

NORTH DEVON WORKING GUNDOG CLUB



SPRING NEWSLETTER
2023

www.ndwgc.co.uk

APOLOGIES TO BORE YOU WITH ADMIN AT THE START OF THE NEWSLETTER



NEW GDPR and CONTACT DETAILS WITH RESPECT TO THE NDWGC

**TO BE COMPLETED AND SIGNED BY ALL MEMBERS, THEN POSTED BACK OR PHOTO'D OR
SCANNED AND E-MAILED TO THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY ms@ndwgc.co.uk**

I wish to belong to the NORTH DEVON WORKING GUNDOG CLUB and I agree to abide by the club rules, I also agree that my contact details may be kept on computer by the club (this is required for the club officers to be able to contact the members).

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Mobile..... Landline.....

Email

Breed of dog Sign: Date:.....

ALSO

**PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THERE ARE STILL SOME MEMBERS WHO ARE
PAYING THE OLD AMOUNT of £8 (single) or £12 (joint) FOR THEIR
MEMBERSHIP.**

PLEASE CHECK YOUR STANDING ORDERS NOW

BECAUSE

**ANY MEMBER NOT FULLY PAID UP BY 1 MARCH 2023 COULD BE ASKED TO PAY A
RE-JOINING FEE AS WELL AS THEIR £10 MEMBERSHIP FEE.**

ALL YEARLY SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE TO BE PAID ON 1 MARCH OF EACH YEAR

ALSO PLEASE ENSURE YOU ARE PAYING "NTH DEVON WORKING GUNDOG CLUB"

AND

YOUR "REFERENCE" ARE YOUR INITIALS, SURNAME AND POSTCODE (if poss)

For example [L P SMYTHE EX247PT/LPSMYTHEEX247PT/SMYTHEEX247PT](#)

EVEN IF YOUR STANDING ORDER HAS BEEN SET UP AND WORKING FOR YEARS, PLEASE
CAN YOU UPDATE YOUR REFERENCE AS SHOWN ABOVE AND THE PAYEE AS SHOWN
ABOVE AS IT WILL GREATLY HELP WITH THE ADMINISTRATION FOR TRIALS AND WORKING
TESTS AND CONTACTING MEMBERS.

MANY THANKS

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Joining Fee applies to all new and lapsed members: £5

Annual subscription:	Single adult	£10.00
	Joint Membership	£15.00*
	Junior	£4.00**

Example: Year 1 single member: £5 + £10 = £15
 Year 2 onwards £10 only

* Joint Members are defined as two persons living at the same address.

** Junior membership applies to persons who have not reached the age of 17 years when subscriptions are due.

Your application requires a Proposer and Secunder who are fully paid up members of the Club. If an applicant has difficulty in obtaining two signatures, please enclose a letter of explanation when applying to the Membership Secretary identifying membership of other clubs/societies where applicable.

Cheques to be made payable to NTH Devon Working Gundog Club

[Membership form is at the back of this newsletter](#)

GRATEFUL THANKS ONCE AGAIN FOR THE FANTASTIC SPONSORSHIP FROM SKINNERS



AND GAME KEEPERS GOODS

CHAIRMANS REPORT

Well, it has certainly been a trying and difficult season to say the least. What with the lack of poults available, the rise in feed costs and then Avian flu. It was almost like everything was stacked against us. However, we have made it through and overall, I think most shoots have had a reasonable season.

As a club we have managed to successfully complete all our field trials and for this we must say a very big thank you to all the shoots and landowners that have allowed us on to their ground, all the helpers that came along on the day and of course the guns that all had straight barrels and gave the competitors game to retrieve.

I must also say a big thank you to our Field Trial Secretary's, Beth and Val, they have both worked extremely hard this year to put on the events, also a big thank you to Skinner's dog food for once again sponsoring the club activities.

This year for the first time Beth managed to put on a Retriever walked up trial which proved very popular and we hope to be able to do this again next season.

We now look forward to the summer, with the training starting in April and the first working test at the end of April.

Full details of all the summer activities can be seen on the club website.

