

## **THE WEIMARANER – SIXTY YEARS IN THE FIELD by Nigel Wroe**

### **1953 – Foundation and Vision**

The Weimaraner Club of Great Britain celebrated its Diamond Jubilee in 2013. The Club was founded by an inaugural meeting convened by Major RH Petty, importer of the first Weimaraners into the UK, and held at Crufts on Gundog day on 7<sup>th</sup> February 1953, and became registered with the Kennel Club on 17<sup>th</sup> November later that year.

From the outset the founders of the Club were determined that the Weimaraner breed in Great Britain would be dual purpose in that strict conformance to a breed standard formed part of their vision for the breed, but importantly insisted that “hunting ability is the paramount concern and any fault of body or mind which detracts from this ability should be penalised”.

Sadly this laudable aim has lost emphasis over the years and the current breed standard truncates the hunting requirement to be simply “of paramount concern”, with no mention of penalising any detracting traits. Major Petty’s earnest plea that “the membership do their level best to ensure the continuity of the breed as it was”<sup>1</sup> has at least been embraced by those who have worked and/or trialled their Weimaraners home and abroad over the past sixty years.

The Weimaraner competed in field competitions from the very early days of their arrival in Britain, originally alongside Pointers and Setters in their pointing competitions, but very soon after were able to compete in dedicated HPR (hunt point retrieve) breed club working tests and then field trials.

### **The 1950’s – Pointing The Way**

The 1950’s saw a number of Weimaraners picking up awards in field competitions. Major RM MacGibbon was awarded a 2<sup>nd</sup> place in a Novice Stake held at Wadworth, Doncaster, Yorkshire by the Yorkshire Gundog Club on 13<sup>th</sup> April 1955, with Strawbridge Baron (d). Strawbridge Baron (born 22/12/1952) was out of Major Petty’s imported pair, Bando von Fohr (d) and Cobra von Boberstrand (b).

During the summer of 1955 in a variety of pointing competitions in Scotland and England, Weimaraner bitch Ann of Monksway handled by A Glucksmann secured awards in a number of stakes including a second in Novice at Crosby Fell, Cumberland.

Strawbridge Carol (b) (h: L Causeley) and Aporto Of Monksway (b) (h: J Banks) were the other two dogs awarded in the 1950’s, and in total seven field awards from trials of a hunting-pointing nature were awarded.

These four dogs were the most prominent Weimaraners by virtue of award of places in the 1950’s. But that is not to say that other Weimaraners were not involved in formal competitions but not placed, and of course there were a number being actively worked on lowland shoots and grouse moors by Club founders and breed enthusiasts, principally as rough-shooting dogs. The reader must bear this general point in mind throughout the remainder of this narrative, which is based on competition records and award winners at that. The exploits of many Weimaraners, then and now, are unsung simply because they were or are not actively competed.

Any showing activity was ancillary to fieldwork, motivated principally by the need to satisfy an increasing public curiosity to learn more about the Weimaraner.

## **The 1960's – Dedication and Qualification**

The fledgling HPR breed clubs began to organise dedicated HPR field trials in the 1960's. Foremost of the clubs was the German Shorthaired Pointer Club, (GSPC), and in the early 1960's they held a number of "Qualifying Stakes" which appraised dogs broadly along field trial lines enabling the award of a Qualifying Certificate to a dog which had shown sufficient merit. The significance was that the dogs were shot over and were then asked to retrieve, and so more was demanded than simply the hunting and pointing characteristic of Pointer-Setter trials. Dogs were then regarded as "Field Qualified".

Strawbridge Oliver (d) handled by GV Webb was the first Weimaraner to pick up a Qualifying Certificate at a stake held by the GSPC at Hailes Castle, East Lothian in October 1962.

Mrs L Petrie-Hay's bitch Andelyb's Balch followed suit in 1964 along with DG Roberts's Theocsbury Abbie (b) at the same GSP Qualifying Stake at Cerniau, Welshpool.

These early owner-handlers pioneered the Weimaraner in field competitions in what were the formative years of the breed in the United Kingdom. They were also the formative years for the WCGB and other HPR breed clubs, and a great deal is owed to the dedication and persistence of this band of breed enthusiasts in confirming the Weimaraner as a hunting-pointing-retrieving gundog in the UK.

The efforts of the Club/Breed founders in implementing their vision of the hunting Weimaraner in the UK were rewarded in October 1967 when Lt. Col. HD Tucker's 5 year old bitch Lotti Go-Lightly became the first Weimaraner to win a first place in a Field Trial organised by an HPR club, in the GSPC's Novice Stake at Wynyard Hall, Stockton-On-Tees under judges GC Sterne and Mrs M Sanderson.

Lotti Go-Lightly was to dominate the field awards among Weimaraners in the late 1960's through to the early 1970's and in a modern results analysis features at 19<sup>th</sup> place in a "Weimaraner All-Time Field Awards" (WATFA)<sup>2</sup> table for dogs with 94 points. Other than the Qualifying Certificate winners, there was only one other Weimaraner to win a recognised field trial accolade in the 1960's and that was CL Church's Border Cleopatra (b) with a Certificate of Merit (CoM)<sup>3</sup>.

