



# OUR POST

## *Official Newsletter of Thames Dog Training Club Winter 2009*

### ***From the Chair .....***

In order to give you my report for this newsletter I had a look back at the one I wrote this time last year! There appear to be several similarities! Namely – I have to apologise to you all and to Sally, the editor. My report is late.... Again! Secondly, there is a section about Natasha, and thirdly, we had a fantastic Obedience show!

I talked about the Kennel Club telling me that last year's lack of sponsorship was a 'one-off "incident" and that in future years the Kennel Club and Supporters Club have joined forces to finance both events.' In essence, I was "misguided" by them and that there was in fact NO finance (other than supplying clothing) to the team. Financially this made things very hard for Natasha and she initially decided not to try out for the team.

After a little 'bullying' by certain people (you know who you are!!) Natasha and Dizzy found themselves selected as part of the GB team for the FCI Agility World Championships in Dornbirn, Austria.! Now to raise the funds! She decided to have a raffle, the main prize being a BUPA health check, and this raised a staggering £850. With part sponsorship from ISS (courtesy of Kate Austin and Dave Jolly) and a personal donation from Steve Devaney, Tasha's fund had grown to £1250. She could afford to go now! (Twice!!) The remainder of the money will be carried forward towards sending her to next year's event which they automatically qualify for having won this year.

Those of you who haven't seen her runs can do so by following this link:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4J4ECQlpxrE> Be careful though, it is enough to make grown men cry!!!

For the first time ever in a report I am going to quote Steve Croxford, the GB Team manager (and member of the Kennel Club General Committee), as I think his words convey far better what I wanted to say.

### **Time to celebrate**

"Natasha Wise and Dizzy ARE World Champions. How good does that sound - especially after last year when she came so close to winning. Two near perfect rounds from one of the UK's best handlers, and certainly one of the best dogs, if not the best agility dog in the world, handled by one of the nicest people on the planet. It was a privilege to have been there at first hand to witness it - and only four and a half seconds faster than the runner up. Stand up for the Champions. What else can I say?"

Steve Croxford's comments show some light at the end of the financial tunnel and goes on to say "Given the limited financial backing, plans to offer a more structured approach to preparation and training for both events had to be shelved this year. However, commercial sponsorship from outside is being actively sought, and it is hoped that the Performance Development Plan proposed and agreed in January 2008 can be revived in time for events in 2010."

Things are looking up!

We had at the start of September our SECOND Obedience Championship Show. After last years close call with the weather, this year was a dream. Mild sunshine, light breeze and a fabulous atmosphere made the day very special. Becky Coleman at the helm, Sandra Curry, Teresa Davies and Steve Devaney and many of our members, really do make our show one of the VERY best. Once again, FANTASTIC guys, you did us proud.

On the day, many Top handlers came up to me and said it was the best Champ show they had been to, and that the atmosphere at the show was just like it used to be years ago! Fun! Knowing these handlers as I do, I consider that very high praise indeed.

The show that we share the weekend with, BAGSD (South), had a Kennel Club Field Officer attend. [The purpose of a Field Officer is to make sure that the shows are run in accordance with the Kennel Club rules and Health and Safety Guidelines.] I am happy to report that they were given an "Excellent" status. I mention this because our shows are in effect, identical, apart from the fact that they are an Open show and we are a Championship show. They being praised as they were reflects well on what we do as well. It is testament to the organisational skills of Becky and her team. Thank you guys.

I have said it before, and I will probably say it again, but I am in the enviable position of having my feet in both the Obedience and Agility camps. Having to run TWO Champ shows takes an immense amount of dedication and hard work. I believe that Thames Dog Training Club has really come of age now as both sections continue to thrive, and from what I hear from outsiders, a lot of people are envious of our position. No one person is responsible for all that happens at the Club. It takes strength and depth in both sections to make our shows as good as they are. Both in the Obedience and Agility sections there have been many wins and places. This is down to the quality of trainers we have. I am not going to single anyone out this report, but just say a huge "Thank You" to all our trainers, our members and to the Committee for making Thames Dog Training Club the envy of all our adversaries.

