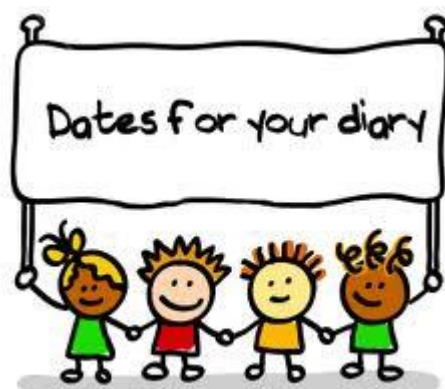


# Watchdog!

WALLINGFORD DOG TRAINING CLUB

March 2016



## March

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

See email from Jo for Agenda



## April

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

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

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

Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th April 2016 – Wallingford DTC KC Agility Show

Sunday 24 April – WBSDS Show (Thame Showground) - Wallingford ring party

## May

Bank Holiday Monday 2nd May – Vyne Show (Newbury Showground) - Kevin judging  
- Wallingford reciprocal ring party

PLEASE NOTE – we are covering TWO RINGS in return for Vyne running two rings at our show



***Congratulations to Sue and Scott Allen who were married in the Lake District earlier this month. It looks like you had a wonderful day!***

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## **Bingo Night**

Thank you to everyone who came to the Bingo Night in February. Numbers were slightly lower than I'd hoped for, possibly due to the Rugby, but everyone who attended seemed to have a great time and we still made slightly under £100 for the club's charities after expenses for the hall and catering have been taken out.

Some further thanks, firstly to those who came early to help me set up and to everyone for pitching in and tidying up at the end of the evening. Without help these events just couldn't happen.

Secondly, thank you to everyone who contributed to the raffle – as always there was an overwhelming amount of stuff which was fantastic to see. Notable thanks goes to those people who so very kindly offered their time or skills in the form of vouchers for "star prizes"

- |  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| • Jenny Kimber (agility lesson)        | • Claire Clark (Sports Psychology) |
| • Lynn Hall (Canine and Human Massage) | • Jill Whaley (Pet Portrait)       |
| • Leigh Wilkinson (grooming)           | • Adams Agility (Show Camping)     |

And, also Jenny Lovegrove who raised the best laugh of the night by offering a one on one session at Dogmanics! Ian is looking forward to it!!!

Thirdly, thank you to everyone who made a dessert, they all seemed to disappear very quickly so obviously enjoyed by all!

Final thanks go to Karen Cradock who made the calling such fun and to Kevin Pearce for sorting out the booking of the hall. I hope that everyone enjoyed the evening as much as I did and look forward to the next event.

*Rosie Dains*

## **Team Guv: Part 1**

### **Rehabilitation and Fitness: The Road to Crufts**

Firstly I would like to say how very thrilled and proud I am of Jenny & Guv winning the British Open at Crufts, it's a dream come true as they both looked awesome in their two runs in the main arena, on the green carpet, the journey for Guv to be able to cope with the Crufts surface was several months of rehabilitation.

In September last year Team Guv entered the try outs for the WAO's. Up to this point, Jenny and Guv had had a successful 2015, reaching a few Champ finals at KC shows, winning the Fitzpatricks 4th Height Jumping Cup final, and doing well at several UKA shows in the Masters, also of course, qualifying for Olympia and the British Open at the Kennel Club International Festival, but at times Guv seemed to suddenly slow down or even stop in some of his runs. We weren't sure whether he had a "niggle" or it was his confidence (or lack of it), I had him checked over throughout the year and nothing serious was found, maybe a bit sore once or twice.



It was in one of the runs at the WAO try outs that Guv suddenly looked wrong, apparently he had exited a tube tunnel looking as though something had gone wrong, it was a blind entry to the tunnel, we walked him around and checked him over and all seemed well, he was playing tuggy games and moving ok. The next class was a games, this had five maxi parallel spread jumps. He started off alright then refused the first spread and the next four, so Jenny took him to the finish, I knew then something must have hurt him in the tunnel. We had him checked over immediately by two experienced physios at the show who found issues and we then pulled him out of the competition. We were upset but our disappointment was overcome by our concern that he would be ok.

