



OUR POST

Official Newsletter of Thames Dog Training Club Autumn 2010

From the Chair

Having just re-read my report from this time last year looking for inspiration, I could effectively re-write that report for this one! Namely, Obedience show was a resounding success; Natasha is World Champion; both the Agility and the Obedience sections continue to thrive!

Becky Coleman at the helm, Sandra Curry and Steve Devaney and many of our members, really do make our Championship Obedience show one of the VERY best. The levels of perfection and attention to detail do not go unnoticed by the handlers. The praise and congratulations given to me (as Chair) for the show make me incredibly proud to be part of the Club. Several TOP handlers still claim this to be the best show they go to, but more than that, several said that we made other (so called) top shows look shabby in comparison. WE are now the standard that the other shows try to aspire to. FANTASTIC guys – You make us proud.

One thing stood out for me in particular this year; just how many of the Thames members, family and friends turned out on Friday to set up, Sunday to break down and on Saturday to generally help out if needed. On behalf of Becky, Sandra and Steve, THANK YOU ALL SO VERY MUCH.!

As I mentioned in my last report, the Agility World Championships took place in Reiden, Bavaria, Germany, from 1-3 October 2010. It was one of the strongest teams that GB had sent to the Worlds, and it included our own Natasha Wise & Dizzy. Many of you will have seen the “YouTube” clips of her becoming Medium World Champion last year. Because of her status as World Champion, Natasha & Dizzy qualified automatically. Well, speaking for myself, I had a very restless three days of watching the live feed on the internet of the competition in Germany, culminating in a very exiting finale on the last day.

Natasha was leading after the jumping round, and needed a fast clear in the Agility section to win overall again! She didn't have the fastest time in this one, but the handler and dog that did have the fastest time missed a contact point and gained 5 faults. She DID IT!!! World Champion for the second year running. FABULOUS Natasha & Dizzy – You really do make us very proud indeed. Many will recall that three years ago, the judge “robbed” Natasha of World Championship by giving her a highly dubious refusal. This fact was actually mentioned by the commentator on this year's internet feed – She should be THREE time World Champion!!

You can see Natasha and Dizzy's runs by following these links:

Jumping: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IIOnUDe-zdQ>

Agility: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bK5JecfiE18>

Awesome!

Finally a big thank you to all our members – the Club is running at almost capacity in both Agility & Obedience sections. The fact that both training nights are well attended is testament to the trainers and your belief in them, so thank you all. I do, however have one request for all members. Several people in the Club have come up to me independently and made similar comments. I will not name names, or at this stage ask the Committee to become involved. I hope this request will be enough for those people that this applies to, to take heed.

In particular, at Agility on a Tuesday night, most people do manage to get down early to help set up the equipment. Some, however, turn up regularly and come straight into the arena with their dogs ready to work whilst others are still putting equipment out. We all appreciate that work commitments may preclude you from getting there early to help set up but please check that nothing still needs to be done before you bring your dogs in.

Similarly, at the end of the evening, if you have worked in ANY of the second session, you are EXPECTED to help put the equipment away again. There may be extenuating circumstances to require you to leave early – no problem, please just let Carol, Natasha or any of the officers know so we can represent you if anyone makes any comments to us. My apologies to have to say this, but it is a recurring problem that has not been addressed for some time. Also, Instructors – can you make sure that when the final whistle goes, that's it – class finished (and that includes the dog walk where it stands at the moment) I have had comments about that too. OK, moan over!

It only remains for me to wish everyone a Very Happy Christmas and a BRILLIANT New Year 2011.



Dates for your Diary

Agility Training Closed - Dec 21st & 28th

Agility Winter League - **2010** November 27th **2011** January 22nd February 26th

Agility Instructor Training Day - Tuesday 28th December

Race Night, Knowl Hill Village Hall – Wednesday 29th December



2011 is the 50th Birthday of Thames DTC. The club would like to take part in some celebrations, and would be grateful for any suggestions. Please pass on any ideas to any of the committee members (contact details are at the end of this newsletter). The committee would be grateful for any help that can be given to organise special events, as it is not possible for them to do it alone due to other ongoing commitments with the day to day running of the club.

One suggestion is a commemorative edition of the club newsletter. Virginia has also suggested that it would be great if the club could put together a “retrospective” of the 50 years of Thames DTC for The Voice – the magazine sent to all Agility Club members (the national club, not Thames members). As editor of The Voice, she has offered to do a substantial article, with comments from the oldest members to the newest, old pictures, old newsletters, achievements of club members, highlights from the shows, words from all the Chairmen and women, and so on. Thames has got to be one of the oldest KC registered clubs and Virginia has very kindly said she would happily devote a whole issue (more or less) to this momentous anniversary.

With this in mind, if you can dig out your old pictures, or write a few words with your memories or thoughts on the club, your contributions will be used for both the club newsletter and for Virginia’s article. Please get digging!

Don’t forget, our first event for 2011 is the Limited Agility Show on 27th March, if you wish to enter, please send your entry form (and fees if appropriate) to Alison.

