

# NOVICE FIELD TRIAL - DRUMOCHTER, INVERNESS-SHIRE

## Judges: Mr Peter Bakewell and Mr Phil Ross

by kind permission of Mr A Finlay and Mrs E Dysdale. Sponsored by Rodger Skinner Ltd, Dog Food.

### Date:

20th October 2014

A lovely day to be on a quality Scottish Grouse Moor, this venue provides our club with great opportunities to train and test our dogs throughout the year, an exceptional privilege to say the least.

### Weather conditions:

A dry overcast day with moderate temperatures and a steady breeze which would occasionally turn on our backs, but generally a head or cheek wind was presented to all 12 dogs.

### Scenting conditions:

A team of 4 guns from the dark side (spaniel & retriever trialers) did not disappoint, putting the birds on the ground without fail, resulting in a 10 brace bag for the day.

### Type of ground, quantity and species of game:

The ground for the trial was a well managed hill with ample area to be worked, Red Grouse, Snipe and Ground Game were available during the day. The guns were asked to shoot any game that presented a safe shot, be it from a point, a dog working a scent or game unexpectedly lifting. The game taken was entirely red grouse which was well spread across the hill and predominantly taken following flushes from points.

### General Standard of work and handling:

Twelve dogs ran, with all having game on their beats, a lack of steadiness was the predominant downfall during the trial with 5 dogs running in, the runs concluded with 3 dogs being taken to water.

### Results:

1st	<b>Jhebron's Crachin</b>	GSP	Daryll Elliot
2nd	Not Awarded		
3rd	Not Awarded		
4th	<b>Fly to Tournesol</b>	Brit	M Hirst
CoM	<b>Trudvang Skuld</b>	GWP	P Burdess

### Judges Critique:

#### Jhebrons Crachin

This dog ran number 8 and was brought in to retrieve a bird remaining from the previous run. Without hesitation and following a perfect display of dog control the bird was collected and retrieved to hand. The dog worked on and gave a flawless demonstration of hunting, ranged well, covered the ground with pace and style, firmly responding to the minimum of handling when required. Whilst hunting on the right of the beat a solitary bird lifted from the extreme left and was shot. A mark to the handler and the dog was sent the full width of the beat and directly to the area indicated, a brief search followed by a perfect retrieve ensured this dog would be in front of us again. On the second run the dog repeated a display of excellence and secured a solid point which was well held while guns were positioned, despite two shots at a breaking bird the dog did not flinch from its point, a definite flush with immediate drop and steadiness was crowned with another quality retrieve.

A well executed water retrieve secured top honours for this dog, without doubt the best at the trial, and may I say, one to watch out for in the future.

#### Fly to Tournesol

Running number 5 and taking the ground at pace, this was a stylish Brittany and well handled. On the first run one bird lifted ahead, was shot and retrieved. The second run was predominantly on a cheek wind which the dog handled well, covering the ground with pace, eventually secured a point and flushed a covey, two birds were shot and both retrieved to hand. A good water retrieve completed the day and secured the 4<sup>th</sup> place awarded.

#### Trudvang Skuld

Running number 3 this dog was brought in to retrieve a bird from a previous run, a vague mark from the gun and it was sent for the retrieve. The dog secured a solid point beyond the indicated area, guns were brought in, a bird was flushed to command and shot, steady throughout with a retrieve to hand freed the dog to return to the original task and another clean retrieve. On the second run the dog made an immediate find, was steady to shot and fall before being sent for the retrieve. The dog opted to point the fallen bird and took several commands to encourage a pick and retrieve on what transpired to be a very alive bird. Completion of the water retrieve completed the day and resulted in a CoM.

My sincere thanks to The German Shorthaired Pointer Club for inviting me to Judge at this stake, a thoroughly enjoyable and rewarding day from watching quality dog work and handling on quality ground with an ideal distribution of game.

Special thanks to the Hosts for supporting the trial, Team of Guns for excellent shooting, Steward of the Beat/Keeper Duncan for presenting us with quality ground, Margaret Hamilton for Stewarding, Leslie Shaw for taking on the task of RED FLAG, and not forgetting my co-judge Peter Bakewell.

A delightful day ended with the traditional Scottish Group hospitality, as always very much appreciated by all.

**Phil Ross.** (NP3420)