All Aged Field Trial for HPRs

Near Horncastle, Lincolnshire 08/11/2017

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We all woke up for a sunny but very cold fairly windy day in Lincolnshire to run various breed of HPRs mainly in sugar beet and along the edges of those fields. Perfect ground for these versatile breeds to show us what they were bred for. I was delighted to see many different dogs and assess their ability considering the differences according to the breeds.

Many thanks to the Dukeries Gundog Club for inviting me to judge and also to Stevie Allerton for judging with me. Thanks to Rory Major for the ground and being our guide all day and also carrying out picking up duties. And obviously our safe,experienced HPR guns to give the opportunity to every dog to shine on their retrieve too.

All competitors got a fair chance on similar ground to get the best out of their dogs but only 7 dogs went through to the second run from that massive field of sugar beet. There were plenty of opportunities for every dogs to find point and most occasions retrieve the birds in front of them. Sadly a few made a major fault so had to be picked up. During the second run every dog and handler worked part of the field with a deep ditch on one side, which turned out to be holding plenty of birds. Unfortunately we lost most of the remaining dogs here because of various eliminating faults.

So we ended up with one, but a very good one, to do the water retrieve, a blind retrieve across a pond.My co-judge and I were devastated to see that dog fail the water but under the KC J Regs for HPRs we had to lose the last competitor too. This trial ended with no awards given out but the outcome in no way reflected the good individual pieces of work displayed by several dogs that in the end were unlucky and made an eliminating mistake.

Thanks to all the competitors,helpers FT secretary the Guns and everyone who helped the day to run smoothly and safely and made the most out of it in the field and as a social event also. I hope to see you all and your dogs in the near future in the field.