Charity Fundraising

Our Charity Fundraising co-ordinators, Sarah and Margaret are holding an auction at the next Winter League Match on 27th November and would be grateful for any contributions. So far, Amanda’s husband has donated a portrait – see his advert below for further details. Please contact Sarah or Margaret if you have anything or any service that you would like to offer for auction.

They would also like to put together two Christmas hampers, a doggy one and a non-doggy one! If you could pop something extra in your shopping basket for these, we would be really grateful.

(There won’t be a general raffle at the November Winter League)

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*

Classified Ads

Pastel Portraits



Commissions being taken for Christmas, make superb presents. Would need to provide good quality photo (will be returned). Mick Harris (Amanda's husband) Tel 01491 577415, based in Henley.

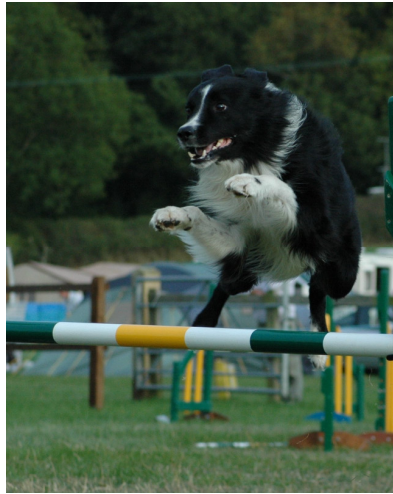
Can frame for you or you can collect and take to framer if preferred.



Wanted!!!

Field to rent or buy in the High Wycombe area for agility training. If you know of anything suitable, please contact Sam Thorne on sam.thorne@gmail.com or 07944 765204.

Rainbow Bridge



Oz Harry (CSC)
17.3.00 – 5.10.10

Taken from me far too soon, my beautiful, fearless, tender boy. I can't believe that I will never again be run ragged around an agility ring or knocked over sideways by an over-enthusiastic A-recall. Oz was a magnificent beast and the leader of my pack – including me. We are a bit lost without him, and miss him so much. He's the last thing I think about when I go to sleep, and the first when I wake up.

Thanks to all my Thames friends who have been so kind and understanding during this heart-breaking time. Another piece of my soul has died along with him, my Big Guy, my Ozymando, my Main Man.

A full tribute will appear in The Agility Voice magazine.
Mum, Team, Zoe, Baby D, and Max. xxx

Dear Oz, You travelled over the rainbow bridge so suddenly that we didn't get a chance to say goodbye. You were one in a million and we shall miss you. Thank you for the fun that you brought to our lives. Sam, Jamie, Jake, Jez, Issie, Fudge and Pickle xx

Biscuit Dunking Trial **Gillingham Agility Show, September 11th 2011.**

Testers

Alan Smith
Lydia Smith
Jeff Holloway
Ava Holloway

The Biscuits

McVities Chocolate Caramel
Original Jammy Dodgers
Chocolate Chip Cookies
Ginger Nuts

The trial took place on a sunny Saturday morning in a field nr Shaftesbury; the tension was intense as we sat around the table with steaming tea, coffee and biscuit's in hand.

Just the thought of the pain that these poor biscuits would suffer being dipped into hot tea was enough to fill Ava with horror, so taking biscuits one after the other, Ava saved them the painful fait of being plunged in hot tea and ate one after the other at great speed.

Then Alan clutched his jammy dodger and with tears welling in his eye's plunged his loveable dodger into the hot tea and prayed the jam would hold it together to take the title of best dunking biscuit. Only time would tell.

Now, Jeff's turn, taking the Chocolate Caramel firmly in his hand he plunged the biscuit confidently into his coffee, it was done with the confidence of someone that hand pasted the biscuit with super glue a few hours earlier.

All of us were weak in the face of the terminator Lydia Smith, who taking the ginger nut plunged the biscuit into the hot tea and then to the shock of us all sat chatting with what felt like hours as the biscuit was submerged within her tea cup. This was done with the confidence that according to Google the ginger nut was the best dunking biscuit.

I would like to inform you that no biscuits were harmed during this trial process but sadly no biscuits survived to tell the tale, but I can at least tell there story as above, after a very enjoyable morning the McVities Caramel was voted best dunking biscuit

Agility Training Equipment

If you wish to borrow any of the agility equipment, please discuss your requirements with the Equipment Managers Mark Painter and Anthony Ward. They will be able to advise you if the equipment is available, and how long for. Please ensure any equipment borrowed is returned in good order and when requested

Agility Winter League 2010/2011

Well the first one is under our belt and when I rechecked all the results there were a few corrections to be made and Thames did actually win overall on the day, so well done everybody! The league table for the Winter League Trophy is shown below. A .big well done to all those who scored points in October.

For the first time since I have been involved with it Thames actually did very well in all but one class, so keep it up! Thanks to all who helped on the day.

