

Switzerland and Team Bond :-)

Somebody asked whether I forgot about the “ A Month on the Moor” section. No! I did not, I am just busy with so many things to do at the same time, like always! This is why I am “taking advantage” of Tok Mostert writings on training but... I still want to tell my tale.

So, let's try to be brief and remember some things about the day [I left](#) from Italy. It was July 15th and I had set this date because I did not want to be in France on the 14th. I somehow felt something was bound to happen on that day, France national day. I was going to go to bed on that night, when the TV announced there was an ongoing terrorist attack in Nice. I was sorry, worried and moved but not surprised.

On 15th morning, I had to finish to load the car: I have never completely grasped the concept of “travelling light” and UK 2016 trip was not an exception, my “packing” issues will be told in another story . I passed Milan swiftly, and stopped at a service station near Varese, right before the Swiss border. I had a coffee flask with me: my plan was to be smart and save money. Bad idea, the temperature was already around 30°C and my coffee was still steaming! Why did I stop then? Because... people told me that when you travel with a dog you need to stop every two hours, which I stupidly did on all my way to England! While trying to sip some coffee, the service station man came to greet me and look at the dog. It was the same man I met on my way to Switzerland, a couple of years ago, while I was travelling to meet Briony's breeder. He did not remember me of course, but I did as he told me again about his Maltese dog and about his love for these four legged critters.



Team Bond

What astonished me the most, however, were two cars parked by mine: they were wearing a Scottish plate! I have never seen any Scottish plates in Italy before, so I took it as a good sign! These cars ended up being three, not two: they were expensive cars, Audi or Saab if I am not wrong and, weird thing, each of them had a driver and no passengers. Drivers were two middle aged men and a girl, I know this for sure as they sort of escorted me until the French border. I was missing them, finding one of them again, miss them another time and so on. I crossed Switzerland with these three unusual travel mates, which, for no rational reasons, reminded me of James Bond... and British spies!

How do you travel in Switzerland? Are there any breathtaking sceneries? Yes there are, you drive through mountains and lakes, but you cannot really enjoy them as you need to be well focused on the road. There is much traffic, as many car drivers and truck drivers favour Switzerland over France because the Mont Blanc and the Frejus tunnels are very expensive (while the Gottahrd is free). Also, French and Italian motorways are much more expensive than the Swiss ones: in Italy and France you pay according to your mileage and your veichle, in Switzerland you pay about 40 Euros and you can travel as much as you like for one year. Driving in Switzerland is cheaper, but equally demanding: speed limits are really tight, these roads are not made for high speeds and speed limits keep changing constantly. Beware of them and of all the cameras set to trap incautious motorists. We stopped before the Gotthard, again , having been told that you must

stop frequently when you are travelling with dogs...



South Gotthard service station

We were right in the middle of the Alps this time and it was pleasantly cold. Past the Gotthard tunnel – full of Belgian cars – we enjoyed bordering the Luzern Lake (in the midst of a thunderstorm and still escorted by Team Bond). We finally reached Basel when we stopped again for lunch. I had food with my but I went inside the service station to see what else they had: very cute cakes, 7.50 Euros (6£) a slice! I therefore opted for my homemade “piadina” which was consumed under a tree. My neighbour , under the next tree, was a Swiss man with a wirehaired Dacshund. And then... in the blink of an eye, [I was in France](#).

English Setters European Championship 2016 (Gibier Tiré)

This year the Pointer & Setter Club Schweiz was in charge to organize this important event. Due to the complex Swiss shooting (and dog training) laws, the trial was set up in Northern Italy, only two hours away from the Swiss borders.

More specifically, we were hosted by Dr. Machiavelli private shooting estate in Cantalupo Ligure (AL), a place which is both easy to reach and suitable for this kind of trial. Simone Meili, of the Setter & Pointer Club Schweiz, proved to be the human incarnation of the famous Swiss efficiency and precision. The trial brochure was very accurate and she set up a very convenient meeting place: it was extremely easy to find the venue, it had an ample parking lot, a small bar and a toilet, wi-fi connection and light sockets for computers! As you can imagine, everything else during the trial ran smoothly.



