

Field Trials Newsletter

Summer 2023



The Kennel Club Gundog Working Test

By Kate Broers, Gundog Events Manager

The Kennel Club's Gundog Working Test was held from Wednesday 14 to Sunday 18 June at the spectacular Capesthorne Hall. The event, which was kindly sponsored by Skinner's Field and Trial, was a great success with expertly set tests which replicated scenarios found in the shooting field to challenge the dogs and handlers.

This year's working test also featured a very special 150th Anniversary Competition whereby teams of two retrievers, two spaniels and one Hunt, Point and Retrieve breed all worked together to show off their hunting, marking and retrieving skills as a team. An event of this style has never been undertaken before and was heralded as a credit to The Kennel Club.



A round-up from the editor

Welcome to the summer 2023 edition of the Field Trials Newsletter.

Now that the 2023/24 season is about to fully get underway, we hope that you all have a successful season, and congratulations to those who've already won awards!

The Gundog Working Test returned to Capesthorne Hall in Cheshire on 14 – 18 June, we hope those that attended enjoyed the beautiful country estate which makes for a spectacular setting for this event!

This edition of the newsletter hosts the report on the Gundog Working Test written by Kate Broers, Gundog Events Manager, as well as a report on the Kennel Club 150th Anniversary special event held on the first day of the Gundog Working Test.

You'll also find some of the usual features in this edition, including reminders to judges, secretaries and competitors. We wish to give our congratulations to the competitors who've been awarded the annual Kennel Club trophies, which are listed in this edition.

If you have any questions relating to The Kennel Club's field trials, please contact Kate Broers via email: ft.secretary@thekennelclub.org.uk

If you have any queries relating to field trials or have general questions relating to licences, judges etc, please email the team at:

gundogs@thekennelclub.org.uk

The field trials department

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To receive a copy of our newsletter straight to your inbox, sign up today at: thekennelclub.org.uk/fieldtrials

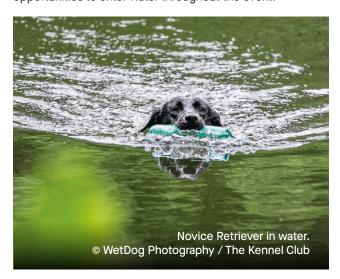
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Following the event spaniel judge Peter Avery said "A pleasure and an honour to be asked to judge the spaniels with Louis at this prestigious event. The Working Party and organisers of the event through hard work and lifetimes of experience got it spot on. The format resulted in, certainly for the spaniels, the dogs believing this was for real, a proper shooting day which rarely happens at working tests, across the board they were up for it. Preparation was the key to success and it proved to be the case. I thoroughly enjoyed watching the various disciplines working together as if on a shooting day. A spectacular back drop and although hot, the retrieves in the water ensured all dogs were cool and loving their work."

For more information on The Kennel Club 150th Anniversary test please read the report by Welsh Team Captain Alan Rees later on in this issue.



The Gundog Working Test Working Party were assisted by Kennel Club Staff and numerous volunteers, to manage the event. The Working Test Working Party had dedicated a huge amount of time and effort into setting the challenging and exciting tests for all the breed groups, and many competitors commented on the standard of the test scenarios. Whilst the weather across the five days was warm, all dogs were given plenty of rest breaks and ample opportunities to enter water throughout the event.



The Kennel Club would like to thank all the judges who offered their time and knowledge to expertly judge the dogs across the eight tests. A huge thank you must also be offered to all the helpers who volunteered their time to assist over the five days, without whom these events would not be possible, their commitment to working gundogs is hugely valuable.

A big thank you must also go to our hosts Sir William Bromley-Davenport and Mr and Mrs Bromley-Davenport, whom we were delighted to welcome for the prize giving ceremony on both Wednesday and Sunday afternoons.



Finally thank you to our sponsors Skinner's Field and Trial, their representatives Ben Skinner and Kirsty Bostock were on hand to deliver expert advice on the needs of our working dogs and their financial contribution to the Gundog Working Test is very much appreciated.

