

## Report on the FCRS Shirley Radburn National Working Tests held at Rickney's Dog Training Ground, Chapmore End, Ware on 1st July 2017.

The "Nationals" Working Tests were held on Saturday, 1st July 2017 at a new ground for the Society; Rickneys Dog Training Ground at Chapmore End, near Ware in Hertfordshire.

The ground has been developed by Andrew and Julie Knight (Wadesmill Golden Retrievers) over a number of years and features a mix of woodland, hedges, scrub, fences and standing and moving water, all of which provide for great diversity of tests and training. Our judges for the day were Jim Gale and Dave Barnes, and they also set the tests.

Ten dogs competed for the Novice awards and undertook 4 tests starting with a walk-up with a seen retrieve followed by a blind. The second test was a mark into water and a blind, with the handlers electing which to retrieve; all but one taking the mark from water first. This was followed by a double mark, the first over a fence and the second into cover, and then a seen retrieve but with a hidden fall.

Two dogs achieved equal top marks and faced a run-off for first place, a long blind. Penny Heath's dog Dutch D'Votion Daily Dream took the better line and first place with Graham Clelland's Necessaries Sorrel coming in second.

The Novice Test awards were as follows:

- 1st - Penny Heath's Dutch D'Votion Daily Dream
- 2nd - Graham Clelland's Necessaries Sorrel
- 3rd - Mark Johnson's Wolfthistle Alfred Unus Est
- 4th - Jack Robb's Bencholka Black Pepper at Meldorfer
- COM - Julie Matthew's Ollerset Shining Nymph
- COM - Brian Travers' Littledart Hurricane



Eight dogs competed for the Open awards and also faced 4 tests, starting with a walk-up with a mark and blind retrieve into the edge of a plantation. The second test was a long blind retrieve with the dogs having to cross an area of long grass to get to the fall. This turned out to be the most difficult test with all the dogs having to be handled to get into the area. This was followed by a mark across a stream with a second mark into an area of saplings, both retrieves requiring a fence to be crossed. The final retrieve was a long mark.



The Open Test awards were as follows:

- 1st - Jacqui Crew's Casblaidd Quill Hogan
- 2nd - Diane Heywood's Houndswood Aphrodite
- 3rd - Mark Johnson's Sachbash Dom Perignon
- 4th - Pat Bell's Gowran Hesperis at Pallingforth

The entries for the Novice and Open Tests were down compared with previous years and this was a little disappointing, but it was an enjoyable day and well supported by helpers and spectators.

David Savory  
FCRS Hon. Field Trial Secretary