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Kennel Club No. 2045

Newsletter 2019

Wye Valley Retriever Club

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Committee

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Mrs Ruth Thomas	Tel: 01886 880868
Mr Tony Griffiths	Tel: 01432 350852
Mrs Sally Worthing	Tel: 01432 851871

Dates for Your Diary 2019

Saturday 13th April	Training Assessment Day at Westhide
Saturday 27th April	WVRC Novice Dog/Novice Handler and Novice Working Test – Lulsley
Thursday 9th May	Annual General Meeting
7th May – 25th June	WVRC Training – 8 week course
Saturday 15th June	WVRC Young Handler Retriever Training Day - Westhide
Saturday 25th May	WVRC JumpTraining at New House Farm
Saturday 22nd June	WVRC JumpTraining at New House Farm
Saturday 29th June	WVRC Puppy, Open and Veteran Working Test - Westhide
Saturday 20th July	WVRC end of Term Test & Fun Day
Sunday 4th August	Herefordshire Country Fair
Friday 9th August	WVRC End of Term Annual Dinner
Saturday 31st August	WVRC Field Trial Training Day
Friday 8th November	WVRC 16 dog Novice Field Trial - Dunclent

Training and Membership Fees 2019

	Adult	Couple	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 at New House Farm	£10.00 per session per dog		

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. If you miss two lessons without notifying the trainer of a valid reason expect your place to be offered to someone else. There will be no refund of training fees. Please note, for our training purposes, dogs are considered to be puppies up to 18 months of age.

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

1. Walk to heel on a loose lead without pulling
2. Simple recall
3. 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 get the essentials. Please also note our trainers are volunteers - any guidance or advice on gun dog training is based on their personal experiences and achievements.

WVRC Items for Sale

Please contact Mrs Jean Tidmarsh at jeantidmarsh@btinternet.com

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

Future Events

Dates and venues of the Wye Valley Retriever Club Working Tests are in this newsletter. The Field Trial Training Day and Field Trial(s) schedules and entry forms will be sent to members and posted on our website. Please do check the website and Facebook regularly for details of our events. Please photocopy the entry form printed on the centre pages of this newsletter if you require more than one copy and cannot download further copies from the web site.

Chairman's Report

Our loyal and strong committee volunteer so much of their time throughout the year to provide us all with days out and club events. Well done committee - you're doing a great job! Across the country committees are doing a great job! Thank you to all of you.

A successful club requires a surprisingly large number of volunteers to run it and organise the AGM, working tests and trials, not to mention training and social gatherings for our club to continue so well. We must find new committee members, volunteers, trainers and new ground. If you would like to get involved and contribute to securing the future of the Club, as Chairman I urge you as members to come forward and volunteer a little of your time at our events please.

Our very many thanks to the trainers who voluntarily give up their time. Thank you also to those who threw dummies and helped the trainers during the classes. We rely on volunteers giving their time generously for the enjoyment of every one. On behalf of the members that attended training at the Wye Valley Retriever Club, great appreciation must go to all.

Members of the WVRC are privileged to train during the summer months at Westhild Estate by kind invitation of our President - Luke Thompson Coon. I would like to thank Luke for his generous invitation and provision of ground and his overall enthusiasm and support for the club. Luke has kindly offered the use of Westhild Estate for our Young handler training day on 15th June.

Sarah Akehurst is our membership secretary but over the past two years she has kindly stepped in as working test secretary. Sarah is new to this role and I would like to congratulate her on all her hard work and determination. Without Sarah we would not have been able to run our working tests last year or the

year before. Sarah is currently organising this year's tests as well. Thank you Sarah for doing a superb job.

We have been made to feel very welcome and had the opportunity to test our dogs at some very beautiful places. Thank you to Michael & Jane Gough and James and Helen Parker for inviting us to their ground to hold our working tests there in 2018.

Our appreciation and thanks must also go to Michael & Jane Gough for their very generous offer of our Novice Field Trial at Dunclent and for all the extra hard work that Mark 2 did in preparation for trial. Equally our appreciation goes to Lord & Lady Dulverton for their continued support and offer of an Open Field Trial. Thank you to Mathew Farmer, the Keeper at Batsford, who has also made us all feel so very welcome.

