

NOVICE FIELD TRIAL - FORD, NORTHUMBERLAND

Judges: Mr S. Kimberley and Mr C. Gray

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Date: Thursday 5th November 2015

Type Of Ground, Quantity and Species of Game: The trial was carried out on a mixture of unimproved grazing, lowland birch moss and moorland. Whilst the terrain was largely open there were quite a few areas of standing bracken and gorse. The weather was overcast but stayed dry until we were just about finished and the breeze was light to moderate from SW. The lay of the land here made it difficult to maintain a head wind for the whole trial but we did our best in the circumstances.

Game encountered on the day were largely pheasants, though there were a number of snipe and a single woodcock. Some of the retrieves were mallard shot opportunistically as we made our way around the beat. Game was at times sporadic but most, if not all dogs had adequate opportunities.

General Standard of Work and Handling: Whilst it was a Novice Stake we did feel that a number of the dogs were underprepared for the trial and this was evident in the result.

Results:

1st Not Awarded

2nd Not Awarded

3rd Not Awarded

4th Not Awarded

CoM **Nunki Sadira Onyx**

GSP

D Pitbladdo

Judges Critique:

Nunki Sadira Onyx

The dogs first run was in to a true cheek wind through rough grass interspersed with gorse, whilst the dog proved to be very obedient it was slightly over handled and not allowed to show any initiative. The first run was blank.

Her second run was into wind over open heather and white grass, her hunting was improved on this run and a little more expansive. She came on to a dead point but was unsure when asked to produce. Unfortunately this lack of confidence lead to the handler and guns not following the dog and the bird was produced blind of everyone behind a gorse bush. The bird was subsequently missed.

The dogs third and final run was again in to wind and again there was some nice hunting. The dog indicated there was game ahead in a wet hole and a mallard flushed which was missed. The dog was brought in for a retrieve on a snipe which it completed in good style.

The water test was completed satisfactorily.

This is a good young dog with some potential and there is no doubt that with more confidence and experience from both dog and handler she will feature in the awards again.

Summary:

On behalf of Steve and myself I would like to thank the German Shorthaired Pointer Club for this opportunity to judge. Ford, as a ground, never disappoints and has just the right mix of terrain to get the best out of the dogs. We were a little unfortunate this year in that the bracken was standing a lot better than normal, no doubt due to the lack of frost up until this time. We wish all the handlers all the best with their dogs for the future.

Chris Gray