

## ENJOY THE JOURNEY

A message from Lucie Hustler and Aytee Hot Gossip aka 'Merlot'

This is a heartfelt thank you to everyone at Norfolk and Suffolk HPR FT Club who has given me help and advice over the last few years which has helped my brilliant little GSP win her second open field trial just before Christmas giving her the much coveted title of Field Trial Champion.

She is 6. It has been a long road, but the satisfaction is absolute and the enjoyment of getting here has been enormous, but of one thing I am certain – without the training advice from the club over the years it may well not have happened.

I have made many mistakes. Have created my own problems (which have sometimes taken a season to put right!) and at times I have thrown away wonderful chances at field trials by doing something daft after the dog has worked brilliantly. To Angie, Steve, Chris, Alan, Mark, Colin and many other members thank you for your wise words of help and advice.

But to anyone who is training for trialling and has ambition for their dog I would like to give a tip back. These sensitive creatures know that we love them. They are highly tuned to our moods and have an overwhelming desire to please us. We do the sport because we love it, so always enjoy your training, keep relaxed and your dog will be happy and confident. Don't let the disappointments worry you and your dog will not be anxious. (there is always another day) I believe that a dog's errors in the field are entirely due to lack of training by us or lack of clarity from us on what we require. We have all seen the dog that will not budge from a position because he is afraid of making a mistake.

So enjoy the journey - what ever it brings. If your training is solid and you and your dog are confident your day will come, after all Merlot and I are living proof!