I have one last thank you to say – those of you who are part of the Agility section will be aware that the container that stores our equipment has moved. On behalf of Carol and Natasha, the heads of Agility, grateful thanks to everyone who turns up just a little bit earlier to help get the equipment out and taken to the training area. It does make such a big difference! To those who turn up just as the equipment is set out – please, I know it may be difficult, but please try occasionally to get there earlier if you can. The good news is that we now have our own "barrows" to carry stuff about in! Also, thanks to Alan Smith for his ingenuity in making a set of wheels to carry all the contact equipment in and out! Get is patented... quickly!!!

Finally, I once again the festive period is almost upon us, so I take this opportunity to wish you all a Very Happy Christmas, and an even better 2010.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrew". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single blue stroke.

### ***A message from Natasha .....***

I am totally overwhelmed by everyone's support and kind words throughout the whole event. It is extremely humbling to think that so many in the agility community are such wonderful and generous people.

Due to financial pressures this year getting to the World Championships was not going to be possible for me. However, after being bullied into trying out for the team by agility friends, we found ourselves selected to go. I would like to thank everyone who made it possible for me to attend this years event. Special mentions to Dave and Kate from iSS who provided part sponsorship and also the Devaney family from Thames DTC for their personal contribution and then finally everyone who brought raffle tickets including Wallingford DTC. I am truly touched by the generosity. In total the raffle raised approx £850 making the total fund £1250. The remainder of the money will be carried forward towards sending us to next years event which we automatically qualify for having won this year.

At the event, the team spirit was fantastic. All team members were so cohesive and helped everyone to try and map out a route to conquer the crazy challenging courses set by this years judges. We were all so positive and believed we could achieve what we have achieved. This was marked by the success of the Large Team, as getting our dogs round the team events was something most didn't achieve from the rest of the world. However, credit to Lee, Sue and Jackie for doing a wonderful job and being victorious. Personal thanks from me go to Nikki Garrett and Lee Windeatt who were great support with helping me selecting the plan of attack with Dizzy. Also to Steve Croxford and Gwyn Roberts for putting up with me in the enclosures just before we ran! Finally special mention to Zoe Tharmasingham from the KC who sorted anything we wanted e.g. rooms, tickets, meals. She was just fantastic. Her positive and 'can do' attitude relaxed all the team - nothing was too much for her.

The supporters this year were great, drumming up support from other nations to help with the cheering and believing in us as a team was brilliant. I'm glad we gave you something to cheer about. Also the support from other nations was something new to me. The amount of fellow competitors who came up and cuddled me sending best wishes before and after the event was very unique as we are not the favourite nation when at international sporting events! Having my whole family at the event was initially a bit scary but thank you to Lorna and Simon Peachey for their help and to my Mum and George for making the trip and the supporters for making them feel part of the agility family.

After achieving the World Champion title the feeling that tops any other feeling is how well received the success has been. To see so many people's comments about the emotion it has brought, also to see so many grown men cry in the celebrations. I couldn't believe I wasn't crying too! I think this is hitting me today. After reflection and reading everyone's delightful comments, it is truly amazing.

*Finally thank you to Matthew who is always the rock behind Dizzy and me in all we do!*



## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **DIZZY WITH SUCCESS AS TEAM GB SCOOP GOLD AT WORLD AGILITY CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Usain Bolt and David Beckham eat your heart out; a new sports champion with the speed and fancy footwork to rival any sporting hero has just helped Britain to secure a gold medal at a world sports championship of a rather different kind.

Following hot on the tail of other recent sporting successes for Great Britain - from the World Cup Qualifiers to the Ashes – Dizzy, the Border Collie from Reading, has just shot Britain to victory in the FCI World Agility Championships for dogs in Austria.

