



**THE KENNEL CLUB**  
*Making a difference for dogs*



# The Field Trials

Summer Newsletter 2020



Skinner's truck in Stradbroke Station 1953  
© Roger Skinner



Capesthome Hall, Macclesfield,  
venue for the GWT ©



Modern Day Skinner's factory  
© Roger Skinner

## Sponsorship – Where Would We Be Without It?

By Anne Greeves and Roger Skinner

It is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain and retain additional financial support for working Gundog events, the cost of which has risen quite sharply in recent years and, with the present situation of Covid-19 leading to the cessation of several shoots and the shutdown of areas for mass gatherings, it is likely to rise even more. Another influencing factor has been that non-sporting sponsorship has been withdrawn due to the "anti-field sports" factor among their customers.

This is why we are so grateful to Suffolk based working dog food manufacturer Skinner's, who have been sponsoring field trials and events within the working dog sector for over 40 years. They currently support the Retriever, Hunt, Point & Retrieve, and two Spaniel Championships and the Kennel Club five Day Working Test. They proudly sponsor the English and Scottish Gundog Teams and numerous one day Working Tests and Club Trials throughout the UK. In addition, they are a BASC Gundog Programme sponsor, headline sponsor for the Kennel Club International Agility Festival and Olympia Agility Finals, and sponsor the Point to Point Ladies Open Series in the equine world.

However, I know from my own experience this sponsorship is not just about money, Skinner's get involved with the events providing a team of helpers – carrying flags, game bags, number boards, hosting guests – nothing has been too much trouble. At the beginning of the day, the first question asked by Greg Panter, William Delamore and the Skinner's team was "What would you like us to do?" Without doubt many of you will remember Michael Marjoram, who would always be ready to offer you a lovely mug of coffee or steaming

hot soup served from the Skinner's trailer or main marquee. So welcome after a long drive in the early hours of the morning or at the end of a cold and wet trialling day!

The key factor to all of this is communication – not only with their customers and attracting new trade but also gaining a better understanding of the people and the dogs they are providing for.

What is driving all this? It is the history of the Skinner's milling family and the vision of Roger Skinner who is very much the current driving force and it is important that we understand the background to this wonderful enterprise.

The Skinner's Mill as it is now known today, was built in 1688 and the Skinner family have been milling grain from this site for more than two centuries.

Roger Skinner started working with his father Stanley in 1964 at the age of 15. In those days Stanley Skinner & Co, was an agricultural merchant, manufacturing cattle, pig and poultry foods, trading grain and selling fertiliser and seed corn to local farmers. This was a difficult time for small merchants and many disappeared due to fierce competition from much larger and better financed national companies.

Roger very soon realised that the family business had no future in its current form and thought seriously about how he could reinvent it. It was by chance that while Roger was visiting a local farmer in the Eye area, he was introduced to Billy Howlett, a gamekeeper on Lord Henniker's Estate at Thornham Magna. Billy was complaining bitterly about the quality of a particular brand



Alfred William Skinner & Alfred Skinner  
standing in front of the family's windmill in  
Stradbroke in 1895 © Roger Skinner

of dog food he was using, which he said "went straight through" his dogs, leaving them somewhat emaciated. This turned out to be a 'lightbulb moment' for Roger, who returned home to the family mill and proceeded to formulate a highly digestible dog food made from a variety of steam cooked cereals and other quality ingredients.

The first batch of 'Skinner's Dog Food' was produced by passing the ingredients through a rather unusual square die on the family's animal feed plant, quickly followed by the same formula in 'muesli form' following a request from customers. One of Roger's first customers was Harrison Barker, the Chairman of The Norwich and District Wildfowlers' Association, who recommended it to many of his friends and associates. The food became popular with the East Anglian gundog fraternity of the 1970's, such as Frank Clitheroe, Eric Baldwin, Terry Prentice and many more. That was really when the company got off the ground and with his father's blessing, Roger started trading in his own name as Roger Skinner Limited.

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## A round-up from the Editor

Welcome to the summer edition of the Field Trials Newsletter!

I'm sure you will all agree that so far this year has been a fairly unusual one! From creating the spring newsletter remotely, we certainly did not think that we would still be in the same position for our summer newsletter. But here we are, and here's to things looking brighter for the second half of this year.

