

www.wyevalleyretrieverclub.co.uk

Kennel Club No. 2045

Newsletter 2020

Wye Valley Retriever Club Committee 2020

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Miss Kelly Stringfellow - Assistant Field Trial Secretary	Tel: 01562 753798
Ms Elizabeth Davis	Tel: 07810 567417
Mr Tony Griffiths	Tel: 01432 350852
Ms Victoria Ash	Tel: 07720 201179

Dates for Your Diary 2020

Saturday 4 th April	WVRC Puppy, Veteran and Open Working Test – Dunclent
Saturday 18 th April	Training Assessment Day at Westhidge
28 th April – 16 th June	WVRC Training at Westhidge – 8 week course
Thursday 7 th May	Annual General Meeting
Saturday 27 th June	WVRC Novice Dog Novice Handler, Junior Handler, Puppy and Novice Working Test – New House Farm
Saturday 18 th July	WVRC End of Term Test & Fun Day
Sunday 2 nd August	Herefordshire Country Fair
Friday 14 th August	WVRC End of Term Annual Dinner
Saturday 22 nd August	WVRC Field Trial Training Day
Friday 6 th November	WVRC 16 dog Novice Field Trial – Dunclent tbc

The Field Trial Training Day and Field Trial schedules and entry forms will be sent to members and posted on our website and Facebook.

Please do check the website and Facebook regularly for details of our events.

There is an entry form for working tests printed on the centre pages of this newsletter. If you require further copies, please photocopy it or download it from our website.

Chairman's Report

Welcome to the 2020 Newsletter for the Wye Valley Retriever Club. It contains information about what has taken place in 2019 and what is planned for 2020. I hope you find it useful.

I am fortunate to have a loyal and dedicated committee working with me to ensure the smooth running of the Club. The Committee Members volunteer their time and expertise throughout the year and I am extremely grateful for all the help they give the Club.

An important part of our Club's activities is our training course for handlers and their dogs. Our trainers voluntarily give us their time to impart their expertise to every dog handler who wants to improve the way they interact with their dogs, whether for picking up, competing in working tests and field trials or just for fun. Thank you to all our trainers for 2019 and to the army of dummy throwers who help them.

The Club is very privileged to have had access to some very beautiful estates and farmland for training and to host tests and trials in 2019 and I'm pleased to say that this will again be the case for 2020.

Our venue for training in the summer of 2019 was the Westhide Estate by kind invitation of our President - Luke Thompson Coon. I would like to thank Luke for generously allowing us to use his land and for his overall enthusiasm and support for the Club. I'm very pleased to say that Luke has kindly offered the use of Westhide Estate again for our training course in 2020.

In 2019 we held a Working Test at Lulsley, courtesy of Mr Ron Treverton-Jones, a Field Trial at Dunclent courtesy of Michael and Jane Gough and a Working Test at the Westhide Estate, courtesy again of our President, Luke Thompson Coon.

By the time you read this, we will have held our Field Trial in January 2020 at the Batsford Estate in Gloucestershire, courtesy of Lord and Lady Dulverton and with the help of Matthew Farmer, the Keeper at the estate.

We held Jump Training and Field Trial Training at New House Farm courtesy of Roger and Claire Raymond.

We held a Young Handler Training Day which was very well attended and a great success thanks to Julia Redpath and everyone involved.

Thank you to everyone who has kindly allowed us to use their land and to those people who helped prepare the grounds for us, assisted with our events and made us so welcome. We are very grateful for your support of our Club.

Our Club requires a large number of volunteers to run it and to organise and help with its events - the working tests and field trials, training, social gatherings and meetings - so that it can continue to provide training and Kennel Club registered events for the gundog community. I hope that members and others who read this Newsletter may like to volunteer as committee members, trainers or helpers to take the Club forward into 2020 and that someone with suitable land may invite us to use it for training and events. I look forward to hearing from you.

I hope you all have a good season and that you are ready for training and working tests and field trials ahead. I look forward to seeing you all. Good luck.

Morton Redpath - WVRC Chairman

Social Media and Website

Wye Valley Retriever Club are on Facebook. We regularly update our Facebook site with posts containing news, reports, photos and requests. Please visit us and like our posts and photos.

