

Southern Inter-Club Match Saturday 3rd July 2016

Hosted by Utility Gundog Society Herts. Beds. And Bucks.

Held at Windsor Great Park by gracious invitation of

Her Majesty the Queen and the Crown Commissioners.

Novice Dog/Novice Handler - Ann Gladwin - Carishill Regan - Regan

Novice Dog -Trish Taylor - Hollinlake Riff Raff of Jazzmead - Ruby

Open - Sue Jackson - Largymore Maccallan – Callan



20 teams gathered on a beautiful morning, in lovely surroundings. After the usual introductions we were soon on our way to our first test.

We started at test no.6 which was the dreaded walk up. We were told that we would each have a mark with shot and a blind with no shot. All three dogs performed well and achieved both dummies. We were all pleased with the heel work, and relieved to have got the walk up out of the way.

Our second test (test no.5) was over water. Shot with mark dummy on to island. Regan sent and retrieved well. Then two shots at two second intervals fired, followed by marked dummies. Ruby was sent for her retrieve but hadn't marked it, she worked hard but had to be called in. Sue then had to send Callan for what was now a memory, and after some handling retrieved the dummy.

Third Test (test no. 4) was supposed to emulate a duck drive with a few quacks and shots fired. While that was happening the dogs were behind a screen but handlers able to see where the blinds were. We then had to stand with the dogs in front of the screen and state in what order and which

dummy we were going to retrieve. Trish opted to go first for one on her Left. Ann to go second for one directly ahead , so Sue was left with the one on the right. Trish cast Ruby out and directed her towards her retrieve, but she lacked the confidence to go right across the water, so sadly she was again called in. Ann then sent Regan, but unfortunately He had his sights set on the one on the left, and as we had been told that if he picked the wrong dummy he would lose points but still gain some marks we let him continue for that one which he retrieved, but we only gained 5 points. It was then Callan's turn and he was the star ploughing his way through the water lilies in a direct line and retrieved his dummy in fine style

Fourth Test(test no. 3) Was in open ground with fallen tree trunks and various amounts of

Cover. 3 marked retrieves with shot and we were each asked to commit to a retrieve and

State in which order we would send our dogs. Ann opted for last one thrown and to go first, Trish to go second for second one thrown and Sue to the last one. Regan was sent out and retrieved well, Ruby just couldn't quite make the distant and stopped just short of the area, tried her best, but again had to be called in. Callan was then sent out and after some handling came back with the correct retrieve.

Fifth Test (test no. 2) 3 blinds no shot. Regan was sent along a track for his retrieve which was only a short distance ,and didn't cause him any trouble. Ruby was then sent for her one through thick cover and made a good job of retrieving. Callan then had to retrieve over thick cover at a fair distance once he had been sent Sue was invited by the judge to go forward several metres so that she could see him to handle him, he took her directions well and came back happily with his retrieve.

Sixth Test (test no.1.) Short walk up, 3 shots fired and 3 marks thrown. The judge told Trish to send Ruby for the mark on the right she went out well and retrieved with no trouble. Ann then had to send Regan for one also to the right which he did well then Callan was sent for the final one which he retrieved perfectly, we then put the leads on and all gave a sigh of relief .

The hosts lead by Jacqui Crew put on a fantastic day, the organization was terrific , and we completed all 6 tests in 2hours 30 minutes. The judges went out of their way to put us at ease at each test, and were clear in their instructions. The atmosphere was extremely friendly , we couldn't have asked for more.

We should also Thank Andy Ward Smith for the great amount of time and effort he put into training us for the event