



www.wyevalleyretrieverclub.co.uk
WVRC Kennel Club No. 2045

Members Newsletter 2010-2011

Your Committee

Chairman	
Mr Morton Redpath	Tel: 01885 482211
Secretary	
Miss Jacki Addis	Tel: 01432 343746
Treasurer	
Miss Anna Yates	Tel: 07976 842245
Field Trial & Working Test Secretary	
Mr Roger Wiggins	Tel: 01886 812653
Mr Terry Dukes	Tel: 01568 797367
Mr John Jones	Tel: 01386 700443
Mr Brian Lambert	Tel: 01432 278331
Mrs Julia Redpath	Tel: 01885 482211
Mrs Claire Raymond	Tel: 01885 400765
Mr Bernard Pound (Assistant Working Test Secretary)	Tel: 01886812329
Mrs Jean Tidmarsh	Tel: 01432 274527
Miss Kelly Stringfellow (Assistant Field Trial Secretary)	Tel: 01886 812322

Dates for your Diary 2011

Saturday 19th March	Bumper Boy Training day.
Tuesday 5th April	AGM 7.30pm River Bed Restaurant, Fawnhope.
Tuesday 19th April	WVRC training starts.
Sunday 22nd May	WVRC Novice & Open working test. Raven Hill Court, Lulsley.
Sunday 19th June	WVRC Puppy, Novice & Veteran working test. Orleton Court, Stanford Bridge.
Saturday 2nd & Sunday 3rd July	Bromyard Gala. (WVRC present only on 2nd)
Fri 22nd, Sat 23rd & 24th July	CLA Game Fair.
Sunday 7th August	Herefordshire Country Fair.
Sunday 14th August	WVRC Puppy, NDNH, Junior Handler & Intermediate working tests, Raven Hill Court, Lulsley.
Tuesday 16th August	WVRC training ends.
Saturday 20th August	WVRC end of term test & fun day.
Friday 26th August	End of term dinner.
Saturday 10th September	WVRC Field Trial Training Day.
Sat 17th & Sun 18th September	Midland Game Fair.

Training and Membership fees 2011

	Junior	Adult	Couple
Training fee per dog	£12.00	£35.00	
Joining fee	£10.00	£10.00	£10.00
Annual membership	£5.00	£8.00	£12.00

Please note there is an increase in the training fee. Only one dog per class. Please make sure that you attend your class with a lead, whistle and dummy bag.

WVRC Items for Sale

Please contact Mrs Jean Tidmarsh at jeantidmarsh@btopenworld.com

Polo Shirt	£10.00	Sweat Shirt	£12.00
Baseball Cap	£7.50	Ties	£13.00
Ladies Scarves	£13.00		

We also have lots of dummies, whistles, canvass dummy bags etc for sale - please do ask!

Future Events

Dates and venues for the Wye Valley Retriever Club Working Tests are in this newsletter. The Field Trial Training Day and Field Trial schedule and entry form will be sent to members and posted on our website. Please check the website regularly for details of our events.

Please photocopy the entry form printed on the centre pages for your use.

Chairman's Report

On behalf of the committee I would like to welcome our new members to the Club. You will find that we are a friendly bunch and there is always someone on hand to help and answer any questions you may have.

The Wye Valley Retriever Club are most grateful to the trustees of Westhide, Jane Oliver and her son Mathew (Ocle Court) and to Clive and Sylvia Richards (Lower Hope Estate) for allowing us to use their land for training purposes. Without this generosity and kindness we would not be able to continue, so thank you very much for this wonderful opportunity and privilege.

We are also very grateful to Roger and Claire Raymond for allowing us to hold the Bumper Boy Training Day on their grounds.

Last, but not least, I would like to say a big thank you to our trainers, dummy throwers and helpers. They give up their valuable time and knowledge to help members and for that we are most grateful.

Morton Redpath

Secretary's Report

In the past year my fellow Committee members have been extremely busy, organising working tests, training days, a demo at Bromyard Gala, Herefordshire Country Fair (which included a lot of strimming! and ground clearing before we could set up the tests) the list goes on. Which just goes to prove what a hard working talented bunch they are! As I write they are well into organising not one but two Field Trials, and most of them have day jobs too.

I hope you agree that the Wye Valley Retrievers Club has evolved into a well run friendly club, but we need the help of members, to run these events.

