

Newsletter 2023

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Training

This year we were lucky to have some fantastic trainers take our monthly sessions and would like to say a big thank you to Colin Pelham, Barbara Kuen, John Stubbs, Joy Venturi Rose, Chris Rose, Barry Taylor & Alan Buckland. We are hoping to have another year featuring guest trainers every month.

Our away training day was in the Cotswolds with Ricky Maloney at his fabulous ground. We had some great feedback from those members who attended and we look forward to organising some more away training days next year.



Thank you to everyone who came out rain or shine to train each month with us. We hope to see you all back next year. Training takes place on the second Saturday of the month from February to July. 10th February, 9th March, 13th April, 11th May, 8th June & 13th July. Please see Club calendar. All sessions begin at 10.30 and end around 12.30. Please do not arrive earlier than 10.00!

Membership

Marilyn thanks all who have paid their memberships but for those who have not, please remember that they were due on the 1st January. If you need a form or account details please contact Marilyn by email (membership@KVGTS.org.uk) or check on the website or Facebook page. Anyone not having paid by the AGM will not be eligible to vote on any motion. Membership rate remains at £6 and £3 for juniors. A few are paying their membership in December. If you could alter it to January it would be much appreciated – it does create issues for preparing the accounts – you have to be listed as creditors! Anyone paying less than the membership subs will be treated as having made a donation to the club and will not longer receive information about the club.

Committee & AGM

This year we have had some new committee members join and would like to say a massive thank you to them for giving up their time for free, without them the club wouldn't be able to run.

Our AGM will be held on Saturday 10th February at 1:30pm at Burghfield Village Hall.

Charity

This year we had made a £125 donation to the charity Street Vets. They do amazing work delivering free essential veterinary care and services to the pets of people experiencing homelessness.



Working Tests

Another successful year of tests thanks to the committee, landowners, all the volunteers and judges. These tests would be able to happen without the volunteers so if you aren't running your dogs please think about helping on a test or two, it would be much appreciated so we can all continue to enjoy this sport which we all love. If you can help on any of the dates below please email coral.meakes@kennetvalleygts.org.uk

Test Dates for 2024:

Open - Saturday 6th April

SP, NDNH & Intermediate - Saturday 6th July

Novice & Veteran - Saturday 4th May

Walked up - Saturday 17th August

The entry fee for all tests other than the walked-up is £12 for members and £20 for non-members and the entry fee for the walked-up is £12 for members and £24 for non-members.

Working Test Results



Novice Test

Judges: Ken Green, Belinda Routledge, Karen Handley & Dave England

1st - Alan Keenan with Fenway Blossom

2nd - Sarah Burnell with Rossclyde Highland Mist At Rotherburn

3rd - John Read with Ledumwood Whortleberry

4th - Jessica Webster with Lucky Billy Boy

CoM - Kieran Green with Troddenmills Hot Bloodied

CoM - Chrissie Walton with Braltontwist Lou Lou

A few words from Alan: Sitting in my chair, Maisy at my feet with her tennis ball, I looked at the first test, a 2 dog walkup, with apprehension. These were long retrieves, at an angle to left and right, and up medium grassy slopes. At our turn, we were on the left. The other dog went first, when Maisy was allowed to go, she absolutely nailed it; no hunting or handling but straight to it. I was impressed; just like a marked retrieve. We swapped over, and again absolutely nailed the second one; bang on, no handing and at pace. All downhill from here.

On to the next test; a double blind. The first blind was straightforward; send down the clearing, stop, hunt to the right. The second involved moving to out right across the 'start line', and sending diagonally across. Almost perfect, but with some correction needed. However, the frustration was that Maisy reverted to her mature characteristic; a trot back.

On to the next test, a double blind, both out of the wood but over a wooden post and rail fence into a grass field. The first blind is 50 yards away by a clump of grass. The blind was back a further 30 yards past the grass clump, and just into the next field between the gate posts. Almost perfect, a little handling, and at pace. Well done Maisy; that must have been a good point score.

