

Notes from an Austrian trial...

An insight into the inner workings of pointer and setter field trials in Continental Europe.

During a recent judging trip to Austria it was perfectly clear to me there are strong similarities in pointer and setter field trials in the UK and Europe. We have a common bond, as they say. It's an unequivocal fact that European bloodlines in pointers and setters, for example, have assisted in developing the working attributes of the breeds.

Pointer and setter field trials are staged throughout many European countries. Austria is the most idyllic country for trialling. Founded in

WORDS AND PHOTOGRAPHY: JON KEAN

1929, the Austrian Club for British Pointing Dogs is a well-established field trial club and attracts members from all over Europe.

"We provide sport for our members throughout the year," explained club president Colonel Otto Koppitsch. "In the spring, pointer and setter and Continental breed field trials are held in the Burgenland region on quail and partridge. The top award is called

the CACIT (working champion). "Then we have the club's national trials during the summer, on quail, followed by the autumn trials on quail and partridge."

This year the summer field trials attracted an entry of 56 dogs – a record for Austria. Competitors from Holland, Germany, Hungary, Austria and the Czech Republic competed in four days of field trials. Before this, however, training days are held in Burgenland.

The driving force behind all the trials in Austria is Werner Jost. He

Results

Day 1

FIELD TRIAL PAIR

1 (very good) Astrid Van Der Horn (Holland) with ESD Solid Gold's Yppocampo

FIELD TRIAL DERBY PAIR

1 (very good) Christopher Papst (Austria) with pointer bitch Nugat Od Milanovica
2 (very good) Phil Morris (Germany) with pointer dog Solid's Gold Yustus
3 (very good) Sandra Pecik (Austria) with pointer dog Menelaos 2 Halikarnasu

CONTINENTAL SOLO

1 (very good) Lies Van Essen (Holland) with vizsla bitch Quodian's Cayenne
2 (very good) Michael Pallesen (Holland) with vizsla dog Quodian's Rembrandt

CONTINENTAL DERBY SOLO

1 (very good) Lies Van Essen's vizsla bitch Quodian's Cajun
2 (good) Monique Van Rozendaal (Holland) with vizsla bitch Szervusz

DELKA RESULTS

1 Wilson Young with pointer FTCh Fearn Quark of Burncastle
2 Mr E. Filmer with pointer dog Koram Murphy of Wye handled by Alan Neill
3 Billy Darragh with Irish setter bitch Erinvale Jenna
4 Sue Langford & Alan Neill with pointer bitch Goddrib Messina

Day 2

ENGLISH FIELD TRIAL COUPLE

1 (excellent) CACT National pointer bitch Solid Gold's Vivienne, owned by Hannah Melcer of the Czech Republic
2 (good) Michael Rosch (Germany) with pointer bitch Kuralane Alma

CONTINENTAL SOLO

1 (very good) Lies van Essen with vizsla Quodian's Cayenne
2 (very good) Michael Pallesen with vizsla Quodian's Rembrandt

ENGLISH DERBY COUPLE

1 (excellent) Petra Labarre (Germany) with pointer Field Flyers Hester
2 (excellent) Andrea Jost (Austria) with pointer Solid Gold's Xamo
3 (excellent) Lies Van Essen with pointer Vlakland's Liecke 'Excellent' also awarded to: Petra Labarre's pointer Field Flyers' Henna, Andrea Jost's pointer Solid Gold's Yvie, and Hannah Melcer's pointer Yuli

CONTINENTAL DERBY SOLO

1 (excellent) Moniecke v. Rozendaal (Holland) with vizsla Szervusz Csilke
2 (very good) Peggy v.d. Crommenacker (Holland) with vizsla Szervusz Cspike
3 (very good) Lies Van Essen's Quodian's Cajun 'Very good' also awarded to: Moniecke v. Rozendaal's Szervusz Delta

ENGLISH FIELD TRIAL SOLO

(Good) Astrid Van Der Horn with English setter Xippo

Day 3

ENGLISH FIELD TRIAL COUPLE

1 (very good) Hannah Melcer with pointer Solid Gold's Vivienne

CONTINENTAL PAIR

1 (very good) Monique van Rozendaal with vizsla Quodian's Rivella
2 (very good) Kai Steeg of (Germany) with vizsla Baru Von Schimberg