Wye Valley Retriever Club have a website

www.wyevalleyretrieverclub.co.uk

You will find on our website

- a brief history of the Club
- information on forthcoming working tests and field trials including entry forms and schedules
- Conditions of Entry for our working tests and field trials
- results of working tests and field trials
- our Data Protection Notice
- membership application form and standing order form
- our Rules and Regulations
- our Health and Safety Policy and Risk Assessment

We hope you will take a few moments to visit our website and use it as a source of valuable information about the Club.

Contact Us

Wye Valley Retriever Club can be contacted by email at

info@wyevalleyretrieverclub.co.uk

One of our Committee will be pleased to respond to your emails.

If you are unable to email us or unable to access information on our Facebook site and website, please phone our Secretary and we can arrange to get you the information you require.

Membership Fees 2020

	Single	Joint	Junior
Annual Membership	£10.00	£15.00	No fee
Joining Fee	£10.00	£10.00	No fee
Training Fee per Dog	£60.00	(8 week course)	

Training Courses 2020

Wye Valley Retriever Club will be holding their usual training classes again in 2020 for handlers and their dogs. Our experienced trainers aim to give help, guidance and advice individually to dog handlers who wants to improve the way they interact with their dogs, whether for picking up, competing in working tests and field trials or just for fun. Training takes place in small groups of up to six arranged in accordance with ability – puppy (up to 18 months old at the end of the course), foundation, intermediate, novice, and open class.

Our trainers are volunteers and the guidance and advice they give for gun dog training is based on their personal experiences and achievements

Members may only handle one dog in a class. Please make sure that you attend your class with a lead, whistle (attached to a lanyard), dummy bag and poo bags. We reserve the right to offer your training place to someone else if you miss two lessons without notifying your trainer of a valid reason. There will be no refund of training fees.

If you can commit to dummy throwing at a class for the whole 8 week training course, your training fee will be waived – see training application form for further information. Minimum requirement for dogs in training are as follows:

- Walk to heel on a loose lead without pulling
- Simple recall
- Sit quietly/sit and stay off the lead – i.e. no noise, whining, barking or interfering with other dogs.

We recommend taking dogs to obedience classes to attain this standard.

Training classes take place at Westhild Estate, about five miles north east of Hereford. Please contact us if you need directions.

Training starts with an assessment for new members so we can judge which trainer and class is most suitable for you and your dog. This will take place on Tuesday 18th April. The classes run for eight weeks on Tuesday evenings from Tuesday 28th April.

Please let us know if you want to take part in our training classes. You can contact us by email or phone our Training Secretary. You will be made most welcome and we are sure you will find the classes enjoyable and instructive.

Membership Secretary's Report

Wye Valley Retriever Club Membership runs from 1st February to 31st January.

Application forms for new members are available on our website and from me, your Membership Secretary. Returning members need only to send membership fees to me by cheque or by standing order direct to our bank account. Please email me at romacdonald93@gmail.com or phone me if you need more details or a copy of the application form by post.

Applications for first time membership are approved at our Committee meetings. I will email to acknowledge receipt but if your application is received just after a meeting, it may well be a few weeks before I can confirm that the Committee has accepted your application.

We aim to keep all members informed of our upcoming events. We prefer do this by email in order to minimise our costs for postage and paper. Please ensure that we have your up to date postal and email addresses so we can keep in touch.

We hold the information you give us on the Membership Application Form for the sole purpose of sending you information from time to time about our Club and our events. We will remove your information from our records if you write to us asking us to do so.

The Club has 346 members at present, including 27 joint members. We have flurry of membership applications from competitors for our working tests and field trials. It has been encouraging to see an increase in applications to join the club.

Working Tests, Field Trials and the End of Term Test and Fun Day could not take place without the help of members. We will be very pleased to hear from you if you would like to help us. The more help we have, the easier it is to run enjoyable Club events.

We look forward to welcoming you and your dogs at Club events in 2020.

Rosemary MacDonald – Membership Secretary



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The advertisement features a collection of dog training equipment. At the top left is the 'Sporting Saint' logo with a dog silhouette. To its right is the phone number '01885 400 343'. Below these are several rows of items: a red blank firing pistol; a row of colorful training dummies in various shapes and sizes; a row of whistles in different colors; a row of dummy launchers; a coiled lead; a pheasant pelt; a rabbit dummy; and a lite launcher on a tripod. Each item is labeled with a vertical line and text below it.