At just three and a half years old Dizzy (whose kennel name is, appropriately, Ag Ch Raeanne's Flipping Heck), astounded onlookers as she completed two rounds of the agility course in just 61.71 seconds (25.89 for the jumping round and 35.82 in the agility round) – a total of 4.4 seconds faster than her nearest rival. She beat 80 dogs, who had qualified from all over the world, to be awarded the gold medal for medium sized dogs, the first time Great Britain has won a gold medal for an individual dog at the event before.

You can watch Dizzy's, and her owner Natasha Wise's, winning moment here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H77z-02Q3w8>.

And Dizzy's wasn't the only four-legged success; in the team events, the British team of large consisting of three Border Collies – Tom (with owner Jackie Gardner), Kes (with owner Sue Rolfe) and Bold (with owner Lee Windeatt) - scooped the bronze medal, narrowly missing out on the top spot to Russia, who won gold, and Italy who took silver.

Agility is the fastest growing dog sport in the UK, with an estimated 24,000 dog athletes and hundreds of thousands worldwide. Increasingly, it is being seen as a way to not only beat the obesity crisis in our dogs – who are becoming overweight as a result of their owners' inactive lifestyles – but as a way to 'fight the flab' in their owners as well. It is estimated that humans can burn up to 270 calories in a one hour agility training session.

Caroline Kisko, Kennel Club spokesperson, said: "Dizzy and the rest of the British agility team have really done us proud. Their performance was world class and Britain now has another victory to add to its list of sporting achievements this year.

"Agility is the fastest growing dog sport and watching the footage from this year's Championship it is easy to see why. The sport is great fun, open to all, and an excellent way to keep both dog and owner fit and healthy. We hope that these dogs and their handlers will be an inspiration for others who think that they would like to get involved in the sport."

Speaking about her winning moment with Dizzy, Natasha Wise, said: "Dizzy is a dog in a million, I am just so choked up that we have won. She hates being cuddled, she's just too cool for school, but I hugged and hugged her anyway, she's such a star!

"She is such a character and was in her element at the competition. I have taught her to bark to clapping so she was just barking all through the opening ceremony and after she ran her course, because of the rapturous applause."

Team GB at the FCI World Championships was sponsored by Eurotunnel, who ensured that the sports stars all travelled back to the UK in style.

## **Shout's about Success**



*Congratulations to Shanowl brothers Tag (with Andrew Dicker) and Moss (with Dave Jolly) for their achievements at Tenterden show, Tag won the Grade 6 part and Moss the Grade 7 part of the Graded 6,7 Agility Class*

*Well done to Gem and Skye for going grade 2 at the Agility Club and then grade 3 at the Summer Show. What a amazing pair you really are!  
From Graham, Rosemary and Robert*

*And well done to Tash and Dizzy  
Brilliant, fab, amazing!  
Gemma & Graham*

### ***Our Roller Coaster Year.....***

What a year we've had, exactly one year ago Foggy was diagnosed with a tumour and his future looked very grim indeed, we have had a few worrying days with him but he bounces back and is as full of beans as before. Andy is now getting to grips with his training and hopefully next year he will still be enjoying his agility, we just have to take it day by day and continue as normal. We are pleased to say that at his latest check up the vets were very pleased with him, they still cannot believe how well he is, so we hope that he continues to stay as well for a long while to come.

Skye has had one of her best years yet at the great age of almost 10, next year she will progress to Grade 4 on points, we think that she deserves that as she has been a one in a million dog and got Andy out of many tricky situations. She won't be retiring just yet as she is still having a great time and thoroughly enjoys her agility.

Becky has now been semi retired, bless her.....she has never actually enjoyed her agility and has always done it to please me, she is a lovely sweet dog and just really enjoys to come along for the ride without actually having to do anything. Next year its a few jumping classes for her or the anysize.