## **The 1970's – Getting On**

In the 1970's 15 handlers ran 18 dogs to share 29 awards in trials run by 4 HPR clubs and the L&BGA. The HPR clubs were the WCGB, GSPC, GSPA and the HVC. The 29 field trial awards were three 1sts, two seconds, and two thirds in Novice and fourteen Reserves or CoM's. There was a 3<sup>rd</sup> and a CoM in All-Aged, and two 2nds and four CoM's in Open.

On 7<sup>th</sup> October 1972 Lt. Col. HD Tucker's Lotti Go-Lightly won a 1<sup>st</sup> place at a WCGB Novice Field Trial at Flixton, Suffolk, under judges Mrs M Sanderson and G Sherring.

On 20<sup>th</sup> October 1973 Mrs VJ Sutton (later O'Keeffe) won a CoM with Grinshill Malplaquet Of Castle Garnstone (d) CDEX (later also UDEX), to make breed history by winning awards in working and in field work.

In October 1974, Trevor Horsefield's legendary dog, Waldemar Titus (d) (born 10/09/1970) won his first field trial award, a CoM under judges Mrs L Petrie-Hay and G Sherring at a WCGB Novice Stake at Flixton, Suffolk. JM Jeffrey's dog Ambersbury Melot was also awarded a CoM at the same trial.

The following season Waldemar Titus went on to win another three CoM's and a Reserve in

Novice trials. In a three year trialling period he picked up further awards including a 1<sup>st</sup> place in a GSPC Novice stake at Eyke, Hollesley under judges Mrs L Petrie-Hay and Maj. G. Wilkinson MBE (27/11/1976). Prior to this 1<sup>st</sup> place in Novice, the dog had won a second place in an Open stake at the GSPA's trial at Laughton, Lincolnshire, Judges IET Sladden and G Roberts officiating (02/10/1976). A year later Titus won another 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the GSPA Open stake at the same venue, again under IET Sladden, with R Miles also judging.

Waldemar Titus appears at 11<sup>th</sup> with 139 points (64 at Open level) in the WATFA table for dogs. Trevor went on to honour Titus by dedicating a WCGB annual award, The Titus Trophy, for achievements in the field, and this has become the most coveted of all Weimaraner Club awards by those who compete their dogs in the field.

Titus sired among others, Hillbrow Quest (b) which, at just under two years of age and handled by Trevor, won a 1<sup>st</sup> place in a WCGB Novice stake at Dullingham in October 1977, under judges Mrs L Petrie-Hay and CL Church. Hillbrow Quest earned a CoM in a WCGB Open stake a year or so later.

The 1978/79 field trial season saw the emergence of Fossana Algenon (d), handled by Richard Jupp, with a 3<sup>rd</sup> place in a GSPC Novice stake at Braintree, Essex. Fossana Algenon would go on to collect another 6 field awards including two second places in Novice stakes, and two CoM's in Open. Fossana Algenon currently stands at 14<sup>th</sup> in the WATFA table for dogs on 107 points (32 at Open level).

### **The 1980's – Heydays and Grey Days - Consolidation and a Field Trial Champion**

The 1980's saw a massive increase in the number of awards won by Weimaraners in field trials involving thirty-four handlers with 38 dogs sharing 120 awards.

The outstanding Weimaraner dog of the decade, and indeed of all-time in the WATFA table for dogs, with a probably unassailable 560 points (256 of which were gained in Open field trials), was Di Arrowsmith's Wobrooke of Fleetapple (d) (born 17/11/1979). This dog was the first Weimaraner to achieve the status of Field Trial Champion. "Brooke" won his second 1<sup>st</sup> place in an Open stake a day after his 9<sup>th</sup> birthday on 18/11/1988 under judges Mrs Sanderson and Mrs M Nixon and that win made him up to Field Trial Champion.

Brooke had well and truly made a statement of very serious intent the previous season by winning two 3rds and a CoM at Open level; and the season before that winning four All-Aged awards (i.e. 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> inclusive and a CoM). In all Brooke won 23 field awards including three 1sts in Open, two in All-Aged and one in Novice.

The pedigree of Wobrooke of Fleetapple, (sired by Wotan of Ragstone out of Flimmoric of Solevel) shows at the 5<sup>th</sup> generation a number of names that have been mentioned already in this narrative, Major RH Petty's Strawbridge affix is heavily featured, as is Lotti Go-Lightly, whose own lineage traces back to the first Weimaraners imported into the UK, Cobra von Boberstrand and Bando von Fohr, arriving in March 1952. With the Greyfilk and Monroe's affixes also featured, the Strawbridge heritage predominates in Brooke's lines. Who would argue that his achievement in the field was not pre-destined because of this?

There were other notable owner-handlers forging a record of success in the 1980's and the most outstanding handler after Di Arrowsmith was Costas Wilkinson who, with two dogs, Heronshaw Silver (b) and Vanwilkie Nearly Napoleon (d) won 14 field awards.

Heronshaw Silver won two 1<sup>st</sup> places in Novice and was placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in Open during her career which totalled 8 field awards and she features at 10<sup>th</sup> place in the WATFA table for dogs with 170 points (56 at Open level). Vanwilkie Nearly Napoleon won 6 field awards across all

levels and is joint 20<sup>th</sup> on 91 points.

