

# DRUMOCHTER GROUSE POINTING TEST

7th April 2019

Judges: Mick Canham and Luise Janniche

By kind permission of Lady Nickson and Mr Alistair Finlay

Another wonderful day on the grouse moor at Ralia estate on the Drumochter beat with kind permission from Alistair Findlay & Lady Nickson.

We set out with a nice, light headwind and overcast sky, but dry. It was very cold from the start and difficult scent was expected.

## Juniors

### Very Good grade:

We graded one of the five juniors Very Good. This was **Tomduchallan Merkel**, GWP, handled nicely and quietly by Jane Harley. This dog ran with great enthusiasm and found game despite the cold conditions. She was nicely connected to her handler and a joy to watch.

## Adults

In the Adult group the standard was formidable. We graded six dogs.

### Good grade:

**Quintana Blae Berry**, GSP, handled by S Symmers. This dog was worthy of a Very Good, but a couple of mistakes reduced her grading to a Good. She ran with great enthusiasm covering the ground, but when she put in a very long beat, she bumped a bird that we felt could have been pointed. However, she sat to the flush all that way out, which was impressive. She will certainly find game on moors with scarce density and she produced a perfect point on a pair. Tempted by a hare scent, she missed ground with birds, but then settled on a point with a single hen. A really good hunter that just missed the Very Good grade.

### Very Good grades:

**Jhebrons Talasigo**, GSP, handled by N Haigh. This dog took your breath away. A big, stylish dog with the perfect combination of drive, yet careful with a sensitive nose. At this stage there were plenty of birds and they were moving a lot, so not an easy task for this dog. Yet, he produced three precise points with perfect flushes. A no-brainer Excellent, but then he suddenly pointed a pair and took off to flush on his own. We were forced to give this excellent dog a Very Good grading, but he is fabulous.

**Leif vom Vasserschling**, GSP, handled by C. McDaid. Another big, impressive dog. A very stylish dog with a sensitive nose. He produced a point on a single bird, rock solid at 30 metres and also a nice point on a pair. A great hunter missing nothing. His only downside was maybe his sensitivity bordering on hesitation and quite sticky for flushing as the handler had to encourage him a lot to move in.

**Stubblemere Abbess**, GSP, handled by C Kenney. A good hunter, perhaps not with the most impressive ground treatment, but she produced a point on a single bird in deep heather and had another point just off the pair, which had clearly moved. A nice, keen gamefinder.

### Excellent grades:

**Ipor von der Wrangelsburg**, HWV, handled by R Buchan. This dog had everything! From the start he was totally hunting for his handler and with speed and accuracy in finding the game. An impressive and athletic dog. Systematically covering the ground and missing nothing. When he found his birds, he was still working with his handler through brief eye contact. Perfect flush and steadiness. Very well earned grading.

**Etlantis Browning**, HV, handled by C Hill. What an end to the running order! This was virtually a pet dog taken to his first ever spring pointing test and what a surprise! He set off at full speed as if he was running along a ruler perpendicular to the wind about 130 metres either side of the handler. One peep on the whistle turned him when needed. He missed nothing and produced his first point on a pair. He scented the birds, stopped, relocated slightly and waited for the flush command. After the flush he carried on in same style till he got scent and then sight of a cock bird sitting up. Again, solid on point and was able to be sent for the flush on the handler's command at 20 metres distance. Great performance. It would be nice to see this dog at a field trial.

Judges: Mick Canham (A) and Luise Janniche (NP)