

Watchdog!

WALLINGFORD DOG TRAINING CLUB

Agility news

July 2010

Wallingford has two teams in Team Dash Finals!



Agility news

I don't think there is any doubt as to the headline story for this edition! It has to be the fact that Wallingford teams finished 1st and 3rd in the Golden Valley Team Dash competition in June. To have one team go clear is good, but to have two teams clear and placed so well is fantastic. So well done to **Kevin & Fell, Sophie & Jinx, Carolyn & Jazz, Gill & Tess** for their **1st** place, a winning margin of 4 seconds, and qualifying for the National final in August. Well Donees too to **Gillian & Fly, Aileen & Rocket, Sophie & Chase and Annette & Roxy** who took **3rd** place in the competition, and are in with a chance of being invited to the final at the Dashing Dogs show in August. On the cover is a photo of the victorious team members, it must have made Kevin's day being sandwiched between 6 ladies!

Other notable results:

There are quite a few boasts worthy of mention since our show. Here are the top places that I know of:

WBSDS 24th - 25th April

Sat 24th

Gill & Bertie **2nd** agility medium G1

Sun 25th

Louise & Spangle **1st** medium Grade 4 agility

Louise & Izzy **1st** Medium G 3 Jumping

Wendy & Bambi **2nd** Medium G3 Jumping

Wallingford 1 & 2, Great result.

Patenden UKA 24th-25th April

Sat 24th

Jose & Pera **2nd** Agility Novice

Jose & Pera **1st** Beginners Jumping

Now in Novice

Sun 25th

Jose & Pera **2nd** Novice Jumping

GT agility UKA 1st May

Wendy & Bambi **1st** Senior Midi Jumping

Wendy & Bambi **2nd** Senior Midi Gamblers

Wendy & Bambi **3rd** Senior Midi Agility

Vyne A.C. 3rd May

Jose & Pera **1st** Jumping G 2-3

Jersey Agility Festival, 1st-3rd May

Annette & Roxy **1st** G3-7 Jumping

HJ UKA Agility, Witney 8/9th May Sunday

Aileen & Rockett **1st** Beginners Agility only clear round! Puts them into Novice!

Aileen & Rockett **1st** Beginner Steeplechase

Aileen & Rockett **2nd** Beginners Gamblers

Tanya & Dollar **4th** Beginners Agility 5F in 29 secs, won in 44 secs, so close!! Not a top 3 but an honourable mention in despatches.

Annette & Roxy **1st** Senior St'plechase Std

Annette & Roxy **2nd** Senior Agility Std

Gill & Chi **3rd** Champ Jumping

Saturday

Aileen & Rockett **1st** Beginners Snooker

Aileen & Rockett **4th** Beginners St'plechase

Dinah & Cinders **1st** Beginners Midi Jumping

Dinah & Cinders **2nd** Novice Midi S/chase

Dinah & Cinders **2nd** Beginners Midi Snooker

Dinah & Cinders **2nd** Beginners Midi Agility

Jose & Pera **2nd** Novice Agility Toy

Jose & Pera **3rd** Novice Jumping Toy -

Qualified Performance Challenge Heat in July

SWAT 29 May

Kevin & Fell **1st** Grade 4 Jumping

Quadpaws 29 May - 4 June

Monday

Gill & Chi **3rd** Champ jumping std

Tuesday

Gill & Tess **2nd** Senior Jumping

Wednesday

Gillian & Berry **2nd** Nov Steeplechase

Gillian & Berry **3rd** Nov Jumping

Gillian & Fly **1st** Nov Snooker

Gill & Tess **2nd** Senior steeplechase

Agility news

CONTINUED

Thursday

Wendy & Bambi **2nd** Midi Senior Jumping
Wendy & Bambi **2nd** Midi Senior St'plechase
Wendy & Bambi **2nd** Midi Senior St'plechase
Wendy & Bambi **3rd** Midi Senior Agility

Wye Vally 5-6th June

We had a team with 4 clear runs but unplaced
Some good runs over the weekend but no top 3
places to boast about..

