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German Longhaired Pointer Club
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The German Longhaired Pointer Club

NEWSLETTER



Spring Summer 2014

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Committee 2013/2014

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Chairman's report.

"When the wind is in the east the fish bite least."

We ended the shooting season with a good number of significant field trial awards for German Longhaired Pointers (well done, everyone!) and a lot of growth on the young rape.

In the event my fears about its suitability for spring pointing tests were well founded and at our first test at Balsham we were relegated to the wheat which had obligingly remained at the correct height for our purposes. A report on the day appears elsewhere in this newsletter. There were not many birds out in the wheat. We only saw a few, in the distance here and there and then mainly disturbed by us as we drove around each time for the best run. The curious thing was that not one dog pointed a bird, any bird, during the entire pointing test. Among the twelve runners were a great number of very proficient hunters - dogs which had proved themselves over and over again in the past - not inexperienced and over-enthusiastic juniors. What we did have all day was a strong and biting easterly wind. There was not even a bird bumped by a dog, so obviously the failure of the day was down to a total lack of game. All of the dogs ran hard and some superbly throughout. It would hopefully be better at the next test.

One week later saw us at Wardy Hill on land I had shot over with the syndicate through the winter. I knew there would be plenty of birds here. Not only wild French partridges, but also Greys we had released the previous July.

But we still had that easterly wind - not quite as cold now, but there none the less. Again we had twelve dogs but this time there were a few more juniors. Most ran extremely well indeed but again points eluded us. Later on it was possible to get into some poorly advanced rape on the top of a hill and it was there we discovered most of the birds. Dozens of them - pheasants and partridges alike. The dogs ran hard and covered their ground methodically, but it was as though the scent of the birds did not exist. Most of the contestants met their Waterloo in this field. During the course of the test not one dog had a gradable point. So where does the blame lie now? Certainly not the lack of game. Curious.

Chairmans Report

The following weekend Eileen and I trotted off, sans dogs, to Holland to do several things – have a well-earned break; meet some dear friends; grab some cheap wine; watch a Longhair test on the Friday and finally to watch an Open standard (carrying international recognition) German Wirehair Club test on the Saturday. Both tests were open to all breeds.

As soon as we walked into the meeting place (a hotel) on the Friday morning we saw dozens of H.P.R. friends from all over Europe. Two of the first with whom we spoke were Peter Rooyiakkers (who came to the U.K. in 1984, invited by the GSPC to introduce spring pointing tests to us) and Cor Woets (who successfully judged and graded dogs in the GLPC pointing test at Balsham last year). Both are international HPR judges of great experience.

Almost the first words spoken were about the difficulty they had had in Holland over the past few weeks in getting dogs to successfully point birds. They hoped the scent would be better (but agreed there was always scent, however difficult it might be) and perhaps the little rain of the previous day would make a difference.

We went out to watch one group of seven dogs run. It was very cold and the wind was in the east. Our group was lucky as we had a dozen or so birds during the day, but the dogs never really made a fist of it. Not one dog in our group had a gradable point. In most of the other groups they could not find any birds.

The next day was a little better. Sixty dogs this time rather than the forty of the day before. Again the wind was in the east and, although the day started off cold, by mid-afternoon the wind had dropped, changed direction and it was shirtsleeve weather. There was bright sunshine and it was really warm. So the dogs managed to find birds and were graded. The dogs were not necessarily as brilliant as I have seen them before, but at least there were some results.

So has the centuries old angler's saying something to teach us? I wonder.

Now a gentle reminder about practical training days. Last time out I said I would be very happy to arrange one or two days in October for up to six dogs each time to come to Norfolk and have a chance of birds being shot from the point. All you have to do is send me an e-mail so I can do a little planning. So far one person has told me of their interest.

If we do organise any I just hope the wind is not in the east.

Best wishes David

Judges Field Trial Report

A Novice stake was held at Tixover, Leicestershire, on 22nd October 2013 by kind permission of Mr Percy Gilman.

