Wye Valley Retriever Club Novice Field Trial

Results

Winner: Forest Hill Breeze, owned/handled by Rufus Ulyet

Second: Greenbriar Brassie, owned/handled by Carole Clarke

John Jones Memorial Trophy for the best retrieve:

Mitforton Xfactor Of Packmores, owned/handled by Martin Bagg

Guns' Choice: Forest Hill Breeze, owned/handled by Rufus Ulyet



Report

We held our 16-dog novice field trial on Friday 6th November 2026 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 Dave Field, Jill Gardner, Leigh Jackson and Tucker Munday, and all the others who worked so hard to make the trial run so smoothly - Chief Steward Jennie Dimmock, judges' stewards Julia Redpath and Claire Raymond, game carriers Callum Sale with his wife Alice, and Simon Bolt, markers Andy Crampton, Fern Hordern and Sue Goring, red flags Sue Hallett and Rachel Massey, catering Sarah Akehurst, goody bags Veronica Harris, cakes Jean Tidmarsh. Official pickers up were Nicola Pointer and Danni Seabright.

Thank you to the guns – superb shooting, gentlemen! - and to the steward of the beat, Mark Nicholls, and his team, who presented the birds excellently and who were very patient between the drives. We had pheasant for two drives – fields of what had been tenderstem broccoli certainly tested the dogs' hunting skills! We then finished with a duck drive.

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

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The weather was kind to us and after a brief shower early on the day was dry, still, and cold, even at the end of the day. Dave and Tucker judged on the right, with Jill and Leigh on the left, running the odds and

evens system. We started with a drive called Top Copy, a field of tenderstem broccoli, long picked and now full of other low cover. After a short break for everyone to have a warming hot drink and biscuit (I think the guns might have been drinking something else…) this was followed by Long Meadow, where the guns and field were split into two fields of tenderstem with a wooded track between them. There was also a pond there, where some pheasants fell.

The final drive was the Home Drive, right below Michael's house. This was a magnificent drive and plenty of duck 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.



Dave Field addresses everyone before the start



Walking to the first drive


Dogs on the right walk to their half of the field


The gallery


Carole sends…



And back comes the bird! Even if her dog can't see!



Martin’s dog waits patiently…



Back with a bird



The judges confer



Chris’s photo catches the shot leaving the gun!



Checking the area…



And back with a bird!



Nicola Pointer, official picker-up



The judges listen to the presentations



Rufus is very pleased to have won!



Host and club Vice-President Michael Gough presents Rufus with his trophy



Chair Veronica Harris presents a bottle to Andy Crampton as a thank you for all his help and support to FT/WT Sec Anna Crampton and the Club – cooking for trial catering, packing cars and trailers, helping with setting up events and packing them up again, dummy throwing at tests, marking at trials… Anna's young Flatcoat thinks the bottle is for her!

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 Rufus, Carole, and Martin. Thank you to everyone for making this a very cheerful and good-humoured trial, even if it was not quite your day today.

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