who won when she would have preferred 2nd!

2006 was the start of the decline where Clear Rounds were the name of the game, I think as much my fault as anything. It was the start of the 'agility is fun' part 2. I enjoyed my agility with Bryn and watching Chris with Fly, my supposed second dog. We did pairs together with the odd success, but Chris was creating his own success. At the KCI show in 2007 he represented Wales, doing better than his more senior team members, but not only that he qualified for the Crufts Novice Cup, so off to Crufts in 2008! He repeated the Wales bit in 2009 but not in 2010.

2010 was to be Bryn's last year over full height jumps, but what a way to finish! We collected our usual pile of CR rosettes with a few mid places thrown in for good measure. During the year Wallingford had two teams qualify for the Team Dash Final, at the Caerphilly Show Chris and I were part of the third team to qualify. To be honest once the adrenalin had worn off and the reality sunk in I wasn't so thrilled. It meant a 300 mile round trip for one run! But, come the day, we thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and getting a good place too despite having a 5R on the score card. Bryn finished his last run with a clear, I have Jacky's video bookmarked on YouTube (any chance of a copy please?), and until recently one by the dear departed Sharon Rowe. I still get a tingle each time I watch, especially when Bryn clears the last jump and the large Wallingford contingent cheer! (*Photo below: the three WDTC teams at the final*)



2011 and 2012 saw us compete in only a couple of shows at lower height. I had decided to finish at Vyne, where we started and won out of Starters. We are always told to 'finish with a good one' and that's what we did, finished our agility career with a CR rosette. Fly retired due to health problem that day too but with a 10th place.

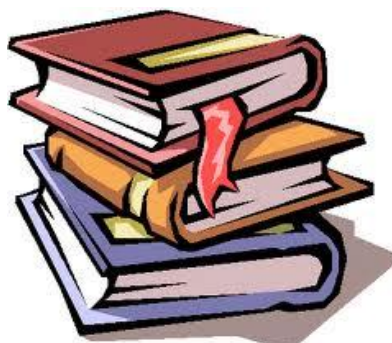
Bryn and I thoroughly enjoyed our 13 years of agility, the camaraderie and the new friends we made. The weekend camping shows, even when it rained, were

great fun, the Saturday evening curries etc all sat round together comparing notes on the day's runs. It is the little things I remember most, watching the dogs play in the river at Monmouth, seeing dozens of dogs running free in the exercise areas, and sharing good times with great people. Of course there has to be a down side, retiring being one of them but over the years we lost some of the friends we made, two and four legged!

I hope to remain in touch where I can, staying a member and hopefully doing the odd demo where possible. So, wishing you all success and fun with your dogs, I'll say 'that'll do' and hope to see you sometime soon.

*Mick Chambers and Bryn.*

## Wallingford DTC Library Update New Books and DVDs since last Watchdog



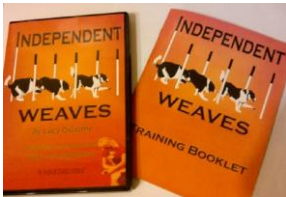

**Categories:** H = Health, S = Story, F = Factual, T = Training

### Books

Title	Author / Editor	Format	Summary	
How Dogs Learn	Mary R Burch & Jon S Bailey	Hardback 187 pg	Explains the fascinating science of operant conditioning, explaining each operant conditioning principle using dog training examples.	T
The Dog Listener	Jan Fennell	Softback 285 pg	Jan shows how she has learnt to communicate with man's best friend and how anyone can learn this language.	T
Dog Tricks	Mary Ray & Justine Harding	Softback 138 pg	Teach your dog to do a variety of fun tricks and agility stunts. Lots of colour diagrams!	T
Don't Shoot the Dog!	Karen Pryor	Softback 202 pg	The New Art of Teaching and Training	T
One Dog at a Time		Hardback 308 pg	An inspiring true story about saving the strays of Helmand	S
The Practical Dog Listener	Jan Fennell	Softback 190 pg	A 30 day path to a lifelong understanding of your dog.	T
Along Came Dylan	Stephen Foster	Softback 264 pg	This riotously funny book takes off where 'Walking Wally' left off Ollie's owner decides Ollie needs a friend and two's a crowd when you've been top dog	S
Twenty Wagging Tales	Barrie Hawkins	Softback 254 pg	This heart warming and often hilarious tale follows a year in the life of Barrie & Dorothy Hawkins when they take on the challenge of rescuing and rehoming dogs.	S
Maggie - The dog who changed my life	Dawn Cairns	Softback 149 pg	There is no finer definition of the human animal bond than will be found in the pages of this book. Dawn's heart warming story will bring tears to many and a true understanding to all of the importance of animals in our lives.	S
Racing in the Rain	Garth Stein	Softback	A special adaption for 8-12 year olds of the acclaimed adult novel 'The art of racing in the rain' This story is told by Enzo, one lovable mutt. Have you ever wondered what your dog is thinking?	S



## DVDs

Title	Author / Editor	Format	Summary	
Independent Weaves	Lucy Osborne	DVD	 <p>This DVD contains the stages in which Lucy takes her dogs through to finish with that confident, independent world class weave.</p>	T
Q-Me	Dave Munnings	DVD	 <p>This DVD is a comprehensive guide to the fundamentals of Dave's successful handling system.</p>	T

All the WDTC books and DVDs will be brought along to training on the last Thursday of each month.

Gill Rhodes

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*Don't forget to send your articles, pictures, questions and reports  
before the 20th July for the next issue!*