The following Monday I took Guv to my vet who diagnosed he had a shoulder problem. I requested a referral to my regular physio, Karl Jones of Kennel and Paddock. I wanted the best there was for Guv to get him back to full fitness as the UKA finals the end of November and Olympia just before Christmas were approaching. I wanted him to be fit enough for these events, but was certainly prepared to pull him out if he was not fully fit.

We saw Karl the next day, and he went over Guv thoroughly, he diagnosed that he was quite bruised down his left side and his right hip area was carrying an injury, but the most important discovery was he had badly injured his toe on his left foot, Karl was extremely concerned that he could have either fractured or broken the digit as it had a hard lump on it, I too was devastated that he had injured himself so badly but no one had picked up on this!

Weeks of electrical and heat treatment followed, with only ten minute lead walks allowed. I also iced his toe and applied heat pads at home, and we were so relieved to find that the lump on his toe was slowly disappearing so no fracture or break had happened. What had actually happened was that Guv had ruptured a ligament, which, as there is hardly any blood supply to that ligament, takes longer to heal therefore lots of intensive treatment was required.

Then the good news that Guv could start hydrotherapy and strengthening his muscles on the treadmill. In the meantime I was working hard with him at home with core strength exercises on his mini trampoline and various balancing equipment, also stretching all his body muscles and ligaments, and by mid-November I could let Jenny know the good news that Karl confirmed he would be fit for the UKA finals, the downside was that he and Jenny hadn't got any training in for nearly two months, but we were more than happy that he was recovering so well.

*Right: Guv at hydrotherapy with Karl*



Of course we know how well Jenny and Guv did at Olympia as by then our boy was flying, the first dream to come true. We also did a Winter League where they achieved a 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th place, clear in all four runs, and had wins at the inter club match Wallingford v UpAndover, so things were definitely back on track.

After Christmas my sole aim was to make sure Guv was super fit to be able to cope with Crufts main arena carpet, so Karl set a programme of one hydro and one treadmill session per week, and between these sessions I worked with Guv every day on his core strength exercises. I still do these every day for a few minutes; I have become passionate about dogs' fitness, warming up and warming down after training and competing, and I encourage everyone I teach to do this with their dogs, it is essential, our dogs are athletes and we MUST treat them as such. All

my club members are not allowed to start training until I know they have warmed their dogs up – to bring them straight from being in our vehicles into either training or competing without the dog's muscles etc., being stretched and warmed up is asking for injuries to happen.



Those of you that watched Jenny and Guv's runs at Crufts will agree that he coped so well on an unforgiving surface. We trained four sessions on carpet at a venue prior to Crufts and both Jenny and Guv benefited so much, hence the second dream came true as they were just amazing. Those of you that missed seeing their runs they are on You Tube on the Crufts channel and they certainly are worth the few minutes to watch.

*Left: A day to remember*

So please be good to your four legged athletes, if in doubt of how to warm them up Jenny or I can certainly point you in the right direction, good luck and happy competing to you all.

*Jenny Lovegrove*



## Team Guv: Part 2

### Crufts 2016: British Open

Believe it or not, the day did not start out so well on the Thursday morning of the British Open at Crufts. Jenny had booked us a B&B just north of the NEC. In good traffic this would have been a 15 minute journey, only 6 miles down the road! Of course, we were going to allow ourselves at least an hour to get there for traffic. We drove up on the Wednesday looking forward to a restful night.

With a name like 'Dunston Stables' we were expecting it to be an old building of converted stables. When we got there, there were no people... just horses in very current stables. We rang the number on our paperwork and could hear the phone ringing in the 'reception' office which I had checked and was empty. I went wandering around the stables to see if there was any sign of a B&B and found a staircase which looked promising. But again there was no one around.

Luckily we didn't have to wait long for the owner to turn up with her two dogs and apologise for her absence. She showed us to our room and we had a lovely breakfast brought to us in our room in the morning.

