

A field of 9 dogs were entered in the Gundog Club of SA morning Novice RATG test. All of the dogs performed creditably in the Obedience exercises and it was obvious that they had received some training.

The 50m and 70m retrieves were carried out on a hilly section at the back of the property. For the 50m Retrieve the dummy was cast right to left with it landing along a fence line. The dogs were sent from the Creek bed. Most dogs handled the retrieve quite well. With no lack of enthusiasm, but some were a little wayward in returning promptly to the handler.

The 70m Retrieve was run on a steep section of the hill paddock with again the dummy being cast right to left from out of a line of trees and landing on a small flatter section of land just out of sight of the dog. Again most dogs handled the retrieve well. Some marked short but worked their way to the area of the fall. Again with some dogs the return to the handler was via the pretty way but once committed the slope of the hill made sure that they didn't dally.

1<sup>st</sup> place was taken out by Lynne Schmidt with her black Labrador dog Reveirter Bells Occhilupo RN. 80 pts

2<sup>nd</sup> Place was won by Phillipa Both with her English Springer Spaniel Dog Westspring Special Blend CCD. 78 pts

3<sup>rd</sup> place was won by Jessie Hughes with her Weimaraner Dog Ch Ghostwind Master Piece ET CD TD RA. 76 pts

The only downside to the day was when the Trial Sec. ended upside down in the Creek. No damage done.

Graeme Allen (Judge)  
Photo Keith Millington



A smaller field of 7 dogs, 3 scratchings, faced the judge for the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the Trial. Again the Obedience exercises were not a problem for the entered dogs. The 50m and 70m Retrieves were run on a flatter area near the side of the main Dam.

The 50m Retrieve was started under a large tree with the dummy again cast right to left and landing on a short grassy area just over a small rise. As yesterday, some dogs marked the fall short and worked their way to the fall and others went straight to the fall. Breaking before being sent was becoming a problem with some dogs and that caused the loss of many points.

The 70m Retrieve was conducted further out into the paddock with the dummy being cast from left to right from behind a tree. The dummy landing on open ground. Most dogs either marked the fall well or worked their way to the fall using the by now good breeze. Again Breaking was a problem with some dogs.

1<sup>st</sup> place was won by Gail Phoenix with her Hungarian Wirehaired Vizsla Bitch, Habenero Grof No Remy. 84 pts

2<sup>nd</sup> place was won by Jessie Hughes with her Weimaraner Dog, Ch Ghostwind Master Piece ET CD TD RA. 77 pts

The Trial Sec did not fall into the Creek today.

Graeme Allen (Judge)  
Photo Lynne Webster



The Novice PM trial started with 8 entries. All dogs performed the Obedience exercises very well with most dogs getting close to full marks. We then moved to an area of the property with a small dam and sparse areas of cover. After seeing the dogs work on open flat terrain in the AM Trial I wanted to push some boundaries and test the dogs a little harder.

The first retrieve was relatively short into a small dam. The dogs got a very clear view of the dummies. Several dogs refused to go into the water, whilst others had no hesitation at all. What let some of the dogs down was their decision to take the scenic route back to the handlers, losing them points.

The second retrieve was over open ground with sparse cover and several small undulations. Most dogs marked it well, whilst others lost their way about half way out. All the dogs handled the change in terrain really well and I think most handlers were surprised that their dogs did so well. I had 5 dogs finish the Trial of which only 2 received Qualifying passes.

I would like to thank the property owner as without their cooperation we would not be able to run these Events. The Gundog Club, all my helpers and competitors and lastly Jessie and Lynne for taking on the massive task of running a 2 day event. If it wasn't for Jessie and Lynne RATG's would not exist in South Australia.

Congratulations to all.

Lynette Schmidt



Photo  
Keith Millington

L – R:

2<sup>nd</sup> place, Jessie Hughes, Weimaraner Dog, **CH GHOSTWIND MASTER PIECE ET CD TD RA**, 84 pts  
This completes Mac's NRA title, the first in South Australia.  
Judge Lynette Schmidt.

1<sup>st</sup> place, Gail & Rob Phoenix, Hungarian Wirehaired Vizsla Bitch, **HABENERO GROF NO REMY**, 85 pts

The trials at Willunga were very well organised, the weather was good and the location was almost ideal with access to open ground, cover, hills and water. A big thankyou to my stewards who did a great job in making everything work so well.

