Bristol and West Working Gundog Society

Open Stake Field Trial

4 September 2021

Nag Heads Moor Alston by kind permission of host Mr Phillip Marsh

Guns: Mark Firmin, Mark Spearing and Nick Baughn.

I would like to thank the Bristol and West Working Gundog Society for the appointment it was a pleasure to co-judge with Annie Jones, A Panel. Thank you to Ray Davies, Chief Steward, who made the day run smoothly and for his organisation, Leigh Miller with her picking up dog and to Skinner’s Petfood for their continued support.

Breeds in attendance: HV, GWP, GSP, GLP and Weimaraner.

Overview of the day. The ground was heather moorland, white grass, rush grass, with hags and bog areas. Weather conditions overcast, temperatures around 13 degrees with light breeze and occasional drizzle. Game species encountered: grouse and snipe. There were plenty of grouse to test the dogs with some large coveys. The birds were twitchy and lifting early, leaving heavy residual scent, on which some dogs lingered. Most dogs had the prevailing cheek wind, although this could vary during a run. Some handlers managed the wind direction better than others and helped their dogs accordingly. 11 of the 12 dogs were taken through to a second round.

**Awards: 1st Peter Howard’s GWP (B) Tickencote A Night Like This and winner of the Sonnenberg Trophy**

Running number 3, this bitch raised her game as the trial progressed. She started her first run with a cheek wind; the handler stood his ground and let the dog take on her beat with natural style, covering it well. It was a pleasure to watch. A covey was located and pointed staunchly but lifted early; the dog was steady. A shot could not be taken in range. She then

had her second run, again with a cheek wind, covering her ground with a sense of purpose. She had another good find and staunch point but birds lifted and were not shootable.  The dog was brought in for a long blind retrieve shot off the previous dog’s run. The retrieve was down a slope into a rush grass area, the breeze coming in from her right. She executed a superb out run taking a curved line to the left giving her the best advantage of the wind to locate the bird - a text book move. She made a quick find and clean pick up and quickly returned delivering the bird alive, to hand. On her third run she pointed a single bird which lifted out of range of guns Her second retrieve came off the previous dog’s run. This required a little more handling, again down a slope into reed grass the bird seemingly had moved away from the original mark and was harder to locate. The dog’s response to the handing was super and a successful capture was made and the bird delivered to hand alive, eye-wiping the previous dog’s attempts. Working on for a fourth run, she quite quickly came on to a staunch point and held it until the guns could get into position. The handler stood off from the dog, she flushed on command, three birds lifted one was shot and the dog was steady. This bird landed only 25 yards away and was a good test of steadiness. She retrieved on command bringing back the bird alive to hand. A perfect HPR finish. The water was satisfactorily completed.

**Gun Award, the Metford Plate; R Akopov’s GWP (D) Bruno Von Schwarcenberg handled by R Major**

Judges:

Christine Carpenter B Panel

Annie Jones A Panel