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The German Longhaired Pointer Club

NEWSLETTER



AUTUMN / WINTER 2008/9

Committee 2008/2009

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Chairman's Report

I'm sorry it's so late! The Newsletter that is and it is entirely my fault, not Eileen's. The problem is quite simple – there has been a lot of shooting this season. What else is a red-blooded HPR chap to do when the invitations come thick and fast?

“How would you like to run your dogs through the sugar beet before it comes out next week?”; “Are you coming over to the Isle of Man for a woodcock or two?” “I think I may have a suitable trial ground. Will you come and look at it to see what you think?”

Life is tough at times! and that is taking no account of the field trials organised on behalf of two Clubs or the training of our own dogs.

Right in the middle of it all the apple of my eye had a magnificent litter of pups, so she is now on the back burner for another season and not too happy about missing out on all the fun.

The Manx trip was fantastic. Planned to be just right for the moon, we saw some very nice birds and had two days outstanding dog work in excellent company. We came back just before the Fenstanton field trial, where once again our hosts provided a very enjoyable day. Our Club held a second trial this year at Tixover, near Peterborough, where all the land at our disposal is sugar beet. At both trials the scent was difficult, probably due to the lateness in the season, so I will try for earlier dates at both next year. It would also give us more daylight to work in. There are two more possible grounds in the offing, but more of that later, when negotiations are complete.

An interesting topic was raised in respect of trials when one member commented that the German Longhaired Pointer Club was organising trials and no GLP's were running in them, Where were they? Analysis shows that in GLP's the percentage of dogs running in trials is about 10/11% of the total numbers owned in this country. Interestingly it is exactly the same percentage for GSP's. The anomaly arises because, at present, our Club is only allowed to run Novice trials and, of the GLP's currently being trialed, all but one are qualified out of Novice and into Open. Therefore we are running trials basically for other breeds! We will apply to run All Aged stakes as soon as we are able, but every society is required by the Kennel Club to run so many of each over a given period before they are permitted to move on.

I am off to run a Longhair in an Open trial tomorrow. There will be two other GLP's running, along with five GSP's. As GSP's outnumber GLP's about six times over, I don't think that is a bad representation! Undoubtedly I shall be keeping quiet about the outcome in the next newsletter.

My sincere congratulations to new Associate Members Paul McDonald and Gill Pillinger who not only won the Puppy trophy and the Open Trophy at this years working test but Paul was awarded the Questor Trophy at Fenstanton Field Trial and the Papworth Tropy for Tixover Field Trial as well. That's going to be a difficult act to follow! Well done.

I wish you all good fortune in whatever you do and hope to see you at a trial, pointing or working test in the not-too-distant future.

Do have a happy and prosperous 2009.

David Winser

Irish Show Champion Arany's Dargo Mit Bleyos



Congratulations to Tracy and Graham Boyle on achieving 7 green stars in Ireland making Arany's Dargo an Irish Show Champion.

The German Longhaired Pointer Club

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the German Longhaired Pointer Club held at Pointers, Wistow, Huntingdon, Cambs, on Sunday 25th May 2008, at 11am.

1) Present:

Rob Gould, Theo Gould, Sheila Kuban, Sarah Bond, Andy Bond, Chris Hartnoll, Eileen Winser, David Winser, Richard Winser, Jennifer Winser, Andy Hollick, Daphne Papworth, Norman Papworth, Steven Winser, Emma Winser, Marie Archer, Robert Goggin, Janice Goggin, Martin Dyer.

2) Apologies for absence:

Richard Kuban, Ed Booter, Leni Booter, Luisa French, Stephen French, Rhod Smart, Frances Smart, Ray Davies, Maureen Court, Jill Court, Julia Cooksey, Jean Bates, Jennie Wisher, Grizelda Tyler, Simone Pearse.

3) Minutes of the AGM held on Sunday 17th June 2007.

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting had been previously circulated in the newsletter. It was agreed that they were a true record of the meeting.

4) Matters Arising

Mock Trial.