The Judges were Eileen Winsler and Theo Gould.

The weather conditions were warm, with a light breeze, there was some light rain in the morning. Scenting conditions were reasonable.

All the dogs were worked into wind on sugar beet and fodder crops. A good distribution of game on every dogs beat, mainly pheasant with a few partridge. The overall standard of the work and handling was reasonable.

Sadly it was not possible for any of the dogs to attempt the water test as despite recent heavy rain fall the water level in the pond had fallen dramatically leaving an unhealthy black smelly sludge.

Results 1st place Aytee Isadora. GSP bitch handled by Mrs Lucy Hustler
3rd place Kenocto Bremen GWP handled by Mr Ian Thorneycroft
COM Brakabreeze Lanushka SRHP handled by Mrs Lisa Brown

Critiques

1st Place Aytee Isadora. This GSP was asked to retrieve a wounded cock bird that had been shot for the previous dog. She was obedient and responsive but the bird had run out of the area and was later retrieved by the picking up dog. Her first run was on sugar beet into a head wind. She ran with pace and style. She had a solid point on a cock bird, was steady to flush and the bird was retrieved tenderly.

The second run again was in sugar beet with a head wind. Again she hunted well, pointed, flushed and retrieved a cock bird. The performance was well polished and stylish with quiet handling.

3rd place Kenocto Bremen. This was a strong, wide ranging dog that again had two runs into wind on sugar beat. He did not have a point in the first round, he was steady to a bird that flushed ahead of him.

In the second run he soon had a point on a cock bird. He was steady to flush and retrieved to hand. He very quickly had another point, flush and retrieve on another cock bird.

COM Brakabreeze Lanushka. This young dog who did some pleasing hunting into wind on sugar beet had a nice point on a cock bird. She was steady to flush and shot but a little hesitant on retrieving the still live bird.

In the second run she showed some pleasing hunting but at times lacked confidence and pace.

Judges Field Trial Report

An Open stake was held at Elveden Estate, Norfolk, on 19th November 2013 by kind permission of Lord and Lady Iveagh.

The Judges were Sheila Kuban and Peter O'Driscoll.

Weather conditions were sunny but cool 4-6° c, with a steady northerly wind. Scenting conditions were not good.

Dogs were run on superb ground, heather with some bracken and white grass. A perfect supply of wild pheasants and woodcock. Headwind for the first run, the second run, variable wind mostly cheek from left to right in light cover shelter belts. Every dog had a chance of game.

The standard of work and handling was good to very good. Some dogs pressed their birds after indicating game ahead, causing a flush without pointing correctly. Some dogs did not behave correctly to the flushing birds. Scenting conditions did not help the former, training should prevent the later.

Results COM Mrs Lisa Brown SRHP Dangvord Dido At Brakabreeze

1st Run steady performance with some good quartering spoilt by back casts and dwelling on scent.

2nd run well handled with the dog hunting a full cheek wind correctly and carefully, one unproductive point, followed by a stylish point and sound retrieve spoilt slightly by vocal support from the handler. A very capable retrieve at the water with a difficult entry. Overall a solid performance with the afore mentioned blemishes precluding a higher award.

Our thanks for the success and enjoyment of this trial are due to all those who helped to organise it and particular thanks to Lord and Lady Iveagh and their most helpful staff for allowing The German Longhaired Pointer Club on this very special ground.

I cannot think of any better suited to shooting over dogs in the proper fashion.

Peter O'Driscoll

Judges Field Trial Report

A Novice Stake was held at Attleborough, Norfolk on 25.11.2013 by kind permission of Clover Game and Shooting

Judges Trevor Horsefield [2149] and Rob Gould [2902]

The trial was held on stubble turnips with one strip of sugar beet, a strip of mustard and an area of white grass and woodland. All dogs were run into a light variable head wind. Pheasant was the predominant game species, also seen were hare, partridge and woodcock. Scenting conditions meant that points were close.