For the full results and score sheets from each of the tests please visit our website:

thekennelclub.org.uk/gundogworkingtests

The winners from all the tests are as follows:

Open Retriever – Mr S Le Voi with Labrador Retriever Maderablanca Amarillo

Novice Retriever – Mr R T N Brain with Labrador Retriever Klato Isaac of Flypatch

Open Spaniel – Mrs Thatcher with English Springer Spaniel Fuselea Harriett

Novice Spaniel – Ms H Clarkson and Mr M Tibbetts' Cocker Spaniel Osterlow Summer Rose handled by Ms Clarkson

Open HPR – Mrs E Carter with German Wirehaired Pointer Bareve Best Foot Forward

Novice HPR – Mr I Mcclellan with Hungarian Wirehaired Vizsla Woodend Flyer at Calondraig













International Retriever Team Event

Top Team

United Kingdom captained by Billy Lundy

Nigel Probert and Stauntonvale Buckwheat of Llangynidr

Oliver Bell and Eelburn Flavius of Ballygillen

David Latham and FTCh Fendawood Harold

George Buchan FTCh Fendawood Pioneer of Springfell

Top Dog

George Buchan and Labrador Retriever FTCh Fendawood Pioneer of Springfell

The Kennel Club 150th Anniversary Special Event

Top Team

Scotland

Darryl Elliot with German Shorthaired Pointer Islasbraw Ash (Top Dog)

Alan Clouston with English Springer Spaniel Meikleburn Dark Island

Darren Allison with English Springer Spaniel Craiwarn Sarabi

George Buchan with Labrador Retriever FTCh Fendawood Pioneer of Springfell

Roddy Forbes and Labrador Retriever Millbuies Gilbert of Carnochway

Top Dog

Darryl Elliot with German Shorthaired Pointer Islasbraw Ash

The Kennel Club 150th Anniversary Special Event results:

1st - Scotland

2nd - Ireland

3rd - England

4th - Wales

The Kennel Club 150th Anniversary Special Event Report

By Alan Rees, Welsh team captain

Date: Wednesday 14 June 2023

What a spectacle, the setting, walking toward the hall with a large lake to our left and an expanse of over 500 metres in front of us. Numerous fences, a circular pen, another square pen, on a brow, adjacent to where we would be lined out to commence the working test.

Each team lined out with the HPR in the middle, the brace of retrievers just to the left of the centre and a spaniel off to the left and right of the line. The judges, two for the spaniels, two for the retrievers and one HPR judge, were all part of the line. The cover was high on both left and right whilst also being very high along the water's edge, with bull rush and alder mixed amongst mature trees.

It was set out, with all team members and their dogs in action for just over an hour per team. The weather was warm, but teams were able to wait in the shade and dogs were given plenty of water during the test, as well as several water retrieves. The draw had Ireland running first, followed by England, then Scotland and the last team drawn was Wales.

The test

Firstly, the HPR was cast and hunted the full width of the course, leading up to a point. The HPR hunted on before a marked retrieve landing in the square pen well behind the line, which was then retrieved by the HPR. Then the line walked on, and each retriever had a marked retrieve, over the fence, about 120 metres over a brow and into cover, where you could not see the dog pick from.

At this stage the spaniels were released to hunt cover and they both got a distraction, after which they had to pick an unseen retrieve, over the fence. All dogs continued walking on to the next stage when retriever 1 got a long mark into the lake, it was possible to mark the retrieve in the air but, the challenge was the cover the dog encountered before getting to the water's edge. Retriever 2 had to pick a long unseen, into a circular pen in front of the hall, this proved very difficult for most of the dogs. Moving on, both hunting spaniels were given a double, first a distraction mark into cover, but they had to pick an unseen first, both spaniels completed this test before hunting on and both got a challenging water retrieve.

At this stage the HPR returned to hunt and had to be steady whilst the two retrievers got a series of retrieves, an even longer mark into the lake for dog 1, and dog 2 getting a very tight angled blind, over a fence, each dog allocated the area of their respective blind retrieves. Back to the HPR, and they finished on a seen to the water and an unseen in cover. The final retrieve, for both retrievers, was a long 300 metre mark into the square box set out at the beginning of the test arena, again, this proved difficult for most competitors.



