

Watchdog!

WALLINGFORD DOG TRAINING CLUB

September 2009

From the Chair

I don't know where the lovely Summer we were promised went, but the rather dismal weather does not seem to have dampened anyone's spirits, nor their successes. There have been a few dogs winning up the grades in agility, and a couple of successful flyball competitions.

One of our members got married this month - choosing a lovely sunny day to do it. Annette Lowe trains Roxy at the club, and some of you will have noticed Graham at training - providing support for Annette - and then mucking in at the end helping to put the equipment away. We all want to know when Graham will be getting his own dog! I know you'll all join me in wishing Annette and Graham a long and happy married life.

It's been 6 months since the last newsletter - arrangements for the agility show, then those of us in agility get on the show season treadmill, and it just keeps us all running. Three weekends off gives us a chance to pull together this newsletter - which seems to be filled with - puppies! I have never seen so many furry balls romping around at agility.

The club is now sporting some new gear. Jo Tidmarsh has been supervising its choice & purchase - you can



see from the photograph that it is striking - and has had many compliments from other clubs. Every member gets a complimentary polo shirt, and other kit may be purchased. You should wear it whenever you compete for the club - and at demonstrations. See the article on page 8.

I have just heard that Heather Haines has resigned as Flyball Rep for personal reasons. I'd like to thank Hether for taking on the job - albeit for a fairly short time. Ian

Stop Press

Congratulations to Julie & Bonnie for winning the Starter Cup at the KC Festival, and good luck to her in the final at Discover Dogs. Congratulations to Karen & Sahsa who came second the Agility Club's Starter Agility Challenge Final held at the Agility Club show.

Congratulations and good luck to Sophie & Jinx who have qualified for the semi finals of the Kennel Club Novice Agility Stakes - which will take place at Olympia in December.

Letter to the Editor

On behalf of all Flyball members, I would like to thank Luce for her hard work at keeping us together at our flyball competitions.

Also, a thank you to Tony for towing the trailer for our Demonstrations

Jose Rostagni.

Demonstrations

What better way to spend a day, afternoon, or even hour in the company of like-minded nutcases who run about in all weathers with our furry canine friends (and the public enjoy watching us do so!!!!). I do love the demos - which I now call agility displays after friends thought I spent my weekends chanting for some doggy campaign!

Although there haven't been many this year as I have been to more shows I have continued to provide 1-7 courses, plus training for object discrimination etc. We have had a few competitions and the atmosphere has been great and they have been attended by a greater variety of club members than usual.

The best thing is being able to have another go at the course or sequence which I often want to do in competitions but can't. Different grades and levels of experience all help each other and occasionally we also have a go at running each others dogs. This has helped with speeding up some of the slower dogs as well as being a good exercise in having to inform the handler of your commands. It's been great to see lots of new pups making their debut on the contacts and chasing the more experienced dogs through tunnels, plus the old or injured dogs who love the opportunity to get back out there. Junior handlers are also now showing more interest.

There is only one remaining now on Saturday 5th September at Upton. Although Harwell Rec. has been cancelled on 26th September, we are looking for an alternative venue to simply set up a couple of courses and sequences.

Don't forget to let me know if there is anything you specifically would like me to set up! I do try my best to please everyone... Wendy Botto

INSIDE: Dates for you diary, Puppies galore, Stick warning, agility and Flyball news



Flyball news

Our former Flyball Rep, Leanne, resigned at the AGM to spend more time with her horses, but her swansong was to captain a Starters team, the Knighties, at Stockbridge on Good Friday. The team was Mike with Megan, Heather with Cokey, Gill R with Bertie, Carol with Nell and the young handlers Becky and Jack with Lucy and Ellie. All the dogs ran very well, with few mistakes, but weren't fast enough to get into the places.