The mock field trial suggested by the Dutch Club has not materialised due to the fact that it was not at first known that competing dogs would need passports to come to England. The cost of this and the time involved in the necessary requirements of issuing passports has resulted in the idea being postponed for the immediate future.

5) To receive the report of the Committee and the statement of Accounts

Working Test

David Winser gave a report of the activities of the Club over the last year. The annual working test was held at Gill Mill, Ducklington with an entry of 71 Dogs. From the Club's small nucleus of working Longhairs a number were unable to be run because their handlers were otherwise busy organising the day or judging, so only three Longhairs made it into the competition. There were no Longhairs in the puppy test, which was won by Huw Kirby with his GSP Rudrypark Tom Sawyer at Huwlindragon.

In Novice a special mention must be made of Andy Hollick with his G.L.P. Questor George, not only because they won it, but more so because Andy has never run in a working test before. Andy had worked hard to prepare for the puppy test, only to discover at the last minute that George was just over 18 months old, so had to run in Novice. Hot on his heels was Theo Gould with her G.L.P. Wamilanghaar Elixir who came third.

The Open test was won resoundingly by Madge Simons with her GLP Questor Eros at Swifthouse. Congratulations all round.

We have just heard this week that John Smith has very kindly invited us back to Gill Mill and the date for the working test is 13th July.

There is a possibility of holding a second working test here at Huntingdon later in the year and your Committee is looking into this. The amount of work involved in arranging and running a test is huge, and we will be looking for volunteers to help on the day if we are to have a second test.

Events

Sarah Bond is the events organiser and she will be looking for volunteers to help to man the stand at Discover Dogs at Crufts, Discover Dogs at Earls Court, Game Fairs and Country Shows all around the country.

Some events offer financial help with travel and refreshment costs. Help is also needed at the working test and what Sarah needs is a working list of volunteers she can contact in the future, as demands arise.

Training Day

In October we held a very successful training day on sugar beet at Thetford, Norfolk. It was attended by five Longhairs and one Shorthair and some valuable lessons were learned. It was almost as though you could see the dogs learning as they ran. Four of the dogs attending went on to gain places at field trials later in the season. Again, if you wish, we will attempt to arrange one or two similar days this year, but do need to know in advance whether they will be fully attended. We try to run a maximum of six dogs each day; none are eliminated and each may expect a number of runs with birds being shot from their point. What happens next depends on the ability of the dog. We are not looking for dogs of trial standard – but they should be able to point and be reasonably steady to game. The training day will be mentioned in the next newsletter together with a request for replies by a given date.

Field Trial

Last season we were unable to secure a trial at Launton, but a new ground at Fenstanton, Cambridgeshire proved to be very good for a Novice trial. There was a full card with five reserves and the Judges were Richard Kuban and David Pilkington. It turned out to be a difficult day scent-wise and all dogs had trouble. Game was plentiful and at the end of the day only two places were awarded – both to Longhairs. Theo Gould achieved a third place with Wamilanhaar Elixir and Eileen Winser had a fourth place with Questor Eris.

David said he had spoken with Cliff Simons and Roger Everdell, our past hosts, and both indicated that it would be possible to return to each ground this year, so we hope to run two Novice trials

Your Committee feel that it is time to apply to the Kennel Club to hold an All-Aged Stake. We already have an excellent Open ground earmarked, but it is too difficult for anything else, David asked everybody to actively seek out and notify him of any possible grounds as a matter of urgency. There is now something like six Longhairs qualified for Open Trials and to progress along the pre determined route we really ought to be arranging an All-Aged stake of our own.

Bryantscroft Shield

It is customary at this meeting to award the Bryantscroft Shield, donated by Rory Major, for excellence in Field Trials. The winner is identified through the process of a points system and depends on their total awards throughout the previous season. This year the Shield is awarded to Questor Eris, with 23 points.

Spring Pointing Test

The pointing test we should have held last March on ground kindly and generously offered by Madge and Cliff Simons, sadly had to be cancelled as there was an overnight fall of snow that completely blanketed the ground.

