

The Mighty Wurlitzer

North West Group

December 2010

Edition 19

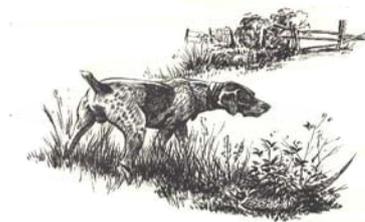
Established 1991



*Best Wishes For Christmas
And The New Year*

**The German Shorthaired Pointer
Club
North West Group**

Welcome!



Honorary President—Brian Finan

Chair:- Allan Drysdale
01257261584
dryrika@hotmail.co.uk

Secretary:- Eddie Kania
DAISY BANK
CHINLEY
HIGH PEAK SK23 6DA
07974 168 188 FAX 01663 750973,
ekania@btopenworld.com

Treasurer:- Paul Dark
07732588030

Cup Steward:- Allan Drysdale
01257261584
dryrika@hotmail.co.uk

Wurlitzer Editor- Peter Hogg
01387 740132

peterhogg@gspjade.mail1.co.uk

Sub Editor: Allan Drysdale

Committee- Allan Drysdale, Eddie Kania, Paul Dark,
Geoff Wood, Karen Saynor, Andy Peers, Rob Irvine,
Mark Herbert, Jan Gough

Honorary Committee—John Burns, Geoff Wood.

German Shorthaired Pointer Club Website
www.gsp.org.uk

North West Group Website
www.hprgroup.co.uk/nwg

To the 19th edition of The Mighty Wurlitzer.
Once again after nineteen years this publication is
packed with various items of interest including:

- Working Test Report
- EKKO Wins Open Field Trial
- Dr. Kleemann-Zuchtausleseprüfung
- Organising the K.C. H.P.R. Chatsworth Working Test
- Clay Pigeon Shoot 2010
- Chukar Hunting in Northern Nevada
- Mink Attack
- Grouse Counting in the Peak District
- A Father A Daughter and a Dog
- Gourmet Recipes
- Training equipment etc
- Training Class Schedule—2011

The Mighty Wurlitzer is a publication for the membership, and cannot function properly if the membership do not contribute!

Articles should be forwarded to the editor.

They can be handwritten, by quill pen, ballpoint, chalk, electronic, typed or anything!

So lets be having them throughout the coming year!

The Editor

The German Shorthaired Pointer Club North West Group Aims & Objectives

The aim of the North West Group is to help handlers of HPR breed gundogs to develop their training skills to enable them to produce obedient, well mannered shooting companions, whether worked solo as rough shooting dogs, or in company, with others, beating and picking up.

The objective is to produce dogs, which are welcomed on shoots and can serve a useful purpose. The main focus remains to encourage handlers to develop the working ability of their dog(s), encourage them to participate in working tests, pointing tests, and field trials, and to introduce them into the working dog environment.

First time HPR owners and handlers are made welcome and will be encouraged to join the North West Group but should quickly show an enthusiasm for developing the working ability of their dogs.

The training programme will be one of continuous assessment, based on the Progress Test booklet. This highlights the various elements of a structured training programme. A booklet will be issued to each new member, once the member has showed full commitment towards the Group. Members should note that to achieve even the basic standard set out in this booklet they will need to progress their training in the periods between training classes. Adequate progress cannot be made simply on a once a month basis.

Any new handler attending training class for the first time will be given a copy of these aims and objectives, and will be asked to come to a decision, as to whether they are prepared to put in the time and commitment, to train themselves and their dog to a satisfactory standard.

If a decision is reached to the effect that a new handler wishes to continue, then every assistance will be given by more experienced handlers in the Group to help a new dog/handler partnership reach a satisfactory standard. Handlers/dogs, who are not interested in progressing working ability but are simply attending for instruction in basic obedience, will be advised to seek such training from either, a professional dog trainer, on a one to one basis, or through a local dog-training club.

Message From The President Brian Finan

I am still gratified after all this time to be your President and to be advised of all the amazing work done by you, the group this year.

I have spent so much time in the Mediterranean this year enjoying the delights of Sardinia and Corsica but a word of warning: - I would seriously advise members not to leave a working dog (6 years old) for 7 months and expect to return and shoot over it, successfully. Back to the drawing board!!

It is wonderful that the group is continuing with strong numbers and a credit to you all for improving so much that you have been able to increase the availability of recognised tests at Chatsworth.

Sorry the weather was unkind for your working test in the summer but you people living in the north are used to bad weather, unlike us 'southern softies'.

I'm delighted to hear of your wonderful season on the Grouse moors, in my opinion there is no finer pastime than working the moor with an HPR dog and I'm not surprised but pleased to hear how accurate your counting exercise has proven.

Sincere congratulations to Karen and her Large Munsterlander on winning an open trial and hope she manages to complete the process of another open win to make up her dog to FTCH.

The last person to make up a Munster was the late John Wagstaff, about 30 years ago.

Chris and I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Chairman's Report

Allan Droysdale

Well I can't quite believe that the last 12 months has passed so quickly. Maybe it's a sign of getting older, who knows? As I sit here and write, I can't help but feel like the footballer Darren Anderton, (sorry ladies), who had the nickname of 'sick note', due to his constant attendance on the physio's table, as opposed to the pitch. My complete absence from the 'action' has been and continues to be very frustrating, however, it has made me appreciate that the group is a collective concern and it clearly continues to function just as well as always, despite the absence of any one individual.

The group remains active and, once again, supported the Kennel Club Working Test at Chatsworth in June.

Thankfully, the weather on the day was much better than the previous year and all went smoothly. The good weather, however, at this year's Working Test was not quite so kind and all who attended, in whatever capacity, looked rather soggy at the close of play. No matter, as everyone seemed to enjoy their day and group members, once again, featured in the awards. Unfortunately, the trial at Mossy Lea had to be cancelled due to insufficient numbers. Hopefully, this will be rectified next year, as there aren't that many trials on Grouse. Congratulations to all who have gained awards in the various competitive arenas and, in particular, to Karen Saynor who achieved a first at the GWPC Open Field Trial in October with Ekko. Maybe Karen will have made Ekko into a FT Ch by the time we are all tucking into our Christmas lunch? Speaking of Christmas lunch, I'm sure people will share my hopes that we don't have to contend with the snow and ice that was experienced last year! Just in case, my snowmobile will be parked outside the pub!

On a personal note, Catherine and I are continuing to deal with our GSP Lily, who has an Auto Immune Condition called Thrombocytopenia. This is a condition where the body's immune system responds to a trigger (unknown) but does not 'switch itself off' when it should and in effect, becomes confused. This results in the body effectively 'attacking' itself, causing in Lily's case, her blood platelet count to reduce to dangerously low levels and, if left undiagnosed, it would become a life threatening situation. Although she has achieved remission once, she has relapsed and has had to start the long treatment regime again. However, our vet and specialist have been excellent and we are hopeful for the future. Our other dogs unfortunately aren't getting a lot of work, however, I intend to make up for lost time once I've been rebuilt! Please enjoy your 'Wurlitzer' and try to appreciate the

hard work that is done by Peter Hogg in Scotland, in terms of putting it all together. This year's edition is just as good as ever.

All that remains is to thank the committee for all their hard work over the past year and to thank also everyone who contributes to the success of the group. Happy Christmas and best wishes for 2011.

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Secretary's Report.

Eddie Kania

It is the end of another calendar year, and the middle of the shooting season, with the field trial season in full swing.

Another busy year for the group, with several new members joining, makes organising training classes as challenging as ever. I unfortunately missed the October class due to work commitments. It was such a shame, as this would have given me the opportunity to enter Brandy in the Progress Test. I hope those that entered enjoyed taking part.

