Bristol & West Working Gundog Society AV HPR **Open Field Trial** on Grouse held at **Castle Nook, Alston, Cumbria** on Saturday 2nd September 2023 by kind permission of Mr Phillip Marsh

Judges – Mr Lee Loveridge (3307 A Panel) and Mrs Harriet Lampart (3886 B Panel)

The trial took place on open moorland on a beautiful, warm sunny day with a gentle breeze. The dogs were mainly worked into a head or cheek wind.

There were ample birds to test all the dogs although they were always on the move which proved to make for quite a challenging day.

The trial ran with a full complement of 12 dogs, six of which went through to the second round with three dogs in the awards.

1st – Zoldmali Tarlo, HWV owned and handled by Mr Geoff Saint

First run: The dog was cast out on a headwind and quickly took a line on the lefthand side of its beat. It drew forward to a staunch point, holding for a good minute while the handler and guns were able to reach it. The dog lost contact with the bird which lifted to the left and flew on. We swung right uphill hunting the dog on. As we came over a brow, the dog again came on point, but the birds lifted before the guns could get into position.

Second run: The wind was now a slight cheek wind from the right. Before the dog was cast off, a large covey was seen lifting ahead. The dog acknowledged the scent and carefully worked on through it ultimately coming onto a staunch point. A bird lifted, flew low and was shot about 15 yards out. The dog was steady before making an efficient, unfussy retrieve back to hand and was picked up.

3rd – Cadanbyrig Maestral, GLP owned and handled by Mrs Annie Jones

First run: This GLP bitch was cast out into wind up a hill. It hunted with drive and determination pausing to acknowledge 4 birds away to the right of its beat. It hunted on again and came on point but was not able to produce any birds, however we could see birds lifting ahead. It was brought round to cover the lefthand guns where it indicated a pair of grouse which were both shot landing close together. The dog was sent and retrieved the first bird to hand. It was sent for the second bird and after some time located it and retrieved to hand.

Second Run: Running a cheek wind now, the dog soon pointed a covey of grouse, none of which were shot. It was hunted on but found no more birds before being picked up.

Guns Award – Ch Raycris The Temptress, LM handled by Mr Rory Major

Many thanks to Mr Phillip Marsh for hosting us on this fantastic moor, thanks also to the guns, steward, picking up dog and red flag for helping to make the day run so smoothly. And of course, thank you to The Bristol & West Working Gundog Society for the invitation to judge.
Last, but not least, thank you to my A panel judge, Lee Loveridge for his support, knowledge and good company. Harriet Lampart