The Northern Golden Retriever Association held a 2 day open qualifying stake for 24 Golden Retrievers on 9/10 of October at Hy-Fly game farm in Lancashire.

Judges were Robert Atkinson, Judy Rainey and Sue Hales-Lowe.

Many thanks to Steve Crookes and his team of guns who bought the 2 days shooting, and to headkeeper Tom Laurenson for looking after us for both days. Grateful thanks also to Jennifer Hay for acting as dog steward and all the friends of the NGRA who helped as game carriers, flag carriers, pickers up and suppliers of cake. The trial could not take place without you all.

We spent 2 days walking up in fodder beet with a good steady supply of birds. The guns shot well and the dogs picked successfully. We went through to the second day with 12 dogs. The Judges stretched the dogs until we finished the trial with 6 successful dogs.

The awards were as follows:-

1st and awarded the Westhide Challenge Bowl for the winner Lesley Crompton with Hanwoodgold Breeze

2nd and awarded the Culzean Cup to the runner up and the Ft Ch Tillwood Theseus of Holywear memorial trophy for best marker

Lucy Mixture with Kaliture Red Pepper

3rd and the trophy for best looking dog or bitch

Kim Jinks with Mistybrook Ochre

4th Karis Bakewell with Lanlwyd Moretti

CoM Judith Evans with Haddeo Digby, also awarded the Castleshaw trophy for Guns Choice

CoM Axel Schafer with Funnylane Fieldquest Leo's Magic

Good luck at the Championships to Les and Gemma.

Grateful thanks to all the competitors, judges, guns and helpers for pulling together to ensure this important qualifying stake for Golden Retrievers (one of only 2 licensed by the Kennel Club) was possible. Two grand days trialling, even the weather was kind!

On behalf of Steve Crookes NGRA FT Secretay