

**THE NORTH DEVON WORKING
GUNDOG CLUB**



NEWSLETTER No 54

September 2021

www.ndwgc.co.uk

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Becky Franklin, 1 Grant Place, South Molton, Devon EX36 4BT

CHAIRMAN'S THOUGHT

We are delighted that after a lengthy break in our activities we have embarked on what is almost a normal voyage through the Gundog season.

Training has gone well although some have been unable to attend when they would have liked. It has been difficult to cram the usual sessions in to a shorter period of time.

We want our training to remain relevant and address the needs of our members. It is possible that this can be achieved in the current structure. However it is becoming increasingly clear that picking-up teams are often a mixture of conventional retrieving breeds (Labrador, Golden & Flatcoat Retriever etc) and spaniels. Does our training need to change to reflect this? I expect a lively debate and hopefully we will have plans in place to put before the next AGM.

I would recommend to all trainees with mature dogs that you consider entering the Working Gundog Certificate test. The certificate is generally accepted as an indication that dog and handler are competent and suitable for most Shoots. Our next test for Certification will be held next summer following the completion of our training programme, hopefully again in collaboration with the Duchy Club.

Further details of the all the Tests that are to take place are on the website but if you feel that you would like further details then please contact one of the training team.

The Game Fair

This year I attended this splendid event for the first time. It was great to see so many enthusiasts together in such a setting. I am sure that many of you were also attending and it was good to see some familiar faces on the day I attended.

I was sorry to miss our Spaniel Field Trial Secretary Val competing in the Working Gundog Challenge but the parts I did see were great fun.

I also had the privilege of seeing the HPR International competition. Despite the heat and the confined ground it was most impressive. I do have a soft spot for these dogs having once owned an English Pointer - 'Smokie'.

As with many things I wish I knew then what I know now.

I know that many feel that HPRs are unsuitable for North Devon but there are a number of owners and occasionally they sign up for training. Lumping them in with either the Spaniels or Retrievers is clearly unsatisfactory. I wonder if there is some unmet need here. If you know of people not necessarily members who own such dogs encourage them to contact me and we will see whether a small group can be formed. Access to suitable ground guaranteed!

We're after all not a Retriever Club and/or a Spaniel Club but a Gundog Club open to everyone interested in the Sport.'

Chris

TREASURERS TITBITS – YOUR TREASURER'S VIEW

Money generally makes the world go round. North Devon Working Gundog Club revolves around funds raised from subscriptions, shop sales, entry fees, training and club events, to run Working Tests, Field Trials, and more recently, Gundog Certificate day, Simulated Game day and the promotion of gundog activities both locally and nationally. All of these events have significant costs, but the club is run completely by your committee and a few other dedicated members all of whom operate on a completely voluntary basis. So, we do rely on the generosity of our committee members, working test secretaries, Field Trials Secretaries and Trainers, Chairman, Secretary, Membership secretary, Club Secretary and not forgetting your Treasurer and everybody else who helps organise, run, and sell in the shop and administer the club for all the hard work. Our Landowners generously allow us to use their shooting facilities to run a field trial without charge, I say thank you so much. Your club does make charitable donations to charities nominated by these Landowners. Without the generosity of all these people, the club's business would be much harder. I'd like to thank everybody for their generosity to the club.

Each season, your treasury accounts for over 800 transactions - both income and expenditure. So, there is a great deal of work goes into collecting monies and banking them, paying the clubs expenses, and accounting for it all properly.

In our last proper season (2019) club turnover - income from all sources - amounted to £16,400 and our costs were £12,970 so income exceeded costs by 26% leaving a surplus of £3,430. That was a good year! In leaner years, if we are very careful, we break even. Sometimes we make a small surplus. The club does hold good reserves through careful management by your committee over the years. Like everybody else Covid has meant the club has had no activities for over a year. Luckily our members have stayed with us and their support has covered the overhead costs of last year to give us a break even position. The club is now waking up from Covid with a full training programme with lots of students, we are about to hold our first working test of the season and we have a good programme of field trials ahead of us. It's great to be busy again.