This experience provided us with handlers and dogs to replace Lu's Tonto, who sadly died, Ian's Gunner, and John's Gypsy who retired from competitive flyball earlier this year after long service with The Knights. We started running as our most junior BFA (British Flyball Association) team, the Knightmares. Our first tournament was at Cornbury show, Charlbury on 6 June, a cold, wet day. Unfortunately, Cokey was ill and couldn't run, so we were reduced to a team of 4 dogs (the minimum needed), 2 large (Lucy & Jade) and 2 small (Bertie & Flicker). But these four ran well all day, winning a few legs but only 1 race, making us only 5th of the 6 teams in Div 3, with a fastest time of 23.09 sec. But most gratifying was that very few mistakes were made, none in the 3 races in the afternoon,

demonstrating the quality of our training.

Four weeks later we were at Millet's Farm Centre near Abingdon on a lovely sunny day. The first teams to run were Starters and we had a team of Knighties, Julie with Mason, Rebecca with Izzy, Sharon with Chico, together with Bridget with Hugo from the Wolf Pack, with our trainee Box Loader Elliott, who did an excellent job. Starters run over low jumps on runs enclosed by netting and our team ran superbly, with no mistakes, assisted by Elliott. They won 2 of their 3 races, with a best time of 22.50 sec, faster than the Knightmares! Later the Knightmares, Lucy, Bertie, Jade and Flicker with the addition of Pera, ran in Div 5 of 5, again with very few mistakes and winning all their races. So they were 1st in their Division, with a best time of 22.84 sec.

After another 2 weeks the Knightmares were at Chilterns show at Great Missenden and back to rain and wind. Here we were in Div 6 of 6 and back to only 4 dogs, Lucy, Pera, Jade and Flicker, but, again, ran very well with few mistakes and consistent times, winning all our races with a best time of 22.89 sec. So another 1st rosette!

Thus, so far this summer we have developed a new Knightmares team with 2 new dogs, both of whom should now have achieved the first BFA award of Flyball Dog. We also have 2 excellent starter dogs, Mason and Izzy, to augment our teams in the future. We now have lots of small dogs for our teams, but really need more large dogs to increase our speeds. So if you have a large dog and want to try flyball or know anyone who does, contact the Flyball Rep regarding training (Tues evenings in summer and Sun mornings in winter, both at Harwell).

Luce Green, Team Captain

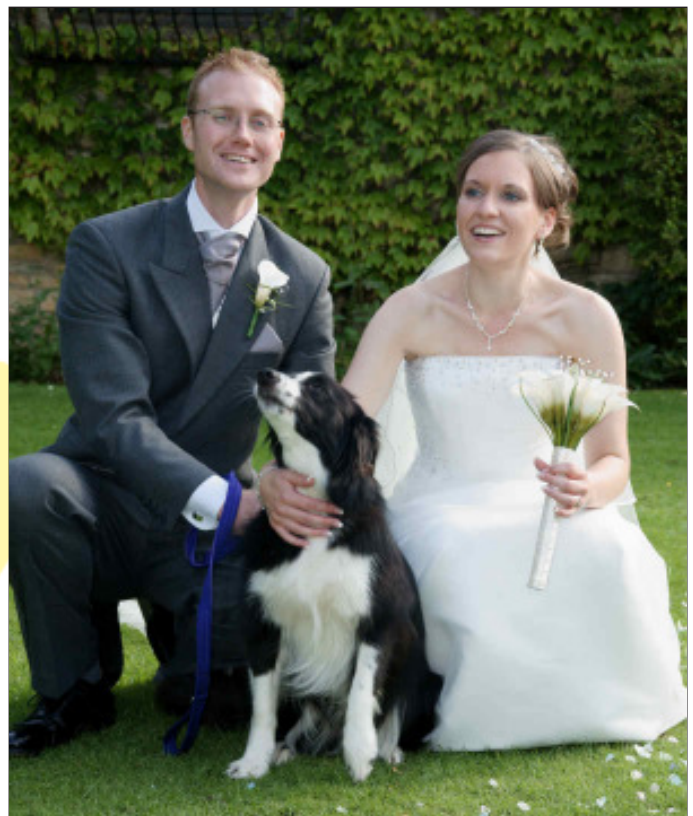
Members corner

Karen & Ruth are being joined by another Parker at agility – Annette Parker. Jill Lowe's eldest daughter Annette tied the knot on Saturday 8th August with Graham Parker. The weather was good, the pub had lovely grounds for the post-wedding photographs, and as you can see, bride & groom were joined by a rather snooty-looking Roxy. We all wish Annette & Graham a long and happy life together.

