

OPEN FIELD TRIAL - BURNCASTLE, SCOTTISH BORDERS

Judges: Mrs M Nixon and Mrs P Pickstone

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Date:

3rd November 2016

Weather Conditions:

For the most part, a dull overcast day, temperature between 5° and 7° although not feeling cold, a very light wind (at times barely a breath) constantly shifting direction.

Scenting Conditions:

Mostly tight, often low to the ground

Type Of Ground, Quantity and Species of Game:

This is a fine HPR ground on the edge of moorland, with heather, reed beds, bracken beds, white grasses. It houses grouse (not to be shot on the day however), pheasant, snipe, hares. Game was plentiful, although it took some time to get into the better inhabited areas. Game behaved as one would expect on this type of ground, creeping among the roots and generally leaving little trace of themselves, or running among the bottom of the bracken beds and defying dogs' efforts to pinpoint and hold them.

General Standard of Work and Handling:

We tend to say that these sorts of days are difficult because dogs cannot simply hunt the ground widely and freely but must demonstrate abilities above and beyond even before they get to the productive point and retrieve – good gamefinding (an absolute), exceptional care, managing game found, partnered by the handler being scrupulous in ensuring that all areas are covered and ground and game worked appropriately – for example, managing situations when dogs run into game, or cannot hold the game but simply track after it, without any thought to guns or ground or anything else. Those who failed in one or more of these respects, failed overall. HPR work is after all, complex and many faceted, and on this day and on this ground, all those facets needed to be brought into play.

Results:

1 st	Wamolanghaar Tash	GLP	Kirkby
2 nd	Not Awarded		
3 rd	Ribble Amber	HWV	Blackledge
4 th	Trubon Flysse Trevice	Wei	Burton

Judges Critique

Wamolanghaar Tash

A clean, steady but free-flowing and wide hunting dog, missed little or no ground, was 100% true to the wind, quietly and confidently handled. No game on his first run, came onto a snipe in his second, the bird lifting as the dog came to it, no chance to point, snipe was shot and retrieved, and only came into game on his third, pointing and producing a pheasant at the end of a bracken bed, holding true as another bird bounced out of the same spot, the shot bird was then retrieved with care and gentleness. This dog exhibited all the characteristics described under standard above – a class piece of HPR work.

Ribble Amber

Dog's first run was on rising ground with a fence at the top of the beat. Came quickly into game in reed beds, two solid and productive points, two quick retrieves. Had the opportunity to hunt more freely on the second run, although without result this time.

Trubon Flysse Trevice

Possibly a little too tight and steady in her hunting, this dog redeemed herself by an absolutely stonking retrieve on her second run. Being worked along a wall side, a bird lifted as she came to a clump of rushes, she then pointed its fellow sitting in exactly the same place, the bird was flushed and shot landing over the wall and then ran up the moor side and along a fence. The dog tracked the bird some 600-800 yards up over the moor, was sent back after one long effort, and this time came back with the bird. Brilliant piece of work.