

Wye Valley Retriever Club Spring Test

Saturday May 14th saw our first working test of the season, held at Westhide, by kind permission of Mr Luke Thompson Coon. Our judges were Mike Larkin, Morton Redpath, Julia Redpath and Matthew Farmer.

Field Trial and Working Test Secretary Roger Wiggins was in charge of the day, our judges stewards were Jean Tidmarsh, Kelly Stringfellow (also in charge of catering), Margaret Owers, Shelley Basford, Chris Peers. Dummy throwers during the day were Sue Goring, Bernard Pound, Mick Downes, Paul Egginton, Terry Dukes, Ben Goring, Tony Griffiths and Liz Griffiths.

Test 1 was judged by Morton and was a hunting exercise, where dogs were asked to hunt an area of rising woodland and pick 2 out of 3 'birds'. Morton felt some handlers imposed too much control over their dogs - he was looking for dogs that will hunt an area with pace and natural ability, with minimal commands.

Test 2 was judged by Julia and was down a track alongside the lake. Dogs had to retrieve a 'wounded bird' over a small fence and then, as they returned, the 'gun' at the side of the lake shot a further 'bird' that dropped into the lake. This was to be retrieved after the first 'bird' had been safely delivered to hand. The main problem with this test was the significant number of dogs that put the 'bird' down after the water rather than delivering to hand. After the presentation at the end, Julia urged competitors to get to grips with problems like this and do something to sort them out!

Test 3 was a 2-dog walk-up with Matthew across a large field away from a wood. A 'bird' was shot up front, but the first dog was required to retrieve an unseen behind in the wood, over a small fence, before the second dog retrieved the marked bird. They then swapped over.

Test 4 was judged by Mike and was a mark followed by a blind in the same area across some newly cleared and replanted woodland for the novices and novice dog/novice handlers, and a single blind to shot for the open. Mike commented that this was not a hard exercise but a number of dogs lacked the pace that comes from confidence. He suggested that handlers practice this type of exercise more.

The tests were tackled by novice dogs and novice dog/novice handlers in the morning and then open dogs in the afternoon, distances appropriately adjusted for the various levels.

Luke Thompson Coon presented the awards, which gave us all the opportunity to thank him for his generosity in allowing us to use his estate for the competition. The club also presented bottles of wine to those who had helped

stewarding or dummy throwing during the day as a thank you - committee excepting of course, we just do it for a smile!!

Thank you again to all the helpers - those that came early and put up the tents and helped set up, those that stewarded, threw dummies, helped with catering in all its forms and those that stayed afterwards to take down the tents and pack up. We can't put on competitions without you!

And thank you too to our sponsors, Skinners.

RESULTS - NOVICE

	Name of Dog	Breed/Sex	Handler
1 ST	Glasybont Greek God Athena	LR/B	Richard Price
2 nd	Lamazing Melba of Glasybont	LR/B	Richard Price
3 rd	Kestrelwaw Bertie	LR/D	Laurie Pittaway
4 th	Swiftlands Dora	LR/B	Ellena Nunnelev
CoM	Pajanbeck Heaven Can Wait	FCR/B	Paul Egginton
CoM	Hasycott Hero	LR/D	Ben Goring
CoM	Wvenor Discoverv	LR/D	Laraine Goodwin
CoM	Glasybont Wigeon's Wink	LR/D	Richard Price

RESULTS - NOVICE DOG / NOVE HANDLER

Sadly no awards could be made.

RESULTS - OPEN

	Name of Dog	Breed/Sex	Handler
1 ST	Stvkes Boy Graig Ddu	LR/B	P Clark
2 nd	Vamp Pipsisewa	GR/D	Andy Fisher
3 rd	Kaliture Rooster	GR/D	Andy Fisher
4 th	Luisenga Highland Lad	LR/D	Paul Hobbs
CoM	Kaliture Finn	GR/D	Lucv Mixture
CoM	Cassie of Meaburn by Trefoel	LR/B	Kevin Lewis
CoM	Movenne Hermea	LR/D	Laraine Goodwin
CoM	Callowhill Mav of Glasybont	LR/B	Richard Price