



# YORKSHIRE RETRIEVER FIELD TRIAL SOCIETY

Est. 1912

Kennel Club Identification Number 1109

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## The Yorkshire Retriever Field Trial Society's held a 16 Dog All Aged trial at Duncombe Park on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2018 by kind permission of Lord Feversham.

The last time I trialed at Duncombe Park was about twelve years ago in a two day stake run by YRFTS with an amazing little Lab called FTCH Shadow-brae Mist but this time it was in a very different capacity as one of the judges. I was pleased to be part of a good team consisting of Stan Tweedy who's common sense kept us in check, Paul Hasney's outwardly calm approach, Tony O'Hare whose youthfulness & excellent fence jumping added to the mix.

I had met with the head keeper John Masterman & Guns earlier in the week so felt we all had a good handle on the day. Communication is the key & our field Trial secretary Samantha Whyte had done an excellent job in making sure every detail had been covered.

As always, the YRFTS is so well supported by committee members & helpers which of course contributes to a successful day.

We set off in the gun buses to a tricky bit of ground with stock fencing either side of a gully so it was decided that it would be best to run it under the "odds & even" system. This was made more complicated as we had two competitors with two dogs, one of which was an odd number & one of which was an even. Just relaying this is making my head spin a little so please bear with me. To add to the mix the weather was also against us as rain persisted all day.

We knew there would be plenty of game but as the competitors soon found out that also add to the complexity of the day. You know the score, partridge down send your dog but on the way out the pheasants just wanted to make their presence known. The dogs with less experience got rather distracted and as this was an All Aged Stake had to be called up.

We had a partridge shot quite a way out across the gully in some reeds but the first three dogs failed to make anywhere near the area. The last dog to be sent was Westmacott Gunner handled by Steve McDermott who made a very good job but failed to pick, so we dutifully went out to look for said bird. When we eventually got there we realised that it was a further twenty yards back so we decided to give the new mark to the dog that made the original area and it made a lovely job & picked. I was glad that we hadn't wasted a bird by picking it up and again we were all in agreement that it was only right to give the dog the opportunity to show its capabilities. We have all been in a trial where the bird has been picked from goodness where and all four dogs are gone. We tried to give the competitors the best opportunity, some of which made the most of it and some did not.

Once we got towards the end of the gully and whilst we were doing our books the keeper John who was out in an adjoining field shot two partridge which he said he believed could have run, so off we dashed gathering our dogs as we went. The first to be sent was Charlotte Jeffrey with Derrity Thor who made a very thorough & methodical job picking the bird. Unfortunately the other dogs were unable to find the second partridge but my co judges and I did!

Eden Parish with Salemasky Black Tulip made a very nice job on a running partridge that was shot down the other end of the line, making a very good job of the fall and following a perfect line on the bird until it eventually flipped it some twenty yard away. We then got into the hares, which most of the dogs that were tried showed their experience by picking cleanly and delivering to hand well.

Although there was only a first place given, which went to Charlotte Jeffrey's Derrity Thor, who showed his maturity by not being bothered by all the game, was always on the whistle and when left to it, hunted well. The Guns choice was well deserved going to Steve McDermott's Westmacott Gunner who again showed he knew his job and any gun I'm sure would have like him by their side on a shoot. The Best Retrieve of the day went to Eden Parish's Salemasky Black Tulip for her excellent job on the runner so all in all we had a good result. Special thanks to John Masterman and his team of guns for being so patient and always keeping in touch with the judges in making sure we were happy with the way the day was going.

**Philippa Williams (B Panel Judge).**