It must be said that the Gundog Working Test Working Party had thoroughly thought out this event, with a wonderful combination of dog work and retrieving. The Working Party had done a remarkable job, together with the huge number of helpers who never put a foot wrong during the course of the day. Thanks also to the judges, Eddie Kania, Peter Avery, Louis Rice, Tim Brain and David Logan for their time and expertise in judging the dog work in this competitive and exciting test format.

Huge credit must be given to The Kennel Club for their initiative and their organisation and production of this brilliant event. The event certainly brought out the best in dogs of all breeds; all dogs were able to be awarded a maximum of 120 points.

All the teams did a remarkable job, in very difficult conditions, with Scotland running out international team winners, with a fantastic run from their competition top scoring dog, the HPR, with 117.5.

Ireland was second, England third and Wales fourth, in a very tight, highly competitive international event.

A massive thank you to Ceri and Phil Rundel, of CSJ K9, for their continued support of the Wales International Team and to Skinner's for their ongoing support of gundogs at Kennel Club events.



The Kennel Club Any Variety Spaniel (Excluding Spaniel [Cocker]) Championship 2023 results

We apologise that the 3rd and 4th places awarded at the Any Variety Spaniel (Excluding Spaniel [Cocker]) Championship held on 12, 13 and 14 January 2023 at Invermark Estate were listed incorrectly in the Spring 2023 newsletter.

The results of the Championship were as follows:

1st place – FTCh Rytex Rapeds – owned by Mr O Ingram and handled by Mr I Openshaw (Gun's Choice and Best Bitch)

2nd place – FTCh Penwills Pinot – owned by Mr B Wade and handled by Mr I Openshaw

 $\mathbf{3}^{\mathrm{rd}}$ place - Brocklinton Kia – owned and handled by Mr A Sankey

4th **place** – FTCh Broomfield Vera at Taykimoor – owned and handled by Miss K Stewart



Dates of upcoming Kennel Club Championships

Hunt, Point and Retrieve Championship

Venue: Emblehope and Burngrange Estate

Date: Friday 17 and Saturday 18 November 2023

Cocker Spaniel Championship

Venue: Emblehope and Burngrange Estate, Northumberland

Date: Friday 5 and Saturday 6 January 2024

Any Variety Spaniel (Excluding Spaniel [Cocker]) Championship

Venue: Tolishill and Lauder, by kind permission of Eskdale Shooting Services

Date: Monday 15, Tuesday 16 and Wednesday 17 January

2024

Working Gundog Certificate

Congratulations to the following handlers and their dogs who've achieved the Working Gundog Certificate on dummies.

