

OPEN FIELD TRIAL - STOW BARDOLPH

Judges: Mr P Bakewell and Mrs S Allerton

by kind permission of Lady Rose Hare of the Stow Estate. Sponsored by Skinners Dog Food Ltd

Date:

31st January 2017

Weather conditions:

Cold and cloudy with a stiff breeze

Scenting conditions:

Appeared to be good

Type of ground, quantity and species of game:

Flat fields of rough white grasses and bracken beds bordered by ditches, tracks and forestry strips. Plenty of pheasant and woodcock seen, although dogs had to work hard to find these in the open.

General standard of work and handling:

A high standard in general, most of the dogs that got a run had had sufficient experience and training to handle the conditions. However, some handlers struggled either to maintain control without noisy handling, or lacked awareness of the changing wind conditions.

Results:

1	Tournesol Inox	Brit (d)	Mr Paul Bennett
2	Zoldmali Szarka	HWV (b)	Mr Paul Bennett
3	Jaudas Heartbeat	LM (b)	Mr & Mrs O'Connell, handled by Mr R Major
4	Not Awarded		

Judges Critique:

Tournesol Inox

This dog's first run took place in a rough area of bracken and gorse on the edge of a wood, with a tricky quartering back wind. The dog hit foot scent in the gorse and indicated strongly, but with the wind at the dog's back the handler wisely decided to call him off to hunt the beat correctly. Nothing was produced. Crossing the forestry track into the edge of the wood, the dog came on point into wind at a pile of brambles, holding a cock pheasant and flushing it on a single command. Unfortunately, due to the position of the following gallery, the gun was unable to shoot the bird. Asked to run on, another bird was produced and the dog was steady to shot, but the bird flew on. His second run took place in a very productive field of white grasses with a strong head wind. He was brought up initially for a blind retrieve on a pheasant produced from the previous dog's run. This was carried out with minimal commands and the dog brought the bird soundly to hand. Asked to run on the dog quartered with a good pace and style, finding and holding on point a pheasant in the open grasses. The flush, shot and subsequent retrieve were carried out without fuss. An all-round excellent performance, the dog totally in tune with his quiet and sympathetic handler.

Zoldmali Szarka

This dog was drawn 8th Reserve in the draw for the trial - it just shows you that even that far down the list you can get the chance to run. Her first run took place in dense white grasses that needed to be hunted with care in order not to miss birds tucked in. She worked well, hunting with drive and reacting to scent, initially having 2 unproductive points in the dense grass before drawing onto "hot" scent and pointing a hen pheasant sitting tight. This was shot and retrieved nicely to hand. On her 2nd run she was handled across a deep ditch to hunt a rough corner at the other side. She found a pheasant and held it on point until the guns got in position. The handler was able to get her to flush from the other side of the ditch, she was steady to the bird being shot and executed a matter of fact retrieve to hand. She was very close up to the winning dog in the standard of her work, the only difference being that the Brittany was able to show his skill on a blind retrieve, whilst both this dog's retrieves had been marked off her points. Again, very quietly handled, a good partnership between handler and dog.

Jaudas Heartbeat

Her first run in dense white grasses showed really good drive and style. Responsive to the handler, he managed to get her to cover all areas of the beat, but she had a blank run. Her 2nd run started with a blind retrieve on a cock pheasant produced from the previous dog's run. This was carried out skilfully. She was then asked to hunt on in wet, reedy rough ground that was holding a good few birds. She came on point, but was a bit "sticky" when asked to flush for the guns, needing a couple of commands to get her to move the hen bird. She was steady to shot and effected a good retrieve to hand.

The water retrieve: all of the final 3 dogs were asked to carry out a blind retrieve on a diagonal across the corner of a large lake. We awarded Best Water Retrieve to the 3rd placed Large Munsterlander.

Certified that there was sufficient game to test all the dogs.

Our thanks for the success and enjoyment of this trial are due to all those who helped to organise it and particularly to the Stow Estate Gamekeeper Nigel Davis, the guns Andy Chatfield & David Winsor, Keith Paige with his picking-up dog and the GSPC Field Trial Secretary Janice Hawkes.

Stevie Allerton