In this summer edition, we have all the usual pieces you will expect to see, we also have another fabulously written article by Anne Greeves on the history of Skinner's, and a brand new feature, 'Get to know the Field Trials Committee'.

As mentioned in our previous newsletter, if you have any queries regarding Field Trials and Cancellation/Transfer of licence fee or simply a general question, relating to awards, licences or judges please email [gundogs@thekennelclub.org.uk](mailto:gundogs@thekennelclub.org.uk).

If you have a question relating to one of the Kennel Club's own field trials, the Championships that we organise, the Kennel Club Gundog Working Test or Kennel Club training days, then please use the following email address [ft.secretary@thekennelclub.org.uk](mailto:ft.secretary@thekennelclub.org.uk).

### The Field Trial Department

To receive a copy of the Kennel Club Field Trials newsletter straight to your inbox, sign up today on the Kennel Club website via the following link:  
[www.thekennelclub.org.uk/activities/field-trials-working-gundogs/](http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/activities/field-trials-working-gundogs/)

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In the spring of 1979 a small advertisement was placed in the Shooting Times, seeking 'agents' throughout the UK, which was the company's first attempt at selling nationally. A number of enquiries were received, one of which came from the spaniel breeder, Christopher Burbidge in Dorset. Roger remembers setting out in his rather battered Ford estate car, which was loaded to the gunwales with dog food. "Christopher placed an order for 50 bags (1 tonne) and sent me on to a friend of his in Devon – I was over the moon. Everyone that I called on referred me to someone else and I ended up in Perth in Scotland!"

The business grew rapidly over the next few years, thanks to the kindness of many people. When the Hall family, who manufactured 'Solo' dog food near Preston, ceased trading, they handed Roger their customer list, to ensure that their agents still had food to sell – unbelievable! When Peter Moxon at Beoley Kennels started using Skinner's dog food in the early 80's, he was so pleased with the product that he promised to mention it in one of his articles. A few months later and completely 'out of the blue' Peter's article appeared in the Shooting Times and sales rocketed again. Over the years, Peter became a great friend and confidant to the family and used Skinner's dog foods up until the time he retired.

## Meet the team

**Kathryn Mansfield**  
Kennel Club Secretary

**Debbie Deuchar**  
Head of Canine Activities



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Towards the end of the 80's it became apparent that to maintain its growth Skinner's had to modernise and produce new products. So, in 1989 they demolished the old mill and built a new one, which housed a new twin-screw extruder and associated plant – the timing was awful, because the company had borrowed an enormous amount of money and interest rates doubled within months. Worst of all, Roger's father Stanley passed away suddenly in February 1990, which was a great shock, however, the family derived comfort from the fact that he lived to see the business flourish again.

At the beginning of the new millennium Skinner's introduced their new Field & Trial range, which has gone from strength to strength since then. To satisfy demand they installed a larger extruder, dryer and robotic packing equipment, and upgraded the entire mill.

Although Skinner's annual sales now exceed £20 million, the company has not forgotten its roots and its ethos remains the same – to produce high quality food for working dogs, to provide an excellent service to its customers and in the owner's words, "do the right thing and give something back to those who support us, by way of sponsorship". The company also recognises the hard work and dedication of its most important asset, its employees and has for many years been a member of The Living Wage Foundation.



Roger Skinner and family in the parkland of Hurts Hall, their home in Saxmundham © Roger Skinner

Indeed, when I recently visited the Mill, despite the masks, protective clothing and distancing due to Covid-19, it was obviously a happy workforce of 65 – many of whom have been proud to work for the company for years! A massive operation working quietly and very efficiently.

Skinner's is a force to be reckoned with, long may it continue and we look forward to meeting their staff at the various key events which unfortunately may be few and far between in 2020 but we all look forward to a better 2021.

We have also received the following information from William Delamore, Group Commercial Director at Skinner's "It has been a very challenging few months for our country and we hope you and your officers and committee are all safe and well during this difficult time. At Skinner's we fully understand the disappointment for you, and our sport that currently there have been no working tests in 2020. Whilst many field trials have also already been affected, we are still hopeful that the season may still go ahead, even in different conditions than we are all used to.

On behalf of the whole Skinner's team I wanted to reassure you that Skinner's remains committed to supporting your sport. The sponsorship we have contributed to both societies and the Kennel Club, in both trials and Championships, will continue when you are back up and running."