The Chairman thanked everyone who has helped at Club events throughout the year; to the Committee who have done so much on behalf of members and especially to the hosts of grounds, without whose support we could do nothing for the benefit of our chosen Breed.

Health Matters

The secretary told the meeting of her concerns over the sensitive digestive systems of some Longhairs. For a period of time some of her Longhairs had had very upset stomachs and weight loss. It was through the premature death of one with a gastric torsion and the very near death of another, only one week later that she took a serious look at what is really in commercial dog food. She said that over the past three months she had

done a lot of research about feeding a natural diet and was now feeding the dogs on raw-meat and "wholebake" biscuit from Natural Choice. Theo Gould said that some of the cheaper brands of complete food were not so good but the more expensive brands were perfectly safe. She also advised that changes of food is good for dogs and table scraps and variety in their diet is advised.

Accounts

The accounts for the year were checked and signed by Eileen Winser as an accurate record of the transactions for the year ending September 30th 2007. Rob Gould proposed the accounts be accepted. Seconded by Theo Gould. Voted unanimous.

6) To elect a Committee

The meeting was told that the four committee members (Sheila Kuban, Sarah Bond, Rob Gould and David Winser) currently serving were prepared to offer them selves for another term. In light of the fact that there had been no other nominations, they were elected unanimously, en bloc.

7) Auditors

Sheila Kuban proposed that Eileen Winser be elected to audit the accounts. Seconded by Chris Hartnoll. Vote unanimous.

8) To elect a legal adviser and Veterinary Surgeons

The Chairman proposed Howard Llewellyn, Barrister, who had served the Club well in past years. There were no other nominations. Howard was re-elected legal adviser unanimously.

Both Rob and Theo Gould, our Veterinary Surgeons in previous years were present and agreed to advise the Club on veterinary matters for a further term. There were no other nominations and both were re-elected unanimously

9) To discuss Resolutions submitted in accordance with the Rules

No resolutions have been submitted.

10) Any other business

Seminar

There was a general discussion regarding holding a seminar and what the content of the Seminar would be. It was thought that there should be another talk regarding the breed standard and presenting the dogs in the show ring. The secretary was asked to write to Open Show secretaries particularly gundog breed clubs to ask for classes. Jennifer Winser suggested researching the Championship Shows as well to find those Clubs offering classes.

Jennifer was asked and agreed to be co-opted on to the committee to do this research the results of which will be put on the web site. It was suggested that the end of February 2009 would be a good time to hold a seminar.

Speakers to be asked to talk about 1) The Breed 2) Working 3) Nutrition.

Web Site

Richard Winser was asked and has offered to keep the web site updated.

Pictures & Articles

The Chairman reminded everybody to take out a camera to take pictures of working dogs and submit interesting articles for the Newsletters.

The meeting closed at 12.45 for lunch and a vote of thanks to David & Eileen

Working Test

We thought last years working test was a good one but we did it again this year and had another record breaking entry.

We thank John Smith and all at Gill Mill for making us so welcome. The grass had been cut for us the day before our visit and everything around the lake was trim and immaculate. As in every year since 2001 the sun shone brightly all day and we thank our host, our judges and the competitors; in fact everybody for making it such a good day.



Our judges this year were:

Penny Simpson – Puppy judge.

Maureen Nixon and Suzi Burton - Novice judges

Graham Nixon and Christine Carpenter - Open judges

A full report from the judges follows.



