

The Hungarian Vizsla Club held it's second Gundog Working Test of the year in Ashdown Forest, by kind permission of Tony Russell.

It was a really super day organised by Derek Whitfield and Margo Robertson and thanks to all their hard work it went very smoothly.

There were four classes. Puppy (14 entries 4 of which were Vizslas), Novice Dog Novice Handler (12 entries 3 of which were Vizslas), Novice (28 entries 4 of which were Vizslas) and Open (20 one of which was a Vizsla) and the tests were set out on Saturday and confirmed by each of the judges before the competition began on Sunday morning.

Competitors were welcomed with complimentary coffee and biscuits after getting their numbers and then Derek and Margo introduced the Judges Pam Terry (Puppy), John Parnham, Fiona Gerhard and Lisa Baker (Novice Dog/Novice Handler), Fiona Gerhard, Rod Johnson and Sue Hender (Novice) Lisa Brown and Allan Hender (Open) and Mark Jones (Water) and gave instructions for the day.

We were blessed with sunshine and the Ashdown Forest became a magical place with sun filtering through the trees as the day warmed up. It's numerous grassy tracks and woodland were superb for the retrieves and there were 3 water locations used. However, it was easy to get lost if you couldn't keep up with your judge, who was perhaps more familiar with the forest, resulting in some competitors having to be retrieved by Margo and Derek!

The number of judges on the day, along with the choice of water tests, made for a prompt finish although there was a small delay as there were 2 puppies with identical scores in 2nd place so the judge offered these competitors the chance to do another water retrieve to decide the final placings which was hastily carried out by the handlers and their 2 lovely puppies to the judge's satisfaction so she was able to make her decision.

Helpers are critical to the smooth running of a Gundog Working Test and we are very grateful to our helpers on the day who booked everyone in, threw dummies, stewarded for the judges, helped with the Raffle, set-up and breakdown of the base, scorers: Sue Millson, Gill Parrott, Danny Thorogood, Gary Krolikowski, Nicola Chipper, Susan Northwood, Jim Novis, Lloyd Upton, Aaron Busby our photographer for the day and his Caroline Busby and Jacqui More who provided the delicious food for Judges, Helpers and Cakes for all.

Everyone gathered chatting in the afternoon sunshine whilst the final scores were added and Derek then announced the placings and awards were presented by Sue Millson and the judges of the Classes and the judges each gave a summing up of their tests. Class Winners were presented with cups and awards were given to 5th place, and rosettes and cups for the highest placed Vizslas were given in each class which were so appreciated by those that won them.

It was a really nice atmosphere – everyone was friendly and accommodating and Derek and Margo were overseeing everything at base throughout the day to make it into a really well run event.

At the end of the prize giving Derek gave a very moving tribute to his wife Simone and all the work that she does in the background to make the working tests into such an enjoyable day for everyone.

The HVC Sub-Working Committee:

At the end of the prize giving Derek gave a very moving tribute to you and all the work that you do in the background to make it into such an enjoyable day for everyone yet you aren't able to be there yourself to see how successful it was – thank you from us all.

Hungarian Vizsla Club really appreciated the members of the GSP Club, Sussex Branch, who gave up their Saturday to come to Ashdown Forest and help Margo set up the tests.