Thank you to Will for that message, for ease during this time any Skinner's enquiries should be directed to your area sales manager or alternatively if you have any enquiries regarding sponsorship please email or telephone Will directly.

More information can also be found on the Skinner's website where you can sign up for their free puppy pack scheme and access an array of nutritional information: [www.skinners.co.uk](http://www.skinners.co.uk)

## Get to know the Field Trials Committee

In this newsletter we have a brand new feature where we have asked a few of our Field Trial Committee members some questions regarding the Field Trial world. Thank you to those who have provided an insight into their field trialling world!

### JAYNE COLEY



Jayne Coley ©

#### 1. How did you start to be involved in Field Trials?

After going out shooting with my husband, picking up and running in working tests.

#### 2. What's your greatest success in Field Trials to date?

Making up 10 Field Trial Champions.

#### 3. What's the best advice you've ever been given?

You win your trials at home.

#### 4. What's the most memorable dog that you haven't owned?

FTCh Waterford Ganton.

#### 5. Away from dogs, what do you like to do to relax?

Most things that I do are with the dogs, though I do enjoy cycling, cooking and holidaying overseas.

#### 6. What advice would you give someone starting in Field Trials?

Buy a copy of the Kennel Club J Regs booklet. Before entering any trials, go and see a panel field trial judge who has been successful in trials, to assess you and your dog to make sure you are both ready. Offer to help at field trials. You learn so much by watching.

#### 7. Why did you get the breed of dog you have?

Because I love Labradors.



## JEREMY ORGAN

### 1. How did you start to be involved in Field Trials?

I've always been competitive and before I went to agricultural college I trained and ran collies in sheep dog trials, but once going to college I discovered how much more productive it was shooting over my friends spaniels, so on leaving college my parents bought me a spaniel and I went along to my local gundog club to watch a working test... I was hooked and decided that I should have a go.

### 2. What's your greatest success in Field Trials to date?

Winning a novice and two opens and gaining 4th in the Irish championship in the same season with the same bitch.

### 3. What's the best advice you've ever been given?

The late Peter Combes (Badgercourt spaniels) once told me "Always know which direction the wind is blowing before you cast your dog off"

### 4. What's the most memorable dog that you haven't owned?

Halaze Hickory of Edgegrove.

### 6. Away from dogs, what do you like to do to relax?

I like to follow national hunt racing, I live next to Cheltenham racecourse, so I try to attend as much as possible.

### 7. What advice would you give someone starting in Field Trials?

Contact your local gundog club and go along to help out at working tests and trials.

### 8. Why did you get the breed of dog you have?

Growing up on a farm, hunting and rough shooting was the norm, so a spaniel was the best dog for the job to flush and retrieve the game.

## JON KEAN



Jon Kean & Pointer Tommy on Dorback Estate  
© Glyn Satterley

### 1. How did you start to be involved in Field Trials?

I spectated at Pointer and Setter field trials in Perthshire in the late 70s and was bitten by the bug. I was hugely impressed by how they hunted and covered large areas of the Grouse moors. The field trial competitors were very helpful and gave me good advice on how to start off.

### 2. What's your greatest success in Field Trials to date?

Winning the Champion Stake at Bollilhope Moor in 1989 with FTCh Isle of Arran Micha (kennel name Duke). The late great Eppie Buist of Fearn Pointer fame presented the Heywood Lonsdale trophy to me and that was memorable. The other memorable fact is that Micha's breeder, the late Lady Jean Fforde, was also present that day and we had some party following the Championship. Duke was an orange and white Pointer with huge stamina and was an invaluable member of our shooting team on various Scottish grouse moors.

### 3. What's the best advice you've ever been given?

My first working Pointer was bred by Mrs Marcia Clark of Argyll. He was called Flash, but was nicknamed the Mountain dog because he covered vast ground in his quartering. Marcia trained and handled Pointers for Lady Jean and won the Champion Stake with FTCh Isle of Arran Larch in 1981. I spent a lot of time travelling to Argyll to train with Marcia. The great thing I really learned from Marcia was nice quiet handling. It's a great virtue.

### 4. What's the most memorable dog that you haven't owned?

I would say FTCh Sutherland Sadie, a spectacular black and white Pointer bitch who made history in our sport by winning the Irish Championship in 1997 and the British Champion Stake in 1998. Sadie was handled by Richard MacNicol for Lord Leverhulme.

