

20th Sept. 38

Dear Bob

I'm very sorry for not being in touch during the summer, but I'm afraid I left all my correspondence build up. You know yourself between work and training and trials, things are inclined to get out of hand.

I was glad to hear that you didn't get too much of the drought that seems to have smitten most of the States and that you game populations are up - would that we had the same story! I'm glad to hear that the greys are making a come back - what terrific little birds they are to work dog on. I tried rearing a few at a friends place this year, but not too successfully, I also bought some Bob-white Quail and hope to try the recall and release system - If you recommend a good text on this I'd be delighted, I had an idea I saw one advertised in the Whip, but couldn't find one with it in it.

Believe it or not our grouse trials were very good this year - grouse appear to have done very well and are

covers that were met were large. However, the only exception was our own hill where we had only three covers and they were on very steep ground. ~~The~~ The dogs were very fit going into the trials as a result and ran very well when they got reasonably flat ground. I was campaigning ~~the~~ three dogs and was placed with one or other in almost all the trials. Horse (Sheantullagh Hailstone) is now a F.C.H. and I'm very pleased about that. My young dog Captain is probably the most stylish jumper that I've ever had and has started to trial well so I'm hopeful for the future with him. I've put a sister of Darby in pup to him and I've pups out of Darby's mother to him. The litters I had earlier Bob were small and unfortunately I couldn't send you anything. I'm not sure yet whether Darby's sister is in pup or whether you're even interested in having another of the same line. Let me know and I'll do what I can!!

I'm glad to hear that Darby and the Honespun puppy are doing well and giving you some pleasure. I'd be delighted to see some photos of Darby just to see

what he looks like. Also Bob I would be very interested to see what the Hornegm bitch looks like.

Scotland was enjoyable as usual - I got some awards with Horse, but at least on one occasion I thought that I had it won, but the judges thought otherwise. Nationality sometimes plays a major part in deciding awards!! The shoot was fantastic just about the right amount of birds, but the weather was less enjoyable. My wife swears there will be no more Scotland until she spends some time in the "Sun"!! We'll see!

Bob, your article went down very well over here - opened a few eyes and made some hair stand on end - but it helped make the newsletter. I had hoped that we would have had other articles but I think I was the only one who took it seriously.

John North is presently in hospital recovering from heart surgery - an operation on a blocked valve - I think he'll make a good recovery as he's very fit and strong, but the whole thing came as a great blow to him and his family. We are having the 18th Red Letter

Clubs trials, this week and to be honest
I'm not looking forward to them without
him — he's such a character and always
the one to beat.

Thank you for the kind offer
of the books — I'm a collector so I would
be delighted to have them — tell me
the postage costs and I'll send you a
cheque. I again apologise for my sloth
and promise to be a better correspondent
in the future.

— Kind Regards

Ray.