Treasurer's Report

The club has had another good year financially and again we have managed to add to our reserves. Income from Membership and joining fees remains steady, income from our training days and the annual Hereford fair scurry all helps to maintain a healthy bank balance. Significant savings on the printing of the annual newsletter have been made, thanks go to our Club Secretary Chris Peers for negotiating an excellent rate.

As always, we endeavour to make savings and encourage all members to help cut down our postage costs by allowing us to contact them via email whenever possible.

We are fortunate to have our field trials gifted to us and this generous support is of considerable benefit to the Club.

Wishing you all a prosperous 2020 and success in the working tests and field trials next year.

Nicola Pointer – Treasurer

Secretary's Report

The Club has had a great year with some very enjoyable working tests, field trials and training events, particularly the Young Handlers Training Day. We have a fantastic, hard-working committee who seem to achieve so much and I am grateful to them for giving me support when needed.

I hope you have visited our new website which is now much more user friendly. Thanks to Jackie Masters for working hard to improve it and keep it updated. If anyone has any reports or photographs which they would like included on the website gallery please send them to the Club via email at info@wyevalleyretrieverclub.co.uk.

It has been great to train with the Club again in 2019 with new members who have joined the Club since I first joined. It is lovely to see everyone making such progress with their dogs and to see many of them going on to win awards in working tests. Well done everyone!

I hope to see many members at our Working tests in 2020. Good luck everyone. Have a great year with your dogs.

Chris Peers – Secretary

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Working Test Secretary's Report

Wye Valley Retriever Club held two Working Tests in 2019. The first test was on Saturday 27th April for Novice, Novice Dog/Novice Handler and Junior Handler at Ravenhill Court, Lulsley by kind permission of Mr Ron Treverton-Jones.

Despite strong, blustery winds which threatened to blow down trees and competitors, the rain held off and we all enjoyed a good day.

There were some really good and challenging tests set by our judges Helen Goodwin (B) 3595, Adrian Phillips, Roger Wiggins and Morton Redpath.

We were fortunate to be able to hold the tests on such lovely ground. It was a joy to see young handlers participating for the first time in one of our tests and well done Andrew and Natalie Doyle for a great father/daughter win in the afternoon!

The results were as follows:

Results – Novice

	Name of Dog	Handler
1 st	Waterford Jaipur Lab/D	Claire Raymond
2 nd	Roxhart Red Rum Lab/D	Trish O'Donnell
3 rd	Stauntonvale Whisky Mac Lab/D	Georgina Herrmann
4 th	Nobsquinton Nettle Lab/B	Claire Raymond
C of M	Drakeshead Drew of Llangynidr Lab/D	Nigel Probert



Results – Novice Dog/Novice Handler

	Name of Dog	Handler
1 st	Macmillaine Halle Lady Lab/B	Andrew Doyle
	No awards for 2nd and 3rd place	
4 th	Kandrelli Elenora's Falcon CCR/B	Nick Eden
C of M	Springcure Manifesto CCR/B	Nick Eden



Results – Junior Handler

	Name of Dog	Handler
1 st	Dealminster Twig Lab/B	Natalie Doyle
2 nd	Greenhill Willow Lab/B	Oliver Hutton



Our second Working test for Puppy, Veteran & Open took place at Westhidge, Hereford on Saturday 29th June 2019. We are grateful to Mr Luke Thompson-Coon for allowing the use of his grounds for the event.

Our judges were Craig Perry (B)3550, Clare Wood (B)3228, Stuart Arch and Elizabeth (Sid) Davies. It was a long day in soaring temperatures which made it exhausting for judges, competitors and their dogs. You all coped amazingly well. Thank you to all competitors for turning up in challenging conditions and taking part. You all made it a great atmosphere and a pleasure to host you.