Please come along join the fun and contact the Committee, any offer of help big or small is very much appreciated (own strimmer optional)

Jacki Addis



Wye Valley Juniors giving a handling demonstration at Hereford Country Fair

Field Trial and Test Secretary Report

Working Tests

Once again we had a very busy year with working tests. We had two days at Lulsley Court, being made very welcome by our host Mr. Ron Treverton Jones, and one day at Orleton Court by kind permission of the Spilsbury Family.

All three days were very successful and for that I must take this opportunity to thank all those who helped. Thank you to the committee, judges, throwers, caterers, stewards and all the support they gave me throughout the year.

I believe the Wye Valley put on the most successful working tests of any club, this is in the main due to the help I receive from a some very dedicated people within the club.

Field Trials

The Wye Valley Retriever Club held two novice Field Trials, the first at Orleton Court, by kind permission of Mr. Tom Spilsbury. The day went very well, other than a delay waiting for Judges due to the road being closed after a road traffic accident.

Sadly the quality of the majority of the dogs was very poor; hence the Judges only awarded 2nd place and a C.O.M. Thank you to all those who helped, without our Judges, dog stewards, markers, pickers up, caterers and game carriers the day just would not happen. Thank you for you time and dedication to your club.

The second Field Trial was held on the Batsford Estate by kind permission of Lord and Lady Dulverton, who very kindly donated the birds for the trial free of charge. For that we are most grateful.

The day went very well mainly due to the Gamekeeper Mr. Mathew Farmer who produced a good supply of birds. The quality of the dogs running was of a very high standard too.

A big thank you to all who helped, judges, guns, dog stewards, markers, game carriers, and pickers up. Thanks also to Julia for the food which we all thoroughly needed and enjoyed afterwards; hopefully we can return next year.

Field Trial Training Day

The field trial training day went really well. This took place in a field of fodder beet at Alfrick, by kind permission of Mr. Martin Cook. The training day was run on field trial lines (walked up), but safe to say no one was put out. Shot-guns with blanks were used to make the day as authentic as possible.

Our Judges were Mr. John Jones and Mr. Terry Dukes, who both agreed that it was the best training day they had ever seen that resembled a field trial. Hopefully all the handlers gained something from the day. We have had good feedback with regards to the day and will keep members informed as to when we will do it again.

Many thanks for all who helped to make it such an enjoyable day.

Roger Wiggins

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Club Finances

2009 saw significant purchases for the Club (trailer and tent), resulting in a reduction in reserves. As anticipated, however, these items are getting plenty of use and this past year we have been able to enhance the look/promotion ability of the trailer with Bernard Pound's wonderful portrait of some of the members dogs. We have also purchased better tables for the tent, some display boards to help advertise the club at events like Bromyard Gala and the Hereford Country Fair, and ancillary equipment such as cool boxes to keep judges' refreshments cold and first aid kits for both humans and dogs.

Costs unfortunately climb ever upwards, but we are managing to keep our reserves stable this year, helped in no small measure by the generosity of both field trial hosts who are subsidising the events for us. Most events this year have run at a profit and people have, as ever, been extremely generous in our raffles. Profitability means we can afford to provide loans at competitions, which seems to have been a very welcome initiative!

Once reserves have recovered sufficiently we shall be able to look at further items to purchase for the benefit of members.

Anna Yates, Hon Treasurer

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Open and Novice Working Tests at Ravenhill Court, Lulsley

The Club held the Open and Novice working tests at Ravenhill Court, Lulsley, Worcester on Sunday 23rd May 2010. The weather was glorious, not a cloud in the sky, and it was the warmest day of the year to date.

The venue, kindly provided by Mr Ron Treverton Jones was set around a large lake, with Canada geese which did not seem at all fazed by the human and canine activity.

Because of the anticipated weather conditions, our Working Test Secretary Roger Wiggins re-planned all the tests on the Saturday so that waiting competitors and their handlers had shade - much appreciated by all.



Novice Working Test: L to R: Judge Alex Badger, 3rd David Gallimore, C o M Julia Redpath, 1st Jan Winton Fitt, Judge Norma Onens. Working Test Secretary Roger Wiggins, Host Ron Treverton-Jones, C o M Shauna Kiely, 2nd Angela Judge, 4th Peter Boxall, Judges Dennis Heath and Terry Dukes.