We started the day off leisurely enjoying our breakfast. I waited until we were in the van ready to go at 8am to check the traffic – big mistake but thank goodness we checked! We had to be there by 9am to book in so we thought 8am would be plenty of time. Looking at the routes it was cutting it fine to park and make it to the main arena to book in by that time but it was do-able. We avoided the M42 which was at a standstill and got to the closest car park when I ran out with Guv and just about made it in time to book in.

Then we were given a course plan which we discussed and decided how best to handle. I was running last so got to see how most of the others were doing before I ran. Getting the balance between concentration on your dog and understanding of any traps on the course is a difficult one but I made sure Guv's focus was on me before we went in the ring.

Nerves completely took over from the time I went into the entrance tunnel until I got on the start line. Then I just forgot everything and instinct took over. The person before me had gone in to the lead but I had no idea about that at the time, I just knew I had to get a clear, no matter the speed. With it being a cumulative competition I knew consistency was key.

*[All Crufts photos used with permission]*

Running the course I knew I had a few bits that I could have tightened up, I allowed him extra time for the long jump which meant our turn for the next jump was a bit wide, but he didn't knock the long jump which was what was important. When I looked up at the screen after the run and saw I was in 2<sup>nd</sup> place I couldn't believe it. To have beaten handlers like Greg Derrett and Anthony Clarke in to that position was almost unbelievable. And the realisation that we were only 0.014 behind filled me with hope not just for the day but for the rest of the season!



The agility came next, and this time not such a rush to get there on time so had a good amount of time to look at the course on paper. It's always different on paper and in the ring but it gave us a chance to discuss the best way to handle it. There was a particular section of the course after the dog walk I was worried about as I wanted to ensure that Guv got his contact and the best way to do that was to get ahead of him, which would also mean a faster dog walk. The only problem with that was that I didn't see anyone else with a large dog walking it that way which put doubt in my mind about how to do it. But you have to remember that you know your dog best so I stuck with the plan.

I nearly overcompensated and pushed him round the back of number three but overall the way I intended to do it worked. We lost a bit of time as I misplaced my ketchker on one of the jumps near the end and pushed him out wide when he was on a straight line to the tunnel. All little things which meant we got the third place. But that was enough!



I came out of the ring thrilled that we had got another clear but I didn't know how the last handler was going to do. He was brilliant and as I heard the commentary I thought I heard them say the dog had clipped the pole but luckily for him it had bounced up and stayed on the cups. So I was convinced he had gone clear.

But they started to put the results up on the screen in the collecting ring, people around me had started to say 'I think you've done it'. The handler had been given five faults. I wasn't willing to believe it until I'd been told officially. I looked around for Jenny but she wasn't in sight, I assumed she was somewhere in bits with pride at her little boy and his massive achievement just by getting the two clears.

I was asked to hang around for the presentation but they weren't able to tell me definitely that we had won. I was still expecting them to take off the five faults for the last handler as it was a mistake.



Apparently it wasn't a mistake and we were awarded the trophy for 1<sup>st</sup> place at the British Open at Crufts 2016 in front of the crowd. Photographs and interviews came next – difficult to explain to someone how you feel when you're literally speechless!

All in all, it was a dream come true for me to compete on the green carpet let alone win the competition. I couldn't be prouder of Guv or more grateful to Jenny for allowing me to run him so we can all achieve these successes as a team.

*Jenny Kimber*

## YKC Agility Team at Crufts

### Crufts 2016 YKC Team Winners

The YKC Wallingford agility team qualified for Crufts at Prestbury Park show last August 2015. The final was held at Crufts in the YKC ring on Sunday 13th March 2016 at 9:00am.