It was good to see Alison at the disco following the wedding - on her feet, albeit on crutches. She damaged her knee over the weekend of our show this year, and her recovery has been long and slow following an operation to repair ligaments.

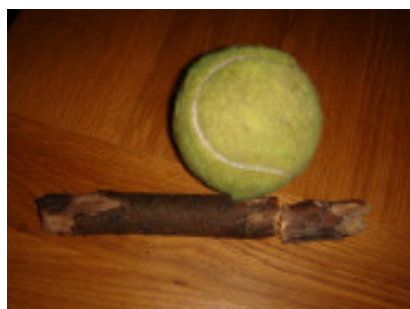
Sadly, I heard that Jean was back in hospital following her replacement hip operation - with an infection in her hip. Here's wishing Alison & Jean a speedy recovery.

I heard from Gill that her husband Michael is continuing to make a slow recovery from his stroke. This will be a long process, and we wish the Kimbers all our best wishes.



Don't throw sticks!

Ruth doesn't throw sticks for Poppy, but had a very scary incident with a stick when out with Poppy. Here is her story - with a moral!



It happened in the middle of November last year on a Sunday morning.

I was walking along a footpath approaching a stile and Poppy was ahead. She must have picked the stick up off the path as I was not looking at her as I was watching a red kite circling above.

As she approached the fence she made a noise I can only describe as a screech. I ran to her which seemed to take forever as she was flat out and had stopped breathing. There was nothing visible in her mouth but I stuck my hands down her throat and she was sick, which contained blood, and she started breathing. I did not know she still had the stick in her throat and I walked her slowly home although it was obvious she was injured. Luckily I did not know how badly. Looking back she must have got home on adrenaline as she went into shock when we got home. I rushed her to the emergency vets and she straight away felt the stick down her throat. They took her straight in for an operation to remove it at which point I realised how serious it was. The vet could not believe the size of the stick and could not intubate her to do the operation because the stick was pressing on her airway, so they had to use a mask on her to keep her asleep. Two vets were involved in the operation and they had to go in through her neck, and because of the size, they had to cut the stick into 2 pieces to retrieve it from her throat.

Because she had such a light anaesthetic she was up and about within a day and I could take her home - much to my relief. However, 24 hours later she had taken her stitches out so we were back at the vets. Then after a couple of days Poppy realised I was giving her antibiotics in her food, so refused to eat it - even in Tuna, cheese and everything else I could think of, so she had to have an antibiotic injection instead. Luckily her recovery was quick and we were back to training in 4 weeks. The match with Andover was our first competition; she was recovered well enough to get 2 clears.

Poppy may not be the fastest dog in the world but she is alive. I have attached a picture of the stick with a tennis ball to try and show how large it was -and how lucky we are.

Ruth Parker

Ruth thinks that Poppy had picked up the stick end-on, then run into the gate which rammed it down her throat. The same effect can happen if a dog tries to catch a stick being thrown, or picks it up as it bounces.

For anyone not yet convinced, a quick Google will pick up stories such as this plea from a vet, which appeared in many newspapers:

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/article5404147.ece>

Photo caption competition

I've been sent two photos (John-Lucas's Gyp, and Karen Parker's Rupert) that need that special caption - so I call on all of you to have a go and supply the captions.



Committee

The following were voted onto the committee at the Club's AGM in March.

