

### **WVRC Open Field Trial held at the Batsford Estate, 16th December 2024**

We held our 12 dog open field trial on Monday 16th December 2024 at the Batsford Estate, Moreton-in-Marsh, by the kind invitation of Lord and Lady Dulverton. We are extremely grateful to them for their very generous support, and for all the hard work that head keeper Matthew Farmer and his team and guns contribute to the successful running of the trial.

Thank you to our judges Paula Cullis, Steve Cullis, Laura Marsh and Reuben Mort, and all the others who worked so hard to make the trial run so smoothly - Chief Steward Iris Wright, judges' stewards Nicola Pointer and Jennie Dimmock, game carriers Steve Lax and Shane Gilliver, Red Flag Dale Pointer, markers Alex Cox, Tia Darby, Lisa Murrell and Luke Nightingale. Official picker up was Killy Pennell. I'd also like to thank Rachel Massey, my wing-person – having Rachel at my side makes all the difference as there is always so much to do! And thanks too to everyone who helped serve food and helped clear up afterwards. Great teamwork.

I'd also like to thank Phil Bruton, who gave up his day to talk through the trial to a group of aspiring trialers. We hope they will have the confidence and inspiration to take part themselves in the near future.

It was a very lovely day (thankfully dry and no stormy winds!) but driven trials are always cold so everyone was very grateful for the hot soup provided by Sarah Akehurst and the sausage rolls from Jean Tidmarsh. Thank you, Jean, too, and also Cherry Smith, for the cakes and Veronica Harris for the "goody bags" for people's pockets that kept them going through the day! They weren't all the same so I noticed some trading going on!!

Our grateful thanks go to the beaters, who put one superb drive over the guns, and well done the guns for taking full advantage of this generosity! It was wonderful to have plenty of birds, both pheasant and partridge, to complete the trial in that one drive.

Thank you very much too to our sponsors Skinners for the prizes, Sporting Saint for the vouchers for helpers (although some still prefer the wine option!!) and Angharad Durham (Canine and Equine Services) for the goody bags so our dogs forgave us when we got home!

#### **Results:**

Winner: Jarailstar Hogen of Stauntonvale, handled by Laura Hill

2nd Place: FtCh Skovagers Six Mile Woodcock, handled by Louise Munchaus Adsboel

3rd Place: Marstonprior Grenadier Of Wedgnock, handled by Steve Richardson

Louise also took home the John Jones Memorial Trophy for the Best Retrieve (Open) and Steve was awarded the trophy for Guns' Choice.

Well done the award winners and thank you everyone for the happy atmosphere today.

Photograph by Chris Lawrence of Earthdog Photography.