UKA Spring 5-6th June

Sat

Tanya & Dollar **4th** CSJ Beginners Agility
with 5 faults. 1 pole again. I can almost touch
that red rosette!! So close again.

Wendy & Bambi **1st** Midi sen. steeplechase
Wendy & Bambi **1st** Midi senior steeplechase
Wendy & Bambi **1st** CSJ Senior agility
Wendy & Bambi **2nd** Midi Senior Jumping
Wendy & Bambi + Virginia Harry & Zoey, **1st**
special pairs jumping

Sun

Wendy & Bambi **1st** Midi Senior Agility
Wendy & Bambi **1st** Midi Senior Jumping
Wendy & Bambi **1st** Senior Steeplechase
Wallingford Whippersnappers - Bertie, Bambi & Bronwen
3rd with 3 clear runs in the Norton Steeple-
chase Team (qualified!)

Thames 12-13th June

Sat

Ian & Stig **5th** Champ Agility
Wendy & Bambi **3rd** Med Grade 4 Agility

Sun

Wendy & Bambi **3rd** C3-5 Jumping
Dinah & Cinders **3rd** Medium Grade 1 Agility

Golden Valley 19-20th June

Sat

Gillian & Berry **3rd** G1-3 Agility

Sun

Team Dash teams already mentioned.
Ian was broken so Anthony Clark ran Stig -
Ant & Stig **1st** G5-7 Jumping
Ant & Stig **2nd** G6-7 Jumping

GT UKA Sun 27th June

Wendy & Bambi **1st** Midi Senior Agility
Wendy & Bambi **1st** Midi Senior Jumping
Dinah & Cinders **3rd** Midi Beginners Agility

GT UKA Sat 26th June

Wendy & Bambi **1st** Midi Champ S?chase
Wendy & Bambi **1st** Midi Senior Gamblers
Wendy & Bambi **1st** Midi Senior Agility

Lansdown

Sat 26th June

Pera & Jose **3rd** Jumping

Sunday 27th

Pera & Jose **1st** Jumping 63 Dogs

As you can see Wallingford members
have been doing well, and if you take a look on
the Boasts 2010 page of the Wallingford
Wiki website you will see that there are a lot
of good runs claimed which didn't quite make
the top 3 listing. Even some Clear Rounds are
worthy of mention, like Aileen's old boy Zac,
who is still enjoying his Anysize runs. Tanya is
getting close with her ballistic missile aka
Dollar, a very fast dog who will bring home
the trophies once he learns to retract his
undercarriage fully.

[Advert from the Atlanta Journal.](#)

Single Black female seeks male
companionship, ethnicity unimportant. I'm a
very good girl who LOVES to play. I love long
walks in the woods, riding in your pickup
truck, hunting, camping and fishing trips, cozy
winter nights lying by the fire. Candlelight
dinners will have me eating out of your hand.
I'll be at the front door when you get home
from work, wearing only what nature gave
me... Call (404) 875-6420 (404) 875-6420
and ask for Annie, I'll be waiting.....
See page 8 of this Watchdog.

Agility news

CONTINUED

Not 1 ...not 2....but 3 teams Qualified for National finals! By Jill Lowe.

First at the UKA show at Mapledurham the Wallingford Whippersnappers won the heat of the Norton Rosettes Team Steeplechase. Then at the Golden Valley show the Wallingford Flyers won the Team Dash heat with the Wallingford Rocketts also qualifying in 3rd place.

The UKA Team Steeplechase final is at the Waverunners show in Cheltenham on 25th September where the following will run;

Wallingford Whippersnappers

Wendy & Bambi,
Gill R & Bertie &
Jo & Bronwen
Reserves Dinah & Cinders & Annette & Roxy.

