

Watchdog!

WALLINGFORD DOG TRAINING CLUB

October 2014



Congratulations to WDTC
Chairman Carolyn winning
into Grade 7 with Ollie (above)
and to Committee Member
Dawn winning into Grade 2
with Daisy (left)

Teamwork

At agility we are constantly talking about teamwork – and we usually mean the communication between you and your dog that allows you to navigate around a course.

However, we also need teamwork in making sure training sessions run smoothly. If you are in the first session, please remember to arrive by 7.30pm in order to set up the equipment. The more people involved, the quicker it happens, and if we are set up early we can start early, so you can gain some extra time training your dogs.



At the end of the evening please put your dogs away quickly and crack on and get the equipment away - then chat afterwards!

We all know that putting equipment out and away is the not-so-nice - but essential - part of agility training, and we need everyone to help. We do expect everyone to help out - there are jobs for everyone - for those who are fit and able, and those who aren't. If you cannot carry heavy items, either as a one-off or as a permanent condition, please do ask what other jobs need doing, as there will always be something!



Agility report

The colder weather and the darker evenings herald the end of the summer agility season – and the club has been, yet again, extremely successful this year. As I write this I hear that Carolyn & Ollie have won into Grade 7, so we'll be cheering her on in championship classes next year – along with the other club members with dogs in Grade 7.



I have also heard that Sue Cuddon and her young Tervuren Mischief (*pic: right*) have qualified for the Belgian Shepherd GB team for the BSD world champs in the Czech Republic next May. I have counted up entries on the club's Wiki 'boasts' for the season. There have been over 120 first places this summer – and an incredible 550+ clear rounds and places across KC, UKA and independent shows.

Wallingford club benefits from members who have joined the Agility Club as points gained in KC shows by them are accumulated by the club for the Agility Club Leagues. Wallingford ended up in 7th place in League 2 at the end of the year with 1887 points.

Here are the handlers who registered more than 100 points:

Pam & Martha	305	Gill R & Mindy	280
Aileen & Rockett	180	Ian & Dino	175
Carolyn & Ollie	162	Aileen & Ozzie	158
Gill R & Bertie	158	Kevin & Fell	114



The club has welcomed a number of new members this year and we hope that they, too, will be posting successes on the website in the not-too-distant future. Here is a breakdown of grades for the club. With 60 dogs training regularly on a Thursday evening half don't compete – or compete very rarely - at KC shows; We'll call these 'grade 0' dogs (though there is no such official grade in Kennel Club parlance!).

Grade	Tally of dogs	Total
0	XXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXX	30
1	Xxx	3
2	Xxx	3
3	Xxxxx	5
4	Xxxxxx	6
5	Xxxxx	5
6	Xxxx	4
7	Xxxx	4

For these newer club members – here's a quick run-down on competing at agility.

Agility is about getting a dog round an agility course without incurring any faults and faster than anyone else. Most of the training is about teaching handlers how to 'steer' their dog round obstacles in the correct order – as designed by the judge. In our part of the country there are two main organisations who run shows. The Kennel Club was the original organisation and most shows are still run under KC rules. UK Agility is a newer organisation with a different set of rules – including some advantages for some dogs. Below I have highlighted some of the rules & regs for each organisation.



KC shows:

Any dogs - pedigree or crossbreeds – over 18 months old can compete at a KC show as soon as they have been registered (either on the KC Pedigree Register, or the KC Activity Register) and have been measured by two approved KC measurers.

Dogs measure (*pic right: measuring hoops*) into one of 3 heights: Small (350mm and under), Medium (over 350mm up to & including



430mm) or Large (over 430mm) – classes are for the different sizes with obstacles at an appropriate height. If your dog is ‘obviously large’ younger than 15 months, it can be measured before it is 15 months – all other dogs have to be at least 15 months old. All dogs except those that are obviously large require a second measure.

