



OUR POST

Official Newsletter of Thames Dog Training Club New Year 2009

From the Chair

Well? Where did that year go to? It only seems like the other day that I wished everyone good luck for 2008! It must be an “age thing” – as we get older, the faster the years fly past. Being a mere spring chicken myself, I will ask some of our more “senior” members if this is indeed the case!

Alan Smith and Chase, Jenny Lovegrove and Deke and Natasha Wise with Maddie flew the Thames flag Novice and Senior Finals respectively at Olympia this year. Congratulations to you both on getting there. It was fabulous to see Alan on the TV in the evening finals, going like a rocket..... until the see-saw!! I blame Mary Ray for her commentators curse!!

The Winter league this year started well for us, but as in previous years we are flagging at the end. We can still do it, but need a small miracle if we are to win it once again. I have written to the organising Committee asking for all of Cranbourne’s handlers and dogs to be drugs tested this year!! They are doing FAR too well!

Sadly, just before Christmas, we were told of the devastating news that Mr Wetherall had passed away. Terence Wetherall had been a member of the Thames Dog Training Club since 1987. He was passionate about it and loved it dearly. He regularly gave large donations to our “Land Fund”. Both he and I shared a dream, and that is to have a permanent home that we can call our own. I still believe we will, one day. I know A.G.M. will not be the same without him, and I am sure my predecessors will agree with me there. I have asked Margaret Yerby to do an obituary for him, and that follows this report. Echoing Margaret’s final words about Terence, “A man who will be remembered for a long time and be sadly missed by all.” Thank you, Dear Friend, for all you did for us.

Finally, as this is the last newsletter before our A.G.M. on the 23rd February, can I please take this opportunity to publicly thank all the Committee and Trainers for all their hard work throughout the year. Without you we would not have the Club we have now, and enjoy the successes we have throughout the year in all the disciplines. We, the Committee, retire each year at the A.G.M. and seek re-election; two of the Committee have asked not to be re-elected and they are Graham and Gemma Tappin. Thank you both for all your hard work over your time in the Committee. You both leave large boots to fill for whosoever takes on your tasks next year.

Thank you all for another great year with Thames. I make no apologies for sounding like a broken record when I say, It does make me immensely proud to be Chairman of a Club that is "Simply the Best". All the Very best and many successes for 2009.

Andrew

In Memoriam

Terence Valancey Maule Wetherall 1920-2008

My vivid memory of Mr. Wetherall will always be of his dog Blackie arriving for his class with a large shopping bag over his head . Blackie a lovely black Labrador was not too good with other dogs so in order to keep the peace the shopping bag did the trick. Once in, he seemed to settle down. Helen and I always chatted to Mr Wetherall and I think Helen looked on him as a grandfather figure, this was back in 1987. We have always kept in touch.

He has always supported the club, the Blackie Cup is still awarded each year and his presence will be greatly missed at the AGM. He was very supportive of the club's ongoing struggle to acquire a permanent home. Lydia his granddaughter has just completed her puppy class with Steve keeping up the family tradition - without the need for a shopping bag!

Mr Wetherall was born close to Maidenhead and I believe went to school locally. His parents, father an army major and mother an actress. He spent the last war in the Burma jungle his safe return being testament for his character and determination. After the war he qualified as a Chartered Surveyor working for the electricity board all his working life. He spent his married life in Maidenhead with Maria, he leaves a son and daughter and four grandchildren.

A true gentleman always standing at your approach, smiling, respectful and interested in events. Just before Helen's wedding in August, we met Maria and Mr Wetherall in Maidenhead, he was sitting having his cup of tea and toasted tea cake. He was wearing a brightly coloured waistcoat, on which we commented and said how handsome it made him look. He was so cheerful and pleased to chat and catch up on events.

Sadly his health deteriorated and he died at home on December 13th. Steve, Helen and I attended his funeral and were privileged to meet his family and join in his farewell. A man who will be remembered for a long time and be sadly missed by all.

