**Minsterworth Draught Tests Levels 1-3 Saturday 4th & Sunday 5th November 2017 - Test Managers Report**

Our thanks must go to Sharon Springel for hosting these Draught Tests, we ran Levels 1 and 2 on the Saturday and Level 2 and 3 on the Sunday.

Sharon had prepared everything for our arrival with a mown area for the rings and mown paths around the paddock. Friday night in to Saturday morning was extremely wet but the morning soon brightened and we were lucky with bright crisp days for the rest of the weekend, with only the occasional spot of drizzle. It is a lovely venue and we had free rein round the paddock courtyard and garden to provide an interesting Level 2 haul. For the level 3 haul, we ventured out on to the local common land and the very quiet lane finishing again through the garden and into the paddock.

As usual at any LCGB event, there was more than a little socialising, and we enjoyed some wonderful hospitality throughout the weekend. As one particular working group did not host this event, we had input from several different groups all pulling together to put on a great event, with entries from several groups.

My thanks to all involved, Ian Parkes and Debbie Hillyar who were judging for the first time on Saturday. Louise Baldwin who judged Level 1 alongside Debby and Ian, Jude Moulsdale who brought her wealth of experience gained working and judging Newfoundlands and judge Level 2 and Level 3 with me. Every one pitched in, judging, stewarding, catering and there was a very pleasant atmosphere with the old hands helping the first time entrants. Finally, thanks to my travelling companion Julie who as well as helping all weekend, puppy sat for me while I was busy elsewhere. We had the puppy crèche set up by the rings and had up to four pups at a time playing there, great for their socialising.

**Minsterworth Draught Tests 4th & 5th November 2017 - Judges Report - Level 2 - Helen Matthews**

We had four entries, giving us three passes. All the dogs completed the Control, Manoeuvre, and Haul Sections, with just one dog dropping too many points on the haul, with just a little more work he should pass next time.

In the Control a lot of the lost points were for lead use, you may find it helpful to practice on a very loose lead at home, just tuck the end of the lead in your pocket and get your dog used to both listening to your verbal cues and watching for your hand signals. Remember when the steward says Left turn, we don’t expect you to turn instantly take another step get your dogs attention then turn.

Again in the Manoeuvre point were lost for lead use, so the same loose lead practice will help when hitched. Points were also dropped for forethought and planning. Take the time to walk the Man course several times and plan your route from on obstacle to the next so you arrive at each obstacle in the centre and straight.

Level 3

We had three entries, producing one lovely pass. One young dog performed a good control round but then decided today was not the day for stays, so unfortunately could not go forward to the Manoeuvre.

Of the two teams that attempted the Manoeuvre section, nerves got the better of one and too many points were lost for forethought and planning and lead use to allow him to go forward to the haul, but he did demonstrate a superb reverse.

The team that went forward to the haul set a cracking pace and ate up the 1.5 miles they tackled all the obstacles well and appeared to enjoy themselves. Well done, I look forward to seeing him work again.

Many thanks to all involved entrants, stewards and my co judge Jude Moulsdale.

**Judges Report - Jude Moulsdale Level 2 Draught - Minsterworth -Saturday 4th November 2017**

4 Dogs Entered - 3 Passes - 1 Not Ready Control and Manoeuvre sections were done well by all 4 teams, two being almost flawless and two losing a few marks, mainly with the hog dictating the pace and tight leads. The Haul was measured as 1/2 Mile and had a good range of elements to tackle, 4 gates to pass through, a tight coppice, short steep bank, change of surfaces from grass to gravel and back to grass and all the dogs taking the lead at some point. Well done to the 3 teams that passed, all well deserved, the dogs seemed to thoroughly enjoy working with their handlers. The one not ready sadly hit too many fixed objects on the haul, and had a tight lead most of the time. The dog was very strong and really excited, I’m sure with a little more training a pass will come soon. Huge thanks to Sharon for allowing us to us this beautiful venue, and thank you to my Co judge Helen Matthews and our call Steward Debby.