One of the positive things to come out of Covid has been a rethink of the way we handled cash. We have essentially moved to a cashless society. It is so much easier for your club officers to just swipe a card or to check an online bank statement for a payment than to have to handle cash or cheques. I would urge all our members to think cashless in their dealings with the club. Its quick, its easy, and it is bio secure. Most of all with no banks in town, it saves your treasurer hours of time. So please think electronic in your dealings with us – pay your sub by standing order and bring your card to training sign up or to buy from the shop. For competitions we are moving to an online registration system called FTMS which again is electronic payment, even when it returns payments to you. Please, please update your standing orders to the current rate of subscription as you are not a paid-up member for competition entry until we have the full subscription. We also do all our accountancy electronically with a simple system.

So before I close, please just spare a thought for your treasurer - attending events and being handed a bag of cash and cheques in the middle of a windswept field in the pouring rain, and if he's lucky the bag will contain a slip of paper explaining what the money is for - entry fees, raffle monies, membership subs, not forgetting some shop sales - and going home to spent the evening drying out all the notes, counting all the cash and trying to read the smudged explanatory note so that he can account for it properly and pay it into the bank! How it didn't all blow away, never ceases to surprise me. The slightly dubious privilege of being your clubs treasurer is full of surprise and excitement and its great to have the excuse to attend all these events to help everybody enjoy the delights of watching competitors and their dogs do the unthinkable to win a competition.

Charles Bradfield, 20th July 2021



Editor's Note: The Club is now actively seeking a Treasurer to take Charles' place. If you are numerate and capable of managing Excel spreadsheets, the Committee would be very pleased to hear from you. Kindly contact the Chairman or Treasurer by email if you think you may be able to serve the membership on the Committee.

North Devon Working Gundog Club

Simulated Shoot Training Day

To be held on Sunday 26th September at,

Lake Farm

Abbotsham

Bideford

Devon

EX39 5BQ

By kind invitation of Mr & Mrs David Lomas.

We are running a simulated shoot training day for both spaniels and retrievers in cover crops and woodland.

The cost of the day will be £20.00 and you will need to bring your own packed lunch.

The aim of the day will be to familiarise your dogs with the sounds and atmosphere of a driven shoot day.

We will be in 2 teams. The beaters going through the cover with all the sounds of the flags, whistles and gun shot. The picking up team spaced out behind the guns to recover the dummies, cold game and remain steady to the shooting.

We will be using both dummies and cold game with placed, thrown and dummies fired from a launcher.

Starting at 10.00 with a break for lunch at midday and then some more drives in the afternoon.

Anyone interested please fill in their details below and return by 18th September with payment to,

Mr Graham Dibble
121 Lower Burwood Road
Torrington
Devon
EX38 7NL

Please make any cheques payable to, **North Devon Working Gundog Club**

The club shop will be available after the shoot training

Cut Here ✂ _____

Name.....

Contact No Mobile.....

Landline.....

Email Address.....

Beating or Picking up.....

SUMMER TRAINING REPORT

Well after all that has been going on, we are pleased to have been able to run some training classes this year.

Can I first of all start by saying a big thank you to all the landowners that allow us to use their ground, the professional trainers that every year come along and give their time and experience to help us train our dogs and of course all the club trainers that come along and give their time and energy into making these classes so successful.

I must also thank Beth Payne and Skinners dog food for their generosity every year at the training meeting and again at the end of year tests.

Once again we have had a good number of people taking part in the training groups. We have had a very good number of new members sign up this year.

We will again finish this year with our end of year fun test. However, unlike other years, the spaniel and retrievers will have separate dates and venues.

We will also be running our Simulated Shoot day on 26th September at Abbotsham, and we must thank David and Emma Lomas for once again allowing us onto their farm. Like other years the day will be aimed at giving people new to our sport and their young dogs a taste of a driven shoot day.

We hope to see everyone again next year.

Graham and all the trainers.

WORKING TEST RESULTS 2021

NOVICE AV RETRIEVER WORKING TEST , 8 AUGUST 2021

This test was held on the 8 August 2021 at Spa Wood, Filleigh, with kind permission of Mr Gordon Hewitt and the Castle Hill Estate together with Head Keeper, Mr Brian Mitchell

After an initially damp start the day proceeded well with 18 competitors enjoying the varied tests on this lovely ground. The Club were grateful to Skinners for sponsoring this event.