Schedules for shows are available to view online, and entries have to be made before the closing date (typically around 5 weeks before the date of the show). Handlers and dogs new to agility will start in grade 1 – wins at each grade progress the dog up to grade 7, at which point handlers & dogs can enter Championship classes. You may hear club member talk about ‘winning into grade x’ – which is a real achievement at KC shows where classes (particularly in classes of large sized dogs) can have over 200 dogs. Classes tend to be much larger and hence the standard is generally higher at KC shows.



UKA shows:

Dogs and handlers have to register with UKA (and renew this registration annually). Dogs are measured and given a height – which puts them into one of 4 categories: Toy (350mm & under), Midi (430mm & under), Standard (500mm & under) and Maxi (Above 500mm).

Measurements for both organisations are taken at the dog’s shoulders (withers).



There are two different programmes in UKA (Steeplechase and Performance) where a dog can progress through Beginners, Novice, Senior and Champion levels - with a special class for young dogs new to agility (Casual) where a dog may jump at a lower height to the one it has been measured into.

There is more flexibility at UKA shows. Handlers are allowed to ‘train’ in a ring – for the duration of the course time; a handler could take in a toy and train their start-line wait for example – or weaves. And, for a slightly increased fee, entries can be taken on the day (as long as the limit for that class hasn’t been reached). All heights compete over the same course for the same grade, and classes are typically much smaller.

Both organisations have fairly thick rule books - this is a very simplistic summary of the rules. The best way to start competing is to take part in our matches against Andover Club, or in the Winter League matches; both of these have classes designed for the beginner dog. Talk to your instructor if you are interested. But be warned – once you start competing, you can easily catch the bug. Agility is very addictive!

Ian Hutchinson - Agility Rep



Wallingford Vs. Andover Match



versus



Every year we have a friendly competition against another club – Andover. This consists of two matches – a Home and an Away match.

This year we will be hosting the first match which will be held on Sunday 7th December at Churn Estate (not far from Blewbury!).

You don't have to have competed before, and even if you are not ready to take part with your dog, this match is open to anyone who would like to come along and see what a competition is like in a friendly atmosphere, learn how it all works and most importantly have fun!

If you've not been training long, there's a special nursery class that you may like to enter where there is limited equipment and you can have help in the ring. Please ask your instructor whether your dog is ready for this.

The Schedule and Entry form are available to download on the club facebook page – please ask Gill Rhodes for details if you are not already in the facebook group. Details can also be emailed to you, or you will also usually be able to pick up a copy of the schedule and entry form on a Thursday night. Please pass your completed entry forms and fees to me.



In the meantime if you have any questions please feel free to ask Jenny or you can speak to your instructor who will be able to answer your questions or point you in the right direction.

Date for next year: the return match date will be hosted by Andover at their venue on Saturday 28th February 2015!

Jenny Kimber



Daisy and Evie Win Out of Grade One



Back in 2009, Suzie and her little white terrier Evie, came to 'lodge' as Suzie was changing job and needed somewhere to stay. A few weeks later, I sent her a photo of a little ginger dog sat in a crate in the back of my car with the message....."my new dog" (*pic: below*). To be honest, I was actually joking. You see, at work we found this little stray pup abandoned, and my intention was just to find her a home. But I made the fatal mistake of bringing her home for the night, whilst trying to work with the Dog Warden to find her owner as she was microchipped.



Long story short.....I named her Daisy, and she joined me and my other dogs, Grouse and Holly.

A year later, Suzie said that she had done a little bit of agility previously and thought it would be good fun to do with Evie, so we googled local clubs, and luckily our timing was just right and we both managed to get a place that autumn.

Up until this year, competing my horse has taken priority over dog agility, but with my horse retired, I've been making an effort to get organised and enter more KC Shows, rather than just doing pay on the day at UKA. Daisy has been consistently placed this year, and has accumulated points galore, but that elusive win has evaded us.

Suzie has done some UKA this year with Evie, and said to me could I nag her to enter the next KC Show I was going to do.....so I made her enter Prestbury Park at Cirencester.

Just after the entries had closed, I was invited to several social events, which I didn't really want to miss, but as I had made Suzie enter Evie, I felt I should go to the show, and get to the social events late – luckily it was a good decision, because not only did I win the Grade 1 Large Agility with Daisy, but Suzie won the Grade 1 Medium Agility with Evie!