Open Working Test: L to R: C o M Julia Redpatch, Host Ron Treverton-Jones, C of M Neil Dutton, 2nd Nigel Probert, Judges Norma Onens and Alex Badger, Working Test Secretary Roger Wiggins, 1st Ian Glover, 3rd Lisa Harris, C of M Pat Dixon, Judges Terry Dukes and Dennis Heath, 4th Roger Colver.

Each test was run over four layouts, with seven retrieves in all for each dog. There was a large entry of 46 for the novice test, 21 for the open, so four judges were needed to ensure things moved along quickly. Our judges were Mr. Alex Badger, Mr Dennis Heath, Mr Norman Onens and Mr. Terry Dukes.

The novice event was won by Jan Winton Fitt with her Labrador dog Soval Woodford the Wise. Second was Angela Judge with Labrador bitch Shuttifield Honour, 3rd David Gallimore with Labrador bitch Gallifield Wild Ivy, 4th Peter Boxhall with Labrador bitch Brindlebay Flo. Certificates of Merit went to Julia Redpath with Labrador bitch Shuttifield Gracon and Shauna Kiely with Labrador dog Nobsquinton Magic.

Open winner was Ian Glover with Labrador dog Hamish of Deer Meadow, 2nd Nigel Probert with Labrador bitch Penderyn Welsh, 3rd Lisa Harris with Golden Retriever bitch Chilean Spice with Hawksthorn, 4th Roger Colver with Labrador bitch Cockhams Cherry. C of Ms went to Pat Dixon with Labrador dog Kenpass Harry, Julia Redpath with Labrador bitch May Ebony and Neil Dutton with Labrador dog Perfect Raven of Garragill.

Members Achievements in 2010

Several club members were in the awards at the Usk Valley Working Gundog Club working tests on August 22nd. WVRC member Anna Yates, Nigel Probert, Helen Goodwin, Mia Treadwell, Gill Wright, Penni Gregory, Georgina Hermann, Alison Portlock, Roger Colver and Sandie Goode! Didn't we do well!

Following the successful training day with Wye Valley on 11th September Helen Goodwin and Tocatta Sorrel went on to win Coventry and District all aged cold game test on 12th September for the 3rd year running.

Kelly Stringfellow and Chandkelan Fritha Rose were second, and won the Gun's award, at the Labrador Retriever Club Novice stake at Dunclent on 9th November 2010.

Anna Yates won the Flatcoated Retriever Society's SW Area Novice test on 17th April with Cleirwy Pebble (Rica).

Claire Raymond came 1st with Ft Ch Levenghyl Beetle (Jinks) at the Cheshire, Nth Wales and Shropshire One Day Open Trial held at Checkley on the 5th October, won the Greenwood Challenge Cup at the SEGS two day Open Trial for the Best Retrieve, and came 1st at the Guildford Two day Open Trial on the 10th November, qualifying the dog for the Retriever Championships for the second year running. Both times she qualified the dog running as No 13 on the card - spooky!!

Julia Redpath and Grace (Shuttifield Gracon) came 3rd at the Usk Valley Working Gundog Club Novice Stake on 27th November 2010. The trial was held at Sedbury, Chepstow. This was Julia's 3rd trial.

Summer Working Tests at Orleton Court

The Club held its Puppy, Novice and Veteran Summer Working Test on June 27th at Orleton Court Worcestershire by kind permission of the Spilsbury Family, writes Anna Jones.



Puppy Working Test L to R: C of M Margaret Owers, Judges Tony Griffiths, Johnny Morris and John Jones, 1st Claire Raymond, 2nd Bernard Pound, Judge Terry Dukes, C of M Kate Pound, Working Test Secretary Roger Wiggins, 4th David Crayton, 3rd Lorraine Goodwin.

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The judges for the day were John Jones, Terry Dukes, Johnny Morris and Tony Griffiths. Once again, it was a very hot day and the stewards were kind enough to carry bowls of water around for the dogs and made sure the competitors and dogs had plenty of shade between tests.

The tests consisted of a seen and a blind across the lake, a double blind into some brash with a shot only for the first retrieve with three dummies out. The dogs had to fetch two out of the three dummies without any swapping and the handler had to keep their wits about them to make sure the dogs did not swap. Then there was a long seen with a blind in the same place with a shot for the blind. Then a double mark - one in a field with a lot of cover and another up a ride into a wood, sending the dogs for the open field one first. The tests for the three classes were similar but with shorter distances for the puppy class.



