

NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM L.R.C

Some Working History.....extracted in 2020 by Irene Davison, from minute books and club Year Books.

1936 – First Field trial ‘planned’ – but no grounds could be found to hold a 1 day 18 dog first trial. This was postponed, but still didn’t happen as the **McNeil Shoot** on **Capt. Parlours** ground, said they couldn’t handle more than 9 or 10 dogs.

1937 – The Club advertised in shooting magazines for ground for their **FIRST Field Trial** as we had two trophies that had never been presented.

1946 – The arranged Field Trial at **Lambton Park** was cancelled.

1947 - Club held **FIRST FIELD TRIAL, Ford Estate. 11th October 1947. This was a Novice stake. Plus an All Aged stake was held at Lambton in 1947.**

At same time the Labrador Retriever Society asked to merge with N&D – we agreed in 1948 – they were a wealthy club whose main interest was field trials.

1948 - Club held first Puppy and Non Winners stake in October at Lambton Park.

1949 - Club joined The IGL and held open stake at Alnwick 22nd October 1949. The following year 1950, the minutes states **Ford** trial made a **loss of £12.00**

1955 - J. Arthur Rank (Lord Rank) became Vice president who loved shooting and training his gundogs.

1962 - Training classes for Working Tests (2/- a session) started and held at Ebchester, 24th June 1962. **Three Ridings** invited N&D to take part in an interclub working competition.

1963 – People attending the training ‘groups’ had to be members to take part. Membership soared!

1966 – Decided the club needed a FT Secretary – club membership now 213. There were now three working test training groups but the one at Matfen didn’t get many going so dropped to two groups. (Ebchester and ???)

1966 - Club were invited by Mrs Roslin Williams to hold a Working test at her home ‘**Lillymere**’ – which was accepted. People had to attend 5+ training sessions or live in Northumberland or Durham to get a run. A cine film was made of **Wynyard Trial** which was a 10 min film shown to committee Jan 1967

1967 - Club bought its first set of 24 dummies; 12 were for club use at training and 12 to sell.

1969 - Bill Davidson (training group organiser Lillymere); **made his own dummy launcher!** This proved very successful so the club decided to buy one for training classes which Bill would make if he could find a suitable gun!

The Lillymere test in **1969** caused complaints as spaniels were allowed to compete. Thereafter changed to labs only. (The **Wolviston Cup was first presented 1969 to winner of Lillymere test.**)

At the Matfen working test that year; **there was a complaint from the estate about rough handling of a dog by one of the competitors.** If it happened again, we would not get the ground in future.

1970 - 2 day OPEN Field Trial HELD AT FORD in October (we have the winners and prizes given).

1971 – Obituary of **James Upton Smith**. A Memorial trophy was purchased from member donations of £37.10s. It was an enamelled bronze grouse in flight.

His daughter wrote in the club year book (as she was Club Secretary) – that knowing her father took great interest in the appearance of a Labrador (he proposed the first Show ever held by the Club), his abiding interest remained their working qualities. It was therefore Evelyn's wish that the trophy be awarded for a Working Event – probably an Open Working Test.