The Winners

Puppy

1 st	Witham Friary Bouncer	GSP	handler	Gill Pillinger
2 nd	Pitwit Game Finder	GSP	handler	Peter Terry
3 rd	Pitwit Jack the Game Keeper	GSP	handler	Ken Elliott
4 th	Bareve Bourbonville	GWP	handler	Andy Watts

Novice

1 st	Moricroft Moonshine Miatt Madilor	HWV	handler	Lori Dempster
2 nd	Hillanhi Finodla	GSP	handler	S. Cunliffe-Lister
3 rd	Dag of Skinfaxi	Brittany	handler	Fiona Wensley
4 th	Tjader Seahorse	HV	handler	Kim Gallimore

Open

1 st	Fallowmill Diamond Dazzler	GSP	handler	Paul Macdonald
2 nd	Witham Friary Alma	GSP	handler	Gill Pillinger
3 rd	Eely Rags Poplar	GSP	handler	Lee Loveridge
4 th	Witham Friary Billie	GSP	handler	Paul Macdonald

The German Longhaired Pointer Club held a working test on Sunday 13th July at the excellent venue Gill Mill Quarry, Ducklington, Oxfordshire. The weather was sunny and warm, a variable breeze developed as the day progressed making it tricky at times for the dogs to come to terms with scent when retrieving.

I was invited to Judge the Open test along with my co-judge Christine Carpenter. Due to the large entry of 33 dogs (29 competed on the day) We split the tests each of us judging two tests.

I judged the hunting test a shot was fired and a dummy thrown whilst the dog was quartering the ground, the object being to test not only the hunting capabilities, but steadiness and retrieving.

The second test was a seen retrieve, using a launcher to send the dummy over a bank, the handler standing on one side of the bank had to send the dog over the bank to make the retrieve, the dog once over the bank was unsighted by the handler and relied on good marking together with the use of a difficult breeze which kept changing direction.

29 dogs competing consisted 14 GSP's 4 HV's 4 GWP's 2 Wei's 4 GLP's and 1 LM.

- 1st Fallowmill Diamond Dazzler GSP dog handled by Paul Macdonald.
Excellent hunting and retrieving performed consistently all day and proved to be a worthy winner.
- 2nd Witham Friary Alma GSP bitch handled by Gill Pillinger.
Good all-round performance obtained maximum marks in test 2.
- 3rd Eely Rags Poplar GSP dog handled by Lee Loveridge.
Whilst not up to the previous two dogs standard put in a creditable performance.
- 4th Witham Friary Billie GSP. Dog handled by Paul Macdonald.
Another good all-round performance but lacked the quality of Paul's winning dog.

Tests 3 and the Water was judged by Christine Carpenter, and I am sure will be reported on by Christine.

Congratulations to the dogs which featured in the awards, to those who did not, keep trying your day will come as I saw some good work from you and your dogs. Thank you for being sporting competitors.

The day was very well organised, with excellent lunch and tea, congratulations to Eileen and David not forgetting the many helpers who helped to make the day a great success, without them these events could not be staged.

I would like to thank The German Longhaired Pointer Club for inviting me to judge, I very much enjoyed the day.

A special thanks to the host Mr. John Smith for allowing the event to take place on such excellent ground.

Graham Nixon

German Longhaired Pointer Club - Open Working Test 13th July 2008

I would like to thank the GLP club for the opportunity to judge the Open tests with co-judge Graham Nixon at this beautiful venue at Ducklington with kind permission of John Smith the owner and Mark Firmin.

OPEN Test 3 - Split Retrieve Blind/Seen, no shot.

This test was completed in the morning. The weather was hot and sunny with a slight breeze coming down the rough track where the blind was positioned at the start of the test, but this changed to a side wind by late morning.

The blind was placed along the track which bore off to the right after some 20 yards. The dummy was placed 10 yards further along the track which was rutted and wet.

The seen retrieve was thrown to the left from the top of a gravel heap into an area of rough open ground with sparse waist high weeds. From dog level the fall of the dummy could be lost as reed grasses were close and a large bank of high growth some 15 yards in could impair vision. If the dog was guided to the left of the large weed area there was a narrow track they could follow straight to the fall some 15 yards further on.

The blind retrieve was to be collected first.

Generally handling and team work was patchy a good many were saved from getting the seen retrieve first by the large bank of weedy growth on the left. Use of the stop whistle by handlers in some cases was slow or the dogs simply did not react quickly enough or ignored the whistle altogether.