Novice Working Test. L to R: C of M Gill Wright, Judge Tony Griffiths, 1st Norman Onens, Jean Tidmarsh, Judge John Jones, 2nd John Gough, 3rd Mike Smith, Working Test Secretary Roger Wiggins, Judge Terry Dukes, 4th Tom Powell.



Veteran Working Test. L to R: Judges Tony Griffiths, Johnny Morris and John Jones, 1st Doug Pitcher, 2nd Roy Dixon, 3rd Veronica Harris, Working Test Secretary Roger Wiggins, Judge Terry Dukes, 4th Anna Jones, C of M Bernard Pound.

Bromyard Gala-Saturday 3rd July 2010

The Wye Valley Retriever Club held two demonstrations at this year's Gala with ten dogs & handlers, Morton Redpath, Charlotte Milner, John Jones, Glennis Ebrey, Shauna Kiely, Claire Raymond, Anna Yates, Bernard Pound, Mia Treadwell and myself Julia Redpath. We set up our tent and trailer early in the morning at the countryside pursuits and falconry



Terry Dukes enjoys his lunch at Bromyard Gala



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area. (Mainly, next to falconry area, no falcons were hurt or retrieved during the making of this show). We invited the public to talk with us about the club and we encouraged new members. Our commentator for the demonstration was Mr Roger Wiggins, thank you Roger, and our throwers were Mr Terry Dukes and Mr Ian Treadwell, thank you Terry and Ian.

The team met up a few times prior to the demonstration to practise a routine which went very well, though Glennis's dog thought she belonged to John Jones at one point, it's always more fun this way. The noise and the steam of the steam engines was a bit of a hindrance but we soldiered on through it all and gathered a good crowd who were most appreciative and gave us applause.

We demonstrated steadiness, handling using direction, stop whistle, blind retrieves, jumping and a mini drive all using dummies. Afterwards we invited children into the ring to have a go and pat the dogs. (Roger still commentating-he's good at this). We were also able to demonstrate to the public that retrievers are not just black Labradors. We had yellow Labradors, Golden Retrievers and a Flatcoated Retriever too.

Later on that day we dismantled the tent, put everything away and hitched up the trailer, packed up and went home exhausted. There is such a lot of work and effort that goes into such a day and although we all enjoy it very much we would appreciate some volunteers, so please contact me if you think you can contribute in any way, we welcome all the help we can get. You never know, you might enjoy it!

Julia Redpath

End of Term Test and Fun Day

Jane and Matthew Oliver kindly allowed the club to use the ground at Ocle Court. The format of the day was completely different from other years. Roger Wiggins Working Test Secretary had the idea to ask the trainers to devise their own tests and judge them too. Angela Judge and Vickie Prichard joined forces and planned and tested the two puppy classes.

Each of the Novice Trainers (Claire Raymond, David Coode, Terry Dukes and Roger Colver) all managed to complete their tests before lunch. After lunch Tony Griffiths and Terry Dukes set their own Intermediate tests followed by the Advanced Class with Roger Wiggins.

Each class was awarded first, second and third prize. The trophy for each group was awarded to the dog and handler with the highest score. These were all handed out at the dinner some two weeks later.

Trophy Winners: Puppy Laraine Goodwin Novice Tony Griffiths
Intermediate Rachel Birch Advanced Julia Redpath

THANK YOU

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the framed print that I was given at the dinner with a signed card. To say I was overwhelmed by the generosity of the gift and the comments in the card is somewhat an understatement. I have enjoyed being secretary but there comes a time when it is time for someone else to take over with new ideas. I will enjoy taking a back seat and doing more with my own dogs.

Jean Tidmarsh

"Bumper Boy" Training Day

The Club held a "Bumper Boy" training day on Sunday 28th March 2010. We were divided into teams of five dogs and handlers. Four exercises were set using the Bumper Boys. These were set in conjunction with traditional training methods. Each team spent almost an hour at each exercise and help and advice was given by each trainer with extra time being spent with any dog that had problems.

There was very good scent so as well as the seen Bumper Boy dummies, blinds were also put out. There were plenty of jumps for the dogs as well.

The trainers for the day were Roger Wiggins, Claire Raymond, Terry Dukes and Julia Redpath. Helpers with each trainer were Morton Redpath, Brian Lambert, Bernard Pound, David Coode Roger Raymond, Jean Tidmarsh and Jackie Addis.