LOVATNOIR OUZEL

Retriever (Labrador), Mrs C A Thackwell

ROSSCLYDE VITAL SPARK

Retriever (Labrador), Mrs L Saunders

DERINGCOTE BARN OWL

Retriever (Labrador), Miss H Mack

BUG FUDGE

Crossbreed, Mrs S A Leyshon

DEIFSTOCK DUFFY

Hungarian Wire Haired Vizsla, Ms S Rose

DEIFSTOCK DESERT ROSE

Hungarian Wire Haired Vizsla, Mrs S Cooper

DULCET DORA

Retriever (Labrador), Mr J Malcolmson

PINWARE ECLIPSE

Retriever (Labrador), Miss L Jarrett

JEFFREYS SECOND SHOOTER

Spaniel (Cocker), Mrs J Rackham

BOGGWATER EDGERTON PINK

Spaniel (English Springer), Ms S Walsh

WOODRUFF BEYOND FABULOUS

Retriever (Labrador), Miss L Jarrett

QUINCEGROVE EXIT MUSIC

Spaniel (English Springer), Mrs V Payne

LADY RIVER

Retriever (Labrador), Miss D Martin

KENSTEEN SENCHA

Retriever (Golden), Mr A Hales

BREEZYBROOK HOT TODDY

Spaniel (Cocker), Mrs S Cunliffe-Lister

BELLESBANK GRAVITY

Retriever (Labrador), Miss H Collyer

FENISCOWLES EBONY

Retriever (Labrador), Lady G Feilden

TOWTON BAR GIRL

Retriever (Golden), Mr A Hales

GREATERED MOUNTAIN ASH

Retriever (Labrador), Mrs K Bellows

LADY SAPPHIRE BLUE

Spaniel (English Springer), Mr H Gardner

BRYNAMBOR TRIXIE

Spaniel (English Springer), Miss M Rayton

RONEVORG DARK ANGEL AT LUSSAC

Retriever (Labrador), Mr S Ashby

SAGE RATU BAGUS

Spaniel (Cocker), Ms M Light

FINHAMSPRIDE CLIO

Retriever (Flat Coated), Mrs S Thurgood

THURWHITT DANCING QUEEN

Retriever (Flat Coated), Mrs S Thurgood

LUSSAC YAWL OF PERCUIL

Retriever (Flat Coated), Mrs H Ford

STROXWORTHY LANGFORD MOLLY

Retriever (Labrador), Mrs M Brown

WOODLANA HATTIE

Spaniel (Cocker), Mr G Davis

RIMROCK MOONSHINE

Retriever (Labrador), Mrs L Whereat

PERCUIL PERLIN

Retriever (Flat Coated), Mr G E Wakley

CLANDRIFT DIPLOMAT

Spaniel (Field), Mrs M Trotter

GORDONSBURN FLORIN

Retriever (Labrador), Mrs A Windel

RANDALA KATARA

Spaniel (English Springer), Miss C Cooke

GOING DOWN THE ISLAND DORIS

Spaniel (Cocker), Mrs S C Stephens

FILCHING WINSTON

Spaniel (Cocker), Mr G Marshall

GELART COX'S PIPPIN

Spaniel (Cocker), Miss T Crook

Congratulations to the following handlers and their dogs who've achieved the Working Gundog Certificate on game.

WAVERTON I WISH I COULD FLY AT LARKSBURN

Retriever (Flat Coated), Ms S Young

BRAIDENVALE SEMMERLING

Retriever (Labrador), Mrs S Burton

EKKOLANDER MALBEC

Large Munsterlander, Mrs K Saynor

NEWCLOSE LUCY

Retriever (Labrador), Mrs C Wilson

BEEHIVE BLACK JACK

Retriever (Labrador), Mr M Jervis

SELLOANA CALLISTO NYMPH

Retriever (Flat Coated), Mrs A Kitching

Field Trials trophies

Congratulations to the following winners of The Kennel Club field trial trophies.

The Gavosie Cup

For the lady gundog handler with the most points in field trials during the season, awarded to Mrs S Gadd with Retriever (Labrador) Brindlebay Annet, and Retriever (Labrador) Brindlebay Agnes at Birdsgreen.

The Routledge-Rank Cup

For the Retriever which had gained the most points at field trials during the season, awarded to Mr D Boyle with Retriever (Labrador) Knockyclovaun Ralph.

The Hanlye Trophy

For the breeder of the winner of the Routledge-Rank Cup, awarded to the late Mr B P Ryan with Retriever (Labrador) Knockyclovaun Ralph.

Kennel Club Field Trial Panel Judges List

The following judges have been added to the official panels of Field Trial Judges:

RETRIEVERS "A"

Mr Jim Carnegie (3329)

Mrs Paula Cullis (2704)

Mrs Sally Richardson (3214)

Mrs Diana Stevens (3483)

RETRIEVERS "B"

Mr Simon Capstick (3951)

Mr Robin Drysdale (3383)

Mrs Jill Gardner (3668)

Mr Adam Holmes (3913)

Mr Reuben Mort (2977)

SPANIELS "A"

Mr Paul Carragher (3268)

Mr Andrew Faulkner (3747)

Miss Alexandra Hayes (3748)

Mr Robert Lithgow (3768)

Mr Angelo Lo Curto (3765)

Mr Alastair Ross (2694)

Mr John Sexton (3326)

Mr Mark Watson (3405)

SPANIELS "B"

Mr Jim Dransfield (3935)

Mr Richard Heseltine (3422)

Mr Owen Russell (3564)

Mr Kevin Shapland (3970)

Mr Gary Wilson (2811)

HPR "A"

Mrs Coshy Kimberley (3622)

HPR "B"

Mr Michael Ede (3975)

Approved applications for permission to hold field trials

Foyle Valley Working Cocker Club

Novice AV Spaniel Stake

German Longhaired Pointer Club

Open AV HPR Stake

Usk Valley Working Gundog Club

Open AV HPR Stake

Vale of York Working Retriever Club

Open AV Retriever Stake

Amendments to Field Trials J Regulations

[NOTE: All regulation changes for the forthcoming season are listed in the back pages of the J Regulation booklets for reference]

The following regulation amendments have been approved and become effective on Friday 2 February 2024:

Regulation J4.d(2)(iv)

TO:

Entries listed as follows:

Registered name and number of dog and/or Stud Book number.

