

# NOVICE FIELD TRIAL - DRUMOCHTER

Judges: Mr C Gray and Mr D Elliot

by kind permission of Lady Eira Nickson and Mr A. Finlay. Sponsored by Skinners Dog Food Ltd.

**Date:**

Wednesday 15th August 2018

**Weather Conditions:**

Mainly dry with a gusty breeze

**Scenting Conditions:**

Appeared difficult for some dogs but other managed well enough

**Type of ground, quarry and species of game:**

Open hill, Red Grouse and Snipe

**The general standard of work and handling:**

Moderate, dogs went out for basic mistakes and faults.

**Results:**

There were no awards or CoMs

**Critique:**

Firstly, a huge thank you to Lady Eira Nickson, Mr A. Findlay and headkeeper Alisdair Lyon for supporting the GSPC with what is simply perfect ground. Underkeeper Rourridh directed us to an area of moor where grouse were at an ideal density for the trial, so many thanks to him for that. Also many thanks to the guns who shot superbly.

There were no awards given on the day but Chris and myself did see some good work from both dogs and handlers.

The majority of the dogs were tripped up by acknowledging scent in the head wind, drawing forward on it to then bump the birds up, this would have been a mixture of conditions and inexperience on the dogs part. We will never know everything about scent and it continues to be something our dogs never stop learning about. Also a few of the dogs had the opportunity of a retrieve but found the warm game difficult to bring back to hand tidily. These young dogs just need a little more exposure in the field and with the right guidance which I am sure will perfect this. When areas of our dog work don't go the way we hoped it's a great way of highlighting the bits we need to work on. We saw some promising young dogs that in the future will I am sure progress very well.

Certified that there was sufficient game to test all dogs.

It was a pleasure to judge alongside Chis and learn from his wealth of experience.

Thank you to the GSPC for the invitation to judge this trial, to Margaret for keeping us all under control and as always everyone involved with the after-trial food and refreshments, a very enjoyable day.

Our thanks for success and enjoyment of this trial are due to all those who helped to organise it and particularly to the Head Keeper Alisdair Lyon, Steward of the Beat Rourridh Matheson, Chief Steward Margaret Hamilton and of course the hosts Lady Eira Nickson and Mr A. Findlay