The Team Dash final is at the Dashin' Dogs show on Sunday 22 August. After many discussions & emails with the organiser of the Dash to sort out acceptable replacements for Sophie, who having qualified in both teams, will be on holiday when the final takes place the final, the following teams will run:

Wallingford Flyers

Carolyn & Jazz
Gill & Tess
Kevin & Fell
Jacky with one of her dogs will replace
Sophie & Jinx

Wallingford Rocketts

Annette & Roxy
Aileen & Rockett
Gillian & Fly
Jo & Bronwen stand in for Sophie & Chase

Well done to all of you and good luck in the finals. Jill Lowe - Teams Co-ordinator

31st May Harwell Feast 2010

Agility Demo, Fun Dog Show and Flyball Demo

What a wonderful day we had at Harwell Feast, great atmosphere, nice sunny day and free pig roast. This was attended by many club members with lots of spectators to watch us. The fun Dog Show was judged by our very own Pam Hancock. making £80 for Dogs Trust and we gave £60 to Many Tears from our Agility Demo.

We had a circular Knock out which was great fun and was won by Sue and Gimli knocking out my little Pera.

Thank you all for coming this was by far the best Feast we ever had. Jose.



The young and not so young members of Wallingford Dog Training Club at Harwell.



GioGio and Fuzzy, one of the Many Tears Rescue dogs now with WDTTC members

Agility news

CONTINUED

Dave Bossom.

On May 27th Dave Bossom took a tumble in training injuring his hand. This was the reply from Caroline when asked how Dave was.

Hi

Thanks for asking

Got home from accident & emergency at around 2.30am!!!!!! Two broken bones in his hand, the bones in his hand at the bottom of the middle and ring fingers metacarpals. It is now in plaster and held up in a sling, He can't drive so I am back being a Taxi, Will be going to hand clinic on Tuesday to check if the break has moved as it is an unstable break.

They will then decide if it needs an op or not and put it in a new full plaster!!!!

No one warned us that this was a dangerous sport!!!!!!

See you Thursday

Caroline and Dave

I asked Dave how he was coping a few weeks later;

Hi.

How is the hand Dave? Are you able to do any housework yet? Mick.

Hi Mick. I have learnt to do a lot of things with my left hand over the last 4 weeks -including those personal things one takes for granted to do with your right hand.

The cast came off on Tuesday - now in a splint with exercises to do to get the fingers and hand moving again . Soon be fighting fit again. Dave.

I'm sure we all wish Dave a full recovery from this sports injury, don't think anything can be worse than not being able to hold your drink in the right (correct) hand! Mick.

Whilst on the subject of injuries etc I hear that Aileen's old boy Zak had not been too well. Here's a message from Aileen about Zac.

Thank you all for your support over the last few days. I am pleased to announce that Zak has returned home today - with tablets to take! - bright if somewhat thinner. He has been greeted by Rockett and Oz (although Oz has now had to go back in his crate to give Zak some space!) It is Addison's and that is treatable. It was a very close shave and all your kindness on Sunday was much appreciated. Zak will now be monitored - closely for the next little while to make sure the dose is right and then every 3 months after that. It is so good to see him on the sofa again.
Aileen

I had heard that Zak is on the road to enjoying a full life again, which is good to hear as he was getting back into his agility with the Anysize classes.

Helpers at Agility Shows.

If you read any of the online Forums one topic which raises it's head on a regular basis is that of helpers at shows, who does, who doesn't and the whys and wherefores relating to this quite emotive subject. I think, judging by our show this year that were lucky. As a Ring Manager for both days I had no shortage of help. We like to instill the help ethic in our members, and get them young too as shown below. This is Jamie, now fully trained as a pole picker, his name is on the helpers list for the 2011 show.



Flyball news

The season started on Good Friday with a Starters team travelling to Stockbridge in the rain. But after 3 hr hanging about in the wet the show was cancelled! So was the BFA (British Flyball Ass.) tournament to be held on the next 2 days! So a very damp Squib!