Many dogs hunted enthusiastically but their ground treatment and control could be improved.

Results

3rd Place Tyspylaird Glencoe GSP dog handled by Mr Lee Loveridge

This dog's first task was to eye wipe the previous dog by making a blind retrieve on a hare. He then hunted in a thorough workmanlike fashion while at all times being responsive to the quiet handling of his owner who made sure that his allotted beat was covered. This partnership gave confidence that it had maximised their chances of finding any game in front of them. A hen pheasant was worked and pointed; this was flushed on command and retrieved to hand.

On his second run this dog again hunted efficiently and proved that, even with limited scenting conditions, a bird could be staunchly pointed and held while the guns came within range. On command a cock pheasant was flushed positively and on command retrieved tenderly to hand.

The water retrieve was completed satisfactorily

Our thanks for the success and enjoyment of this trial are due to all those who helped in the organisation and running of the day particularly to our host, Clover Game and Shooting, and Steward of the Beat keeper Elliot, GLP Club FT Sec David Winser, Chief Steward Eileen Winser, Picking up dog handler Janice Hawkes, Red Flag Andrea Wright.

The two guns Bambos Demetrios and David Winser shot well [worked and pointed game only]; giving each handler/dog team the best chance to complete the hunt-point-flush-retrieve sequence with each bird shot.

We would like to thank The German Longhaired Pointer Club for their invitation to judge this trial and for their kind and generous gifts. It was, as always, a pleasure to judge with Trevor especially on his birthday.

Crufts 2014 Best of Breed



Best Bitch & Best of Breed Nancy V Auwelt Mit Arany (Imp Deu)

Best Dog Cedor Fan 'E Swadde

Best Bitch Nancy V Auwelt Mit Arany

Reserve Best Dog IR SH CH Arany's Falco

Reserve Best Bitch Jessy Vom Reitbach Mit Arany

Crufts Results

Post Graduate - Dog (4 entries)

1st Questor Izaac Mr T & Miss J Croft & Hart
2nd Oude Wijngaard Mrs S Tommelein
3rd Questor Ivor Mr C Hartnoll

Open Dog (2 Entries)

1st Cedor Fan 'E Swadde Mrs W L Van Rongen-Stuijzand
2nd IR SH CH Jack Vom Reitbach Mit Sarscottah Ms S S Thomson

Special Working Gundog—Dog (1 Entry)

IR SH CH Arany's Falco Ms B Moss

Post Graduate - Bitch (2 Entries 1 Absent)

1st Cadanbyrig Evening Breeze Mr R J R & Mrs F C Smart

Open Bitch (4 Entries)

1st Nancy V Auwelt Mit Arany Ms B Moss
2nd Hinda Can Het Eppenzolder Mr R Beijer
3rd IR SH CH Arany's Flax mit Sarscottah Ms S S Thomson
Res IR SH CH Arany's Etta Mit Sarscottah Ms S S Thomson

Special Working Gundog—Bitch (1 Entry)

1st Jessy Vom Reitbach Mit Arany Ms B Moss

Good Citizen Dog Scheme—Bitch (1 Entry)

1st Arany's Elfie Miss S L M & Mr P Pearse & Dearing

Balsham Spring Pointing 23rd March 2014 .

As a previous handler at Balsham I was looking forward to my day judging alongside Brian Botterman.

The day started cloudy with rain but soon cleared with a nice breeze and we were presented with large wheat fields edged with hedges for the dogs to run in . Most unfortunately and unusually we had no game for the entire day except for the odd hare that all dogs remained steady to.

Thankfully though the day was not lost and myself and Brian were treated to some excellent displays of hunting the wind from both junior and adult dogs . For me it was a double treat as Brian had taken me under his wing when I first started to become serious with GSP'S many years ago and to judge alongside him and watch and listen to him impart his knowledge to the handlers was very enjoyable . I'm sure the handlers enjoyed the input and it was very interesting to watch the dogs handled differently with a tweak here and there.

