

German Shorthaired Pointer Club Highland Group Secretary's Report for year August 2006 to July 2007

Our fourth year brought great success and some sadness. We were proud and delighted when one of the dogs in the Highland Group became a Field Trial Champion. The hard work and commitment of Mick Canham and Bess (Stubblemere Lunar Eclipse) was rewarded in January when Bess was awarded her fifth 1st place in a Field Trial to become the only GSP FTCH in the UK. This successful partnership achieved first places at the Lauder All Aged, Beaufront Castle All-Aged, Boythorpe Open, Canonbie All-Aged, and Little Dalby Open Trials. This is no mean feat involving long distances travelling down to England from the highlands of Scotland. Our congratulations go to Mick and Bess, and we wish them continued success. This has fired up other members of the group, and we have had a number of dogs entered into Field Trials. Kim Gillan achieved Certificates of Merit at Canonbie and Somerford Hall, a great achievement on her first two trials.

The Christmas season is traditionally quieter for the Highland Group as we do not meet in January. However our Christmas Party was not a quiet affair. Judi Franklin organised the night out at the The Newton Hotel in Nairn, and the evening was enjoyed by all. In February, training started again at Culbin and we were joined by a number of new members so the training was split into groups according to ability and experience.

In the Spring we heard the sad news of the death of Humphrey Greenwood, Honorary Secretary of the GSPC. Humphrey judged the Spring Pointing Test at Drumochter in 2006 and was due to judge again this year. Humphrey was always keen to visit the Highlands, and was a very good friend to the Highland Group. We will miss his friendship and support.

The Spring Pointing Test at Drumochter in April is becoming a fixture on the Highland Group calendar. This year's test had a good entry of 26 dogs with 13 dogs from the Highland Group. After the snow of 2006, the good weather of 2007 was enjoyed by the competitors but challenging for the dogs. The day was successful, and competitors and friends enjoyed themselves. There was one Very Good grading, congratulations to Luise Janniche and Grangewire Vermillion. Six Good gradings were presented, congratulations to Judi Franklin with Andsal Questa at Finncally, Jackie Hay with Kenmilquin Fraven, Toni Koczy with Stubblemere Ebony, Ronald Kennedy with two dogs, Hertzabruck Apollo and Hertzabruck Mercury, and Jo Tunley with Hertzabruck White Myrtle. Our thanks go to Mrs E. Drysdale and Mr Alastair Finlay for their kind permission to use the land at Drumochter for the test and for training, and to gamekeepers Alastair and Andy for their support and assistance. Our thanks also to the judges, Mick Canham, Tony Sellin, Catherine Sellin, and David Winser for their time and kind words and encouragement.

In April a number of members joined Mick at the Forestry Commission's Easter Event when they gave demonstrations of responsible dog ownership. This was much appreciated by the Moray Forest District and raised the profile of the Highland Group.

The Highland Group joined the Scottish Group for their Inter-Branch Working Test in June. The rubber duck has returned to the Highlands after a tremendous display by the Scottish Group. We will look after this award with care until next year's competition! Our members enjoyed the day, it was a very welcoming atmosphere and an excellent learning experience for us all. Alan Brown got 4th place in the Novice tests and Anne Johnson came 2nd in the Open.

German Shorthaired Pointer Club Highland Group Working Test
(Thanks to Colin for the following report, and for organising the Test)

Sunday the 14th July, we held the Highland Group working test, at Culbin, running two stakes, Puppy and Open, with 5 tests in each. Each test marked out of 20, total scores ex 100. Judges for the day were David Barrowman and Helen Gray. The day started off overcast with drizzling rain, however,

everyone felt sure it would "get out later". With heavy rainfall the night before, parts of the course had flooded, so with a little last minute repositioning, whilst the judges were introduced and score cards given out, we were able to start with the puppy class on time. With a short field of entries for the pups this year, the scoring was very close, with only single points separating the dogs. Phil Ross and Enryb House party at Clannliath, with a good first round score, kept just ahead to make 1st place with 88/100. Kenneth Williamson and Castlepoint Heather, making up points on the last two rounds, took second place with 87/100. Catherine Sellin and Allezweck Leafy Astor at Castlepoint just pipped into 3rd with 86/100. With the drizzle still coming down, everyone decided it was time for a warm cuppa and something to eat before starting the Open stake. Suitably warmed and fed and with the rain disappearing, the field of 14 started out. Again as last year, test 2, the hidden retrieve from the pen split the field. Tests 4 and 5 sorting out the top positions, First and second places going to the 2 most consistent and well handled dogs on the day. Anne Johnson and Maplehaze Strathisla, taking 1st place with 96/100. Kim Gillan with Calton Foxcub on Harris JW, just missing top spot with 2nd place and 94/100. Just sliding in at 3rd place Colin Franklin and Andsal Questa at Fincally with 90/100. With the rain ending and the sun making an appearance, the prizes were awarded and acknowledgements made by Mick. This year prizes being sponsored by Skinners. As always, everyone attending was coerced into buying raffle tickets. Thanks to everyone who donated prizes for the raffle. Thanks also to the judges for the day, Dave and Helen, for keeping it a competitive and sociable event. My personal thanks to Sam for help setting up and collecting the course markers and Fi, Dave and Phil for sterling work with dummies and launchers etc. The afternoon ended with a BBQ for the doughty few who remained.

Once again, members travelled down to Yorkshire for the Pointing Tests at Haworth, organised by the GSPC, and Alston, organised by the GSPA. This proved to be another successful weekend! Thanks to Toni for the following report:

Saturday 28th July, Haworth Moor - a bright but very breezy day.

15 dogs, all juniors - The Highland Group contingent - Colin, Mick, Toni, Alan & Robin

V.Good - Robin and Stubblemere Harlequin at Jhebron & Heathermark Chimes with Jhebron

Good - Mick and Stubblemere Black Magic, Colin and Andsal Questa at Fincally

The Witherm Trophy, for best handler at GSPC Field Trials was presented to Mick Canham with Ft. Ch. Stubblemere Lunar Eclipse.

German Shorthaired Pointer Club Pointing Test Trophy for 2006 was presented to Stubblemere Ebony handled by Toni Koczy.

Sunday 29th July, Alston Moor. Sunny, cold & windy at times

20 dogs

Excellent - Mick and Stubblemere Black Magic

V.Good - Colin and Andsal Quenella at Fincally

Good - Robin and Stubblemere Harlequin at Jhebron

The Scottish Group asked members of our group to join them at a Grouse Counting day in August at Dalwhinnie.

Vesa Numminen, Secretary of the National German Shorthaired Pointer Club in Finland, visited the Highlands last year to attend the Drumochter Field Trial and took the opportunity to join the Highland Group for a training session and our AGM. He has invited three members of the group to join him in Finland in September. We look forward to hearing from Mick, Robin, and Kim about their experiences.

Since its creation four years ago, the Highland Group has grown in membership, experience, and success. New members have joined the group and to ensure that everyone participates in a training sub-group for the correct standard, the trainers will issue each dog with a training logbooks. As dogs reach certain levels they will be presented with certificates to mark the completion of each training section and proceed through the schedule in a systematic and logical sequence.

Many thanks once again to trainers Mick, Colin, and Robin, to our Treasurer Lesley, and to our Entertainments (and successful raffle) organizer Judi.