Dawn Graham

Winter League Match Results

Match 1 – 18th October

What a team – wow! I just hope everyone had as much fun at the first Winter League match as I did – and that was the feeling I had even before the final scores came through. Well done everyone – what a team. Here are some interesting statistics:

I have 54 dogs/handlers that have declared an interest in participating in Winter League – for the first match 9 were unable to participate and we had 2 people who having entered could not make it on the day. (If you are still interested and think now you would like to be included, it is still possible to add you to the list – so don't hold back!)

Of the 43 dogs that participated, 25 managed to gain points for the club so far – that's over half. But even if you did not (this time) manage to be a point scorer you are much needed and appreciated. Many congratulations to everyone.

The table shows the individual point scorers and their total points – remember you do not have to get clear or be placed to get points!

Kath Ede	Tilly	24	Dave Bossom	Tod	10
Maria Davies	Belle	23	Gio-gio Botto	Tatti	10
Kevin Pearce	Fell	22	Wendy Botto	Bambi	9
Steve Brocklehurst	Loki	21	Gill Rhodes (Lucy)	Berti	7
Dawn Graham	Daisy	13	Paula Routledge	Rossi	7
Ian Hutchinson	Dino	13	Wendy Botto	Foxie-Botts	7
Debbie Hockley	Blix	12	Aileen Watson	Mickey	6
Sue Rodger	Ella	12	Dinah Paine	Cinders	6
Linda Palmer	Milo	11	Robert Tappin	Glen	6
Rosemary Tappin	Fizz	11	Elisha Clarke	Boo	5
Sue Cuddon	Mischief	11	Jill Lowe	Cass	3
Aileen Watson	Rockett	10	Suzie Davies	Evie	3
			Aileen Watson (Jenny)	Ozzie	2

Placed rosettes were gained by the following: – well done Tilly, Belle, Fell, Loki, Daisy, Dino, Blix, Fizz, Mischief, Rockett, Foxie-Botts, Rossi, Bacchus and Lexi and sorry I missed a lot of the presentations!

Once all the results were in, as a Club we came 3rd – as you can see, points across all clubs are very tight.

1st	Thames	318 points
2nd	Vyne	274 points
3rd	Wallingford	264 points
4th	Diamond Dogz	259 points
5th	Cranbourne	245 points

Next Match 29th November – If you are interested in taking part please talk to your instructor or to me to find out which classes would be suitable – I look forward to your entries!

Aileen Watson

Mist after the Storm (Misty) 16/03/2000 - 23/07/2014

Misty was my 3rd agility dog, but the first our family had as a puppy. She was bred by ex-Wallingford member Chris Kurzfeld, from her little red collie Tegan, and another ex-member's very enthusiastic collie, Storme. He was an all or nothing dog, a trait that



was evident in Misty and her half brother, Ian Hutchinson's Gunner. All 3 either did brilliantly or took their own course and knocked down lots of poles.

Misty loved agility, flyball, swimming, people and, like all dogs, going for walks. She reached Senior, the old equivalent of grade 6, in agility. She and Annette competed in the YKC ring at Crufts in Senior Agility and a Team, but the very slippery carpet did not suit Misty. She achieved Intermediate Flyball Dog award, run mostly by Donna, when Wallingford still had their own flyball section and team - The Knights.

Left: Misty on Berry Head in Devon

Misty's agility career was cut short with a wrist fracture when she was only 5. She returned to some veteran and any size classes after about a year but her arthritis did not allow her to complete at full height again. Her other claim to fame was starring as the dog in Donna's school production of Annie.

Misty is now reunited with the only 2 dogs she liked, Pollie and Katie (*below: the three girls on holiday in Ireland*); every other dog coming near her was grumbled at or just avoided.

Run free Misty, we miss you. xxx

Jill Lowe





This summer I had the chance to attend a week long training camp; one of the sessions was a chance to listen to Natasha Wise (three times Medium Agility World Champion and five times medium world jumping champion) talk us through how she sets goals for herself and her dogs.