Alison Wells

Lucy & Pie	29
Helen & Mitch	28
Daniel & Meg	25
Jeff & Missy	24
Norma & Mia	23
Amanda & Asher	21
Sally & Ben	15
Sophie & Chase	15
Sophie & Jinx	13
Peter & Abbie	12
Jenny & Deacon	12
Jeff & Harry	12
Amanda & Hava	11
Jenny & Guvnor	11
Kate & Mirk	10
Laura & Talli	9
Lisa & Paws	9
Sarah & Rocky	7
Carol & JayJay	6
Claire & Gaffa	3

Thames DTC Agility Points

Grade 1			Grade 2		
Handler & Dog	S/M/L	Total Points	Handler & Dog	S/M/L	Total Points
Lisa & Paws	L	417	Norma & Mia	L	336
Sally & Ben	L	113	Caroline & Ed	L	19
Amanda & Asher	L	64			

Grade 3			Grade 4		
Handler & Dog	S/M/L	Total Points	Handler	S/M/L	Total Points
Sarah & Rocky	M	575	Jenny & Deacon	L	348
Natasha & Jive	L	357	Andy & Skye	L	117
Claire & Gaffa	S	131	Russell & Chester	M	33
Peter & Abbie	L	105			
Caroline & Dice	L	62			
Lynda & Tag	L	25			
Jeff & Missy	L	23			
Lynda & Rhys	L	14			
Grade 5			Grade 6		
Handler	S/M/L	Total Points	Handler & Dog	S/M/L	Total Points
Dave & Shaun	L	204	Helen & Digger	L	299
Kate & Fly	L	67	Jeff & Harry	L	166
			Lucy & Pie	L	171
			Kate & Mirk	L	109
Grade 7			Junior		
Handler & Dog	S/M/L	Total Points	Handler	S/M/L	Total Points
Natasha & Dizzy	M	1089			
Dave & Moss	L	528			
Helen & Mitch	L	423			
Jim & Panda	L	89			
AnySize			Veteran		
Handler	S/M/L	Clear Rounds	Handler	S/M/L	Clear Rounds
Doug & Sophie	L	13	Peter & Millie	L	3
Alison & Becky	L	8			
Caroline & Flick	L	5			
Best Rescue			Clear Rounds		
Handler & Dog	S/M/L	Total Points	Handler & Dog	S/M/L	Total Points
Sarah & Rocky	M	575	Norma & Crumble	L	16
Lucy & Pie	L	171	Andy & Skye	L	12
Russell & Chester	M	33	Peter & Abbie	L	8
			Claire & Gaffa	S	8
			Norma & Mia	L	9
			Russell & Chester	M	2
			Helen & Mitch	L	2
			Lucy & Pie	L	2
			Doug & Tori	L	1
			Lynda & Rhys	L	1

Thames DTC Committee 2010

We all work hard to ensure the smooth running of the club on Monday & Tuesday evenings, along with Social evenings, Demonstrations, Training days for our instructors, Winter League, Newsletters and Charity Fund Raising. This year we will have the additional task of putting together celebrations for the club and it's members as Thames DTC Celebrates it's 50th Birthday in 2011. We have 6 committee meetings a year January, March, May, July, September, and November & the AGM in Feb.

This year's committee are:-

Officers & Contact Details

Andrew Dicker – Chairman - andrew@aquadoggies.com - 01189 884193
Sandra Curry - sandra.curry@sky.com 01628 664403
Steve Devaney – Vice Chairman - steve.devaney@btinternet.com - 01628 631804
Ava Holloway – Secretary – a.holloway@ntlworld.com – 0118 954 5940

Committee Members & Contact details

Carol Dicker andrew@aquadoggies.com - 01189 884193
Alison Wells - alisonwells@ntlworld.com - 01189 541134
Norma Summersby - normasummersby@talktalk.net - 01189 786563
Sally Edney - sally_edney@o2.co.uk – 01252 377961
Mark Painter - mark.painter@sky.com - 01189 695649
Natasha Wise - flippingada@hotmail.co.uk - 07861 222481
Margaret Yerby - margaret@yerby.co.uk - 01628 521788
Lynda Lewis - lyndalewisuk@yahoo.co.uk - 01189 868780
Sarah Woodley - monkeypoowoodley@hotmail.com - 01252 875492
Anthony Ward - anthony.ward@volvo.com - 01628 782946

Responsibilities

- Obedience – Steve Devaney & Sandra Curry
- Agility – Carol Dicker & Natasha Wise
- Membership Secretary – Sally Edney
- Social Events – Alison Wells, Norma Summersby & Sarah Woodley
- Agility Diploma Nights – Mark Painter & Lynda Lewis
- Agility Points – Alison Wells
- Newsletter – Sally Edney
- Agility Equipment - Mark Painter & Anthony Ward
- Winter League – Alison Wells
- Website – Steve Devaney & Andrew Dicker
- Thames Clothing – Andrew Dicker
- Charity Fund Raising – Margaret Yerby & Sarah Woodley
- Catering – Norma Summersby & Margaret Yerby
- Show reports – Ava Holloway
- Thames 50th Birthday celebrations – All

