

2020 AMERICAN BRITTANY CLUB DERBY INVITATIONAL

Friday December 4, 2020 8 am

Blue Mountain-J. Perry Mikles WDA, Booneville, AR

Judges: Richard Beaver and Dave Capstick

As seen by Jan Kilpatrick



L to R: Kent Patterson, Tom Tracy with Been There, Judge Richard Beaver, Bob Rankin, Judge Dave Capstick, Amy Hopper with Frosty Meadows Ramblin' Man, Scott Johnson, Nathan Hopper, Raus Tracy with CVK's Jungle Land, Steve Chang

Twelve young contenders from around the country were invited to compete in the 5th running of the American Brittany Club Derby Invitational held Friday, December 4, 2020 at the Blue Mountain-J. Perry Mikles WDA, Booneville, AR. Congratulations to all the dogs, their owners and handlers who earned the right to participate this year. Judges this year were Richard Beaver and Dave Capstick who we thank for their time and thoughtful consideration of each of these fine young hopefuls. Thanks also goes out to Purina for their continued support and for the Pro Plan dog food awarded to the winners and placers. The weather was mild throughout the running but the courses were extremely muddy making navigation precarious for dogs, horses, riders and the dog wagon driver.

The Recognized:

Champion: Bottom Dog Brace 5 Been There "Tip" Handler: Tom Tracy, Owners Robert Rankin, Oklahoma and Tom & Linda Milam, Texas. Tip, white/orange male out of GFC/FC Rusty Ridge Where U Been & FC K Nine's On the Loose

RU Champion: Top Dog Brace 5 Frosty Meadows Ramblin' Man 'Bo', Handler/Owner Amy Hopper & Nathan Hopper, Missouri. Bo, white/orange male out of Frosty Meadows Sundance Cassanova and Lamonts Cotton Candy
Of special note, it was learned Bo was awarded the Obedience High in Trial Award at the National Specialty Show in Fort Smith just a week prior to his being named Runner Up Champion at this 2020 ABC Derby Invitational. Bo was handled

by his owner Amy Hopper in both of these events. Kudos to Amy and Nathan Hopper for their development of and dedication to this versatile Brittany.

3rd: Top Dog Brace 2: CVK's Jungle Land 'Clarence', Handler: Tom Tracy, Owners: Raus Tracy, Nebraska & Bo Ackerman, Georgia. Clarence, white/orange male out of GFC FC Maxwell's Prickly Pete and Dakota Sage

The Running:

Brace 1a Urban American Legend, Handler Steve Chang Owner: Alan Morrison

2b 'Sugar' Sweet Whizki, Handler: Bob Burchett, Owner: Phil Witter

Sugar pointed at 10 handling the flush and shot with acceptable derby manners. Sugar appeared to lose her focus and began exhibiting an erratic application so handler picked her up at 25. Legend began his run a bird finding machine posting three nice finds at 13, 23 and 30. He handled these birds with stylish points and almost broke derby manners. After this point Legend began a series of short stops pointing into likely objectives along the road just a short distance from the double gates. This incident produced nonproductives at 34 & 40. Handler finally got him to leave this area but he continued this sticky behavior down the road so handler picked him up at 50.

Brace 2a CVK's Jungle Land 'Clarence', Handler: Tom Tracy, Owners: Raus Tracy/Bo Ackerman

2b Perro Pajaro 'Uno', Handler: Scott Johnson, Owner: Justin Hagedorn

Decision was made to breakaway Brace 2 at the Double Gates and they were away at 9. Clarence and Uno broke away making big fast casts towards the River's edge when both suddenly veered back toward the double gates. After a lot of loud whistling and hard scouting both came back in, with Clarence shooting towards the rivers edge and Uno staying in the treeline on the right side of the course. Clarence made it to the horse bridge in short order, crossed over and began working Course 2 in a fast efficient manner. Uno disappeared before the bridge so handler moved on across calling loudly while the scout intensified his search. At 20 Clarence pointed briefly then put up a good size covey which he chased but regained the front when he heard the shot and his handler's whistle. It was reported that Uno found his way to Course 2 and had a find at 20 while trying to catch the front. Clarence had another covey find at 23 pointing briefly and exhibiting acceptable derby manners on the flush and fire. Clarence then had a near broke find at 35 standing staunchly and allowed the handler to move in front of him to flush and fire. At this same time Uno was picked up since his compass was not functioning in a forward direction. Clarence pointed for the last time at 45 in a thick overgrown mott, self-released several times but couldn't find any birds so handler whistled him forward and he finished his hour still hunting hard. For his efforts he was awarded a well-earned 3rd place finish.