Name of owner(s).

Breed of dog.

Address of owner(s), unless requested by the owners(s) to he-

withheld for publication.

Sex of dog.

Date of birth of dog.

Registered name of sire and dam.

Name of breeder.

Name of handler.

(Deletion struck through)

(Effective date Friday 2 February 2024)

Regulation J(A)3.c.

TO

Judges are responsible for the proper conduct of the trial in accordance with Kennel Club Rules and Field Trial Regulations and the schedule for the stake. Judges are also expected to maintain and abide by the highest standards in accordance with the appropriate Codes of Best Practice as published from time to time.

(Deletion struck through)

(Effective date Friday 2 February 2024)

Regulation J(A)4.c.

TO:

All wounded game should, where possible, be gathered and for despatched immediately. Unless exceptional circumstances prevail then wounded game should always be tried for before dead game. If game cannot be gathered, the judge must depute this task to the official handler and dog appointed for this purpose.

(Deletion struck through)

(Effective Friday 2 February 2024)

[NOTE: for clarity, the regulation amend is to remove the word 'or' from 'gathered and/or despatched immediately']

Regulation J5.c(3):

TO:

Judging experience must include stakes judged at trials held by at least two different societies. Before being added to the Panel for retrievers or spaniels candidates for the B Panel must have handled a dog to win at least one field trial stake for the appropriate sub-group and have considerable field trial experience. Before being added to the A Panel for retrievers or spaniels, candidates must have handled a dog to win at least one open stake or in the case of retrievers, been placed 2nd in a 2-day open stake and, since being added to the B Panel, have substantially increased their field trial experience.

For HPRs, before being added to the A Panel or the B Panel, candidates must have handled a dog to a win at a novice, all-aged, or open HPR stake.

(Insertions in bold. Deletions struck through.)

(Effective Friday 2 February 2024)

In the interest of clarity and consistency, Regulation J(G)1.a. has been amended to:

GWTs are competitions which, by artificially simulating shooting day conditions, seek to assess, without game being shot, the working abilities of the various breeds of Gundog. Cold game and dummies may be used at the discretion of the organisers.

(Deletion in bold)

(Effective Friday 2 February 2024)

New process for the selection of judges for the Spaniel Championships and the HPR Championship

For the 2025 judges onwards, there will be a new selection process in place. The Field Trials Committee have recently discussed and implemented the following new process for the selection of judges for the Spaniel Championships and the HPR Championship.

There are approximately 90 clubs that are entitled to participate in the current process for selecting judges for The Kennel Club Spaniel Championships, however the majority of these did not engage with this process and therefore it was felt that a different process was needed, and this would also apply to the HPR Championship.

Judges for the 2025 Spaniel and HPR Championships onwards will be selected directly by The Kennel Club, with input from relevant working parties. Clubs and societies, should they wish to do so, would be able to make suggestions, via members of the working parties, for suitable judges for consideration.

To put forward any suggestions, please email: ft.secretary@thekennelclub.org.uk

Refusal of entries

Regulation J6.d

A society may reserve to itself the right to refuse any entry or nomination. Any such refusal must be reported to The Kennel Club.

The right to refuse entries must be applied in a fair, reasoned and unbiased manner.

The Kennel Club has the following guidance on the procedure for refusing entries.

Should a society wish to refuse an entry to an event, the following procedure should be followed:

- The matter must be included on the agenda for a committee meeting
- At the meeting, the committee should fully consider the matter and decide whether or not to accept the entry, and discuss how long to maintain any refusal

- The decision and salient points of discussion should be minuted
- 4. The competitor should be informed of the decision

The refusal should not be indefinite or open-ended but stated to be for a particular event or series of events or for a fixed period of time.

A society should remain open and willing to review any decisions on refusal of entries and take on board any representations made by the individual, including apologies and explanations in mitigation.