### 5. Away from dogs, what do you like to do to relax?

I really enjoy gardening and getting my hands dirty! I visited the Eden Project in Cornwall and also an Open day at Prince Charles' official residence in London, Clarence House, and I picked up a lot of good tips about how to grow plants. Aside from this, I'm a big movie fan and also watch a lot of sport on telly!

### 6. What advice would you give someone starting in Field Trials?

Attend as many trials as possible as a spectator. Speak to experienced handlers who will be glad to impart their knowledge. Spend a lot of time studying the dog work. Read the Kennel Club J Regs to get a proper understanding of the requirements for Pointers and Setters. Attend educational seminars as well relating to field trials.

### 7. Why did you get the breed of dog you have?

I admire the athleticism in Pointers and their beauty.

## PHIL HIGHFIELD



Phil Highfield with his dogs, Right to Left, FTCh Levenghy! Bee Of Featherfly (Todd), FTCh Waterford Harris Of Featherfly (Max), Vilendal Zak Of Featherfly (Zak), FTCh Mistigris Finn Of Featherfly (Finn) ©

### 1. How did you start to be involved in Field Trials?

I was shooting regularly and I had a young Labrador as a pet/shooting companion, which a friend part trained for me, my friend told me the dog was a clever dog, he suggested I should trial it. I found out a little more about trialling and started training with some local friends and then joined a few gundog clubs.

### 2. What's your greatest success in Field Trials to date?

Finishing 2nd in the first trial I ran in, then winning the first Open Stake I ran in.

### 3. What's the best advice you've ever been given?

Advice from an old friend, always remember lad it's only a hobby.

### 4. What's the most memorable dog that you haven't owned?

FTCh Glenpatrick Eve, seeing the bitch work on many occasions on rabbit training days, but more the fact that 8 of her progeny became Field Trial Champions, including my own dog FTCh Levenghy! Bee Of Featherfly.

### 5. Away from dogs, what do you like to do to relax?

Spend time in the countryside and regular holidays with my family.

### 6. What advice would you give someone starting in Field Trials?

Join some local Gundog clubs and help in any way you can at trials.

### 7. Why did you get the breed of dog you have?

Growing up my parents had Labradors and I wanted a pet/shooting companion which would be easy to train.

## BARBARA KUEN



Barbara Kuen with her dogs, left to clockwise Hudson, Affie, Inca and Crumble © Barbara Kuen

### 1. How did you start to be involved in Field Trials?

Having purchased a Flatcoat for the children, I soon became embraced in the working side of the breed. Hallbent Dorabella and I travelled the road of introduction to the world of Field Trials. My first dog and we won (only a third given) a Guildford Novice Stake at Englefield.

### 2. What's your greatest success in Field Trials to date?

I have been fortunate to win a number of Open A/V Stakes.

### 3. What's the best advice you've ever been given?

Keep the training of dogs black and white. Alan Thornton was one of my icons as I progressed the road of trialling. He always said keep showing the dog. I learned so much from his training sessions. Be prepared to listen and be prepared to learn. Another respected friend and successful trialler once told me, always train with people better than you that way you will keep learning. So true.

### 5. What's the most memorable dog that you haven't owned?

Ooo this is a tricky one. I have to give it to FTCh Waterford Fergus. An awesome dog. I saw him take a mark on a wing tipped partridge across the line at an IGL Two Day Stake at Neville Holt. I was in the gallery very pleased with myself on an eye wipe I had just completed with Dippelodge Pippin. Fergus galloped across to pick the partridge in front of the red flag. I have never seen a dog with such power, speed and accuracy on a mark. Wow!! Still ruffles the hair on the back of my neck.

### 6. Away from dogs, what do you like to do to relax?

Grandchildren are the light of my life. They love to be with us and so enjoy the dogs also. I do love shooting, my garden, my Rock Choir and just being and catching up with friends. The gundog world has introduced me to many!

### 7. What advice would you give someone starting in Field Trials?

Do listen. Help at as many Tests and Trials that you can. Do some groundwork to Trials. Do ensure that your dog is seriously trial ready before entering a competition. It is not fair to the dog if you enter it too soon. Remember to appreciate a training scenario from the dog's point of view also. Is he being stubborn, or does he not understand. Training Flatcoats taught me that 'just when you think you are there' you are not!!

