



Wye Valley Retriever Club

Risk Assessment and Controls

Introduction

This risk assessment has been prepared for gundog training sessions carried out by, and working tests organised by the Wye Valley Retriever Club (the Club). An additional risk assessment has been included for field trials organised by the Club.

Risk Rating

Risk rating is calculated from the likelihood of injury and the likely severity of an injury after the application of the defined risk control measures. Ratings are calculated as follows.

Likelihood of Injury (L) Factor Definition

- 1 Very unlikely
- 2 Unlikely
- 3 May happen
- 4 Very likely
- 5 Certain

Severity of Injury (S) Factor Definition

- 1 Minor injury (equivalent to no lost time from work)
- 2 Minor injury (equivalent to up to three days lost time from work)
- 3 Injury (equivalent to more than three days lost time from work)
- 4 Major injury
- 5 Fatality

Risk Rating

Risk ratings are calculated by multiplying the likelihood of injury factor (L) and the severity of injury factor (S).

<u>Risk Rating Factor (L x S)</u>	<u>Risk Rating</u>
1 - 4	Low priority
5 - 9	Medium priority
10 - 15	High priority
16 - 25	Urgent priority

Persons at Risk

The following abbreviations are used to define persons at risk in the risk assessment tables.

- 1 **Members of the Club** including committee members and Club members who take training sessions or compete in tests.
- 2 **Helpers** (such as dummy throwers, test stewards, catering helpers, those helping with setting up and packing up Club equipment, Guns) who may or may not be members of the Club.
- 3 **Guests of the Club** such as competitors in tests, test judges, landowners, spectators.
- 4 **Members of the general public.**



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Training and social events

No.	Hazards identified.	Persons at risk	Risk control measures	Further actions to reduce or eliminate risk	L x S (after controls)	Risk rating
1.	Slippery ground, muddy ground, uneven ground, trip hazards such as rocks, tree roots, fallen branches, stiles to be negotiated.	1, 2, 3	Persons at risk of falling should wear stout footwear with good grip on the soles such as "country" wellingtons or walking boots. Footwear with smooth soles is to be avoided. Persons at risk may like to use a walking stick. Maintain hand hold when negotiating stiles. Routes which include climbing fences or negotiating streams and ditches are to be avoided wherever possible.	Suitable briefing at the beginning of the block of training sessions warning of the risks and informing what controls measures are required.	2 x 2	4 (low)
2.	Hazardous behaviour by dogs such as dogs running into people (other than their handler).	1, 2, 3	All dogs should be kept under control by their handlers (the purpose of the training sessions) and heed advice given to handlers by trainers if control is lost.	Suitable briefing at the beginning of the block of training sessions setting out requirements for handlers.	2 x 2	4 (low)
3.	Lakes and large ponds which are used during training for retrieves.	1, 2, 3	Persons at risk should not get too close to the water's edge, particularly if the area is slippery. See also item No. 1.	Suitable briefing at the beginning of the block of training sessions warning of the risks and informing what controls measures are required.	2 x 2	4 (low)
4.	Exposure to loud noises from training pistol, dummy launcher, shotgun.	1, 2, 3	Hearing protection to be worn by those persons in proximity to the source of the noise.	Suitable briefing at the beginning of the block of training sessions warning of the risks and informing what controls measures are required.	2 x 2	4 (low)
5.	Moving vehicles in the training areas and parking areas driven by persons involved in the training	1, 2, 3	Persons involved in training should be aware there are likely to be moving vehicles on vehicle routes and tracks near the training / test / trials	Suitable briefing at the beginning of the block of training sessions warning of the risks and informing	1 x 2	2 (low)



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No.	Hazards identified.	Persons at risk	Risk control measures	Further actions to reduce or eliminate risk	L x S (after controls)	Risk rating
	sessions or by persons authorised by the landowners.		area and they should warn others when they see an approaching vehicle. Persons taking part in Club activities and driving vehicles at the venue should drive at reduced speed in the vicinity of people and dogs.	what controls measures are required.		
6.	Manual handling when lifting heavy items (for example bags of dummies, tables, chairs, tents, generator, water containers).	1, 2, 3	Asses the weight to be lifted, minimise the distance to be carried and choose the terrain over which it is to be carried which is flat, not slippery etc. Get help to share lifting of heavy items. Split the load to minimise the weight to be lifted. Use appropriate lifting techniques.		1 x 2	2 (low)
7.	Injury to dogs.	Dogs	Dogs should be fully fit for the event. Handlers are told they are solely responsible for assessing the tasks asked of their dog during the training/event and making appropriate decisions on whether their dog undertakes the tasks asked.		1 x 2	2 (low)
8.	Injury caused by dogs.	1, 2, 3.	No club official or competitor will be allowed to hold another handler's 2 nd dog so as to avoid any potential harm from a strange dog e.g. bites, pulling on lead, attacking other dogs, interfering (eg noise or being a nuisance) with other dogs.	Handlers with 2 nd dogs will be asked to bring a deputy as outlined in the conditions of entry.	1 x 1	1 (Low)
9.	Harm to children by judges, instructors, helpers etc.	1, 2, 3	All children taking part in club activities must be accompanied at all times by a parent or other similar responsible adult.	Junior handler events will state this requirement as a condition of taking part.	1 x 1	1 (Low)
10.	Accusations of harm to children by judges, instructors, helpers etc.	1, 2, 3	All children taking part in club activities must be accompanied at all times by a parent or other similar responsible adult.	Junior handler events will state this requirement as a condition of taking part.	1 x 1	1 (Low)