Another outstanding handler was Richard Jupp whose Fossana Algenon (d) records 5 awards in the 1980's seasons. Richard's Fossana Blue John (d) won 7 field awards including a 1<sup>st</sup> in a WCGB Novice trial at Tisted Hampshire under judges Maj. G. Wilkinson MBE and G Sherring. That is 12 awards to add to two gained in the 1970's, making 14 with two dogs. Fossana Blue John (d) is 13<sup>th</sup> in the WATFA table for dogs on 112 points, and Fossana Algenon (d) 14<sup>th</sup> on 107 points. Shooter, gundog trainer and Field Trial judge, Eddie Hales, had a significant influence on the early training of Fossana Blue John, and was also active in training a number of Weimaraner handlers in this era.

Steve Chant secured 6 field awards in the 1980's with Tasaigid Talked About (d) including 2<sup>nd</sup> places in Novice, All-Aged and Open. This dog continued its career in the early 1990's with awards at 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in All-Aged and a 4<sup>th</sup> in Open to feature at third place in the WATFA table for dogs with 278 points (68 at Open level). Quadet Asta (b) also handled by Steve in the 1990's won a first in a WCGB Novice stake under judges Mrs M Nixon and M Bower, taking Steve's tally to 13 field trial awards and fourth place in the WATFA table for Owner-Handlers.

Another notable handler Mrs LA Brown campaigned Emmaclan Escort (d) to 5 field trial awards in the 1980's, with a 1<sup>st</sup> place in a WCGB Novice trial under judges G Nixon and P Howard (21/01/1987). Emmaclan Escort won a further 5 field trial awards, mostly in late 1989 (which falls into the 1989-90 season and therefore the 1990's for this analysis), to place him at 5<sup>th</sup> place in the WATFA table on 213 points. Liza's bitch Belvoirvale Bracken would win many awards in the 1990's sufficient to place her at 6<sup>th</sup> in the WATFA table on 201 points (24 at Open level). Liza would go on to trial a total of six award winning Weimaraners, three under her Brakabreeze affix, to amass a personal total of 656 points and second place in a WATFA table for Owner-Handlers.

It is noteworthy that Di Arrowsmith amassed 560 points with a solitary Weimaraner FT Ch Wobrooke of Fleetapple and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the WATFA table for Owner-Handlers.

Julie Turner's Ch Czolkins Platinum Cirrus JW (d) won 5 field trial awards in the 1980's at such a consistently high level to secure a top-twenty place in the WATFA table for dogs with 95 points and a joint 17<sup>th</sup> place. Two 1<sup>st</sup> places in Novice helped secure this position.

There were other successful owner-handlers whose dogs won multiple field awards in this most productive of decades for the hunting Weimaraner. Although they do not make the top twenty, they do deserve a mention: Aucassin of Llangynog (d) (h: ND Elder) (6 awards), Bredebeck Sophie (b) (h: E Hardman) (4 awards), Hofstetter Beau (d) (o: M Booker) (5 awards), Fineshade Quail Run (b) (h: T Horsefield) (3 awards).

In 1986 the first ever HPR Championship was run on behalf of the Kennel Club by the HPR Field Trial Association. It was to run on a further 10 occasions before the Kennel Club suspended it due to falling entries (as opposed to lack of qualifiers). The last Championship to be run under HPRFTA auspices was in 1996, and it was suspended from the 1999 season, only being re-established in the autumn of 2013 and run directly by the Kennel Club. Only two weimaraners were to run in the HPR Championship: Wobrooke of Fleetapple (d), later a Field Trial Champion, qualified in October 1987, and Tasaigid Talked About (d) qualified in November 1987. Neither Weimaraner was placed in an HPR Championship. Waldemar Titus's (d) 2<sup>nd</sup> place in an Open stake in October 1977 pre-dates the inception of the HPR Championship, but would have qualified him had there been one run in that era.

## The 1990's – Handling The Transition

The 1990's were not quite as prolific as the 1980's in terms of the number of field awards, with a total of 99 awards among 27 handlers with 34 dogs. However the decade was significant in terms of the number of new handlers joining the fray and securing success with their dogs. Only three handlers of the 27 to win awards this decade were successful in the previous decade, Liza Brown, Steve Chant and Nicolas Elder, with 21, 7, and 1 award(s) respectively. Many of the earlier stalwarts had moved into a new status of trainer and/or field trial judge, passing on their knowledge and experience to a new generation. Without a doubt this proved to be successful with many of the new handlers managing to pick up multiple field awards with their only dog. The immediate pedigrees of these new dogs were generally populated with unproven in the field Weimaraners and it is a testament to how much working aptitude had been retained from more distant forbears. There had been no apparent dilution of the hunting instinct in the more recent generations, at least into the 1980's.