From a secretarial point of view there isn't much to report, there never seems to be. The groups' routine seems to be set following the same pattern year after year.

The AGM was really well attended this year and set the tone for the rest of the year. This was followed in June by the Kennel Club Working Test at Chatsworth, the group were once again asked to look after the HPR section of the Working Test. This was a great success and has led to the Kennel Club giving serious consideration to holding a Novice Test on Saturday June 4th and an Open Test on June 5th 2011. The group will once again Steward the HPR Tests in 2011.

June 2010 was the groups' clay pigeon shoot (complete report later in the Wurlitzer). Moving swiftly onto July, the Watergrove Working Test was again very successful, and is reported in the Wurlitzer.

I'd like to thank all those members that helped at both the KC Working Test and Watergrove Working Test.

The remainder of the year is geared towards the Progress Test, which involves a little more organisation and paperwork.

The final event for the Group is the Christmas Lunch where we find ourselves today (I hope).

There are several groups of people I'd like to thank.

Firstly, the landowners for providing the ground for training classes, the committee for their support, even at the last minute, ensuring that training classes continue uninterrupted, and finally the membership and their partners for supporting the groups' classes and events.

Continuing Brandy's tale

Training continued to go well, his enthusiasm a joy, however his drive has been a little bit more of a problem, well it's not so much drive it is his sheer speed. I really need to improve my reading of Brandy's body language, to be fair this has improved. Work got in the way a little early in the Working Test season this year, it also became apparent that we would have to travel to enter Brandy's first Working Test, which was held by Worcester Gundog. Finishing half way up the field, I was really pleased with Brandy, although there were a couple of issues that we weren't prepared for. A very difficult split and a covered beaters truck with a 15 minute ride to the hunting field. Brandy had been in the back of a Land Rover with lots of dogs and people, that was fine, but the beaters wagon was something completely different. From there we went even further south to the GSPA test at Fairford. Finishing again in the middle of the field, his hunting let him down this time; hunting pasture with a back wind doesn't suit Brandy. Never mind, he did well on all the other tests, clearly demonstrating his courage at the Water, his speed, determination and natural use of the wind to locate blind retrieves. Then at last it was Watergrove, Brandy did really well, I was very, very pleased. He completed each test with style under two judges. It really looked as though we had turned a corner. Entered not for competition, so he didn't feature in the awards. So off we went to the Burton Lazars, with high hopes. Again Brandy completed each test with style and enthusiasm. Unfortunately there were issues outside our control adversely affecting the results. Since then I have been working hard on keeping Brandy under control, hunting within boundaries that I set, not those he sets. In an ideal world I would let him set his hunting boundaries given the wind, terrain and scenting conditions, ultimately he would prove himself to be correct by locating and pointing game. This winter will see lots of work on control, next year we will see if it pays off. He is such good fun.

Sue and I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Dr. Kleemann-Zuchtausleseprüfung Eddie Kania

For some years there have been rumblings about the North West Group organising a trip to Germany to attend the " Dr. Kleemann-Zuchtausleseprüfung "

This is the German Shorthaired Pointer Club **DEUTSCH-KURZHAAR-VERBAND E.V.** breed selection test.

The next Dr Kleemann test will be in September or October 2012 and will be near Hanover in Germany

To date there are no more details than that, however I have made contact with the DKV

In the past the Kleemann has started at around noon on Thursday and is completed on Saturday evening with a prize giving etc..

I would envisage flying to Hanover and hiring some kind of transport.

Organizing this will not be a simple task, hence the advance notice.

Interested?? Contact Eddie

North West Group Show Dog of the Year Trophy Eddie Kania

**The winner of the show trophy this year is Catherine Drysdale with her home-bred GSP Drysika Fleur De Lis JW (Lily) with a total of 191 points
Well done to Catherine and Lily.**

A trophy is to awarded annually at the Group AGM, to the handler and dog partnership, which has gained the most points at Open and Championship shows during the previous year. The purpose of the scheme is to encourage members of the North West Group to participate in showing events, and therefore help preserve the dual-purpose nature of HPR breeds.

Points can only be gained from Breed competition at OPEN & CHAMPIONSHIP Shows LICENCED BY THE UK KENNEL CLUB.

From January 1st to 31st December.

Points can only be claimed from ONE BREED class per

show.

OPEN SHOWS	1 st	3 points
	2 nd	2 points
	3 rd	1 point

PLUS Best of Breed 1 point
Best Puppy in Breed 1 point

CHAMPIONSHIP SHOWS	1 st	10 points
	2 nd	9 points
	3 rd	8 points

PLUS Challenge Certificate 2 points
Reserve Challenge Certificate 1 point
Best Puppy in Breed 1 point

Gaining Show Champion Status 30 points

ELIGIBILITY

The registered owner of the dog must be a fully paid up member of the GSP Club for the period, during which the points are claimed. Additionally the Dog (accompanied by its registered owner) must have attended a minimum of 4 Group-training classes other than the progress test and working test, between January 1st and December 31st.

Owners will submit a list of all awards gained in the qualifying period on the relevant form, (i.e. claims for the period 1st Jan 2009 -31st Dec 2009 should be submitted by 30th April 2010). The GSPC membership number must be included on the claim form, and all claims must be verified. In the event of a tie the committee will decide the award.

Please forward all claim forms to:
Catherine Drysdale 01257 261 584
Email - drysika@hotmail.co.uk

The Liz Ashton Memorial Trophy Eddie Kania

The winner of the Liz Aston Memorial Trophy this year is Karen Saynor with Tarkanya Spikeys Splendour (Ekko) with a total of 22 Points. Karen and Ekko have gone on to be awarded a **First Place** in an Open Field Trial, this year– Congratulations

The Trophy is to be awarded annually at the Group AGM to the handler and dog partnership who gain the most points in field events during the year. The purpose of the scheme is to encourage members of the North West

Group to improve as handlers and to enter more competitive events.

Handlers running more than one dog may submit separate claim forms for each dog.

Points can only be gained from competition at Pointing Tests, Working Tests, Field Trials LICENCED BY THE UK KENNEL CLUB and the NWG Progress Test. From May 1st to April 30th. Points can only be claimed in one class per Working Test i.e. Puppy or Novice, which ever is the higher. Eligibility: Handlers shall be fully paid up members of the GSP Club for the period that points are being claimed within and must attend a minimum of 4 Group-training events other than the July Working Test, and October Progress Test, between May 1st and 30th April each year. The GSP Club membership number must be included on the claim form and all claims will be verified. In the event of a tie, the committee will decide the award.

POINTING TEST

Excellent	2 points
Very Good	1 points

WORKING TEST

1 st	4 points
2 nd	3 points
3 rd	2 points
4 th	1 point

FIELD TRIAL

1 st	20 points
2 nd	15 points
3 rd	12 points
4 th	10 points
C of M	8 points
Gaining of Field Trial Champion Status	30 points

GROUP PROGRESS TEST

Excellent	3 points
Very Good	2 points
Good	1 point

Only the highest points for ONE test in each category of the Progress Test - Hunting, Retrieving / Tracking, Obedience/ Steadiness, Water – will be awarded, regardless of the number of tests entered. A maximum of 12 points therefore can be gained in the Progress Test during the year.

The German Shorthaired Pointer Club cannot accept any responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to person, dog or property whilst taking part in the competition.

Please forward completed claim forms by 30th April 2011

EKKO Wins Open Field Trial

Karen Saynor

At 4am on 12th October, in the cold and dark, we left home to drive up to Northumberland for the German Wirehaired Pointer Club's Open Field Trial, which was being held on the Ray Estate. We stopped at Tebay Services for a short break where the temperature was hitting zero degrees!

