

Berkshire Downs & Chilterns Golden Retriever Club



Winter Newsletter 2013

It's almost time to say goodbye to 2013 and welcome 2014.

It's been a busy year. In addition to our popular Working Test Day, we also ran a very successful Working Gundog Certificate day where, with one exception, all participants passed.

In May we ran a J Regs seminar for aspiring Field Trial Judges, which was well supported and we may repeat this in 2014 if there is sufficient demand.

Our two Shows were, once again, a great success. The Open Show in June had the benefit of glorious sunshine which added to the Summer Fete feel.

Our Champ Show this year was held in the larger West Hall at the KC building, Stoneleigh and this was rewarded with a very large entry.

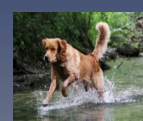
This year, for the first time, we ran two Novice Field Trials and next year we will be able to hold our first All Aged stake.

BD&C GRC will be hosting the Interclub Working Test in June 2014 and look forward to your support to make this a memorable event.

We hope that whether in the show ring, or the field, you have enjoyed 2013 and wish our members and their dogs a successful 2014.

DECEMBER 2013

Contents



Interclub Working Test 2



Field Trials 4



Show 6



Obedience 7



Committee News 9



A Success Story 10



Diary 13



The website – www.bdcgrc.org.uk

Don't forget you can keep up to date by checking the website. Entry forms are available to download from the site & all sorts of useful information such as Club Rules, Regulations, Diary Dates & Committee members contact details

GRC CENTENARY INTERCLUB WORKING TEST

Early in 2013, I received an invitation to run as Novice for the BD&C Golden Retriever Club at the GRC Centenary, and of course, I accepted. By kind invitation of the Earl and Countess Bathurst at the Bathurst Estate (Cirencester), all the teams met to a breakfast of sausage and bacon rolls. The day was going to be very hot and we were all a little nervous about keeping the dogs cool but keen to run well. 6 tests awaited us and I looked forward to the team event.



The BD&C GRC team consisted of:
Karen McCarthy - Fergus (Open)
Lisa Harris - Spice (Open)
Dawn Rose - Drift (Novice)
Sarah Winter - Caspar (Novice)

Seen here discussing team tactics

The tests were as follows:

Test 1

Comprised blinds in the woods for both Novice and Open. Novice was shorter and had to run through undergrowth. Open was in the opposite direction.

Test 2

Walk up.

The scoring for this test was a combination of heel-work and retrieving. Being on the end, I had a good view of the line and I must say, we looked impressive. The judge even commented on our heel-work saying it was the best he had seen all day.

Test 3

Again, all 4 dogs were sat off lead. First novice dog had a mark into long grass then Open dog had to push past the mark, through the gate to a blind in long grass. While the dog was on its way back, another mark went out in a different area for the next Novice dog then the second open dog had to run back though the gate to another blind out in the long grass. All 4 dogs completed their tests.

Test 4

All 4 dogs sat in a line. You had to nominate which dog was going to pick which mark before you started. 3 marks were put out and one blind. Once all the retrieves were completed, there was one long-distance mark for a bonus.

All 4 dogs completed their nominated retrieves and Lisa tried for the bonus dummy. Though Spice got within a few inches, the scent was really poor and she failed to pick. Whilst Lisa and Spice tried for the bonus, the 3 of us moved to the shade to watch. Some lovely dog work from Spice in those extremely hot conditions.

Test 5

2 blinds to shot along the bank for the novice, a mark and a blind for the open dogs. Open dogs had to sit off-lead while the 2 novice dogs completed their test. Again, all 4 dogs completed their retrieves.

Test 6

The dogs were in pairs, with a mark in the water for the Novice, who waited until the Open dog had a blind retrieve to the other bank. The mark for the novice dogs was thrown out behind a tree. Both novice dogs did a really good job on this test, sitting calmly while the open dogs completed their blinds.

For me, there is something special about team events. It is so nice to work with other dogs all trying to achieve the same goal. Our team and their dogs all worked very well together, considering the heat. On all 6 tests, our dogs brought home their retrieves with only 1 bonus missed. BD&C GRC came 5th overall which was a good result. Lisa Harris received the award of **Top Open Dog** and **Top Dog Overall**, a fantastic result for the lovely Spice. The Golden Retriever Club put on some very good tests which challenged all levels of dog. There was some good camaraderie between the teams and spirits were high. The judges on the day were all helpful and the ground we were on was lovely. This was a fantastic way to spend a memorable centenary

Sarah Winter



FTCh Castlemans Running Game
in the Parade of Champions



FIELD TRIAL RESULTS



Competitors getting ready for the off

Photo courtesy of Greg Knight

We held our first field trial of the season at Swinbrook, near Burford, Oxon on Saturday, 12 October. This is an old shooting estate and our hosts, William MacKinnon and David Cecil very generously gave the Club the day and the guns just shot for the trial.

