

**Dukeries Gundog Club  
AA Stake for HPR  
Over Whitacre  
06.12.11**

**by kind permission Steve Chetwyn, Larry Wilks and friends.**

Ground.... Open Meadow and Grass verges on former gravel pits with surrounding hedgerows.

Scent.....Started difficult, improving during the day.

Species....Pheasant, Snipe and Duck

It was evident that scent was poor from the start with several of the early dogs missing game with one dog failing on a fairly straightforward retrieve. Conditions did improve later as the temperature climbed and we were pleased to take six dogs to the water. Unfortunately three dogs failed, which was a disappointment to all concerned, as they had worked hard to reach this final hurdle. This left three dogs in the awards as follows:

**No.6 Saylor's LM Tarkanyas Spikey's Splendor**

Her first run commenced with a blind retrieve on a cock bird shot on the previous dogs run, which was completed with minimum fuss. Working on in open ground and adjoining hedgerow, she pointed a cock pheasant proving to be reluctant to fly, the dog working hard to produce the bird for the guns. This bird was not shot but the dog remained steady after the flush & shot. She hunted on with purpose pointed and produced a hen bird which was shot, being very steady to shot and fall she made light work of the retrieve.

In the second round, again working a hedgerow, she pointed and produced a hen bird which was shot. The bird fell out of sight into the ponds alongside, where she had no problem in dealing with the retrieve from water. Her work was first class, well-handled and an accomplished dog and handler. Her water was completed without problem and we were pleased to award a First prize.



Steve Chetwynd, 1st prize winner Karen Saylor & Di Arrowsmith

#### **No.8 Howard's GWP Tickencote Talk Tonite**

A positive and hard running dog, who worked with drive and enthusiasm. Starting her run along a hedgerow, she found and pointed positively on two birds tucked in on the edge by the ponds. One of which was shot with the dog made an adequate retrieve.

On her second run she displayed a more complete performance, with dog and handler more of a team. She had a lovely find on a hen bird which was tucked in tight in the hedgerow; the bird was produced cleanly resulting in a retrieve from water, (the bird being shot over a larger pond). This retrieve could have been better with the delivery being a little untidy. None the less, an exciting and promising young dog. Water was good and this dog awarded Second Place.

#### **No.9 Simon's GSP Swifthouse Crumble**

Asked to work open ground between the ponds, this bitch worked hard to find birds and at times lost contact with her handler. A bird was shot off the beat and proved to be a strong runner and despite her best efforts, proved to be elusive.

A second run in hedgerow was much more positive, resulting in a confident find on a hen bird. She was steady to flush, shot & fall, although made rather hard work of retrieving the dead bird from the ditch. Water was adequate. This bitch was given Fourth Prize.

We are grateful to the Dukeries for their kind invitation to judge and to Steve Chetwyn for this super ground to work on. Thanks also to the guns, Graham, Paul, Steve and Richard, all shot well [16 Pheasant 1 Duck] and to Chief Steward and Field Trial Secretary, Di Arrowsmith.

Jennifer Hurley and Larry Wilks Judges