

Elhew Flying Dutchman Captures Crown in Grouse-Finding Race

By JACK STUART



Dutchman demonstrated his game-finding prowess in most persuasive fashion.

Elhew Flying Dutchman, the new champion, is a big, robust pointer representation of the Bob Wehle line, and he was bred in his kennels. Dick Shear has been responsible for the dog's development. Whelped on February 16, 1968, sired by Elhew Knickerbocker, another of the Wehle Futurity winners and a successful performer and producer, out of Elhew Patricia, Dutchman does not have a lengthy winning record owing principally to the fact that he has not been started too frequently since he won a couple of times as a Derby. He added a pair of other placements subsequently, but his triumph in this classic event is by all odds his finest hour. Incidentally, the Elhew Knickerbocker-Elhew Patricia mating has accounted for two other winners—Elhew Kimball Pal and Elhew Country.

Elhew Flying Dutchman moved out to the front with a beautiful gait and gracious style. He did not go real deep to the sides, but was forever forward. At five his able handler, Dick Shear, called Dutch in and put a

THE thirty-second running of the Grand National Grouse Championship, hailed by all as an outstanding event, was won convincingly in an extraordinary bird-finding effort by Elhew Flying Dutchman, white and liver pointer male, coming seven years of age, owned by Robert G. Wehle of Scottsville, N. Y., and Richard C. Shear of Wellsville, N. Y., and handled by the latter.

flaming orange wide collar around his neck, so Dutch sported a bright collar the rest of the hour. At 9:33 Dutch was seen fifty yards out standing stylishly in second-growth poplar. Dick walked straight toward Dutch, a grouse flushed well in front of the dog. A second bird left, shot was fired, and Dutch merely stood higher, but solid. Dutch really got down to serious grouse hunting and at 9:45 he was on point again directly ahead. As Dutch stood there, Lakewood Dr. John came in from the left very boldly and handler Wayne Fruchey, the good sportsman he is, called his dog away, as Dr. John could not see Dutch. The bird flushed as handler approached the dog from the side, shot was fired, and again Dutch was mannerly. He proceeded in ten minutes to point a third time, and by now this was an old song for Dutch as he stood high and mighty as Dick flushed the bird and shot over him. No time for mischief, as Dutch now had this grouse handling down "pat". Both Dick and Dutch kept their "cool" and at 10:09, just as we were breaking over a rise into a deep pot hole in the second-growth popple, Dutch was buried in dense growth pointing another grouse, his fourth find. The bird flushed directly in front of the dog as handler came in from behind the dog. Shot was fired instantly and Dutch was glued there until handler sent him on. Judge was heard to say to Dick Shear, "Why don't you plug up one side of his nose?" Dutch cruised both sides of the dense second growth and his bell stopped again, with only two minutes to go. Unable to locate the dog, Dick spent an uneasy four or five minutes calling the dog. Directly, Dr. Flanagan's son, Peter, who walked every brace, said, "I hear the bell right in there in front of us", and half a minute later Dutch popped out of cover near us and was ordered up.

This championship win with Elhew Flying Dutchman makes the fourth time Dick Shear has won this event. He won once with Lucy Brown and twice with Elhew Holly in prior runnings.