Our judges were Judy Rainey, Thelma Salaman, Ricky Ross Moloney and Karen McCarthy and the Chief Steward was Dawn Rose. Although it was very wet earlier in the day by the time we moved off to the first drive the rain had cleared and we were very fortunate that the day stayed dry, sunny and clear so everyone could enjoy the spectacular Cotswold scenery.

We had 4 drives on a combination of pastureland and plough, the keeper, Mark Webster provided a nice flow of birds and the guns shot well. We lost dogs steadily over the course of the day, leaving 3 dogs standing at the end. On reflection the judges felt that none of those remaining were of an Open standard yet and so withheld 1st place. The awards were 2nd Cantabrica Indian Queen (lab bitch) handled by Heather Walton, 3rd Kilpen Lioness of Movenne (lab bitch) handled by Beth Payne, 4th Rowledge Rebel (lab dog) handled by John Boyle. Guns' Choice went to Ardyle Adonis (golden dog) handled by Graham Bird. There were 25 entries for the trial.

Many thanks go to Skinners Petfoods and Bracco Gundog Equipment for sponsoring the prizes and to all those who helped on the day, stewarding, marking and cake making, in particular the non members. Special mention must go to Allie Hogsbjerg and husband Toby who liaised with the landowner and keeper, organised transport for everyone and even booked the hotel for breakfast – thank you.

On 18 November our second trial took place at New Farm, Norton, Worcs, courtesy of Mr & Mrs N Onens.

In contrast to our earlier trial this was walked up in roots predominantly on partridge. Our judges were Heather Bradley, Sheila Suzuki, Lisa Harris and Allie Hogsbjerg.

Although the birds were a little bit skittish the guns did an excellent job. As we walked through the beet dogs managed to put themselves out as several young dogs found holding an area difficult with the distraction of live game and only two dogs finished the day. The judges awarded 2nd place to Sorrelcott Excalibur and Helen Goodwin with Streamcombe Taw and Julie Kelvie taking 3rd place. As the bag hadn't quite been reached the guns continued shooting and several handlers took advantage of this to put in a bit of training, as they took on the task of picking up.

Judges and award winners



Photo courtesy of Angela Cooper

**We have been granted permission by the Kennel Club to hold a
1 day AV All Aged Stake in the future and hope to run our first
such trial in September 2014
Keep checking the website for more details**



REPORT FROM A CHAMP SHOW VIRGIN



The Champ show went ahead on Sunday 17th November at Stoneleigh Park.

This was my first show as Treasurer for BDCGRC. An early start (for a change) I'm a natural lark and rise before dawn every day, but even for me having to be at the KC building for 7.30am was a challenge. Despite this, I arrived at Stoneleigh Park ready for Car Park duty at the designated time.

Hilary (Scoggins) and I met with the official Car Park attendant for our briefing then shared out our duties, which ranged between directing cars at the main gate, to ensuring the disabled were parked close to the entrance.

I had my 'guard dog' (Riley, my young, golden retriever) with me and from 11.30am onwards, we completed regular circuits of the car park, checking for any dogs that were in distress and ensuring all were safe.

Between circuits, I spent some time inside, watching the show dogs perform. Hilary and I studied these and tried to make our own decisions on who we hoped would win.

Overall it was a good day. Despite some of the issues on the roads, plenty of people turned up. The club committee that attended all kept busy and we cleared the hall quickly. For me, it was an enjoyable day.

Sarah Winter

The full results of the Champ Show are available on the website



OBEDIENCE RESULTS

Obedience Classes at Open Show.

If you attend the club's July open show in any year, you may have noticed 2 other rings set up a little way off from the main breed ring with people and their Goldies walking in very strange patterns and generally behaving oddly – welcome to the world of obedience!

We put on 6 classes: pre-beginners, beginners, novice, A, B and C and they are run exactly as they would be at an all breed open obedience show, with the exception of the 'stay' exercise which we do in the competing rings, as opposed to a separate stay ring. Each year a reasonable entry is achieved considering the show falls in the middle of the main obedience season and to draw people away from an open show to a limit show would always be difficult. The lower classes usually have the higher entry with a number of breed people 'having a go' (hooray, round of applause!!) and the higher classes having a smaller but top notch entry, having been attracted by the friendly and relaxed atmosphere of the show – their words not mine! (hats off to the club!)

The world of obedience does not have to be boring or stuffy - and if you work a Goldie I can guarantee it will be neither of these things! – so go on, come and join us and have a go next year!

Our judges for this year were:

Beginners, Novice and A - Mrs Marie Kirk with her daughter (sorry, didn't catch your name) stewarding

Pre-beginners, B and C – Mr Roy Hammersley with Ann Kemp stewarding.

The handlers who went away the happiest were:

Pre-beginners:

Mrs D Rose and Azteca Rocket Man



Beginners:

Miss J Askew and Stradcot Crystal Maze



A
Miss I Neale and Pepsanner Emma Sweeney



Novice
Mrs P Bray and Carishill Apollo



B Mrs L Board and Tyrocoll True To Me



C entry absent

A full set of results are available on the club's website.