And so to the last. Two marks; the first to the left up and across the slope with the dummy falling just over the brow and out of sight; the second to the right down and across a slope into a pond. Well, Maisy went straight up to the first dummy, right to it with no handling, and pacy on return. Straight down, look into the pond, run a quarter of the way round the pond, check where the dummy was, straight in, back out, pacy up the hill and no shake, and no handling. To say I was so proud of Maisy for how she completed this test with no handling was, and still is, an understatement. And to be told it was the first 20 of the day, with only a few other dogs to go, was a bonus.

And then we had a runoff; And it was a long long wait. And from the back row to the front to receive the trophy is a long long walk when you are not expecting it. But I am still so proud of Maisy, as she showed what she can do when her handler does not interfere.

Open Test

Judges: Colin Pelham, John Stubbs, Peter Castleman & Chris Marshall

- 1st - Beth Morgan with Abney Affinity
- 2nd - Lauren Wright with Norlands Tara
- 3rd - Robert Small with Troddenmills If Only
- 4th - Liz Woods with Lowsommer Blacksmith Rose

CoM - Fay Drewry with Isleofman Gretel
CoM - Barbara Kuen with Gwidigada Affinity at Dipplelodge
CoM - Jan Abrahams with Kerrabrah Nelly



Novice Dog/Novice Handler Test

Judges: Abbie Reid, Carole Montague, Terry Souter & Jane Trowell

- 1st - Emma Newman with Silver Mill
- 2nd - Lucy Anderson with Tallamelie Rose
- 3rd - Jo Clay with Bodekirefu Letizia
- 4th - Bradley Stray with Kenxtwen Fairest



Veteran Test

Judges: Abbie Reid, Carole Montague, Terry Souter & Jane Trowell

- 1st - Janice Miller with Millerise Jemima
- 2nd - David Miller with Millerise Jacob
- 3rd - Sam Davis with Wildspirit Nilla
- 4th - Wendy Brown with Kenquince Time for Twister
- CoM - Sue Berman with Suthcharic Freya



Special Puppy Test

Judges: Abbie Reid, Carole Montague, Terry Souter & Jane Trowell

- 1st - Moira Robertson with Downfarm Martell
- 2nd - Moira Robertson with Downfarm Martine
- 3rd - Lesley Scutter with Cornwood Glorious Twelfth
- 4th - Chrissie Walton with Braltontwist Pumpkin

Novice Walked-Up Test

Judges: Ken Green & John Keegan

1st & winner of the Millerise Cup - Jumbi Alice Emma Of Jathmea handled by John Baker

CoM - Rozel Gail at Tyrian handled by Steve Dean

A few words from John:



I arrived on the appointed day and found myself in a diverse group of like-minded people. The rules of f/t competitions are quite different with a marshal of the gallery as they follow the competitors from location to location. The judges maintain a watching brief on absolutely everything that happens and the selection of the participants is something of a "dark art" and known to the few 'in the know'. I found that just doing what I was told was the easiest option.

The retrieves themselves were quite testing, which I suppose one should expect, but my dog has one great advantage, in that she goes pretty much where I send her, plus she has a good nose and I am happy to get her to the designated area and let her do the work. Some of the retrieves were quite difficult but the strict repetition tests of a working test were missing and the random nature of the field trial meant that the dogs were tested for a number of qualities not the slavish following of the scent of previous dogs on the retrieves. As we progressed the number of people coming with me seemed to be getting smaller with every simulated drive. A double eyewipe obviously helped our cause. She really had done very well and whatever the result I could be nothing but be very pleased with her efforts, so she deserved a big cuddle. The results and prize giving was announced and we assembled for the news, COM's was given out and then I was announced as the winner. Well I was delightfully surprised and obviously very pleased that we had won and very happy for my dog who had done most of the hard work. That recent fit of madness had proved very fruitful, a good day for us and much hard work from all the helpers, Dummy throwers, marshals, organisers, judges and the panoply of people who go out of their way to provide an afternoon's experience for others. They are all stars.



