

dew off the crop!!). As most of you know Gary and Caroline sadly lost their collie Roy whilst at the trial, but they still carried on judging and track laying but with heavy hearts.

Once again my thanks must go to all my helpers out tracklaying, laying squares, ferrying or in the kitchen - without you all our trial would not run. I must just mention Dave Self who, when he was not laying squares or ferrying competitors for Sheila in TD, was putting up/taking down the jumps, doing the shopping, adding up the scores, moving the trials trailers around to and from the club training ground and to and from farm where the trials equipment is stored - who says men can't multi-task!!!!

I hope you all had a great time at our trial - to those that didn't qualify, better luck next time.

PENNY BANN

STAKE: CD

Judge: ALAN SWORD
Steward: Doreen Hook

A huge thank you to the Essex committee for the invitation to judge the CD, and very special thanks for which ever one of you organised the weather. The Friday and Saturday were glorious, especially considering that November is arguably the worst (or certainly, one of the worst) months of the year. Penny Bann is very experienced at running trials, and it showed, as the whole thing ran like a well oiled machine. My thanks also go to everybody connected with the trial in any way, from the farmers who kindly allow us to trample all over their land, to Angela and Wendy who kept me from wasting away, by supplying me with their delicious bacon and egg rolls, and endless cups of tea. Thank you to all the competitors for enter-

ing and accepting my decision, regardless of the outcome. You all came with a great attitude, and remember, it's only a game. A very special thank you to Doreen Hook, who stewarded for me and kept me company over the 2 days. She did all the work looking after and directing the competitors, which enabled me to stand around doing very little and trying to look important.

We had 17 entries, but after a few scratches, 14 handlers and their dogs competed. It was really nice to see such a variety of breeds. The search articles were quite generous for the conditions, but the field did have sheep in it, and were only moved out on the previous day, so there were a lot of smelly distractions. So that accounted for a few only finding one article. However, 8 teams did find the required 2 or 3. The retrieves were generally good, just requiring a bit of tidying up. The agility took its toll on a lot of the dogs, even with 2nd attempts on all the jumps. The standard of the stays was pretty impressive. CD has never been an easy stake, so keep up the training, and it will come together very soon. After 2 days we ended up with just the one qualifier. The results are as follows.

1st Heather Cook with her 20 month old WSD JAXON. The only hiccup was the long jump, otherwise a super round, and a well deserved win. 90.5, Q

2nd Judy Meekings with SKYE. Another young dog at only 20 months, a beautiful fox red lab, well handled by an experienced handler. Just the jumps stopped you this time, but when they're sorted watch this team go. 86, NQ.

3rd Toby James with 3 year old FRED, a gorgeous Boxer. Shame you only got one out of the square. Certainly the best control and agility round of the 2 days. I'm guessing you've had problems with the scale in the past, as you were overcome with emotion (and nearly started me off) when Fred got over it and back with the greatest of ease. If

there was a judge's prize of the best hug after the control round, you'd have got it. Keep going with this dog, he's a cracker. 86, NQ.
4th Chris Brooksby with MEG, her 3 year old BC. It's those blasted jumps again. If its not one thing, it's another. But that's working trials for you. Get working on the agility, Chris, and you're there. 75, NQ.

STAKE: UD

Judge: MICK TUSTAIN
Tracklayers: Rita and Steve Banfather
Steward: Ann Wright

Thank you to Essex 2000 for the judging appointment, and to Penny Bann, Trials Manager, and all those who were involved in such a well-run trial.

8 entered, 5 ran. We started the nosework with an 8-leg track on rape, about 18" high. All dogs did well in the track and on the square. All dogs were qualifying going in to the C/A, but after C/A only 1 team had qualified.

1st Sylvia Cook with MISTER MOSS AT GOLDOAK, WSD, D, 182, Q UDEx. A pleasure to watch and judge, you and your dog worked well throughout the test.

2nd Betty Briley with WAGGERLAND THIS IS IT, WSD, D, 182.5, NQ. Only the S/A stopped this dog from qualifying.

3rd Lynn Griffiths with STARDELL AVELA, BC, B, NQ, 145. Really good nosework.

Thank you to Steve and Rita Banfather for tracklaying, and to Ann Wright for being my steward throughout.

STAKE: WD

Judge: GARY MARTIN

Tracklayers: Vana Moody, Caroline Martin, Andy Baker, Lee Kane
Steward: Jan Vallack
Stay Stewards: Jan Vallack, Belinda Spensley, Lee Kane

Thanks very much to Essex 2000 WTS for the invitation to judge the WD stake at this well run and friendly trial. Penny Bann runs a great event and it is a pleasure to be involved with this friendly and committed group of trialists. Like any trials manager Penny puts in a lot of hard graft both prior to and during the event. It's not an easy job, and there are always problems popping up, but Penny deals with them in her usual easy-going manner. Thanks for all your help in making this a superb event, for your hospitality and friendship.

The ladies in the kitchen, Angela and Wendy, were excellent and produced first class bacon and egg rolls at the drop of a hat! The cakes were excellent (especially the cherry slice, courtesy of Jan) and of course in case there was a shortage I ensured that I had sufficient to see me through any cake drought!! Thank you ladies, you were great company and it was a pleasure to make a nuisance of myself in your presence.

The landowners, Mrs Speakman and her son Richard are without peer. Nothing, and I mean nothing, is ever too much trouble. They supply us with stacks of land, and are so accommodating, delaying spraying and all other work until the end of the trial. Fantastic people, who wholeheartedly support this society and our sport.

The tracklayers, Vana, Andy, Caroline and Lee did sterling work on land that didn't make it easy, knee high rape that was wet through as a result of the fog and dew. Vana laid the first three tracks on day one and was drenched. Her Muck Boots had a pond inside them and I am sure she was at risk of trench foot!! Not easy conditions to lay tracks but all just got on and did it. They