To steady my nerves, a consistent factor at each trial I went to last season, I had decided that a tot of rum was called for in my 'arrival coffee' in the car park at the meeting point. This helped to cope with the temperature as well as the nerves while we waited for the keeper. Following our briefing we followed in convoy to where the Trial was to take place. Ekko and I had been drawn to run number 5.

The ground was really lovely – a mixture of low heather, white grass and bracken and the weather, after the chilly start, turned into a beautiful day. Not too hot but with beautiful blue skies. It was a pleasure just to be up there. Our first run was into an area of bracken with a cheek wind.



Ekko very quickly came on point. Up went my arm (closely followed by that of the judge) and I waited for the guns to move before I went too close, avoiding the risk of flushing the bird/s myself before anyone was ready. (I'm learning!) On command, in went Ekko and up got a partridge – not for long though as it was shot by Larry Wilks. Ekko still prefers to stand rather than sit after the flush and shot, a characteristic I will always find a bit 'hairy', but on command off she went and brought back the partridge. She was then hunted on and had (I think) three more points which were not shot. The birds weren't hanging around for the guns. We then turned into a back wind and hunted for a short while longer before being picked up. A sigh of relief was then breathed by me – we had successfully survived the first round.

The rest of the card progressed with a mixture of fortunes and, when it was our second turn, we were brought up to try for a runner that the previous dog hadn't managed to find. Ekko had a good look but she too was unable to find the bird. (The picking up dog also found no trace when he looked afterwards.) This run was a mixture of the heather, white grass and bracken

with a back wind. Having hunted for a while Ekko came on point at a fence and, while we were deciding whether I should put her through or not, the pheasant flushed and was not brought down. We then turned, working into the wind, and, after a short while, Ekko again came on point, stalked forwards a bit and pointed again. Another single partridge was produced on command and was again shot by Larry, to land the other side of the fence while Ekko again stood and watched. Although a stranded wire fence, the strands were quite close together and very taut with barbed wire across the top. I knew she would jump out of choice so, for safety sake, I took her to the fence and, after opening the strands, sent her through. She crossed the track, found the bird in the verge on the other side, and brought it straight back to hand. We were then picked up.

We followed on with the rest of the gallery. It wasn't easy to see what was happening on everyone else's runs as the ground was quite undulating in places but there were plenty of shots to hear. I was hoping that we had done enough to be taken to the water without a third run. As it turned out there were no third runs. We all arrived back at the cars for a late lunch and five of us had our numbers called out to go to the water – brilliant.

Off we all went in convoy again as the water was a few minutes away. We arrived at a large fishing reservoir with a small peninsula sticking out, not too far from one end. The dogs were sent from the end of this peninsula with the pigeon being straight across, at the waters' edge, on the opposite bank. It was a reasonable swim but nothing too terrible. From what other competitors who had been there before had been saying during the day, the distance had been getting longer and longer, so it was quite a pleasant surprise when we arrived. I have to say that Ekko did this retrieve absolutely spot on, one command to get her across, a single direction, and then a straight swim back to me across the water. In fact she was the only dog to come back across the water with the pigeon which did surprise me.

Anyway, we then had another coffee while we waited for the judges and steward to sort out their paperwork before the awards were made, and I felt hopeful that I had done enough to creep into the awards. The steward announced that there was a winner but when they called out Ekko you could have knocked me down with a feather. I was really quite shocked. I knew she had worked really well during her runs but was just over the moon to have got as far as the water, it never occurred to me that she might have done that well.

A fantastic end to a really lovely day and a great reward for all the time I have put into learning, training and handling my own dog. I was then told that it was about 30 years since a Munsterlander had won an Open stake at a Field Trial which was something I had never really thought about. Trouble is that we now need to do it all again but as Ekko is still only three years old, we have, at least, got a good few years to try for it. Everything is crossed.



N.W.G Working Test - Watergrove 18th July 2010

Puppy Test

Judge - Gill Pillinger

I would like to thank the club for asking me to Judge all the puppy tests on the day and special thanks to Geoff Saynor my steward for being there at all times.

Hunting A very wet day with great ground hunting into a head wind, puppies had approx 4 acres of moorland with plenty of rough grass. Most dogs were great to Judge all gaining top scores with experienced handlers. Just a handful of very young and a few very novice handlers which I hope enjoyed their dogs on the day struggled as they didn't have the knowledge to hunt their dogs properly. But were keen to learn and will do well in the future.

Seen Retrieve The dummy was thrown 20 metres in front of the dog competing just behind a very low wall, the more experienced dogs marked the dummy well and handlers had little to do, dogs straight out straight back gaining top marks. Young or inexperienced dogs did not mark the dummy well and had to hunt the dummy up before retrieving it. Again there was a very mixed group of dogs and handlers which split the competition a great deal on the scores.

Water This was into average size water on the side of a reservoir. The dogs competing sat 10 foot from the waters edge, the dummy was thrown from the far side approx 10 yards into the water. As the water was quite shallow for the first 10 yards dogs had to wade out before starting to swim to retrieve the dummy. The entry was very good so never became a problem

to the dogs. Again more experienced dogs straight in straight back with little handling, but the few dogs that did have a problem were the very young and inexperienced.

Memory Retrieve Dogs competing were asked to heal with their handler 20 yards to one post and 20 yards to another post, handlers threw a dummy so the dog could mark and were healed back by their handlers to the start of the test. Dogs were then sent for the retrieve. This test was mainly on steadiness the healing wasn't of a good standard for many dogs, so handlers lost marks for this part. Retrieving was good which bought the experienced dogs up in their scores.

I hope everyone enjoyed their day, as I really enjoyed you all, especially being able to Judge the puppies test from start to finish which I think is quite important to have that connection with competitors throughout the competition and overall appreciation of all the hard work that was put into the training of these young dogs.

The results were as follows:

- 1st MORICROFT MY CHOICE HWV Bitch
Handler Mr M. Caine,
- 2nd BRYANTSCROFT REDCURRENT GWP Dog
Handler Mr R F Cullen,
- 3rd FALCONGREEN FECSKE HWV Bitch
Handler Mr M. Herbert,
- 4th SEEHOF EMMA GSP Bitch
Handler Mr R Irvine.

Novice Test

Judge - Paul MacDonald

I would like to thank the club for inviting me to Judge the Novice seen retrieve and hunting test. Well done to the committee for putting on such a good day and for looking after us all so well. Special thanks to my steward and dummy thrower for doing a sterling job in adverse summer weather conditions

Seen Retrieve - This retrieve took place on open moorland the starting point was at the top of a steep valley with a stream at the bottom and the dummy was thrown from the other side of the valley making the retrieve around 50 yards the ground was very uneven with short grass, in places with lots of marsh grass there was a strong wind from the right with continuous rain.

Congratulations to those who achieved this with high scores, some producing a perfect test. It was a pleasure to watch. One command, straight out, back, sat and presented. This test looked very easy with the dog sat high up the valley looking straight across to a seen dummy, however lots of dogs lost perspective of distance and direction from the bottom of the valley, making a lot of handling to get them up the other side the strong wind from the right pulled some dogs to far right off the dummy as they climbed the valley then taking a lot of handling to get them around the dummy and on wind to it. Most dogs achieved the test with varying amounts of handling, only a few dogs failed this because the desire to hunt was greater than the desire to retrieve. Overall the standard was very good with the test bordering on being open standard it really was a pleasure to watch the high standard some dogs produced.

Hunting - This took place on open moorland with plenty of long grass and pocket of cover, all dogs ran the same ground with a strong cheek wind all dogs ran for around 6-7 minutes and were asked to stop their dogs at distance towards the end of their beat.