Thanks goes to all the committee as a training day like this would not be possible without the full support and enthusiasm of the committee members. Thanks also goes to Claire and Roger Raymond for the use of their land which was assessed for suitability by Roger Wiggins the previous week. Also a big thanks to Sporting Saint and Kelly Stringfellow of Chandelle Kennels for providing a goody bag for all participants and for the numerous raffle prizes, to John Jones, Claire Raymond, Vicky Pritchard and Sporting Saint for the loan of the Bumper Boys, and finally to Blaen Layton for the fantastic lunch.

This was a very informative day and the atmosphere was great.

Anna Jones



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INSTRUCTIONS Writing MUST BE IN INK AND BLOCK CAPITALS This form must be used by one person only (or partnership). If a Registered dog has changed ownership the TRANSFER must be applied for before the closing of entries. Use one line only for each dog. The name of the dog and all details as recorded with The Kennel Club must be given on this entry form. If an error is made the dog may be disqualified by the Committee of The Kennel Club. ENTRIES FOR GUNDOG WORKING TESTS WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTED FROM GUNDOGS REGISTERED AT THE KENNEL CLUB IN THE GUNDOG GROUP (vide reg. J1a, 6a(1) & B20)							Entry Fees Members £6.00 Non members £10.00					
REGISTERED NAME OF DOG (BLOCK CAPITALS)			KENNEL CLUB REGISTRATION NO. STUD BOOK NO. OR ATC NO.		FULL DATE OF BIRTH		BREEDER		SIRE (BLOCK LETTERS)		DAM (BLOCK LETTERS)	
1.												
			BREED		SEX							
2.												
			BREED		SEX							
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1.								ADDRESS				
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I/We also undertake to abide by the Regulations of this Test and not to bring to the Test any dog which has contracted or been knowingly exposed to any Infectious disease during the 21 days prior to the day of the Test. I also declare that I am fully conversant with the Field Trial and Gundog Working Test Regulations.

I further declare that I believe to the best of my knowledge that the dogs are not liable to disqualification under Kennel Club Rules and Regulations*

Usual Signature

Date

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Note: Dogs entered in breach of Kennel Club Rules & Regulations are liable to disqualification whether or not the owner was aware of the breach.

Thank you to Wye Valley Retriever Club

The Wye Valley Retriever Club is a very well run and organised club with a good strong committee who are willing to help members in any aspect with regard to your dog.

The training classes which run from April to August cater for all participants and classes range from puppy, beginners, and novice through to intermediate and open handlers.

The classes include some judges. "Someone one said to me that you are never too professional to learn more with your dog"

As well as training classes working tests and trials are held over the year, also the Interclub Test of which Hereford Country fair is hosted by The Wye Valley Retriever Club. This involves a great deal of organisation by the committee members to enable it to run smoothly and the working tests and trials also take a lot of organising.

Wye valley also does demonstrations at shows and these include one at Bromyard Gala and of course one at Hereford Country Fair each year. The Young handlers participate in these demos as Wye valley is keen to promote young people to join the club and take part in various things.

I have been a member of this club for several years now and I have seen it grow in popularity. This is due to the dedication and work the committee puts in and I am sure everyone will agree a huge vote of thanks is due to everyone involved.

Anna Jones



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Field Trial Training at Lulsley

Nineteen participants enjoyed a day of field trial training at Lulsley in fodder beet by kind permission of Mr. Martin Cooke on Saturday September 11th. It was a day of changeable weather, never particularly cold, but there were several heavy showers for the first part of the morning, although later it turned into "shirt-sleeves" weather.

As ever, the day was organised by our Field Trial and Working Test Secretary, Roger Wiggins. Roger was assisted by dog stewards Anna Yates and Julia Redpath. Morton Redpath and Bernard Pound acted as guns, using 12 bores with blank firing inserts for realism. Sonia Skinner assisted Roger, placing blinds and keeping him supplied with dummies. Judges and trainers were John Jones and Terry Dukes.

The first three rounds were walked-up in the beet. For round one, each handler had two retrieves in front, "shot" by the gun on their side of the line. Most dogs managed well, although there were occasional "run-ins". Round two was a single retrieve, crossing over for birds shot on the other side of the line. Some dogs managed this well, although others insisted on collecting the bird shot their side. Some poor marking led to one or two dogs being credited with "eye-wipes". Throughout, no dogs were put out for what would be elimination faults in a real trial, but handlers were left in no doubt of their problems.

