

WVRC Open Field Trial held at the Batsford Estate, 15th January 2024

We held our 12 dog open field trial on Monday 15th January 2024 at the Batsford Estate, Moreton-in-Marsh, by the kind invitation of Lord and Lady Dulverton. We are extremely grateful to them for their very generous support, and for all the hard work that head keeper Matthew Farmer and his team and guns contribute to the successful running of the trial. Thank you to our judges Judy Rainey, Barry Taylor, Vikki Stanley and Liz Taylor, and all the others who worked so hard to make the trial run so smoothly - Chief Steward Iris Wright, judges' stewards Nicola Pointer and Claire Raymond, game carriers Alex Cox and Paul Egginton, Red Flag Dale Pointer, markers Elizabeth Bradford, Zena Churchward, Rachel Massey, Peter Bradford, Terry Dukes, Shane Gilliver, Steve Lax. Official picker up was Helen Goodwin.

Catering was provided by Sarah Akehurst. It was a very cold day (but thankfully dry!) so competitors and helpers were all grateful for the hot refreshments she provided. Thank you Jean Tidmarsh for the cakes and Veronica Harris for the "goody bags" for people's pockets to keep them going!

Our grateful thanks go to the beaters, who put the birds over the guns excellently, and well done the guns for then putting them on the floor in a very efficient manner.

Thank you very much too to our sponsors Skinners for the prizes and Sporting Saint for the vouchers for helpers (although some still prefer the wine option!!). The support of both companies is very appreciated.

Results:

Winner: FTCH Think Twice Zero to Hero, handled by Nathan Laffy (for the second year running!)

2nd Place: Westerkames Elder Of Tagabea, handled by Steve Cullis

3rd Place: Marstonprior Grenadier Of Wedgnock, handled by Steve Richardson

Mitforton Tout De Suite Of Hawkerline, handled by Matthew Gould, took home the John Jones Memorial Trophy for the Best Retrieve (Open) and the trophy for Guns' Choice.

Well done the award winners and thank you everyone for the happy atmosphere today.