ENGLISH DERBY COUPLE

1 (excellent) Christoph Papst with pointer Solid Gold's Xandra
2 (very good) Vladimira Dvorakova (C. Rep) with English setter Miki Vis Tranquilla 3 (very good) Sebastian Lux with English setter Solid Gold's Zara 'Good' also awarded to: Petra Labarre (Germany) with pointer Field Flyers Henna, and Sandra Pecik (Austria) with pointer Menelaos 2 Halikarnasu

CONTINENTAL DERBY SOLO

'Good' awarded to Lies van Essen with vizsla Quodian's Cajun

CONTINENTAL FIELD TRIAL SOLO

1 (very good) Monique van Rozendaal's vizsla Szervusz Csilke
2 (very good) Lies van Essen with Quodian's Cayenne

Day 4

ENGLISH DERBY COUPLE

1 (very good) Petra Labarre with pointer Field Flyers Hester

CONTINENTAL DERBY SOLO

(Good) Lies van Essen with Quodian's Cajun

ENGLISH FIELD TRIAL COUPLE

1 (very good) Astrid Van Der Horn with English setter Yippo
2 (very good) Josi Pal (Hungary) with pointer Athos

CONTINENTAL FIELD TRIAL COUPLE

1 (excellent) Kai Steeg with vizsla Baru Von Schimberg
2 (very good) Monique van Rozendaal with vizsla Quodian's Rivella
3 (very good) Michael Pallesen with vizsla Quodian's Levanne

CONTINENTAL FIELD TRIAL SOLO

1 (very good) Monique van Rozendaal with Szervusz Csilke
2 (very good) Michael Pallesen with vizsla Quodian's Rembrandt
3 (very good) Lies Van Essen with Quodian's Cayenne

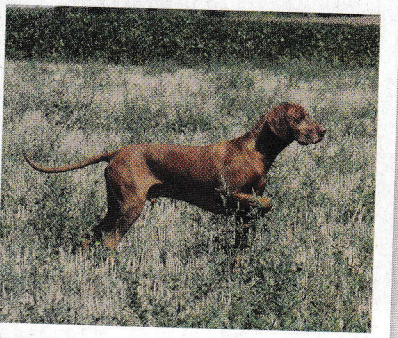
ENGLISH DERBY SOLO

1 (very good) Petra Labarre with pointer Field Flyers Hester



Dogs and

has traveled Europe to his kennel and has been champion. Werner Jost is a strong trialler and pointer. Two recent winners already in the field trials. During trials, Mr Koppitsch of different being 'excellent' and witness must be were a competitor.



Dogs and handlers basking in the sunshine at the summer field trials.

has travelled extensively throughout Europe to promote the sport. His kennel prefix is Solid Gold's which has been very successful, winning championships along the way. Werner's wife, Andrea, has a very strong team of pointers. Young pointer pups bred by Andrea from two recent litters, by Italian sires, are already making their mark on the field trial scene.

During the four days of field trials, my co-judge Colonel Koppitsch and I awarded a number of different gradings – the highest being 'excellent' followed by 'very good' and then 'good'. Each day we witnessed quality performances. It must be placed on record that there were a number of quality vizslas competing. Currently, Holland has a

“I admired the sportsmanship of the handlers. They were willing each other on.”

strong team, led by Lies Van Essen. The Austrian terrain was very similar to those pointer and setter trials in the south of England in April and September. A good game finder, running with pace and drive will catch the judge's eye.

A lot of the pointers and setters I witnessed ran with great style and pace. All of them ran with a good high head and were very

stylish. When I was in Austria, the country had been experiencing very hot temperatures. It never ceases to amaze me how these dogs defy the conditions to demonstrate great scenting powers as they slam on point having hunted with great pace. Probably the best day's hunting was the second day of the trials when we awarded six 'excellent' gradings.

But I think the most impressive thing about the competition was the fact that many field triallers in Europe are prepared to travel massive distances in pursuit of their chosen sport, and I really admired the sportsmanship and conduct of the handlers. They were willing each other on to produce a class performance. 🐾