In our next tournament (BFA) the Knight-mares ran near Abingdon. With 2 large dogs out of action due to illness and injury, we had only 1 large dog, Lucy, and 3 small ones, Pera, Bertie and Flicker. We weren't helped by being the bottom seed in our Division. The dogs ran well on the whole, but there were a few dropped balls and early changes and a fastest time of only 24.03 sec, which meant that we lost most races, remaining at the bottom of our div. But we had got the first run of the season out of the way and are determined to correct the errors and do better in future.

The Knight-mares ran again a week later at Newbury showground on a cold but dry day. This time we had a fast large dog, Jade, instead of Pera. There were a few mistakes so we lost some legs, but won all our races, coming 1st in our div, with a fastest time of 21.88 sec.

Both at Abingdon and Newbury we had a new box loader, our young trainer, Liam. He made a few mistakes in the first tournament but learned from it to do a very good job in the second. He continued as box loader for our next tournament, Starters at Padworth, near Reading, on a warm, sunny day in late May. Our Starters team. Lily with Denise, Marmite with Paul and Lucy, Alfie with Vonda and Belle with Maria didn't start too well - not surprising as they had no tournament experience - but improved, especially when we changed the running order, to run with no mistakes in their last 3 races. They won one race and lost 4 in a best time of 29.45 sec. Since then, all the starter dogs have been promoted to train with the team dogs and all are getting faster and more used to tournament conditions with no



Flyball news

CONTINUED

netting. I hope all these dogs will eventually progress into a B.F.A. team. As 3 of them are large, they should help us to run at least 2 large dogs in every team in future.

Six of our dogs also ran in a demo at Harwell Feast with the Agility section. We attracted a large crowd who seemed to enjoy watching. We ran 1 starters team, a more experienced team and then all of the dogs together! All the dogs ran well and were not at all fazed by all the people watching.

Our dogs and teams train on Tues evenings 6.30pm, weather permitting, at Harwell Rec. We are always happy to hear from interested handlers and will give their dogs a free trial. Flyball is a team sport and is a lot of fun regardless of how fast your team is. In tournaments, the teams are grouped in divisions by speed so that a team is always running against others of similar competence. This means the racing is often very close and may depend on how few mistakes a team makes! If you are interesting in having a go at flyball then please contact Gill Rhodes (Flyball Rep.) gill.rhodes@hagbourne.oxon.sch.uk
Luce Green, Team Captain

Latest Foster, Izzy - 5yr old JRT

Izzy is my latest foster from Hope Rescue, she arrived mid March. She is a 5 yr old JRT who was kept by the same owners for 5 years then surrendered to Hope Rescue as they no longer wanted her. Initially she was a very nervous little girl who was terrified of Bertie (my JRT). The first few weeks she spent a lot of time in her crate and would

growl if we approached her in or out the crate. She was very nervous on walks, jumping when a twig cracked and terrified when dogs approached us. I don't think she had been on a walk for some time and was overweight and very unfit.

I thought she would never be suitable for re-homing. Three months later and she is showing great progress. Izzy now enjoys her walks and is getting braver with the dogs she meets regularly. Izzy now runs up to people we meet on walks and greets them enthusiastically, she loves to be made a fuss of. Izzy is much fitter and loves to play ball, ride in the car and being chased, but only by people. She gets nervous if dogs wants to play, but she is totally submissive and never aggressive to other dogs. Izzy still has a few problems, especially when food is around, but these are easily handled and should improve with time and patience. She still sometimes gets nervous in the house when handled and growls, but if I talk to her enthusiastically she understands I am being friendly and calms down. She has started barking at other dogs but just needs lots more socialising. Izzy is now looking for



her forever home. More pictures and info under dogs for their forum, the re-homing thread on www.hoperescue.org.uk

Please contact me if you are interested in meeting her, even better still if you can help her to socialise with other dogs.