### 8. Why did you get the breed of dog you have?

I love my Labradors and the Flatcoat. Great picking up combination. I was over the moon this last season when my three year old Flatcoat was awarded a second in a Novice A/V Stake. I will trial her again this year (Covid permitting). However, my young 15 month old Lab is positively exciting.



## SALLY JENKINS



### 1. How did you start to be involved in Field Trials?

I went to a Devon Wildfowlers meeting and heard a talk by Jack Davey who invited me to watch my first spaniel trial sometime in the mid-eighties, quickly followed by joining the committee of the Westward Gundog Society and becoming Field Trial Secretary!

### 2. What's your greatest success in Field Trials to date?

Making up my Labrador FTCh Hatchfield Tarka and English Springer Spaniel FTCh Rytex Roners.

### 3. What's the best advice you've ever been given?

Enjoy your dogs!

### 4. What's the most memorable dog that you haven't owned?

I have been very lucky to watch many memorable dogs, but my best one was watching Sara Chichester win the IGL Championship with FTCh Highdunscott Alice of Wiscombe, two days I will never forget.

### 5. Away from dogs, what do you like to do to relax?

Shooting, watching rugby, especially Exeter Chiefs and England, horse racing, DIY, gardening, spending time on Exmoor (or any moor!)

### 6. What advice would you give someone starting in Field Trials?

Go and help at as many trials as you can. You can learn so much from just watching.

### 7. Why did you get the breed of dog you have?

My father was a huntsman, so have always appreciated a hunting dog. I have always loved springers so that was my first choice, my first Labrador was given to me as a pup by Rupert Hill which became my first trialling Labrador.

## RICHARD MACNICOL



### 1. How did you start to be involved in Field Trials?

I attended and competed in my first field trial in 1979, and working as a Gamekeeper I looked after a large kennel of Gundogs mainly English Setters which were used for the grouse shooting. However I had been gifted a Pointer which I really liked (Rex) this is the dog I attended my first trial with, and my love affair with the breed began. The Late Mrs Buist had invited me to attend and compete, she was a marvellous lady who was then Secretary of the Northern Counties Pointer / Setter Society.

### 2. What's your greatest success in Field Trials to date?

Winning the British / Irish Champion Stakes in the same year with the same dog. I achieved this twice with FTCh Sutherland Sadie in 1997 and FTCh Gerensary Minerva in 2014.

### 3. What's the best advice you've ever been given?

Listen to your peers and take good advice.

### 4. What's the most memorable dog that you haven't owned?

Mr W Young's, FTCh Fearn Mate of Burncastle. A truly wonderful pointer.

### 5. Away from dogs, what do you like to do to relax?

Salmon Fishing, Rugby Union and cooking.

### 6. What advice would you give someone starting in Field Trials?

Find a mentor / buddy with good experience in the shooting / Field Trial world, attend trials and listen, watch and learn.

### 7. Why did you get the breed of dog you have?

I was given a Pointer as a gift from my Dad and I just loved his style and temperament, 40 years later the passion for the breed has never diminished, watching a Pointer glide over the heather moors or the large fields in search of game is outstanding. They have a super temperament, kennel well together and are quiet.

## SARA RAYNOR



Sara Raynor©

**1. How did you start to be involved in Field Trials?**

I used to go beating with my spaniel, terrier & Alsatian when I was working on a fish farm in Hampshire. My mother gave me a membership to the Meon Valley Spaniel Club as a Christmas present. I entered a Field Trial and luckily for me Jack Davey and Wendy Knight were judging and kindly suggested I joined some gundog training groups. Up until then I just used my own whistle (i.e. pursing my lips) and a shepherd's whistle for long distance recall.

**2. What's your greatest success in Field Trials to date?**

I won the Retriever Championship at Drumlanrig in 1995 with FTCh Highdunscott Alice of Wiscombe.

**3. What's the best advice you've ever been given?**

Do the basics, be consistent, watch & learn.

**4. What's the most memorable dog that you haven't owned?**

Rytex Rod in the Spaniel Championship in Devon (approximately 1991) where I was privileged to be a game carrier – he was brilliant at finding and flushing birds for the guns (where other dogs were pushing them ahead) and stayed true on the line of a runner, ignoring other live game flushing and being shot.

**5. Away from dogs, what do you like to do to relax?**

Music (I play the piano, accordion, saxophone – though not very well!), Read, Horse racing (point-to points).