As mentioned earlier, Liza Brown's reputation in the field first established in the 1980's was enhanced in the 1990's and she was the foremost handler by far with 21 awards in this decade with 4 dogs. Liza's Belvoirvale Bracken (b) won 8 awards, two in Novice with a 1<sup>st</sup> place at Sarrat, Hertfordshire with HGS under judges Mrs M Nixon and C Wilkinson. Further success in All-Aged and a 3<sup>rd</sup> in Open cemented, as earlier mentioned, the dog's position at 6<sup>th</sup> in the WATFA table on 201 points. Liza's Clippers Escort (b) won 4 awards in Novice and a 2<sup>nd</sup> in an All-Aged field trial. Liza has two dogs in the top twenty of the WATFA table for dogs and several in the next twenty places. Clippers Escort (b) is at 22<sup>nd</sup> and Brakabreeze Bravado (b) (out of Clippers Escort) is at 23<sup>rd</sup> position on 88 and 85 points respectively.

Jo Hall was one of the new entrants to trialling who made a significant impact in the 1990's with Yaxi Von Stern Weiss (d) a dog which had much Ragstone heritage in its lines. This dog won 7 awards in Novice trials at a sufficient standard to be positioned at joint 20<sup>th</sup> in the WATFA table on 91 points.

Steve Chant's 1990's achievements with Tasairgid Talked About (d) have been discussed earlier in the context of its 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the WATFA table for dogs. It was one of only two dogs to win awards in Open field trials in this decade. The other dog was Belvoirvale Bracken (b) (h: Liza Brown).

Christine Carpenter's Aschfahl Liberty Belle (b) won two Novice awards and three All-Aged with 1<sup>st</sup> places at both levels. The Novice 1<sup>st</sup> was at Catton Park, Derbyshire with the WA (06/11/1995) under judges Mrs M Davison and T Rigby. The All-Aged 1<sup>st</sup> was at Conholt Park in October 1996 with the GSPC under judges Mrs M Nixon and Mrs V Ashton, and she followed this up a year later with a 2<sup>nd</sup> in an HVS All-Aged trial at Loddington, Leicestershire under judges GD Nixon and Mrs S Harris. Aschfahl Liberty Belle appears at 12<sup>th</sup> in the WATFA table with 126 points. Christine appears at 9<sup>th</sup> in the WATFA handlers table on 207 points.

R Squire's Lurgashell Silver Lancer (d) sired by Costas Wilkinson's Vanwilkie Nearly Napoleon and sire in turn to Brakabreeze Bravado (b), secured 4 Novice places including a 1<sup>st</sup> place under judges T Horsefield and S Chant, and also a 2<sup>nd</sup> place in an All-Aged trial under judges T Horsefield and C Wilkinson, and makes the WATFA table at 15<sup>th</sup> with 102 points.

Mrs Dorothy Shall's longhaired Wyndlee Silver Candy (b) was placed 6 times in Novice trials at such a consistently high level to feature at joint 17<sup>th</sup> in the WATFA table for dogs on 95 points.

There were nine 1<sup>st</sup> places in Novice stakes in the 1990's, one up on the 1980's, with two

dogs bearing the Chant's Quadet affix with Quadet Anni (b) owned by Mrs KL Knott also picking up two 2nds in Novice, making 3 awards.

Other dogs not already mentioned and which won 3 awards in the 1990's were Mrs Rachel Newmans's Morganna Mozart (d), Mrs Shiela Cunningham's Peaklander Perfection (b), and Mr AD Fletcher's Ragstone Raypier (d).

Mr P Owens' Schonblick Shady Lady At Koromas (b) and Mrs T Banasik's Blue Huntsman Ben (d) won 4 awards. Mr KN Crampin's Wipfel Berberis Bountiful (d) won 5 awards. Other prolific dogs have already been mentioned.

Also new on the scene in the 1990's was the late Mrs Beate Dwingelo-Lutten who picked up three field trial awards with three different dogs. Another two dogs handled by Beate won field trial awards in the next decade and secured her 12<sup>th</sup> place in the WATFA handlers table on 113 points.

On 12<sup>th</sup> January 1998 Weimaraner Silberstern Moonlight Von Trubon (b) won a CoM at a HGS Novice stake at Rose Hall Farm, Hertfordshire for her handler. This was followed up in December of that year with a 4<sup>th</sup> place at a WCGB Novice stake at Stourhead Estate, Wiltshire under judges GD Nixon and Mrs V O'Keeffe. And so began the record of field trial success of the foremost owner-handler of the hunting Weimaraner, Ms Suzi Burton. This is a record which will be elaborated upon later in this narrative.

### **The 2000's – Trials, Travails and Trubon**

The first decade of the new millennium saw a significant downturn in the number of handlers securing awards in field trials with their Weimaraners. The record shows just 15 handlers picking up 85 awards with 23 dogs. The transition from the heydays of the 1980's with 34 award winning handlers, most of whom were to pass the baton to a new group of owner-handlers in the 1990's began to fizzle out. Only 5 owner-handlers active in the 1990's carried on winning into the 2000's. Of these five only Liza Brown and Christine Carpenter had a track record of major accomplishment, having already won multiple awards.

Two owner-handlers accounted for 48 of the 85 field trial awards won in the 2000's. Ms Suzi Burton built on her initial success of the late 1990's and secured 37 of the 85. Dave Pilkington's bitch Quadet Caterin ("Holly") picked up 11 awards on the way to becoming a field trial champion, the second Weimaraner to do so after Wobrooke of Fleetapple (d) in the 1980's.

