Bristol & West Working Gundog Society - Novice Stake – Kemble Estate, Gloucestershire

Held on Wednesday 18th October 2023

Judges:  Jennifer Hurley (2598)A

​ Louise Holmes (3885)NP

The ground was a mix of stubble fields, hedgerows, cover strips, plantation and open woodland. The weather was mild around 13 degrees with a slight NE wind and light rain from around 10am. This Novice Stake was contested by a good variety of HPR breeds 3 GSP, 3 GWP, 2 HWV, 1 HV, 1 LM, 1 GLP and 1 Wei.

The day commenced with a minute of silence in respect for Mark Taylor who was a great ambassador for the KG breed and a valued friend and member of the Bristol & West Society.

Results

3rd Ynslas Decision Maker at Clackhill (GWP) Handled by Jonathan Holmes

COM CH Crumpsbrook Bayleaf Von Rulander (LM) Handled by Matt Smith

3rd - Ynslas Decision Maker at Clackhill

This dog ran number 1 in the card.  It’s beat was a large stubble field with a hedgerow on the left hand side and a grass strip on the right hand side bordered with a wood. The wind was from the left. The dog cast wide taking on the width of the field with purpose and pace working with it’s handler. The dog came into some scent on the grass strip and slowed unfortunately a pheasant lifted before the dog had the opportunity to point, it did however indicate where the bird had been near the feeder. The dog then continued its run until asked to pick up.

The dog’s second run was in a small open wooded spinney, the dog quickly came out of the spinney and pointed into the hedgerow, held until it’s handler was able to get to her, to command a flush. The bird moved and the dog kept with the bird until the hen pheasant was flushed through the other side of the hedge. The dog was steady while the hander walked through the hedge to ask the dog to retrieve. A mark was given by the gun and the dog retrieved this efficiently.

COM - CH Crumpsbrook Bayleaf Von Rulander

This dog ran number 8 in the card. It’s beat began in a grass belt covering the lefthand side of plantation with a slight wind from the left. The dog worked steadily covering both the grass belt and inside the plantation. No game was found on this run.

The dog’s second run was in open woodland with areas of thorn bush and bramble. The dog located and pointed a cock pheasant which quickly lifted, due to the trees it was unable to be shot. The dog continued working the heavy cover and was rewarded by a loose hen pheasant lifting and being shot. The dog marked this well, was asked to retrieve which it did well through the heavy cover.

It was a really enjoyable day and I would like to thank Jennifer Hurley for her support and guidance during the day, Ray Davies, Sue Wagstaff and Bristol & West Working Gundog Society for the opportunity to judge this event, The Kemble Shoot for the invitation to The Kemble Estate, Simon Blackman and Graham Thompson for their support throughout the day, Sue Wagstaff Chief Steward, the guns Mark Spearing, Neil Spearing, Mark Firmin and Howard Kirby, who all shot really well. Catriona, Alex, Linda and Sarah for supporting the day with picking up, red flag and game carrying.

Louise Holmes