Gill Rhodes



[URGENT Foster appeal -Please help](#)

Hope rescue are urgently looking for fosters for dogs. Please look at their website: <http://hope-rescue.proboards.com/index.cgi?board=11>

Hope Rescue are based mainly in South Wales but with fosters all over the UK. They work mainly with Newport pound and other pounds in the South Wales locality to ensure all unclaimed 'poundies' find their 'forever home'. They do this by finding spaces at rescues, using their own emergency kennels and by finding people to foster dogs before they are re-homed. At the moment their emergency kennels are full and all current fosterers are full too. The job of the foster family is to assess the dog to make sure that the next home it goes to will be well suited for that dog. I have been fostering dogs for over a year now and rehomed 4 lovely dogs that

might otherwise have been put to sleep. It is very rewarding and Hope Rescue are very supportive to all fosters and all vets bills are paid. Please look at the website above to apply or email me if you want have any questions about being a fosterer. All foster homes will be home checked.

Gill Rhodes

gill.rhodes@hagbourne.oxon.sch.uk

Remember the 'Single Black Female' advert on page 3? Well here she is. Over 150 men found themselves talking to the Atlanta Humane Society!!!



I haven't a clue who this little Jack Russell Terrorist is but he/she fills this empty bit nicely!

Agility - report from the Kennel Club Agility Liaison Council Meeting held on 17 June 2010.

The Kennel Club Agility Liaison Council comprises representatives from across the UK who liaise with clubs in their area to get input on matters relating to agility. This Council has just met and the minutes from this meeting have been issued to clubs (I will put them on the Wiki). Here is a summary.

One of the many 'custom & practice' grey areas has been agreed - if your dog wears an incorrect collar when competing at a KC show - you will be eliminated. Incorrect collar being anything with 'dangly bits'. Though just recently on the Agility Forum there was a case of someone being eliminated because the dog was wearing a collar with studs. Of course we don't know how big the studs were - but it seems that there may still be some confusion in this area.

The proposed 'agility control test' caused much discussion when it was first mooted - but 'due to lack of support this item would no longer be pursued'. Thank goodness for that! I hate it when after a tiny minority in any discipline/group/organisation breaks rules - extra rules are brought in for everyone rather than dealing effectively with the few transgressors.

There seems to be a strong push to get an approved 'Code of Conduct' which we will all sign up to when we compete to KC shows. There are apparently more 'incidents' at KC agility shows than at other KC shows (obedience, breed etc). The Council supports a general handler code of conduct to emphasise the need for consideration and respect for other handlers and their dogs. There is a second draft of this proposed code, which will be discussed at the meeting in January 2011 - at which a recommendation will be made. It was emphasised that the code of conduct is not a set of rules - but would be a set of guidelines. Please see the Wiki for the new version (I will bring a copy to post on the board on Thursday).

The response to a request for more measurers had been greater than expected and successful applicants would be informed. There was also a recommendation for an increase in the measuring 'fee' to £4 from £2. This won't be popular, but is being made because new measurers will be expected to buy their own equipment (around £100) and this would enable them to recoup the cost more quickly.

There was obviously a long discussion on how non-Kennel Club clubs could be encouraged to move under the KC umbrella. Wallingford DCT has always been a KC club - and as such we need to run the club under certain rules. The committee structure and minimum number of committee meetings are regulated, and we have to report back to the KC annually. On the 'plus' side we are able to run KC shows (but have to pay for the license) and we can enter teams for the KC-run tournaments with finals at Crufts. It was agreed that 'further thought was required' and the topic would be discussed at the meeting in January 2011.

On the topic of the standard of judging, the minutes read 'A discussion was held over the standard of judging, with some members of the Council expressing concern that it may have worsened since judging training was introduced'. This mainly seemed to be that new judges were setting courses that did not reflect the standard of the grade.

The Council discussed how they might encourage more clubs to take on running Championship classes - with some complaints about some existing championship shows are being held on poor ground.

The grading structure review will take place under the guidance of a working party of

three volunteers: John Gilbert, Pauline Baltus and Richard Jordan. Competitors will be encouraged to contribute before the meeting in June 2011 when it will be discussed.

Three proposed changes to equipment (to remove the pause box and table, and have a minimum pipe tunnel length) were not supported. Other items briefly discussed included compulsory helping at shows (rejected), the poor sportsmanship of handlers with early running orders who run at the end of a class, and a suggestion that all shows should have a vet or vet nurse on site (to be discussed in January 2011).