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

Morton Redpath - WVRC Chairman

Membership Secretary's Report

2017/2018 saw the Wye Valley Retriever Club Membership hold steady at 312. The initial flurry of membership applications from trials competitors has slowed in the latter part of the year. It has been encouraging to see an increase in applications to join the club.

Membership applications are approved at committee meetings. If your application is received just after a meeting it may well be a couple of months before a formal notification of acceptance is sent out. I will email to acknowledge receipt.

Members have been able to participate in a variety of activities and events during the course of the year. Training for dogs and their handlers at levels from puppy to advanced, two very successful and enjoyable working tests and a Field Trial at Dunclent. On the social side early August saw the End of Term Test and Fun Day followed a little later in the month by an enjoyable Annual Dinner at Burghill Golf Club. It was a chance to look back and celebrate the achievements of members during the year. The club was also involved in running scurries at the Herefordshire Country Fair.

Working Tests, Field Trials and the End of Term Test and Fun Day could not take place without the help of the membership. Sadly, some of our stalwart few are not getting any younger and we could really do with some more of the membership to help with these events. The more help there is the easier it is to organise & run enjoyable club activities. If you feel you could help it would be lovely to hear from you. My e mail address is ripplrush@gmail.com . It was wonderful to have three of our youngest members helping out at our working tests this year.

We do rely on email to try and keep the cost of sending out information to a minimum. Please, if you have not previously done so, could you ensure that we have your email address as we still have some emails being returned to us.

We trust that 2019 will continue to see the Wye Valley Retriever Club flourish and look forward to welcoming you and your dogs at club activities.

Sarah Akehurst – Membership Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Another year of healthy accounts which is excellent news for the club. The income from membership, plus the additional income raised through the displays Jean Tidmarsh has organised at the Hereford Fair and the Hereford Race course, along with the training days the club organise helps to put us in this welcome position

As always, the committee endeavour to make savings in expenditure as and where we can, and continue to encourage members to use email if possible, to reduce postage costs.

Nicola Pointer – Treasurer

Secretary's Report

It has been a busy year with two working tests and three field trials, along with the training sessions and one-off training days. Well done to everyone involved in organising these events and thanks to all the willing helpers who are so very much appreciated.

I would like to ask all members to carefully check their membership details as we do have occasional mailings and emails bounce back to us. Please also let the membership secretary know if you are receiving notifications by post and

would be willing to receive them by email. It not only cuts down on our costs but will help us do our bit for the environment if people go paper-free as much as possible. Thanks to our great committee for supporting me whenever necessary. Wishing everyone a great 2019 with their dogs!

Chris Peers – Secretary

Working Test Secretary's Report

The Wye Valley Retriever Club held two A/V Retriever - Puppy, Novice & Open Working Tests in 2018. The first was held on Sunday 29th April 2018 at Dunclent Farm, Stone, Kidderminster, by kind permission of Mr & Mrs Michael Gough. The judges were Lisa Harris (B3002), Julia Redpath, Pat Dixon and Dawn Scott.

The weather, which had previously been foul, held fair giving the 36 dogs and their handlers a good day in which to compete. The atmosphere was as supportive, relaxed and friendly as our lovely hosts. Many competitors pitched in at the end of the day to help clear equipment away which made short work of the task. It was very much appreciated as everyone was able to head home at a reasonable hour.

Thank you so much to everyone who came for making it such an enjoyable day, to our judges for setting excellent tests and to the Gough's for allowing the club to use their land again. We are so grateful that you are willing to put up with the disruption it causes to your daily business.

