

BWWGS OPEN FT DEVON

06.11.19

Thanks go to the BWWGS HPR Committee and FT Sec. Ray Davis for an excellent day; to the host for this superb ground where birds were available in sufficient quantities throughout the day for every dog.; to the guns who put the birds on the ground; the picking up dog - whose services were not required on this occasion - and to my co-judge Mark Spearing, with whom it was a pleasure to judge.

Terrain: Mixed game cover and roots

Game available: Pheasant.

Conditions: Dry day, low temperature, wind slight, scent condition mixed.

1st and Guns Award: Rory Major's Jaguar Du Domaine Saint Hubert at Bryantscroft HWV dog.

For his first round the dog was immediately brought in for a retrieve on a bird downed from the previous handler's run. The bird was seen to run through the stock fence some 50 yards down the field. The ground was sparse mixed game cover and the dog took gentle handling to the fall. He picked up the scent trail which took him over a stock fence into a wooded area without the need to be asked again. The dog made the pick-up and appeared further down the field looking for a way out. As it was deemed a hazard to jump with a bird the handler was allowed to get down to an area of fence, where the dog waited patiently and the handler got took the bird to hand. He was run on in a field of roots into wind. A bird lifted early on the far right of the beat, down from the gun on ground yet to be covered, this was not shot. The hunting was thorough and quietly done. The second run started in roots with a diagonal back wind and again where a bird had come down from a previous handler's run and thought to be near a hedge. As this was well into the ground the dog was asked to work up the field initially then brought in to make the retrieve. With positive handling the 40-yard retrieve was made. After turning the corner into a cross-wind the dog located and came on a staunch point close to and facing the handler. The handler stood off the dog and commanded to flush which he did and was steady to shot and fall and made the retrieve on command, making a full HPR. He worked on in good style and pace before being picked up. The water was satisfactorily achieved. The runs showed the dog and handler were at one with each other in a good partnership. Everything the dog was asked to do he did.

4th Lucie Huster 's Irish FT Ch Aytee Juniper GSP bitch.

The first run was on mixed sparse game cover with a cross wind from the right. The dog indicated that the ground contained a lot of scent. The dog covered the beat well at pace. Two birds flushed voluntarily early, along the far-left hand side of the beat along the fence line. These were acknowledged by the dog but not shot. A brief unproductive point followed in the middle of the field. Further birds were located along a wall on the far left but on the wrong side of the wind for the dog to hold but again acknowledged. She worked on and came on point into the field. The bird was a distance off the dog who edged towards a positive point and flushed on command. This was brought down for the dog, who was steady, to make a competent 30-yard retrieve, making an HPR. The second run was in roots on a cross wind, an uncomplicated run. Again, the dog attacked the ground, and achieved another HPR. A satisfactory water retrieve was made.

COM Shirley Mattravers's Hunterstone Rhea HV bitch.

The first run, in roots with a cross wind. The dog attacked the ground and ran the wind well but was unfortunately on the wrong side of the wind for the first and second birds that lifted unprompted, but acknowledged, one of which was shot. The dog was steady and made the 25-yard retrieve to hand. Running the dog on and some way off from the handler the dog had a staunch point but unfortunately the bird lifted too soon and was not in range for a shot. The second run in roots, this time a head wind, was unproductive. She made a competent water retrieve.

Judges: Christine Carpenter (B Panel) and Mark Spearing (A Panel)