

Report on the Vale Of York Working Retriever Club's Any Variety Novice Retriever Field Trial held on Tuesday January 26th 2016 by Margaret Pearce.

The Vale of York Working Retriever Club's last trial of the season was held at Warter Priory Estate by kind invitation of Mr Will Healey and keeper Mr Frank Croft.

Judges on the day were Mr Cliff Chase, Mrs Sarah Coomber-Smith, Mrs Sue Lowe and Mrs Julie Campbell.

The dreadful weather forecasted fortunately didn't materialise although the strong winds caused problems for some of the dogs.

The trial was walked up through various strips of game cover. The length of the line was considerable and meant that crossing retrieves were not possible . The judges sensibly gave the dogs plenty of time to pick the game, and the nine Guns shot very well.

There were several first round failures, including an eyewipe by the Judges on four dogs, all of which had worked well in the area.

By the third round four dogs remained. The demise of one was pegging a white pheasant (wonder if he was fined ?) and another who refused to jump a fence, meant that two dogs remained to pick two birds which had been shot over a fence and had fallen into the bottom of a valley. Both dogs were successful and the trial was declared over.

First place was awarded to Mr Ralph Thompson with Churnsway Hermes who also was awarded the Guns Choice, and second place was awarded to Mr Thomas Bushby with Saxophone Pine of Shadowbrae.

Thanks must go to the keeper Mr Shaun Beals who did an excellent job as Steward of the Beat, and the clubs sponsor's Skinners Pet Foods Ltd.