The 2012 English Setter Association of America National Championship Field Trial

Photos courtesy of Cindy Findley and Trish James

October 16-21, 2012 saw English Setter enthusiasts come together at Branched Oak Field Trial Area, near Raymond, NE for the running of their 2012 National Championships. A very strong field of competitors was in attendance, from throughout the country. The efforts of the committee were well directed and the event was run in a very professional manner.

These events were not without challenges. Two key committee members were unable to attend due to health related issues. In their absence Cindy Findley, Larry Schwerdt, and many other club members stepped up and assumed the responsibility of running the trial. Their efforts were rewarded in the fact that everyone in attendance enjoyed themselves and the Championship went off without any major difficulties.

The Open Championship was officiated by judges Ken Windom, Gene Moseley, with judge’s marshal Jack Higgins. Their job of judging was somewhat hampered by increasing winds during the stake but the dogs were up to the challenge and many terrific performances were observed. The judges were to observe many strong performances and saw fit to award 3 dogs an Award of Merits along with the 4 dogs they placed.

1: Hideaway's Western Wonder (Luke), Owners: Corey and Melissa Ling, Handler: Ben Garcia
2: Roundabout's Call Me Bodacious (Bodie), Owners: Cathy Reifschneider & Tom Workman, Handler: Ben Garcia
3: 2X NAFC/FC/AFC Chukarhill Rimrock Ridge (Ridge), Owner: Cindy Findley, Handler: Cindy Findley
4: NFC/FC Fredrichs George Jetsson (George), Owner: Paul Fredrich, Handler: Dan Hoke
JAM: Chukarhill Soo Smooth (Arnie), Owner: Larry Schwerdt, Handler: Trena Cardwell
JAM: Too's Fools Chukarhill Pearl (Pearl), Owner: Jerry & Barbara Peltola, Handler: Trena Cardwell
JAM: FC Streek's Lil Maggie (Maggie), Owner: Donna Gibbons-Markey, Handler: Ben Garcia
Following on the heels of the Open Championship was the Open Puppy. A small but quality stake had been drawn to compete. Again the judges were Ken Windom and Gene Moseley All the puppies ran nice forward races, showing much future promise.

1. GHK SUPER SONIC (Nicky), Owner: Trena Cardwell, Handler: Trena Cardwell

2. RIDGE CREEK BELLA (Bella), Owner: Larry Brutger, Handler: Matt Eder

3. GHK VALKYRIE (Vee), Owner: Anne Boyd, Handler: Trena Cardwell

4. GHK Marauder (Max), Owner: Charlie & Dale Walker, Handler: Trena Cardwell
The next stake was the Derby Classic. In the saddle to judge these young dogs were Ned Myers and Tom Lococo. Their job of evaluating the 15 Derby dogs was complicated by very strong winds which gusted into the 40 MPH range. It is admirable that these young dogs were able to find and point birds under these less than ideal conditions. The judge's consistency in their placements was evident in the fact that the top three dogs were littermates. The fourth place dog, although not of the same litter was sired by a two time NAFC.

1. FOXRUN'S YELLOW PAGES (Dex), Owner: Chuck Brandes, Handler: Matt Eder

2. U ARE MY SUNSHINE (Sonny), Owner: Matt Eder, Handler: Matt Eder

3. FOX RUN'S SPECTACULAR (Spec), Owner: Matt Eder, Handler: Matt Eder

4. TRINITY'S MILLION DOLLAR BABY (Baby), Owner: Trish and Wayne James, Handler: Wayne James
The final stake of this Championship series was the National Amateur Championship. Officiating this stake were Ned Myers, Brian Sullivan, with judge’s marshal Jim Douglass. The weather had moderated overnight with calm winds and a dense fog which delayed the morning start time. The temperatures were also forecast to rise into the 70’s for the remainder of the running. The calm winds and warm temperatures made for some difficult conditions for finding birds but in the end the judges all commented on the quality of the dogs and their first class manners on game.

1. CHUKARHILL SOO SMOOTH (Arnold Anthony Cardwell-Schwerdt), Owners: Shelly & Larry Schwerdt, Handler: Larry Schwerdt

2. NFC FREDRICH'S GEORGE JETSSON (George), Owner: Paul Fredrich, Handler: Paul Fredrich

3. FC SMITTY'S LITTLE SCOUT (Scout), Owners: M. Chanin & K. Rawlings, Handler: Tom Griffin

4. CHUKARHILL SO VAIN (Doc), Owner: Susan Orlicky, Handler: Larry Schwerdt

JAM: STIMULUS PACKAGE (Duo), Owner: Tom Griffin, Handler: Tom Griffin
Many thanks go to Purina, their corporate sponsor, and to the following partners who supported this event: Nebraska Field Trial Association, Dogs Unlimited, Ruff Tough Kennel, GunDog Supply, DogGestive Daily, GSP Club of Lincoln, DOGTRA, and to the Central Carolinas and Western English Setter Clubs! All the English Setter enthusiasts appreciate your support!

The 2012 National Field Trial Championship owes its success to a dedicated group of people including Lisa Miller, Cindy Findley, Larry Schwerdt, Sue Orlicky, Lorie Dewe, Ben Garcia, Gwynne McDevitt, and a host of others who stepped in to assist during the event. Their efforts were exemplary and to be congratulated.