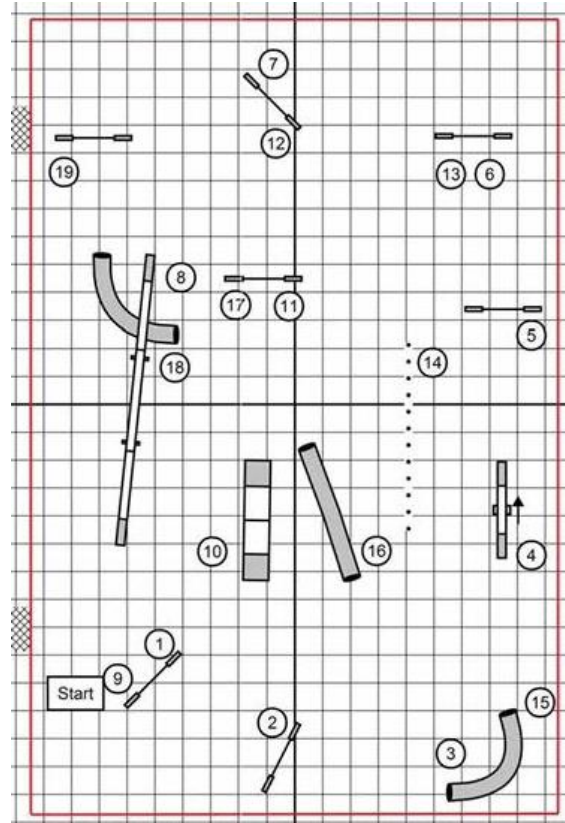
#### *Right: The YKC team final course*

The first team member to run was Lucy Maguire with 'Racing Robin'. The youngest dog of the team at just 2 years old, Robin ran a nice clear in 44.644.

Second to run was Gemma Biddle the youngest human member of the team, with 'Dolyffin Dizzy Daisy'. Gemma was remarkable as she showed good skill in keeping her concentration on the course while Dizzy ran an excited extra circle. Gemma kept calm and recollected Dizzy to finish the course in 52.992 and 10 faults on the contacts.

Third to run was Gio-Gio Botto with 'Merrywood Forget Me Not'. Tatti ran a lovely confident clear in 47.510 adding to our, so far, great result.

Now the pressure was on for the large dogs. The first large to run was 'Endless Possibilities' being run by Jack Biddle. He handled the pressure well and got through with a good clear in 42.043 while making sure Bailey got his contacts.



Last to run was the flying 'Fuelled For Life By Diesel' being run by Rory Tidmarsh. Rory did very well to keep up and control Mint round the course. A brilliant clear in 37.999 with the fastest time for the team.

#### *Right: Have we won?*

Joanna Tidmarsh set up a score sheet so we were able to keep track of how all the teams were getting on by filling it in with the dogs' results. We ticked the handler and dog on the running order and then on the score sheet added a time with details saying whether they went clear or got faults or eliminated. We were then able to work out where we came which was 1st!



The team did brilliantly achieving 4 clear rounds and on run with 10 faults. With only the best 4 runs counting it meant we were on 4 clear rounds with the time 172.196! We won by 7 seconds.



Thank you to everyone who came along to support us at Crufts and also for those tuning into Joanna Tidmarsh's facebook team updates.

*Lucy Maguire*

*Below: Wallingford YKC team left to right: Lucy Maguire with Robin, Gio-gio Botto with Tatti, Rory Tidmarsh with Mint, Jack Biddle with Bailey and Gemma Biddle with Dizzy*



## European Junior Open Agility Champs



Rory has heard the fantastic news that he has been selected to represent the YKC Team GB travelling to Slovakia in July to compete at the European Junior Open Agility Champs.

Rory, Mint and Peach attended two selection days in Feb (causing Jo to miss the Andover match and Martin Reid training). A week after the end of the selection process we had the news that Rory had been selected. Also in the Team is Belle Howlett with Aileen's grandpup Leia and great-grandpup Ami. The next steps are training at Wallingford and Lincoln shows before the long drive to Bratislava.

*Jo Tidmarsh*



## Set for the Road??

### Speed Limits

As I was trundling down the A34 on the way to our away match with Andover, I noticed a fair few club members overtaking me – nothing wrong with that, I was only doing 60mph, so I would expect cars to overtake me...