Quadet Caterin (b) (born 04/08/1999) bred by Steve and Marilyn Chant out of Brakabreeze Goshawk (d) and Quadet Asta (b), secured her first field trial award at a little over 2 years of age on 29/10/2001 at a HVS Novice stake at Launton. Judges M Wakeham and A Russell awarded her a 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Four more awards were won in Novice stakes, securing that vital 1<sup>st</sup> place to win out of Novice under judges C Wilkinson and R Day on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2003 in a WA trial at Skirbeck Farm, Benniworth, Lincolnshire. The following season saw a 2<sup>nd</sup> place at an ISCGB All-Aged trial.

It was in the 2004/05 season that Holly won the coveted Field Trial Champion accolade. Three awards in Open started in October with a 3<sup>rd</sup> place at a Dukeries (Notts) trial under judges G Card and M Canham. As 2004 drew to an end Holly won a 1<sup>st</sup> place at a WCGB Open stake on 30<sup>th</sup> December 2004 under judges PG Nixon and S Chant. Handler Dave Pilkington didn't have time to dwell on this outstanding bitch having "a leg up" as just two days later on New Year's Day 2005 under judges A Russell and Mrs V O'Keeffe at a GSPA trial at Little Dalby, Leicestershire, that second 1<sup>st</sup> place was secured to earn Holly Field Trial Champion status. This was a fabulous achievement for the breed, Dave and the

breeders, the Chants. The sire, Brakabreeze Goshawk, owned by Chris Spree, and bred by Liza Brown, had won a 1<sup>st</sup> place in a WCGB Novice stake in 2003, and going back further into FT Ch Quadet Caterin's pedigree you will find Steve Chants' Tasaigid Talked About (d) which had done so well in the 1980's and 1990's and is still positioned at 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the WATFA table for dogs.

With the HPR Championship still under Kennel Club suspension, Holly, though eligible, was never able to compete in a Championship, but was only the third Weimaraner formally qualified to do so.

Holly won a 3<sup>rd</sup> in Open the very next season and a 4<sup>th</sup> the season after that, and is positioned 4<sup>th</sup> in the WATFA table for dogs on 263 points with 148 of those earned at Open level.

Suzi Burton's 37 awards were secured by 3 bitches, Trubon Arade Tribute (21 awards), Trubon Bibe Tres (14 awards), and Trubon Chyna Treasa (Re-Imp) (2 awards, but her finer achievements fall into the next decade, the 2010's).

Trubon Arade Tribute (b), "Fenny", was sired by Brakabreeze Goshawk out of Suzi's Silberstern Moonlight von Trubon. Brakabreeze Goshawk, "MacDuff", later sired FT Ch Quadet Caterin (b) discussed above. Fenny's first field trial award was a 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Novice by the BWWGS at Ammerdown under breed specialists, judges C Wilkinson and R Jupp. A further four 2<sup>nd</sup> places were awarded, along with three 4<sup>th</sup> places and seven CoM's before Fenny won out of Novice with a 1<sup>st</sup> place under judges F Alcock and S Eyeington at a N&SHPRFTC trial at Great Priory Farm, Braintree, Essex on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2005. Three places and two CoM's were also achieved in All-Aged.

A litter mate to Fenny was Trubon Asko Truman (d) and was the first British bred Weimaraner to be exported to Germany and gain his VJP, HZP and VGP.

Trubon Arade Tribute was mated to accomplished German dog Alf zur Uhlenflucht and a retained bitch from this litter was Trubon Bibe Tres, "Bibe" winner of 14 field trial awards in the UK including three 2<sup>nd</sup> places, three 3<sup>rd</sup>'s, two 4<sup>th</sup>'s and five CoM's in Novice trials, and one CoM in All-Aged. In addition to these awards, Bibe competed in VJP and HZP in Germany, securing 171 points in the Weim Klub e.V. Landesgruppe Niedersachsen, Schwerinsdorf HZP on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2004.

Trubon Bren Tartuf (b) "Hana" (born 13/12/2002) and mother to Delta and sibling to Bibe was taken back as a re-home by Suzi and then competed in Germany scoring VJP 59, VJP 62, and HZP 179 in 2004, and was later to secure a "Good" grading in a UK Spring Pointing Test.

Half-sibling to Bibe out of Grafite Greystones (d) and Trubon Arade Tribute (b) was Trubon Chyna Treasa (b) (born 12/06/2006). Chyna managed to secure two awards in Novice in January 2009, but would go on to greater field success in the next decade before tragedy struck and she became blind following an illness. This indomitable bitch faced arguably her biggest challenge by overcoming this impediment and continues to lead an active life.

Suzi Burton has four dogs featured in the top 20 of the WATFA table for dogs, the three reviewed above and one further dog Trubon Delta Truffe (b) 16<sup>th</sup> on 101 points, and reviewed later. Trubon Arade Tribute (b) features at 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the WATFA table for dogs, behind FT Ch Wobrooke of Fleetapple (d), on 330 points, and has won 21 UK Field Trial Awards, second only to FT Ch Wobrooke of Fleetapple (23 awards), but ahead of her daughter Trubon Bibe Tres (b) (14 awards). Bibe is at 7<sup>th</sup> in the WATFA table for dogs on 197 points with Trubon Chyna Treasa (b) at 8<sup>th</sup> on 195 points (68 at Open level) and with 10 field trial awards.