Unfortunately, where there is good news there is often some not so good news and to this end, we have 4 committee members that have decided to retire this year.

The committee and I am sure all the membership wish them well in the future.

However, the posts of.

- Membership Secretary
- Spaniel Working Test Secretary
- Spaniel Field Trial Secretary
- Facebook Administrator

Are all up for election at the AGM on 2nd April.

If any young and enthusiastic members would be interested in any of these posts, please contact the general secretary at least three weeks before the AGM.

Looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the summer club events.

Graham Dibble
Chairman

Correspondence

Due to the ever increasing price of postage, we will not automatically post correspondence. Any member wishing to receive correspondence by post should contact the Secretary. Please use this email address: ms@ndgwc.co.uk

OFFICERS, POSTHOLDERS AND COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT

Mr H Thomas

VICE PRESIDENTS

Mrs I Dickenson Chetham, Mr B Mitchell, Mr L Oldham and Mr B Stevens

CHAIRMAN

Graham Dibble

VICE CHAIRMAN

Geraldine Davis

GENERAL SECRETARY

Jane Bosley

TREASURER

Sharon Stone

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

VACANT

FIELD TRIAL SECRETARY (RETRIEVERS)

Beth Payne

FIELD TRIAL SECRETARY (SPANIELS)

VACANT

WORKING TEST SECRETARY (RETRIEVERS)

Rachel Waldon

WORKING TEST SECRETARY (SPANIELS)

VACANT

TRAINING CO-ORDINATOR & SALES AND PROMOTIONS

Graham Dibble

NEWSLETTER AND WEBSITE

Laurie Pittaway

FACEBOOK PAGE EDITOR

VACANT

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mandy Smith and Lisa Tucker

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Club will be held at Filleigh Village Hall Filleigh, Barnstaple, Devon, EX32 0RS on Sunday 2 April commencing 10.30am.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of last Annual General Meeting.
3. Matters arising from minutes.
4. Membership Secretary's Report
5. Treasurer's Report.
6. Working Test Secretary's Report
7. Field Trial Secretary's Reports.
8. Training Report.
9. Chairman's Report.
10. Election of Officers and Committee (see below)

Any resolution to be placed on the agenda of the Annual General Meeting must be forwarded to the Hon. Sec. in writing not less than one week prior to the meeting.

The Club is looking for a new Spaniel Working Test Secretary, a new Spaniel Field Trial Secretary, a new Membership Secretary and a Facebook Administrator. Other post holders and committee members have agreed to continue in their positions if endorsed at the AGM.

If anyone would be interested in any of these vacant posts, please contact Jane Bosley on gs@ndwgc.co.uk with details of any experience you have had in the post you are interested in, at least 14 days before the AGM on 2 April 2023.

We look forward to a strong attendance at the AGM to ensure the Club continues to succeed.

SUMMER GUNDOG TRAINING FOR DOGS AND HANDLERS

The club will be running a full summer training programme again this year for both Spaniels and Retrievers, tailored to meet their individual needs in the shooting field.

There will be a course of lessons with both club and guest trainers to help train you to train your dog.

Please remember these are **NOT** dog obedience classes, we do expect a reasonable level of basic obedience before coming to the classes.

This year we will be holding our Introductory Meeting on Sunday 2nd April at Filleigh Village Hall, (**NO DOGS PLEASE**) starting at 2.00pm.

ALL HANDLERS WHO WISH TO JOIN THE TRAINING CLASSES MUST ATTEND AND PAY AT THIS MEETING.

PLEASE NOTE, WELLINGTONS WILL BE REQUIRED AS WE WILL BE GOING OUT INTO THE FIELDS.

After a short demonstration the trainers will be on hand to answer any questions you may have.

Complimentary refreshments will be available after the demonstration in the village hall where you can then enrol on the training course.

The cost of 10 lessons will be **£65.00 payable in full at the meeting.**

The club shop will also be present offering a wide range of gundog training equipment at very competitive prices. Beth Payne from Skinners dog food will also be there offering nutritional advice and handing out goodie bags.

