

NOVICE FIELD TRIAL - FORD, NORTHUMBERLAND

Judges: Mrs S Allerton and Mr S Robson

By kind permission of Lord Joicey. Sponsored by Rodger Skinner Ltd, Dog Food.

Date: 3rd November 2017

Weather Conditions:

Fine, with a good breeze.

Scenting Conditions:

Good.

Type Of Ground, Quantity and Species of Game:

Bracken banks, birch scrub, heather, gorse and open boggy ground, holding snipe and pheasant.

General Standard of Work and Handling:

Variable. Some potentially good dogs let down by not retrieving to hand.

Results:

1 st	Not awarded		
2 nd	Jaguar du Domaine St Hubert	HWV	Handled by Mr Rory Major
3 rd	Merle Haggard	GWP	Handled by Mr Geoff Saint
4 th	Not awarded		
CoM	Parhelis Irulan	Wei	Handled by Mr Adrian Morgan

Gun's Award - **Floh von der Wielervelden**

Judges Critique:

Jaguar du Domaine St Hubert

This dog started its run at the back of a pond on an elevated piece of ground with open birch woodland and bracken. A pheasant lifted on the edge of its beat and was shot, landing a long way back down the track near to where the gallery were waiting. The dog was handled back to the point of fall and the lively cock bird retrieved to hand. Working on, the dog soon came on point. When asked to flush a hen bird lifted, was shot and subsequently retrieved soundly to hand.

The dog's second run was on challenging terrain with gorse and bracken beds. Pointing into a thick clump of gorse, when asked to produce, two hen pheasants flushed and were both shot. A good retrieve was executed high up in the gorse banking on a lively hen bird. Water work was satisfactory.

Merle Haggard

The dog's first run was on a very bitty piece of ground with white grasses, bracken and gorse, but the dog worked the ground well. A cock pheasant lifted from the wire fence side, not giving the dog the opportunity to point. He was steady to the flush and shot but there was no retrieve, unfortunately.

His second run was on open white grass interspersed with clumps of gorse. The dog worked the back wind with pace and good ground coverage. Although indicating residual scent on several occasions there were no birds on his beat.

A third run in open rashes and thistle proved more fruitful. Working well with birds running on in front, he eventually produced a bird that was shot and landed out in the open, completing a nice retrieve to hand. Asked to work on, he soon came onto staunch point, producing the bird on command and was steady to shot. This bird landed the other side of a high barbed wire fence. We deemed the retrieve not to be safe and instructed the picking up dog to retrieve the bird afterwards. Water work was satisfactory.

Parhelis Irulan

Her first run was in open boggy white grass that held plenty of snipe. Working a cheek wind, the dog had a tendency to pull towards the far left of her beat. Although indicating where snipe had lifted from, nothing more was found on this run.

The second run was along the river bank in some rough cover. Towards the end of her run the dog pointed through the fence into a large clump of nettles. A positive flush on a cock bird resulted in an excellent shot from the gun, with the bird landing in the river. A very competent retrieve to hand completed the dog's run. Ironically, the water retrieve at the end of the day was not done with as much confidence as the retrieve from the same river earlier, nevertheless it was completed to our satisfaction.

The Michael Joicey Memorial Trophy (The guns' choice) was awarded to Jason Hudson's Korthaals Griffon, **Floh von der Wielervelden**.

Our thanks for the success and enjoyment of this trial are due to all those who helped to organise it, and particularly to the host, Lord Joicey, his 'Keeper Gareth, the Field Trial Secretary and Chief Steward Janice Hawkes, and the guns Mick Canham and Peter O'Driscoll.

Steve Robson