

# HAWORTH MOOR GROUSE POINTING TEST

## Judges: Mr Phil Pearson and Mrs Stevie Allerton

By kind permission of Mr J.D.Standevan and the Haworth Moor Syndicate

**Date:** 30<sup>th</sup> July 2016

**Gradings:**

**Excellent**

Stubblemere Beauchamp

T Wignall

**Very Good**

Duncansby Dieta

S Sargent

Stubblemere Abbess

C Kenney

Stubblemere Ember

M Canham

Ceannacroc Peel of Riffmuir

A Learmouth

**Good**

Berriedale Vesta of Riffmuir

A Learmouth

Withamfriary Tullsa

G Pillinger

Madcap Tullsa

S Hastwell

Seehof Krysia

J Hawkes

**Judges Critique:**

It was an absolute pleasure to be back here on Haworth Moor, by kind permission of Mr J D Standeven and the Haworth Moor Syndicate. Although not HPR men themselves, this annual test creates sufficient interest from the shoot that not only the keeper, Paul Thurtle, but Mr Standeven and other members of the syndicate also come along to support and spectate.

I was a stand-in judge for Stephen Robson, as he was recovering from a broken foot and greatly disappointed that he was unable to walk the moor. My thanks to fellow judge Phil Pearson, steward Janice Hawkes and all those behind the scenes who contribute to the smooth running of these events.

The weather was dry and sunny with a good breeze cooling things down, ideal conditions for the dogs. We were able to make 9 awards today from the card of 11 Juniors and 4 Adults (all GSPs).

**Graded Excellent:**

**Stubblemere Beachamp** (Tim Wignall). This Junior dog had a very good first run, getting out wide and hunting with drive and desire. He’s a big dog but is very elegant and stylish, lovely to watch hunting. He demonstrated all of the required attributes, never turning his head off the wind and running with real purpose, despite there being no birds on his beat. We saw him for a second run later on. Again, he demonstrated a passion for his work, covering the ground, responding to scent, checking, but not dwelling on residual scent and quickly resuming his work. He was eventually rewarded by a find, point and flush on a covey, remaining steady as the birds vacated the area. A super young dog, very promising.

**Graded Very Good:**

**Duncansby Dieta** (Steve Sergeant). This Junior bitch set off with drive and purpose, treating the ground and the wind correctly. She had a nice find and point on what turned out to be a very young brood, producing 6 birds before we brought the dog away, not wanting to tempt fate on such young “cheepers” that don’t fly too well. Her beat re-aligned onto the left she completed her run without any further birds, but still demonstrating the desire to hunt and find scent. Nice work.

**Stubblemere Abbess** (Caroline Kenney). This was the first of three 15 month old litter siblings to run today. My notes describe her as a “bag filler”, definitely one I would happily follow with a gun for some good sport! She had a point on a rabbit near the start of her run, swiftly followed by points on two single birds sitting in the edge of the long heather. She was steady to flush. In trying to get her across to cover more open ground on the opposite side of the beat she again had a find on a pair in the deeper heather. Eventually she was able to be cast out to cover the wind and show how she could hunt. An eventful run!

**Stubblemere Ember** (Mick Canham). This young bitch gets out and really goes for it. She didn’t have the easiest piece of ground to work, a long burnt strip between two areas of deep heather either side had the effect of making her tend to run out ahead in a straight line and back. The handler however stuck with it and got her to cover the beat. No birds were found but her enthusiasm never waned, working her socks off to try and find scent. We saw her again later for a second run. She set off in a much better pattern to cover the beat, using the wind correctly, and indicated scent early on, pointing and producing a large covey.

**Ceannacroc Peel of Riffmuir** (Ally Learmonth). This Adult male had a point early on in his run, producing a very young “cheeper”. We requested the handler to bring the dog away from the area to avoid mishap on what was obviously a late brood somewhere in the deep heather, re-aligning his beat to the left and resuming the hunt. The dog covered his ground at a good pace and style, always turning into wind. We did feel, however, that the dog was over-handled, excessive use of whistle and arm signals hampering the flow, rather than letting the dog demonstrate its’ natural style and initiative.

**Graded Good:**

**Berriedale Vista of Riffmuir** (Ally Learmonth). The first dog to run and birds lifted immediately we set off, on the far right of the beat. This Junior bitch covered the ground with drive, came on point initially on residual scent, worked on, then came onto a point which produced 5 grouse just over the brow of a hill, taking flight as we approached. The dog was steady. She was asked to work on, became a bit distracted for a while by the presence of sheep on her beat, which interfered with her ground coverage, then had another point on a brood of 6 grouse. She was rather sticky on point and the handler had to be very close up to her to get her to flush. Again, she was steady to flush.

**Seehof Krysia** (Janice Hawkes). This Junior bitch hit scent quite early on and treated it cautiously, hence her ground coverage from then on became a bit stop/start. She firmed up on point on the right of her beat, where a cock grouse had recently lifted from, but her head carriage indicated that she had something a good way ahead. She worked in and produced a single bird, sitting to the flush automatically. She then worked the area out and produced another bird.

**Withamfriary Tullsa** (Gill Pillinger). This Junior bitch ran wide, a big strong girl who appeared to have plenty of power but who was running out of steam by the end of her 10 minutes. I noted that she also had a tendency to run in straight lines out and back on one side of her beat, rather than always turning her head into the wind. There were no birds on her beat so we gave her a second run later. This was in cooler conditions and was much better, demonstrating good ground coverage and use of the wind. After an indication of scent that lead to nothing, she worked on up a hill and came on point on a large covey sitting just over the brow.

**Madcap Elderflower** (Sue Hastwell). This 14 month old bitch’s first run was in long heather, which she coped with fairly well. We felt she would have hunted more freely if her handler had let her! No birds were on her beat so we gave her a second run later in the day. This started with a point on a single bird left behind from a covey on the last dog’s run. She hunted on well, stylish and with good drive. She then indicated scent from quite a way off, roding in to firm up on point on a covey of 8. A promising little dog.