What a fantastic piece of ground, I could have stayed out there all day watching these handlers take on this ground with their dogs.

Congratulations to the handlers and dogs who gained top marks, these really hunted their dogs and handled the ground to a very high open standard having a great understanding of the wind, the ground in front of them and the ability to put their dogs in the right place in order to show their dogs off to their best and boy did they know how to take ground on, working a cheek wind as it should, good distance, out, not too big a bite forward around the covers the right side, no back casting taking all the ground in, bang on the whistle all while the handlers stood still a pleasure to watch.

Only a few handlers made the mistake of working the shape of the ground going forward, working a cheek wind as if it were a head wind to the frustration of their dogs. Overall the standard was very good I've never seen so many Novice dogs producing that standard. Many thanks for running under me.

The results were as follows:

- 1st **TARKANYA INCAS INCANTATION AT DOUBILLY LM Bitch** :Handler Mr A. Hatton
- 2nd **INCADAR ILLUMINATE LM Bitch**, Handler Mr K. Hoinés
- 3rd **WHINNIE GHYLL GSP Bitch** Handler Mr L. Boswell
- 4th **BRYANTSCROFT GUDGEON GWP Bitch** Handler Mrs J Foster.

Open Test

Judge – Irmgard Alcock

I would like to thank the North West Group for inviting me to judge. This ground is ideally suited for HPR.

Test 1

Hunting on open moorland with caged game (Partridge) each dog had a fresh piece of ground to hunt.

Test 2

Distraction and 2 blind retrieves

Test 3

Seen retrieve

Test 4

Water

I saw some very good dog work, unfortunately, we had to

hunt with a back wind but all the dogs coped extremely well with this. On the whole the retrieving was good, apart from the seen retrieve, where some dogs struggled. There was only half a mark between 1st to 3rd place and one mark for 4th place.

1ST **Maplehaze Glen Lossie GWP B**
Handler Roy Cullen

2nd **Tarkanya Spikeys Splendour LM B**
Handler Karen Saynor

3rd **Kenocto Bremen GWP D**
Handler I Thornycroft

4th **Moricroft Mimosa HWV B**
Handler M Caine

Thank you for providing me with a nice lunch, and thank you to all those who helped to make my day enjoyable

Organising the HPR test at the Kennel Club - Chatsworth Working Test

Eddie Kania

An insight into organising an HPR Working Test

This is the second time there has been an HPR section at the KC Chatsworth Working Test. Given the lessons learned during the 2009 event, I decided early on that we would really need to look at the logistics as closely as the tests. We have, to all intents and purposes, the use of as much ground as we need, Moorland, Woodland and water. The limiting factor is the distance between the Moorland and the water. As we have two judges, I decided to set the tests in the following order.

One judge would take the Hunting Test, whilst the second judge would take two Retrieving Tests. These tests would be set as close as possible to each other in the morning; I hoped they would be completed by lunchtime. This would give us the opportunity to have both judges take the dogs to the water in the afternoon. With this plan in mind, I was confident we would finish in good time for the prize giving.

One factor we could not control would be the weather. In 2009, it was terrible, bouncing off the lake, making it difficult for the dogs to see the retrieve.

Towards the end of March the first site meeting is held at Chatsworth, together with Graham Evans. Graham looks after the ground for the whole event and makes sure that all the tests are kept well apart.

I started by looking at the moor and decided that we could hunt each dog on clean ground with a shot to test steadiness finishing the test.

Keeping the retrieves close by, I set a blind retrieve at the entrance to the moor to the right, around 60 yards. A seen distraction to the left, again about 60 yards, was to be accompanied by a shot, in order to ensure the dogs knew where the distraction was.

The second retrieve was a long blind down a ride with a cheek wind from the left. There would be a little surprise; the dummy would be a 3 lb dummy, not the usual 1lb dummy.

The plan would be to complete the Hunting and the Retrieves by lunchtime (12.30)

Allowing about an hour to get back to HQ, have lunch, gather all the competitors and set off to the water, would mean that the Water Test could be started by about 13.45. This would leave us about an hour and a half, meaning we could be back at HQ by 15.15, in good time for the scoring to be completed for prize giving at 16.00 approximately.

The Water Test - A traditional Open Standard Water Test is a blind across water obstacle, however all the available waters are far too wide; we simply would not have time to complete it in time.

This year I decided to try a Memory into the water with a Blind Retrieve set about 70 yards away from the water to be retrieved first. The problem we might have is if it is windy on the day the memory in the water may drift.

Following test setting on site there was a meeting. I needed to ensure that the HPR's were schedule to start as early as possible; however, we needed to consider Retrievers, Spaniels and young handlers too.

The plan was set. Everything had been considered the only unknown was the weather on the day.

The week before the Working Test the stewards and helpers visit the ground, all the tests are discussed, tried and any changes that are deemed necessary made. This ensures that there are no surprises on test day, for example, there is water in the lake, or the bracken is suddenly four foot high. Second site visit completed. Everything is in place for a successful working test.

I met the Judges at the ground the day before the test; each test was explained together with the format of the day once everything was agreed we are all set.

On the day, the stewards arrived very early, the weather was perfect, two-way radios were distributed, the competitors (15) were gathered just before 9 am. The Chair of the Kennel Club Working Test Working Party welcomed us.

Off we went to the entrance of the Moor; the group was split, some to hunting, the bulk to the 2 retrieving tests.

Hunting each dog on clean ground, the judge was asked to try to hunt with a cheek wind, as this would lead to all the competitors having the same wind. This is the most important part of any HPR test with 40 points available.

The Retrieves

The Blind about 60 yards to the right by a tree didn't pose much of a problem for most, however surprisingly the seen distraction did, some 60 yards to the left both retrieves in woodland, some did take a long time to complete the second half of this test.

The long blind was completed by all with little or no problems. The 3 lb dummy did surprise some however; it did not cause any real problems.

Both retrieves testing steadiness, biddability and the more formal side of retrieving.

Completed on time- off to lunch – gathering the competitors at about 13.30 we moved off to the water.

The water test although unusual was completed on time. The group returned to the HQ for the prize giving on time. A successful day all round.

The Group have been asked to organise the 2011 HPR section of the Chatsworth Working Test. There will be a Novice Test on June 4th and the Open Test on June 5th 2011,

This will be an ideal opportunity for members to enter a prestigious local working test .

Grouse Counting in the Peak District

By
Matthew Kerfoot

As the Red Grouse is a wild bird a critical part of their management is being able to tell how many are on a particular piece of moorland. The counting year begins in March with pairs counts. Grouse are very territorial and each pair will have its own carefully selected area, which the cock guards against his fellows. The older, more dominant, cocks will control a bigger area thus allowing less pairs to breed on a particular piece of moor. Combine this with the fact that younger hens are generally more fecund than older ones and one can see that the ideal scenario is to have as young a population of Grouse as possible in order to achieve the greatest population on a moor. The younger birds will have smaller territories, and produce bigger broods in them, than older ones.

The spring count will show how well the birds have come through the winter and, over a period of years, allow the moorland manager to set his ideal target for pairs on the moor at this time of the year. A summer count is then undertaken in late July or early August to ascertain the breeding success of the birds, and allow the moorland manager to work out the "crop" of Grouse that can be shot on the moor during the season to bring the moor back to its ideal spring stocking density – whilst also allowing for predation and natural mortality.

Too high of a bag shot and there may not be enough pairs on the moor the following year, however, too small of a bag may lead to an overstocking of the moor and cause disease to run rife with an even greater impact on the population. The moorland manager thus has a balance to strike and knowledge is the key.