The results were as follows:

Results – Puppy

	Name of Dog	Handler
1 st	Gibbolt Manaslu Lab/D	Ian Glover
2 nd	Buffskin Edward at Kestrelway Lab/D	Sandra Onens
3 rd	Ovehayne Dixie Lab/B	Richard Edwards



Results –Veteran

	Name of Dog	Handler
1 st	Slipside Ebony Lab/B	Paul Green
2 nd	Gortone Black Thorn Lad of Hawksthorn GRT/D	Lis Harris
3 rd	Overthwarts Olive Lab/B	Mark Schiller
C of M	Lilleburne Ripple Reed GR/D	Mary Jarrod
C of M	Callowhill Blackthorn LAB/D	Tony Griffiths



Results – Open

	Name of Dog	Handler
1 st	Roxhart Tinca of Frizelwood Lab/B	Simon Pullin
2 nd	Artistryn Usain Lab/D	Roger Colver
3 rd	Cyninfa Ruth of Roryspride Lab/B	Rory Phillips
C of M	Bearbrace Gloveian Lab/D	Ian Glover
C of M	Chishillhyde Lewis GR/D	Mary Jarrod



Congratulations to all in the awards for all tests.

I am so grateful to our supportive landowners, judges and wonderful helpers. You did an amazing job. We couldn't run such enjoyable and successful events

without our competitors, members, their family and friends being willing to volunteer their time to help. As ever, in spite of the challenges presented by the weather on both tests, you all pitched in cheerfully and enthusiastically. Thanks to you all and to Skinners for their generous sponsorship of the two tests.

Sarah Akehurst - Working Test Secretary

Field Trial Secretary's Report

The Club held its first Field Trial for 2019 in November at Dunclent Farm, Kidderminster by very kind permission of Michael and Jane Gough. We are extremely grateful to them for their very generous hospitality and continuing support of the club.

The Club held a second field trial in January 2020 at the Batsford Estate in Gloucestershire. I would like to thank Lord and Lady Dulverton for donating Open Qualifying Stake field trial and to thank Mr Matthew Farmer and his team for providing us with a fantastic day at Batsford.

Kelly Stringfellow has been an enormous help organising the field trials by preparing the paperwork, identifying the competitors via FTMS, arranging helpers, and so on. In this she has been aided by Rod Davies. Thank you to them and to all the helpers who gave up their time to help with the Field Trial.

Thank you to the judges who contributed to the success of the trials.

Thanks also to Skinners for their continuing support.

The field trials went very well with plenty of game shot well by the teams of guns.

The Wye Valley Retriever Club are very fortunate to be able to hold these field trials as many clubs are unable to get suitable ground.

I'm afraid it can be difficult for us to find enough helpers to run our field trials and we have to undertake a lot of phoning to encourage members to help us. If you are enjoying training your dogs, perhaps take part in working tests, why not volunteer to help us with our field trials and learn from expert handlers and dogs in controlled conditions? I'm sure you will learn a lot.

If you would like to help us and act as markers, game carriers, or stewards at future field trials, we would love to hear from you. Contact the Club by email at

info@wyevalleyretrieverclub.co.uk or by phoning me or Kelly – our numbers are on page 1.

Happy 2020 to you all and I hope to see you at the working tests and later in the year at our field trials.

Roger Wiggins - Field Trial Secretary

Dunclent Novice Field Trial November 2019

We held our sixteen dog novice stake field trial on Friday 8th November 2019 at Dunclent Farm, Kidderminster by very kind permission of Michael and Jane 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.

Five 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.

The results were as follows:

	Name of Dog	Handler
1 st	Dealminster Drew of Hassycott	Morton Redpath
3 rd	Swiftlands Austin	Ellena Nunneley
Guns' Choice	Swiftlands Austin	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 Skanners 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!

Batsford Open Field Trial January 2020

The Club held its 12 Dog Open Field Trial at the Batsford Estate, Moreton-in-the-Marsh on Monday 13th January 2020 with very kind permission of Lord and Lady Dulverton. Our sincere thanks to them once again for their very generous support of our club.

Our Field Trial Secretary Mr Roger Wiggins welcomed everyone to the ground and introduced his fellow guns Mr Michael Gough, Mr Alex Badger, Mr Andrew Holloway, Mr Stuart Reid and Mr Martyn Parkinson.

Our judges for the day were Mrs Jayne Coley (A1850), Mr Sean McGrath (A3010), Mrs Lisa Harris (B3002) and Miss Clare Baker (B3700).

Many thanks to our Club Chairman Mr Morton Redpath for stepping in as Chief Steward at short notice. Mrs Iris Wright has been very generous in her support of our club in being Chief Steward for the last few years but sadly had to step down this time due to illness. I am sure I can speak for all in sending her our thoughts and prayers for a speedy and successful recovery.