Natasha has given me permission to share some of my notes from that lecture with you. In doing so, I hope it will give you a chance to think about how you want to set targets for yourself and how you work with your dog.

There are three main types of goals:

1. **Outcome related** (goals that have a specific outcome, eg I am going to be World Champion) – these goals are very specific and are likely to create a lot of pressure and anxiety – they are goals that, by their nature, might well lead to failure. It is possible to set outcome related goals that are more achievable eg reach the semi-finals of Olympia Novice; if I enter as many shows as possible where the qualifiers are being held, then I might achieve a top 4 place – but it still creates pressure and anxiety whenever I hit the start line, which will pass down the lead to my dog.

However if I set goals based on:

2. **Performance related** (goals like accurate weaves/contacts, a clear round, or maybe personally to run faster) – these goals can relate to yourself or your dog and are about achieving things – they are ‘doable’ goals and it is likely that you will succeed.
3. **Process related** (goals that relate to achieving things like working on weave entries or working on European turns)

Here I give myself a chance of achieving and feeling good which will also pass down the lead and may even help towards a better performance.

Goals should be **SMART**:

S – specific

M – measureable

A – achievable

R – realistic

T – time bound



It helps to break down your goals into short term of 12 weeks to 6 months, and long term goals of a year. The type of goals you set yourself are going to depend on the stage you have reached in your training.

Thank you Natasha – I know I want to think SMART in how I plan the next months with my dogs!

Aileen Watson

Show Results

Bincknoll (Ind) 25 October

Wendy & Tatti 1st C5-7 Agility (10)
 Dinah & Cinders 1st C3-4 Agility (5)
 Dinah & Cinders 1st C3-4 Jumping (5)
 Dinah & Cinders 1st C3-4 Stchase (5)
 Debbie & Flo 1st Nursery Agility
 Wendy & Bambi 2nd C 5-7 Agility (10)
 Wendy & Tatti 2nd C5-7 Jumping (10)
 Wendy & Tatti 2nd C5-7 Stchase (10)
 Wendy & Foxie-Botts 2nd C3-4 Stchase (20)
 Wendy & Arthur 7th C3-4 Stchase (32)



(Above: Cinders with 3 wins in one day!)

Tryouts for GB Belgian Shepherd Dog Team for 2015 Belgian Shepherd World Champs (Ind) 12 October

Sue & Mischief 4th overall - *qualified for the team!*

BHC (KC) 12 October

Carolyn & Ollie 1st G6 Agility – *Final G6 win – Winning into G7!*
 Kevin & Fell 2nd C1-7 Stchase (117)
 Alison & Basil 2nd G1-4 Agility (20 G4)

Dog Vegas (KC) 10-12 October

Aileen & Ozzie 2nd G5-7 Agility (G5 60)
 Aileen & Ozzie 3rd G4-5 Agility (G5 50)
 Aileen & Rockett 4th G1-4 Agility (G4 60)

Adams (KC) 11-12 October

Annette & Maze 1st G6-7 Jumping (G6 30)
 Annette & Maze 2nd G1-7 Jumping (G6 30)
 Annette & Maze 2nd G5-7 Jumping (G6 30)

Chippenham (KC) 4-5 October

Ian & Dino 1st G5 Jumping (107)
 Ian & Dino 8th CG4-7 Jumping (162)

Fun & Run Together (Ind) 4 October

Dinah & Cinders 4th C1-3 Agility (24)
 Dinah & Cinders 5th C1-3 Stchase (30)

Southdowns (KC) 28 September

Aileen & Ozzie 1st G5 Jumping (58)
 Wendy & Foxie 1st G3 Agility (68) - *Winning into G4!*
 Ian & Dino 3rd G5 Agility (60ish)