The dogs with the highest marks completed the test with very little interference from the handler and when instructions were required these were quickly executed showing a good partnership between dog and handler.

4th Test Blind Retrieve on a cold pigeon across a large stretch of lake to a narrow island strip. I think this is one of the most testing waters in Open of the GWT calendar but one of the best to watch.

This test commenced after lunch. The sun was still hot and a light breeze came from behind, blowing slightly across the lake which was some 60 yards across at this point. The blind was placed 5 yards up the bank under a tree.

The handlers stood some 5 yards up the bank and this gave quite a few dogs a problem with going into the lake directly. Some dogs having entered the water waded up and down the bank or swam out a distance then headed back to the handler. For those that reached the far bank handling was difficult due to the distance involved and distractions which they encountered. It was a pleasure to see some dogs complete this test efficiently and confidently and their owners should be very proud.

Christine Carpenter

German Longhaired Pointer Club Working Test held at Ducklington on July 13th 2008

Novice Hunting Test Judge Suzi Burton

What a thoroughly enjoyable, relaxed and well-organised day in beautiful and tranquil surroundings. The catering was superb! Thanks to everyone who made it possible, in particular host John Smith, Mark Firmin, the Winsers, Sarah Bond and all the helpers.

Special thanks to the indispensable Jonathon Hollick, who did a consistently sterling job firing the shot and throwing the dummy at the end of the hunting test 'on command'.

Novice hunting was a on a wide piece of varied set-aside, bordered on the far left by a wood and on the right by a track and hedge. It narrowed to the point of a triangle where Jonathon was stealthily placed to fire a shot and throw the dummy in full sight of the dog as it quartered towards him. The dog was to be recalled.

Wind began faintly in the morning on the right cheek, changing variably to a head wind as the dog worked in to the field. By the middle of the day the heat increased, the wind sometimes dropped and those couple that worked directly after lunch had a left cheek wind to begin.

A red-leg partridge lifted from the centre of the field on the first run.

I was looking for a dog that would drop to the shot and/fall for the steadiness part of the test. Surprisingly only two did – both seasoned shooting dogs – and there was a lot of running in on the dummy and subsequently ignoring of the stop whistle as a last resort. A lot of dogs didn't even acknowledge the sound of the shot or the fall of the dummy. Disappointing.

Unfortunately my top hunting dog, Larry Wilks Arthur vom Munstershiag mit Arany (GLP) fell by the wayside elsewhere but he was a dream to watch, working his cheek wind in two bites, indicating game and checking residual scent but keeping his pace and drive. Stopped on the whistle. Exciting.

Suzi Burton

Novice Retrieving Tests Judge Maureen Nixon

The annual working test held by the GLP club enjoyed a beautiful warm, sunny day. The venue is excellent and lends itself to a variety of interesting tests. Due to physical restrictions, I judged the retrieving tests for the Novice group.

The first test was a seen retrieve over a fast flowing brook, which although looked somewhat daunting, in fact was not very deep and some of the larger breeds only had to swim a short way. Five dogs out of twenty five failed this, two for not entering water but the other three for blinking the retrieve and going off hunting. Those who did complete the test, on the whole did it very well and several dogs had full marks.

The second test was a marked retrieve, followed by a blind in the same area. Sadly, some very promising dogs failed one part of this test, by either blinking the dummy or going off hunting and in one case making the retrieve before he was told.

The water test was a straight forward seen into water and we had no failures here.

It is always difficult when there are two judges, and therefore very pleasing when the best retrieving dog also scores highly in the hunting test. This proved to be the case here, the winner being the Hungarian Wirehaired Vizsla Moricroft Moonshine Miatt Madilor owned by Lori Dempster who only dropped three marks out of sixty

In second place was the GSP Hillanhi Finodla owned by Simone Cunliffe –Lister, a very nice retriever losing only one mark.

Third was awarded to the Brittany Dag of Skinfaxi owned by Fiona Wensley who put up a determined performance to gain this award.

In fourth place with a very creditable show of retrieving skills was the Hungarian Vizsla Kim Gallimore's Tjader Seahorse.