Morton introduced his Stewards Sue Goring and Bella Brown, and game carriers Steve Prosser and Rod Davies. Also introduced were the team of markers, Terry Dukes, Kate Smith, Richard Edwards, Cherry Smith, Rod Gillet and Mike Gillet. Also, thanks to friends of judge Clare who came along to mark too, Betsy, Peter and Alexandra. Official picker up was Tony Stanley with Helen Goodwin helping in the morning.

Once all introductions were complete and Rod Davies had gone through the health and safety points, Morton declared the trial started with a full card at just after 9.30am.



The beaters wagon and convoy of cars moved off to the first drive, Aston Hayle. Guns and both sides of the line spread out around a sloping stubble field with very rough ground and a conifer wood behind, while the beaters worked through

a crop of maize on the brow of the hill. Head Keeper and Steward of the beat Mr Matthew Farmer and his team of beaters put on a superb show of birds, partridge as well as pheasants, and the guns did a very good job at getting them on the ground, in the field and also in the rough and the wood. There were plenty of birds for the judges to put the dogs through first and second rounds. The weather stayed bright and dry although a cold wind was picking up. By the time the judges decided to move on to a second drive, there were 6 dogs remaining.

We then all moved off to the second drive, Newlands Ditch and the line spread out in grass fields either side of a brook in a deep valley. The birds were pushed down the valley and again a good show of birds were seen. The weather deteriorated and the remaining dogs were put through their paces in freezing driving rain! Three dogs from the right were sent on a bird in the ditch but didn't find and so the judges went to look. They came back empty handed and things resumed. Eventually we were down to two dogs. The judges took them back over to the other side of the valley for testing retrieves across the brook and the trial was then declared over. Everyone was very glad to get back to the warm dry shoot room and a nice hot drink!

Results were awarded as follows:

	Name of Dog	Handler
1 st	Bellsaddle Otto	Jo Rollinson
2 nd	Stauntonvale Tic Bean	Laura Hill
Guns' Choice	Stauntonvale Tic Bean	Laura Hill

Jo went home with the Agrigame Field Trial Cup and Laura took the Legges of Bromyard Trophy for Guns Choice. Many congratulations to them both.

All in all the day went extremely well and I would like to thank everyone involved who helped to make it such a successful day. Particular thanks to our club secretary Chris Peers who came along to help me organise things and who carried the red flag and kept everyone in line! I was particularly pleased at the amount of help we had. Normally I struggle to get people to come along to mark, but this time I had people contacting me to offer. This is what we need, we cannot run these events properly without people helping and the more we have the less stressful it is for everyone. So my huge thanks to each and every one of you!

Finally, a massive thank you to Skinners for their sponsorship and continuing support of our sport and our club. Laura couldn't come on the day as she was busy with the cocker championships, but thank you Laura and Skinners for your support, it is hugely appreciated.



Kelly Stringfellow - Assistant Field Trial Secretary

Field Trial Training Day 2019

On Saturday 31st August Wye Valley Retriever Club held a Field Trial Training Day. Despite the threat of rain, we managed to stay dry until the last half hour. The event was run by Vicky Pritchard, ably assisted by Clare Raymond who acted as Chief Steward and support judge. 11 people took part and the day commenced with a theory session where everyone learnt about J-Regs, eliminating faults and etiquette. This was followed by a simulated trial using dummies and taking the format of both a walk-up and driven trial. At the end of trial we went back to the barn where Vicky and Clare ran through the highs and lows of the morning. Unfortunately, there wasn't an overall winner but there were some excellent dogs and handlers.

Everyone agreed that the day had been informative and a great success. Some people went away full of enthusiasm ready to enter Field Trial while others realised that they perhaps need to do some more work before they are ready.

The Club would like to thank Roger and Clare Raymond for allowing us to use their lovely ground, and to thank Vicky for putting on an excellent training day. Thanks also to all the people who gave up their time to help with the running of the day. We couldn't have done it without you.