Suzi Burton deservedly occupies top spot in the WATFA table for owner-handlers on 891 points and a total of 57 UK field trial awards, and is still going strong. The 2000's was surely Suzi's decade, flying the grey flag the length and breadth of the UK and abroad and securing awards for Weimaraners at trials which but for Suzi may not have had any grey representation.

However, notwithstanding the achievements of Suzi and Dave, there were 13 other handlers, some of whom won multiple awards, and some with more than one dog, in a pattern and level of success which so far has become the norm for the current decade, the 2010's.

Liza Brown and Christine Carpenter won 5 awards each including a 1<sup>st</sup> apiece in Novice trials with Brakabreeze Bravehawke (d) and Aschfahl Chrystabelle (b) respectively, and Chris Spree won 5 awards with two dogs, Brakabreeze Goshawk (d) securing a 1<sup>st</sup> in a WCGB Novice trial at Stourhead Estate, Wiltshire to add to his three CoM's at Novice level. Brakabreeze Hawke (d), Chris Spree's other dog and sibling to Brakabreeze Goshawk also won a Novice CoM.

The late Mrs Bernice McGee's longhaired Weimaraner Winndue Aeneas (d) "Mace" was awarded a CoM at a HGS Novice trial at Durley in Hampshire by judges CL Church and Ms S Burton. Mace won another CoM and then a 4<sup>th</sup> in Novice. Mrs B McGee's Aschfahl Foresters Fancy (b) also won a CoM. Bred by Mrs Christine Carpenter and in a poignant tribute to Bernice, Aschfahl Foresters Fancy was handled by Christine to a 4<sup>th</sup> place in a BWGGS Novice trial at the Hamptworth Estate on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2009.

The late Beate Dwingelo-Lutten's Haselunne Heidi (b) won 4 Novice CoMs This bitch was out of Chris Spree's Brakabreeze Goshawk (d) and Beate's Silvershadow Eowyn Von Haselunne (b). Phil Ross's Enryb House Party At Clannliath (d) won a 3<sup>rd</sup> in a BCGB Novice trial at Craig Castle, Aberdeenshire to add to his CoM obtained just a few weeks earlier in Perthshire. Still very active in the field, Enryb House Party At Clannliath (d) will go on to win 14 awards (at time of writing) to position the dog at 9<sup>th</sup> on 187 points in the WATFA table for dogs, and joint 4th in the WATFA table for total number of awards.

M Berry won five CoM's with two dogs, Lujarger the Limit (b) (two at All-Aged) and her son Heros Neptune (d).

Mr A Heys's won a 4<sup>th</sup> and a CoM at Novice level with Greyman Lunar Eclipse (b) and Mrs CL Rodgers won two Novice CoM's with Ch Sireva Royalty At Minstergate JW.

### **The 2010's – Poised For A Possible Trend Reversal**

Four seasons into the current decade 11 handlers have won 46 awards with 17 dogs. Two first places have been won so far, one in Novice, Ms S Burton's Trubon Delta Truffe (b) "Delta", and one in an All-Aged trial by Ms S Burton's Trubon Chyna Treasa (b) (but now retired).

In all Suzi Burton's Trubon dogs account for 18 of the 46 awards won so far this decade. Chyna accounts for 8 awards, Delta 6 awards, Trubon Flysse Trevive (b) 3, with a 3<sup>rd</sup> and two CoM's in Novice, and Trubon Eissmann Trevan (d) with a Novice CoM. Delta is currently positioned at 16<sup>th</sup> in the WATFA table for dogs on 101 points.

Phil Ross's Enryb House Party At Clannliath (d) "Chester" has won 12 awards this decade to add to the two won in the 2000's. As stated earlier, Chester is currently 9<sup>th</sup> in the WATFA table for dogs, and joint fourth in the WATFA table for total awards with 14 awards.



Five dogs have won 2<sup>nd</sup> places in Novice, Delta and Chester, and the late BI Dwingelol-Lutten's Haselunne Heidelbeere (b), NR Wroe's Bastillian Lady Kasshilde (b), and M Ede's American import Silvershot's Semper Fi for Kasmegs (d).

Two dogs have achieved 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Novice trials, NR Wroe's Blenweim Sweet Lady of Bastillian (b) (twice) and Ms S Burton's Trubon Flysse Trevive (b).

Fourth placed Novice winners have already been mentioned, Enryb House Party At Clannliath (d) (twice) and Aschfahl Foresters Fancy (b) handled by Mrs C Carpenter.

Twenty-eight of the 46 awards so far this decade have been CoM's, mostly at Novice level, but five have been at All-Aged and three at Open level. All but three owner-handlers winning CoM's have tasted higher success with the same or other dogs, so with better luck most of those 20 Novice level CoM's might have been full awards.

Of the 46 awards, 32 have been at Novice level, 10 have been at All-Aged and 4 at Open.

Of the 11 handlers who have won awards so far this decade, 6 were new to field trial success although all have been in the breed for many years. They have tasted success at field trials with their Weimaraners and their experience is growing and may well secure more awards in the remainder of the decade.