Last but not least is my little pocket rocket Storm, what a little treasure, still no clear rounds but i am so pleased with her progress she is so close and hopefully that elusive clear round is just around the corner. We now have the winter to sort out some of our training issues hers and mine, so its fingers crossed.....

We would just like to thank everybody at Thames for their support over the last year we really appreciate all your help and friendship.

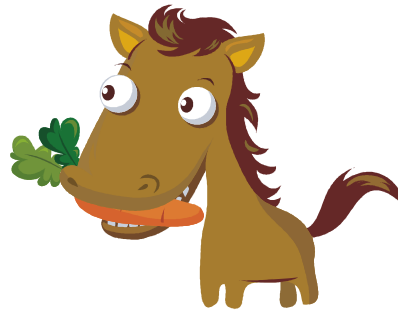
### ***Alison & Andy Wells***



# **THAMES CHRISTMAS** **RACE NIGHT**

***Join us for an exciting evening of  
Horse Racing***

**Wednesday 30th December  
Knowl Hill Village Hall  
7.30 pm till 11 pm**



**All Members £ 5.00  
Non Members £ 12.00**

**Entrance fee includes a hot supper and soft  
drinks**

**Please bring your own alcoholic drinks**

***A percentage of the evenings winnings will go to Thames DTC  
chosen charities***

**Book your place with Alison Wells by 12<sup>th</sup> December  
Tel: 07894441156  
Email: [alisonwells@ntl.com](mailto:alisonwells@ntl.com)**

## **Dates for your Diary**

Agility Club Closed – 22<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> December 2009

Agility Christmas Party - 15<sup>th</sup> December 2009

Agility Diploma Night – 8<sup>th</sup> December 2009

Agility Inter Club Winter League 2009/2010 9<sup>th</sup> January 2010, 6<sup>th</sup> February 2010

## **Membership Fee Questionnaire**

A reminder to those of you who haven't yet returned your questionnaire regarding future membership fee structure, please complete and return it to Andrew Dicker as soon as possible. Please remember it is your club, and we need your say on how you pay!!

## **Christmas Cards for your friends or charity????**

Christmas cards are a wonderful way to send seasonal messages to your friends and relatives. However, if instead of sending cards to your friends at Thames DTC, you would prefer to make a donation to the Thames charity fund, please feel free!! A large card will be available at training over the next few weeks for you to add your greetings in return for a donation, and a thank you message for any donations will be published in the next newsletter.

*On this point, we would like to advise you that this year, any Christmas cards not collected on the last night of training will **not** be posted on. If the recipients of your cards are not going to be at training, or they have not arranged for any cards to be collected on their behalf, please post them yourself. Any cards not collected will be placed in a Christmas card recycling bin after Christmas.*

## **Dr Mary Ellis: Aug 4th 1918 – May 23rd 2009**

I am not sure when Mary joined Thames, maybe someone might have this information and think she probably left the club to live in the Isle of Wight around 1995/96. I think she trained obedience as well as agility. I have looked through some old newsletters and found an amusing letter from her about attending a patient who was about to have a baby and when she arrived the midwife was there but sat on the bed as well as an Old English Sheepdog which wasn't going to move in spite of her requests. To quote Mary "The look on it's face and the size of its teeth impressed me" Mary duly threw a sheet over the dog which seemed to ease the situation, the baby was safely delivered and the mother turned over and said to the dog "Good girl Queenie, your turn next!" Mary was glad she didn't have to attend that birth!

I remember Mary with her Jack Russells but I know she had a Collie called Jess which she lost in 1994. I remember how she encouraged young people in the club and would often let them train her dogs.

She joined the Wight Wizards Agility Club on the island and again helped many young handlers in Agility by letting them train with her two dogs Jack and Trixie to gain confidence and many have gone on to run their own dogs.

Mary was 90 when she died and up to a month before this was still training her dogs! The Wight Wizard Agility Club have set up a fund to buy a bench in her memory which is to be placed on her local walk. If anyone is interested in contributing to this Ann Munro has details.