A very enjoyable day was had by all especially as it was our first event after the easing of lockdown restrictions. The judges were Mr Tim Shipp, Mrs Trish Watson and Mrs Geraldine Davis, with results as follows:

Results

- 1st Ashport Plum of Mowbarton (Victoria Pitcher)
- 2nd Zennawood Tinkers Moon (Jessica Latham)
- 3rd Greenbriar Witch (Maureen Jennings)
- 4th Zennawood Mystic Meadow (Jessica Latham)

RETRIEVER END OF SEASON FUN TEST

The Retriever group End of Year Fun Test was held at Spa Wood, courtesy of Gordon Hewitt.

This was a lovely end to the summer training. Competitors enjoyed perfect weather in a wonderful location, with praise and positive input from the three judges namely Laurie Pittaway, Rosemary Price and James Short. The day ran smoothly – with help from so many people, ending with a BBQ, plenty of laughs and thoughts for 2022.

The club is grateful to Skinners and Beth Payne for sponsoring the club and training group.

The winners of the three sections were:

- | | |
|--------|-----------------|
| Puppy | Richard Sanders |
| Basic | Heather Warne |
| Novice | Jacquie Wright |

SPANIEL WORKING TESTS 29th AUGUST 2021

We held our annual working tests at Hall Farm, Molland by kind permission of Molland Estate. Our thanks go to our judges Graham West, Nick Gregory and Maurice Stanbury and not forgetting all the helpers without whom these days could not go ahead. One final thank you to the competitors who offer themselves up to be judged.

Novice Test

- 1st. Caroline Rawlings Nicaris Total Eclipse
- 2nd Val Brookes Whitedown Whimbrel
- 3rd Lavinia Lindley Teakan Black Nightshade
- 4th Nicola Chapman Tremarde Teaser
- CoM Tim Williams Fizzy Whizzy Woo
- CoM Sue Turner Moelfamau Upcott

(see over)

Open Test

1st Paul Urquhart Misselchalke Apollo
2nd Maurice Stanbury Stockingford Schaton
3rd Morwenna McNally Woodabudge Onyx
4th Alice Wise Esgob Floss
CoM Tim Williams Gentle Georgie Girl

Congratulations to all in the awards

Hope everyone had a good day

Nigel

Huge thanks must be given to all the landowners who allowed training on their ground, and trainers for giving time and expertise throughout the season.

A VERY DIFFERENT EXPERIENCE

Over the years I have watched and enjoyed many field trials, across all of the gundog breeds, except for one, and that was the Pointers and Setters. In late July, I had the opportunity to remedy that omission when I received an invitation to attend the Pointer Club's Open Stake on Apedale Moor, near Reeth in North Yorkshire. Happily, the date of the trial coincided with the time my wife Penny and I were spending on holiday with friends, just ten miles distant.

I was encouraged to have a day indulging my personal interest and crossing an item off the bucket list. And so off I went heading for Lord Bolton's grouse moor and a very new experience. Conditions for working dogs were ideal, overcast with some breeze but only a few spots of rain throughout. A great contrast to the scorching heat that had been experienced only a few days previously. Carole Brown, the club's Field Trial Secretary gave me an introduction and it wasn't long before I found myself in great company, many new faces but all most welcoming to someone who was a complete novice in their specialised gundog world.

The first surprise was that Carole started the day with forty runners. It was an Open Stake and although organised by the Pointer Club it was open to any appropriately qualified Pointer or Setter. Four different breeds ran in the stake of which the Pointers were in the majority, but I also saw Gordon Setters, English Setters and Irish Red Setters performing on the day. After the introductions and briefing were given, the draw was made to determine the pairing of the dogs.