For round three, again each dog had a chance of two retrieves, a seen well in front with a blind behind the line. The completion of this round was followed by a break for lunch.

After lunch, a mock driven shoot was undertaken, with dummies thrown from behind a hedge to land in front of participants, each bird saluted with a shot. Dogs were then walked a distance away, and each had one retrieve, judges being very attentive to detect swopping.

The four best performing dogs from rounds 1 to 4 were then given a single long retrieve to a dummy thrown slightly over a ridge, so that handlers needed to get their dogs well out and then trust their instincts and noses.

Although the day was essentially non competitive, the judges awarded notional placings. 1st was Mary Jarrod with Lilleburne Torrs Gold, 2nd Katie James with Hollywood Kristal, 3rd Georgina Herrmann with Dealminster Hornet, 4th Kelly Stringfellow with Chandkelan Fritha Rose. The first three received Bonios for their effort!

In his after trial address, John Jones reminded participants of how field trials often were won by the dog having most luck on the day, for example having the opportunity for eye-wipes, rather than necessarily the "best" dog.

Mary Jarrod writes:

I was fortunate to get a run at this training day.

We walked-up in fodder beet until lunch with two "A" panel judges, Mr John Jones and Mr Terry Dukes along with the dog steward, Julia Redpath, doing an excellent job. The object of the exercise was to run the day just as a Field Trial would unfold. As the morning developed, I am sure the handlers became aware of their dog



Participants, helpers and judges/trainers.

strengths and weaknesses. After a break for lunch we resumed with a Drive (using dummies) and then the four "top dogs" were taken forward for a long mark retrieve over a rise in the field for the judges to see how the dogs worked on their own initiative

A lot of organisation and thought had gone into this very enjoyable day. The atmosphere was friendly and relaxed. The guns were on good form, missing very little! Roger did a great job in throwing dummies and organising his helpers. The whole day was a credit to Wye Valley Retriever Club.



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Lulsley Working Tests, 15th August 2010

The Club held Puppy, Novice Dog/Novice Handler, Junior Handler and Intermediate Tests on Sunday 15th August at Ravenhill Court, Lulsley, Worcs by kind permission of Ron Treverton-Jones.

Judges were Ann Colley, Terry Dukes, Ellie Chattaway and Lisa Harris



Puppy Working Test. L to R: Judges Terry Dukes and Ann Colley, 4th Angie Cooper, C of M Mary Jarrod, Working Test Secretary Roger Wiggins, 2nd Lorraine Goodwin, 1st Claire Raymond, 3rd Sandy Goode, C of M Bernard Pound. Judges Lisa Harris and Ellie Chattaway.

Ravenhill Court is a wonderful setting with a pool, plantations, open spaces and a field of beet, therefore enabling four tests to run at the same time. Tests were similar for each group, but adjusting the retrieves to the ability of each class of dogs. The day proved to be sunny and hot, with a breeze during the first half of the tests but later on as the breeze dropped the dogs found it harder to scent the dummies.



Intermediate Working Test. L to R Judge Terry Jukes, Working Test Secretary Roger Wiggins, Judge Ann Colley, C of M Angie Cooper, 1st Norman Onens, 2nd Mary Jarrod, 4th Peter Boxhall, 3rd Anna Jones. Judges Lisa Harris and Ellie Chattaway.



Novice Dog, Novice Handler Working Test: L to R Judge Terry Dukes, Working Test Secretary Roger Wiggins, Judge Ann Colley, Host Ron Treverton Jones, 3rd David Coode, 2nd Rachel Birch, 1st John Egan, 4th Kate Pound, C of M Jackie Masters. Judges Lisa Harris and Ellie Chattaway.



Junior Handler Working Test. L to R Judge Terry Jukes, Working Test Secretary Roger Wiggins, Judge Ann Colley, 1st and 2nd Mia Treadwell, 3rd Rosie Chattaway, C of M Natasha Currell, 4th Shauna Kiely. Judges Lisa Harris and Ellie Chattaway.

Novice Field Trial at Noverton

The club held its Novice Field Trial for 14 dogs at the Noverton Shoot, Stanford Bridge, Worcestershire on Monday 15th November 2010, courtesy of the Spilsbury family. The trial was judged by Mrs Arlene White, Mr Terry Dukes, Mr Mike Larkin and Mrs Killy Pennell. Steward of the Beat was Mr Tom Spilsbury, Chief Dog Steward Miss Anna Yates, assisted by Miss Kelly Stringfellow and Mrs Gill Wright. The day was organised by the Club's Field Trial Secretary, Mr Roger Wiggins.