The whole day was so very well organised by the GLP club and they are to be congratulated on a very well run event. The amount of helpers from the dummy throwers to the caterers helped to ensure the success of the day. I thoroughly enjoyed myself and appreciated the sporting manner in which my decisions were accepted.

Maureen Nixon

Field Trials



The Club held a Field Trial at Fenstanton on 8th December.

The judges were Sheila Kuban and Eileen Winser.

Paul McDonald with his German Shorthaired Pointer Witham Friary Billie was the only placed dog with a 2nd place.

Judges report Fenstanton, Cambridgeshire. Novice Field Trial - 8th December 2008

On one of the most difficult scenting days encountered so far this season this trial proved to be almost impossible for the dogs to perform well.

The trial was held on open land of white grass with copses and fields of rape divided by hedgerows. Pheasant, snipe, rabbits and hares were evenly spread throughout the day.

The general standard of work was encumbered by the poor scenting conditions and some handlers could have done more to help their dogs in areas that were obviously out of the wind, slightly warmer and holding game.

A second place was awarded and very much deserved to Paul McDonald and Witham Friary Billie, the only dog that made the very best of the difficult conditions.

This dogs first run was into wind in a field of rape with a hedgerow dividing fields. It was a very cold start with a cold sharp wind. The frost had not lifted from the crop and all puddles were frozen.

The dog could have used more of the ground but the handler kept him close to the hedgerow. The dog indicated scent but nothing was produced. A cock pheasant was seen on the run of the next dog and it was thought that that was what was indicated by this dog along the hedgerow.

A second run in the afternoon was in field of white grass and the dog quartered methodically, staunchly pointing a pheasant in the open some distance away. The bird flushed before the guns could get in position.

A late third run again in a large field of white grass, produced a bird that was pointed and held by this dog until the guns could get into place. He was steady to shot and retrieved it tenderly to hand.

The pond where we were to do the water retrieve was frozen over and was too dangerous to send the dog. A water certificate was issued and the dog completed the water at another trial the next day.

Our thanks for the success and enjoyment of this trial are due to all those who helped to organise it and particularly to our hosts Roger Everdell and Nick Wright, our guns David Winser and Tony Hobbs and chief steward Tony Betambeau.

Sheila Kuban & Eileen Winser

The Clubs second Novice trial this year on 15th December was at a new ground at Tixover in Lincolnshire. Our very grateful thanks to our host Percy Gilman for inviting us and to Head Keeper Andy Swallow who made sure the day was a success despite very poor scenting conditions. This is a fantastic trial ground all on sugar beet and has the potential to be an All Aged Stake or even an Open in the future.



The judges were Peter Bakewell and Catherine Sellin. Paul McDonald with his German Shorthaired Pointer Witham Friary Billie was the highest placed dog, again with a 2nd place. Eileen Winser was 3rd with G.S.P. Questor A'Choire Ghlais Jennifer Hurley was 4th with G.S.P. Swifthouse Crusader and Mark Firman was awarded a Certificate of Merit with G.S.P. Everswell Bracken.

Sadly the new trophy presented by Norman Papworth to the Club for the Tixover Field Trial was lost in the Christmas post and we are having to have a new trophy made. This will be presented to Paul as soon as possible.

Judges report Tixover, Lincolnshire

Set in middle England, Tixover is a quintessential English village with delightful stone thatched cottages and winding country lanes. The ground didn't disappoint either and we were greeted with extensive fields laid over to sugar beet and some wide strips of white grass.

A cold and frosty start to the day with a light changeable wind made scenting conditions challenging. Whilst some birds were indicated early in the morning, the first actual staunch point of the day took place after mid-day; sadly some very stylish wide ranging dogs were lost early on. It proved to be a testing day and consequently we were losing light by the time we went to the water.

