

# Watchdog!

WALLINGFORD DOG TRAINING CLUB

April 2010

## A Wallingford Agility Show Special

Well, that's another W.D.T.C. Show done and dusted, and, I must say, quite possibly one of the best yet! That is of course if it isn't **the** best. Why? The weather must be a big factor on the day, it was a superb Spring weekend, sunshine for both days. The Show-ground was in good condition too which always helps. The army of volunteers, club members and non Wallingford folk rallied to the cause. On ring 5 we had a steady supply of willing helpers, and not just those who were listed either. Any shout for help usually gained more helpers that you needed at that time, those turned away often came back later in the day.

Of course, the over riding reason, I think, for the success of the show was the fantastic Show Committee. They organised everything from hire of the venue to the Scrimmer's pencil sharpener. The logistics would be a challenge to our local Royal Army Logistics Corps based at Dalton Barracks. Without the foundations laid before the show it would have fallen over before the first run. So to those members of that Committee I say a very heartfelt THANK YOU, and can you do it again next year please?

Whilst the show was still fresh in peoples' mind I emailed everyone on the club circulation list for small contributions to this Watchdog Special. I didn't just want a list of who won etc but what people enjoyed about the Show, their positives or events that made them smile. What a mix of information came back across the Ethernet. One that I liked was from Sheila Szegota. This was a brief

exchange of emails which went like this :-

'Our major achievement was that by the end of day two Jon was able to sit with Fig by the side of a ring. Does that count?' Sheila. 'Of course if that's a first.' Me.

'I'll say. Day one we got about six steps from the car with him & then had to turn back!!' Sheila.

It has almost nothing to do with agility but was a positive event for them. Socialising puppies and new dogs can be a joy but it can also try your patience.

During the show we had a book in which people could record their thoughts about the show whether positive or not. A good sign that we must be getting most of it right is the distinct shortage of negative comments.

I have included many of these thoughts in this Newsletter for you to read. I make no apology for this Watchdog being full of 'didn't we do well' comments because let's be honest, we did!

Whether it is a good thing or not I shall be measuring future shows by the mark we set, and this I have already compared the few other shows I have done so far this year, and no doubt those booked will also come in for scrutiny using the Wallingford yard stick.

O.K. That's enough from me, time to let you read what others have sent in. This is also a good time to remind you that I am on the look out for contributions for the next Watchdog, words and or photographs are all welcome, send them to me  
Thanks, Mick

## View from the Chair

Well with all the B's\* back in my loft it must be that the show is finished for another year. I have to say that it was an extremely successful show this year made even more memorable by the fantastic weather conditions - no ash for us!!

There is a lot of work that goes into this show before we all get to the Showground and I would like to say well done and thanks to Jacky, Ian, Kevin, Karen, Aileen, Jo, Julie, Wendy, Pete, Paula all your hard work in the many months it takes to put this show on clearly paid off as the show ran very smoothly and efficiently.

To all of you who were at the show and contributed in any way thank-you very much it all could not happen without your efforts and enthusiasm. Please feed back any comments you have or were told or overheard as even though all was great there will be a few places we can improve for next year - looking forward to it already!! - we always learn something.

From me I only heard positive comments -how well the show was run, how helpful and cheerful we all were, how generous we were with the trophies and rosettes and the good quality of the rosettes for clear rounds was mentioned a lot (they all went) and the judges seemed to like their new style ones.

Well done Wallingford once again we have shown the agility world how it should be done.

Carolyn, The Chair

\* Apparently Carolyn had all the supplies beginning with 'B', i.e. Bog rolls etc!

## An unexpected result!

I went to the show hoping to come home with a couple of clear rounds but ended up coming home with another dog!!!. now how did that happen? Wendy !!!'. His name is Lemon and he is a skinny little lurcher from Many Tears. He has Rickets due to being starved as a puppy so he may not end up as a agility dog but by the way he was tearing round the garden with Bonnie today there may be a chance yet!! .

So the show for me was a winner.

All the best

Julie, Bonnie and Lemon



Julie introduced me to Lemon at the WBSDS show, I must say he is a super little chap and he is on the road to - hopefully - a full recovery. I for one am looking forward to seeing him blitz round the agility ring one day. Mick.

### A few bits of trivia from the show;

10 litres of squash and at least 75 litres of water on the rings due to the fabulous weather that should get a mention.

Ice Cream man did well, better than our coffee man Grant.

Sponsored Trophies - Teams 3 x 4, Pairs 6 x 2, First Contact - 3, Agility Club - 6,

Trophies - 1 broken (immediately after I said we had none broken) 2 spares used.

We ordered 150 trophies from plus 6 spares.

