

High River, Alberta DERBY

4th June 2022

by Jeff Martin

A derby natural ability test was conducted south of Calgary, Alberta with mild conditions and a constant breeze throughout the day. The grounds were over rolling plains covered with a mix of native grasses and shrubbery which provided excellent testing conditions. Seven dogs were entered with five testing on the day.

The test was generously hosted, and grounds provided by Randy and Linda Blanchard with all activities based at their kennel, south of High River. The organizing of the entrants, the endless paperwork and the days agenda was capably organized by Vito Caramia. Thankyou to our director of testing Jorg Kaltenegger, for all his work behind the scenes.



The judges were Jeff Martin from Penticton, BC; Lee Root from Omak, WA; and with one judge not being able to catch a flight to CANADA, Edie Stelkovic's graciously stepped in as our emergency judge. This is the second time Edie

has had to do this on short notice, we greatly appreciate it. The convoy of entrants were stationed at a high point to be able to see all the dogs working and not having to move the vehicles saved a lot of time.

The running order was chosen to allow some of the first-time handlers the opportunity to see how the testing was done before actually running their dogs.

Dog 1. Blitz vom Prairieflygel (Astor vom Barlager Forst X Tilly vom Kings Crossing) This was a large solidly built 12-month-old male, owned and trained by Ken Chartrand but was handled last minute by its breeder, Vito Caramia. This dog covered his ground well, searched with desire, pointed solidly and stayed in good contact with his handler for perfect scores and a prize 1. The dog was later rated SG or very good conformation in the youth class.



Dog 2. Karpaten Irbis Wednesday (Paris vd Donau-Wirbein X Karpaten Queen of the Night) this was a nicely built 16-month-old swarzsimmel female owned by Anamaria Christina Ralph. This was the owners first DK and her first German test. She and her husband had driven 3 days from eastern Canada to participate, so you can sense just how keen a handler she was, well done. She successfully tested all derby categories with solid 4 scores for a Prize 1. This bitch is a very striking black and mostly white with excellent conformation and presentation. She is a large female but well worthy of her V or excellent conformation grading. The breed

standard allows females to be from 58 to 63 cm which is a range of 2.5 inches plus or minus a half inch. That may seem a large difference, but it is within the realm of functionality for what is required of a versatile hunting dog.



Dog 3. Diva vom Soestental (KS Gerry vom Donauland X Willow vom Trocken Bach) This was a 12-month-old black and white female owned and handled by Gil Dueck. I was wanting to see this dog as there are now a few of her sires' genetics across North America. She was everything I expected, a very nicely structured female albeit still growing at 12-month-old, she calmy and efficiently tested very well in all categories for a Prize 1, perfect score.

I have to mention Gil's experience at handling his two dogs. Gil has owned DK for over 10 years and handled both his dogs like an old pro, confidently with minimum commands he showed the judges all we needed to see, he made it look easy. In the Zuchtschau Diva was awarded an SG rating, she still has some growing to do but is very nicely structured with a beautiful feminine head and calm easy-going disposition.

Dog 4 Bella vom Prairieflygel (Astor vom Barlager Forst X Tilly vom Kings Crossing) This is a strongly built 12-month-old female owned and handled by Carver Chamberlain a first-time handler. Bella was well prepared and scored accordingly across all categories. Her search was deemed a little to close and handler dependent for a 3 score which kept her from a Prize 1, well done Carver, something to work on, hopefully for your Solms in the fall.

Dog 5. Zula vom Trocken Bach (Etsel vom Thuringer Zipfel X Uschka vom Trocken Bach) This was a solid liver, 14-month-old female owned and handled by Gil Dueck. This bitch really put on a display of work before the shot. She covered ground effortlessly because of her construction with that unmistakable desire to find game at every stride. With her neck outstretched she used the wind to perfection, checking every scent and moving on quickly until later solidly pointing the released game. She was unanimously rated 4 H (herrovogand or excellent) for her nose and search for a Prize 1 derby. I later found out she had been awarded 4H for nose, search and pointing at a previous derby, outstanding, well done. Zula was later rated SG for conformation because of her youth, a very nicely put together medium sized female.

Thank you again to the group of people that made for a great day of testing and the handlers for presenting a well-prepared group of young dogs. I was shown some excellent grounds for the Solms and VGP. I look forward to seeing more good versatile dogs, show what they were bred for, at even higher levels of training.

Good training, Jeff Martin