Traditional methods of counting Grouse vary from a single dog handler with some Pointers or Setters working a beat, to the Keepers and their Spaniels walking a transect across the moor taking the same line year after year. However, for the last fifteen years our group have been counting Grouse on moors in the Peak District using a technique which combines both of these styles. We will cover a wide line across a beat – often bringing in a full drive – using a number of handlers and their Continental Hunt Point and Re-

trieve dogs. The number of handlers will vary with the size of the moor being counted – from, perhaps, four on a small moor to eight or more on a larger one.

The breeds worked by members of the group include German Shorthaired Pointers, German Wirehaired Pointers, Large Munsterlanders, Hungarian Vizslas and Hungarian Wirehaired Vizslas. All of our dogs get a lot of work on the moors so are quite adept at finding Grouse, not to mention very fit and with the tremendous stamina for which the HPR breeds are so well known.

We line out across the moor, much like a beating line, with our team leader in the centre and each dog handler armed with a radio to call in all sightings to him.

The dogs are cast off and set to their task with gusto. They are expected to work a long way out from the handler – perhaps covering 100 yards or more to each side where the beat is wide – but always remain in contact and under control. Out of courtesy we try not to let our dogs encroach too much on the next dog's ground but where they do overlap - as they must to ensure full ground coverage - there is no jealousy and each dog simply gets on with its job.

The pointing breeds are air-scenting dogs with a much higher head carriage when hunting than the nose to the ground style of a ground-scent hunting dog like a spaniel. Their experience dictates how big of a bite of ground they can take with each cast depending upon the scenting conditions. The better the scent the faster the dog can cover the ground and the further into the wind it can scent the game.



Days when smoke from a bonfire would rise straight up into the sky can prove hard for the dogs as their scenting range can seem short, whereas days when a bonfire's smoke would drift along the ground appear to make the game's scent do the same and allow the dogs to pick it up from sometimes startling distances – 50 yards is not unusual and I have even seen a covey pointed at close on 100 yards across a gully.

We assist our dogs by handling them into pockets of ground that might otherwise get missed but - whatever the human interpretations of barometer, humidity and wind readings might be - the only true guides to the scenting conditions on any particular day are the dogs' noses. At six feet above the ground even the wind direction is different to that at dog level as it swirls around knolls, up gullies in the opposite direction to expected and so on. As handlers we have to ignore our own views on the vagaries of scent and trust an experienced dog to work the wind as it reads it.

Ideally we would like to always head into the wind - to allow the dogs to make the most efficient use of it - but this is not often possible. Frequently we will have to contend with a "Cheek Wind" from the side and, most inefficient of all, a "Back Wind" from our rear. To the uninitiated these wind conditions can make the dogs appear to be out of control as they are working at unexpected angles and distances. On a full "Cheek Wind" the dog will need to pull straight out from the handler until pipped on the whistle to turn back towards him and so quarter into the wind across the handler's front.

On a "Back Wind" the dog can either run straight down wind, away from the handler, and then quarter back into the wind towards him, or it can run in large diameter circles looping ahead of the handler but ensuring that the loops overlap within its scenting distance – for a mental picture think in terms of the Olympic rings.

I get a tremendous thrill from seeing a dog charging at full gallop and then suddenly slamming on point as it catches scent. An experienced dog is then able to hold game, and stop it from moving off or flushing, with its incredible intensity – sometimes for many minutes on a shoot day whilst handler and Guns work their way into correct position.

Each time a dog comes on point any other dog nearby is expected to honour the point by backing – pointing

the other dog – even though it cannot smell the game itself. As with pointing game this is instinctive for the pointing breeds and simply needs nurturing during training.

The handler will then ask the dog on point to flush the game and work the ground out to ensure that nothing else is hiding in the immediate vicinity – a covey will sometimes lift as one but on other occasions will require rooting out of the heather. He will then call in the figure on the radio for the team leader to record on a plan of the moor. We try to provide as accurate information as possible on single cock or hen Grouse, barren pairs, and numbers in a covey - including a distinction between a family of young "cheepers" or more fully grown young Grouse. Where we have obviously come across a covey of young "cheepers" we will pull the dog off rather than try to flush them.



Whilst we are primarily on the moor to count Grouse with the modern pressures on moorland managers to prove species biodiversity we are also often asked to make a note of other species as well - such as Blue Hares, Curlew, Snipe, Pheasants and wild English Partridges. We make no claim to be ornithologists so Skylarks and other LBJ's (little brown jobs) are not recorded for fear of misidentification. Frankly, we have enough to do trying to maintain a neat line, handle a dog, count a large flush, communicate on the radio, and endeavouring not to fall in the deep hole hidden by the heather or get stuck up to our waist in a peat bog.

Rogue sheep sometimes manage to get on the wrong side of a fence and can be made a note of too. This can be particularly helpful to the Keepers in early spring when they are trying to find enough hours in the day to burn heather and check traps during daylight hours, and then lamp foxes at night (curses to the

hours, and then lamp foxes at night (curses to the visiting Gun who thinks that a Grouse Keeper is only busy during the shooting season!). As capable as Keepers are they can't be everywhere at once and a few sheep can really tuck into some nice young, carefully nurtured, heather plants if they are allowed to overgraze one area for too long.

Our walking pace is dictated by the dogs as we cannot push them on faster than their noses allow in case we walk over game, and miss counting it, by failing to let the dog cover all of the ground on its beat.

Days can be as short as a four mile walk or as long as ten – up hill and down dale, through knee high heather, over rocks, crossing wet bogs and in and out of peat hags – so a pair of stout hill boots and gaiters and a good thumb stick are essential. Our dogs can cover anything from 5 to 10 times the distance that we do as they quarter the moor. (The HPR breeds are held in disdain amongst certain sections of the shooting community but to see them performing this role must surely convince even their most hardened of critics that they have some merit!)

We each carry a small backpack with plenty of fluids, a snack, and waterproofs - if they aren't already on given our climate! Between us we will also have at least one basic first aid kit to cover both human and canine needs, a map of the area, and a GPS unit as it is surprisingly easy to lose one's bearings in hill fog – a frequent enough occurrence, even in summer, to make this a sensible precaution. In this day and age we probably all have a mobile phone as well, but the signal in these upland areas is so patchy that they cannot be relied upon.

This spring we were counting with snow patches still on the ground and in summers past we have had weather hot enough to wear shorts and 'T' shirts and find it necessary to carry water for the dogs as well as ourselves. We have also had the dense fog that suddenly descends leaving near zero visibility and the lightning storm that exploded a

fence post nearby and had us crouching on the ground trying not to be the tallest thing for miles. Weather wise we have to prepare for all eventualities as it is not impossible to get all four seasons in one day – as is often said "If you don't like the weather, wait five minutes and it will change".

The sights, sounds and smells of the moors make them fabulous places to be. There's the solitude shared with some wonderful likeminded friends. In spring the Grouse cocks territorial displaying and the Curlew flying high overhead calling that beautiful bubbling song. The adrenaline rush in summer as a large covey of Grouse erupts from around your feet as you walk in on the point to flush them. Then there's the colour contrast between the drabness of the heather at the end of winter and the brightness of it all in flower in the summer – sometimes causing the dogs to look yellow with the amount of pollen on their coats. But, for me, the thing that really encapsulates all this is the smell from a patch of burned heather. I cannot describe it but I find it truly fabulous and so evocative of the moors. Sometimes when I open my boot bag to clean and oil them that smell is hanging on the boot leather, and the canvas of my gaiters, and I am taken instantly back to the hill.