The day began frosty and foggy, which caused problems and delay for some competitors and judges travelling from north of the venue - an accident having closed the bridge over the River Severn at Holt Heath. The delay meant that the fog had cleared by the commencement of competition, the day becoming one of clear blue skies and little wind. This unfortunately led to rather poor scenting conditions. Guns for the day were Phil and Margie Spilsbury and their guests Martyn Folkes, Digby Oliver, Mike Nott, Adam Neath, Matt Bray and Brian Burgoyne. The club would like to express its grateful thanks to them. The first drive, Pippin Tree, was from game cover over a hop yard and river bank. A substantial number of pheasant and French partridge were shot, enabling completion of competition for everyone bar one dog still needing its second round retrieve and 2 third round dogs. Just a few birds were left, mostly in areas not easily accessed by the competitors for pickers up, reserves who had come with their dogs and eliminated dogs. The guns had moved elsewhere for a drive while these stages of the competition were completed, returning for a third drive (second for us) from a game cover crop of maize on a ridge. One of the three remaining dogs was eliminated here, leaving just two to battle it out.

The judges decided not to award a first place, being concerned that the step up to open competition was rather too great, even for the top dog on the day. Second place went to Mr. Andrew Fisher with Golden Retriever dog Vamp Pipsissena, Certificate of Merit to Mr. John Kiely with Labrador dog Nobsquinton Wexford. Thanks to everyone involved in the day, Noverton shoot, it's gamekeeper George Galsworthy, under 'keeper Josh Beckett, the beaters, and to all WVRC members helping to make the day work.



Guns, officials, competitors and helpers before start of competition

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From l. to R. Judges Killy Pennell and Terry Dukes. John Kiely, CoM. Judges Arlene White and Mike Larkin. Andrew Fisher, 2nd place.

Hereford Country Fair

Another year goes by and all too soon the teams were being picked for the Hereford Country Fair interclub test. I was privileged to be asked for the second year running and I was determined to do well. Each team consisted of 2 open dogs (Claire Raymond and Tony Griffiths, and 2 novice dogs, myself and Julia Redpath. The Judges were Terry Dukes and Tony Stanley. This year the WVRC came second with the Worcester Gundog Society taking the winning slot.

The test was held in the beautiful setting at Hampton Court, Leominster.

There were 4 tests; the first was a jump into a wood, 4 shots fired and 4 dummies thrown. Each dog had to pick 2 dummies without swapping. That took great vigilance on behalf of the handlers to ensure this did not happen.



The Four Teams with Officials and helpers.

The second test was a 'seen' and a blind over a fence into a wood. The third test was a 'seen' and a blind across the lake. This proved difficult for some of the dogs as some dogs wanted to find a way to run around the lake back to the handler, so caused a lot of handling to keep the dogs on course. The fourth test was a walk up with 2 dogs at a time, a seen thrown into the field and a seen into the lake, the dogs had to fetch the one in the field first.

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A lovely day with good scenting breezes complimented the setting. A lot of the public came to watch the tests and I think the retrieve in at the lake was enjoyed the most, it kept everyone highly entertained.

As well as the interclub test the committee put on a scurry and a pick up, members took it in turns to man the desk so that dog owners could come and ask advice or join the club.

Elisabeth from Skinners was on duty all day to give advice on nutrition; we must thank Skinners for sponsoring the Interclub Test and for giving prizes to the winning team.

First place went to Worcester Gun Dog Society with handlers Jeff Byrd, Robert Dobbs, Ann Colley and Helen Goodwin.

Second place went to Wye Valley Retriever Club with handlers Julia Redpath, Anna Jones, Claire Raymond and Tony Griffiths.

Third place went to The Labrador Club of Wales with handlers Jackie Pritchard, Julian Price, Andy Fisher and Nigel Probert.

Fourth place went to Clwyd Retriever Club with handlers Mark Hampton, Gareth Lewis, Dylan Roberts and Gary McCarthy.

Top scoring dog of the day was Claire Raymond with her dog Jinks (Levenghyl Beetle) for Wye Valley Retriever Club.

After the tests were over a demonstration was given in the Main Ring by the Junior Handlers: Shauna Kiely, Natasha Currell, Mia Treadwell, and Chris Prosser, supported in the ring with Morton & Julia Redpath and myself. After the demonstration children from the crowd were encouraged to come into the ring to meet the dogs.

