

## **FCRS 168th Field Trial Meeting - Novice Stake for 12 Flatcoated Retrievers**

Held on Wednesday 26th October 2016 at Norton, Nr Evesham, Worcestershire by kind permission of Mr Norman Onens.

The judges for the trial were Mr Steve Ashby, Mr Tim Shipp, Mr Stuart Robson and Mr Bruce Rose-Smith. The Chief Steward was Mrs Anne Sparkes and Steward of the Beat was Mr Norman Onens. The handlers and dogs were:

1. Mr R Willets' dog HUNTERSHEIM BLACK DART
2. Dr D Heywood's bitch HOUNDWOOD APHRODITE
3. Mr D Higgs dog FEATHER IN MY CAP AT HIGGSCROFT
4. Mrs V Wellfair's bitch TREPILIP RIVER ALCHEMIST
5. Mrs C Hewison's dog VENUS IN TRANSIT OVER CASBLAIDD
6. Mr R Lane's bitch MAHINDA MULBERRY JENNA OF SACHBASH
7. Mrs J Hewison's bitch CASBLAIDD TEA LEAF
8. Mr K Manley's dog LENYAM SOLAWAY
9. Mr A Sweeney's bitch NORFOLK FYLER ROSIES THORN OF WOLFHISTLE
10. Mr D Locking's bitch BLAKANIS WHKEN PIPPIN
11. Mr J Honsel's dog PERCUIL VANDERVELL
12. Mr C Jonsen's dog DONASCIMENTO PERES

### **Trial summary:**

The trial was conducted as a walk-up in small gently rolling fields of predominantly fodder beet with occasional strips of maize containing red and grey partridge and some pheasants. Twelve dogs commenced the trial, starting with four in the line with another four held in reserve in the centre.

The first field yielded only one bird, a runner but comfortably gathered by No. 3 at about 40m in front. After another period without any birds we then lost No's 4 and 5 from the line before No. 3 gathered a second retrieve, a straight mark at about 35m. No. 1 successfully gathered an 80m retrieve from across the front of the line but No. 2 was unable to locate an unmarked bird shot behind the line. No's 6, 7 and 8 failed on the same bird but it was unrecovered by the judges so all remained in. Another bird shot behind the line was successfully gathered by No. 2 at about 25m.

A bird shot in front was gathered by No. 1 but the return to hand was not clean. An unmarked bird was well picked in front by No. 8 which eye-wiped No. 6, then at a turn in the line a hen pheasant shot and falling in a hedge in a field corner was recovered by No. 10 but the dog was put out. A partridge shot on the right was recovered by No. 2, their second retrieve in the first round having spent over an hour in the line! No's 8 and 11 failed on a bird on the right but the judges were unable to locate it, then a bird was shot on the right falling in much shorter beet. No.12 failed and was then eye-wiped by No.3.

A bird on the right proved a challenge for several dogs but was unrecovered, then 4 birds were shot in a close group. No's 2 and 11 were sent but both failed to get in the area of the fall and the bird was subsequently found by the judges putting both dogs out. No. 9 retrieved the third partridge further back on the left. The 4th partridge had fallen at the edge of a hedge above a bank but despite some very tidy handling could not be found by No. 3, or by the judges. The line then reformed, a single bird was shot on the right at about 40m and was safely recovered by No. 3, at which point the trial concluded.

First place was awarded to Mr Higgs dog FEATHER IN MY CAP AT HIGGSCROFT. No other awards were made.

### **Closing comments by Judge Mr Steve Ashby:**

Firstly it is great that people are willing to come up and represent the breed on days like this as it makes it worthwhile. Just one thing I would like to say, it is such a shame from the judges point of view when so many dogs are being put out without getting a chance to show their retrieving. A bit more work on the heel work and the steadiness; these are very basic things but it would make

such a difference to your actual trialling; then you can start showing off the retrieving. There could be some wonderful retrievers out amongst you but we are never getting to see them because the heel work is not quite right. That aside, I like these days and they are good fun and all taken in good part so thank you and from the rest of the judges; well done!

**Images from the day:**



