

Bristol & West Working Gundog Society

All Aged Field Trial

Ammerdown, Somerset

Monday 7 January 2019

By kind permission of Lord Hilton & Mr. Richard Taylor

This trial took place on a grey, winter day which remained dry despite the dark clouds. The first part of the trial took place on open fields of rape and mustard which allowed all the dogs to show their style, pace and drive – an excellent opportunity for the judges. Dogs through to the second round then had to adapt to a totally different terrain – a steep sided, and sometimes very deep, gully with a stream and varying degrees of cover. Scent appeared to be good throughout the day, with a gentle breeze from the south west. Pheasant, hare and woodcock were seen.

A **Second** place was awarded to **No. 8 Morsebeck Patch** handled by **Lee Loveridge**. This GWP dog showed very keen hunting on its first run in the rape going into and, then, across the wind. Unfortunately, the run was hampered by being near a busy road with regular traffic. However, he managed to indicate and then hold on point a bird on the left which was not shot. He then worked the right side of his beat which ran parallel to the road. To his credit he managed to hold two more birds which, unfortunately, flew over the road and houses and were unable to be shot. His second run was in the bottom of a stream bed with steep sides. The dog worked around a bramble bush on one of the edges when a bird lifted and was shot some distance away by a gun walking on the top of the banking. The dog made a quick efficient retrieve to hand with very little direction required from the handler on what was essentially an unsighted retrieve. A few yards further on a similar scenario occurred and the dog again completed another efficient retrieve. The water retrieve was very good.

A **Third** place was awarded the **No. 9 Lightening Lottie** handled by **Huw Kirby**. This GSP bitch hunted in a field of mixed mustard and white grass on a backwind. She had several indications on residual scent but her run was blank. On her second run she hunted the stream gully and woodland with drive and enthusiasm. She was following scent in some laurels in a very steep section, when a bird got up and was shot on the far side up into an open field on the crest of the bank. After climbing out of the gully she was sent for a simple blind retrieve which she completed easily. On her third run she held a staunch point in some brambles, which she flushed and was steady to the fall some way over the stream and along a field edge. She made a good retrieve. The water retrieve was very good.

Fourth place went to **No. 7 Hunterstone Uno** handled by **Mac Mattravers**. On her first run this HV bitch lacked some drive or desire to get out in the cover despite running a headwind. She did move steadily and had several indications on scent which were non-productive. She then showed a little more pace coming on to a stylish point producing a hen pheasant which was shot. She was steady to the fall and made a good retrieve. On her second run in the stream bed, she became a different dog and really attacked the ground. She has a very strong indication on the edge of the stream and was persistent with her indication. She then managed

to pick a pricked bird from a previous dog's run, that had come down in the gully and tucked itself under the bank. Further along she was indicating round a fallen tree and brambles, when a bird lifted. It was shot across the gully and up the hillside; she made a good retrieve. The water retrieve was very good.

A **Certificate of Merit** was awarded to **No. Tickencote One Way Ticket** handled by **Una Russell**. This GWP dog hunted his ground with some enthusiasm and speed. It turned on the right side and immediately a bird got up under the dog's nose. It was steady to the shot and fall and made a satisfactory retrieve. Hunting further out on the left side of the beat another bird got up from close by and was shot the far side of an electric fence and hedge. The fence had been disconnected but the dog and handler were eventually taken through to the next field where the dog made good a blind retrieve. On its second run the dog hunted a steep bank with trees and bracken coverage where it came on staunch point. An enthusiastic flush produced a cock pheasant which was shot, and the dog made an efficient retrieve down the bank. The water retrieve was very good.

The **Guns Award** went to **No 12 Sanjon en Maggi Mai Helwycwm** GSP bitch handled by **Simon Kirby**.

Our thanks go to the hosts for the use of this lovely ground with an abundance of birds throughout, and an excellent team of good-humoured guns led by Jon Roberts. There were several other individuals who worked hard to ensure a good day - red flag, pickers up and game carriers. We'd like to thank the Bristol & West Working Gundog Society for the invitation to judge; and to Ray Davies for looking after us so well. Everyone contributed to a fantastic atmosphere throughout the day. My own thanks to Jennifer for her patience and help.

Jennifer Hurley and Alix Johnson