**MEREVALE STAKE 27TH JAN 2017**

On a beautiful frosty & sun shining morning myself & my two helpers arrived at the trial ground just after 8am. As always, the atmosphere was nice and relaxed and after all entrants had registered we were underway with a drive behind Swanswood farm. With the dogs split among the judges on both sides of the wood the drive began. For such a late time in the season I have rarely seen so many birds in the sky. By the time the whistle went, some excellent shooting by the guns had left enough

Birds on the ground to complete the first round & most of the second. The second drive provided little so after a short break we moved onto the 3rd drive, once again the sky was full of birds & shortly after we were provided with dozens of retrieve opportunities. Here the judge’s selection of retrieves produced some outstanding dog work which left two dogs in contention. Alan Penney’s 3 year old bitch and Henrik Vilendal’s 9 year old dog.

The runoff retrieves selected were approx’ 50 yards away over a 4 foot post & rail fence. Both dogs made it look easy but after the judges had checked their books it was the older dog that had edged in first place. 1st H Vilendal 2nd A Penney, COM & Guns choice. D Sidwell.

Many Thanks to JASON DOUGLAS & HIS FULL TEAM OF BEATERS & GUNS for a super day. Also a big Thank you to my two helpers, Mick Newsam & Andy Kinta.

Final word from me…. A couple more helpers for next year…....PLEASE.

CHEERS GRAHAM