

# DRUMOCHTER GROUSE POINTING TEST

Judges: Suzi Burton and Darryl Elliot

By kind permission of Lady Nickson and Mr Alistair Finlay

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> April 2017

## Gradings:

### Excellent

Rina II vom Entenpfuhler Forst Of Huw lindragon Handler - J Tunley

### Very Good

Essen Nazia Razzmatazz GSP Handler - A Hamilton

### Good

Culdrein Annys	HWV	Handler - R Buchan
Quintana Cloud Berry	GSP	Handler - P Nixon
Jhebrons Haven	GSP	Handler - R Hall
Zoldmali Hera	HWV	Handler - P Williams

## Judges Critique:

We were privileged to spend a day judging HPRs at Drumochter, on this well stocked and prestigious grouse moor. Many thanks to our Hosts, Lady E. Nickson and Mr A. Finlay, for their continued support of the GSPC and HPRs. We were also grateful to the Field Trial Secretary, Janice Hawkes, for inviting us to judge and for organising the day, supported by Mick Canham. Thanks to Gina Canham for the lunches, Margaret for keeping us all under control and of course Duncan, the Keeper, for having a great understanding of what the dogs required and directing us to a part of the moor that had a perfect density of pairing up Grouse. It was helpful that there were no animated cock birds distracting the dogs, which can be challenging, especially for the Juniors. The ground was such that we couldn't walk into wind so we had an occasionally changing left cheek to diagonal cheek/back wind on the way out to Loch Ericht for the 9 Juniors, turning back on fresh ground on mainly a right cheek wind with the 5 Adults.

## Junior Group

### Rina II vom Entenpfuhler Forst Of Huw lindragon. Handler J. Tunley

This bitch hunted with pace, ranging well when required in varying wind and terrain and altering her pattern accordingly, all done with very quiet minimal handling. She touched scent and briefly came on point twice on the left flank, and then impressively carried on working downhill and behind her, tracking off the wind briefly, before skilfully and carefully relocating the moving grouse back in to wind, in a very stylish and staunch point. This precise piece of work was topped off with a beautiful production and complete steadiness. Working on, this was followed shortly after by a firm and low point on what turned out to be a hare, which she produced enthusiastically with the handler behind her, and immediately dropped on the flush. Stunning work. Graded **EXCELLENT**.

### Culdrein Annys, HWV. Handler R. Buchan.

This bitch was first to run and had a difficult bit of ground with hollows and rises with an unpredictable wind swirling round the contours. A single grouse lifted, followed by a snipe at the beginning of the run at no fault of the dog. The handler worked her into the cheek wind on the left flank and she hunted with purpose and drive and was handled well, resulting in a reward of a productive point on a single grouse at the bottom of the hill. The young bitch was hunted on and did point some residual scent a little farther on which may have been the second of the pair which had already departed. Graded **GOOD**.

### Quintana Cloud Berry, GSP. Handler P. Nixon

This one-year-old GSP bitch ran third, hunting with lots of drive and requiring handler input to keep her in the desired area. She flash-pointed a single grouse near a mound, remaining steady, then recast and produced its pair from behind the mound. Hunting on into the left cheek wind, the bitch stopped to a hare, then finished her enthusiastic run with a productive point on a hen bird up a slope nearby, remaining steady. Graded **GOOD**.

### Jhebrons Haven, GSP. Handler R. Hall

At just a year old, this GSP bitch was the youngest dog on the day and was stylish and pacey in her work. She came on point into the left cheek wind, soon in her run. The handler approached sideways on, causing the pair of grouse to lift, although the dog remained steady. The handler worked hard to keep in touch with this keen youngster and the bitch did demonstrate a careful approach when around scent. She was rewarded with a stylish point and production on a second pair, remaining steady throughout. Graded **GOOD**.

## Adult Group

### Essen Nazia Razzmatazz, GSP. Handler A. Hamilton

Working a tricky back/cheek wind and uphill after the turn away from Loch Ericht, this dog was the third adult to run and proved to be a stylish and reliable game-finder. He hunted with minimal input from the handler. After finding a cock bird early on, the dog went left handed and out of sight to the handler, but on reaching the top of the hill we could see the dog on point to the right of the beat, in a very stylish manner. A pair of grouse lifted as the handler caught up with the dog, but the dog remained steady during this find and flush. Running on, this dog showed his experience and was rewarded with a second point on a pair of moving grouse which he acknowledged several times before pinning them down to finish a very solid run. Graded **VERY GOOD**.

### Zoldmali Hera HWV. Handler P. Williams

This bitch ran with passion and slowed her pace to a staunch point on a pair of grouse early in her run but didn't quite pin them down and they lifted to the side of where the bitch was pointing. She ran on with lots of determination and was found to be on a stylish point on a backwind, over the brow of the hill and at a good distance from the handler. She remained rock steady on the long approach and flushed enthusiastically on command. Graded **GOOD**.

Suzi Burton and Darryl Elliot