Bristol & West Working Gundog Society NOVICE FT – Upton Pyne Estate, Devon

Held on 7 December 2023 by kind permission of the host, Mr Paul Bowyer

Judges: Mr Stephen Kimberley (A Panel)

Mr Peter Szalai (B Panel)

A trial to be remembered as most of us were soaked to the last bit of clothes, but thankfully it did not affect the performance of any of those 12 dogs who participated on the day. Needless to say, it was raining all day combined with some wind what helped the dogs on this glorious ground to find game where on this occasion they mainly gathered in the hedges and wooded areas of the shoot alongside gullies and ditches full of water. All dogs still covered significant open spaces as well and it is fair to say that they all done a great work and made it feel like we were not judging a Novice trial but some higher-level event with Steve Kimberley A panel judge. Every dog and handler got opportunities to experience and enjoy an HPR rough shooting scenario during their runs with the help of 4 experienced guns alongside themselves who we were all thankful to for their contribution to provide us with plenty of retrieves during the day. We did see some great dog work from all but were happy to place 6 competitors at the end of the day with the following awards:

1st place - Fennslane Guiding Star (GWP), Jayne Herbert

2nd place - Fomala Fidelis (GSP), Samantha Bowden

3rd place - Evagrove Limited Edition (GSP), Sonia Sloan

4th place - Jakestar Bluebell (GWP), Wendy Keating

CoMs: Ynyslas Easy Peasy (GWP), Ian Jones

Archenfield Islay (HV), Nick Lambert

I would like to say thank you to BWWGS for the invite and the work they put in to make the day happen and to Steve Kimberley, the guns and Paul for the guidance along the ground all day, and of course the helpers and competitors to make the day go swiftly. Enjoy the rest of your season.

Peter Szalai