End of Term Test and Fun Day 2019

Claire and Roger Raymond kindly invited the club to use their wonderful ground and facilities again. The trainers set the tests which were quite challenging for both dogs and handlers. The tests were run during the morning followed by lunch, the traditional pork, stuffing and apple sauce rolls which everyone enjoys. The less formal part of the day are the fun games in the afternoon with the teams encouraging their members to do well with hunt the teddies, apple bobbing and find the sausage! Tea and results concluded the day. Thank you to Claire and Roger, the trainers who give so much time to the club during the training season and all the helpers on the day plus the weekly dummy throwers.

Individual results were:

Puppy

	Handler	Dog
1 st	Cherry Smith	Bert
2 nd	Rachel Parkin	Dora
3 rd	Jon Parkes	Amber
4 th	Sally Turner	Bea

Novice

	Handler	Dog
1 st	Steve Lax	Archie,
2 nd	Sue Parkes	Maple,
3 rd	Victoria Ash	Robin
4 th	Sue Everitt	George

Intermediate

	Handler	Dog
1 st	Nicky Pointer	Fleur
2 nd	Alison Leake	Fern,
3 rd	Julian Gallimore	Grace
4 th	Laraine Goodwin	Hugo

Open

	Handler	Dog
1 st	Sue Goring	Cooper
2 nd	Chris Peers	Flynn
3 rd	Jean Tidmarsh	Blizzard

Team results were: -

1 st	Elm
2 nd	Oak
3 rd	Maple
4 th	Poplar
CoM	Beech



Highest scoring competitor of the day was Cherry Smith with her puppy Bert – a whopping 97 points!!!

After the presentation of the team awards tired owners and dogs left after a well - earned cup of tea and cake. Thanks to the judges and everyone who helped to make it a successful day.

Annual Dinner

Burghill Valley Golf Club was the venue for the dinner on Friday August 9th. This was our third visit to the Golf Club. They provide a pleasant atmosphere and excellent food. About sixty people attended. Nicky Pointer handed out a very difficult quiz to each table which provided a talking point between courses. After the meal Morton Redpath made a speech. The silverware was handed to the winners of the Test and Fun Day followed by the Progress Awards from the weekly training sessions. The evening was thoroughly enjoyed by all those that attended, it is always good to have time to socialise and not have to concentrate on the dogs all the time as much as we like them!

Winners this year were (L to R) Steve Lax (Novice), Cherry Smith (Puppy), Sue Goring (Open) and Nicky Pointer (Intermediate). Sue Goring also received an award donated by Skinners for Top Open dog.



Jean Tidmarsh

Christmas Gathering

Our Christmas Gathering was held on the Fownhope Recreation field followed by lunch in the pavilion. About 20 of us gathered for mulled wine and mince pies followed by a walk with our dogs. Due to previous heavy rain we made the decision to cut short the walk and avoid the River Wye which was very full and fast flowing.

Everyone brought contributions towards an excellent lunch followed by some scurry-type retrieve games in the field. The dogs had great fun and especially enjoyed a portion of dog Christmas cake which disappeared very quickly!

Please accept our apologies if you didn't know about the event. If you would like to come to this year's gathering keep a look out on Facebook and our website later in the year.



Chris Peers - Secretary

Herefordshire Country Fair 2019

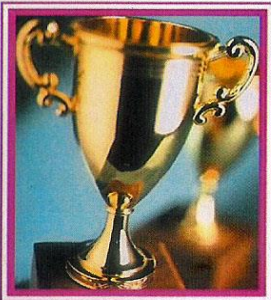
The fair returned to Whitfield Estate in 2019 after an absence of four years. The Wye Valley Retriever Club once again ran two scurries and a Fun Dog Show. Thank you to club members for helping on the day with the scurries.

A major part of the show was the World Record Apple Bobbing Competition. This took longer than expected since there were so many people taking part and as a result the Fun Dog Show and the scurries were down on numbers. The Apple Bobbing did break the world record with more than seven hundred people taking part!

Jean Tidmarsh

Brian Lambert

Brian sadly passed away shortly after his 90th birthday. When the club was accepted by the Kennel Club Brian was elected by the committee to be the first Chairman. Those who knew Brian will appreciate that he gave more than hundred per cent as Chairman and the club have much to thank him for. The early years with Brian at the helm were crucial in laying the foundation of where the club is now and what it has achieved. Finally, Brian was asked to be President after being Chairman for a number of years, he was President for three years. Although Brian retired from an active role in the Club, he still came to Club events.



