

The Dukeries HPR Novice Trial
December 1st 2011 at Launton
by kind permission of Cliff and Madge Simons

The ground consisted of open woodland, plantations, hedgerows and strips of cover crops, birds were present but running on but all dogs eventually were tested on game. The day was dry and cool but overcast, wind direction and strength were changeable and scenting conditions were moderate to poor.

COM'S

Seehof Emma GSP b Robert Irvine

Her first run in a head wind was in sloping open woodland, thick bramble cover, thorn hedging beside a fenceline and then part of a plantation. The dog hunted with some determination but occasionally tended to bore too far away from her handler. A fox and 2 deer escaped out of the woodland while she was running. In the plantation the dog indicated birds were moving forward but she failed to locate. Her second run was in blank cover strip which she covered quite well and was in contact with her handler most of the time. Her third was again in a cover strip, her ground treatment was quite good as started to favour a hedgerow on the right side of cover. Here she staunch pointed, but when asked to produce, her birds were running too strongly along the hedge bottom for her to flush. Brought back into cover the bitch soon pointed staunchly again, produced and was steady to the flush of half a dozen pheasants, one of which was shot. This was marked and retrieved to hand.

Sigourney Sunbeam GSPb Peter Bakewell.

The bitch was asked to retrieve an uncomplicated blind on the edge of a plantation which she delivered to hand. She worked on in a cover strip where winds changed from cheek to head which she negotiated with ease. However her head carriage was very low at times and she tended to bore forward on ground scent. On her second run she was asked to retrieve a cock bird through an open gateway and then to the right which she achieved to hand with minimal handling. Her 3rd run consisted of an area of thistles, nettle beds and prairie grass. Birds were running in front and again she tended to track and indicate. She pointed a muntjac tucked under thick grass and remained steady when it ran, worked on she staunch pointed a single cock pheasant which was flushed, shot and retrieved to hand.

SGWC

Sh Ch Bareve Blaauboskom GWPb Sharon Pinkerton

She was asked to retrieve a blind of a hen pheasant on a grass field which she completed with the minimum of handling. The bitch was then asked to work an area of thick brambles, thistles, nettle beds and prairie grass. The bitch pointed in an area where a

muntyjac had lay so was called off and worked on. She hunted with determination, sometimes perhaps with a little too much but she then suddenly staunch pointed and produced four birds on command which lifted in front of her nose, one of which was shot. She remained steady throughout. She was picked up and asked to retrieve the cock pheasant which lay by the fence of a roundall which she did competently.

A Panel Judge Mark Firmin and I would like to thank our hosts Cliff and Madge Simons , with special thanks to the former for his game locating skills, the competent guns, Larry Wilks and Paul Bagnell , Di Arrowsmith for her excellent stewarding and lunch and to all competitors who accepted our judgements with grace.