

FULBOURN POINTING TEST

Judges: Nigel Cox and Jim Bird

By kind permission of Mr Allan Bullen

Date: 15th April 2017

Gradings:

Very Good

Sutchest Fraser	GSP	T Bird
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Good

Zoldmali Aniz At Genlusa (Imp Hun)	HWV	I Wearing
Stubblemere Beauchamp	GSP	T Wignall

Weather: Bright with warming sunshine

Wind: Light with changing wind direction

Scent: Good

Crops: Wheat

Game: Partridge and Pheasant

Fulbourn is a jewel in the crown ground on which to run HPR's for a spring pointing test. Large open grounds of cereals with a very healthy dusting of paired partridge. Every dog young and old had the chance to strut his or her stuff across the pure green fields of wheat at a decent healthy height to hold game for the dogs. The wind on the day was slightly changing in direction but in the main we set a course ahead and both myself and co judge Nigel Cox enjoyed our day together judging. We had a large group of juniors and we felt in the main that inexperienced handlers and dogs committed a few minor offences that could easily be rectified with training. I think it is important to say or at least remind people that we must maintain our dogs as hunting dogs. You might ask what I mean by that and to explain I mean a breed of AIR scenting dogs designed to hunt the wind with pace and style. There is an ever growing trend to keep our hunting dogs short to the handler, slow with little enthusiasm to hunt and find game. They should work with the handler, nose and head up, but without the constant need to stop and look around at the handler for instruction. We risk our wonderful HPR breeds descending into little more than a breed in the UK that walks along a hedgerow with its head on the ground pointing whatever it comes across.

Juniors

Stubblemere Beauchamp

An impressive looking male GSP quite clearly built to hunt and he wasn't about to disappoint. Sometimes you can just tell with some dogs that they can and will "do it". He set off with a decent head of steam covering his ground with enthusiasm, checking scent early on it was clear this dog had a nose that worked and he quickly came onto point, indicated the bird was moving, and the partridge flushed of its own accord. We ran him on a little but he was showing signs of being just on the edge of controllability. Graded **GOOD**.

Adults - Judged by Nigel Cox and Janice Hawkes

Sutchest Fraser

This male GSP attacked the ground to good effect. On his first run there was no game to be found but he quartered fast and wide. On his second run he pointed a pair of partridge. The birds flushed as we approached and the dog remained steady. All in all an impressive performance. Graded **VERY GOOD**.

Zoldmali Aniz at Genlusa

A very pleasant HWV covering her ground with decent pace and good head carriage. Her first run was blank but on her second run she worked a nice pattern spoiled by the constant stop start looking for direction instead of a flowing run into wind without stopping. She soon came onto scent, stopping, and with encouragement went forward to staunchly point a pair of partridge. Graded **GOOD**.

Our thanks go to the GSP Club for the kind invitation to judge this Spring Pointing Test and also to the host and all who helped make the day a success.

Nigel Cox and Jim Bird