

## Wye Valley Retriever Club Novice Field Trial At Dunclent

### Results

Winner: Cleestangate Majestic At Maddistream, owned/handled by Gill Awty  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Burrendale Jack, owned/handled by Nicola Reynolds  
3<sup>rd</sup>: Chaysehollow's Andy, owned/handled by Robert Seaman  
4<sup>th</sup>: Astraglen Quiana, owned/handled by Ian Waddington  
John Jones Memorial Trophy for the best retrieve:  
Burrendale Jack, owned/handled by Nicola Reynolds  
Guns' Choice: Cleestangate Majestic At Maddistream, owned/handled by Gill Awty



### Report

We held our 16 dog novice field trial on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at Dunclent Farm, Kidderminster, by the kind invitation of Michael and Jane Gough. We are extremely grateful to them and their family for their very generous hospitality and support, and for all the hard work that they, and their daughter Helen and son in law Mark, contribute to the successful running of the trial.

Thank you to our judges Barry Taylor, Liz Taylor, Karen Handley and Morton Redpath, and all the others who worked so hard to make the trial run so smoothly - Chief Steward Jennie Dimmock, judges' stewards Julia Redpath and Veronica Harris, game carriers George Davies and Steve Lax, markers Paul Egginton, Tia Darby, Sue Hallet, Nicola Radtke, Rachel Massey, and of course Malcolm Awty, "press-ganged" at the last minute. Official pickers up were Nicola Pointer and Danni Seabright.

Catering was provided by Sarah Akehurst – absolutely delicious food at the end of a long day! Jean Tidmarsh did three wonderful cakes – the snag with that is we had to have a slice of each one!!

Thank you to the guns (Michael Gough, Andrew Crampton, Richard Hollingsworth, Stan Howes, Guy Neadham, Steve Ogden, Mark Stinton) and to the steward of the beat, Mark Nicholls, whose team presented the birds excellently and who were very patient between the drives. We had pheasant,

partridges and duck to test the dogs - out in grass, on ponds, in woods, in cover and in mixed clover. Even in Michael's garden!

Thank you too to our sponsors Skinners Dog Food for the cards and vouchers presented to the award winners, and Field and Fang for the dummies for the award winners and the leads for all the helpers.

The weather was kind to us and the day was dry, still and not cold, even at the end of the day. Barry and Karen judged on the right, with Liz and Morton on the left, running the odds and evens system. We started with a drive called Long Meadow, with the guns and field split into two fields with a wooded track between them. There was also a pond there, where some pheasants fell. One pheasant attempted to wipe out the gallery on the track! This drive produced both pheasants and partridges.

The second drive was the Home Drive, right below Michael's house, with the guns shooting ducks and pheasants, a number of which fell into Michael's garden. There was also a big pond at the end of the line, where a couple of ducks fell that caused rather a lot of trouble! We finished with Seventeen Acres. This was a magnificent drive and plenty of pheasants were shot here, enabling us to finish the trial. It also provided lots of picking up for competitors eliminated earlier as well as helpers who had dogs in their car.

We then walked back to the "Donkey Shed" for the awards and presentations.

A very big thank you again to everyone who contributed to the day and our sponsors Skinners and Field & Fang for their support. Many congratulations again to Gill, Nicola, Bob, and Ian.





Gill's speech appears to be very funny!

Thank you to Chris Lawrence from Earthdog Photography (<https://earthdog.smugmug.com>) for the photographs. More pictures are on his website.