**6. What advice would you give someone starting in Field Trials?**

I would suggest that they attend some gundog training sessions run by their local field trial club, run in a few tests to see how their training is progressing and, most importantly, have tested their dog in the shooting field for gamefinding, as well as noise and steadiness. Before entering any trial I would suggest they phoned the FT Sec of the club and asked if they could help in anyway as a game carrier, judge's steward or similar so they could have the opportunity to watch and learn. And, of course, study the J regs and preferably do the J Reg Seminar before competing!

**7. Why did you get the breed of dog you have?**

That's a difficult question as I have so many breeds – I started off with a black & tan terrier when I was 8 so I have always favoured B&T – hence I now have Gordon Setters, and occasionally B&T cockers. My first springer was because my brother owed me a few Christmas and birthday presents so I had one of his pups (not KC registered!); my first Labrador I got I rescued from being put down. She was show bred and gun nervous; I managed to get her over her gun shyness and had a litter with her with a local picking up dog – also mainly show lines but had had one line going back to FTCh Holdgate Boffin. I kept a huge pup back from the litter (called Peter, after the keeper) and won my first field trial with him – he was mustard on runners and had a tail like a hound's stern, so you could tell what he was up to – someone remarked you do not know what you have with that dog – and they were right, although I realised too late. I never campaigned Peter in opens but decided to get a field trial bred Labrador – which was 'Alice', the championship winner.

## Raymond Holt, Our Very Own Gamekeeper of The Month



Raymond Holt© The Kennel Club

We would like to congratulate Mr Raymond Holt who has been chosen by BASC as its Gamekeeper of the Month for July 2020.

Raymond works at the Emblehope and Burngrange Estate and is the first Gamekeeper to be employed by the Kennel Club. Prior to working at the Estate, Raymond had over 30 years' experience on various other Estates across Scotland, which included 10 years on the renowned Kinpurnie Estate near

Dundee, held at Kinpurnie are a number of field trials which also includes the very successful 1990 International Gundog League Championship.

Alex Farrell, Game and Gamekeeping Officer at BASC, said: "The idea of Gamekeeper of the Month was to showcase the differing roles 'keepers undertake and how they impact positively on a myriad of different grounds up and down the country. We also wanted to highlight how they got into gamekeeping and what keeps them going through sometimes difficult times. The role of the gamekeeper is often undervalued and the profiles give a snapshot of what 'keepers are doing every day to support our countryside."

Upon hearing of his achievement Raymond said: "I am delighted to have been selected as the Gamekeeper of the Month by BASC. As the first gamekeeper to be employed by the Kennel Club, I very much enjoy working at the Emblehope and Burngrange Estate. Gamekeeping is not just a career, it is a way of life, so this is a role I find very satisfying and to have been recognised by BASC like this for my work is definitely a bonus."

Once again, huge congratulations to Mr Holt on his achievement!

## Field Trial Trophy Winners

Many Congratulations to the following winners who have been awarded the annual trophies for the 2019/20 season.

### The Routledge Rank Trophy

The Routledge Rank Trophy has been awarded to Mr D Boyle with Retriever (Labrador) MILLER MCDUFF. The trophy is awarded to the owner of the Retriever which has gained the most points in a season.

### The Hanlye Trophy

The Hanlye Trophy has been awarded to Mr W R C Haughey with Retriever (Labrador) MILLER MCDUFF. The trophy is awarded to the breeder of the winner of the Routledge Rank Trophy.

### The Gavosie Trophy

The Gavosie Trophy has been awarded to Miss C Calvert with her English Setters and Irish Red Setters, the English Setters are Ballyellen Bluegrass, Gortinreagh Granite, Gortinreagh Gala, and Gortinreagh Joker, and Irish Setter Gortinreagh Venus. This trophy is awarded to the female handler accruing the most points at Field Trials during a season and can be awarded in any of the sub-groups.

## Field Trials Committee Objection Outcomes

At its meeting of the 12 February 2020 the Field Trials Committee imposed the following penalties:

### Breach of Regulation J13.a(7), J(A)3.c, J(A)3.h and J(C)3. – Duchy Working Gundog Club. Novice Cocker Spaniel Trial – 19 October 2019.

Competitors ran on the wrong side, awards were not ratified for the above trial.

Both judges fined £50.

### Breach of Regulation J.9(b)9 and Regulation J.13.a(7). – Scottish Field Trial Association. Novice (AV Spaniel) Trial – 23 November 2019.

