Dukeries Open HPR Stake

Rhug Estate

3 October 2016

Judged by: Phil Pearson, Nigel Dear

A fine, bright start to the day greeted the full card of competitors at the Rhug Estate, near Corwen, North Wales at the invitation of Mr Wayne Tuffin and Mr Chris Lockwood. The starting field consisted of 2 GLP, 6 GSP, 1 GWP, 1 Korthals Griffin , 2 Large Munsterlander. Commencing in a field of turnips with a light and variable wind, the first 4 dogs all had blank runs and the trial moved to another field of turnips of lower height, in a Questmore exposed aspect the warming sun promised improved scenting. Lucie Hustler’s Aytee Juniper provided a spirited demonstration of an almost textbook backwind pattern and was rewarded with a point. Unfortunately the subsequent failure to retrieve did not allow the initial promise to develop. Dymond’s GSP was lost to unsteadiness and Saynor’s LM to missed game. Canham’s Stubblemere Evanesco was working towards the end of the field which narrowed to a point. This yielded a concentration of game and the dog impressively kept its head in the midst of multiple flushes. On point, the bird produced to flush was shot but cleared the boundary fence falling into an adjoining field. The subsequent 50 yard retrieve was achieved. The right hand side of the field was now worked into a variable head/cheek wind, game was more plentiful but a number of dogs were lost to bad ground treatment which caused failure to point or for game to be missed on the beat.

With the first round complete, we took 5 dogs into the second round: the first 3 dogs of the day which had drawn blank runs – Pillinger’s GSP Witham Friar Dallas, Major’s GWP Hjortlunds Ekko at Bryantscroft, Kimberley’s GLP Questor Karson of Caldera as well as O’Connells LM Jaudas Heartbeat and Canham’s GSP Stubblemere Evanesco. The first 2 dogs were lost by missing game on the beat.

The field relocated again to a large area of mixed reed and white grass. Here, Kimberley’s GLP ran with great pace and style for some time, birds visibly running ahead of the dog which was finally rewarded by locating and holding a bird in a gorse bush. Steady to shot and fall, the subsequent retrieve was good. O’Connells LM and Canham’s GSP failed to retrieve a partridge at approximately 100 yards in plain sight on short grass. Kimberley’s GLP was called forward, made the fall with ease but the bird unexpectedly flew off.

We were pleased to award a 1st place to Questor Karson of Caldera, GLP, owned and handled by Steve Kimberley.

My co-judge and I would like to thank the Dukeries for the invitation to Judge, the hosts, Steward of the Beat David Pooler for which nothing was too much trouble and whoever was in charge of the weather!

Nigel Dear