Others may well disagree but we feel that our system gives the most consistently accurate counts from one year to the next. We cover a much bigger area than the Keepers can with their own dogs, which allows for wide ranging changes in the heather pattern and gives a more complete picture of the stock density. We also minimize the length of time an area is disrupted by being on and away so quickly. A lone man with his Pointers and Setters will, of necessity, have to remain in an area for quite some time as he searches out covey after covey within close proximity to each other.

The moorland managers that we undertake counts for certainly find the information useful and we hope to remain fit enough to carry on working our dogs on the moors for many years to come as we – both human and canine elements of the team - simply adore being out there.



Clay Pigeon Shoot 4th July 2010 Andy Peers

Once again it's that hit and miss time of year, Sunday 4th July, the annual Clay Pigeon Shoot.

Good turnout 12 of us on the day and a few spectators. Couple of first timers, Phil {Jan's husband}, Christine {Lee's partner}, Mark and Iwan all doing very well, in fact so well Phil is now an shooting addict and gone all the way to getting his own licence.

We started the day meeting up at 9.30 for 10.00 start, with bacon butties and a nice hot cup of tea. The group were divided into 3 teams.

The teams consisted of:

Team 1 - Mark, Eddie, Dan and Charlie

Team 2 - Jack, Iwan, Rob and Phil

Team 3 - Andy, Lee, Theresa and Christine

The weather conditions were dry, for a change, but very windy. Not the best day for shooting clays.

Off we went to the 1st stand which was supposed to be a 'teal', which is normally as very easy target, but given wind and weather conditions, was not as easy as it seemed. This seemed to be the theme for most of the morning, making easy targets, hard, even for the experienced people.

Jack {Bron's husband} was on hand to give out some very sound and helpful advice to his team mates and the rest of the crew. Christine, who had not really shot before, was using a 20 bore shotgun, and with the help of Lee {her partner} managed to even hit some good targets. Which goes to show, those who have never shot or used a shotgun can come along and have some fun.

The scores on board:-

1st place Iwan – 51

2nd place Rob – 49

3rd place Dan - 42

Chukar Hunting in Northern Nevada Don Potter



As most of you in the NW Group know, Sharon and I moved to California in September 2009, along with Bruno, our GSP. We had hoped to get some working and hunting after we moved but it seems like there are way more predators than game birds in California. The house we are renting is in a rural area, and has about 7 acres (though over half of it is steep sandy hillside). On our land we have seen coyotes, deer, a breeding pair of red-tailed hawks, rattlesnakes, tarantulas, and a covey of California quail, which Bruno did not acknowledge as game until we went hunting some in Nevada recently (now he is fully "tuned in" to California quail). Mountain lions are also common though fortunately for Sharon, she has not seen one on our property. They grow to 7.5 feet nose to tail and about once every 4-5 years there is a report of a lion attacking and killing a person locally. Although wild pheasant were prevalent in California, changes in farming practices, and the rapid rise in the red-tailed hawk population has virtually eliminated pheasant in our area. I have only seen one group, feeding at the back of a chicken ranch.

So when a friend of ours, Jerry, invited Bruno and I to go hunt chukar in Northern Nevada in mid-November, we jumped at the chance. Jerry has a house in Yerington, Nevada, and is planning to buy a GSP in the next few months. Coincidentally he has his name down for a pup from Frank O'Leary of Trocken Bach kennel www.tbk-dk.com in Walla Walla, Washington state. The sire of the pup will be none other than Quickstep vom Hege-Haus who is currently in residence at Trocken Bach. As Jerry just turned 70, the pup should be an interesting challenge!

Anyway – back to the chukar. Alectoris Chukar, known as chukar partridge, or red-legged partridge in the US, is a native N. American game bird, similar in looks to Alectoris Rufa, the red-legged partridge found in the UK, but bigger and stronger. Chukar are very hardy and live in rocky terrain, from 4000ft up to 12,000ft. The terrain of Northern Nevada is perfectly suited to chukar consisting of rocky mountainside covered with sage brush and cheat grass. Chukar feed off the cheat grass seeds and stems, and shelter under rocky outcrops. They love to be high up so they can fly downhill when disturbed, to gain speed very rapidly. With predators including coyote, bobcat, rattlesnake, badger, raccoon, mountain lion, plus various hawks, its not surprising that chukar are very jumpy. Jerry and I picked up our hunting licenses at the local hardware store and headed across the main highway to the foothills. The Bureau of Land Management

(BLM) has 75 million acres of land in Nevada, and as long as you have a hunting permit you can hunt anywhere on it. Jerry loaned me a 20 gauge pump action Remington, which was very light and great for walking up hunting. Incidentally, they sold them in the hardware store for \$300. They also had a nice Smith and Wesson 38 Special that Sharon has her eye on. She has been out horse riding up some steep mountain trails where you often come across wild boar (and coyote at dusk), and most of the women that ride there carry a handgun just in case.

The town of Yerington is at 4500ft and we parked up on a trail and headed up the hillside, with Bruno working ahead of us. It was a sunny day, about 14deg. C, though quite breezy. We had climbed about 1000ft to a ridge without any indication of scent from Bruno. Before we reached the rocky ridge I pulled Bruno back in and we had a short rest and a drink. After climbing the last few feet to gain the top of the ridge, I cast Bruno off and he started to work down the west facing slope. Very quickly he came onto some scent and worked down about 30 yards, into the ¾ cheek wind that was coming up the hillside from the left. With the high wind and wind direction he could clearly take in scent from a long way down the hillside. It seemed there were birds there because Bruno had stopped and was taking in a lot of scent. I could see that he was reluctant to move further, to avoid putting too much pressure on them. We were still on the ridge – the hillside was very steep and as we were deciding to start to move down, and a covey of about 20 chukar lifted about 20 yards below Bruno.

The best way to describe how the birds lifted and flew is like red grouse on steroids. Chukar are big, powerful birds – they lifted, turned on the wind and were gone. Apparently they are very jumpy in high wind, so on another day these birds may well have held for a point. We worked along and climbed for another hour or so but did not see any more birds. There were 2 other hunting parties out on the mountain that morning but we did hear any shots. Since they had no dogs with them it was hardly surprising. Chukar hunting is a fit person's sport, and you absolutely need a hard running dog. Even with a dog, 2-3 coveys per hour of climbing is about what you can expect to come across. Tough work – especially at altitude – but a great sport if you have a good HPR

The guy at the hardware store gave us a good tip to find some California Quail so we finished off the day there, walking a ditch alongside some large plains in another

stretch of BLM land. Although we flushed 5-6 we didn't hit any. Quail explode out of the brush and fly low – often straight ahead. A little tough to get a clean shot with a dog just ahead and hidden in the sage brush. But Bruno certainly got the message that quail were to be hunted and he worked hard for 2-3 hours just before dusk. Probably we would have been better to get up early for the quail but we only had 1 day hunting.

So nothing in the bag but a great experience. Sharon, Bruno and I are relocating to Connecticut on the East Coast in a couple of weeks. The drive across should take about 6 days, so Bruno is getting to be a very well travelled GSP. A friend told me there is good ruffed grouse hunting close to where we will be living, so we will definitely get Bruno into that. Apparently ruffed grouse are great walked-up sport. Sharon is just relieved that there won't be any mountain lions, coyotes or rattlesnakes where we are going.

Merry Xmas to all at NW Group GSPC!

Don, Sharon and Bruno

Mink Attack! Jack Gradwell

The day was hot and sunny: late morning sun streaming from a southerly direction through the French windows. As I opened the windows on to the garden, I could hear the chickens making a raucous row. Just at this moment, Bron walked into the room and I said, half in jest, "I think something's killing your chickens." Not actually having heard the noise, Bron replied that they would just be announcing an egg, but then she actually heard how loud it all was and dashed off to investigate.