I had 5 dogs entered in Open. Most of them seemed over qualified on paper, and they all performed at a very high standard. Only one dog did not qualify in the class, and that was due to failing the 1 minute stay requirement, but did perform very well in the other exercises. The Obedience exercises were where most dogs lost points but then they certainly demonstrated their retrieving ability in the retrieves.

The first retrieve was a walk up to a water run. The dummy was aimed to hit a sheltered part of the water so it would not be blown too far by the wind, and it hit in clear sight of the dog. All dogs handled the retrieve very well, with just minor problems in the process.

The second retrieve was a Double Mark. The dogs saw the short retrieve launch then turned to see the long retrieve and were sent to get the long retrieve first. Once again all the dogs coped very well with the retrieves. A few dogs needed a bit of assistance from the handler to get into the area and this contributed significantly to the difference in points between the dogs.



Left to right:

**3<sup>rd</sup> DRIFTWAY PERFECT HOLIDAY NRD**, Julie Kradolfer, Labrador Retriever, 82 pts  
Judge Keith Millington

**1<sup>st</sup> WINTERSET MIST AND SHADOW RRD**, Graeme Allen, Golden Retriever, 94 pts \*\*  
\*\* This completes Missy's ORA title, the first in South Australia.

**2<sup>nd</sup> OC REVEIRTER CUP SAINTLY RN AARD ORA ET**, Labrador Retriever,  
Mr D & Mrs V Furnell, 90 pts

Also qualified Gail & Rob Phoenix, German Shorthaired Pointer Dog, **GERSHOPOIN RAZORS EDGE RRD**, 75 pts

**GUNDOG CLUB OF SA INC**  
**Sunday 5/5/13 AM Open Class**

**Retrieving Ability Test for Gundogs – Open Class.**

Once again the first two Obedience exercises took a toll on the competitors. Several dogs were a little over excited and lost points on holding position and responding to the handler's turns and pace. Only one dog failed to complete the obedience section.

Exercise 3 retrieve was a walk up on land with the dummy landing in the open paddock, but partly screened by reeds. All the dogs completed the retrieve, with some needing a little assistance to get into the area.

The 4<sup>th</sup> exercise was a Double Mark. A dummy was launched to land just over the top of a rise up a hill, and then the second dummy was sent to land in a clear area with reed surrounding it on 3 sides. The dogs were sent for the long uphill retrieve first, and then the shorter run second. The memory test proved to be a little more difficult that it looked with several dogs needing assistance to get into the area, but they also demonstrated how well they could take direction commands. The 80 metre run was probably short compared to what the experienced dogs were used to doing as several over ran the mark and had to be brought back to the area.

Overall, the weekend was a very pleasant experience with good competitors, excellent stewards and an exceptionally well organised office by Jessie and Lynne. Any owner of a Gun Dog should have their dog experience the joys of working in the bush. Not only is it a good, healthy, outdoor sport for both dog and handler, it is also a very pleasant experience among friendly, helpful people.

Keith Millington



Left to right

**ORA Title** 78 pts, Gail & Rob Phoenix, German Shorthaired Pointer Dog, **GERSHOPOIN RAZORS EDGE RRD**

**ORA Title** 80 pts, Julie Kradolfer, Labrador Retriever Bitch, **DRIFTWAY PERFECT HOLIDAY NRD**

**ORA Title/3<sup>rd</sup>** place Jeff Patrick, **RT CH CAVAJAL BUCCANEER** Labrador Retriever Dog, 88 pts.  
2<sup>nd</sup> place Graeme Allen, Golden Retriever Bitch, **WINTERSET MIST AND SHADOW RRD**, 91pts  
Judge Keith Millington.

1<sup>st</sup> place Mr D & Mrs V Furnell Labrador Retriever Dog, **OC REVEIRTER CUP SAINTLY RN AARD ORA ET**, 94 pts

## GUNDOG CLUB OF SA INC.

## OPEN RATG – Saturday afternoon.

I had the pleasure of judging 5 accomplished retrieving dogs in this event.

The obedience element of the trial was conducted on a slightly undulating area of paddock close to the spectator/competitor assembly area. It was very difficult to deduct points from competitors 2, 3 and 4 whose work was excellent and who all scored 29/30. Unfortunately we “lost” one competitor when her dog decided that it couldn’t stay where it was left and changed location.

