

HAWORTH MOOR GROUSE POINTING TEST

1st August 2015

Judges Critique:

Haworth is a smallish moor, long and relatively narrow, and no doubt difficult when the wind is in a difficult place. This day however, it was possible to work a more or less head or diagonal wind all day. But that was the only favour the weather gods did for us. We set off in drizzle under an overcast sky, by lunchtime were drenched as it chucked it down, then dried, then wet again. Despite this the scent seemed reasonably steady, although overnight rain had made the birds flighty and nervous. Plus conditions meant that handlers needed to read the ground accurately and suss out where birds might be at any one time. Ground treatment, casting off appropriately, ensuring all possible areas were covered, and if birds lifted, making sure the whole covey had gone – all these factors were critical.

There were 15 dogs, (all GSPs as these are the conditions set for this venue), running, 7 Juniors and 8 Adults. Of these, 6 were graded – one Excellent, one Very Good, and 4 Good.

Left to right: Back row - Caroline Kenney (Good), Paul Thurtle (Keeper), Eddie Kania (Judge), Penny Pickstone (Judge). Front row - Emily Hinchliff (Good), Tim Wignall (Good), Janice Hawkes (Excellent), Ronnie Kennedy (Good), Stevie Allerton (Very Good).



Excellent

Questor Alder - J Hawkes - Junior

Good flowing dog, with pace, style and width, accurate to wind and ground, and to a word. Almost immediately on being cast off, found an hen pheasant crouched in a reedy area, produced and then worked on, did not go back to mull over the pheasant's territory, although could well have done as the bird had been poking about in crevices among the reeds so doubtless leaving scent traces. Opened up to cover the ground, came into a covey of 11, point, good production, steady. Very nice piece of work.

Very Good

Swifthouse Kirkoswald at Eshadwell - S Allerton - Junior

Interesting dog, free flowing, terrific run, but found and worked out scent areas, not something that GSPs do that often so good to see. No birds on the first run, but had done more than enough to warrant a second, and this time, found, pointed and produced a singleton.

Good

Goosepoint Eiderdown - E. Hinchliff - Junior

Good width and pace, started a little mechanically perhaps, good ground treatment with the handler making sure all areas were covered. 2 birds got up well ahead and flew back over the dog who acknowledged them and was steady. On her second run, the dog loosened and started to flow, showing considerably more hunger and drive and was rewarded with a find, point and flush.

The 2nd run showed the potential.

Aarons Crop Run - R Kennedy - Adult

Not the fastest dog on the day and needed possibly more accurate handling, and particularly as the dog came into an area with 3 coveys, and would have benefited from taking more ground to the back and right. Produced 1st covey, went through the middle of the 2nd, but stood well off the 3rd. Respectful of the game, but tending to be sticky.

Warrendown Thor - T Wignall - Adult

Immediately on being cast off was clearly plunged into heavy scent which turned out to be a hen pheasant and her very young chicks, scarcely flying. A less careful dog might have done serious damage here. The dog worked on to find and produce a covey. On this occasion, was sticky, something the handler might need to watch.

Stubblemere Mey - C Kenney - Adult

Immediately on being cast off the dog found and produced a covey to the right. Checking out this area, the dog spent some time in bracken, something the handler really needed to avoid as this proved to be a good running dog with a profound game sense and would have benefited from being able to take more ground. Then came fairly quickly into game and ended the run with a good point and production, albeit, again, a little sticky.

Many thanks to the keeper, Paul, for his time and company, to Mr J.D. Standevan and the Haworth Moor Syndicate our hosts for the day, and to the GSPC for looking after us, and giving us the opportunity to judge dogs on good ground which suited the dogs well. A rewarding day.

P.J.Pickstone