

The 2023 Nutmeg German Shorthair Pointer Club Regional Grand Open Championship was held at Dr. John Flaherty Field Trial Area in East Windsor, CT on September 18-19.

The Championship was judged by Frank Vicari of Hampshire, IL and Michael Ernest of Sterling, CT. Thank you to both experienced judges who viewed dogs in varying types of ever-changing New England weather conditions.

Thank you to our sponsors Purina, Dakota 283 and Triple Crown. Without their support this championship would not have been possible.



Monday September 18th Conditions for Day 1 were less than desirable with temperatures starting in the low 50's with consistent rain and bouts of heavy downpouring.

1A – Pinky (GSP) & 1B – Gunnel (GSP)
Pinky and Gunnel broke away promptly at 8:00 with charging runs forward in the difficult conditions. Gunnel was spotted at 15 in the islands, but the wet birds were unfortunately too tempting, and his day ended. Pinky had intense, stylish finds at 12 and 19. However, their third bird at 23 proved too irresistible as she retrieved it to her handler.

2A – Ammo (Brit) & 2B – Star (Brit)

Ammo elected to be picked up at 3 minutes by handler due to an apparent injury. Star started off directionally challenged but found her spark just before her first find at 9 in The Islands. Continuing forward, Star was found standing at 40 with good manners. After 2 relocation attempts at 46, handler elected to move on. Star finished the 60 minutes methodically paced.

3A – Kay (GSP) & 3B – Kira (GSP)

Brace 3 started with Kay and Kira equally streaming forward with the conclusion of a divided find at 8 in the Islands. Kay had her own find at 17 after the culvert with all in order. Kira was found standing at the top of Tobacco Barn Hill at 21, unfortunately Kay stole point on the treed quail. Directly after being released, Kira moved into her 3rd find at 24. She continued with 3 more finds at 30, 37, and a covey at 54. Kira's consistent 60-minute race in tough conditions earned her a 4th place.

4A – Cooper (GSP) & 4B – Emily (GSP)

Cooper and Emily were a strong moving pair after the break away. Emily had a unique find deep into the creek in front of the club house at 30 with some tempting steps at flush. After she was released, she was not seen again, and tracker was pulled at 42. Cooper had a very forward run ducking into cover when applicable and using the wind and terrain to his advantage. Handler pulled tracker on Cooper at 44.

5A – Moose (Brit) & 5B – Rip (GSP)

Moose and Rip began with a powerful forward breakaway hitting multiple edges. Moose was found deep in the islands at 9 with a find all in order. After an explosive wide move around Fox Hill, Rip's retrieval desire was too much, and his day was over. Moose continued at a systematic pace with finds at 16, 35, and 49 with intense style. Moose finished the 60 minutes at an honorable pace and received 3rd place for his efforts.

6A – Roo (GSP) & 6B – Bullet (Brit)

Strong combined breakaway for both Roo and Bullet continued for the entire race. Bullet was last seen wrapping along the islands heading to the top of Fox Hill, but ultimately tracker pulled at 38. Roo had a forward gun dog race keeping his handler in check. However, a Chukar at 59 proved too tempting after handler relocated.

Entrants were welcomed with a delicious and joyful dinner at the clubhouse put on by Stephanie Corraera, Donna Roy, and the Nutmeg GSP Club. Day 2 brought favorable partly cloudy conditions with temperatures in the low 60s.

7A – Shelby (GSP) & 7B – Blaser (GSP)

Day 2 was underway with Shelby and Blaser beginning with thunderous breakaways forward towards The Pines. Glimpses of both dogs were seen at the islands at 10. Ultimately trackers were pulled at 17 for Shelby and at 22 for Blaser.

8A – Cupid (GSP) & 8B – Colt (Brit)

Cupid and Colt both had separate wide casts after the islands always moving forward. Unfortunately, a covey of quail was too much for Colt and he was picked up at 15 at the base of Fox Hill. Cupid continued his strong forward run ducking into cover when applicable and using the wind and terrain to his advantage. Cupid did not have any bird work and was picked up by his handler at 49.



Left to Right, Judge Micheal Ernest, Ringer honoring with handler Matt Basilone, Sally on point with handler Barry Bollinger

9A – Ringer (Brit) & 9B – Sally (GSP)

Ringer and Sally started the course crisply to the front hitting separate objectives until Sally was found standing at 17 on top of Tobacco Barn Hill with Ringer stylishly honoring. After their release, both dogs made independent wide casts down the eastern edge. They both continued their pace, with Emily getting slightly turned around. Ringer’s efforts finally paid off at 50 at the base of Tobacco Barn Hill and 58 near the end of the course with 2 rock solid finds. This brace proved to be the one to beat with Ringer being named the Champion and Sally earning runner up.

10A – Ruby (GSP) & 10B – Elsa (GSP)

Ruby and Elsa were cut loose with powerful runs forward with speed as a key objective. Both dogs were seen after the islands taking unique paths forward. Ruby’s day would end at 22 near the main culvert after her quail proved too tempting. Elsa’s tracker was pulled at 25.

11 – King (GSP) [BYE]

King had a forward run aptly checking in to his handler before he was found standing at 12, after 1 relocation, handler elected to move on. Continuing his race, he was found standing at 38 at the end of Dearborn where all was in order. King finished the hour and was rewarded with the Judges Award of Merit for his efforts.

Placements for the Nutmeg GSP Regional Championship are as follows:



1st: RFD/FC/AFC Hits a Ring of Fire “Ringer”

Handler: Matt Basilone
Owner: Ralph & Judy Kiraofe

2nd Hi-N's Laying It Down Sally “Sally”
Handler / Owner: Barry Bollinger

3rd Maxime Confesseur de la Trinite “Moose”

Handler: Matt Basilone
Owner: Josh Ruitter

4th: FC Welch's Flight Risk Kira “Kira”
Handler / Owner: Allen Welch

JAM: Froggerfarm King Of Pop “King”

Handler: Carl Correra | Owner: Carl Correra / Stephanie Correra