Nedlo (KC) 27 September

Debbie & Blix 1st G6 Agility
 Tori & Bowen 4th C4-7 Agility

Devon Dogs/Adams (KC) 26-29 Sept

Kevin & Fell 1st CG1-7 Agility (108)
 Alison & Basil 1st CG1-4 Agility (21) - *Winning into G5!*
 Alison & Basil 1st G1-4 Agility (12 G4)
 Alison & Basil 1st G1-4 Agility (8 G4)
 Kevin & Fell 2nd CG6-7 Jumping (24)
 Alison & Basil 2nd CG1-4 Jumping (13)
 Kevin & Fell 3rd G5-7 Agility (60 G6)
 Kevin & Fell 3rd CG6-7 Agility (48)
 Kevin & Fell 3rd G5-7 Jumping (40 G6)
 Kevin & Fell 6th CG1-7 Jumping (161)

Bromsgrove (KC) 20-21 September

Ian & Dino 1st G4-5 Jumping (51)
 Ian & Dino 1st G3-5 Agility (51) – *Final G5 win - Winning into G6!*

Southam (KC) 13-14 September

Aileen & Mickey 1st CG1-3 Agility (115) - *Winning into G4!*
 Jill & Cass 1st G4-7 Agility (57)
 Aileen & Mickey 2nd G1-4 Jumping (100ish)
 Jill & Cass / Annette & Maze 3rd "Just so jump & twist pairs" (41) - *qualified for final*
 Aileen & Rockett 6th G1-4 Jumping (60ish)

Ajax (UKA) 12-14 September

Pam & Martha 1st Champ Jumping (4)
 Gill & Mindy 1st Novice Jumping (8)

Gill & Mindy 2nd Senior Stchase (8)
Gill & Bertie 2nd Champ Agility (15)

Gillingham (KC) 6-7 September

Annette & Maze 1st G6 Agility (77)
Aileen & Ozzie 4th CG3-5 Jumping (174)
Alison & Basil 4th C1-4 Jumping (55)
Kevin & Fell 6th G6 Jumping (79)

Prestbury Park (KC) 30-31 August

Dawn & Daisy 1st G1 Agility (44) – *Winning into G2!*

Suzie & Evie 1st G1 Agility – *Winning into G2!*

Dawn & Daisy 3rd G1-2 Agility (53)
Dawn & Daisy 5th G1 Jumping (53)
Dawn & Daisy 5th CG1-2 Agility (80)
Dawn & Daisy 6th CG1-2 Jumping (69)
Ian & Dino 6th CG5-7 Jumping (190)

HADS (UKA) 30 August

Gill & Bertie 1st champ jumping (5)
Gill & Mindy 1st Nov Jump Clean Run (30)
Gill & Mindy 4th Nov Ag Clean Run (30)
Gill & Mindy 2nd overall in Clean Run
qualifier - *qualified for finals*

Hawbridge (UKA) 24-25 August

Gio-Gio & Tatti 1st Juniors overall -
qualified for finals again

Wendy & Foxie 1st Nov Snk & Ladders (5)
Wendy & Arthur 1st Beginners Agility (19)
Gio-Gio & Tatti 2nd Agility for Juniors (25)
Gio-Gio & Tatti, Rosie Sawyer & Dottie,
Millie Sawyer & Dinkie 6th overall in the
team

Adams (KC) 25 August

Annette & Maze 1st G6-7 Jumping (45 G6)
Annette & Maze 2nd G1-7 Jumping (45 G6)

Dordale (KC) 23-24 August

Ian & Dino 1st in Diamond Challenge (74)
Wendy & Foxie-Botts 1st C1-3 Jumping (16)
Wallingford & Friends YKC Team Agility 2nd
- *qualified for Crufts (subject to result of
appeal by another team)*
Aileen & Rockett 2nd G4-5 Jumping (54)
Aileen & Mickey 2nd CG1-3 Jumping (137)
Aileen & Ozzie 5th in Diamond Challenge



Show Results Reminder

Can I remind you all please, if you want your points to count on the Club spreadsheet for the Club Awards next year, and if you do not have access to the Club Wiki website, please do e-mail, or pm me your result - I need the show, class, position and number of dogs in class. Thank you.

Aileen Watson



Don't forget to send your pictures, successes, stories, show photos, judging reports, demo dates and anything else you think might entertain us for the next issue Puppy photos, non-agility achievements, and anything else vaguely dog-related or otherwise interesting always welcome!