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onship on the 2nd day (Oct 10), as the previous part of the event had been covered by my colleague Erica Recchia. The atmosphere was very international: there were several teams coming from different parts of Europe. Judges as well had different nationalities and backgrounds. I was told to follow Stake 2, judged by D.Sormaz (Serbia – President), F. Gerzinic (Croatia – right side) and D.Gouzounas (Greece- left side), there were 12 braces in this stake. The stake was going to be

run on Chiminiera and we had Roberto Locatelli as beat steward (and gun!) and Dejan Gavrilovic as a second gun. We had rain almost until the first brace was to be casted off, it was an unusually chilly morning for October, with a moderate/fresh breeze which kept changing its direction, making partridges swift to fly and scents tricky to be grasped by the dogs. The grounds were really nice and heterogeneous: dogs could run wide but had to make an intelligent use of the ground. Cantalupo estate is scattered on the hills and its crops and vegetation can dramatically change from place to place. During a run, a dog might face grass, briars, small woods, bushes, tall and wiry grass, rocks: dogs had to be smart and adapt themselves, exactly as it would happen during a real rough shooting day. Almost all the dogs had a chance to meet or scent game: there were pheasants and grey partridges coveys. We also bumped into a hare and in a couple of roe deers followed by the respective English Setters. I spotted six wild boars in a distance, while judge Gerzinic said he saw some wolves the night before: I was not surprised as Cantalupo means "singing wolf".

Slideshow below

The first brace was composed by Ciak del Zagnis handled by Nicolic (Serbia) and by Pianigiani's Ford handled by Stefano Pianigiani (Italy). During his run Ciak pointed, produced and retrieved a pheasant, his action lead him to obtain a 1st Exc CAC/CACIT and to become Vice European Champion 2016. In the second brace, with Ami Cicco du Turbillon Blanc handled by Simone Meilli (Switzerland) and Dac de Playabarry handled by J.L.Diaz we witnessed Dac earning an Exc. To see another action worth grading, we had to wait until brace 5 when Bruss, handled by Patrizzi (Italy), had a nice point and obtained a 2nd Exc. Other dogs graded were Pirlo od Gastona, handled by Zekanovic (Croatia), and Marzale's Hogan, handled by Elvis Trajkov (Macedonia). During the 12th and last brace, Rex del Faenor handled by Sanz (Spain) had a good run and performed

two excellent actions, one of which included a very long roading to produce the pheasant, he was graded 3rd Exc.

At the end of this run, we were joined by the competitors and the judges of Stake 1: Sergio Bianconi (Italy – President), W.Jost (Austria) and N.Kassianidis (Cipro) to decide through a “barrage” which dog, after two trials in two days, was going to obtain the title of European Champion 2016. The judges selected for this task were D.Gouzounas (Greece – President), F. Gerzinic (Croatia) and N.Kassianidis (Cipro) who, after a quick run, announced Atos, handled by Mirko Caramanti (Italy), to be the winner.

[Click here to see the event photogallery as a slideshow](#)

[Click here to see the event photogallery as an album](#)

Results are as follows:

European Champion 2016 GT – Athos handled by Mirko Caramanti (Italy)

Vice European Champion 2016 GT – Ciak del Zagnis owned and handled by Nikolic (Serbia)

European Champion 2016 GT Females – Lavezzi del Zagnis owned by Scandella and handled by Giuseppe Pezzotta (Switzerland)

Setter und Pointer Club Schweiz
Championnat d Europe GT Cantalupo 2016

10. octobre 2016

Batterie: 1

Terrain Vigo Ponso

Guide: Fabio

Juges: S. Bianconi (P)
W. Jost
N. Kassianidis

Couple	Nom du chien	Sex Conducteur	Resultat
1	Erode della Bassa Reggina Daar del Zagnis	m V. Antimo m F. Rosselli	2. MB
2	Balboa Zagni del Duda Morinensis Casper	m G. Pezzotta m M. Mori	
3	Cheyenne Dendaberri Neron	m G. Ferrari m F. Gomez	1. MB
4	Amor od Pastorci Dalerik Aramis	m L. Pastorci m D. Cominotti	
5	Max del Zagnis Casper de Ademar	m F. Rosselli m F. Gomez	
6	Lavezzi del Zagnis Hard Ambroffellis	f G. Pezzotta m M. Iazzetta	
7	One Dream Kosmas Casper Malcottinensis Rock	m K. Panagiottis m D. Cominotti	
8	Percha de Bosende Bajron moreno del Zagnis	f F. Gomez m G. Pezzotta	
9	Ciro Sirtouf Atos	m K. Panagiottis m M. Caramanti	
10	Lem (detto Rochy) Adrenalina del Zagnis	m A. Mariani f G. Pezzotta	
11	Atom del Sassovivo Carpin de Ademar	m L. Pastorci m F. Gomez	
12	Alex Dalerik Big	m K. Panagiottis m D. Cominotti	

