



**THE GUNDOG CLUB**  
**GRADE FOUR RETRIEVER**

**MARKS**

Dummies will be hand-thrown, and marks will be accompanied by a single shot from a starting pistol. Any cover will be deep enough to conceal the dummy and free from overly harsh or prickly vegetation. (No stinging nettles or dense brambles.)

Each retrieve (mark or blind) is worth 20 points.

**1) Long Mark**

Assessing the dog's ability to mark at distance. A single mark at 80-100 yards. Dummy to fall in light cover. The dummy must be concealed from easy view, but the dog is not expected to travel a great distance through cover; the majority of the distance covered should be free of cover. No obstacles.

**2) Mark across Water**

A single short mark to fall a max of 40 yds from the dog, on the other side of a small area of water. (The swim need not be more than a few metres, but the dog must swim.) The dog must enter water, exit, pick dummy, re-enter and swim with retrieve.

The mark must be 5-10 yds from the water's edge and the dog must be sent from at least 5yds from the water's edge on the opposite bank. The dummy should be visible to the dog on emerging from the water (not in deep cover).

**3) Double Mark (Split Retrieve)**

Two marks to be thrown. One a short mark (40 yds) into heavy cover, the other a longer mark (70 yds) into light cover. Suggested minimum of at least 90 degrees between the two.

Dog to be sent for each mark in turn, after both have been thrown. The assessor will choose which mark the dog must retrieve first. The dog will then be sent for the second mark.

**BLINDS**

**1) Long Blind**

A single dummy at 60 yds.

## 2) Short Blind with Distraction

Dog to be sent for a single dummy at 30 yds distant. A second, distraction mark, to be thrown at a minimum of 90 degrees, before the dog is sent for the blind. Only the blind is to be picked, not the distraction mark.

## 3) Hunt an Area

Three dummies to be dropped in advance, in deep cover, at 20 yds. Dog to find two of these. Maximum time allowed: 5 minutes. Area to be marked for handler's benefit with flag or pole.

## HONOUR

To be carried out at any point during the test.

The dog to remain seated quietly at heel, off lead, whilst another dog completes a marked retrieve from land (not water). Marks to be deducted for noise or fidgeting.

If the dog's hindquarters leave the point of stay, 0 points will be scored. If the dog barks, 0 points will be scored. If the handler gives repeated cues or signals, points will be lost. For full 30 points, the dog will be totally silent throughout.

Total points for the honour: 30

## EXTRA POINTS FOR BEHAVIOUR

There are 10 possible extra points to be awarded at the assessor's discretion, for excellent behaviour. To get maximum 'behaviour' points, the dog must maintain excellent heel position throughout the test.

## IMPORTANT NOTES

- Handlers are permitted to give quiet instruction to their dogs. However, to achieve full marks, no unnecessary cues should be heard. Any cues heard must be responded to.
- If the dog breaks away from the handler and fails to return immediately to the heel position, on cue, the test should be deemed to be over.
- Sloppy or evasive delivery of dummies, and readjusting/fumbling with the dummy, should be reflected in lower score.
- Steadiness is expected throughout the test. We recommend that two points are deducted from the steadiness at heel score for any extra 'heel' or 'wait' cues given by the handler.
- Running in once disqualifies the dog *from that retrieve only*. A total score of 0 must be entered for that retrieve.
- Running in twice during the test, ***is an eliminating fault*** and the dog must be retired from the test and deemed NOT READY.

- Failure to deliver to hand once, disqualifies the dog *from that retrieve*. A total score of 0 must be entered for the retrieve.
- Failure to deliver to hand twice during the test, **is an eliminating fault** and the dog must be retired from the test and deemed NOT READY.
- Noise: An isolated '**squeak**' or **whine** may be penalised by the deduction of up to 10 points. Whining alone is not a disqualifying offence, at this stage. A single isolated **bark** during the duration of the test, must be penalised by the deduction of 10 points from the total score. A dog which barks persistently on more than one occasion, must be retired from the test and deemed NOT READY.
- Noisy handling: Up to 10 points may be deducted for noisy handling.
- Refusal to retrieve is an eliminating fault. The dog must be retired and deemed NOT READY.
- Refusal to enter water is an eliminating fault. The dog must be retired and deemed NOT READY.

TOTAL POINTS FOR COMPLETE TEST - 200

DOGS MUST ACHIEVE A MINIMUM OF 140 POINTS (70%) TO PASS THE TEST.

PASS 70% (140)

MERIT 80% (160)

DISTINCTION 90% (180)