Margaret Yerby

"Olympia 2008"

My story starts back in August last year when Jenny Lovegrove and Deke got a brilliant third place in the Olympia Novice Agility Qualifier after a run off (against Mark Wyngate Wynn) at the Burridge show. As the 1st and 2nd placing's had already qualified this meant that it went automatically to 3rd and 4th. The next step was a semi-final at Stoneleigh in September. Jen and I travelled with two other friends early Friday morning to the City of Birmingham show, it was one of the few sunny days last summer and it was just great to bask in the sunshine and watch some really good agility without the stress of having to compete - just relax and eat ice cream!

Once again Jen put in a superb performance both in the warm up and in the semi proper, getting a steady clear round which was all she needed and ending up in 11th place, therefore qualifying for Olympia. You can imagine my delight when I was asked to accompany Jen as her groom, the chance to go behind the scenes, look at all the fit young men in their tight fitting jodphurs (whoops sorry about that - musn't get carried away)!! AND cheer my mate on -magic.

So early on Sunday 21st December 2008 - 6am to be precise - off we all go to London, for once we didn't get lost, only had to ask the way once, to arrive in darkness at the Olympia stadium with the doors and car park shut. It wasn't long before we parked in the nearest space possible, about 3 minutes walk from the main doors which was perfect. So after taking Deke for a little walk we managed to find a cafe open for a much needed cup of coffee, we were set to go and invade the stadium. I think we must have been in the first few people to go in, most of the trade stands were still under wraps.

First job was to locate the meeting point, we then had to go and sign in for our wristbands otherwise we would not be able to access the waiting area, they also allowed us to get in and out of the stadium.

We sat waiting and chatting to all the other handlers and grooms, most of whom we knew well, suddenly we were all being called to the collecting area where 35 very nervous looking handlers and grooms plus dogs followed the agility equipment into the arena.

From then on it was all rush, rush, rush - dogs were handed over to the grooms whilst the competitors walked the course, during which the judge Mr. Graham Partridge was still making final adjustments to his course. If you were really quick you just about had time to walk the course about three times before the first dog was on the starting line.

The course itself was huge with plenty of running especially down the home straight which was nearly the whole length of the arena. Jen and Deke did really well (considering she was suffering a nasty cold) but Deke in his excitement had two poles down which meant they didn't make the pairs in the afternoon or the final in the evening. Never mind, it was a great day out for all of us, we managed to get a spot of the old retail therapy in, plus, watch the rest of the agility which was excellent. Congratulations go to Alan Smith and Chase for qualifying for the final, also Matt Goodliffe and Buddy, and to Kathrin Tasker for winning with her rescue collie.

I'd like to thank Jen for asking me to go as her groom, same again this year please!! It was a great experience, my only gripe was the commentator who insisted on calling the agility "Diggy Dog Time" aaagh, I could have hit him with the seesaw!!

Lin Abbott

PS Thanks Lin for your fantastic support grooming for me and Deke, and to all Thames for their great support and good luck wishes-Jenny and Deke xx

Thames DTC Membership Subscription

The annual club membership subscription becomes due on 1st March 2009. The rates for 2009 will be agreed at the Annual General Meeting on 23rd February, details of the amounts agreed will follow after the meeting. A membership form along with details of the membership types available are attached to this newsletter.

Thames DTC Agility Points

The new agility year is now upon us and the competition for the Thames Agility Points Trophies is underway. If you would like to enter your points, please send your results to Alison Wells by emailing alisonwells@ntlworld.com or completing the form attached at the end of this newsletter and hand to Alison at training.

The results for 2008 will be revealed at the AGM!

Charity Fundraising

A huge thank you and well done to Marion Brocklesby who has raised £590.00 this year for the charity fund. She donated the membership fee she won at the AGM, and has also raised £300.00 and £200.00 by completing sponsored walks. ***Thanks Marion!!***

Christmas & New Year Greetings 2008

It was felt by a number of members that rather than send Christmas Cards to other members of the club, that the Charity Fund could benefit from one huge card! An extremely large card was taken to both agility and obedience, and members were able to send a greeting to their club friends on the card by making a donation to the charity fund. A total of **£135** was raised and a lot less trees destroyed! These were the greetings and wishes on the card.