Jacky Hutchinson (with Ian's approval!)

Still life in the old dog yet!

For about 18 months I had been promising Jacky that I would do a piece about Bryn, it was originally going to be a celebration of his 10 years of competing in agility. Twelve months after thinking that we might be in Anysize/Veteran classes in 2010 we are still running with the pack.

I am constantly amazed by the reactions I get from people when I tell them that Bryn is 12 years old. Most find it hard to believe something I take for granted. He is a fit and healthy boy; OK he has a bit of arthritis but who doesn't at his age? (86 in dog years). Since he turned 10 I have wondered if each year will be his last competing over full height, but he still has his love and drive to do agility. Are we just lucky or have I done right by him enabling him to remain fit?

In just over 12 years he has had one major injury, ripping a toe out on the dog walk. I also think that as we only do around 15-18 show days a year and train once a week that we have not over done things. Maybe this will be his last year, but then again I could be running a teenage dog next year! So, how did we get to this point in our agility career? Well if you are sitting comfortably I'll begin. Older readers may remember that catch phrase from the days of black and white TV.

Back in 1997 after visits to several dog related events we decided we were ready for a dog. Although there was a dog in the house when I was born and two when I left to marry Lorraine, I had not actually owned a dog, and neither had Lorraine. A copy of Dogs Today had an advert with a local number, and a phone call lead to an invite to view their one week old litter. Later that day we were introduced to Lisa Jeffery's Rosie Rocket and her litter of pups. I'm not sure how they did it but Lorraine and Chris fell for a plain black and white boy who was even then called Bryn. First born and emerging tail first, this boy was to turn into the spotty faced dog he is now; these arrived in week 5, see photo below, and yes it's Chris!



Simon Peachey & Bryn's dad Mr Moss - 1998

Still life in the old dog yet! Cont.

It was a few months later that we joined the club and Chris did the KCGC Bronze Award with Bryn, before getting an invite from Chris Kurzfeld to start agility training at 11 months of age. The start of our agility career where we progressed through the levels in training from Beginners to Group 3. The progression through the competition grades came in due course after a few stuttering starts. I think the biggest obstacle was me, short of confidence and a little self conscious in the ring.

Once we got the hang of it though we were soon flying round, the potential was evident, often the fastest time but a pole down or a missed contact. We did finally click at the Aylesbury Limited Show in 2001, a winning clear round in Starters Agility. Progress was slow but positive, good times but with the odd pole or contact, but I was getting frustrated, I wanted out of Starters.

We did well in Limited Shows, winning several classes, but not when it counted. That day was not too far away though as we won Starters Jumping at our own show and with Ian judging! Strangely it was our first clear round in an Open Class. The next show illustrated what a bit of confidence from a win can do. Packington had 8 classes for Bryn, 5 for me and Chris doing 3. The day ended with 2 firsts in the Starters classes, 4th in Novice Agility and 11th in Novice Jumping, and Chris getting Bryn round a Helter Skelter. A few more confidence boosting shows with wins and good places followed.

In the meantime we had a new addition to the family, a blue merle collie we called Fly, and supposedly my second agility dog but he became Chris' first. The pair have done well, representing Wales twice at the KC International and the 2008 Crufts Novice Cup final, and we now compete against each other at Grade 6. I am proud of what Chris has achieved; it wasn't easy in the early days as Fly was constantly herding and nipping Chris. A good day then was no ripped clothing and no bloodshed!



In 2005 came one of the better days, at the Wye Valley Show in Monmouth. This was our first camping venue and is still our favourite due to its location. Of course this particular show added to that favourite tag. Although by lunchtime on the Saturday there was no hint of any success after Bryn had taken a dislike to tunnels in one class. The afternoon session started with Intermediate Agility Part 2. I had walked Part 1 and

thought it a fairly simple course, but I have been caught out before with courses like that! Maybe my first instinct was correct because we won the class, and to ice the cake it was the best run over both parts gaining us the Intermediate Shield, previously won by the likes of Steve Paterson (twice winner and then current holder), and Sarah Jane Davies, a three times winner, illustrious company indeed. I also claimed second place in the Novice Agility, and upset the winner by easing back over the finish to avoid Bryn taking a pole. We lost first place by 0.001 seconds and the Winner would have preferred to swap places.

