

BWWGS FIELD TRIAL REPORT

NOVICE 04.12.17

Upton Pyne by kind permission of Nigel Partiss

The conditions on the day were dry and mild with the temperature around 8 degrees at the start of the day rising to 11 degrees. The breeze was very light and variable and on occasions in from the west off the open fields.

The terrain was mainly overgrown hedges with deep wet ditches edged with bramble and nettle which still stood high; large areas of dense reed grasses, boggy underfoot; a small field of game cover divided into thirds; a strip of wild mix, a rough grass and nettle area with game holding pockets and a strip of Sorghum which was avoided as dogs could not have been seen in it. The original ponds planned were found to be too shallow so retrieve were relocated to the fast flowing river Exe.

1st not awarded

2nd Drew's Firefrost Huntress HWV (b) Her first run was the field of cover crop edged on the right side with Sorghum and the left with rough grass and patches of nettle. The breeze was light and slightly diagonal from the left. She immediately came on point to residual scent in the cover but nothing was produced and the dog worked on. She covered her beat methodically with pace and drive. She came on a staunch point and held her bird well on the cover crop edge. She produced a hen pheasant on command which was shot; she was steady. She was brought out of the cover and made a competent 25-yard retrieve to hand down the edge line of the crop. A well-executed HPR. The second run was along the inside edge of a small narrow wood. At the end of the wood she indicated game in a very large, thick bramble bush; when encouraged she entered the bush and came onto a staunch point. When asked to produce she scrambled through the bottom of the bush and produced a hen bird that was shot some distance back into the wood; she was steady. We moved the dog and handler to a different position to give a better mark. With some handling the dog was put at the mark but the bird could not be located. The dog was then brought back down the wood and put on a blind retrieve of a hen pheasant previously shot. The retrieve was made from the wood diagonally across a ditch, then out along the wood edge to the corner of the field some 15 yards. She made a good retrieve to hand. A successful water retrieve was made in the flowing river Exe.

3rd Jones's Ynylas Bella Bee GWP (b) The first run was in the same cover as our 2nd placed dog. She covered her beat with enthusiasm and energy and at times it was difficult to see her run as the crop became thick and high. A bird lifted forward and this was out of range for a shot. At the end of the cover in a small wooded area a cock pheasant lifted ahead to her left out of a hedge and was shot. The dog was brought out of the wood to view the mark. The light breeze was coming from her right on the outrun and she needed some handling as she veered left; she responded well to make the 75 yards to the fall of the bird on the edge of a wooded outcrop which jutted into the field. She made a good retrieve to hand. A hedgerow started her second run which she weaved through. From a flash point a bird lifted to her right but flew low therefore, a shot could not be taken. She continued to hunt on from the correct side of the hedge for the wind, the other side to the handler. She was brought round the hedge to make a 50-yard retrieve on a previously shot bird, but came on a staunch point at the corner of the wood as we walked to the position for the retrieve; she was asked to produce the bird; she did and was steady. The handler was the given the mark out into the field of seedling crop and made a satisfactory retrieve. The water retrieve was successful

4th not awarded

COM: Suzanna Mills's Karrouki Windrush D'Lyla JW HV (b) The beginning of the run started with a light breeze in a patch of nettle and progressed along a hedge line. (Un sighted by me, a hen pheasant lifted was shot and my co Judge proceeded with the retrieve. - A panel input required here) The dog was hunted on through nettle and white reed grass with nothing further produced. The second run was along a wide strip of hedge (Un sighted by me, a further bird was shot. - A panel input required here). Whilst on her run a previously shot cock pheasant was located and retrieved to hand. The water retrieve was successful but the delayed entry to water led to the bird being taken down stream by the flow of the Exe.

COM: Suzanna Mills's Karrouki Windfire JW HV (b) A slight head breeze met this dog in the reed grass as she was brought in for retrieves from the previous dog's run. (Un sighted - A panel input required here). She was hunted on, a bird lifted well forward and was shot, the dog was steady. It landed across the hedge ahead. The handler and dog were taken across the two barbed wire fences to make the retrieve. She made a good retrieve 15 yards across the reeds to the base of a tree, this was brought tenderly to hand. At the start of her second run a cross wind took her round the top end of a wood where she came on staunch point and produced the bird on command. She continued to work in the top end of the wood but nothing more was produced.

Guns Award: Coshy Kimberley's Wamilanghaar Point Blanc of Caldera GLP (d)

I would like to thank the host Nigel Partiss, who provided a good steady stream of birds for the competitors, the BWWGS for the appointment, Ray Davies the Chief Steward for keeping the trial flowing, our superb guns for putting birds on the ground when required, Sarah Finch red flag for doing a superb conscientious job, Julia with her spaniel picking up dog who was employed on a few occasions and especially my co-judge Maureen Nixon who is was a pleasure to judge with. Not forgetting the competitors who took our decisions in good spirit.

Christine Carpenter (B-panel)

Maureen Nixon (A-panel)