### **Ann Munro**

## **Agility Winter League Table 2009 / 2010**

<b>Handler</b>	<b>Dog</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Total</b>
Norma Summersby	Mia	1	40	32			72
Tima Lund	Gotcha	1	16	23			39
Andy Wells	Skye	3	13	23			36
Dave Jolly	Moss	7	26				26
Norma Summersby	Crumble	1	13	13			26
Carol Dicker	Mali	7	12	11			23
Daniel Gee	Meg	7		23			23
Andrew Dicker	JayJay	4	3	13			16
Jeff Holloway	Harry	6	14				14
Lucy Clifton	Pie	6	14				14
Jim Cook	Panda	7	13				13
Susan Stevens	Amber	1	13				13
Lyn Finlay-Maxwell	Spud	5	12				12
Andrew Dicker	Tag	3		12			12
Ava Holloway	Q	3	11				11
Jenny Lovegrove	Deacon	4	10				10
Sam Thorne	Fudge	6		10			10
Virginia Harry	Robert	6		10			10
Lin Abbott	Mozzie	5	8				8
Peter Edney	Abbie	3		8			8
Margaret Yerby	Jasper	1	6				6
Alison Wells	Becky	1	3	3			6
Jan Merrill	Jess	3		6			6
Amanda Harris	Asher	1		4			4
Amanda Harris	Hava	1		4			4
Mark Painter	Ellie	1	3				3
Alison Wells	Storm	1	2				2
Carol Van Vlijmen	Copper	1	2				2
Doug Lewis	Rhys	3		2			2
Doug Lewis	Sophie	1		1			1

## Thames DTC Agility Points

The new agility year is in full swing and the competition for the Thames Agility Points Trophies is hotting up.

If you would like to enter your points, please send your results to Alison Wells by emailing [alisonwells@ntlworld.com](mailto:alisonwells@ntlworld.com) or completing the form attached at the end of this newsletter and hand to Alison at training.

***Please ensure your points are submitted within a month of the relevant show.***

### AGILITY POINTS 2009

<b>Grade 1</b>			<b>Grade 2</b>		
Sarah & Rocky	M	531	Shirly & Revel	L	67
Gemma & Skye	S	502			
Norma & Mia	L	416			
Norma & Crumble	L	29			
Sally & Ben	L	25			
<b>Grade 3</b>			<b>Grade 4</b>		
			Jim & Digger	L	530
Andy & Skye	L	269	Jeff & Harry	L	348
Lynda & Tag	L	19	Veronica & Megan	S	248
			Jenny & Deacon	L	206
			Andrew & JayJay	L	49
<b>Grade 5</b>			<b>Grade 6</b>		
Veronica & Zac	S	197	Andrew & Tag	L	616
Lucy & Pie	L	178	Carol & Mali	M	578
			Carol & Xada	L	39
<b>Grade 7</b>			<b>Junior</b>		
Natasha & Dizzy	M	2265			
Natasha & Maddie	L	781			
Jim & Panda	L	208			
Helen & Mitch	L	145			
Graham & Zoe	L	11			

<b>AnySize</b>			<b>Veteran</b>		
Andy & Foggy	L	1	Veronica & Darcy	M	66
<b>Best Rescue</b>			<b>Clear Rounds</b>		
Sarah & Rocky	M	531	Norma & Crumble	L	36
Veronica & Zac	S	197	Alison & Becky	L	27
Lucy & Pie	L	178	Veronica & Megan	S	24
			Veronica & Zac	S	15
			Andy & Skye	L	9
			Jim & Panda	L	7
			Veronica & Darcy	M	6
			Helen & Mitch	L	6
			Gemma & Skye	S	3
			Jim & Digger	L	3
			Mark & Ellie	L	1

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:sally_edney@o2.co.uk) or send it to: Sally Edney, 20 Charlecote Close, Farnborough, Hants, GU14 7EG



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The ACTIVE team of qualified tradesmen carry out a broad spectrum of work ranging from a loose tile to an extension. All types of work undertaken include kitchens, bathrooms, tiling, flooring, carpentry, refurbishment, alterations and all aspects of decorating internal or external.