The next surprise was that the judges ensured that all dogs ran into the wind. Perhaps I should have worked that one out for myself, but it really wouldn't have been possible any other way. As the pairs were brought forward for their run, they were cast off in opposite directions by their handlers and worked a beat of 80 - 100 yards in either direction, crossing each other's path as they ran. These are all air scenting dogs and it was quite spectacular to see them touch scent and come on point. Once the handler indicated to the judges that their dog was 'on point' they were asked to walk forward with the 'gun', a role played by Ian Sleightholm, the Head Keeper, and encourage their dog to flush the game in front of them. Sometimes a single bird, but more often a small covey of grouse was quick to flush, but quite often the birds were moving forwards in front of the dog and proved somewhat reluctant to get up. That was a real test of the relationship between handler and dog, to ensure that the movement was fast enough to gain a flush but not so uncontrolled that the dog ran in. When a successful flush was achieved, the gun fired a shot in the air to test the dog's steadiness. Of course, the stake took place well before the 12th August, the opening date for the grouse season and so no birds could be shot.

I was told that Pointers and Setters are not expected to retrieve, their task is to find and then flush game from a large expanse of open ground. When they are employed in a walked-up shooting situation during the season, a retriever is used to find and return the shot birds.

I didn't find it difficult to understand the principal ways the dogs were assessed by the judges, although, for sure, I wouldn't have understood many of the finer performance points. There were obvious differences in pace and style and how well different dogs worked their ground, and then demonstrated their steadiness on point. And just like in spaniel trials, those that missed game were immediately eliminated.

After a long day, a five-year-old Irish Red Setter bitch, FTCh Shanrycon Diamante owned and handled by Steve Robinson was declared the winner. She was certainly the one that caught my eye too.

Maurice Stanbury

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FIELD TRIAL SCHEDULE FOR RETRIEVERS AND SPANIELS

2021/2022 SEASON

(Held under Kennel Club Ltd Rules and Field Trial Regulations)

Entries should be made online via FTMS for both Spaniel and Retriever trials. This means payment details will be taken online as part of your entry on the system but won't be taken from your account unless you are offered a run. There is a non-refundable £3.00 admin fee taken upfront for all entries on the FTMS system. The draw is carried out by FTMS on the day following the closing date and the entrants will be notified by an FTMS email. After this, all communication should be to the relevant Field Trial Secretary.

Please note this year the *preferred* method of entry for all field trials is via FTMS but Field Trials Entry Forms can be downloaded and printed by clicking on this link: [FIELD TRIALS ENTRY FORM](#)

and should be sent by first class post to the relevant FTSec:

Retrievers: Julie Taylor, The Firs, Crowcombe Heathfield, Taunton, Somerset TA4 4BU

Spaniels: Val Brookes, Worston Farm, Worston, Nr Yealmpton, Devon PL8 2LN

Entry forms must be accompanied by a cheque for the entry fee in order to be entered for the draw

By entering a trial, you are committed to abiding by the KC JRegs and the Club's Conditions. Directions to the venue will be sent with the running order.

Entry Fees for Members

Retriever Stakes - Open £40; Novice £30.

Spaniel Stakes - Open £35; Novice £30.

Non-Members all Stakes £50.

All entries on FTMS carry an additional £3.00 Admin fee

Prizes

Retrievers	Open	1st £35	2nd £25	3rd £15
	Novice	1st £30	2nd £20	3rd £10
Spaniels	Open	1st £30	2nd £20	3rd £10
	Novice	1st £25	2nd £15	3rd £5

In addition, food vouchers will be awarded to the top three dogs in each stake.

We gratefully acknowledge the sponsorship provided by Roger Skinner Ltd.

Field Trial Secretary (Retrievers)

Ms Julie Taylor

ftsr@ndwgc.co.uk

Field Trial Secretary (Spaniels)

Mrs Valerie Brookes

ftss@ndwgc.co.uk

Help at trials is always appreciated. Please give us a call in advance.

