

WYE VALLEY RETRIEVER CLUB

WVRC Working Tests held at Garford Farm, 26th April 2025

For AV Retrievers – Open, Puppy and Special Puppy

We held our first working tests of the season at Garford Farm, Yarkhill, Herefordshire, by the kind invitation of James and Helen Parker. We are extremely grateful to them for their kind support in letting us have the tests on their ground.

Thank you to our judges Nicola Rudgard, Carolyn Jenkins, Claire Raymond and Richard Edwards.

Thank you to all the team - our stewards (Jean, Chris, Veronica, Nessa, Nicola and Sarah) who kept the competitors well organized and moving promptly between the tests; our dummy throwers, Andy, Cherry, Dale, Shayne, Steve P, Steve L, Terry, Tom, and especially John, who came to watch and ended up helping! ; Jean for organizing the catering, Veronica for the helper goody bags and thanks to both Jean and Chris for the cakes that everyone was very grateful for at the end of the day. Thank you Sean for setting the tests with me earlier in the week. Thank you Laurie for the loan of your generator so we could all have hot drinks!

I am very grateful to all our team, and to those competitors who helped during the other half of the day when they were not competing. Well done for offering and thank you.

Thank you very much too to our sponsors Skinners, who provided prizes to our winners. Their support is very appreciated.

We had a perfect day weather-wise – no rain and warm enough for the handlers but not too warm for the dogs.

For the Open dogs, test 1 was a short and long of blinds down a track alongside a field of rape. This proved to be quite tricky for some, with their dogs disappearing off into the crop rather than staying on the track. Test 2 was a pair of blinds at quite a tight angle in a wood with ground cover, and was generally done well. Test 3 was a blind across an orchard with a distraction to shot at an angle from the blind. This proved quite tough as well, with some preferring the more exciting mark first! Test 4 was a two dog walk up with a mark to shot in front into some cover crop, then a behind across more cover crop - the mark in front was collected by the first dog, then the mark behind by the second dog, and then swap. The mark behind caused trouble for dogs that wouldn't take a line.

The Puppies and Special Puppies had the same tests as each other, apart from in test 4, but were judged as separate groups. For test 1, their short and long of blinds were down a different track with a much less tempting field of potatoes alongside it. The short was just in sight, the long just over a rise. Most did this well. Test 2 was a mark and replace in the wood. Test 3 a double mark at very wide angle in the orchard and test 4 a walk up – two dogs for the special puppies and one dog for the puppies. They both had a single blind to collect from three in the cover crop in front, indicated by a shot.

The judges commented on the high standard and promise of the young dogs. The winner of Special Puppy only dropped 1 mark and there was a run off for 2nd and 3rd, both dogs having lost only 2 marks!

Congratulations to everyone in the awards, and to everyone else for turning up and having a go. I know a lot of you were very new to tests so very well done.

Results:

Open

1st Nobsquinton Teasel Of Croftferry, Lab/Bitch, Steve Prosser

2nd Ffynongain Judge, Lab/Dog, Mark Stevens

3rd Alltfracith Chief, Lab/Dog, Paul Edmunds

4th Kenxtwen Date With Destiny At Omachie, Lab/Dog, Alan Rees

COM Boggwater Bombay Sapphire, Lab/Bitch, Andrew Lines

COM Lucky Lupin of Nantygollen, Lab/Bitch, Shayne Price

COM Hawksgarth Heidi Of Nantygollen, Lab/Bitch, Shayne Price

COM Nantffrwd Lally The Tranch, Lab/Bitch, Paul Hobbs

Puppy

1st Laggengill Loganberry Of Oakholland, Lab/Dog, Lauren Oakes

2nd Tugford Digby Of Rumrumour, Lab/Dog, Imogen Scotford-Jackson

3rd Irwellspring Good Hope, Lab/Bitch, Karen Burgess

4th Creccamarsh Hawker Of Severncrest, Lab/Dog, Carla Gibson

COM Cottershot Middleber Sike, Lab/Bitch, Branwen Greenaway

COM Tregearavean New Providence, Lab/Bitch, Michael Brown

Special Puppy

1st Liechryd Katherine At Peterspond, Lab/Bitch, Karen Handley

2nd Gillhays Aston Gorse, Lab/Dog, Debbie Polley

3rd Henleywood Corvus Corax, Lab/Bitch, Sue Lander

4th Dream Boyfriend of Oakholland, Lab/Dog, Lauren Oakes

COM Bellesbank Pintail, Lab/Dog, Steve Lax

COM Ashport Kenelm, Lab/Dog, Veronica Harris

COM Arymydd Eider, Lab/Bitch, Kathryn Robey



Open award winners with the judges.



Puppy prize award winners with the judges



Special Puppy award winners with the judges.