Chair: Ian Hutchinson

Secretary: Karen Parker

Treasurer: Kevin Pearce

Agility Rep: Jacky Hutchinson

Flyball Rep: Heather Haines (who has sadly just resigned)

Demonstrations: Wendy Botto

Members:

Carolyn Davies, Kath Rayson, Pete Sanderson, Jo Tidmarsh, Julie Morgan and Aileen Watson.

More next time on the task allocation.

Agility news

Successes: Members who compete have been doing really well this year. Congratulations to Julie & Bonnie who won the Starters Cup at the KC Festival, and good luck to them at the final at Discover Dogs in November. Well done to Karen & Sasha who were 2nd in the Agility Club's Starter Agility Challenge. And congratulations and good luck to Sophie & Jinx who qualified for the semi finals of the Kennel Club Novice Agility Stakes which will be held at Olympia in December. At KC shows four partnerships (Ian & Stig, Ian & Dash, Sophie & Jinx and Lin & Mozzie) have already won up not one, but two grades. The full list (so far) is:

Lin & Mozzie	Easter Celebration	Winning into G4
Ian & Stig	Easter Egg'gility	Winning into G5
Karen & Sasha	Easter Egg'gility	Winning into G4
Sophie & Jinx	Wallingford	Winning into G4

As well as an agility win, dogs can progress up to G6 with 3 jumping wins, which Wendy & Bambi did with a third jumping win:

Wendy & Bambi	WBSDS	Winning into G2
Lin & Mozzie	Beacon	Winning into G5
Paula & Ben	Packington	Winning into G3
Ian & Stig	Wye Valley	Winning into G6
Sophie & Jinx	Thames	Winning into G5
Kevin & Fell	Lansdown	Winning into G4
Ian & Dash	Lune	Winning into G5
Carolyn & Jazz	KC Festival	Winning into G4
Ian & Dash	Dordale	Winning into G6

Don't forget to add your **boasts** to the Wiki boasts page. Karen has kindly agreed to run the Club points competition again this year. If you can't access the Wiki please make sure you let Karen know the class (agility/jumping combined/graded) and the number in the class in which you were placed or had a clear round.

Training is going well – my thanks to Karen for coordinating the exercises as well as running the club points competition. The club's newest members are doing well and many now compete regularly. Now that the Summer shows are coming to an end we will be 'going back to basics' at training. Shorter, more focussed exercises, to try and hone the simple manoeuvres which form the building blocks of all courses.

Competition nights. Some members don't attend on these nights - as they don't get much training. We hold them so that members who don't regularly compete can get experience in walking courses, and also so that dogs realise that courses can be more than a handful of obstacles. I'm holding a ballot to hear from everyone. The options are:

- # keep competition night on week 8 of all courses (6 a year)
- # hold competitions on week 8 every other course (3 a year)
- # hold competitions only during the winter
- # don't hold competitions at all

Everyone is encouraged to add their own suggestions.

One suggestion I have already heard is that the winners should be recognised, and to this end, here are the results from competition night on Thursday 27 August. It's interesting to see how, when the stop watch comes out and a judge stands in the middle of the course, many handlers throw both caution and training to the wind and rush round. Remember - a clear round will always beat a fast round with faults!

Gp 3 (Course time 35secs)

1st	Mick & Bryn	Clear	25.48s
2nd	Gill & Chi	5	29.29s
3rd	Tanya & Ebby	15	21.77s

Gp 2 (35 secs)

1st	Ian & Stig	Clear	just under 24 secs
2nd	Jenny & Tess	5	24.00s
3rd	Jacky & Lazer	5	30.88s

Gp 1 (45 secs)

1st	Kat & Winstone	Clear	20.97s
2nd	Annette & Roxy	5	22.22s
3rd	Steve & Milo	10	36.31s

Small/Medium (45 secs)

1st	Pam & Ashleigh	Clear	32.94s
2nd	Pam & Rowan	2.42	47.42s
3rd	Dinah & Cinders	2.48	47.48s

Improvers (45 secs)

1st	Paula & Ben	Clear	20.97s
2nd	Jo & Bronwen	5	25.03s

Foundation (50 secs)

1st	Jacky & Kip	Clear	23.44s
2nd	Holly & Dermut	18.62	58.62s

Training workshop: Following a really successful training day in the Spring, I have booked Tasha & David booked for another agility workshop on November 8th. I am also trying to organise other training workshops – more details when I have dates.