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The Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



Photo Yulia Titovets

The Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever (Toller for short) originated in Canada and has been in the UK for about 30 years. They are the smallest of the classified retriever breeds. Legend has it that hunters observed foxes playing

by the water's edge which caused the ducks to become intrigued and swim in close to shore. They proceeded to 'create' a fox-like dog that could mimic this behaviour. They put this talent to use by sitting behind a blind or reed bank whilst the dog dashes in and out after a thrown object. When the duck are close enough the dog is required to sit quietly beside the hunter whilst the duck are shot and then the dog is sent for the retrieve. A Tolling Test, incorporating the element of Tolling with traditional working test elements, is competed in in Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Belgium and Germany. I have been lucky enough to be able to participate in a couple in Sweden and Belgium with my Tollers.

Essentially you would be forgiven for thinking they were a small collie/golden retriever mix. Extremely clever and independent thinking dogs they have a passion for activity which challenges their brains and they hate being bored. They have bags of energy and stamina. They can be late maturing often being at least 3 years old before they are prepared to be really steady. Training is best done in short bites and a space of a couple of days left until the exercise is repeated again, in my experience it is rarely forgotten albeit their own creativity can be added if you don't watch it! All of my Tollers have struggled with sitting in line whilst other dogs go for retrieves that they are convinced they would be better at getting. Containing the scream for which the breed is notorious is a challenge to say the least – I doubt I will ever trial my Toller although the worst my current dog does is a slight squeak.



There is definitely a balance to be struck with a Toller when training. Fun has to be a huge part of the experience, domination and harsh handling will just result in a squashed dog with no will to do anything as they can be quite sensitive. Firm but fair with a dash of excitement and encouragement would be my watchword. A Toller will always try to train you and it may be a while before you realise. They take some convincing you should be listened to. All my Tollers have had a passion for water retrieving which, after all, is in their job description and they swim well. They are often very driven, very determined

and persistent with good noses. I have watched my older dog in her heyday go up and down a water filled ditch after a pricked duck for the best part of an hour

patiently wearing it down until she got it. If you enjoy a real partnership with your working dog there is nothing more satisfying than all your training coming to fruition with a Toller. I have worked them in shoot conditions where they are more than capable of holding their own with other breeds. Having experienced picking up on duck flights with one gun in marsh conditions I know they are a perfect companion for wildfowling. They have a thick double coat.

They are very adaptable often being used as working dogs as well as for agility, flyball or obedience they seem to understand the change in occupation easily. If you want quick results, are not patient or prepared to produce a dog slowly don't get a Toller. If you want a partnership with an animal that is capable of independent thinking and creativity you will have a blast but be prepared for a lot of gundog trainers and the majority of shoots to greet you with raised eyebrows and scepticism.

Sarah Akehurst - Working Test Secretary

Young Handler Retriever Training Day at Westhide Estate – With Julia And Morton Redpath

On an unusually dry Saturday in the middle of June, 14 children aged between 4 and 15 converged on the Westhide Estate in Herefordshire by kind invitation of Mr Luke and Mrs Nicola Thompson Coon. Even though the children, their accompanying adults and their four-legged charges were of all ages, they mingled effortlessly and the day got off to a super start. Luke and Nicola kindly gave each child a bright red Sporting Saint dog lead. Some leads were squirrelled away for keeps and some were put to good use with immediate effect.



The children were separated into three groups. Group 1 was made up of children who had come without a dog of their own, so each was loaned one of ours and assigned a fellow dog handler to watch over them carefully. The children in Group 2 had brought their own dogs. These two groups were met by

Wye Valley Retriever Club trainers and helpers with their dogs at four different locations around the lake and in the wood.

Each child was given the opportunity to handle a dog and have a go at exercises including marked and memory retrieves, hunting, double marks and a retrieve from the lake. The Junior Handlers were really keen to learn and find out exactly what it's all about. It was incredible watching the dogs work for the children.

The children in Group 3 were experienced at handling their own dogs and they had a training class in the field with Morton. Some of the less experienced children had time to watch and were clearly inspired by them.

We all stopped for a picnic lunch under the Poplar trees and soaked in the atmosphere. Westhide is a majestic woodland estate and the children seemed to love being there.