*To all of Thames Members, wishing you all a very happy xmas and a succesful new year
Pam & Bo*

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year to all Thames members. To all members of my class 'you are my favourites' from Teresa, Barbie & Lou

Best wishes to all Thames members - good luck for 2009. Steve, Taz & Jat.

Happy Christmas to all from John & Summer

To everyone at TDTC, all the best for Christmas & 2009, Liz & Archie

*Happy Christmas to all at Thames, love & best wishes, Jenny & Deke
Very merry xmas to all Thames members, Claire & Bailey*

Happy Christmas & Happy New Year to everyone, Lydia, Alan, Danielle, Hannah & Mutts.

Wishing all Thames members a happy Christmas & a prosperous new year, from Sandra, Chad, Jovi, & CJ

Happy Christmas everyone , Margaret, Eddy, Jasper & Abbie

To all Thames Members, Merry Christmas & Happy New Year love Marie & Bethan

To all Thames members, have a great Christmas Linda & Lexie

Merry Christmas & a very happy 2009 to everyone! Carolyn, Phillip, Lauryn & Copper xxx

To all at Thames, best wishes for Christmas & success in 2009, Marian, Bandit & Tippi

Happy Christmas to everyone at Thames club from Margaret, Jane & dogs

*Happy Christmas to everyone at Thames. Good luck for 2009
Andrew & Carol xx*

Wishing all at Thames a very happy Christmas & New Year. Lynda & Doug

*To all our friends and agility & obedience, wishing you all a merry Christmas and a happy new year,
and lots of success in 2009, Kate & Dave xx*

Happy Xmas to all, from Ava & Jeff

Wishing all at Thames a happy Xmas and a healthy and success full 2009. Enid, John & Janie

A very happy Christmas to all at Thames, Linda Hava & Simba

Very, very, very happy critty to all at Thames, Lu & the Dogz.

Happy Christmas to one & all, Helen & Jim.

Happy Xmas everyone - lots of love from Barbara

Happy Christmas to all, Shirly, Revel, Cassie & Mia.

Happy Christmas to everyone, Norma Crumble & Mia.

Happy Christmas to you all, especially all of you who put up with Amelie! Anthony

Happy Holidays to everyone & thoughts of a healthy 2009 for us and our dogs. Tima & Gotcha

Happy Christmas everybody! Sally & Pete

Happy Ho Ho to all, love Caroline & Eddie

Happy Christmas to all Alison & Andy

Happy Christmas & a successful 2009, lots of love Lin, Hattie & Moz.

Thank you to everyone who donated.

Obedience Christmas Party

Obedience Christmas Party was held on 24th November which was very well attended, we had four teams competing and The Silver Team won Team Leader was John Diplock .

We were joined by our Chairman Andrew Dicker who was our official photographer and our Secretary Ava Holloway who was excellent on the music. The raffle raised £102.00 for the charities fund.

The judge for fancy dress and best trick was our president Pam Albrow. What a difficult task she had, we had so many for the fancy dress which were all wonderful. The winners were in 4th Place Liz and Archie 3rd Place John and Summer 2nd Place Alison and Ming with Chessy, Jelly Baby and Coco and 1st place went to Amanda and Asher and Linda and Hava and the new puppy (sorry dont know the name) who were dressed as shepherds minding the sheep. AAAAAAAAAAH. Best Trick results were 4th place Amanda and Asher 3rd place Linda and Jackson 2nd place Liz and Rocco and 1st place to Marion Brocklesby and Tippi.

The refreshments were made by Norma, and delicious they were too, especially the home made cakes. Steves wife Pat had the enviable job of making the teas and coffees. Thank you to Enid for taking the scores all evening.

Every one had a lovely evening and lots flattering of comments at the end of the night. Made our job worth while.

Sandra Curry and Teresa Davis



QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 28th March 2009

At

Knowl Hill Village Hall

The Terrace, Knowl Hill, RG10 9XB

Time – To be Confirmed



For

Thames Members & 'Friends'

Max 6 per Team.