A free written detailed no obligation estimate with no hidden costs is only a phone call away so don't delay make that call today.

**Thames Dog Training Club are very grateful to Garry and his team for all their support and help with the Thames Crufts Agility Team 2009**

## YOUR COMMITTEE 2009/2010

### OFFICERS

<b>CHAIRMAN</b>	<i>ANDREW DICKER</i>	PHONE 0118 988 4193 <a href="mailto:andrew@aquadoggies.com">andrew@aquadoggies.com</a>
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<b>SECRETARY</b>	<i>AVA HOLLOWAY</i>	PHONE 0118 954 5940 <a href="mailto:a.holloway@ntlworld.com">a.holloway@ntlworld.com</a>
<b>TREASURER</b>	<i>SANDRA CURRY</i>	PHONE 01628 664403 <a href="mailto:Sandra.curry@sky.com">Sandra.curry@sky.com</a>

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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<b>Club Clothing</b>	<i>Andrew Dicker</i>	<a href="mailto:Andrew@aquadoggies.com">Andrew@aquadoggies.com</a>
<b>Agility Points</b>	<i>Alison Wells</i>	<a href="mailto:Alisonwells@ntlworld.com">Alisonwells@ntlworld.com</a>
<b>Agility Diploma Nights</b>	<i>Shirly Fastnedge &amp; Mark Painter</i>	<a href="mailto:Shirly01@hotmail.co.uk">Shirly01@hotmail.co.uk</a> <a href="mailto:MarkPainter@sky.com">MarkPainter@sky.com</a>
<b>Membership</b>	<i>Sally Edney</i>	<a href="mailto:sally_edney@o2.co.uk">sally_edney@o2.co.uk</a>
<b>Web Site</b>	<i>Steve Devaney Andrew Dicker</i>	<a href="mailto:Steve.devaney@btinternet.com">Steve.devaney@btinternet.com</a> <a href="mailto:Andrew@aquadoggies.com">Andrew@aquadoggies.com</a>
<b>Obedience Training</b>	<i>Steve Devaney Sandra Curry</i>	<a href="mailto:Steve.devaney@btinternet.com">Steve.devaney@btinternet.com</a> <a href="mailto:Sandra.curry@sky.com">Sandra.curry@sky.com</a>
<b>Newsletter</b>	<i>Sally Edney</i>	<a href="mailto:sally_edney@o2.co.uk">sally_edney@o2.co.uk</a>
<b>Charity fundraising</b>	<i>Norma Summersby Margaret Yerby</i>	<a href="mailto:normasummersby@btinternet.com">normasummersby@btinternet.com</a> <a href="mailto:margaret@yerby.co.uk">margaret@yerby.co.uk</a>
<b>Club Social Events</b>	<i>Alison Wells Norma Summersby Shirly Fastnedge</i>	<a href="mailto:Alisonwells@ntlworld.com">Alisonwells@ntlworld.com</a> <a href="mailto:Normasummersby@btinternet.com">Normasummersby@btinternet.com</a> <a href="mailto:shirlyfastnedge@aol.com">shirlyfastnedge@aol.com</a>
<b>Club Equipment</b>	<i>Jeff Holloway &amp; Mark Painter</i>	<a href="mailto:a.holloway@ntlworld.com">a.holloway@ntlworld.com</a> <a href="mailto:markPainter@sky.com">markPainter@sky.com</a>
<b>Catering Manager</b>	<i>Norma Summersby</i>	<a href="mailto:normasummersby@btinternet.com">normasummersby@btinternet.com</a>

