

**Report on the FCRS Inter-Area Team Competition held at Tythe Barn, Harvington, Worcestershire on 11 August 2018.**



Tythe Barn, Harvington was the venue for the 2018 Inter-Area Team Competition, a new venue comprising an extensive area, possibly 40 hectares, of cider apple orchard and a large lake. We were there by kind permission of the Byrd Family.

The tests were set well in advance and once again the focus was on creating team tests with options that would challenge handlers to stretch their dogs and attempt more difficult tests and, if successful, score extra points. Eight teams were entered and all tests were run throughout the day with a focus on "picking-up". Our judges for the day were

David Bellamy, Lisa Booker-Bown, Vivienne Gatter, Paul Alabaster and June Ellin.

A set of instructions were issued to each of the teams, 30 minutes before the competition started. Each test was worth 100 points. Tests 1, 2, 4 and 5 involved 2 retrieves per dog and on some tests handlers could elect to pick more difficult birds for extra points. The Puppy could also elect to be off lead at some tests for extra points.

**Test 1: Wet or Dry**

A drive is in progress with single birds falling to the left of a small copse on open ground and on the right in a lake. Each team was lined out and the Puppy/NDNH sent for single retrieves and could elect to be off lead for extra points. The Novice dogs were sent for two retrieves each, and could choose to pick the wet retrieve second for extra points. The Open dog could be sent for a long blind before the water retrieve for extra points.



### Test 2: Gamblers

Two blinds were placed along an avenue between orchard trees at two different distances chosen by each handler; either 20m, 40m, 60m, 80m or 100m. There were more points for longer distances and less experienced dogs.



### Test 3: The Sweep

Five partridge had been shot in part of the orchard and were not picked earlier as they had fallen awkwardly - they could even be hung up in trees! As each team arrives, 12 pheasants are shot, all falling in the same area. When the shooting stops your team has to enter the area and collect a minimum of 10 pheasants as quickly as possible and as many of the 5 partridge as you can find for extra points. The Team Captain could call stop at any time after all 10 pheasants have been collected together with as many partridges as the team could find. This test possibly proved the most popular, with some very fast times being achieved. It also proved pretty exhausting for the dummy throwers/placers and a few handlers!



### Test 4: Distracting memories

Birds were being shot the far side of a stream and some falling in the water, and some at distances back from the waters edge. Birds were also being shot off to the right in part of the orchard. The Puppy/NDNH was sent for single retrieves, across the stream and then into the orchard and could elect to be off lead for extra points. The Novice dogs were sent for two

retrieves each, a mark across the stream and a distraction in the orchard. The Open dog was sent for a blind across the stream followed by a distraction. On this test, the carp in the lake created some challenging distractions for some handlers.



### Test 5: The Walk-up with a twist

Each team joined a walk-up in rough grassland. Birds were being shot from in front of the line, initially singly and then in a flush. Each dog was sent in turn to pick an individual bird. The Puppy/NDNH could be off lead until it had completed each retrieve for extra points and the Novice and Open dogs could pick blinds behind for extra points.



The team results were:

**1st - The South West**

Steve Ashby and Thames Path Bracken at Tunnelwood  
Helen Ford and Percuil Dasher  
Mo Sweet and Hoar Oak Hill  
Charlotte Wear and Keveral Harri



**2nd - The Midlands**

Barry Doherty and Blouet Gaudete with Arrowhill  
Dave Myatt and Wainhawke Woodcock  
Dave Locking and Blakanis Wyken Pippin  
Graham Clelland and Necessares Sorrel



**3rd - Wessex**

Kath Bargh and Broomsward Armani  
Ursula Pomeroy and Wayfoong Silken Tigereye  
of Rushypond  
Sue Weeden and Weeden Shottsford Breeze  
Keith Manley and Lenyam Soloway



**4th - NEFRA South**

Anne Kitching and Casblaidd Angel's Landing  
Colette Greenwood and Tawnywood Jollification  
Derek Bull and Keepersway Alana  
Julie Matthews and Ollersett Sparkling Nymph  
(with Gary Ellison)

The individual results were:

**Best Puppy/NDNH:** Steve Ashby and Thames Path Bracken at Tunnelwood

**Best Novice (Joint Winners):** Ursula Pomeroy and Wayfoong Silken Tigereye of Rushypond



and Liz Widdows handling Mahinda Pompoko, owned by Bronwyn Rosser.

**Best Open:** Julie Matthews and Ollersett Sparkling Nymph

**Top Score Overall:** Steve Ashby and Thames Path Bracken at Tunnelwood

**Judges Choice:** Anne Kitching and Casblaidd Angel's Landing

Sorry we didn't get photos of you all but the heavens had opened (hence the spots of rain on the camera lens - sorry!) and people wanted to get away.

Congratulations to all in the awards, and commiserations to the Southern Club who were a woman down due to mechanical failure en route to the event.

As always, a huge thank you to the judges, all the stewards, dummy throwers/placers and other helpers on the day. Days like this really could not happen without you giving up your time so other people can have fun with their dogs.

Ends.