On the topic of **safety**, we need to continue to keep the one-way system to avoid dogs 'meeting' in the corridor & kitchen. As we move into Winter the outside walk will be dark, cold & wet, so please remember to bring a torch – and suitable clothing. It's also important for everyone to keep their dogs on the leads when not competing. We really do need to ensure that all dogs are under control at all times.

This is a reminder that, except in cases of illness or injury, if you don't attend for 2 courses and you are not paying for your place, then you relinquish that place. If you want to rejoin in the future, you will have to go back on the waiting list. We have so many dogs on the waiting list that we can't keep places open.

The **European Agility Championships** take place on 18 – 20 September 2009 at Dornbirn, Austria. Natasha Wise (an ex-member of our club) and her medium collie Dizzy are among those representing the UK. This year, the Kennel Club are not providing financial support for teams, so Tasha has organised a raffle to raise her funding. The Committee agreed to spend £200 from the profits of the show to buy tickets for WDTC to support Tasha. So fingers crossed for winning runs from Tasha & Dizzy - and success in the raffle. See <http://www.agility-wm2009.at> for details of these championships.

Jacky Hutchinson

Puppies galore

Daisy

Daisy belongs to Ruth Parker - joining Poppy.

Ruth explains that Daisy's hobbies include:-

- Eating poo especially horse, sheep and cow
- Digging holes in Mum's lawn
- Eating Mum's plants
- Chasing Butterflies and bees (she had a close encounter with a wasp that ended up in a very swollen face and eye!)
- Pulling Poppy's tail
- Taking shoes into the garden
- Taking Mum's hairbrush into the garden
- In fact - taking *anything* left around the house into the garden!



"I used a baby gate to keep Poppy in the kitchen while I went out until she was about 18 months when I could trust her not to destroy anything. Daisy was 12 weeks when she learnt to jump over the gate - so she now has a cage.

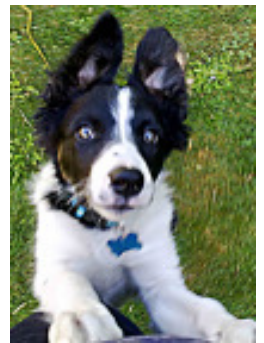
Daisy has been to a couple of shows and is particularly interested in A Frames - as they are really exciting when big dogs go over them.

We are attending puppy training class and she is really good for the first 30 minutes and then gets bored and starts messing around."

Ruth

Shade

Gill Kimber had no plans for a new puppy - but a chance sighting of a planned litter of BCs changed her mind!



"Jill (Lowe) had been looking at the Agility Fleamarket for a puppy and had come across a planned litter where the bitch had the Homestead affix. On looking at the pedigree I found she was a half sister to Tess. I emailed Michelle (the breeder) expressing an interest if there was a bitch available. I hadn't been planning a new puppy but Chi will soon be 9. So she would be nearly 11 by the time the new puppy would be ready to compete! Jenny will want to run Tess whenever she can otherwise I would not have been so keen.

When the litter arrived there were 4 bitches and 1 dog. Michelle was updating her puppy blog regularly so it was interesting to see their progress. When the puppies were just over 4 weeks old I went to have a look at the litter with Richard & Jenny. It was quite sunny and the puppies were able to go in the garden. It was fun watching them play and then fall asleep quite quickly. Michelle was keeping one of the bitches (she'd practically chosen one - but also liked another one that Cassie (mum) played with a lot). A friend of hers had chosen one of the other bitches. I decided on the one that played with Cassie. I spent another few hours with the litter the following week and was very impressed with them all.