Shauna writes, 'It was a lovely hot day and the dogs were very patient, lots of people gathered to watch us and came in to handle the dogs after we had finished. It was a very successful demonstration'.
Anna Jones



The victorious Worcester Gun Dog Society team. From L. to R: Elisabeth Woltorton from Skinners who kindly sponsored the inter club working tests, Jean Tidmarsh, Ann Colley, Chris Bowers, team captain, Helen Goodwin, Jeff Byrd and Robert Dobbs.

Batsford Field Trial - 13th December 2010

The Club held a Novice Field Trial for 16 dogs at The Batsford Estate, Nr. Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire, on Monday 13th December, by kind permission of Lord and Lady Dulverton, who also very generously donated the birds used. We were able to hold a second trial this season because of this generosity, and we extend our most sincere thanks to them.



Competitors, Guns and helpers at the start of the day

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Judges for the day were Mr. John Jones (A75), Mr. Phil White (A152), Mrs. Gill Wright (NP) and Mrs. Claire Raymond (NP). Steward of the Beat was Mr. Matthew Farmer. Chief Dog Steward was Miss Anna Yates, assisted by Ms. Sara Bowie and Mr. Bernard Pound.

Guns for the day were Jim Potter, Pete Gardener, Dan Farmer, Roger Wiggins, Steve Prosser, Mike Weaver and Mark Berry.

Although most of the surrounding country was enshrouded in freezing fog, the meeting point at the Estate Office was clear and sunny. Roger Wiggins, our Field Trial Secretary, welcomed everyone to the trial and made the introductions.

The first drive, from woodland over a grassy bank, produced a substantial amount of game, enabling completion of first and second rounds. Three dogs were eliminated, two for running in and the third for whining. The second drive, again from woodland, saw game falling onto a sloping stubble field, maize cover and a large patch of long white grass.

Although the day had started sunny, it later became very overcast and colder, and the still and freezing conditions did cause some problems with scent, the dogs seeming to have to sight the birds rather than scent them. Markers were certain of birds down in the maize and long grass and several dogs were tried but did not pick, despite hunting the area well. The competitors waited with baited breath while the judges looked (me included as I was one of the competitors and my dog was one of those to be tried!). The judges had a good look but did not find, and the trial continued. At this point, I must say a big thank you to Killy Pennell, who was the official picker up. It is a very important role and Killy and her dogs did a very thorough job to try and find the missing birds.

Just three dogs were taken on to a second third round retrieve (alas mine was not one of them!). Of the three, one was eliminated for failing to hold the area. The remaining two then had a further retrieve to determine placings, which were awarded as follows:-

First Steve Newitt with Labrador bitch Staffly Radiant Star

Second Chris Winfield with Labrador dog Avonford Jackson

Lord Dulverton presented the awards, and the Club in turn presented him with a Christmas hamper in thanks for his invitation to the Club to run the trial on his estate. After the awards were made, guns, judges and helpers retired to a much needed warm fire and some lunch! Many thanks to Julia Redpath for organising lunch - I know they all enjoyed it!

Again our thanks to Lord and Lady Dulverton, Keeper Matthew Farmer and his team of beaters, the guns, the judges, and everyone who helped to make the trial at The Batsford Estate such a success.

Kelly Stringfellow
Assistant Field Trial Secretary

The Wye Valley Retriever Club Bumper Boy Training Day

Saturday 19th March 2011

Refreshments & lunch provided, raffle and goody bag
Venue - Bromyard, Herefordshire
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Please write your name and 'Bumper Boy training day' on the back of your cheque.

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The purpose of the Bumper Boy training day is for you to familiarize yourself and your dog with this relatively new way of training. The 'Bumper Boy' first came about in America and is proving to be quite popular in this country. It releases dummies by remote control and assists the dogs in their marking ability. Used with imagination and traditional training methods and equipment we aim to provide an enjoyable and informal day. Please note, we will be combining the Bumper Boy training in addition to hand thrown dummies and launchers.

Please telephone Roger Wiggins on 01886 812653 should you have any questions.

News for your Newsletter:

Should you have any news, photographs, achievements or stories that you wish to share and would like to see in the next newsletter, please contact Julia Redpath Tel. 01885 482211 or email me at julia@juliahancock.co.uk