

Mid-Carolina Trials

By BOB WHITE

THE Mid-Carolina Club held its spring amateur trial February 27-28. Talk about luck. The trial was originally scheduled for the end of January but we gave up that date to Chesterfield Field Trial Club due to their use of grounds necessitated the change for them. Unfortunately for them an ice storm ruined their trial causing cancellation of half the trial. We were more fortunate weather-wise since both days were in the mid 50s and sunny. Not too hot for the dogs and comfortable for the handlers. The good weather was sandwiched in between some raw weather before and after.

Judges Randy Latty of Pinewood, S. C., and Bobby Peeler of Denver, N. C., reviewed the Amateur Shooting Dog all day Saturday looking at a very



YOUTOO

Second in the Amateur Derby

good class of 26 dogs. On Sunday Jim Murdock and Reverend Wilbur Maxwell reviewed another group of 17 excellent dogs in the Derby Stake. We finished up early afternoon allowing those who had traveled a good distance to join us (such as Tarp Thompson of Johnson City, Tenn., and Roger Boser of Seven Valleys, Pa.) to be able to plan on getting home at a reasonable hour. Both were looking at possible snow on Monday. And yes, it did happen.

In talking to the judges it appears that a number of dogs that did not place would certainly have placed at another time and circumstance. Both stakes were high quality and the selection of the placements was not automatic. We all know the selection of the judges goes a long way for the trial to be successful, and in the four men we had experience galore. I didn't ask them just how long they had all been in the game but would guess collectively easily over 100 years. The comments on the winners below are



BREAKSTONE

First in the Amateur Shooting Dog Stake

based on the judges' evaluations. My thanks go out to them for taking the time to sit down and share their views.

THE WINNERS

In the Amateur Shooting Dog, red setter Breakstone (Boser) was "really impressive." He collected four finds while always being out front and doing so with a strong race taking first.

Doc's Haven Meg, owned and handled by veteran South Carolina field trialer Dr. Billy McCathern, placed second with four finds, as well interspersing a solid race. Third was Miss Carolina Kate, owned by Roger Martens. Kate also had multiple finds along with a good race.

I might add here that the amount of finds by the winners and other dogs was in large part due to the number of birds put out by the club to ensure all dogs had real opportunity to point birds, and point they did. Thanks for a great job by Bobbie Simpson, aided by Lee Stevens (and friend Tiffany) as well as Brenda Ballentine and George Kimbrell (borrowed from other clubs).

It was good to see Roger and Donna Martens out and about again after both having difficult medical problems. They come down from their home in Ontario, Canada to their digs in North Carolina. They have supported our trial for as long as I have been a member and are an important part of our regulars who support the club.

The Derby was hotly contested. The first two winners I saw, and am in total agreement with their placements. Come Back Cutter (Joe Edwards) ran in the first brace and set the standard, as they say. Cutter ran hard and to the front with plenty of speed. The three finds were perfect with the dog showing shooting dog manners and real nice style.

Youtoo (Boser) is a speedster. He had two finds, both of which had to be

relocated with difficulty since in both cases they were well hidden under fallen branches. The handler in one case had to get on hands and knees to flush. Youtoo earned second.

Third was The Virginian (Martens). The judges filled me in on this one. He took both fields where a dog can look really good staying on the edges. I don't have the bird count but the judges indicated he maintained his style throughout the flush. This third place finish gave the Martens two nice wins. A win always makes the trip home shorter. In their case they were not going back to Canada right away but to what was to be a snowy North Carolina.

As usual H. C. Robinson of Hard Times Café fame supplied the vittles on Saturday. I think people when they come to our trials look forward to his meals as much as the running. H. C. helps a lot of the clubs in South Carolina with their feeding needs. No matter how far he goes the fee never changes. He enjoys doing it and we are thankful for his aid and thoughtfulness. His humor is boundless and he always has a story or two to tell. He also prepares a meal for those who show up at the drawing held at Hard Times Café.

One last word. As mentioned above the two stakes were quality stakes with a lot of good dogs. The judges mentioned a few that came close to the winners. In the Shooting Dog Stake, Jo Denton's Scatter was in contention with three finds. Matt (handled by George Kimbrell for Rick Hulse who was not up to par) had a competitive race with two finds.

In the Derby, closest to the winners were Rabbitt (Edwards) with a big race and two finds, and Shaggy (Edwards) also with two finds and took the edges of the fields real well.

Cassatt, S. C., February 27 — One Course

Judges: Randy Latty and Bobby Peeler

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG — 18 Pointers,

2 Setters and 6 Irish Setters

1st—BREAKSTONE, 1582163, Irish setter male, by Sharpton—Chantilly. Roger W. Boser, owner and handler.

2d—DOC'S HAVEN MEG, 1598833, pointer female, by Lester's Thunderbird—Doc's Haven Jill. Dr. B. M. McCathern, owner and handler.

3d—MISS CAROLINA KATE, 1587447, pointer female, by Calico's Thrillology—Great River Girl. R. W. Martens, owner and handler.

Judges: Wilbur Maxwell and James Murdock

AMATEUR DERBY — 6 Pointers, 1 Setter and

10 Irish Setters

1st—COME BACK CUTTER, 1610389, Irish setter male, by Celtic's Bottom Line—Celtic's Compellingly. Joe Edwards, owner and handler.

2d—YOUTOO, 1610607, Irish setter male, by Aiken—Solitaire. Roger W. Boser, owner and handler.

3d—THE VIRGINIAN, 1608654, pointer male, by Archers Black Powder—Archer's Cassandra. R. W. Martens, owner and handler.