## Wallingford Show - some facts & figures...

This was one of our best shows, and before I offer a few facts and figures, I'd like to thank EVERYONE who helped throughout the show. From the first meeting when the Show Committee decided what classes to offer, to the time the last results and unclaimed rosettes were issued and lost property claimed - and the last of the boxes stored away in various lofts and garages, there was so much that needed to be done.

Deciding the classes (second-guessing just how many will enter the show), agreeing and publishing the schedule, booking (for example) the K.C. licence, insurance, venue, judges, equipment, rosettes, trophies, timing equipment, skips, marquee, the ring party refreshments, food vans, trade stands, the judges' food and presents, tannoy, walkie-talkies, etc. Volunteer helpers were allocated to rings and a spreadsheet completed and returned to Agility Aid. Classes and judges had to be allocated to rings, measurers had to be booked and handlers requiring their dogs to be measured had to be booked in. Then there is the dreaded marking-up of the caravan pitches - 240 pitches - 960 'L' marks sprayed onto each corner - and lots of backache the following day. Over 70 pegs to reserve camping & trade stands were made - and hammered into the hard ground. Buying the food and other consumables, filling the ring boxes with food & drinks & paperwork, setting up the rings, putting up the scoring tents, putting out signage and parking caravans and cars. Ensuring the loos have toilet paper & soap throughout the weekend, and manning the tannoy, responding to queries, presenting rosettes and trophies, ensuring ring parties got their lunch & judges got their presents & expenses...

Then after the show (when everyone else has made a swift exit home), collecting all the bin bags of pooh! taking down the scoring tents, helping to load the equipment back on the lorry, sending off the results and paying

everyone etc... Then the treasurer has to complete the show accounts and we see if we have made a profit!

Over the 2 days we had 18 rings with 20 judges and 65 classes. There were 16 trade stands, 240 camping units and 330 offers of help. Over 70 black bags were put out and collected - that's a lot of shit! *Jacky I'm shocked, such language! Mick.* The split of dogs across the grades and heights was:

| Grade | Small | Medium | Large |
|-------|-------|--------|-------|
| 1     | 60    | 36     | 278   |
| 2     | 13    | 17     | 137   |
| 3     | 110   | 67     | 532   |
| 4     | 33    | 22     | 156   |
| 5     | 34    | 14     | 125   |
| 6     | 44    | 49     | 198   |
| 7     | 30    | 17     | 58    |

1027 handlers ran 2,044 dogs in 7,100 separate class entries. 183 trophies were handed out, 671 placed rosettes were awarded (and all but 24 were collected at the weekend) and 401 clear round rosettes were collected from the marquee. Only the one trophy was broken (we order extras) - and this was immediately after Jo announced cheerfully that no trophies had been broken!

The weather was absolutely brilliant (the ice cream vendor did better than the coffee trade stand) and there were no major incidents or problems- just what we want!. This was a brilliant show - and there were lots of exhausted members at the end of Sunday. **Thanks to everyone, Jacky.**

### More bits of show trivia for you;

I would think we marked over 200 camping pitches which at 4 per unit is between 800-1,000 little L shapes of paint on the ground and half a dozen people bent double the next day.

Then there were the rings measured and marked out, roped, signed and set out!

## A few photos from the show.....



.....through Pam's lens.



I think this one above would make a great caption competition photo!



## Family Reunion

We managed a puppy reunion during the bustle of the show on the Saturday. Six of the pups made a visit to the show, but we only managed to get 4 of them together for the photo opportunity. Tyke (on the right) has been chosen as a 'front cover' pup for a new puppy training manual being written!

The family of Toby (on the left) were making their first visit to an agility show and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. They (the family and Toby!) were fascinated by the activities and watched Ring 9 for a good period of time. The rest of the pups took being around the show rings in their stride and all appeared to be thoroughly enjoying themselves - watch out next June when they will all be ready (hopefully!) to 'come out!'



Rockett won her first placed rosette at an official show by achieving a 6th place in the G1-2 pairs, alongside Foxy and Sarah who also train with Rosemary. Aileen.

### Even more show trivia;

I would not like to begin to think how far we walked around the rings over the weekend but a trip round them all to visit each ring tent would be at least a quarter of kilometre each time -I'll stop there as feet getting sore thinking about it!



## A brief spell in G3 for Wendy and Bambi!

After winning out of Grade 2 at Chippenham last month, Wendy & Bambi continued with their good form at our show by winning their first Grade 3 entry in Medium Agility (winning out to Grade 4) and later finishing 1st in Medium Jumping. The following day she finished 2nd in Jumping and 7th in Agility (5 faults) and clear rounds in both her Pairs and Team dash entries.