Setter und Pointer Club Schweiz
Championnat d Europe GT Cantalupo 2016

10. octobre 2016

Batterie: 2

Terrain Chiminiera

Guide: Locatelli

Juges: D. Sormaz (P)
F. Gerzinc
D. Gouzounas

Couple	Nom du chien	Sex Conducteur	Resultat
1	Ciak del Zagnis Pianigiani's Ford	m Z. Nikolic m St. Pianigiani	1. Ecc CAC/CACIT
2	Ami Cicco du Tourbillon blanc Dac de Playabbari	m S. Meili m J.L. Diaz	Ecc
3	Marzale's History D'O Akron del Tremelano	m E. Trajkov m Z. Nikolic	
4	Cyrano du Tourbillon blanc Rajna od Karaotoka	m S. Meili f J. Zekanovic	
5	Ali del Tamerlano Bruss	m Z. Nikolic m P. Patrizzi	2. Ecc
6	Diazarranza Hugo Diana	m J.L. Diaz f E. Trajkov	
7	Brandan del Zagnis Pianigiani's Lori	m Z. Nikolic f St. Pianigiani	
8	Pirio od Gastona Marzale's Hogan	m J. Zekanovic m E. Trajkov	MB MB
9	Braco du Tourbillon blanc Apasch del Zagnis	m F. Feurté f Z. Nikolic	
10	Fren Pique od Gastona	m E. Trajkov m J. Zekanovic	
11	Torres del Zagnis Pianigiani's Jilgen	m Z. Nikolic m St. Pianigiani	
12	Arno Rex del Faenor	m J. Zekanovic m J. L. Sanz	3. Ecc

Results Day 2

Setter und Pointer Club Schweiz
Championnat d Europe GT Cantalupo 2016

9. octobre 2016

Batterie: 1

Terrain Chiminiera

Guide: Locatelli

Juges: D. Sormaz (P)
F. Gerzinc
D. Gouzounas

Couple No	Nom du chien	Sex Conducteur	Resultat
1	Atom del Sassovivo Ciro Sirtouf	m L. Pastorci m K. Panagiottis	
2	Carpin de Ademar Lem (detto Rochy)	m F. Gomez m A. Mariani	Ecc
3	Alex Adrenalina del Zagnis	m K. Panagiottis f G. Pezzotta	
4	Hard Ambroffellis Dalerik Big	m M. Iazzetta m D. Cominotti	Ecc
5	Atos Bajron moreno del Zagnis	m M. Caramanti m G. Pezzotta	1. Ecc CAC/CACIT Ecc
6	One Dream Kosmas Casper Morinensis Casper	m K. Panagiottis m M. Mori	
7	Max del Zagnis Percha de Bosende	m F. Rosselli f F. Gomez	
8	Malcottinensis Rock Lavezzi del Zagnis	m D. Cominotti f G. Pezzotta	2. Ecc RCAC/RCACIT
9	Amor od Pastorci Casper de Ademar	m L. Pastorci m F. Gomez	Ecc
10	Dalerik Aramis Balboa Zagni del Duda	m D. Cominotti m G. Pezzotta	3. Ecc
11	Erode della Bassa Reggina Cheyenne	m V. Antimo f G. Ferrari	
12	Dendaberri Neron Daar del Zagnis	m F. Gomez m F. Rosselli	

Setter und Pointer Club Schweiz
Championnat d Europe GT Cantalupo 2016

9. octobre 2016

Batterie: 2

Terrain Vigo Ponso

Guide: Fabio

Juges: S. Bianconi (P)
W. Jost
N. Kassianidis

Couple	No Chien	Nom du chien	Sex Conducteur
1		Arno	m J. Zekanovic
		Masche del Zagnis	m Z. Nikolic
2		Rex del Faenor	m J. L. Sanz
		Fren	m E. Trajkov
3		Pianigiani's Jilgen	m St. Pianigiani
		Apasch del Zagnis	f Z. Nikolic
4		Pique od Gastona	m J. Zekanovic
		Braco du Tourbillon blanc	m F. Feurté
5		Marzale's Hogan	m E. Trajkov
		Brandan del Zagnis	m Z. Nikolic
6		Pirio od Gastona	m J. Zekanovic
		Pianigiani's Lori	f St. Pianigiani
7		Diazarranza Hugo	m J.L. Diaz
		Ali del Tamerlano	m Z. Nikolic
8		Diana	f E. Trajkov
		Cyrano du Tourbillon blanc	m S. Meili
9		Rajna od Karaotoka	f J. Zekanovic
		Ciak del Zagnis	m Z. Nikolic
10		Marzale's History D'O	m E. Trajkov
		Ami Cicco du Tourbillon blanc	m S. Meili
11		Bruss	m P. Patrizzi
		Akron del Tremelano	m Z. Nikolic
12		Pianigiani's Ford	m St. Pianigiani
		Dac de Playabbari	m J.L. Diaz

Results Day 1