

Bristol & West Working Gundog Society  
All Aged Stake at Ammerdown Shoot, Radstock

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019

Judges: Rita Dockwray (2245)A  
Louise Holmes (3885)NP

A mixture of ground with woodland, hedgerows, rough grass, plough and open grass fields. All the dogs had an opportunity on pheasant.

The weather was a dry day with cold variable light winds that warmed as the day went on.

This All Aged Stake was contested by a good variety of HPR breeds 4 HV, 4 GSP, 1 GWP, 3 WEIM.

#### Results

3<sup>rd</sup> Hunterstone Rhea HV handled by Shirley Mattravers

4<sup>th</sup> Berridale Vesta of Riffmuir GSP handled by Ali Learmonth

#### Hunterstone Rhea – HV (B)

This dog ran number 12 in the card. Its beat was open woodland with a tail wind. The dog hunted cautiously and soon came onto point unfortunately this was un-productive. As the dog continued its beat a bird was shot outside the wood the dog was steady to this and was asked to continue working the beat. As we approached the end of the wood a bird lifted off wind and was shot outside the wood. We came out of the wood onto an open grass field to complete the retrieves, the first bird was 40 yards down a fence line a hen bird that was retrieved nicely on command. The second was a hen pheasant in the open field, a little further than the mark so required more assistance from the handler.

The dog's second run was on a hedgerow with a water-logged ditch, a head wind. The dog hunted with drive and purpose covering both sides of the ditch having to pull forward out of the handler's sight at times. A cock pheasant lifted from the ditch, this was shot but ran. The dog was quickly sent for the retrieve, it took the line out of sight of the handler and returned with the bird and delivered to hand.

The third run continued this ditch/hedgerow then into a rough area of high grass and wood. The dog covered the ground well and was rewarded with a point in the high grasses. She produced on command, was steady to the shot but was unable to mark the bird as it was shot around 80 yards out of sight. She was sent for the retrieve and needed assistance to get to the area. The cock pheasant was retrieved to hand.

The water was a large pond with a gradual entry of soil and stone, the dog completed this well.

Berridale Vesta of Riffmuir – GSP (B)

This dog ran number 3 in the card. Its beat was initially heavy woodland with thorn bushes which became less covered towards the end of its run the wind was from the left. The dog hunted with drive but occasionally out of contact with the handler. The dog came onto point and held until the handler got to her, flushed on command the bird was shot outside the wood, they were asked to continue to complete the beat. We came to the edge of the wood overlooking an open grass field to complete the retrieve. The hen pheasant bird was retrieved 20 yards in front of the handler this was closer than the mark given.

The dog's second run was in heavy woodland with thorn bushes, the handler kept contact with the dog which came onto point, unfortunately this was unproductive. The dog continued and quickly locked up on a bird, flushed on command and was steady. The cock pheasant was shot outside the wood in an open grass field. The dog was taken to the edge of the wood to complete the retrieve which was 30 yard in front of the hander.

The dog was then brought in to retrieve a hen pheasant on a stubble field this was 30 yards in front of the handler, the dog completed this well.

The water was a large pond with a gradual entry of soil and stone, the dog completed this well.

I would like to thank Rita Dockwray for her support during the day, the Bristol & West Working Gundog Society for the opportunity to judge this event, the guns who shot really well, Lord Hilton and Mr Richard Taylor for the invitation to Ammerdown Shoot, Jon Roberts the steward of the beat, and everyone who assisted, it was a thoroughly enjoyable day.

Louise Holmes

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