December 13th 2021

Stake 5: Novice Stake for AV Retriever

at Bulworthy Shoot, Nr Bideford, N. Devon

By kind permission of Geoff May

Judges: Sara Chichester A1847, Nick Coates A2223

Beth Payne NP3978, Mandy Smith NP

Closing date for entries: 29th November Draw: 30th November

No of Dogs: 14

December 15th 2021 Stake 6: Open Qualifying Stake for AV Retriever

at Castle Hill, Filleigh, N. Devon

by kind permission of the Castle Hill Shoot and Brian Mitchell

Judges: Tim Shipp A1916, Steve Ashby A2549

Craig Perry B3550, Matt Gould B3776

Closing date for entries: 1st December Draw: 2nd December

No of Dogs: 14

If you, or a member of your close family have covid 19 related symptoms or have tested positive within the last ten days, you must not attend.

Kennel Club Rules and Regulations

(excerpts taken from www.thekennelclub.org.uk/media/3465/field-trial-j-regulations.pdf)

The following are definitions of certain stakes: (Regs J 3 d)

Open: A stake in which dogs have the opportunity of gaining a qualification towards the title of Field Trial Champion (K Regulations refer) and towards entry in the Championship or Champion stake for its breed; in which entry is open to all dogs of a specified breed or breeds except that such Stakes may not be confined to Any Variety Spaniel [except Spaniel (Cocker) and (English Springer)]. It may be limited to a prescribed number of runners (J4 refers), in which case these shall be decided by a draw conducted in accordance with Regulation J7.i. and J7.j. so that preference is given to previous performance.

Novice: Retrievers, Spaniels and breeds which hunt, point and retrieve: A stake which is confined to dogs which have not gained a place, or places, which would qualify them for first preference in the draw for Open stakes. **Pointers and Setters:** A stake which is confined to dogs which have not gained a first, second or third in open stakes or first or two seconds in All Aged, Novice or Puppy stakes prior to the close of entries.

1. Dogs entered at Kennel Club Licensed Field Trials must be registered at The Kennel Club in accordance with Kennel Club Regulations for Classification and Registration B. All dogs resident outside the UK must be issued with a Kennel Club Authority to Compete number before entry to the show/event can be made. All overseas entries without an Authority to Compete number will be returned to the exhibitor/competitor (JRegs 7.a,b).
2. The Society reserves the right to refuse and entry or nomination. Any such refusal shall be reported to the Kennel Club (JRegs7.d).
3. If entries or nominations exceed the number of permitted runners, the right to compete in a Trial shall be decided by ballot (subject to Regs J7i, see also J7j) (JRegs 7e).
4. After an applicant has been successful in the draw for a place in a stake, or as a reserve has accepted an offer of a run, if the run is not taken up, the applicant may become liable for the full entry fee except: - (Regs J7f)
 - (1) Where the applicant has qualified out of Novice Stakes (where applicable) or,
 - (2) Where the dog drawn to run has qualified for the championship after entries have closed or,
 - (3) On production of a veterinary certificate confirming that the dog entered for the stake is unfit to compete or,
 - (4) On production of a medical certificate that the applicant / nominated handler is unable to compete or
 - (5) Where the dog drawn to run is withdrawn more than 7 days prior to the stake.
 - (6) The Club may, or may not, after an entry has been accepted, allow an applicant to substitute a dog before a trial with another dog owned by him or her, the dog must however, be eligible and no reserves standing.
5. Should circumstances so dictate the Society, in consultation with the Judges, may alter arrangements as necessary. Such changes and the circumstances surrounding them will be reported to The Kennel Club (Regs J5c x).

6. No modification may be made to the schedule after publication except by permission of The Kennel Club, followed by advertisement in appropriate journals if time permits before the closing of entries (Regs J 5c2).
7. Judges at a Trial are prohibited from entering a dog which is recorded in their ownership or part ownership (JRegs 6a3).
8. Videography and photography will only be permitted with the express permission of the Chief Steward and the host.
9. Welfare of Dogs. An exhibitor (or competitor) whose dog is entered at a Kennel Club licensed event should take all reasonable steps to ensure the needs of their dog(s) are met, and should not knowingly put their dogs' health and welfare at risk by any action, default, omission or otherwise. A breach of this Regulation may be referred to the General Committee for disciplinary action under Kennel Club Rules and Regulations. DOGS IN CARS ON HOT DAYS. Your dog is vulnerable and AT RISK if left in a vehicle in high temperatures and even on days considered as slightly warm. Please take care of your dog. If your dog is found to be at risk forcible entry to your vehicle may be necessary without liability for any damage caused (Regs J 2).