The full guidance document on the right to refuse entries can be requested via email:

gundogs@thekennelclub.org.uk

Reminders to judges

We wish to remind panel judges that it is unacceptable practice to accept a judging appointment and to enter a field trial for the same date, which may or may not lead to subsequent withdrawal from the appointment.

We would also like to remind judges that a breach of contract at short notice, unless in exceptional circumstances, is not acceptable.

Evaluation forms

We wish to remind judges of the importance of returning the required field trials evaluation forms.

All evaluation forms are required to be returned to The Kennel Club within 30 days of the date of the trial (Regulation J(A)3.o.) A Panel judges are required to provide forms on both B and non-Panel judges and B Panel judges are required to provide forms on non-Panel judges. We remind you that this is all B or non-Panel judges, not just those that you may be paired with.

Failing to return the forms within 30 days of the trial may result in the matter being considered by the Field Trials Committee and a warning or fine may be imposed.

The online evaluation form can be found over on our website: **thekennelclub.org.uk/ftjudgeevaluationform**

Reminders to secretaries

The field trials department would like to remind field trial secretaries that when paying for your licences please could you ensure that the QUO number, provided on your invoice, is used as the payment reference for bank transfers or cheque payments.

This ensures that the payment is allocated to the correct trial.

Entries from non-members

We would like to remind secretaries that it is not permitted to refuse entries on the basis that the competitor was a nonmember, entries must be accepted from all competitors. Following some concerns raised that non-members were not covered by the societies insurance, the Field Trials Committee wished to confirm that it is the responsibility of the society to ensure that the insurance covered all those that attended a trial or working test.

Judging dogs of a non-standard colour

We would like to remind judges, competitors and secretaries that dogs should not be disqualified for being of a non-standard colour.

Dogs should be assessed on their overall merit and ability, rather than colour, and judges could withhold placings if appropriate.

Regulation J(A)3.a. states that:

'The task of the judges is to find the dog which, on the day, pleases them most by the quality of its work from the shooting point of view. They must, therefore, take natural game-finding to be of the first importance in field trials. A judge must also have a very good working knowledge of the breed or breeds under trial and have the interest and future of the breed or breeds at heart, since final placings may influence breeding plans and so determine the course of breed development.'

Gundog events sponsor

The Kennel Club is delighted to announce Sporting Saint as a sponsor of all Kennel Club Gundog events.

Sporting Saint is a specialist UK business, manufacturing and supplying quality gundog training equipment for all levels of training needs.

Sporting Saint will be sponsoring The Kennel Club Gundog Championships, the Gundog Woking Test and will be official sponsors of all Kennel Club Field Trials.

Gundog Training Equipment - Sporting Saint





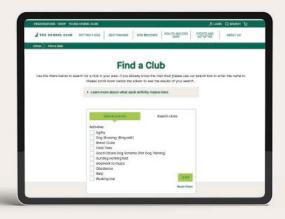
Find a Club

The Kennel Club has announced that its new and improved 'Find a Club' service is now available online. The new service includes a list of field trials clubs and the purpose of the service is to enable new dog owners to find local clubs in their area.

The Find a Club service can be found here.

Find a dog club | The Kennel Club

Please ensure that you have reviewed your club information. Any amendments, including secretary details, can be updated via your online account.





Looking for a club in your area?
Visit Find a Club

Visit thekennelclub.org.uk/FAC



The Emblehope & Burngrange Estate Northumberland

A centre of excellence for working Dogs

This beautiful moorland estate stretches to some 7,550 acres and is absolutely ideal for walked up trialling and training for retrievers, spaniels and HPRs. The estate offers both pheasant and partridge shooting and the varied terrain offers opportunities for all breeds of gundog to demonstrate their natural working abilities. Woodland cover provides excellent hunting for spaniels whilst the stretching moorland is ideal for challenging retrieves and for the pointing breeds to show off their hunting abilities to the full.

As a centre of excellence for working dogs, the estate also welcomes the full range of working dog activities including:

- Field trials including Pointer and Setter Spring Stakes
- · Gundog working tests
- · Gundog training days
- Live game training days
- Pointing tests
- · Working trials
- · Bloodhound trials
- Activity training days
- Shooting and gundog activities