The awards were presented by Michael Gough and were as follows:

Results – Puppy

	Name of Dog	Handler
1 st	Nobsquinton Teasel of Croftferry Lab/B	Steve Prosser
2 nd	Kindermear Be Reet at Jassporter Lab/B	Alan Towle

Results – Novice

	Name of Dog	Handler
1 st	Hassycott Hero Lab/D	Ben Goring
2 nd	Tan-Y-Rhalt Man of War Lab/D	Paul Edmunds
3 rd	Klato Fantom Lab/D	Cheryl Jones
4 th	Roughbeat Gabrzella of Goldenvine GR/B	Julia Deeming

Results – Open

	Name of Dog	Handler
1 st	Kaliture Cuinn by Ashmhorgold GR/D	Karen McCarthy
2 nd	Wyenor Golden Delicious Lab/B	Ian Waddington
3 rd	Stykes Boy Llangynidr Lab/D	Hayden Willmott
4 th	Sarnesfield Trooper Lab/D	Tony Griffiths

The second A/V Retriever - Puppy, Novice & Open Working Test was on Sunday 24th June 2018 at Garford Farm, Yarkhill, Hereford by kind permission of Mr & Mrs James Parker. The judges were Jayne Coley (A) 1850, Steve Cullis, Paula Cullis and Claire Raymond.

It was a glorious day but very hot which made it a challenge for competitors and dogs to be on top form, sadly it took its toll on some of us. We had a wonderful entry of 48 dogs which made for quite a logistical challenge. Thanks to an excellent team of Judges, Stewards and dummy throwers we managed to get through the large number of Puppy and Novice dogs (including a run off with several dogs) by 2.30 pm.

The day was marked by a friendly, sociable atmosphere with the competitors adhering to our request to move quickly between tests, a considerable help in the day running well. We are so grateful to the Open Competitors for waiting in the heat so patiently for their turn.

Thank you so much to the Parkers for allowing the club to use their land again at some inconvenience to themselves - James was mowing on the day of the test to ensure good clear pathways!

The awards were presented by James and Helen Parker and were as follows:

Results – Puppy

	Name of Dog	Handler
1 st	Tullysedge Band of Gold GR/D	Adrian Phillips
2 nd	Constanigree Star Beam Lab/D	Nick Swan
3 rd	Brockweir Sage Lab/D	Mrs D. Wiggin
4 th	Nobsqinton Sea Aster Lab/B	Bella Brown
C of M	Klato Gabriel Lab/B	Cherryl Jones
C of M	Sarnesfield Midnight Run Lab/D	Craig Perry

Results – Novice

	Name of Dog	Handler
1 st	Middlebrook Flycatcher Lab/B	John Mee
2 nd	Diglake Macdrum Lab/D	Dawn Scott
3 rd	Beggarbush Ledbury Lab/D	Alexandra Smith
4 th	Gwynteg Alize Lab/B	Malcolm Jones

Results – Open

	Name of Dog	Handler
1 st	Slipside Ebony Lab/B	Paul Green
2 nd	Castlemans Soul Mam Lab/D	Adrian Phillips
3 rd	Swiftlands Dora Lab/B	Ellena Nunnery
4 th	Mucklehart Gracie Lab/B	John Cornforth

I would like to say a huge thank you to all our Judges for setting excellent tests and to my wonderful team of helpers – those who helped set up at both venues, the dummy throwers and stewards. Rob Peers and Anna Yates who had the monumental task of scoring the large entries accurately. Ruth Thomas & Jean Tidmarsh for feeding us and those who smoothly took over tasks as and when they saw something that needed doing. You were amazing and the working tests would have been impossible to run without you all.

Thank you to Skinners for their generous sponsorship of the two tests.

Last, but by no means least, I am incredibly grateful to Morton & Julia Redpath for the enormous amount of work they put in to organise Judges and the tests. I would, literally, have been lost without their help and advice.

Without the help of club members, we cannot run these working tests and I would encourage any of you who would be willing to assist in 2019 to contact me on ripplerush@gmail.com to find out how you can do so.

Sarah Akehurst - Working Test Secretary

Field Trial Secretary's Report

I would like to thank the following people for their contribution to the 2018 Field Trials. Thanks to Kelly Stringfellow for all the time and effort she has put into making the trials a seamless success and to Rod Owen Davies for helping and

supporting Kelly. The club is extremely grateful to Mr and Mrs Michael Gough and Lord and Lady Dulverton for donating a Novice and Open trials and thanks to Matthew Farmer and his team for providing us with 2 great days at Batsford. Thanks also to Skinners for their continuing support and to all the helpers who gave up their time to help the club.

