

Inter-Club Competition

This year's inter-club competition included teams from Cotswold and Wyvern Labrador Retriever Club, The Labrador Club of Wales, Worcestershire Gundog Society, The Usk Valley Working Gundog Club, WVRC Junior Handlers and WVRC.

Unusually, the event was not part of the Hereford Country Fair, although held on the same day. The initial intention was for the format to be at the Country Fair as recently, but the organisers were not able to provide a sufficiently large area with enough features to hold the tests and the scurries that the club provides for the fair. Thus, club resources were split between the two activities.

The chosen site for the competition was our regular venue at Ravenhill Court, Lulsley Worcestershire. Our thanks as so often to Mr. Ron Treverton-Jones for his hospitality.

Judges for the day were Mrs. Gill Wright and Mr. John Jones. Gill judged tests 1 and 2 at the lake, John tests 3 and 4 in fodder beet nearby. Test 1 consisted of a single retrieve over a corner of the lake, marked just onto the edge of the water for the novice dogs, blind on the bank for the open dogs. The test proved demanding for most dogs, including most open dogs, many loosing points by running around the bank after retrieving, a few not achieving the retrieve at all.

Test two was a retrieve over a fence, marked for novice, blind for open, with a distraction into the water, a 180° split for novice, around 90° and further for open. Most dogs performed well here.

Test 3 for the novices was a launcher dummy to left of the handler in the roots, the blind was on ahead under the oak tree and this was retrieved first. The dogs had to go beyond the launcher in the roots to find it and was very interesting watching them hunt so well. For the open dogs, test 3 was two blinds with no shot in roots at a distance of approximately 100 meters away and 80 meters apart. The dogs were sent for the dummy on the left first which was under an oak tree, they were sent through the roots. The wind was coming from left to right and if the dogs got too close to the one on the left they winded and retrieved it. The dummy on the right was placed out as a blind in long grass on the edge of the roots, but again the dogs had to go through the roots. The land dipped down at the top of the hill and some handlers lost sight of their dogs.

Test 4 novice was a walk up in the roots, there was a mark from a launcher and the dogs were sent for a blind retrieve first behind the line through the roots in long grass and docks. For open the test was a mark to a launcher ahead in the roots but the blind was retrieved first. It was a walk up through the beet and the launcher was in the line which made the test a little more exiting. The blind was at a slight right angle and slightly behind the line.

Overall winners were The Cotswold and Wyvern Labrador Retriever Club, 2nd The Worcestershire Gundog Society, 3rd WVRC and 4th The Usk Valley Working Gundog Club. Claire Raymond of WVRC with Levenghyl Beetle were top individuals.

Our thanks to everyone who helped on the day, especially to our dummy throwers, Stan Tippins, Mick Downes, Chris Prosser and Terry Dukes.



Cotswold and Wyvern Labrador Retriever Club
L to R Frank Wright, Jennie Dimmock, Sue Hutton, Vic Olnier.



Claire Raymond and Jinks