Anyone taking part in the training classes will need as a minimum, a selection of training dummies, a lead, a whistle and lanyard, a game / dummy bag to carry their training kit.

To book a place at this meeting and on the training course please email your name and contact details to,
training@ndwgc.co.uk

Filleigh Village Hall, Filleigh, Barnstaple, Devon, EX32 0RS. For direction,
www.filleighvillagehall.org.uk

Graham Dibble (*Club Training Co-ordinator*)

SHERBOURNE TEAM EVENT 2023

At present we have both a Spaniel and Retriever team willing to run at the Sherbourne Team event representing NDWGC. Hopefully they will get a run if drawn.

2023 WORKING TESTS

Open (A/V Retriever) Working Test

Date – Sunday 30 April 2023 10.00am

Venue – Shallowford, Filleigh (kind permission of the Castle Hill Estate)

Judges – Mr Nick Coates, Mr David Stephens, Mrs Zoe Townsend

Entries Close – Friday 21 April 2023 (no late entries accepted) Entry fee £10 per dog

BACS Preferred: NTH Devon Working Gundog Club

Account Number: 42485500 Sort Code: 09-01-51

Reference: Please put OWT and your surname

Novice (A/V Retriever) Working Test

Date – Sunday 25th June 2023. 10.00am

Venue – Uplowman, Tiverton (kind permission of Mr J Bosley)

Judges – Sally Ashby, Jo Fergie, Charlotte Weir

Entries Close – Friday 16th June 2023 (no late entries accepted) Entry fee £10 per dog

BACS Preferred: NTH Devon Working Gundog Club

Account Number: 42485500 Sort Code: 09-01-51

Reference: Please put NWT and your surname

Novice and Open Spaniel Working Test

Date – 27 August 2023 (Novice in the morning, Open in the afternoon)

Venue – TBA

Judges - TBA

Entries Close – TBA

BACS Preferred: NTH Devon Working Gundog Club

Account Number: 42485500 Sort Code: 09-01-51

Reference: Please put NWT or OWT and your surname

FANTASTIC NEW EVENTS COMING TO NDWGC IN 2023

We will be inviting Guest trainers for our Retrievers – dates to be arranged poss June/July

We will be inviting a Guest Trainer Neil Varney (Twistmount Gundogs) for our Spaniels – again date to be arranged.

We will be putting on a Water Training day for both Spaniels and Retrievers – August

We will be running an Introduction to Working Tests for both Retrievers and Spaniels for members who would like to do working tests run under KC regulations - date to be arranged but May/June

We will also run another Fun Day – any breed welcome - date to be finalised but August time

And then during the winter months we will be putting on a Working Gundog Certificate for both Retrievers and Spaniels

We are also hoping to run a Puppy/Special Puppy and Novice Dog/Novice Handler working test – date to be arranged.

FOR THESE EVENTS PLEASE WATCH OUR WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE FOR MORE INFORMATION.

IF WE HAVE YOUR CORRECT E-MAIL ADDRESS, THEN WE WILL BE ABLE TO E-MAIL YOU WITH FURTHER DETAILS.

2022/23 FIELD TRIAL RESULTS

STAKE 1: AV OPEN RETRIEVER

NDWGC One day Open Retriever Trial at Honeycombe Shoot Dorset on 3 October 2022. Honeycombe shoot opened its door this year to the NDWGC to host their 12 dog Open trial. The day started off dry and warm as we were met at the shoot lodge by our hosts Mike and Antonia Appleby. Our Judges for the day were Mark and Jamie Bettinson, Di Stevens and Pete Castleman, with Nick Jordan and his team of guns shooting for us, with Judy Rainey as Chief Steward.

Once the team of guns were safely loaded into the gun bus to be taken off to the first drive, the competitors plus helpers took a leisurely stroll to the first field, a mixture of millet, sunflowers and wild bird mix. The trial started with a walk up, with two pointers working in front of the line where our team of first-class guns made short work of getting plenty of birds on the ground for the competitors. The first field saw rounds one and two completed mainly walked up, but with a mini drive at the end. We then decanted to another crop/grass field where two further drives completed the trial. Once the Trial itself was over, our hosts then invited all the competitors that were left in the gallery to go and work their dogs if they so wished at the next drive they had put on for the guns. This meant that any competitor that had stayed to the end of the trial had the opportunity to work their dogs and turn the day into a positive training day.