CLUB CONDITIONS & CODE OF PRACTICE

10. More than one dog may be entered but second applications will not be balloted until after the first applications have been balloted. Names of the dogs should be entered in order of choice.
11. The Club does not allow dogs to be substituted unless a Veterinary certificate is produced certifying ill health or bitch in season.
12. The OWNERS, including all JOINT OWNERS, of dogs entered for field trials must be members of this Society to get preference in the draw. Joint ownership will be considered the same as single ownership to have preference in the draw.
13. All Participants in the event (whatever their role) will be Briefed by the Chief Steward at the start and must follow the directions given by the Chief Steward – at all times.
14. Bitches in season must not be brought to the ground. (Regs J 9B2)
15. All dogs must be kept on a lead except when in line or used for picking-up under the direction of the judges or steward of the beat.
16. Risk assessments have been carried out for the Trial for Health and Safety and Covid 19. All those present must sign to say they have read and understood them.
17. Competitors are required to follow the code of practice and dress appropriately for the ground and for the occasion, in line with our Hosts, Guns and Keepers.
18. Trophies will be held for one year and it is the recipient's responsibility to ensure the safe return to the relevant Field Trial Secretary in time for the following year's Trial. The recipient is responsible for the engraving required and must return the trophy in the condition it was received.
19. Competitors must make their own arrangements for lunch.
20. Anyone wishing to attend the Trial to spectate, should contact the Field Trial Secretary in advance. Spectators attend at their own risk and must at all times obey the directions given by the Stewards.

If a competitor, or anyone in their household has Covid-19 related symptoms or has tested positive for Covid-19 they must not attend the event and should self-isolate in line with government advice. www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/.

PRIVACY POLICY

The North Devon Working Gundog Club is committed to ensuring the privacy and security of your personal data. The following Privacy Policy sets out the personal data that we hold on you as a member, how and why we process that data, who we share it with and your rights and choices when it comes to your personal information.

In this Privacy Policy, when we refer to "personal data", we mean information which could directly identify you, such as your name and address. "Process" or "processing" means use of personal data, including recording, storing, viewing or disclosing personal data.

We are a membership based club and it is an operational necessity to hold personal information required to promote and participate in Club activities, to be compliant with Health and Safety legislation, to meet the requirements of our Insurers and the Kennel Club.

Club Activities

Our services and activities, aims and objectives are governed by the rules/regulations of the Club, it's constitution and the rules/regulations of the Kennel Club.

How we collect your personal data

We hold the information provided by you when you completed an application form to become a member. The information may have been amended subsequently, if appropriate, such as a change of address.

We hold the following information:

- Your name and title
- Postal address
- Email address
- Telephone number(s)
- Information on your breed interest
-

Who we share data with

- We do not share your data with any other organisation or third party, with two possible exceptions.
 - (i) We are obliged to provide information to the Kennel Club, when requested.
 - (ii) The Club uses the Field Trial Management System for Retriever Field Trial entries. The information you provide when entering a Retriever Field Trial will be placed on that system to facilitate a computer operated ballot. FTMS maintains its own privacy policy which can be accessed at www.fildtrial.info
- Within the Club Committee, data will be shared with Officers of the Club who have a specific need e.g. to verify membership when checking entries for Field Trials and Working Tests. *(over page)*

How we process the data we hold

We only process data necessary to establish or maintain membership or to contact members by post, email or telephone to inform them of club activities.

From time to time we may process the data held by the Club to assist the committee in better understanding and meeting the needs of members.

Your Rights

You have the right to request a copy of the information that we hold about you and may seek to amend it at any time to ensure that it remains relevant and current.

Data Control

Our Membership Secretary is the controller of the data held by the Club. If you have any questions about your personal data which are not answered in this Policy, please contact the Membership Secretary, Caroline Rawlings, by email ms@ndwgc.co.uk or tel: 07967 396271

SPONSORSHIP

As ever, we extend our grateful thanks to our sponsors, whose continuing support is of great assistance in providing a wide range of activities for the Club.

