

NOVICE FIELD TRIAL – ASHINTULLY CASTLE, PERTHSHIRE

Judges: Anne Johnston & Phil Ross

by kind permission of Mr & Mrs J Steel & Mr & Mrs Holland Bosworth. Sponsored by Rodger Skinner Ltd, Dog Food.

Date:

7th December 2013

Weather:

The day started with freezing conditions without a distinguishable breeze, a slight breeze could be detected in more open areas. Temperatures lifted slightly as the day continued but overcast conditions kept any change to a minimum.

Scenting conditions:

Early - poor, improved later to fair.

Type of ground, quantity and species of game:

The ground to be worked was a variety of wooded and open white grass areas, predominantly white grass which gave the ranging dogs every opportunity to show their style. Game to be shot on the day was agreed as any in season, with exception to any grouse or black game.

During the trial pheasants, woodcock and hare were encountered with only pheasants and a woodcock being shot, the game was well spread around the ground and gave all dogs' positive contact and retrieving opportunities.

General standard of work and handling:

With the exception of 1st and 2nd, the majority failed on retrieving. Most dogs hunted well and were handled variably. Some handlers lacking game awareness

Results:

1 st	Tournesol Douce	Brit	M Hirst
2 nd	Lairs Low Flier of Hertzabruck	GSP	J Tunley
3 rd	Not Awarded		
4 th	Not Awarded		

Judges Critique:

Twelve dogs ran in the trial, during the first run most had retrieves but 7 of the 12 did not complete them satisfactorily. The remaining 5 dogs were all given their second run on open white grass which gave each dog full HPR opportunities, only two dogs completed and were taken to the water, both were willing swimmers and completed the retrieve to hand.

Tournesol Douce

The first run was in a wooded area with pockets of cover, this Brittany covered her entire beat with pace, a cock bird was seen to land ahead and the area was clearly acknowledge by the dog, but despite a thorough work through no bird was produced.

The second run let this dog show us her full capabilities. A slight breeze was worked to perfection with phenomenal pace and style, only breaking from the hunt to secure near instant points. An initial pointed and flushed hare was acknowledged, the dog remained steady and hunting resumed. A subsequent full HPR completed the second run. Later we had an opportunity to test this dog further on a failed retrieve, the bird had been shot and ran, this dog was taken to the fall, tracked and retrieved the live runner. A good performance at the water completed the card and fully merited the 1st place awarded.

An exceptional performance from a small dog, with the minimal of handling.

Lairs Low Flier Of Hertzabruck

A first run in reeds and white grass was handled well, a steady hunt was interrupted by a gun shooting a breaking pheasant, the shot and fall were respected by the dog which went on to complete the retrieve. Continued hunting secured a point, a hen pheasant was flushed to command and shot, again steady to flush, shot and fall, the dog was quickly sent on as the bird was a runner. The dog wasted no time in tracking the bird and retrieving it tenderly to hand. A second run in white grass, a steady hunt and point produced a hare to which the dog was steady. A good performance at the water secured 2nd place.

My sincere thanks to The German Shorthaired Pointer Club for inviting me to Judge at this stake, a thoroughly enjoyable and rewarding day from watching quality dog work and handling on good ground with an ideal distribution of game.

Special thanks for a very enjoyable day to the Hosts for supporting the trial, Steward of the Beat/Keeper Bob Connely for perfect HPR opportunities, the members of the Scottish Group for such exceptional hospitality, to Janice & Les for their commitment to the club and this field trial, Ronnie Kennedy for his stewardship on the day, the guns who shot so well, all the competitors for their sporting behaviour, and not forgetting my co-judge Anne Johnson.

Phil Ross