After our picnic we all headed off to the big field and sat in the long grass watching each group of children demonstrate their newly acquired dog handling skills. Some had never handled a dog before at all! The training in the morning had an impact on the children as the improvement in the afternoon was clearly evident. It was quite something to see children of all ages and personalities succeeding at their own level and in their own way. The children handled each task with confidence and great enthusiasm.

At the end of the day everyone was given a very generous bag of goodies kindly sponsored by Pip at Sporting Saint. Thank you Pip. Thank you also to Laura Peakman from Skinners who arranged certificates and another goody bag for all the children. This was a welcome surprise which was very much appreciated.



Our thanks go out to everyone who helped us run the training day. We could not have done this without you. You were all brilliant and so friendly and helpful – thank you so very much. Our thanks go out also to the land owners and the sponsors for giving us the opportunity to have such a memorable and happy day at Westhide.

To say this day was 'special' is an understatement. It was amazing and one we will treasure! It was a joy to meet so many polite and happy children, to watch them laugh and have fun whilst taking on challenging exercises with the dogs. The dogs were all so well behaved, gentle and patient. They seemed to rise to the expectations of the situation they were

in. They must have been very pleased with themselves and probably shattered by the time they arrived back home.

We would like to thank all those who kindly contacted us after the day to thank us, with special thanks to the children who sent such lovely messages.

A massive thank you to you all for taking part in the fun & laughter. We hope you are inspired to continue training and enjoy your lovely dogs at whatever level you choose for many years to come! Maybe we have inspired a future IGL qualifier.

Julia & Morton Redpath



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JUST FOR FUN.....Can you name these dog breeds?

1



- (a) Golden Retriever
- (b) Hovawart
- (c) Maremma Sheepdog

2



- (a) Komondor
- (b) Bergamasco
- (c) Hungarian Puli

3



- (a) New Zealand Huntaway
- (b) Coonhound
- (c) Beauceron

4



- (a) Belgian Shepherd Tervuren
- (b) Leonberger
- (c) Tibetan Mastiff

5



- (a) Pharaoh Hound
- (b) Podenco Canario
- (c) Andalusian Hound

6



- (a) Labradoodle
- (b) Portuguese Water Dog
- (c) Lagotto Romagnolo

Answers on page 33.

Can You Help?

PLEASE COME AND JOIN OUR MERRY BAND OF HELPERS

Help is always needed at our events and you could join us in making them enjoyable for all. We offer a free lunch and a bottle of wine at most events if you volunteer as a steward, dummy thrower, tea maker etc. We also need photographers to record our events.

If you would like to help in any way, please contact the Club by email at info@wyevalleyretrieverclub.co.uk or by phoning one of our committee members – our numbers are on page 1.

Helping at our events is a good way of getting to know everyone and making friends in the Club and we are sure you will be able to learn a lot by watching the dogs and handlers work.



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WVRC Items for Sale

Wye Valley Retriever Club have some quality clothing items for sale which have an embroidered Wye Valley Retriever Club logo. Please contact Mrs Jean Tidmarsh at jeantidmarsh@btinternet.com if you are interested in buying any items.

Polo Shirt	£10.00	Sweatshirt	£12.00
Baseball Cap	£7.50	Ties	£13.00
Ladies Scarves	£13.00		

Rules and Regulations

All Working Tests and Field Trials run by the Club are conducted in accordance with the Kennel Club Field Trial Regulations (Section J) together with the Rules of the Wye Valley Retriever Club. All participants in Working Tests and Field Trials should be fully conversant with the Kennel Club Field Trial Regulations.

The Club's Rules and Regulations can be downloaded from our website. There is also a link to the Kennel Club Field Trial Regulations (Section J) on our website.

Health and Safety

The safety of participants, helpers, spectators and members of the public is a priority for the Wye Valley Retriever Club at its events. The Club has a Health and Safety Policy and has carried out a risk assessment for its training, working tests and field trials.

A copy of the Club's Health and Safety Policy and risk assessments can be found on our website: www.wyevalleyretrieverclub.co.uk

We encourage you to take time to read this information. If you are unable to access these documents on our website, please phone our Secretary and we can arrange to get you the information you require.

.....
Just for Fun – Answers **1(b), 2(c), 3(a), 4(b), 5(b), 6(c)**



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