Since that show we have had limited success and the highs and lows have fluctuated, no consistency! There have been some good shows and when we have had a modicum of success it has tasted sweet, like beating Chris and Fly in a class at Wye Valley. 2009 was a good

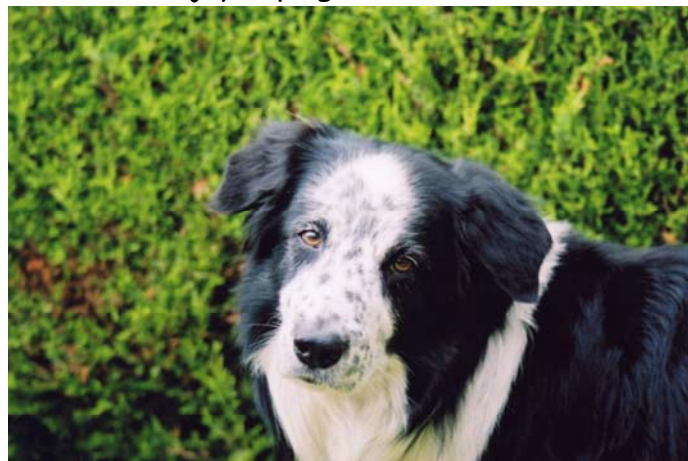
Still life in the old dog yet! Cont.

year. We had 3 x 8th places, individual, pairs and team, how about that for coincidence? It wasn't the places though that made it a good year. It was the fact that we had low expectations and often exceeded them. The aim was to enjoy the classes and to bring home an average of one rosette per day of competition, which we achieved. Happy days.

2010 started with us being presented the 'Best Veteran Award' at the club's AGM, nice start to the year. This was quickly followed by our first UKA show on Bryn's 12th birthday, 2 clear rounds and a surprise 4th place made it a Happy Birthday, and to cap it off the organisers had bought Bryn some doggie muffins! That start has continued and we are averaging 2 rosettes per day, can we keep it up? Who knows, but I'm sure we'll enjoy trying.



My favourite photo of Bryn, by Pam.



My mate Bryn.

To close I feel I must put the record straight. Yes we are talking puppy! As much as I would like to have had another dog (or more) I have to be practical. I feel that the decision on another dog should be based on the same ground rules you lay down for the first one. As much as I have enjoyed my agility career with Bryn, once we are done that will be it. Time to move on to new things, or maybe revisit previous good times? I would like to spend more time with Lorraine, something I am sorry to say I have not done much of since I took up agility. It can be an all consuming sport and you can't ebay your dog when you decide to give up the sport. Bryn will be 13 next March, so after this year I will be cutting down on my agility, with no more camping, although Lorraine loved the Wye Valley weekend, and just enjoying what time Bryn and I have left together, maybe just doing local shows. I must thank everyone I have had the pleasure of meeting during the last 12 years since we joined Wallingford Dog Training Club, whether you have trained us, trained with us or just encouraged us, you have all become friends. Thank You, Mick.

Parish Notice Board.

One point I have been asked to make several times is the subject of putting out and putting away the equipment. Those on the 8:00pm start should arrive as close as possible to 7:30 to put the equipment out, let's face it the quicker it is set up the earlier you can start. But do remember to check with your trainer before dashing off to get your dog. At the other end of the scale we all want to get away and home to bed so the quicker it is put away the quicker you can snuggle down in your bed with your preferred end of day cuppa.

I am planning to round off the main agility season with a Watchdog towards the end of September. If you would like to contribute or offer suggestions I will be happy to receive them from you at mick.chambers@btinternet.com. Photos as separate attachments please.