I must also mention the judges who contributed to the success of the trials ably assisted by Iris Wright.

All three trials went very well with plenty of game shot well by both teams of guns.

The Open trial at Batsford in December turned out to be a very close contest between the top five dogs. The judges went back to HQ to deliberate on the final placings.

Happy new year to you all and hope to see you at the working tests and later in the year at our Field trials.

Roger Wiggins - Field Trial Secretary

Batsford Open Field Trial January 2018

We held our first 12 dog Open field trial on Tuesday 23rd January 2018 at the Batsford Estate, Moreton in Marsh, Gloucestershire by very kind permission of Lord and Lady Dulverton. Thanks to our judges: Phil Bruton, Jayne Coley, Nicola Rudgard and Clare Wood.

Congratulations to all in the awards, and huge thanks to everyone who came along to help make it such an amazing day.

The day went very well and results are as follows:-



	Name of Dog	Handler
1 st	Stauntonvale Buckwheat of Llangynidr	Nigel Probert
2 nd	Zambuck Linnet	Vanessa King
3 rd	The Wind Whisperer of Arcklebear	Clare Baker
CoM	Woodpath Doris	Stuart Arch
CoM	Tildaross Bergamot	Lisa Coates

Dunclent Novice Field Trial November 2018

We held our 16 dog AV Retriever Novice Field Trial on Friday 2nd November at Dunclent Farm, Kidderminster with very kind permission of Mr and Mrs Michael Gough. Our thanks once again for their very generous hospitality.

Thanks to our judges, Mr Nick Coates, Mr Mike Larkin, Mr Huw Jones and Mr Frank Wright.



Thanks also to Steward of the Beat Mr Mark Stinton, and the team of guns Mr Mark Stinton, Mr Patrick Kennedy, Mr Martin Needham, Mr Richard Needham, our Chairman Mr Morton Redpath, Mr Matthew Farmer and our Field Trial Secretary Mr Roger Wiggins.



Special thanks to our helpers, the ever amazing Iris Wright as Chief Steward, the two judges' stewards, Julia Redpath and Ruth Thomas, and everyone else who came to help, Nicky Pointer, Dale Pointer, Rod Davies, Steve Prosser, Ben Goring, Terry Dukes, John Mixture, Rob Peers. Heartfelt thanks from Roger and me, we could not run these field trials without the help from you guys!

Results are as follows:

	Name of Dog	Handler
1 st	Kinagar Dolly of Elmertown	Angie Townsend
2 nd	Roxhart Tinca of Frizelwood	Simon Pullin
Guns' Choice	Roxhart Tinca of Frizelwood	Simon Pullin

Angie took home the Flamank Field Trial Cup for 1st place and Simon took home the Warringhah Trophy for Guns' Choice.

Batsford Open Field Trial December 2018

We held our 12-dog open field trial at the Batsford Estate, Moreton-in-Marsh in 18th December 2018. Many thanks to Lord and Lady Dulverton for their very generous hospitality and also massive thanks to Keeper Matthew Farmer and his team for all their efforts. Results were as follows:

	Name of Dog	Handler
1 st	Ftch. Birdsgreen Cluedo of Wedgnock	Steve Richardson
2 nd	Lendown Gorse of Wadeshot	Robert Wade
3 rd	Kaliture Rooster	Andy Fisher
CoM	Vamp Angelica	Victoria Prichard
CoM	Hassycott Whistle Fish Fin	Morton Redpath
Guns' Choice	Ftch. Birdsgreen Cluedo of Wedgnock	Steve Richardson

Steve went home with the Agrigame Field Trial Cup for 1st place and The Legges of Bromyard Trophy for Guns' Choice.



Thank you once again to everyone involved in our Field Trails during 2018 – the land-owners, the judges, the guns, all the wonderful team of helpers and to Skinners for their continuing support.

Kelly Stringfellow - Assistant Field Trial Secretary

Training 2018

The training season started at Westside on Tuesday 1st May with an eight-week course. Claire Raymond has such a busy schedule that she is unable to commit to full time training on a Tuesday night for the club. For last two years she has run two days jump training at her training ground with the less experienced dogs in the morning followed in the afternoon by the more able dogs. There is always a reserve list for handlers wanting to train with Claire.



