**HVC All Aged Field Trial At Goudhurst, Kent 29th December 2015**

This All Aged field trial was held at the Glassenbury Estate at the kind invitation of the Eddie Hales and Friends syndicate, which, incidentally, also provided the ground at Titsey for the earlier HVC Novice field trial.

From my perspective this All Aged trial almost never happened as it was beset with difficulties in securing judges and the licence application had seemingly gone AWOL along the way. It was a tall order to secure the trial in the lead up to the long Christmas break, with so many documents to pass back and forth.

However, with the commitment of a band of dedicated field trial enthusiasts and a great deal of forbearance and assistance from the Kennel Club, the help of the HVC’s own Working Sub-Committee members and other Officers, including the field trial secretary, and not a little push and co-ordination from myself certain abandonment was converted to definite fulfilment.

The judges who stepped forward at short notice very early in the proceedings were none other than Eddie Hales (A Panel), who sacrificed a day’s planned shooting at the trial with three generations of his family in order to officiate, and Chris Spree with his first field trial judging appointment. Chris might otherwise have run a dog on the day.

Annie Jones also answered the rallying call and agreed at very short notice to be chief steward for the trial. Annie had officiated with A Panel judge Allan Hender at the Club’s Novice trial in October. Annie was kind enough to commit even before she knew of the venue, only afterwards stipulating that “so long as it is not north of Cumbria!”

Skinners dog foods were agreeable to sponsoring the trial and provided vouchers for the award winners and the place cards. Allan Hender’s West Berkshire Gundogs provided the arm bands.

Club chairman, Sue Millson, and Secretary Margo Robertson were on hand on the day to lend the Club’s official seal to the day’s proceedings and also provide a sumptuous selection for the lunches.

The trial was blessed with ideal weather conditions, although muddy underfoot due to recent heavy rains, the day was otherwise dry, apart from the odd shower, with a brisk but consistent wind and intermittent sunshine.

It should be left to the judges to provide the official critique of the day and of the award winner, 3rd placed Witham Friary Tallahassee [GSP] owned and handled by Gill Pillinger. The Guns’ Award went to Marilyn Roberts’ Wintertop Anzac [GSP].

However, it must be said that the day unfolded with fun and excitement, not least on the part of the dogs, much to the consternation of their handlers,

Eddie Hales, A Panel judge, was moved to remark that although he knew all of the dogs and handlers and that on any other day, any one of the dogs could have won the trial, he had never seen so many misdemeanours from so many dogs on one day. Most of the dogs were seasoned trialers and had pre-qualified for draw preference by possessing prior awards. Nevertheless, this did not stop some of them from ignoring their handler, chasing game, refusing direction, and running in. Most dogs had produced some very good work, securing H-P-Rs on their beat but a seeming “canine conspiracy” on the day left only one dog in it at the end of the trial.

I am certain that notwithstanding the disappointments, everyone who attended in whichever capacity had a thoroughly enjoyable and rewarding rough shooting day, in great company at a super ground. I am pleased to have been part of it, and I wish to extend my personal thanks to everyone who helped the HVC fulfil the trial.

Nigel Wroe

HPR Field Trial Enthusiast