Eight of the 17 dogs which have won awards so far this decade were under 5 years of age and can reasonably be expected to add to the awards tally in the remainder of the decade. Competition from other HPR breeds is intense, so nothing can be taken for granted.

Undoubtedly the 1980's was the peak decade for the hunting Weimaraner, in terms of the number of dogs, handlers and awards won. These numbers have been in decline ever since, although the winning record since then of Suzi Burton, Dave Pilkington, Christine Carpenter and latterly Phil Ross have kept the award numbers and level of achievement respectable compared with all other HPR breeds, save for the GSP. There are some experienced handlers, some from days of yore, carefully and diligently nudging their young dogs towards field trial competition. There are also a number of newer entrants who have gained field trialling experience in recent years and who are surely on the verge of obtaining awards.

With a few notable exceptions, it is now rare to find proven achievement in the field recorded in the immediate pedigrees of dogs currently being competed although Natural Aptitude Testing of puppies and junior dogs reveal an encouraging degree of innate hunting instinct. Some owner-handlers have sought to re-introduce the perceived hunting drive seen in the earlier generations of Weimaraners by outcross to Continental lines.

The Field Trial Sub-Committee of The Weimaraner Club of Great Britain is extremely active under their FT Secretary, Suzi Burton, in providing opportunities for new entrants. There are three other Weimaraner breed clubs with access to experienced trialling members or committee members. It is perfectly feasible for ALL UK Weimaraner clubs to fully and energetically embrace the vision of the founders of the Weimaraner breed in the UK to make hunting with Weimaraners of PARAMOUNT CONCERN.

Nigel Wroe  
10/09/2013

**Notes:**

1 WCGB Yearbook 1953 - 1973

2 This article refers variously to **Weimaraner All Time Field Awards** (“WATFA”) tables. These have been compiled by and are copyright of the author, and not to be reproduced without written permission. Various tables, for dogs, for owner-handlers etc. have been generated by ascribing points to the various stakes related award places and aggregating them, ranking dog or owner-handler accordingly. The points system is loosely based on the WCGB annual awards points system. The principal focus in the narrative has been to focus on the top twenty dogs and their owner-handlers.

3 In UK field trials an award is any place in a Stake decided by the Judges, which may be a 1<sup>st</sup> through to 4<sup>th</sup>. No joint placing is permitted and it is possible for the best dog to be awarded less than a first. A certificate of merit (“CoM”) may, at the discretion of the Judges, be conferred to any number of dogs. Technically a CoM is not an “award”, it is a certificate per the Kennel Club J-Regulations. Throughout this article CoM’s have been referred to and evaluated as awards, and in the WATFA points tables do carry award points dependent on the stake.

4 Reference is made to “owner-handler” throughout the narrative. Generally the handler will be the owner of the dog, but on occasion, the dog may have been handled other than by the owner. No distinction is made in the originating records of such occurrences, and accordingly none can be made in this narrative.

5. The names and titles of dogs featured in this analysis are as per the original records. Many dogs would go on to win other titles (eg CDEX, UDEX), or have the show “Sh” prefix removed by virtue of winning a Qualifying Certificate, or mainstream field (FT) award. These later name adjustments are generally not updated by subsequent achievements, unless for example the “FT Ch” prefix is added.

6. Owner-handler names may have changed over the years due to marriage etc. I have tried to allow for this and identify a person by their later name where possible, simply so that a long record of achievement can be aggregated under the later name.

**References:**

Guide To The Weimaraner – Gillian Burgoin 1985

HPR Championship – T Horsefield – HPR FTA

Kennel Club Stud Books to 2012 – Kennel Club

Kennel Club “J” Regulations

WCGB Year Books - The Weimaraner Club of Great Britain

[weimaranerpedigrees.com](http://weimaranerpedigrees.com)

**Table 1: Weimaraner All-Time Field Awards: Dogs – Top Twenty by Points <sup>+</sup>**

Pos	Dog	Owner/Handler	Novice	All Aged	Open	Grand Total
1	FT Ch Wobrooke of Fleetapple (d)	Mrs D Arrowsmith	120	184	256	560
2	Trubon Arade Tribute (b)	Ms S Burton	234	96		330
3	Tasaigid Talked About (d)	S Chant	30	180	68	278
4	FT Ch Quadet Caterin (b)	D Pilkington	83	32	148	263
5	Emmaclan Escort (d)	Mrs LA Brown	85	128		213
6	Belvoirvale Bracken (b)	Mrs LA Brown	45	132	24	201
7	Trubon Bibe Tres (b)	Ms S Burton	181	16		197
8	Trubon Chyna Treasa (Re-Imp) (b)	Ms S Burton	23	104	68	195
9	Enryb House Party At Clannliath (d)*	P Ross	131	56		187
10	Heronshaw Silver (b)	C Wilkinson	50	64	56	170
11	Waldemar Titus (d)	T Horsefield	75		64	139
12	Aschfahl Liberty Belle (b)	Mrs CA Carpenter	38	88		126
13	Fossana Blue John (d)	R Jupp	80	16	16	112
14	Fossana Algenon (d)	R Jupp	75		32	107
15	Lurgashell Silver Lancer (d)	R Squire	70	32		102
16	Trubon Delta Truffe (b) *	Ms S Burton	65	36		101
17	Ch Czolkins Platinum Cirrus JW (d)	Mrs J Turner	95			95
17	Wyndlee Silver Candy (b) (LH)	Mrs D Shall	95			95
19	Lotti Go-Lightly (b)	Lt. Col. HD Tucker	70	24		94
20	Vanwilkie Nearly Napoleon (d)	C Wilkinson	35	40	16	91
20	Yaxi Von Stern Weiss (d)	J Hall	91			91

