

3RD WCRA CHAMPIONSHIPS and 2ND VETERAN CROWNS at HEART OF ENGLAND PWRC on 6th AUGUST 2023 / 150 yards straights; veterans 145 yards at ½yd/lb plus yd/yr / WRITE UP



Courtesy of Vince Hart 1

Think back to last August, 100-degree heat, cancelled race meetings, scorched grass.

Reality for us was a sodden August Saturday, no joke when setting-up – thanks to the Club whose ground team worked tirelessly in atrocious conditions – the copious cups of tea and coffee (with biscuits) definitely helped. However, the racetrack look great!

Heart of England club, they're a committed team with hospitality second to none. They'd set up no less than six slow-cookers, including contributions from Lynn Hunter, and once we'd all seen to our dogs it was our turn to enjoy a lovely selection of casseroles and curries, which was so appreciated. It was a great evening; full of laughs, lovely company and fab food; not forgetting the spiced rum and coke.

Next morning, it was the canteen ladies' turn, they really do us proud, full English breakfast set us up very nicely for the weigh-in, 135 whippets entered and 122 running.

Luckily for us and the racers, Sunday turned out warm and sunny – what a relief!

Before starting racing we observed a minute's silence for Gary Baldock, our former long-serving Racing Manager. His enduring gift to us is the electronic

timing system he devised way back, well over twenty years ago, and still in use this day.

Five whippets contested the 16lb group, the largest number for a long time, with Liz and Richard Villis' WCRCh A Touch Of Sass coming home ahead of Andy Browne's *Sidari Tilly. The first leg of a Villis double.

The second leg, the 18lb final was also a kennel Villis 1-2. *Ameesha Born To Run, litter-sister to the 16lb winner, beat Auntie WCRCh Ameesha Summer Rocket, denying her the outright group record but also making sure grandma WCRCh VC Ameesha Little Ebs still had a share, a bit of a balancing act! Just think on it, between them they've dominated the group for ten years (and counting). Liz and Richard, well done – what an accomplishment.

Next race, weight group records remained the theme when Allan Parkhurst's WCRCh Sweet Secret won her seventh 20lb final (five straights, two bends) to share honours with that grand campaigner, Jane Rankin's WCRCh Talk Of The Devil who's held the accolade since 2008. She beat the Hunters' *Zikomo Go-Quick half a length with Mike Head & Ilid Davies' Along Came Betty another half-length back, a great race. Dave and Lynn gained compensation next final when WCRCh Tiana prevailed in a high-class contest against Grant Burton & Eliie Stacey's Gee Gee, Sarah Layfield's Winterfell What The Heck and Vince & Sarah Hart's Charlie Brown.

Nicola & John Walton's *Gimme Delight won in a blanket finish to take the 24lb group unbeaten from Peter Leadbetter & Christine Kerrington's Ace Of Spades and the Hunters' WCRCh Brontë, Louise Fisher's Dazzle Dee a close fourth.



Courtesy of Michael Treacher 1

The 26lb group was also very competitive and a popular win for John & Sheila Strain's youngster *Return Of The Mac. He's shown good form for some weeks now. Unbeaten, all his races were close. In his heat he edged out

eventual runner-up, the Gilfeathers' fine dog *Mista T. In his semi Christine's and Mark's Ryamber Room At The Top (the eventual 4th) ran him to a head. In the final he won by a neck and a nose, the Brearleys' *Murphy's Gold taking a close third.

Holly Mclean and Toby Wood's *Do You Love Me, who only started trialling this spring, took the 28lb group on this his first try at the Championships at three and a half. With a bare handful of races under his belt so far, it'll be interesting to see how he develops. He won by half a length, the same and one length from Mark & Charlotte Bursey's Mach's Kamikaze Mars, Ruth Mabb's WCRCh One For Arthur and Viv Thurman's WCRCh Dance With The Devil. To say Jacquie Mullin was excited with the win for her niece was an understatement!!

The 30lb group was a comfortable win for Kevin Coe's and Keeley Bradshaw's WCRCh Moonlight Millie, fully exploiting her good trap, from the Gilfeathers' Gimme It All, Dave & Sandra Burseys' Markamy's Reddie Eddie (six in November) and Dave Williams' youngster Tess The Pest who's progressing nicely.



Courtesy of Michael Treacher 2

The 32lb final brought the only new Racing Champion of the day, Sean & Barbara Lee's WCRCh Selby Lad who's been in great form this year. He certainly had to pull out all the stops - runner-up was Dennis & Pearl Bache's WCRCh Daddy's Boy with Machs White Toed Brodes (3rd) and Dazzle

Hurricane (4th). Selby Lad also won the Fastest Time Rosette with a 9.35 in his semi final.

On to the Veteran Crowns. First, Sarah Layfield's VC *Winterfell Must Be Crazy ran a solo to win the 6/7yrs lightweights. Then in the middleweights, Dave & Carole Cuttler's WCRCh VC Call Me Enchanting gained her "full set"

against Christine Howard's classy, ever-dependable Ryamber Stan The Man. Both are new veterans and I wouldn't be surprised if both have a good run.

Another relative newcomer to the senior ranks, Dave Favell's WCRCh VC Lovely Jubbly also won his VC at first attempt in a tough heavyweight group, beating Maggie & Jon Brearley's fine WCRCh VC Feilly's Gold, my WCRCh The Cooler King (so pleased with him) and littermate to winner, the Todmans' "O" Fly On. With The Cooler King also her breeding, Pat Gant had the pleasure of watching three of her progeny running up in a big final and trapping the winner.

The senior veterans were smaller classes but the quality was there. Andy Browne's classy VC Sidari Tegan defended the lightweight group from Lindsey Stevenson's Lighthouse Silver Springs who made the long trek from Stithian near Truro to compete. In the middleweights, Christine Howard's WCRCh VC Ryamber Something Different added a Veteran Crown title when she beat Ruth Mabb's Trueloveways and Dave & Lynn's Jessie J. For all three it was their last race and lovely for them to sign off together, enjoy your retirement.

Three quality whippets in the heavyweights; Dave & Lynn's fine WCRCh VC Zola Go-Quick won a close final to gain her veteran title, just shading out Gary Hogan's VC The Quiet Man with Dave & Carole's VC *Call Me Amazing, just back from injury only a length down at the line.

All in all, a most enjoyable day but only possible due to the many people who help us – we are most appreciative and grateful.

Mark Etheridge Reporting.