Morton and Julia chose to run two training days for novice dogs during the training season, one at Westside and the other at Dunclent. The one at Westside covered a variety of issues while the one at Dunclent was specifically a water training day. All those that took part thoroughly enjoyed their training day and we thank Claire, Morton and Julia for giving up their time and sharing their expertise. The club has access to such good training ground thanks to such generous owners. Check page 1 for details of training dates and more specific one-off training days.

Jean Tidmarsh





Jennifer Shaw ARTIST

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End of Term Test and Fun Day

Roger and Claire Raymond hosted the End of Term Test and Fun Day. It was an extremely hot day but the judges set their tests under the trees wherever possible. The test part was in the morning followed by a delicious lunch of baps filled with hot pork, stuffing and apple sauce. The afternoon was the fun part, the teams competed in dummy throwing, teddy bear hunt, sausage race and apple bobbing games.

Individual results were: -

Puppy

	Handler	Dog
1 st	Laraine Goodwin	Hugo
2 nd	Stan Tippins	Peggy
3 rd	Nick Swan	Charlie

Novice

	Handler	Dog
1 st	Ali Leake	Leaf
2 nd	Sue Hallett	Jett
3 rd	Harry Worthing	Leo

Intermediate

	Handler	Dog
1 st	Veronica Harris	Reggie
2 nd	Jean Tidmarsh	Blizzy
3 rd	Cherry Smith	Boris

Open

	Handler	Dog
1 st	Nick Swan	Purdy
2 nd	Chris Peers	Flynn
3 rd	Laraine Goodwin	Monty

Team results were: -

1 st	Teme	78%
2 nd	Wye	75%
3 rd	Monnow	70%
4 th	Severn	67%
CoM	Lugg	61%

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.



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Hereford Racecourse Countryside Day

The club was invited to do two short demonstrations on the Countryside Day at the Hereford race meeting at the end of November. A visit to the site prompted the vision of a small group certainly not more than four or five, the area designated being quite small. A rehearsal on the Sunday afternoon was our only opportunity before the demonstration.

In the team were Chris Peers with Flynn (Golden Retriever), Ali Leake with Fern (Yellow Labrador), Sarah Akehurst with Galen (Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever) and Jean Tidmarsh with Blizzard (Black Labrador).

The length of each demonstration was between fifteen and twenty minutes. It was decided to show basic training techniques starting with the two puppies Fern and Galen. The two older dogs Blizzard and Flynn demonstrated the use of the stop whistle and directions.

The first demonstration went really well and the dogs did not disappoint their handlers. The second was a different story. Heavy rain driven by strong winds completely threw the dogs. They were reluctant to run into the wind and had to be encouraged to do anything. The organisers understood our predicament and were complimentary about demonstrations especially the first one.

Jean Tidmarsh

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Annual Dinner

The second year running the dinner was held at Burghill Valley Golf Club. About fifty people sat down to a starter followed by a carvery and deserts. A quiz, compiled by Ruth Thomas, was put on each table. This was completed during the meal and proved to be quite testing. Table One was the worthy winner.



After the meal Morton Redpath, Chairman, made a short speech followed by the presentation of the trophies from the Test and Fun Day.

It was good to see so many members catching up with friends and enjoying a social evening away from their four legged companions.

Jean Tidmarsh

Herefordshire Country Fair

The fair was the day after the Test and Fun Day and was held at Sellack near Ross on Wye. It was an exceedingly hot day but fortunately the gun dog area was close to the river so that the dogs were able to go for frequent swims to keep them cool. Unfortunately, due to high temperatures many dog owners did not bring their dogs to compete in the scurries resulting in numbers being down on previous years. However, the entries to the Fun Dog Show were good.

A huge thank you to all the members who helped with the scurries and Fun Dog Show. Many of them kept the ice cream sellers in business, some eating at least three! Thank you also to our sponsors Phillip Morris and Bill Reeve – Tucker.