2nd – Witham Friary Billie – GSP dog handled by Mr. P. Macdonald

This dog's first run was in sugar beet and he covered his ground well, running wide and hard. The handler was inclined to use his whistle frequently, which suggested some concern with losing contact with the dog. However, when a rabbit bolted wide, the dog stopped to flush immediately. On his second run, again in sugar beet, he had a classic staunch point, a pheasant lifted to the right of the dog and this bird was shot. A good clean retrieve on a running bird.

3rd – Questor A'Choire Ghlais – GSP bitch handled by Mrs E. Winser

This bitch's first run was in sugar beet and she really got out and covered her ground, occasionally checking scent pockets. She was a joy to watch and was responsive to her handler. Unfortunately, she did not have any game on her first run. On her second run she had a rather difficult backwind to negotiate and as a consequence her ground coverage wasn't as even, with a bird lifting out of scent range. On her third run she had a good point on a bird which started to move on, eventually the bird lifted and was shot. The bird ran and was retrieved to hand, alive.

4th – Swifthouse Crusader – GSP dog handled by Ms J. Hurley

Another strong running dog, who covered his ground well remaining responsive to his handler. On his first run he indicated but was unable to pinpoint any game. On his second run he had to contend with a backwind and worked this well. He had a staunch point and produced a cock pheasant along with a satisfactory retrieve.

CofM – Everswell Bracken – GSP bitch handled by Mr. M. Firmin

On her first run this bitch ran wide and fast, although her pattern wasn't always consistent. She had a point, but as the dog was sent in another bird lifted to the left. This bird was shot but unfortunately, a leg was down and it flew some 100 yards into the next field. The handler was given the opportunity to walk forward a short distance before sending his dog and after sometime the dog indicated the shot bird, but was unable to pick it before it lifted and flew on. This bird was left for the picking up dog. On her second run this bitch indicated a hare but before she could point it the hare flushed. The hare was shot and retrieved to hand. She was then brought in at the end of the day to retrieve a pheasant, which she did satisfactorily.

The water tests were all carried out well.

Our thanks to the German Longhaired Pointer Club for the invitation to judge, our hosts for a super ground, the steward of the beat, Andy Swallow who guided us around the estate, our Chief Steward, Tony Betambeau, who worked hard to provide a flow of handlers and dogs at the right moment and finally to the competitors for their sportsmanship and patience during what proved to be a difficult scenting day.

Peter Bakewell & Catherine Sellin.

Training Days

A training day was arranged in Croxton, Norfolk in October and 6 dogs took part. The day was held on sugar beet and it was felt that every dog, without exception, improved during the day.

These days are not competitive and everybody is involved with the discussion about the performance of the dogs when they finish their run. There are valuable lessons in discussing everything about the run including where the handler should be in relation to wind direction, which side of the dog the handler should be to give the dog every assistance in getting the bird to flush for a safe shot. How to stop the dog running in by being in the right position so that it can see you and therefore teaching it to only to retrieve the bird when told to do so.

It's a tall order and both dog and handler need to know how to get the best out of each point.

We have been asked to run more days in October this year so that more dogs can be introduced to Field Trial situations in readiness of the first novice trials. We would like to do it but the cost may be prohibitive. The cost is likely to be £25 per bird, so it could be quite expensive if two or three birds are shot for each dog.

We have also been asked to run training classes during the spring and summer to polish up on the basics and get the dogs 'red hot' on whistles and directional control before the season starts.

If anybody is interested please give Eileen a call or email so we can find out how many people would like to train together. If it is viable we will give it a go. Valuable tips can be learned from each other and pooling and exchanging information is an invaluable way of answering questions we otherwise would have to unravel alone.

It has been suggested that we meet for the day here at Pointers at regular intervals throughout the year.

Bring a packed lunch or something to put on the bar-b-q and have a nice day out amongst friends.

It could be quite good fun.



Suggested activities to be planned for this year

At last years AGM it was suggested that we have a second working test and a suitable ground was found at Huntingdon race course. There is a very large area with a lake in the middle of the course and depending on the time of year the grass would be short enough to hold a test on it

More about the possibility of a second test will be reported in the next Newsletter.

