

NOVICE FIELD TRIAL - FORD, NORTHUMBERLAND

Judges: Mrs M Nixon and Mrs P Pickstone

By kind permission of Lord Joicey. Sponsored by Rodger Skinner Ltd, Dog Food.

Date: Friday 4th November 2016

Weather Conditions:

Bright day, temperature about 6° all day, reasonable amount of wind.

Scenting Conditions:

Variable, low to the ground in the boggy areas, fairly tight overall.

Type Of Ground, Quantity and Species of Game:

Another superb HPR ground, wide and open but with marshy areas, extensive bracken and gorse beds, slopes and hillocks, and generally demanding great attention to detail. On this day, game was scarce, with snipe, and some pheasants, plus a single woodcock. There is a largish pond towards the top of the ground, with duck rising off it at the slightest excuse but these were no more than a distraction. The trial ended working hedges and a piece of ground cover to get dogs into game not evident on the main ground.

General Standard of Work and Handling:

Was generally pretty good, with dogs hunting at a pace and distance appropriate to the ground, relatively quietly handled for the most part, and handlers taking the ground with caution, as it deserved. Some work on a back wind which was a pleasure to see. Some handlers however tended to send their dogs back into areas already worked, not the best strategy, others were clearly puzzled about how to take the ground to best effect. The scarcity of game meant that some did not get into the awards, a pity.

Results:

1 st	Sigourney Celeste	GSP	Card
2 nd	Ivan du Domaine Saint Herbert	HWV	Blackledge
3 rd	Witham Friary Detroit	GSP	Hughes
4 th	Not Awarded		
CoM	Claddagh's No Hard and Fast Rules	GWP	Russell

Gun's Award - **Claddagh's No Hard and Fast Rules**

Judges Critique:

Sigourney Celeste

Left cheek wind on first run, took the ground apart, masterclass. Second run into wind, both runs blank. Ended running a hedge to get into pointable game, pheasant shot into wet rape, tidy and clean retrieve.

Ivan du Domaine Saint Herbert

Careful dog, had bracken beds and areas of significant cover on his first run, indications but no production, still running in cover on his second, found and pointed and then delivered the shot bird, all steadily done.

Witham Friary Detroit

Hard working dog, running bracken out at the top of the ground, cock pheasant shot and retrieved on first run, point and production on second. This dog had an area of fast moving birds but kept his head, maybe not as polished as some but good to watch.

Claddagh's No Hard and Fast Rules

A problematic first run for this dog, in tall bracken above the pond, held a point for possibly 5 minutes deep in the bracken but without production. Second run was blank, 3rd run was along a well populated hedge and this dog finally showed something of his spirit as he hunted hard but tight, passed the bird, went back, point and production, with decent retrieve. This partnership will be interesting once it has gained experience and polish.