



leaving water, along with many others. He picks up points for style, eagerness, action, and clean retrievers to hand.

The real test to separate the 'men from the boys' is in the All Age Stakes, which includes double rises, double marks and blind retrievers. The retriever must call on every instinct to complete these runs, and if he is having an off day his chances of being a finalist are remote.

For these runs, dog and handler must work in perfect unison and if concentration or communication lapses in either, months of preparatory training can be 'blown' in minutes.

For example, during the running