The Northern Golden Retriever Association held a novice stake for 12 Golden Retrievers at Holygate Farm, Melton Mowbray, by kind permission of the Stapleford Farms Estate.

We are indebted to the NGRA team of guns for taking the day and to Skinners dog food for their generous sponsorship.

Our judges for the day were Phil Allen, Jim Gale, Casper Jonsen and Paul Eggington.

We started the day walking up in high game cover which made marking for the dogs tricky, but was a good test of their game finding qualities as they were working out of sight of their handlers on most retrieves. We went from there to a drive with birds to pick from drilling, grass margins and a wooded strip over a fast flowing stream.

3 dogs were required for the third round and the trial was concluded walking by the side of a stream with guns either side and spaniels working the cover. All dogs successfully picked birds over the swollen stream. The judges, satisfied that the remaining dogs had been well tested for game finding, steadiness, marking, handling and willingness to face cover, called trial over.

Judges, guns, helpers and handlers all assembled at the shoot room for refreshments and the awards.

First

Ian Kippax with Greenfoot Acorn, winning the Boltby Cup for the winner, The Castleshaw Challenge Cup for Guns' Choice and The Millennium Trophy for the youngest dog in the awards.

Certificates of Merit were awarded to Andrew Ward Smith with Aldivalloch Feine and Anne Crookes with Moscargrange Elijah