

In Memory of Graham Cox

On Wed. 1st November the funeral took place of Graham Cox in Haycombe Cemetery Chapel, Bath. The chapel was crowded with colleagues from Bath University, where Graham lectured in philosophy since his graduation from Cambridge University. There were also a large number of gundog people including the Duchess of Devonshire and several Kennel Club representatives. Such was the width of his influence.

To the Bristol and West Working Gundog Society he was one of the earliest members (no.63). He was in turn Year Book editor, Chairman and President as well as our representative on the Kennel Club Field Trial Liaison Council until recently when he became vice President of the KC Field Trial Committee. During this time he rewrote the Field Trial J Regs, cutting out ambiguities and making them clearer for Judges to follow. He also inaugurated the Judges' Seminars on the J Regs which have now become a pre-requisite for those wishing to be considered for the Retriever Judges' Panel.

In the gundog world generally, he is probably best known for his articles and brilliant photography in the Shooting Gazette and other publications, in particular his reports on the former CLA Game Fair and the Retriever Championships which attracts gundog enthusiasts from all over the World.

His favourite breed, from which he never deviated, was the Golden Retriever, yet he made it his life's work to know the history and details of all breeds. It was Graham who was instrumental in introducing the exhibition of all the different gundog breeds at the Game Fair where he also did the commentary on the prestigious Retriever International Competition. For the sheer, breath-taking width of all this achievement he must be considered one of the all-time greats in the gundog world.

As a fitting tribute to one so fundamental to the establishment of our Society, the committee has agreed to donate £100 to the Nuffield Centre for Neurosciences, Oxford for which Graham had already raised a substantial amount before he died. We are also looking for a suitable trophy to be presented in his memory to the highest scoring Golden Retriever in our Two Day Open stake.

Our sincere sympathy to his wife, Marilyn, who is pleased that his memory will be preserved within the Bristol & West by the memorial trophy - which she said he would have loved.