



JAMES UPTON SMITH MEMORIAL TROPHY



Obituary written by Mr T.R. Hogg, Northumberland and Durham

Club Year Book 1971

When Dental Surgeon, James Upton Smith died at Gosforth on the 4th of July 1970 aged 88 years; the Club lost one of its oldest and most loyal members.

He joined the Club just after its beginnings when it had about 12 members; in 1932 before its incorporation with the Retriever Society and became its longest serving Committee member.

Before joining the club he had always had Springer's for shooting, but once he acquired his first Labrador, he was truly converted.

He was ever on the look-out for new members for the club and it gave him enormous pleasure to see its' growth to the great Club it is today.

Having spent a great deal of his boyhood and early manhood at Bellingham on the North Tyne; he was always a keen fisherman. He introduced me and my young son to the delight of fishing wild and lonely places. Indeed he made for us the trout rods which are still our favourites. Other delights were to talk to him over his favourite brew, about Northumbrian dialects and characters, pottery, books, boxing and at its peak before the war, the old Newcastle United.

Yet still the talk always came back to Labradors.

A winning show dog was always criticised if it did not match the standard and in his criticism of trial work he was equally forthright.

Our sympathies go out to our Secretary on losing her Dad. Evelyn and he did not always see eye to eye on a dog but they were always in full accord about what was good for Northumberland and Durham Labrador Retriever Club, and bent their full energies to its advancement.

T.R. Hogg

In the same Club Year Book of 1971

The J. Upton Smith Memorial Trophy

“Club members, and friends of Evelyn and her father, who contributed to the fund for this trophy may like to know that the total collected amounted to £37.10s.

With this money we have bought a trophy in the form of an enamelled bronze grouse in flight. Although Mr Smith took great interest in the appearance of a Labrador, (he proposed the first Show ever held by the club) his abiding interest remained their working qualities.”

“It is therefore Evelyn’s wish that this Trophy be awarded at a Working Event, preferably an OPEN WORKING TEST.”

The trophy was requested to be a working **test** trophy which it was until the early 2000’s; when for some reason it was changed to an award for a trial winner. The trophy has been cleaned up and a new mahogany base with engraving plate fitted.

After much research on the archive material of the club; the trophy will go back to an event for which it was intended and is awarded from 2014 to the Open Test Winner at Eggleston Fell.



*Irene Davison
Club Secretary 2014*