

INTERCLUB REPORT

24/06/2017

Southern Golden Retriever Club Team

Andrew Ward-Smith (Captain) Open Dog

Adrian Phillips Novice Dog

Philip Blount Novice Dog

David Godding Open Dog

Location. Bwlch, Near Brecon, Powys. Wales.

Myself and my Step Son Harry set off at 2pm on the Friday so we could join our hosts and some other competitors for the Pre-test dinner the night before, the traffic was terrible so we were very late but everyone waited for us so that was very kind, about 26 people were at the dinner.

The next morning we were up and about early at our Hotel so we could walk Westley and have a breakfast, I was nervous as I always am at tests.

We arrived as the parking field was filling up and it became clear that this was a large event and some very good dogs and handlers from all over the UK.

I met up with my fellow team mates and Andrew gave us our team shirts and goodie bags put together by The Golden Retriever Club of Wales.

We were all then gathered for the welcome talk and introduction to Judges and Helpers.

It was time to start, we had six judges and two teams were sent to each Judge.

Our 1st test was a short seen for Novice and then a long seen for the Open with us lined out in pairs. I sent Westley for the Novice retrieve and he did this very well, Andrew then went for the long open retrieve and his dog was soon on its way with the Dummy.

Adrian and David had similar success so we moved on to Test two.

Test 2 had us all lined out as a team with Novice and Open dogs alternating. Novice was a seen over a mound so landing unseen and open was a blind by the river with dogs going out of site to pick up, again we all did this really well.

Test 3 was a walk up with dummies being thrown to the front and then turning to have a second dummy thrown behind us, we did this well but Westley decided to jump up at me on the return, something that I later learnt cost me 5 points.

Test 4 was a seen and memory for the Novices and a long blind for the Open dogs, Adrian and I decided I would do the seen and he would take the memory, we both achieved these well and Andrew and David did very well on the two blinds.

Test 5 was a good walk back to the top of the ground and when we arrived we could see this would be the most difficult test so far. It was a long seen for the Novices that was seen but before we could retrieve it the Open dog in each pair had to retrieve a long blind through a gate at the top of the field and into long weeds.

Test 5 Cont:

Andrew's dog achieved this with a bit of handling and while he was working my dog didn't take his eyes off the seen, when Andrew's dog returned I was instructed to send my dog.

Adrian and David then went and did the same tests, both doing very well and David being told his was the best retrieve on that test all day.

Test 6 was a short two dog walk up and a blind each, we all completed this very well.

Phew we were done and we could relax now.

We all went and had our lunches and sat in the sun amongst stunning countryside.

We didn't actually speak about how we may have done so when the awards were read out it was a shock to find we had won.

I would like to thank The Golden Retriever Club of Wales for hosting the event and for the really thoughtful awards and gifts.

The judges were excellent in their advice and the helpers did a great job.

Philip Blount