Jean Tidmarsh

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A Tribute to John Jones (1932 – 2018)

John was born in Hertfordshire into a family of seven in 1932. His father worked on a farm and John followed him by working on a farm too. He went on to work as under-keeper at Woburn Abbey Estate in 1952 for thirteen years and then took up the position of Head keeper at Batsford in 1966 where he worked until retirement in 2004, aged 71.

John owned and trained dogs from an early age and spent most of his spare time training dogs and judging trials and tests. John's second love was following the Hunt packs in the Cotswolds and on occasions travelling to Cumbria to follow the fell hounds with his late friend Johnny Richardson and latterly with Barry Tadhunter.

John started taking classes for the Wye Valley Retriever Club around 2005 and also joined the committee always attending meetings. John spent a lot of time encouraging children to handle Gundogs, even allowing them to use his own dogs. John and I did numerous demonstrations at Chatsworth and various Country Fairs, where we had as many as twelve Junior Handlers involved.

John helped many people to train their dogs. He would invite a group of us to Friday night training sessions followed by fish and chips which was his favourite meal and it was a pleasure to spend time with such a true countryman. He said that we can all enjoy our country pursuits and still get along together. John was particular about dress code when participating in shooting and hunting.

In remembrance of my friend.

Roger Wiggins

A Tribute to Ben Goring

Ben was a great and valued friend to the Club and through his help, he enabled others to have the opportunity to train their own dogs. He patiently placed blinds and threw countless dummies for dogs to retrieve. Ben was able to read a dog and his timing and consistency was not just crucial, but impeccable. He was also blessed with the ability to consistently throw a dummy at a great height and distance with reliable accuracy. Helping the Club in this way gave Ben a valuable opportunity to observe some good dog work, and some not so good dog work! Furthermore, Ben was very discreet in his observations but, if asked, he was more than able to offer some invaluable advice.



In April of last year, Cooper and Ben were awarded first place at the Club's working test at Dunclent, making Cooper into an open dog. There was stiff competition as they competed against 40 other dogs, but together they demonstrated some incredible work, which all of us were very proud to witness! At the awards, Ben went forward to collect the first-place shield and red rosette. His joy at that particular moment was exhilarating and had those of us that knew Ben feeling quite emotional. Ben's smile was so huge!

The success and pure enjoyment that Ben had with Cooper and his dogs has been enormous and we would like to take this opportunity to wish Ben's wife Sue the very best of luck and equal amounts of fun and pleasure with Cooper and Truffle.

Ben was everyone's friend. He was not choosy. He was kind, gracious, humble, sociable and a true gentle man. Ben had a unique quality of connecting so warmly those of us he met. He will be greatly missed in our circles. Thank you, Ben, for being our friend, we shall never forget you.

Julia Redpath

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Christmas Gathering

For the second year running a large group of us gathered in Dorstone for a pre-Christmas walk and lunch at the home of Ben and Sue Goring.

We met in the yard and Ben and Sue provided mulled wine before we set off.

The sun shone and we were able to take our dogs on a lovely walk around the farmland. Seeing over 30 dogs running happily together in the fields without one disagreement amongst them just proved how well trained and socialised all our dogs are. The owners all got on very well too!

We returned to Ben and Sue's lovely kitchen where we had a fantastic lunch – soup provided by Sue and a wide range of other food contributed by all the participants.

The day was a lovely start to the Christmas festivities. All those taking part have lovely memories of Ben who so obviously enjoyed the day as much as the rest of us. Many thanks to the Goring family for hosting this lovely day. Happy memories.



Chris Peers

Junior Handlers

Harry Worthing, presently the Club's only junior handler, was asked by Guy Radford of Dove Valley Gundog Club to join a team of junior handlers to perform a demonstration at Chatsworth Show on 1st September. The demonstration went well, with Guy instructing the handlers to show basic but essential obedience tasks, building up to blind retrieves over water. The handlers were rewarded with rosettes, and a generous goody bag from Gundog Gear. We also had a great day visiting the show itself.

WVRC would really like to encourage young handlers, up to the age of 16 years old, to have some fun with us! Harry has had so much enjoyment from training with the club, picking up on our local shoot, to competing in working tests. He has formed the most amazing bond with Leo, our 7-year-old schoolmaster labrador - and has developed a hobby that has raised his self-esteem and



drawn him away from the inevitable electronics that children of today are attached to!