All the guns, helpers and competitors were then invited for mid-day drinks and food – huge boards of cheese, biscuits, and sausages and glasses of fizz. It was such a lovely congenial atmosphere that it was hard to think we had just completed an open trial! The guns were then taken off for a last drive of the day and again the competitors were asked if they would like to work their dogs. Some who had second dogs in their cars found this an ideal opportunity to work them as well. Once the guns had finished for the day, there were huge pots of tea on offer as the certificates were signed by the judges and the guns were asked for their Guns Choice.

1st Jayne Coley with Mekoro Shot Marker of Waterford

2nd Craig Perry with Wadeshot Kane (Guns Choice).

COM Dave Godding with Kailture Neros Flame

STAKE 2: OPEN COCKER SPANIEL

Our Open Cocker stake was held on the Blannicombe Shoot, by kind permission of Gareth Stevens, on Wednesday 5th October. A typical shooting day with some light rain at the start of the morning and clearing skies later. At the beginning of the day everyone was made most welcome with a bacon butty and a hot drink provided by a super team of helpers.

The trial was run in cover crops with a very ample supply of game, both partridge and pheasant. The judges for the day were Margaret Cox and Andy Faulkner. The birds flew well but the team of guns, Bryan and Andrew Stevens, Kevin John and Maurice Stanbury were in good form producing plenty of testing retrieves for the Cockers. We saw some interesting spaniel work, particularly on the first runs with a stiff backwind. The top dogs handled it well taking in plenty of ground and hunting the ground back to their handler. Not one was put out for missing game. The cover was particularly testing in places which proved the downfall of a few on their retrieves. As always, the best dogs made it all look easy.

After a lengthy consultation and examination of their books, the judges called for a run-off between Grant Branton's four year old bitch Thistlecrack Mayfly and John Sexton's five year old dog Cwmceiliog Skid with the former taking the top award and gaining a place at the Championship next January. The runner-up was Guns' Choice.

- 1st Grant Branton with Thistlecrack Mayfly
- 2nd John Sexton with Cwmceiliog Skid (Guns Choice)
- 3rd Jon Rees with Byrbwll Peaky Blinder
- 4th Claire Baker with Craiwarn Tinkers Tidy of Arcklebear
- COM's Jeremy Davies with Misselchalke Green Mamba of Dolbrenin
- Alistair Ross with Bootstrap Bill of Greenbrush
- Dave Templar with Mallowdale Foden of Countryways
- Simon Blackman with Samsir She Devil

STAKE 3: OPEN AV SPANIEL

Our Open AV Spaniel Stake was held on Friday 21st October at the Spreacombe Shoot, by kind permission of Bryan Stevens and the Spreacombe Estate. Peter Avery and James Luxford were the judges for the day.

A wet start to the day but that failed to dampen anyone's spirits. As always, the ground had been well prepared and with a strong team of stops holding birds in cover, every handler found game. Despite a very dry summer the bramble cover had grown strongly and proved to be a true test for the courage and hunting ability of the competing spaniels, not one failed to hit the cover with enthusiasm. The guns, led by Andrew Stevens, were in good form and almost every bird flushed was shot and made available for a retrieve.

- 1st Ian Openshaw with Rytex Ringo
- 2nd Ian Openshaw with Rytex Rapture
- 3rd Nathan Quinn with Whitebeam Warbler
- 4th Harley Thompson with Ddraighelwyr Blaidd
- COM's Kevin John with Greenbush Charley of Boggwater (Guns Choice)
- Dave Templar with Countryways Ralley of Windbush

STAKE 4: NOVICE COCKER SPANIEL

The Hall Estate was our host for the Club's Novice Cocker Spaniel Stake held on Wednesday 16th November 2022. We received a very warm welcome from Matt Goodman, Headkeeper and Jeremy Boyd, Shoot Manager for their very first spaniel trial held on the Estate, a new experience for both our hosts and the guns. The trial was a great success with Matt taking us to several fields of game crop, all holding birds and every competitor had the opportunity of showing the hunting ability of their Cockers to best advantage. The guns shot well with sufficient birds on the ground to also test

their retrieving ability. Although the game crop was only knee high, scent wasn't particularly good and holding a mark proved critical for success.