Some achievement, with Wendy being rewarded by her club-mates with a 'yummy' cake. Attached photo is of Bambi with her Wallingford trophies & Rosettes. Pete.



### Wendy's view on the achievement.

Bambi and I had our first grade 3 show and won the first class which was agility then also the jumping too (the horrible one with three consecutive wrong end of tunnels). Also got a second in G3 jumping on the Sunday and came 7th in agility with 5 faults (my fault). We also had two clears the pairs and team so only dropped the 5 faults all weekend, I was dead chuffed! Grade 4 sounds a bit scary though as in mediums its often 4-7's. Can I say a huge thanks to Rosemary Tappin and Anthony Clarke who have helped us enormously over the last year and given me a little more confidence in my handling!

Tatti found it all a little overwhelming in

grade 3 and didn't want to weave at all but did have a clear in the pairs and I saw so much promise when she did run. I didn't help when I trod on her in the last round!!! We are now back in our bonding campaign and trying to make the weaves the best thing in the World!

Thanks to everyone for the cake, it was a really lovely touch! It had 'Congratulations to Wendy and Bambi' for those who didn't see it!) Wendy.



### Bambi's secret tonic?

I can't help wondering whether Bambi's Trophy winning performances at our 2010 show was her way of saying sorry, as 2 days earlier she had completely crunched up my hearing-aid ' and before you ask, No it was not in my ear at the time! My specialist tells me that dogs are a hearing-aids biggest predator - not a lot of people know that.

Pete

The Show Committee will be meeting soon to review how the show went and highlight anything we might improve next time - and we'd like to hear from ANYONE with any suggestions.

Please email Jacky or talk to any of the show committee. They were the members looking particularly frazzled before the show - and relieved, happy and exhausted afterwards!

Jacky

## Feedback - from our show

### *First from the Agility Addicts Forum*

Great show Jacky, well done everyone.

Lovely show, Jackie - and thank you for the sun! Let's hope it sets a precedent for the whole summer. I had a lovely time scoring on ring 6 on Saturday and helping out as promised on rings 5 and 7 on Sunday. Looking forward to next year. PS - thanks for the great camping, too!

As a first time ring manager I would like to say thank you to all the ring party members on Ring 3 on Saturday. You were all brilliant. A Big Thank You. Wallingford as a club were very supportive and nothing was too much trouble. I think the ring number signs are a great idea because you could tell where each ring was immediately. This is such a good idea I don't know why it isn't used more often particularly at big shows.

The results sheets outside the tent was another great but simple idea. The tannoy announcements were clear and informative.

All in all a great success.

Lovely show, Jacky - thank you for the sun sun sun! Let's hope it sets a precedent for the whole summer. I had a lovely time scoring on ring 6 on Saturday and helping out as promised on rings 5 and 7 on Sunday. Looking forward to next year.

Thank you Jacky and your team! It was a lovely show and the sunshine just made it the most lovely weekend ever! The organisation was superb. And thank you Ruth - I did manage to use my scriming skills for a while on Ring 5! I would like to thank Wallingford for a really nice show and lovely trophies - I was lucky enough to take one home today. Well done.

I had a great time judging & was very well looked after. Hope to see you next year.

Yes, we had a great time yesterday well done to the organisers especially for remembering to order the sun.

A great show - and brilliant organisation.

Superb trophies, rosettes, lots of great courses, and phew! it was really hot.

Lovely show, loved how the board was up on the show secs tent with the list of classes being walked, run, closed, presented, great idea :) and also the results up if you wanted to have a look without going in the tent.

Absolutely excellent that board, the results being so easily available too.

Certainly one of the most relaxed shows I've ever been to at Newbury. Well done, Wallingford - though maybe you turned the thermostat up just a tad too much....

### *And from the Comments Book*

Judges' food excellent - nice choice.

Master copy of ring procedures attached to the outside of the secretary's tent is really efficient and clear to use. Thanks.

Best organised show of the year! Great to judge here - everything runs so smoothly.

This show is just so well organised it is amazing. Ring Managers and ring parties are extra friendly, it is brilliant to see.

Very well organised show - very impressed. Helpful as well.

Very good, well-run show. Tannoy announcements were brilliant - it enabled me to run several dogs easily. Nice clear round rosettes.

Good, clear, pleasant tannoy announcements. Well organised secretaries tent. Excellent update board and results display. Average ring party lunches!. Staggered lunch meant difficult for ring parties to have a break.

Brilliant show - so relaxed & well run.

Lovely, well-run show. Always soap, hand towels & toilet rolls in the toilets - well done.

Fantastic show - best one I've been to for a long time.

**The only negative comments -**

Average ring party lunches!.

Staggered lunch meant difficult for ring parties to have a break.