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No.	Hazards identified.	Persons at risk	Risk control measures	Further actions to reduce or eliminate risk	L x S (after controls)	Risk rating
11.	Getting lost	1, 2, 3	Pre-training and schedule directions. Pre-event briefing.		1 x 1	1 (Low)
12.	Road traffic accidents	1, 2, 3, 4, dogs	Selection of venues to minimise likelihood of vehicles and people/dogs coming into contact. Pre-event briefing. Stewards to assist at road crossings if a road is required to be crossed during an event.		1 x 1	1 (Low)

Working Tests – All risks described above for training plus the following risks.

No.	Hazards identified.	Persons at risk	Risk control measures	Further actions to reduce or eliminate risk	L x S (after controls)	Risk rating
13.	Use of generator such as electricity, handling fuel (petrol), exhaust emissions.	1, 2	Generator to be used in accordance with its operating instructions by persons familiar with those instructions. Generator to be maintained in accordance with operating instructions. Generator to be sited as far away from where people gather as practical.		2 x 2	4 (low)
14.	Inadequate food hygiene standards (during meals provided by the Club).	1, 2, 3	Helpers preparing meals for the Club should use good hygiene practice when preparing food. Dogs should not be allowed near food preparation areas.		1 x 2	2 (low)



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Field Trials - All risks described above for training and working tests plus the following risks.

No.	Hazards identified.	Persons at risk	Risk control measures	Further actions to reduce or eliminate risk	L x S (after controls)	Risk rating
15.	Use of shotguns to shoot game as part of the field trial. Examples of hazards: a) Gun taking a low shot. b) Taking a loaded gun out of a gun slip. c) Closing a loaded gun with the barrels pointed upwards. d) Climbing over a wall or fence with a loaded gun.	1, 2, 3, 4	Persons selected to shoot at Field Trials should be experienced and all persons handling shotguns should be familiar with and must comply with the BASC Shotgun Safety Code of Practice and relevant UK law. There should be no shooting across any form of public right of way or within 50ft of the centre of a public highway. Spectators should be held in safe areas away from the line of fire by a responsible and easily identifiable steward, carrying a red flag or similar, acting under the control of the Chief Steward.	Persons handling shotguns are to be briefed before each drive commences to confirm their permitted shooting area and the location (outside of this area) of spectators, competitors, judges and other people present by the Shoot Host.	2 x 2	4 (low)
16.	Falling shot.	1, 2, 3, 4	Persons handling shotguns are to be briefed before the trial commences to alert them to be aware, before each drive starts, of where the steward (carrying a red flag or similar) is holding spectators and competitors not in line. Briefing is the responsibility of the Chief Steward. Spectators and competitors not in line should be held in safe areas away from where they might be in range of the shotguns by a responsible and easily identifiable steward, carrying a red flag or similar, acting under the control of the Chief Steward.	Persons handling shotguns are to be briefed before each drive commences to confirm their permitted shooting area and the location (outside of this area) of spectators, competitors, judges and other people present by the Shoot Host.	2 x 2	4 (low)
17.	Falling shot game.	1, 2, 3, 4	Persons handling shotguns are to be briefed before the trial commences to alert them to be aware, before each drive starts, of where the steward (carrying a red flag or similar) is holding spectators and competitors not in line. Briefing is the responsibility of the Chief Steward.	Persons handling shotguns are to be briefed before each drive commences to confirm their permitted shooting area and the location (outside of this area) of	2 x 2	4 (low)



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No.	Hazards identified.	Persons at risk	Risk control measures	Further actions to reduce or eliminate risk	L x S (after controls)	Risk rating
			Spectators and competitors not in line should be held in safe areas away from where shot game might fall by a responsible and easily identifiable steward, carrying a red flag or similar, acting under the control of the Chief Steward.	spectators, competitors, judges and other people present by the Shoot Host.		
18.	Use of agricultural tractor trailers to transport personnel across farmland.	1, 2, 3	Only use trailers which are fit for purpose. They should have safe means of access, safe seating and should be suitably maintained. Vehicles and trailers should comply with legal requirements if driven on the public highway. The vehicle should be driven at a safe speed having due regard to the road conditions (public highway or rough farm track).	Radios should be provided (and radio channels agreed) as a means of communication between the vehicle driver and passengers per UK law.	2 x 2	4 (low)

Responsibilities

- Training Sessions: Briefing by Executive Committee Member responsible for training courses or if agreed, delegated to trainers for each training group.
- Social Events: Briefing by Executive Committee Member responsible for the event.
- Working Tests: Briefing by Working Test Secretary
- Field Trials: Briefing by Field Trial Secretary. Identifying permitted shooting area for guns by Field Trial Secretary. Field Trial Secretary in conjunction with the Shoot Captain (or Gamekeeper) ensures Guns are familiar with the BASC Shotgun Safety in Great Britain Code of Practice.

Approval

This risk assessment was approved at the meeting of the Club's Executive Committee held on 13th February 2025 (plus on email 21st February 2025 to approve minor amendments).

Review

This risk assessment shall be reviewed at least annually by the Club's Executive Committee and the review minuted.