It was lovely to learn from some of my fellow more experienced committee members that John Jones, who sadly passed away recently, was a great advocate for junior handlers, and that the club had a good number, both training and entering working tests. Note that under 16`s can join the club for free.

Wherever Harry and Leo have competed this summer, he has honestly had the warmest of welcomes, and so much encouragement from fellow competitors.

So, any children, grandchildren, even borrowed, maybe you`ve got a schoolmaster dog they could train with, or could show them the ropes, if so please email me at salvino150@yahoo.com

Sally Worthing



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Training Day for Young Handlers

The Wye Valley Retriever Club will be running a training day for young handlers of retrievers on Saturday 15th June at the Westhide Estate, Westhide, Herefordshire, by kind invitation of Mr Luke Thompson Coon

The training day will be free of charge. It will be informal, fun and suitable for all ages up to 18 years. Young handlers must be accompanied by an adult. The

day is limited to a maximum number of dogs so complete the form accompanying this Newsletter and return it to us as soon as possible.

If you bring your own dog (or Mum or Dad's dog) it should be able to walk to heel on and off the lead, be reasonably steady at heel and should not whine, squeak, bark or interfere with other dogs. If you do not have a suitable dog, you may be able to practise with one of our dogs.

There will be two groups, one with Morton Redpath and one with Julia Redpath. There will be plenty of help and advice on the day from other members of the club.

If you have any questions about the Training Day or you wish to discuss this further please email julia@juliahancock.co.uk or telephone Julia 07967720809 or Morton 07967498764

Julia Redpath

Westhide Connections and Golden Gatherings

In the 1960's Mrs. Kit Fraser, of Westhide Estate, invited some close friends to train their dogs on her land and this later resulted in the formation of the Wye Valley Retriever Club. Mrs. Fraser bred Westhide Golden Retrievers and was a very good friend of Mrs June Atkinson from Dorset who bred Holway Golden Retrievers. The photograph below was taken at Westhide and on the far left of the picture is Ron Dukes, father of our Vice President Terry Dukes.



Left to right: Mr Ron Dukes, Dr Shuttleworth, Mrs June Atkinson, Mrs Kit Fraser, Mr A. Hounslow, Mr Andrew Jackson, Miss Jean Pilling

Although the Westhidge line of Golden Retrievers is no longer in existence, I felt particularly privileged this year to be able to train at Westhidge because 2018 was the year the Golden Retriever breed celebrated its 150th anniversary. 150 years ago, the first litter of Golden Retriever puppies was born in 1868 at the Guisachan Estate in Scotland, owned by Lord Tweedmouth. He crossed a wavy coated retriever with a Tweed Water Spaniel (now extinct) and a litter of 4 yellow puppies were the result. Because of Lord Tweedmouth's meticulous record-keeping, it is now possible to trace all Golden Retrievers back to that first litter! One of the puppies, Ada, was given to the 5th Earl of Ilchester in Dorset, resulting in the Ilchester line of Goldens.

I was fortunate to be able to take part in the International Working Test on the Ilchester estate in May. It was a wonderful event and we were on ground overlooking Chesil beach on the Dorset coast in glorious sunshine. I was thrilled to be awarded 3rd place amongst a very large entry of Goldens from all over the UK and Europe. The whole weekend was very special and we were even able to visit Ada's grave on the estate. Pictures of Mrs Fraser and Mrs Atkinson were on display at Holway Farm and I was pleased to be able to tell people about my connection with Westhidge.

In July we travelled up to Scotland to take part in a week long 'gathering' at Guisachan House, which is now a ruin. Hundreds of people from all over the world came to celebrate the breed's 150th anniversary and 361 Goldens were counted, a new world record. The ruin is now being made structurally safe in order that it can continue to be part of future pilgrimages to the home of the breed. Looking forward to the next Gathering in 2023!



Chris Peers



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Can You Help?

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.

Please contact any of the Committee Members - their contact details are on page 1. Helping at our events is a good way of getting to know everyone and make friends in the Club and you will be able to watch the dogs work and pick up some hints.

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