

We held our 16 dog AV Retriever Novice Field Trial on Friday 8th November at Dunclent Farm, Kidderminster with very kind permission of Mr & Mrs Michael Gough. We are extremely grateful to them for their very generous hospitality and continuing support of the club.

Judges were Mr Dave Brown (A), Mr Chris Aston (B), Ms Dawn Scott (NP) and Mr Stuart Arch (NP).

Mr Gough welcomed everyone to Dunclent, and our Field Trial Secretary Roger Wiggins introduced the judges and stewards, Chief Steward Iris Wright and Judges Stewards Claire Raymond and Nicky Pointer. Rod Davies went through health and safety and Iris introduced her stewards, game carriers Steve Prosser and Sam Hind and markers Terry Dukes and Laura Peakman, Red Flag Dale Pointer and also Official Picker Up Julia Redpath.

Chief Steward Iris declared the start of the trial with 15 out of the 16 on the card running, as one competitor was unable to attend at the last minute and sadly no reserves were present.

It was a beautiful sunny day and everyone made their way to the first drive, Long Meadow. Guns were split with the left on a stubble field and the right in a field of rape with a lake between.

The second drive was the Orchard with again the guns split between the left in a field of rape and the right in the orchard and stubble.

5 dogs went through to the third drive, the Tin Hut, which was straw covered carrots on the left and stubble on the right. The sun disappeared and the temperature started to drop as the drive began. One dog ran in during the drive and two others were tried on a bird in the straw afterwards but were eye wiped by the judges. The remaining two dogs were sent for birds in the straw and the trial was declared over.

Results were:-

1st Dealminster Drew of Hassycott handled by Morton Redpath

3rd and Guns Choice Swiftlands Austin handled by Ellena Nunneley

Many thanks to Steward of the Beat Mark Stinton and also the guns Mr Michael Gough, Mr Patrick Kennedy, Mr Richard Needham, Mr Mark Stinton, Mr Stan Howes, Mr Roger Wiggins, Mr Rod Davies for putting on such an excellent show of birds.

Thank you to our judges who worked so well together.

A very big thank you to everyone who came to help and to Rod Davies who looked after them all afterwards with yummy beef stew and dumplings!

Finally an enormous thank you to our sponsors Skinners for their support, and Laura Peakman who came to hand out trophies, but ended up being roped in as a marker and stood in that field where the judges told her to stay until the bitter end! Thank you Laura!!

Kelly Stringfellow

Assistant Field Trial Secretary