Brace 3a JB's Cajun Hot Pepper 'Spice', Handler: Tom Tracy, Owner: Jennifer & Chezney Pollman

3b Anj's 'Georgia' Hellion, Handler: Bob Burchett; Owner:

Spice and Georgia took off together at a good clip but stayed in touch with their handlers. They pointed simultaneously but in separate areas of a long treeline at 15. Spice put some birds up so handler fired and moved her out of the area. Georgia kept searching but never made bird contact so was moved on to rejoin the front. Spice pointed again at 35 but no birds were found so she was moved on. Both dogs pointed a small covey at 45 and after flushing and chasing both got back to the front finishing their hour showing signs of weariness.

Brace 4a Jagoub's Whodatsay 'Whodat' When I Say Whodat? Handler/Owners: Tom & Debra Jagielski

4b TNT's Handsome 'Harry', Handler: Bob Burchett; Owner: Tommy & Linda Thomas

Whodat pointed at 5 but no birds were found so he was moved on. Both dogs pointed the same birds at 35 and gave chase before the flush and shot. After shots were fired and all was in order the dogs were moved on down the road. At 50 Harry was picked up for not pleasing his handler. Whodat finished his hour slower than he started but still hunting hard.

Brace 5a Frosty Meadows Ramblin' Man 'Bo', Handler/Owners: Amy & Nathan Hopper

5b Been There 'Tip', Handler: Tom Tracy; Owners: Bob Rankin/Tom Milam & Linda Milam

These two speed demons caught everyone's attention with an exploding independent breakaway. Bo took off into the horseshoe and it took awhile for the scout to round him up. Meanwhile Tip made a long cast down the right treeline when he locked up at 15 pointing staunchly before flushing the birds. Handler called him back to the front and he was off like a rocket. About this time Bo's scout had Bo back on course and to the front and he immediately started finding birds. Bo was making all the right moves down both sides of the course and was rewarded with covey finds at 20, 30 and 35 which

he pointed staunchly and handled with acceptable derby manners. Meanwhile Tip was covering the course in and out of the woods hunting hard. He scored another find at 43 when he pointed a flighty single at the base of a tall pine tree who took to flight straight up the tree trunk and landed on an overhanging branch. Tip locked up even tighter with his head slightly inclined and handler moved in, gave the tree a little bump and off flew the bird with Tip turning to mark but remaining in place until handler took him by the collar and moved him forward. Tip continued working the course in winning form and finished his hour to the front stronger than when he started. The last 20 minutes of Bo's race took a lot of loud handling to keep him straight and forward on the course. Bo had his 4th find @ time and handler expressed relief that his hour was up. For their efforts Tip earned the Champion title and Bo Runner Up Champion.

Brace 6a Dogwood's Fireball 'Whiski', Handler: Bob Burchett; Owner: Todd Parmenter

6b Rusty Ridge Busting Loose 'Buster', Handler/Owners: Claude & Jan Kilpatrick

Whiski had a long absence after the breakaway and rejoined at 20 where he stopped to point a bird which he handled with acceptable manners. Whiski was brought to the front for a few minutes but he was last seen making a huge cast towards Course 1 and never returned to judgment. Buster wasn't running his usual bold race this day nonetheless he had a smooth, effortless way of moving across the course never letting up but his casts were short which kept him way too handy to be considered in spite of 4 nice bird finds at 4, 8, 20 and 45.

With the 2020 ABC Derby Invitational completed we head towards camp to hear the placements.