



# YORKSHIRE RETRIEVER FIELD TRIAL SOCIETY

Est. 1911

Kennel Club Identification Number 1109



## Yorkshire Retriever Field Trial Society 2-day Open Stake at Swinton Park and West Tanfield on 23 & 24 October 2017 by kind permission of Lord Swinton (1st day) and Christopher Bourne-Arton (2nd day).

The Society held its 2-day Open Stake in October in what must be seen as a really good trial.

The first day, Headkeeper at Swinton Park, Gary, took us onto a part of the Swinton Park Grouse Moor where he could show a steady flow of grouse as we walked up in quite mature heather. Gary and three of his keepers were shooting very well and we were able to complete the 2nd round by 3:30pm. We saw some really good and consistent dogwork, good marking when the opportunity was there and good control and smart handling from the 11 dogs that made it through to the 2nd day. Apart from two pheasants and one rabbit all retrieves were grouse flushed and shot in their natural habitat. The winner put himself forward with some nice work and showed natural game-finding through good marking and a three-dog eyewipe all executed in nice style and under good control. All 11 dogs through were either clean and most carried some credit except one dog who carried a minus, however all would be able to, based on the dogwork on day two, win the stake. Day one was a fantastic start to what continued to be a memorable trial.



On day two held at the west Tanfield shoot, the trial moved from heather into fields of thick and relatively tall turnips surrounded by hedgerows. Headkeeper, Mick, who was also shooting was The Steward of The Beat and again game came to hand at a most appropriate pace. We could almost finish the 3rd round on two retrieves in the turnips. Cross retrieving as the norm but obvious runners would be picked straight away from the side where the bird(s) were shot. The main quarry here was pheasants and again some good marking and natural gamefinding were appreciated and rewarded in the judges' books. We were then offered to go into woodland and walk-up with a flowing river on our right. 5 out of 6 of the remaining dogs hence had a chance to be tried in water. We had lost a few dogs in round three and felt it would be right to take the remaining dogs to seven retrieves and then consider whether we had a good winner and be able to sort the other placings. As so often in trials if you maintain (demand) the right standard and give the dogs the best chances to shine the dogs will quite often work it out between them. So it was here in the concluding stage of the trial as well. The winner stayed clean and had its credit from day one and was indeed a lovely stylish dog to watch.

Congratulations to Paul Dukes (the winner) and to all the dogs/handlers in the awards. It was a privilege to judge this trial which I consider one of the best I have seen. The ground on both days, though very different were very well kept natural grounds. This meant that the dogs had the best opportunities to shine and demonstrate natural gamefinding ability. Good control would of course at times be important but the balance between the handlers' active assistance and the more natural dogwork is more to my liking on grounds like these.

We got on very well, my co-judges (Phil Askew, John Yarwood and Steve McDermott) and I and we all enjoyed judging this trial.

Thanks to the Society, especially Christopher and Samantha for looking so well after us.

Henrik Vilendal