Open Walked-Up Test

1st & winner of the Rollinson Bowl:

Lyebreach Golden Eagle Of Riverlily (Lab D) handled by Abbie Reid

2nd Suthcharic Roux (Lab B) handled by Sue Berman

3rd Peterspond Wader (Lab D) handled by Karen Handley

4th Haddeo Carrick (GR D) handled by Bob Marcham

A few words from Abbie:

In August Rooster and I entered the KVGTS Open Walked Up on Field Trial Lines Working Test, we had a great day.

The ground was varied with woodland areas, open rolling fields and ditches all being used for the retrieves. The organisation was fabulous and no two retrieves were the same. Double marks out, single marks and blinds in all directions meant that the competitors were kept on their toes and had to stay focused whilst in line.

Rooster did his best and after a final drive we were called forward for one more retrieve which was a long blind in a ditch. We were lucky enough to be awarded first place at the end of the day.

My thanks go to the hard working committee, all the helpers and the judges on the day for such an enjoyable test.

Please do consider offering to help at the tests next year. It a great way to learn about competing and to make new friends.

Abbie Reid and Rooster x

Southern Inter Club Team Event

Judges: Colin Pelham, Alan Buckland, Kim Jinks, John Stubbs & Kelvin Nettleingham

Hosted by Utility Gundog Society Kent & East Sussex

Kennet Valley Team consisted of:

Open Dog: Kate Bolen and Bellspaddle Dexter at Wephamdown

Novice Dog: Helen Sanderson and Albertasno Hurricane Reef

ND/NH: Amy Jobson and Bellaroyal's Star Cracker

It was a fabulous day of 15 teams competed over 5 challenging tests, all done as a team, each member having one retrieve per test. The day was very well organised and ran smoothly which made for a very enjoyable day. The club then hosted a super Hog roast for all whilst the scores were being sorted and the charity raffle was drawn. Massive congratulations to the winning Arun and Downland team. The team proudly wore the Kennet Valley badge and were honoured to represent the club.



Inter-Counties Team Event

Judges: John Stubbs, Heather Bradley, Jayne Coley, Barbara Kuen & Barry Taylor

Kennet Valley Team consisted of 3 Open Dogs:

Jo Rollinson and Bellspaddle Roscoe

Kate Bollen and Bellspaddle Dexter at Wephamdown

Aaron Wright running Garrethall Toddy

Saturday 22nd April 2023 at Windsor by gracious permission of His Majesty the King, Guildford Working Gundog Club hosted the Intercounties event. What a fantastic day this was. We were greeted by a great number of helpers and the committee. Extremely efficient and well organised.

Numbers and running orders were handed out along with a "joker" card. This was a valuable piece of paper team captains were informed clearly, not to lose.

All-in navy-blue gilets and the new baseball caps we were proud to be representing the club.

There were 5 tests, all done as a team and a retrieve each on the test.

A range of tests, which were set well by Colin Pelham and his team.

Test 1, judged by John Stubbs were 3 blinds with plenty of bunkers on route.

Test 2, judged by Heather Bradley, were mark retrieves, then a blind replaced near the original mark to pick.

Test 3, Judged by Jayne Coley, 3 very tricky marks, one behind the other, then 3 blinds up on the brow of a bank.

Test 4, Judged by Barbara Kuen, 3 blinds with a lot of bunkers (again) on route.

Test 5, Judged by Barry Taylor, a 3 dog walk up, a short and a long retrieve on the same line.

The tests all flowed, and all teams were back at base by 1pm, truly fantastic organisation.

The club then hosted a super Hog roast for all whilst the scores were being sorted.

Arun and Downland team won clearly with Beth Morgan winning top dog, huge congratulations to them. What a fantastic day and the 3 members of Kennet Valley enjoyed every minute of the day and were grateful to be selected to represent the club.



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

The Committee would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year! We look forward to seeing you all next year at training and tests.