

NOVICE FIELD TRIAL – DRUMOCHTER

Judges: Mr P Howard and Mr M Muircroft

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

Date:

Wednesday 14th August 2019

Weather and scenting conditions:

Bright with a moderate wind and the scenting conditions were good.

Type of ground and game:

The ground was typical for a high ground Scottish grouse moor with both grouse and hare being present. We did stress to all competitors at the start of the day how fortunate we were to be allowed on the moor during this period of Grouse preservation. The guns were instructed, quite rightly, to shoot adult birds only, and handlers must not expect birds to be shot off their dogs point unless the guns were certain young birds would not be shot in the process. It turned out that the guns were accurately selective and retrieves were sufficient to create a competitive staple for all entrants.

Results:

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|-----|---------------|
| 1 st | Ipor von der Wrangelsburg | HWV | Ronnie Buchan |
| 2 nd | Not awarded | | |
| 3 rd | Not awarded | | |
| 4 th | Not awarded | | |
| CoM | Culdrein Annys | HWV | Ronnie Buchan |

Judges Critique:

The withdrawal of number 4 would leave 11 dogs in the stake.

Ample game was there to provide a good first round, unfortunately three of these were eliminated for failing to retrieve a live grouse from a burn and four more were eliminated for missing game, running in or damaging game.

Four dogs would continue to the second round where two were eliminated, one for failing to retrieve and the other for damaging a bird. Numbers 7 and 10 would go forward to the water test

Both these dogs completed the test without fault with number 10 being the bolder and more competent of the two.

The following awards were given;

Ipor Vd Wrangelsburg. Hungarian Wire-Haired Vizsla. Very well handled by Ronnie Buchan.

First Run was blank with birds away before the dog could point, no birds shot. On the bitches second run, using a cheek wind coming off the hill perfectly she come onto birds, pointing staunchly and producing on command, thoroughly steady and producing correctly for the guns to put a bird down which was quickly retrieved to hand.

Water was efficient

Culdrein Annys. Hungarian Wire-Haired Vizsla. Also handled by Ronnie Buchan.

This dog found a single bird which was not shot in the first round then went on to point a covey of young birds where once again, due to the restrictions on shooting, the adult birds could not safely be picked out by the guns.

A bird which was not pointed was shot in the second round for the dog to complete his card.

Water was efficient.

Overall this was an excellent stake run in good scenting and weather conditions with a good standard of dog work and handling.

Many thanks to the GSPC for the invitation to judge, To Alasdair Lyon, head keeper for accepting us on a preservation basis, and his assistants, Chief Steward Una Russell, Margaret Hunter for providing excellent food and drinks and of course the hosts Lady Eira Nickson and Mr A. Findlay for allowing us to use their excellent moor for the betterment of our dogs and finally, to all those who helped to organise it.

Peter Howard – 2172 (A Panel) and **Bill Muircroft** – 3610 B Panel