+ To 1st February 2013

\* Enryb House Party At Clannliath (d) and Trubon Delta Truffe (b) are the only two dogs in the above table capable of improving their ranking as they are still active in field trials. Indeed, the entire next tier, positioned 21-40 is occupied by deceased dogs. The third tier, 41-60 have just a few candidates which could conceivably move up a tier or even two.

**Table 2: Weimaraner All-Time Field Awards: Owner-Handler – Top Twenty by Points<sup>+</sup>**

Pos	Owner/Handler	Dog	Novice Total	All Aged Total	Open Total	Grand Total
	Ms S Burton	Trubon Arade Tribute (b)	234	96		330
		Trubon Bibe Tres (b)	181	16		197
		Trubon Chyna Treasa (Re-Imp) (b)	23	104	68	195
		Trubon Delta Truffe (b)	65	36		101
		Trubon Flysse Trevive (b)	35			35
		Silberstern Moonlight Von Trubon (b)	23			23
		Trubon Eissmann Trevan (d)	10			10
1	Ms S Burton Total		571	252	68	891
	Mrs LA Brown	Emmaclan Escort (d)	85	128		213
		Belvoirvale Bracken (b)	45	132	24	201
		Clippers Escort (b)	56	32		88
		Brakabreeze Bravado (b)	53	32		85
		Brakabreeze Bravehawk (d)	40	16		56
		Brakabreeze Elverden (b)	13			13
2	Mrs LA Brown Total		292	340	24	656
	Mrs D Arrowsmith	Wobrooke of Fleetapple (d)	120	184	256	560
3	Mrs D Arrowsmith Total		120	184	256	560
	S Chant	Tasaigid Talked About (d)	30	180	68	278
		Quadet Asta (b)	25			25
4	S Chant Total		55	180	68	303
	D Pilkington	Quadet Caterin (b)	83	32	148	263
5	D Pilkington Total		83	32	148	263
	C Wilkinson	Heronshaw Silver (b)	50	64	56	170
		Vanwilkie Nearly Napoleon (d)	35	40	16	91
6	C Wilkinson Total		85	104	72	261
	T Horsefield	Waldemar Titus (d)	75		64	139
		Fineshade Quail Run (b)	45			45
		Hillbrow Quest (b)	25		16	41
7	T Horsefield Total		145		80	225
	R Jupp	Fossana Blue John (d)	80	16	16	112
		Fossana Algenon (d)	75		32	107
8	R Jupp Total		155	16	48	219
	Mrs CA Carpenter	Aschfahl Liberty Belle (b)	38	88		126
		Aschfahl Chrystabelle (b)	35	16		51
		Aschfahl Grey Ghillie (b)	20			20
		Aschfahl Golby Gamefinder (d)	10			10
9	Mrs CA Carpenter Total		103	104		207
	P Ross	Enryb House Party At Clannliath (d)	131	56		187
10	P Ross Total		131	56		187
	R Squire	Lurgashell Silver Lancer (d)	70	32		102
		Brakabreeze Lancer (d)	13			13
11	R Squire Total		83	32		115
	BI Dwingelo-Lutten	Haselunne Heidi (b)	40			40
		Haselunne Heidelbeere (b)	20			20
		Carl August Von Haselunne (d)	20			20
		Silvershadow Eowyn Von Haselunne (b)	20			20
		Silvershadow Campion Von Haselunne (d)	13			13
12	BI Dwingelo-Lutten Total		113			113
	Lt. Col. HD Tucker	Lotti Go-Lightly (b)	70	24		94
		Katie Go-Lightly (b)			16	16
13	Lt. Col. HD Tucker Total		70	24	16	110

Pos	Owner/Handler	Dog	Novice Total	All Aged Total	Open Total	Grand Total
	E Hardman	Bredebeck Sophie (b)	60	16		76
		Bredebeck Jutta (d)	20			20
14	E Hardman Total		80	16		96
	Mrs J Turner	Ch Czolkins Platinum Cirrus JW (d)	95			95
15	Mrs J Turner Total		95			95
	ND Elder	Aucassin of Llangynog (d)	75			75
		Aucassin Abelard (d)	20			20
15	ND Elder Total		95			95
	Mrs D Shall	Wyndlee Silver Candy (b) (LH)	95			95
15	Mrs D Shall Total		95			95
	J Hall	Yaxi Von Stern Weiss (d)	91			91
18	J Hall Total		91			91
	M Berry	Lujarger the Limit (b)	43	32		75
		Heros Neptune (d)	10			10
19	M Berry Total		53	32		85
	C Spree	Brakabreeze Goshawk (d)	55			55
		Brakabreeze Hawke (d)	20			20
		Gunalt Crystal Tipple (b)	10			10
19	C Spree Total		85			85

+ To 1st February 2013