As Bron's figure disappeared down the garden, I set about doing what I was about to do.

Then.....A scream! "Get down here fast....and bring your gun!"

"How big a gun?" having a range from shotguns to air pistols in mind.

Understanding that the scream was a real cry for help, I picked up a .22 air rifle and ran down the garden.

The sight that met my eyes I have never seen before and may never see again. There was a very

sleek and beautiful mink standing at bay over the inert body of Bron's favourite Arucauna hen and making menacing forays towards Bron, who was chunking stones at it and poking at it with a stick. It all happened very fast, but seemed like an age at the time.

Eva, always up for the hunt, joined us to show moral support but heaved a sigh of relief when she saw that I was about to shoot the thief and she was not expected to kill it for us: those teeth were just a bit *too* sharp!

I put the gun to my shoulder and recall saying to the mink, "This is no competition, pal," as I squeezed the trigger and the mink fell dead. The tiny predator had no fear of humans or dogs but had paid the price.

The hen, though seemingly dead, was still alive. I must say that I was in favour of necking it but Bron, bless her, treated the poor hen with unction's, ointments and powders. The hen then wandered around for a week looking rather sorry for itself then abruptly fell over dead; she had done well to get thus far but we assume it was the shock that did for her.

We have a taxidermist by appointment to the family, who goes under the sobriquet of Stan the Stuffer: mainly because his name's Stan and he stuffs things. Stan fettled the corpse of the mink and recreated it in a permanent life frieze, creeping down a branch with its jaws parted and showing its wicked little teeth in a vicious snarl.

There is no moral to this story – except that if you are going to go hunting in back gardens, pick on someone your own size!

A Father, a Daughter and a Dog

Catherine Moore

"Watch out! You nearly broad sided that car!" My father yelled at me. "Can't you do anything right?"

Those words hurt worse than blows. I turned my head toward the elderly man in the seat beside me, daring me to challenge him. A lump rose in my throat as I averted my eyes. I wasn't prepared for another battle.

"I saw the car, Dad. Please don't yell at me when I'm driving."

My voice was measured and steady, sounding far calmer than I really felt.

Dad glared at me, then turned away and settled back. At home I left Dad in front of the television and went outside to collect my thoughts.... dark, heavy clouds hung in the air with a promise of rain. The rumble of distant thunder seemed to echo my inner turmoil. What could I do about him?

Dad had been a lumberjack in Washington and Oregon. He had enjoyed being outdoors and had revelled in pitting his strength against the forces of nature. He had entered gruelling lumberjack competitions, and had placed often. The shelves in his house were filled with trophies that attested to his prowess.

The years marched on relentlessly. The first time he couldn't lift a heavy log, he joked about it; but later that same day I saw him outside alone, straining to lift it. He became irritable whenever anyone teased him about his advancing age, or when he couldn't do something he had done as a younger man.

Four days after his sixty-seventh birthday, he had a heart attack. An ambulance sped him to the hospital while a paramedic administered CPR to keep blood and oxygen flowing.

At the hospital, Dad was rushed into an operating room. He was lucky; he survived. But something inside Dad died. His zest for life was gone. He obstinately refused to follow doctor's orders. Suggestions and offers of help were turned aside with sarcasm and insults. The number of visitors thinned, and then finally stopped altogether. Dad was left alone.

My husband, Dick, and I asked Dad to come live with us on our small farm. We hoped the fresh air and rustic atmosphere would help him adjust.

Within a week after he moved in, I regretted the invitation. It seemed nothing was satisfactory. He criticized everything I did. I became frustrated and moody. Soon I was taking my pent-up anger out on Dick. We began to bicker and argue.

Alarmed, Dick sought out our pastor and explained the situation. The clergyman set up weekly counselling appointments for us. At the close of each session he prayed, asking God to soothe Dad's troubled mind.

But the months wore on and God was silent. Something had to be done and it was up to me to do it.

The next day I sat down with the phone book and methodically called each of the mental health clinics listed in the Yellow Pages. I explained my problem to each of the sympathetic voices that answered in vain.

Just when I was giving up hope, one of the voices suddenly exclaimed, "I just read something that might help you! Let me go get the article."

I listened as she read. The article described a remarkable study done at a nursing home. All of the patients were under treatment for chronic depression. Yet their attitudes had improved dramatically when they were given responsibility for a dog.

I drove to the animal shelter that afternoon. After I filled out a questionnaire, a uniformed officer led me to the kennels. The odour of disinfectant stung my nostrils as I moved down the row of pens. Each contained five to seven dogs. Long-haired dogs, curly-haired dogs, black dogs, spotted dogs all jumped up, trying to reach me. I studied each one but rejected one after the other for various reasons too big, too small, too much hair. As I neared the last pen a dog in the shadows of the far corner struggled to his feet, walked to the front of the run and sat down. It was a **Pointer**, one of the dog world's aristocrats. But this was a caricature of the breed.

Years had etched his face and muzzle with shades of grey. His hip bones jutted out in lopsided triangles. But it was his eyes that caught and held my attention. Calm and clear, they beheld me unwaveringly.

I pointed to the dog. "Can you tell me about him?" The officer looked, and then shook his head in puzzlement. "He's a funny one. Appeared out of nowhere and sat in front of the gate. We brought him in, figuring someone would be right down to claim him. That was two weeks

ago and we've heard nothing. His time is up tomorrow." He gestured helplessly.

As the words sank in I turned to the man in horror.. "You mean you're going to kill him?"

"Ma'am," he said gently, "that's our policy. We don't have room for every unclaimed dog."

I looked at the **Pointer** again. The calm brown eyes awaited my decision. "I'll take him," I said. I drove home with the dog on the front seat beside me.. When I reached the house I honked the horn twice. I was helping my prize out of the car when Dad shuffled onto the front porch... "Ta-da! Look what I got for you, Dad!" I said excitedly.

Dad looked, and then wrinkled his face in disgust. "If I had wanted a dog I would have gotten one.

And I would have picked out a better specimen than that bag of bones. Keep it! I don't want it" Dad waved his arm scornfully and turned back toward the house.

Anger rose inside me. It squeezed together my throat muscles and pounded into my temples. "You'd better get used to him, Dad. He's staying!"

Dad ignored me.. "Did you hear me, Dad?" I screamed. At those words Dad whirled angrily, his hands clenched at his sides, his eyes narrowed and blazing with hate. We stood glaring at each other like duellists, when suddenly the **Pointer** pulled free from my grasp. He wobbled toward my dad and sat down in front of him. Then slowly, carefully, he raised his paw..

Dad's lower jaw trembled as he stared at the uplifted paw. Confusion replaced the anger in his eyes. The **Pointer** waited patiently. Then Dad was on his knees hugging the animal.

It was the beginning of a warm and intimate friendship. Dad named the **Pointer** Cheyenne. Together he and Cheyenne explored the community. They spent long

hours walking down dusty lanes. They spent reflective moments on the banks of streams, angling for tasty trout. They even started to attend Sunday services together, Dad sitting in a pew and Cheyenne lying quietly at his feet.

Dad and Cheyenne were inseparable throughout the next three years. Dad's bitterness faded, and he and Cheyenne made many friends. Then late one night I was startled to feel Cheyenne's cold nose burrowing through our bed covers. He had never before come into our bedroom at night. I woke Dick, put on my robe and ran into my father's room. Dad lay in his bed, his face serene. But his spirit had left quietly sometime during the night.

Two days later my shock and grief deepened when I discovered Cheyenne lying dead beside Dad's bed. I wrapped his still form in the rag rug he had slept on. As Dick and I buried him near a favourite fishing hole, I silently thanked the dog for the help he had given me in restoring Dad's peace of mind.