I would like to offer my personal thanks to all our handlers and our judges for making a very enjoyable day and I hope I have tempted more people to come and 'have a go'!

Hilary Scoggins



COMMITTEE NEWS

Committee Officers

CHAIRMAN:

John Taylor

SECRETARY:

Gloria Gargan

TREASURER:

Sarah Winter

SHOW SECRETARY:

Elizabeth Fisher

FIELD TRIAL SECRETARY:

Dawn Rose

WORKING TEST SECRETARY:

Helen Burnie

RE-HOMING CO- ORDINATOR:

Jan Muncey

PUPPY REGISTER:

Judy Gregory

WEBSITE:

www.bdcgrc.org.uk

**The Committee
would like to wish
all of our members**

**A MERRY
CHRISTMAS**

&

**A VERY HAPPY
NEW YEAR**



*A plea from the Treasurer
Annual subscriptions are due on
1st January 2014 £8 single, £10
joint. Please, please, please pay
promptly. Standing Order is
preferred*

*If you do currently pay by
Standing Order please make sure
that your reference makes it easy
to recognize who the payment
comes from*

THANK YOU!

NEWS FLASH

2014 Berkshire Downs & Chilterns are hosting the Golden Retriever Interclub Working Test and we need the support of all our members to make this a truly memorable day. Please get in touch if you would like to be considered for the team or can help in anyway.



BELLA'S STORY – A REHOMING SUCCESS

Fathers' Day 2013 turned out to be the best so far for my Husband Steven King. We had had news from the Berkshire Downs Golden Retriever Rescue that Bella, a 9 month old retriever was looking for a loving home. For several months we had been considering acquiring a companion for our 2 year old retriever Sam. Up until he was 8 months old we had a lovely 12 year old retriever called Henry, who sadly we had to put to sleep after a sudden illness in April 2012.

Sam accepted being the new kid on the block however he was always on the lookout for doggy company whenever we took him out for a walk. We knew for him that he needed a companion, someone around his age and preferably a spayed girl we thought would be the best mix. After a few months of looking out for a suitable Goldie my husband was ringing around several golden retriever rescue clubs and had left a message with Jan Muncey from Berkshire Downs Golden Retriever Rescue. Jan called him back and gave us the details of a lady called Sharon Down who regrettably needed to rehome her young retriever called Bella. We arranged to drive over that day (Father's Day) to see Bella and to check how Sam and her interacted on their first meeting.

We were very excited about seeing Bella and couldn't wait to meet her, and when we arrived and Sharon took us through to see Bella, my heart just melted on the spot. She was sat perfectly still outside looking through the doors at us with these gorgeous big brown adorable eyes! Sam was very pleased to meet her and they ran around the garden together gradually getting used to their company. All of us including Sharon and her children took both dogs to a local woods and field so we could again see how they interacted together in open spaces.



The first play at home! June 2013

The rest is history, Bella is the perfect companion and addition to our family and we knew right from that first meeting that she was meant to join us. Sam is a very happy boy now and has settled down knowing Bella is not too far away. It is great to see them play together and run around on walks. They adore each other and something I have never seen before, they regularly lick each other's faces after having a drink.



Bella's favorite place to lie down (Look at those gorgeous eyes)

We have always had boy retrievers so Bella has come with definite girly traits! Big brown eyes and long eyelashes as well as a very compliant nature (she rarely runs off unlike the boy on a scent!). She is easy to please and loves lots of cuddles and every morning greets us by talking (with whatever stuffed toy she can grab). She bosses Sam around, however he takes this with ease and loves to play with her. They never seem to tire of each other's company. So we know we have made the right decision and we are very grateful for all the advice and support that Jan Muncey gave us prior to seeing Bella and in the first few weeks when she was with us. Here are some pictures of Sam and Bella since her introduction to the King Family in June!



Relaxing together (Sam our golden boy with Bella poised with paws after digging!)

Golden Trio – a friend's retriever Humphrey, beautiful Bella and Sam (looking like he's singing...)



Bella having a cuddle with our daughter



Tug of War!



2014 DIARY

TBC		WORKING TEST DAY (GOLDEN RETRIEVERS)
2 APRIL	VILLAGE HALL, HORSPATH, OXFORD	AGM – all members welcome
22 JUNE	MAYRIDGE FARM, ENGLEFIELD	INTERCLUB WORKING TEST
6 JULY	VILLAGE HALL, HORSPATH, OXFORD	OPEN & OBEDIENCE SHOW
TBC		OPEN AV WORKING TEST
20 OCTOBER	NEW FARM, NORTON, WORCS	FIELD TRIAL
16 NOVEMBER	KC BUILDING, STONELEIGH, WARKS	CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW
TBC		FIELD TRIAL