But it got me thinking – how many people know the speed limits for their vans? Everyone knows that the maximum speeds for cars and motorcycles in towns/on single carriageway roads/dual carriageways and motorways is 30/60/70 mph – don't they?? Aren't they the same for vans? Well, no...



And you might expect that vans the size of mine are limited to slower speeds – but little vans? Unless you have something like a Fiesta, Escort, Corsa or Astra van you are limited to 30mph in towns, **50mph** on single carriageways and **60mph** on dual carriageways – yippee you can do 70mph on motorways ☺. Unless you are towing...

The table from the Highway Code is shown below – these lower speed limits apply to ALL vans that are not “car-derived vans” or whose maximum laden weight is over 2 tonnes – that includes the likes of VW Caddy Maxi, Citroen Berlingo, Fiat Scudo as well as Vito, Trafic, etc.

*From the Highway Code:*

Speed Limits	Built-up areas*	Single carriageways	Dual carriageways	Motorways
Type of vehicle	mph	mph	mph	mph
Cars & motorcycles (including car derived vans up to 2 tonnes maximum laden weight)	30	60	70	70
Cars towing caravans or trailers (including car derived vans and motorcycles)	30	50	60	60
Buses, coaches and minibuses (not exceeding 12 metres in overall length)	30	50	60	70
Goods vehicles (not exceeding 7.5 tonnes maximum laden weight)	30	50	60	70†
Goods vehicles (exceeding 7.5 tonnes maximum laden weight) in England & Wales	30	50	60	60
Goods vehicles (exceeding 7.5 tonnes maximum laden weight) in Scotland	30	40	50	60

*\*The 30 mph limit usually applies to all traffic on all roads with street lighting unless signs show otherwise.*

*†60 mph (96 km/h) if articulated or towing a trailer.*

### Towing – driving licences

Various people have also said that they can't get a caravan because their licence doesn't allow them to tow it – but it does!



Those oldies of us who passed their driving test before 1st January 1997 have the category B+E – this allows us to drive a vehicle whose maximum laden weight (MLW) is not more than 3.5 tonnes, plus a trailer.

Those who passed their test after 1st January 1997 only have category B – which many assume doesn't allow them to tow. What it actually allows is you to drive a vehicle whose MLW is not more than 3.5 tonnes, plus a trailer weighing up to 750kg OR a trailer weighing over 750kg providing the MLW of the vehicle plus the MLW of the trailer is not more than 3.5 tonnes – so if your car has a MLW of 2 tonnes and the caravan a MLW of 1.5 tonnes you are within the legal limits.

So, if you have a post-January 97 licence with just category B on it, and you want to tow a caravan with say a Renault Trafic, whose MLW is around 2.9 tonnes, you'd have to find a caravan with a MLW of 600kg – or a trailer tent? Otherwise you'll have to take a separate test to get the +E category – and it's very thorough so you'd be wise to get some specialist training in.

### **Towing – weights**

In fact, most caravanning organisations advise that the MLW of your caravan is around 85% or less of your vehicles kerbweight... so in the example above, if your car has a MLW of 2 tonnes but a kerbweight of 1.6 tonnes you might struggle a bit with a fully laden 1.5 tonne caravan! To fit the 85% rule your vehicle's kerbweight needs to be 1.76 tonnes. Kerbweight is generally defined as your unladen vehicle with a 90% full fuel tank and 75kg for a driver.



Then you have to ensure that your caravan's MLW is within your vehicle's maximum authorised towing limit so that you don't exceed the maximum train weight...

All these weights should be in your vehicle's handbook. Vans generally have a plate either under the bonnet or on a doorpost – this will show 4 figures; the first is the maximum laden weight, the second the maximum train weight (the difference is it's maximum towing limit), the third is the maximum weight on the front axle and the fourth the maximum weight on the rear axle.

So – are we ready for the season??  
Get set...  
Go!!!

*Sue Cuddon*

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*Don't forget to send items for the next issue to  
Deadline for next issue is 22nd April 2016. This will be a show special, so please everyone take  
lots of photos at our show and share them on the WDTC facebook group or send them to me!*