

NOVICE FIELD TRIAL - ASHINTULLY CASTLE

Judges: Mr P O'Driscoll (2132) and Mr C Gray (3223)

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Date:

23rd November 2016

General:

The trial took place wholly in the open on unimproved hill ground, characterised by dead white grass and rushes. Some of the rushes and grass were still quite high making it a little difficult to spot the dogs (on occasion), but in general the ground was perfect. Weather on the day started very cold and frosty with a light North wind, whilst the wind did firm up slightly and the sun warmed us up a bit, the ground remained cold throughout the day. Every attempt was made to run dogs in to the wind and in this respect Mr 'Bob' Connelly our steward of the beat did an excellent job not only keeping us on good ground but also in game all day.

Scent appeared fair for the most part although it was obviously more tricky when the vegetation was taller, effectively killing the light wind. Game was predominately pheasants though we did see several snipe and hares as well as two woodcock.

Whilst scent appeared reasonable it was still a difficult day with the ground being frozen hard and the wind light if predictable. Not easy for Novice dogs and unfortunately most went by the wayside including some very promising young dogs. The two dogs which did make it to the water showed true grit in facing what was a very cold river for a short but worthy retrieve.

Results:

1st Not Awarded

2nd Not Awarded

3rd Not Awarded

4th Not Awarded

CoM **Tournesol Iolanthe**
White Noise

Brit M Hirst
GSP C Graham

Judges Critique

Tournesol Iolanthe

In her first run this bitch showed great skill and expertise in getting round some flighty skittish birds in very cold, clear and quiet conditions. She was very careful and this care was rewarded with a staunch point and production of a hen pheasant. The bird was subsequently shot with the dog steady throughout. The dog then made a reasonable job of the retrieve though the delivery was a little less than ideal. She hunted on and had a further point but failed to produce, the bird perhaps having made off.

Her second run whilst more expansive than the first was perhaps a little unconvincing, she had a couple of 'empty' situations and appeared distracted by scent left by a couple of roe deer that were present on her beat. Other than this the second run was blank. The water test was duly completed in good order.

White Noise

Conditions were similar as for No.1 and again this bitch handled them well with maybe a little more verve. She covered her ground well until we lost her in some high grass/rushes, a hare was viewed and at first we thought that the dog was pointing or had dropped to the hare. Further investigation however found the dog solid on point to a cock pheasant which was flushed and subsequently shot. The dog was steady and was sent for the retrieve which was completed adequately but not in an ideal fashion. She completed her run at a regular pace with good ground treatment.

Her second run was in more clement conditions with a steady breeze over open terrain. It was a pity but she never seemed to open up in this second run and did not find any further game other than a hare that she was steady to, though a little distracted at the recommencement of her run.

The water test was completed in a satisfactory fashion.

Conclusion

On behalf of Peter and myself I would like to thank the German Shorthaired Pointer Club for the opportunity to judge this trial on what was excellent ground for HPRs.

I should also like to thank Peter for his excellent company, we both thoroughly enjoyed our day immensely. We saw some very nice dogs and there is no doubt that on another day we may have seen a good few more dogs at the water.

Special thanks should also be given to 'Bob' the keeper who went out of his way to ensure the day went smoothly and rose to the challenge at the last when it looked like our 'water test' was going to be sabotaged by ice.

Good luck to all the competitors for the remainder of their season.

Chris Gray