The whole litter had been out in a car and also carried along by a busy road to get used to the traffic. They had also met some other young puppies before an official puppy class. We brought Shade home when she was 7 weeks and 2 days. She did cry for a little while in the car but then went to sleep. She met Chi and Tess in the garden, who played it cool and didn't pay Shade any interest!

Shade's an adorable little puppy and so far is very good - although we have to watch what she's got in her mouth! Our dog gate has a bar across the bottom and when Shade is following the other dogs she run down the hall and jumps this bar in her stride. It's a bit worrying as I don't want her jumping just yet!"

Gill

Pip

Jo Tidmarsh asks "What is the essential accessory to a brand new oak kitchen?"

That's right - no brand new kitchen should be without a cute black and white border collie shaped floor mop - specifically designed to spread mud, muck and fur as far as caninely possible! To those of you who haven't met her yet - please meet **Southlawn Isn't that a Pip!** Aka "**Pip**".

For those of you without Pre-school aged children, "Isn't that a Pip!" is something the narrator of "In the Night Garden" says when something is really good. My kids are something of Night Garden addicts and liked the name.

Pip was born on 10th November 2008, and was bred by Rosemary Tappin (honorary life member of our club) in Benson. Several Wallingford members train with Rosemary in Preston Crowmarsh.

Pip's parents are Kyra (Rosemary's young dog) and Blue (also bred by Rosemary). By complete coincidence Blue and my 5 year old dog Bronwen turned out to be cousins.

There were 4 gorgeous pups in the litter, and many of Wallingford



members met them before Christmas. The pups have been called (from left to right) Quattro (owned by Tim Marsh from Andover Club), Mist (owned by Rosemary's son Graham), Brook and Pip.

We welcomed Pip into our house at the end of December when she was 7 weeks old, and nothing has quite been the same since. Don't let anyone tell you that collies and kids don't mix! They do in a fantastic bundle of fluff, mud, water and treats. It is quite clear that Pip is my son Rory's dog, and they are inseparable.

We have had great fun socialising Pip. She has been taken to Pre-school and Primary school for 'Show and Tell', and she regularly gets on the school bus to meet her fan club. She loves the kids and behaves very well around them.

Pip is full of fun and very eager to please, and is a complete sucker for sausage. She has recently had her first season and has started some pre-agility training.

Jo

Cass

Hi, I'm Cass. I'm a Red Tricolour Border Collie puppy, born on 21 April 2009. As I get bigger I will grow into my ears - they're really useful to hear when my Mum (Jill Lowe) is getting my dinner.

I've been trying really hard to make friends with the dogs living here, but Misty just grumbles at me whenever I get near her & Pollie will occasionally have a game with me but normally just ignores me or tells me to go away if she doesn't feel like playing. I love it when I meet up with Auntie Annette's dog Roxy - we play for ages.

I think my best time was when Mum took me to a dirty car park & let me have a fantastic play with Sheila's puppy Fig. We got so dirty! When it started raining we went inside & were joined by Ruth's puppy Daisy, but we didn't succeed in getting Daisy as dirty as we were, even though we carried on rolling around for ages.

Mum tells me that when I get older I'll be able to play the game of agility. I'm looking forward to that. My real Mum lives in Burford and is just a pet & my Dad is Laetare Unleashed who does field trials.

Fig

Sheila Szegota introduces her new pup...



The brief: Jon wanted me to find a close replica of Flag complete with neat pricked ears! Now I prefer the tucked variety so let's just wait and see on that point.

Breeding: Fig's mum is a petite blue merle (with pricked ears) from show lines. His dad is ISDS registered, does work sheep we're told, but regularly appears in the show ring.

The name: We did try hard to steer away from another 'F', I promise, it just did not happen. (This is following Flag, Fosse and Fen - Ed)

The personality: Very good at keeping himself entertained, adores people, loves dogs, all toys - and food too.