Having seen the difficulties caused by the wind earlier in the day, I decided to make Exercise 3, the walk-up retrieve, a land retrieve. The dogs were sent from a high dam wall to retrieve the dummy at the considerably lower paddock level, about 50 m away. The dummy was cast from right to left and was clearly sighted. The difficulty was that there were 2 rows of reeds separated by a nice grassy pathway between the dog and the dummy.

All dogs completed the retrieve with dogs 1 and 2 gaining the best scores, but some were fooled by the reeds, took indirect lines and misjudged the area of the fall.

Exercise 4 was a double mark with the long dummy cast from right to left at about 80 m. The second dummy flew high behind a reed surrounded water-hole to fall in sparse cover at about 50 m. Separation between the 2 falls was about 60 degrees. Dogs were to retrieve the dummies in the same order they were thrown.

This exercise seemed to present no difficulties for the dogs with no. 2 doing a brilliant job. The water hole did prove a distraction to a couple of competitors.

The 4 dogs that completed all of the exercises gained qualifying scores. Well done!

I would like to express my thanks to Colin and Pauline Blacker for the use of their property; to the Club for the appointment and to my very efficient and capable stewards, David, Dean and Philippa.

Lynne Webster.



L – R:

Photo  
Keith Millington

3<sup>rd</sup> place Julie Kradolfer, Labrador Retriever Bitch, **DRIFTWAY PERFECT HOLIDAY NRD**, 82 pts

2<sup>nd</sup> place Graeme Allen, golden Retriever Bitch, **WINTERSET MIST AND SHADOW RRD**, 89 pts

Judge Lynne Webster

1<sup>st</sup> place Mr D & Mrs V Furnell Labrador Retriever Dog, **OC REVEIRTER CUP SAINTLY RN AARD ORA ET**, 91 pts

Also qualified (not in photo) Gail & Rob Phoenix, German Shorthaired Pointer Dog, **GERSHOPOIN RAZORS EDGE RRD**, 77 pts.

## GUNDOG CLUB OF SA INC.

## BEGINNERS' TEST – Sunday afternoon.

I have some quite firm opinions about the type of runs that should be used in Beginners Tests and this was my first opportunity to put them into practice.

The field consisted of 3 experienced handlers with “new” dogs (one non-competing) and 4 handler-dog combinations who were having their very first retrieving competition.

My first run had the dogs heeling up to the firing point on a low section of dam wall and seeing the game thrown from right to left against a clear skyline. The game fell in light cover down at paddock level about 50 m from the dog. Banks of reeds to the right and beyond the fall of the game gave the dogs some terms of reference.

All dogs managed the retrieve creditably, although one was eliminated as it would not return the game to the handler. The best score for this run was gained by dog no. 1.

For the water run I chose to place the firing point about 15 m from the edge of a good size dam with an easy water entry straight in front. Again the game was cast from right to left giving the dogs a clear sighting. The game landed with a very audible “splash” in the water about 25 m from the edge. The wind was rather gusty but generally the game fell consistently in the area. However, if the dogs did not go promptly to the game, it drifted further out into the dam.

Disappointingly, the water run was the downfall of most of the inexperienced dogs. Those that broke on the casting of the game did not mark the fall and were unable to find the game.

On the other hand, those dogs that remained steady until sent were able to pinpoint the game and swim directly to retrieve it. Dog no. 3 did a lovely job of this run.

Two consistent runs saw dog no. 1 gain first place by a single point from dog no. 3 Dog no. 4 (a first-time entrant) gained a creditable third place. The biggest issue with the new dogs was their breaking, and this is something that their owners can correct with practice.

Again I would like to acknowledge the property owners, the Club and my stewards, Julie, Jeff and Graeme. I hope that we may have some new converts to the sport of retrieving.

Lynne Webster.



1<sup>st</sup> place Lynette Schmidt, Labrador Retriever Dog, **REVEIRTER BELLS OCCHILUPO RN**, 102 pts  
2<sup>nd</sup> Gail & Rob Phoenix, Hungarian Wirehaired Vizsla Bitch, **HABENERO GROF NO REMY**, 101 pts  
3<sup>rd</sup> Labs N Life Inc, handler Amanda Hayes, Labrador Retriever Bitch, **CAVAJAL LABCORP INDIGO TD**, 91 pts