

THRIPLow FARM ESTATE POINTING TEST

Judges: Penny Pickstone and Alix Johnstone

By kind permission of Thriplow Farm Estate, Brigadier Dellor and The Thriplow Farm Syndicate

Date: 29th April 2017

Very Good

Hawkwise Berkutchik Brit W Tyler

Good

Sutchest Fraser GSP T Bird

Judges Critique

Thanks go to the Thriplow Farm Estate, Brigadier Dellor and the Thriplow Farm Syndicate for their permission to hold this Spring Pointing Test on their ground. The dogs were worked on several large fields of wheat around the farm. On the day we saw 4 Juniors, all GSPs; and 12 Seniors – 5 GSPs, 2 Weimaraners, 2 Brittanys, 1 Large Munsterlander, 1 Hungarian Vizsla and a Bracco Italiano.

The wind was very light and variable with a couple of junior dogs having a complete 180p change to cope with. The extended period of dry spring weather had resulted in almost drought - like conditions with cracked ground and a short crop. Consequently, progress through the fields was noisy, and birds and hare ran on ahead.

Inevitably scenting conditions were very poor as scent dissipated quickly and the light wind dropped to minimal. Despite the extremely difficult conditions, every dog tried its utmost to find its quarry but, for various reasons, could not be graded. We were able to give two adult gradings:

Hawkwise Berkutchik handled by **Mr W Tyler**

This **Brittany dog** immediately impressed us with a measured and efficient pattern of working resulting in very competent ground treatment. He had the advantage of a more consistent wind but was unlucky to have a blank run. With 20 yards of starting his second run he pointed staunchly and a pair of partridge was produced. Graded **VERY GOOD**

Sutchest Fraser handled by **Mr T Bird**

This **GSP dog** hunted with a mature careful style and a good pattern. He coped well with a wind change from head on to coming onto our right cheek, and covered all the ground on his beat. The dog indicated directly ahead, moved on carefully, indicated again and pointed positively. Two partridge rose in front and the dog was steady. Graded **GOOD**

Our thanks to the GSPC for the invitation to judge the day and to Janice and Roz who looked after us with lots of coffee and lunch; and for their efficient stewarding through the day. We were also indebted to the 'keeper Mick Webb who gave up his day to take us round the farm and ensured that all the dogs had an opportunity to work birds. Lastly, thanks to the competitors for their patience on this difficult day.

Alix Johnson