

# OPEN FIELD TRIAL - BURNCASTLE, SCOTTISH BORDERS

Judges: Mrs S Allerton and Mr S Robson

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**Date:**

2nd November 2017

**Weather Conditions:**

Dry and breezy

**Scenting Conditions:**

Good

**Type Of Ground, Quantity and Species of Game:**

White grass, rashes and heather, with grouse, pheasant and partridge.

**General Standard of Work and Handling:**

Very good.

**Results:**

|                 |   |      |                                 |
|-----------------|---|------|---------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | <b>Tournesol Heriot at Bryantscroft</b> | Brit | Handled by Mr Rory Major        |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Not awarded                             |      |                                 |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | <b>Stubblemere Evanesco</b>             | GSP  | Handled by Mr Mick Canham       |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> | <b>Ribble Amber</b>                     | HWV  | Handled by Mr Adrian Blackledge |
| CoM             | <b>Redsky Rambler</b>                   | HWV  | Handled by Mr Lorne Bunn        |
|                 | <b>Hourra du Domain St Hubert</b>       | HWV  | Handled by Mr Geoff Saint       |

**Judges Critique**

**Tournesol Heriot at Bryantscroft**

This dog started its run on the hill, quartering the head wind with style and pace, soon indicating scent and drawing on to a staunch point. Asked to produce, grouse lifted but were missed. Working on, the dog hunted through sieves on the left of the beat and, in the difficult terrain, managed to locate and hold a cock pheasant. Produced for the waiting guns it was duly shot and retrieved tenderly to hand.

His second run was on a back wind in sieves and white grasses. A pheasant lifted that was not able to have been pointed way out on the left flank. The dog was steady to the bird, which was shot by one of the right hand guns, making for a 150+ yard retrieve, made all the more difficult as the bird had landed in a narrow water-filled drain. Both dog and handler persisted to successfully find the bird, once again delivered soundly to hand. Water work was satisfactory.

**Stubblemere Evanesco**

Hunting white grasses/sieves up a small valley, working on the right hand side the dog took us up and over the bank to indicate, point and then flush on command 2 pheasants, that were not shot.

Her second run was on a back wind on bracken banks, white grasses/sieves. She hunted wide with good pace, indicating scent and drawing on to a bird that was on the move. This took us a long way to eventually hold on point. The was steady to shot after the flush of a cock pheasant, and completed a nice retrieve to hand. Water work was satisfactory.

**Ribble Amber**

The first run was on a back wind on white grasses/sieves/rashes, deep enough at times not to be able to see the dog. Handled very quietly, she went on to indicate a bird, a cock pheasant lifted, was shot and pricked. Sent for the retrieve, the dog took a line out from the point of fall to some 200 yards away, to locate and finally pluck out of the air one very lively pheasant. A great retrieve.

On the dog's second run, again on a back wind on white grass, she was indicating scent but not able to pin the hen pheasant on point. The bird lifted, was shot and a nice retrieve was completed.

A third run, into wind this time on a bank side, saw the dog quartering the ground nicely, to come on point in the middle of the beat on a cock pheasant. Producing on command, the bird was shot and a competent retrieve carried out. Water work was satisfactory.

**Redsky Rambler**

The dog worked into a head wind on its first run, on white grasses and sieves with birds running on in front, resulting in unproductive points. He was finally able to point and hold a cock pheasant and completed a simple retrieve to hand. In the second round, working a back/cheek wind in sieves, he eventually came on point towards the corner of the field. A pheasant was produced but unfortunately wasn't shot. Water work was satisfactory.

**Hourra du Domain St Hubert**

The dog's first run was with a back wind in long sieves, but there were no birds on her beat. Her second run took place on white grasses/sieves, again on a back wind, where she pointed and held partridge. She flushed on command, was steady and carried out a nice retrieve on a lively bird. Water work was satisfactory.

Our thanks for the success and enjoyment of this trial are due to all those who helped to organise it, particularly to The Duke of Northumberland, the Head Keeper Craig Dickman, Chief Steward Janice Hawkes, and the guns, Peter, Stuart and Sean.

**Steve Robson**