It was also suggested at the AGM that we hold another Seminar this year. Again more about this in the next Newsletter when there are more details.

Associate Member Catherine Sellin has volunteered to update the Web site for us and those of you that log on to the GSP Club site will know that Catherine does a very good job indeed. We will keep you posted of news of both the working test and the seminar plans.

Spring Pointing Tests are just around the corner and David is trying to arrange Spring Pointing Tests this year. Log on to the web site www.german-longhaired-pointer.org.uk for dates when they have been arranged.

Once the Field Trial season is over on 1st February Clubs and Societies start to run working tests, there are usually working test somewhere in the country every weekend from March to the end of September. I have enclosed email addresses and phone numbers of the Field Trial Secretaries of all the Clubs and Societies. www.hprftinfo.co.uk is a web site that also lists all the working tests through the summer months and the contact details of the organising clubs.

Dates for your diaries

- | | |
|---|--|
| March 5 th to 8 th | Discover Dogs at Crufts |
| March/April | Spring Pointing Tests (dates to be arranged) |
| May 24 th | Annual General Meeting |
| July 12 th | Working Test – Ducklington (to be confirmed) |
| July 24 th to 26 th | CLA Game Fair at Belviour Castle |

If you would like to help with any of the above Club activities please let me know, including Discover Dogs and the Game Fair.

Field Trial Secretaries of Societies for HPR breeds:

* Denotes Working Tests and/or Pointing Tests Only

Bracco Italiano Society*	Lori Dempster	01273 401428
Bristol and West Gundog Society	Christine Carpenter	01373 462863
Brittany Club	John Anderson	01600 890667
Coventry & District	Sean McGrath	01202 249154
Dukeries (Notts) Gundog Club	C Gretton	01724 710265
German Longhaired Pointer Club	David Winser	01487 822366
German Shorthaired Pointer Association	Maureen Nixon	01530 260581
German Shorthaired Pointer Club	David Winser	01487 822366
<i>(For Working Tests please contact Branch and Group Secretaries)</i>		
German Wirehaired Pointer Club	Allan Hender	0118 712 2876
Hampshire Gundog Society	Sue Lamb	01202 240154
HPR Club of Scotland	Marion Waddell	01505 685539
Hungarian Vizsla Club	Rachel Herbert	01987 240765
Hungarian Vizsla Society	Nigel Dear	01869 324503
Hungarian Wirehaired Vizsla Association	M Lovell	01254 727329
Italian Spinone Club of Great Britain	Alix Johnson	01264 781913
Large Munsterlander Club	Helen Evans	01223 845255
Lothian and Borders	Mr H Shaw	01659 74456
Norfolk and Suffolk HPR Field Trial Club	Chris Snelling	01449 781850
North of Scotland Gundog Club	Heather Mitchie	01244 733295
The Kennel Club	Anne Greeves	01485 600918
Weimaraner Association	Penny Pickstone	01482 657337
Weimaraner Club of Great Britain	Suzi Burton	01892 861922
Worcestershire Gundog Society*	Ray Davies	01531 890967

For details of working tests to be held this summer have a look at Mick Philips web site
www.hprftinfo.co.uk

Club Shop Items

Available from Eileen (email eileen@winser.go-plus.net)

Car Stickers	£1.50
Grooming Video	£10.00
Club Lapel Badge	£2.50
Notelet Cards	£2.00
Embroidered Blazer Badges	£6.50
Greetings Cards	£1.00
Engraved (German Longhaired Pointer) Pens	£2.50
Gilet with GLP Logo (Terracotta made by Oxford Blue)	£35.00
Fleece with GLP Logo (Terracotta made by Oxford Blue)	£35.00

New stock from the Dutch Club

Dummy Bags with GLP motive	£10.00
Umbrella with GLP motive	£10.00
Pewter GLP Brooch	£3.00
Pewter GLP Key Fob	£5.00

Available from Brenda Moss (email brenda-arany@tiscali.co.uk)

In Sporting Green with Deutsch Langhaar logo

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