

The year 2020 is definitely one that we will all remember. Some of us non-critical folks (or oldies if you like) have now been in lockdown mode for over two months whilst the front line troops, of which there are many, continue to keep the country going. Only now that we are heading into June is lockdown changing to a more relaxed phase.

In the Fife and Perthshire area I have noticed that the words Labrador pups have been springing up amongst some of my associated shooting friends, I can't think of anything more enjoyable than starting another chapter with one of these adorable retrievers. So far 2 yellow and 2 black will hopefully be making an appearance in a couple of years' time.



These 2 chaps came via Billy Steels GB FTW Jacob Bogdani of Leadburn better known for scoring the max 100 out of 100 winning Billy top dog at a CLA International Gamefair. They were brothers and turned out to be great wildfowling and walked-up shooting companions. They also gave me the choice of colours depending on the terrain on the foreshore. This was all too long ago now but has left me with lots of many fond memories plus a few laughs/tears.



The Labrador retriever has got to be the number one choice for the wildfowler. This has all been discussed before and I know we all have different opinions - take the GSP in the dated pic above. This was my father's pointer - one of the first of this breed in our local town (yeah I know I am going back in time a bit!). The mud flats just didn't seem right for her, feeling the cold and shivering most of the time it actually took your eyes away from where they should have been which was concentrating on the birds in flight. Having said that, she did retrieve more than a few birds from the water which allowed us to shoot them in the first place so job done I suppose.

The same dog worked through a game crop or rough terrain was just outstanding and great fun. She would never walk past partridge or pheasant - indicating with a rigid tail. If there was a hare or rabbit then the tail wavered when on point. She did like pointing hedgehogs though which raised the heartbeat slightly but as there weren't that many it didn't really matter.

The weather conditions at the moment are hot and dry and have been for some time now. Not favourable for fishing the rivers as there will be very little oxygen for our local (within 5 miles, mind!) trout or salmon that may be struggling.

Tight lines if you live close enough, and stay safe.

JM