Jeff Ayres and Brian Barry were the judges for the day and remarked that the performance of the top dogs was very close but by a close examination of their books they had just managed to separate them. Congratulations to all those in the awards, especially the winner Jon Rees running his two year old bitch Rowston Stylistic of Byrbwll and Jon West who was runner-up and Guns' Choice with Centrewalk Mischief of Nettlehayes

1 st	Jon Rees with Rowston Stylistic of Byrbwll
2 nd	Jon West with Centrewalk Mischief of Nettlehayes (Guns Choice)
3 rd	Matt Warren with Taffswell Roberta
COM's	Anita Jones with Episcopi Jones
	Nick Gregory with Misselchalke Hellmaker

STAKE 5: AV NOVICE RETRIEVER

The NDWG club's 14 dog Novice Retriever trial was held on Monday 12 December 2022 at Bulworthy, Alverdiscott, by kind permission of Head Keeper Geoff May.

Our Judges for the day were Robert Atkinson A5, Judith Evans B2898, Helen Ford NP and Karen Handley NP. Les Oldham and his great team of guns shot for the trial. The day started out freezing cold and just got colder, but this did not dampen the enthusiasm of the competitors and guns. The first round found the dogs split into odds and evens and stood behind the guns with their respective judges. The guns shot well with birds landing on open ground and in the woods. Unfortunately, because of the bitter cold weather and therefore very little scent, several dogs were lost in the first round. We then met up with the guns for a third drive, where they landed the majority of birds in a cover crop where the trial was completed. All in all a very good day with the guns happy to watch the dogs work once they had finished shooting to look for their Guns Choice.

For this trial to go ahead in such uncertain times with Bird Flu, our heartfelt thanks go out to our host Geoff May, his underkeeper James Ford and his sterling team of beaters and pickers up, the Judges, stewards, bird markers, and game carriers, for giving up their time. Also huge thanks to Alan Bosley standing in for his wife Jane, who did us proud with bacon sandwiches to start the day, Soup and cheese rolls and delicious home made cakes al fresco at lunchtime and pasties and cakes to finish. Thanks also go to Julian Smith who drove the competitors around in a trailer kindly lent to us by Les Oldham. Thanks also go to Skinners for once again supporting and sponsoring the trial. And last but not least, special thanks go to Beth Payne and her helpers for all the hard work that goes on behind the scenes into putting one of these events on.

1st and lifting the Grayspeed Trophy David Thomas with Corrib Jameson of Abergien (Guns Choice)

2nd Mandy Smith with Flintsfield Shooting Star

COMrd Keith Townsend with Raven Black Onyx to Elmertown

STAKE 6: AV NOVICE SPANIEL (EXC COCKERS)

We held our fourth and final spaniel trial for the season, at the Maristow Estate near Plymouth, by kind permission of Head Keeper Gary Liddle. Our Judges were Jeremy Davies and Richard Heseltine. We had a good entry and full card. The trial was run in cover crop and the weather was kind to us with a dry day. The Maristow Team produced an amazing trial for us – plenty of birds and a cracking Team of Guns! We saw some lovely dogs, excellent hunting and retrieves. It was a fitting end to a very good season for our Spaniel Members. Big thankyou to Gary Liddle and team, Jeremy and Richard, and the competitors – for helping to make it a very enjoyable day.

1st. Julie Thatcher with Shallowoakwest Showman.

2nd Karen Pinker with Dunbrigg Chattermag

3rd Martin Ford with Shivek Rehoboam

4th Mike Hoskins with Hollydrive Nina of Halwinryston

COM's Emily Harvey with Cawriffle Tamar. (Guns Choice)

Dave Hodgson with Saxonvale Sam

STAKE 7: AV NOVICE RETRIEVER

The final NDWG club's 12 dog Novice Retriever trial was held on Monday 30 January 2023 at the Great Fulford Estate shoot, by kind invitation of Guy Imray and Geoff Allen and his team of guns.