Top tip to other puppy owners - don't leave yours in the care of Jill Lowe!

Sheila

(I wish I'd had a camera when Fig & Cass had a romp at Blewbury - in the wet, dust and dirt. As for Sheila's plea to 'Don't let Fig get too dirty' Ed)



Jill

Midge

I had just won the juniours beating the under twelves - and also beating the over twelves - with my Mum's dog Sky. I could tell that Mum was getting fed up with me using her dog!

Round about 9 o'clock I was watching TV when there was a knock at the door. Mum and Dad told me to wait inside and carry on watching TV, so I did. Mum and Dad went out and opened the door, then Mum asked whether I wanted an early birthday present. Emily Ratcliffe continues her story....

"Well, I mean, I'm not going to say 'No' am I? So I shut my eyes and sat on the sofa - and a tiny fluff ball was plonked on my lap. Then when I opened my eyes I saw the most beautiful thing ever - MIDGE!!!!!!!!!!"

I couldn't believe that I had just got a puppy. She makes little baby noises and acts just like a human baby; she's so gorgeous and she loves socks. After a few days she was a nightmare - she chewed everything and chases me around the house, but she was very good at letting us know when she wants to go to the toilet. She does lots of tricks and she always comes when she called.

Midge was in a litter of 10 so she's very small. At 12 weeks old, she was smaller than most dogs that are at least 1 month older. Her Mum was called San and her dad was called Bracken and they work over 2000 sheep every day."

Emily



Happy 3rd Birthday Bambi, what a Knockout!

It was freezing cold and late in the day at Newbury as Bambi and I stood in the queue for the UKA LAPS circular knockout. Was I shaking with fear or cold? We walked out into the ring to take up our position and I took a peek to see who I was up against but wished I hadn't! 'Just go for it!' I said to Bambi! The whistle went and she took off. Before I knew it we were flying round until that horrible little thought bubble popped up in my head just before the weaves 'Will she get them?' But she cruised them and then we were hurtling down the A-frame, onto the snake and she charged on into the tunnel. It was a fantastic feeling and she was working so far ahead of me. As I turned into the centre I had no idea what had happened to my opponent or even if I had gone through till the judge's smiley face pointed to my side.

After that it's pretty much a blur ... I just kept hearing them call out no 7 and wondering out into the ring and recognising yet another opponent, but time after time Bambi was an absolute dream. Eventually as I staggered out of the ring, I was told to get back in the ring and despite gasping for breath

was advised 'at least you can now take comfort from the fact that you are in the semi-final!' Wow I wished they hadn't told me that! I was knackered but once again she simply sped round and someone shouted out 'Stay there this is the final!' I could barely breathe now and had no break as an elderly lady walked into the ring to take up her position. Oh no! Not only did she have the speediest little mutt on the planet but she was barely sweating as she simply stands and shouts out where to go and the mut does it at 100 miles an hour! On top of that she was on my side so I had to quickly work out the other course in my head! The whistle went and Bambi legged it again. I ran as fast as I could and Bambi stormed ahead of me. I had no idea what was going on but my little legs gave way a couple of jumps before the last and I struggled to drum up the energy to send her over the last two jumps. When I crossed the line I saw her standing there and the dog was already back, then my smiley judge said 'You won, she just had the last jump down!'

Bambi leapt into my arms and I gave her the biggest kiss ever but I was in need of oxygen - I couldn't even speak!!!!

It was one of my most exciting agility experiences and the next day I saw many of our opponents in the champ classes. Although we have qualified for the final I don't know if my nerves can take anymore!

It was the icing on the cake! Despite the metal pin in Bambi's leg we are having a great season and with Tatti coming along too I am thoroughly enjoying myself.

The photo shows Bambi proudly displaying all her wins this season. That's why I am still frustrated at still being in grade 2! Yes some are UKA and some unaffiliated - we just need to get it right at the KC shows!!!! Hopefully we can do more next year with Tatti coming out too - it should be a fun season! If only I could get Tony involved too

Thanks to all our trainers, from Bambi and Wendy!!!!