The morning of Dad's funeral dawned overcast and dreary. This day looks like the way I feel, I thought, as I walked down the aisle to the pews reserved for family. I was surprised to see the many friends Dad and Cheyenne had made filling the church. The pastor began his eulogy. It was a tribute to both Dad and the dog that had changed his life.

And then the pastor turned to Hebrews 13:2. "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it."

"I've often thanked God for sending that angel," he said.

For me, the past dropped into place, completing a puzzle that I had not seen before: the sympathetic voice that had just read the right article. Cheyenne's unexpected appearance at the animal shelter, and his calm acceptance and complete devotion to my father, and the proximity of their deaths - Suddenly I understood. I knew that God had answered my prayers after all.

Life is too short for drama or petty things, so laugh hard, love truly and forgive quickly. Live While You Are Alive.

Forgive now those who made you cry. You might not get a second time.

For the Gourmet

Derbyshire Oat Cakes Phil Ackley

Ingredients

8 oz Medium Oatmeal
8 Oz Self Raising Flour
2 Oz Porridge Oats
1 Teaspoon Baking Powder
1 Teaspoon Salt
1 Pint Milk and Water (Warmed)
2 Level Dessert Spoons Sugar
½ Ounce of Fresh Yeast or 1 Level Teaspoon Dried Yeast

Method

Mix yeast with warm water allow to stand for 15 minutes
Mix all the dry ingredients with yeast warm milk and water
Leave to stand overnight
Add a little water for a thinner consistency
Pour a small amount into a lightly oiled griddle pan or heavy based frying pan.
Allow to cook on one side for several minutes or until the oatcake can be turned over without sticking to the pan, cook the other side
Remove from the pan allow Oatcake to cool
Repeat the above until all the mix has been cooked
Reheat with bacon for breakfast or fill with any of your favourites (ham cheese etc)
Oatcakes can be frozen

Pickled Red Cabbage and Carrots Phil Ackley

Ingredients

1 Red Cabbage
2-3 Carrots
3 Tablespoons Salt
1½Pints Malt Vinegar
1 Teaspoon Cloves
1 Teaspoon Mustard Seeds
1 Teaspoon Allspice Berries
1 Teaspoon Black Peppercorns
4 Pieces Blade Mace

Method

Finely shred the red cabbage and cut the carrots into thin strips. Layer the cabbage and carrots in a bowl with the salt. Cover and leave overnight.

Pour the vinegar into a non re-active saucepan add the spices. Heat the vinegar and spices over a low heat and slowly bring to the boil. Remove the saucepan from the heat, cover and allow to cool (top tip allow to cool outside, this will stop your house smelling of hot vinegar)

Drain the cabbage and carrots in a colander, rinse any excess salt off, and then dry the cabbage and carrots.

Pack the cabbage and carrots into cold sterilised jars, strain the cooled vinegar and pour into the jars to cover the vegetables and seal immediately. Discard the spices

Leave pickle for 4 days before using. Once opened it should be eaten within one week. Unopened it will keep for 2 months

Gundog Equipment Loan & Sale Eddie Kania

The Group carries stocks of training equipment for the convenience of the members. Often using a soiled dummy can be counter productive. Keep your dummies clean and replace them when they become old and tatty. Below is a selection of training equipment that we usually have in stock. Other equipment can be purchased through the group. Please see Eddie for a quotation.

DUMMIES

Puppy Dummies w. toggle

Intermediate Dummies

Dummies 1lb

A selection of Disc dummies are also available

Whistles

210

210 ½

211

212

Thunderer 606

Leather Lanyards

Traditional Lanyards

Bolting Hare Elastic

Long Blanks

Long Blanks RED

Short Blanks

Dummy Launcher O rings (Q)

Dummy Launcher O rings (TR)

Hi Viz Stretch Collar

Hand Made Leather Coat Slings

DVD

Pre-recorded DVD's have been donated by members of the Group. We have a selection of DVD's on HPR training. The above can be borrowed by members please see: Eddie Kania.

Dummy Launcher

Slightly different from the DVD's we need a £50.00 deposit returnable when the launcher is returned. There is no charge for the loan of the launcher. Blanks are available from Eddie

Insurance

Members should note that the insurance cover provided by the GSPC only covers official group activities. It is therefore advisable to make your own arrangement regarding insurance cover for other activities.

Embroidered Garments North West Group

Polo shirts, Fleeces, Sweatshirts, and Caps are available. All have the GSPC emblem and North West Group.

embroidered thereon. Paul Dark can also arrange for your own items of clothing to be embroidered with these logos. Please see Paul at training classes or email on paul.dark@tiscali.co.uk

Hand Made Leather Dog Leads & Collars

All items are made from top quality bridle leather & hand stitched with waxed linen thread. Metal parts are made from cast brass & will not rust.

Because of the quality of materials used, apart from neglect, the products of my work should last a lifetime.

Several patterns of collars available including plain leather with buckle & D ring, leather & brass semi-choker etc.

Various lead types – Plain leather with trigger hook, plain leather slip with brass ring, plain leather to brass & leather semi-choker, "police" training style and "German" hunting type (round leather with stag antler fittings)

Also my popular "beaters coat slings", belts & gun slings. Other non-standard items can be made to your request. Enquiries to Geoff Wood - geoffwood46@gmail.com or text to 07764 932773



SECRETARY: Eddie Kania,
Daisy Bank
Leaden Knowle
Chinley
High Peak SK23 6DA
Tel 07974 168 188
E-mail EKANIA@BTOPEWORLD.COM

2011

North West Group

REVISED 21st November 2010 Dates and Venues for Training Classes during 2011

Meeting Times: -	Sundays	9.45 am. For a 10.00 am. To 12.00 pm
SUNDAY JANUARY 16 th	SOUTHDALE, HOOTON, ELLESMERE PORT	
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 20 th	HOO MOOR TAXAL, WHALEY BRIDGE	
SUNDAY MARCH 20 th	LOAD BROOK, nr STANNINGTON	
SUNDAY APRIL 17 th	TANDLE HILL FARM, CASTLETON, MIDDLETON Gtr Manchester	
SUNDAY MAY 15 th	RYLES WOOD, PLATTWOOD FARM - LYME PARK - AGM	TBC
SUNDAY JUNE 19 th	HOLLINGWORTH HALL, HOLLINGWORTH	
SUNDAY JULY 17 th	WATERGROVE, ROCHDALE -	WORKING TEST.
SUNDAY AUGUST 21 st	GLAN LLYN UCHAF, BRYNFORD	
SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 18 th	BRUSHES CLOUGH, SHAW	Progress Test Training Day
SUNDAY OCTOBER 16 th	BRUSHESCLOUGH, SHAW	Progress Test, Water, Hunting, Training Class
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 20 th	BOAR FOLD, CHISWORTH	Progress Test, Obedience, Retrieving, Training Class
SUNDAY DECEMBER 18 th	RINGSTONES, FURNESS VALE	FOLLOWED BY XMAS LUNCH

VISIT www.hprgroup.co.uk for up to date group information

PLEASE NOTE.- If you do not attend training classes regularly please check venues with any member of the committee or the secretary. On arrival at the parking area for Training Grounds, please keep to the following Guidelines. Park neatly and quietly. **Keep all dogs in vehicles until we are ready to move off. Dogs must be kept on a lead, until we arrive at Training Grounds. Try to exercise dogs before arrival for training.**

DOGS TO BE KEPT ON LEAD AT ALL TIMES UNLESS UNDER INSTRUCTION

THAT'S ALL FOR THIS YEAR
FOLKS!