Our Judges for the day were Mrs Judy Rainey A59, David Stephens B2786, Mrs Sally Ashby B3818 and Mr Shane King NP. The Steward of the beat was James Hancock.

The club would like to take this opportunity to thank our hosts Guy Imray and Geoff Allen and his team of brilliant guns for inviting us to this fabulous estate. Rounds one and two were completed in magnificent woodland, where the dogs had to work for their retrieves, but it was a pleasure to stand back and watch them. We then met up with the guns again and drove to another part of the estate with open fields and valleys, streams and bracken which tested the remaining dogs and where the final rounds were concluded. With good weather for the dogs to work in, it was a perfect end to the trialing season.

The club would also like to thank all the Estates beaters and pickers up who turned out for our day at Great Fulford, our Judges and all our helpers who ensured the trial ran smoothly. Thanks also to the estate for the very delicious bacon rolls and pasties. Huge thanks as always to Skinners for their continued generous sponsorship of our trials with vouchers for bags of food and to Game Keeper Goods for their vouchers for the competitors and their kind gift of a lead and lanyard for all our judges.

1st and lifting the Vipond Trophy was Basil Smith with Bellspaddle Banjo of Highshot

2nd was Leigh Jackson with Blackgrass Dougal

3rd was Geoff Shore with Hestmoor Hunstrete (Guns Choice)

4th was Mel Brooks with Anningtonbay Ellielicious

NORTH DEVON WORKING GUNDOG CLUB Kennel Club ID No: 707

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Please complete this form in full and send to the Membership Secretary, cheques made payable to NTH DEVON WORKING GUNDOG CLUB.

I wish to belong to the NORTH DEVON WORKING GUNDOG CLUB and I agree to abide by the club rules, I also agree that my contact details may be kept on computer by the club (this is required for the club officers to be able to contact the members) Sign: _____ Date: _____

BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE

NAME: _____ (Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ms.): _____

ADDRESS: _____
_____ Post Code: _____

Mobile: _____ E-mail: _____

BREED(S) _____

PROPOSER (print) _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

SECONDER (print) _____ Signature: _____ Date _____

Membership type required: Single / Joint / Junior (please select) see next page

Single £10 / Joint £15 / Junior £4 / **PLUS one off JOINING FEE of £5 for the first year**

Membership Secretary: Mrs Laurie Pittaway, Meadow Barton, Morebath, Tiverton, Devon, EX16 9AL
Tel 07703135350

New Member's Banker's Order Form

To _____ Bank plc

Branch address: _____ Sort Code _____

Re: Account number _____ (Your Bank Account details)

Please pay to the Account of - **NTH Devon Working Gundog Club (Santander Business Banking),**

Registered Office: Bridle Road, Bootle, Merseyside, L30 4GB .

Sort Code 09-01-51 Account No 42485500

The sum of (amount in words) _____ £ _____

The first payment to be made Annually on 1st March until further notice. Please use your Initials, followed by Surname followed by your postcode as the Reference. Eg (E G Smythe EX34 5PT)

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Post Code: _____

PLEASE SEND THIS FORM, WHEN COMPLETED, TO YOUR OWN BANK

SUBSCRIPTIONS

One off Joining Fee applies to all new and lapsed members: £5

Annual subscription:	Single adult	£10.00
	Joint Membership	£15.00*
	Junior	£4.00**

Example: **Year 1 single member: £5 + £10 = £15**
 Year 2 onwards £10 only

* Joint Members are defined as two persons living at the same address.

** Junior membership applies to persons who have not reached the age of 17 years when subscriptions are due.

CHEQUES to be made payable to the **NTH Devon Working Gundog Club**

Your application requires a Proposer and Secunder who are fully paid up members of the Club. If an applicant has difficulty in obtaining two signatures, please enclose a letter of explanation when applying to the Membership Secretary identifying membership of other clubs/societies where applicable.