With so many different types of HPR and the varying needs handlers place on them for me a dog hunting in open ground working the wind, either a junior dog tearing the ground up with its youthful exuberance or an adult skilfully covering his ground in sink with his handler always brings a smile to my face. Its a shame we couldn't judge dogs on game this time as many deserved it but I guess that's just how the cookie crumbles on the day.

Regards, Jim Bird



Coco – a year on



Coco was re-homed from the Blue Cross in Kimpton, Hertfordshire on 23rd April 2012 she was about 18 months old. Coco is a German Longhaired Pointer and came all the way from Ireland.

Since I've had Coco she has made great progress in Obedience and Agility. She attends The Gade Dog Training Club in Kings Langley where she has won Best Young Dog of the year 2012 and 1st in our Starters club competition. She has Passed her Good Citizen Bronze award and competes in The Gade team in the Chiltern Obedience League.



Coco 1st place in the Starters Class

She also attends Watford Agility Club where she continues to make great progress although she is still a little too excited by the whole idea and likes to go haring off every so often without doing any of the equipment, but she enjoys it so that's the main thing.

Coco is an absolute delight to train and be around, she is such good fun and it's great to have a young dog again. Bobby, also rescued from Kimpton is now 12 years old so his training days are over, and is happy sleeping and wandering round the park, although he does give Miss Coco a run for her money when she steps out of line!

Coco has already given me a year of happiness and pleasure and I hope for many more. *Carol Macdonald*

Working Test Sunday 13th July 2014

By kind permission of Mr John Smith we will be holding our annual working test again this year at Graham Water, Gill Mill, Ducklington.

This will be our 13th working test at Gill Mill and as it matures the landscape gets more beautiful. We are looking forward to John joining us for lunch and presenting the prizes at the end of the day. I am sure you will join me in thanking him for allowing us to come again this year.

Please book in at 9am for 9.30 start. We may have to lock the gates at the entrance to the quarry for security reasons, therefore if you arrive late and the gate is locked you will have to give me a call on the mobile so that somebody can come to let you in. My mobile no is 07711 612145. I will also leave a note at the gate with a number on it to call if you arrive and find the gate locked.

The Club's annual trophy is awarded to 1st place in each class. Tea, coffee and cold drinks will be available free all day but your support for the raffle would be greatly appreciated.

For more details see enclosed schedule and entry form.

Our grateful thanks from the Club Committee go to Mark Firmin, who as usual has negotiated with the owners and managers of Gill Mill on our behalf.

All schedules and entry forms for Club events are downloadable from the web site www.german-longhaired-pointer.org.uk. Click on Membership/Forms.

Club Membership is £10 per year for Associate Members and entry to the working test, field trials and spring pointing tests entitles you to take part at reduced rates.

We look forward to seeing everybody again this year.

2013/2014 Field Trial Awards

Ft Ch Wamilanghaar Cara Handler Rob Gould

1st GSPA Open Little Dalby
2nd WCGB Open Langholm
3rd HVS Open Bunwell
3rd HPR Championships

Wamilanghaar Gemini of Caldera Handler Steve Kimberley

2nd Large Munsterlander Club Open.
3rd GSPC Open Lauder
COM BWWGDS Open
COM WCGB Open

Wamilanghaar Tash of Mullenscote Handler Howard Kirby

1st Bristol and West Novice at Durley,
2nd WCGB All Aged Rushden,
1st Norfolk and Suffolk All Aged Borham,

Questor Indi Handler Steve Farr

Certificate of Merit - GLP Club - Novice - Croxton

Jessy v Reitbach mit Arany Handler Larry Wilks

Certificate of Merit - GSPA - Novice - Caversfield

Nancy v Auwelt mit Arany Handler Brenda Moss

Certificate of Merit - Dukeries - All Aged