Will write up about the final next time ... it was the worst UKA show I have ever been to!



Club kit

We have now received the order of our bright new club polo shirts. Everyone in the club is entitled to a polo shirt provided as a Thank You for all your hard work at our show. These polo shirts should be worn when representing WDTC in a team (Flyball or Agility) or at a demo. Please let Jo Tidmarsh know if you do not yet have a polo shirt.

We also have a new supplier for items such as hats, coats, sweatshirts - Crazy Dogs. They have kindly built us a web-site where you can order a club-branded garment, directly from the supplier, thereby saving the club from holding stock. All the kit on the site will be in club colours and with a club logo, and for an extra charge you can personalize the garment - with "Mick & Bryn" for example!



Royal Canin

At the HJ UKA show held at Witney in May Tess came 2nd in the maxi novice agility class. The agility course was the same for all levels as this was a qualifier for the Royal Canin UKA Agility Grand Prix Final 2009. When all the agility classes were complete the overall placings were given. Tess was 3rd overall and so qualified for the final – this even gave her some points towards competing for the country if I was interested!

The final was held at Newbury in June. All the competitors were given a bright red T-shirt - who then had to see if they could find one in a bigger size! The final was judged by Lee Gibson. Course plan can be found at <http://www.ukagility.com/Downloads/RCPicsAndCoursePlan.doc> including pictures with the bright red T-shirts. The weave entry was very tricky and lots of dogs came unstuck at this point including me with 2 refusals. After another blip because I failed to pick Tess up before the seesaw I had another refusal so was eliminated. We completed the rest of the course without any problems. Lin and Hattie also qualified and were really unlucky just taking the wrong jump right at the end.

Gill Kimber

Dates for your diary

Saturday 14th November - Julie's final at Discover Dogs at Earl's Court. Part 1 is at 10.45am and Part 2 at 2pm.

Tuesday 15th to Monday 21st December - Olympia Horse Show - which includes many agility finals, including the Novice Stakes in which Sophie & Jinx will compete.

Thursdays 24th & 31st December - no agility training at Blewbury.

Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th April 2010 - our Open Agility Show at Newbury Showground.

Poet's corner

A poem from agility judge Charlie Wyatt:

Thank you to Weardale Agility Club, for asking me to judge today
I hope you enjoy my courses, and everything goes your way.

"This course doesn't suit my dog", is a cry we have often heard,
And it's on this very subject, that I would like to say a word.

Now I've been judging for quite a while and one thing's plain to see,
Not all courses suit all dogs - I think on that, we all agree.

Too fast, too tricky, too easy, too hard, we can't please you all in agility,
But the judges are trying to do their best, to the best of their ability.

So if you've travelled from afar, only to find a course you hate,
Don't get too disheartened, life is never 'always great.'

Because over time, things even out, and I know you are certain to meet,
A show that's on your doorstep, with courses right up your street.

But that's the beauty of this sport of ours, and it is a funny old game,
but wouldn't it be really boring, if judges were all the same.

So let's have no moans or groans, no hissy fits, or teddies thrown out the pram
Just attack the courses you've been given, like a lion and not a lamb.

Now I am supposed to tell you the important bits, like rules and everything,
But I couldn't think of a rhyme for that, so I've stuck 'em on a board by the ring.

So welcome to the Weardale agility show at the Wolsingham Showground today,
I hope you all have great runs, and everything does go your way.

Don't turn up late, enjoy your day, and stick to the rules in the book,
And I'd like to wish every single one of you, the very best of luck.

Now finally a warning that everyone of us should heed
Agility is a frustrating sport, and of that we are all agreed.

So, for those of you that win today, you'll be probably be going crackers.
But life has got a nasty habit, of kicking you in the nac, in the teeth.

Cos if you go home thinking you've cracked it, you'll fall into a trap,
Because today you might take all the glory, but tomorrow you could be crap.