Come along And Join The Fun

Cost – £5 per person



Any queries contact Alison Wells

either by email on

alisonwells@ntlworld.com

or telephone 07894441156

Dates for your Diary

Agility Inter Club Winter League Match – 7th February

Thames DTC AGM – 23rd February

Agility Club Closed – 26th May, 16th & 23rd June, 18th August, 29th September, 29th December

Agility Diploma Nights – TBC

Agility Show – 13th & 14th June

Obedience Show – 12th September

Agility Inter Club Winter League 2009/2010 10th October 2009, 14th November 2009, 9th January 2010, 6th February 2010

AGILITY INTER-CLUB WINTER LEAGUE 2008/2009

Total Club Points so far:

	Oct	Nov	Jan	Total
Cippenham	247	267	230	744
Thames	247	268	221	736
Vyne	189	181	223	593
Cranbourne	263	249	290	802
Watford	248	229	220	697

Individual Results so far

Handler	Dog	Grade	Oct	Nov	Jan	Total
Norma Summersby	Mia	1	16	40	12	68
Norma Summersby	Crumble	1	17	22	15	54
Lynn Finlay-Maxwell	Spud	5	20	25	8	53
Mark Painter	Ellie	1	13	15	21	49
Lucy Clifton	Pie	5	15	15	15	45
Dave Jolly	Shaun	3	24	10		34

Tima Lund	Gotcha	1	15	14	5	34
Natasha Wise	Dizzy	7		30		30
Virginia Harry	Oz	6	15	14		29
Shirly Fastnedge	Revel	2	17	11	1	29
Alan Smith	Chase	4	14	14		28
Helen Cook	Mitch	7	13		15	28
Daniel Gee	Meg	7	14	13		27
Jim Cook	Digger	4			27	27
Sam Thorne	Fudge	6	12	12		24
Andy Wells	Skye	3		12	6	18
Alison Wells/Connor Braddick	Becky	1		7	11	18
Andrew Dicker	Tag	6			18	18
Sandra Curry	Jovi	1			17	17
Kate Austin	Moss	6			14	14
Virginia Harry	Robert	6		13		13
Anthony Ward	Amerlie	1	12		1	13
Andrew Dicker	JJ	4			12	12
Robert Tappin	Becky	5	10			10
Connor Braddick	Fly	5			10	10
John King	Dudley	1	9			9
Virginia Harry	Zoe	6	8			8
Sally Edney	Ben	1			8	8
Carol Dicker	Mali	6			4	4
Margaret Yerby	Jasper	1	3			3
Carolyn Van Vjilmen	Copper	1		1	1	2

A PET'S TEN COMMANDMENTS.....

Submitted by Kerry-Lyn Hamerton

1. My life is likely to last 10-15 years. Any separation from you is likely to be painful.
2. Give me time to understand what you want of me.
3. Place your trust in me. It is crucial for my well-being.
4. Don't be angry with me for long and don't lock me up as punishment. You have your work, your friends, your entertainment, but I have only you.
5. Talk to me. Even if I don't understand your words, I do understand your voice when speaking to me.
6. Be aware that however you treat me, I will never forget it.
7. Before you hit me, before you strike me, remember that I could hurt you, and yet, I choose not to bite you.

8. Before you scold me for being lazy or uncooperative, ask yourself if something might be bothering me. Perhaps I'm not getting the right food, I have been in the sun too long, or my heart might be getting old or weak.
9. Please take care of me when I grow old. You too, will grow old.
10. On the ultimate difficult journey, go with me please. Never say you can't bear to watch. Don't make me face this alone. Everything is easier for me if you are there, because I love you so.

Take a moment today to thank God for your pets. Enjoy and take good care of them. Life would be a much duller, less joyful experience without God's critters.

Your Post!

Are you happy receiving your newsletter through the post, or would you prefer to receive it a few days earlier by e mail? Please email the editor at sally_edney@o2.co.uk with the subject title 'Thames Newsletter' if you would prefer to receive your newsletter by e mail.

Do you have anything you would like included in the newsletter? If so, please either e mail the editor at sally_edney@o2.co.uk or send it to: Sally Edney, 20 Charlecote Close, Farnborough, Hants, GU14 7EG

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the editor or Thames DTC.

YOUR COMMITTEE 2008/2009

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