

Report for the Kennel Gazette on the FCI Agility World Championships 2012

WOW what an event! The FCI World Agility Championships were held in Liberec, Czech Republic from 4-7th October 2012, what a fabulous year it turned out to be for Agility Team GB. This competition, only open to pedigree dogs, this year had 464 dogs entered, from 38 countries which included the USA, Brazil, South Africa, Japan and China. This year we entered a team of 12 dogs in the height categories of Small, Medium and Large.

Accompanying the team were Graham Partridge, International Agility Team Manager; Dave Jolly, Team Coach and Rachel Mowbray, Team Vet. We were also fortunate to have the voluntary services of Emma Fretwell, chiropractor for dogs and handlers, who helped with any problems that arose and with the dogs warm up and cool down routines.

The competition was held in an indoor stadium on artificial grass and the atmosphere can only be described as electric. TV cameras and several thousand enthusiastic agility fans made it a very special event indeed. We attended the event with a very strong squad, which was well prepared and ready to take on the rest of the World.

Due to the size and popularity of the event, the event went from 3 days to 3 ½ days. The first day of the event comprised a practice session together with registration and vet checks and the large team jumping event. The competition got under way with the first round of the team competitions and in all honesty despite some excellent individual performances we did not get off to great start.

Our Small Team finished a very creditable 13th and I admit to having a moment's doubt that it was not going to be our year but how wrong could I be. Friday evening saw the Medium Team Agility competition and we were the first team to go in the 2nd round and what a performance everyone put in. After an hour we were still in first place but unfortunately it was not to be and we finished in 3rd place in that round and 7th overall.

Saturday saw the start of the individual competitions with some great performances especially from Angela Williams with Tif who finished 46th, Laura Chudleigh and Rodney finishing 26th and Greg Derrett finishing 7th (out of 183 dogs) putting them in good shape for the final round. The Smalls also saw excellent rounds with Amy Lawson and Fudge finishing 11th, Rosie Cavill and Spice 19th and Mark Wingate-Wynne and Big 38th (Out of 143 dogs). Next was the Medium Individual Jumping where we were represented by Denise Wilkinson with Jexie and Natasha Wise with Dizzy. Brilliant performances from Denise put her in 8th place and another from the ex world champion Natasha placing her 1st in the Jumping round.

Saturday's last competition was the second round of the Small team which saw us finish a very respectable 13th overall, a good result from a great team.

Sunday saw the final rounds of the individual competitions starting with the Smalls where Mark Wingate-Wynne finish 49th, Amy Lawson 15th and Rosie Cavill 13th overall, a great achievement from a very strong category.

Next the mediums and Denise ran 8th from the end with a fantastic clear round that put her up with the leaders and saw her finish in 5th place overall in the World, a fantastic achievement from a great pairing.

The build up to Natasha Wise's run could only be described as tense and only a brave person (or a fool) was anywhere near the dressing room. Natasha was World Champion in 2009 and 2010 but lost her title last year. Her professionalism, self control and determination took over and she and Dizzy put in a fabulously controlled round which saw them finish in 3rd place in the agility round and when the scores from both rounds were combined it made her Medium World Agility Champion for the 3rd time, a feat that had not been attained before, but was equalled a few hours later by Lisa Frick in the Large. Natasha Wise and Dizzy will go down in Agility history.

After the excitement of the Medium final we had the Large Individual Agility where again our hopes were high, Angela Williams started from 46th place and put in a superb round with Tif and finished 19th in the Agility, finishing 15th overall in the World.

Laura Chudleigh started from 26th place and knew she had to push to the limit to try and get on the podium, never one to disappoint she gave it a go but unfortunately picked up a fault, never the less she finished in 29th overall, a great performance for her first time at the World Championships.

Greg Derrett was as well placed going into the final round as he has been for some time but having seen Silvia Trkman blast round the course just ahead of him he knew he had to go for it. Greg never really had a chance to show what he had, as for some inexplicable reason Detox put in an extra stride to the 3rd jump and knocked the pole down, so disappointing but to coin a phrase "he will be back".

The overall performance by the Kennel Club GB Team was one of the most consistent throughout the team for some years, to bring home a Gold medal and to achieve some of the placings and finishes that we did reflects fantastically well on the people involved and shows the rest of the World that the Country that invented this sport are still a force to be reckoned with. If you are an Agility enthusiast you must go to this event at least once in your life to appreciate the intensity of it and how much pressure it puts on people to be representing their Country at the highest level. I know how much it means to these people and how much hard work and effort goes into achieving the high standard shown.

We are very grateful for the continued support of Euro Tunnel, who offered discounted travel for the team. Further sponsorship was kindly provided by DoggyJumps by PolyJumps for being the 'Official Equipment Supplier to Team GB'.

In addition there are a few people who must be thanked: Zoe Tharmasingam and Debbie Deuchar from the Kennel Club for all their hard work in organising and administering, to Rachel Mowbray for her hard work as Team Vet and to Janet and

Alan Humphries for organising the travelling supporters who encouraged the team, which meant so much to them. I would like to also thank everyone who sent good wishes and messages of support, I appreciated it and I know the team did as well.

My special thanks must go to Dave Jolly as Team Coach, for the fantastic job he did, not only in preparing the team for International Competition and the time that entails, but for his help and support for me as Team Manager.

Graham Partridge

Kennel Club International Agility Teams Manager

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Kennel Club Agility Team GB

Large Team & Large Individual:

Greg Derrett	Nedlo Detox Sprogett	Border Collie
Angela Williams	Nedlo Jitterbug	Border Collie
Laura Chudleigh	Flickcee Hot Rod	Border Collie
Alison Roets	Eostre of Berkano	Border Collie

Medium Team:

Natasha Wise	Ag Ch Raeanne's Flipping Heck	Border Collie
Denise Wilkinson	Ag Ch Meisterwerk Jexie Jangles AW(G)	Border Collie
Alan Gardner	Ag Ch Touchango Again Girl AW(G)	Border Collie
Angela Williams	Withersfarm Perfect Ten	Border Collie

Medium Individual:

Natasha Wise	Ag Ch Raeanne's Flipping Heck	Border Collie
Denise Wilkinson	Ag Ch Meisterwerk Jexie Jangles AW(G)	Border Collie

Small Team:

Marc Wingate-Wynne	Vanitonia Mister Big	Toy Poodle
Clive Foden	Sirensong Beyond Compare AW(G)	Miniature Poodle
Amy Lawson	Ag Ch Millieon To One	Shetland Sheepdog
Rosie Cavill	Fieldspy Leana	Cocker Spaniel

Small Individual:

Marc Wingate-Wynne	Vanitonia Mister Big	Toy Poodle
Amy Lawson	Ag Ch Millieon To One	Shetland Sheepdog
Rosie Cavill	Fieldspy Leana	Cocker Spaniel