Competitor ran his dogs out of order. 1st place and Certificate of Merit awards disqualified.

### Breach of Regulation J(E)4. – Norfolk & Suffolk HPR Field Trial Club. All Aged HPR Trial – 23 October 2019.

Dogs were run out of order, awards were not ratified for the above trial.

Both judges fined £50.

### Breach of Regulation J7. – Spaniel (English Springer) EASTBOURNE LASS, owned by Mr W Whelan.

EASTBOURNE LASS was not registered at the time of the trials. The following awards were disqualified:-

Fermanagh Gundog Club – Novice (AV Spaniel) Stake – 9 October 2019

Award: Third Place

Antrim & Down Springer Spaniel Club – All Aged (AV Spaniel) Stake – 21 October 2019

Award: Certificate of Merit

## Field Trial Champion and Champions

It's with sincere apologies that the following dogs were not included in our spring newsletter content as Gundogs who were made up to Field Trial Champions and Champions during the 2019/20 Season:

### Spaniel (English Springer)

FTCh Deepfleet Depello owned by Mr R Clark

### Retriever (Labrador)

FTCh Burrendale Fergie of Caytonfell owned by Mr M Demaine  
FTCh Fendawood Harold owned by Mr D Latham

### Spaniel (English Springer)

FTCh Meadowbeat Neala of Greenbrush owned by Mr R Wilson

### Spaniel (Cocker)

FTCh Mallowdale Shine, owned by Mr I Openshaw  
FTCh Endowood Faith, owned by Mr J Lowry  
FTCh Wolferton Drama, owned by H M Queen Elizabeth II

## Use of Social Media

As we grow into more of a digital world, with the growth of social media platforms making headway in how people connect, we have laid out some key points that can hopefully help in steering clear of any miscommunication.

### Maintain Privacy

With all the information that we share on social media, it is always key to make sure that what you post is not confidential information. No names or pictures of individuals should be shared unless you have permission to do so from each individual.

### Think Before You Post

As much as we try to create barriers on our social media channels, there is no such thing as a completely private site. If you search for certain topics of interest, information such as previous posts or pictures can emerge. What is written on social media can be copied and saved by others, which can reappear years later. It is always best to take a moment to think about what you have written before posting.



## Be Accurate

It is important that before you make a post or comment on any social media platforms, you have all the correct information to hand. It's easy to fall victim to Chinese whispers and end up with half of a story.

## Respect Others

Whilst everyone is entitled to an opinion and we all have freedom of speech, make sure that the posts you publish will not cause any unnecessary repercussions. When it comes to creating content which involves something you are truly passionate about, use your platform to engage with those in the same community. If you have certain views on a particular topic, be able to see both sides of the story, even when the discussion may be regarding bad experiences or a disagreement on a concept/person.

These are just 4 topics which may get you thinking before posting next. For a more in-depth version please follow the link to our Code of Conduct booklet. The Code of Conduct details, why we need this code, what to expect from you, others & dogs as well as 2 pages on the use of social media.

<https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/media/29263/kccodeofconduct.pdf>

## Working Gundog Certificate Days

The Field Trials Committee recently discussed the Working Gundog Certificate (WGC) to consider whether it should be open to crossbreeds and unregistered dogs as well as being open to all Kennel Club pedigree registered dogs and their handlers.

With the aim of the WGC being to 'provide credible proof that the handler and dog are a competent partnership, with the qualities to fulfil the general requirements of work on a shoot' it was acknowledged that many working gundogs were crossbreeds or unregistered but did have an important role in the shooting field.

It was agreed that this new policy would be in place for a trial period of 5 years, and to take part in a WGC event, any crossbreeds or unregistered dogs would need to be registered on the Activity Register before being able to take part.

For more information on Working Gundog Certificate Days please visit: - <https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/activities/field-trials-working-gundogs/new-to-field-trials-gundog-working-tests/working-gundog-certificate/>

Congratulations to the following handlers and their dogs who have achieved the Working Gundog Certificate on dummies:

**KENQUINCE SWEET WILLIAM OF FENWAY**, Retriever (Labrador), Mrs S Rowlands

**WRENSONG ROMANI**, Spaniel (Cocker), Ms C J Beadle

**LEVENGHYL JET SET**, Retriever (Labrador), Miss H V Winship

**LEVENGHYL TARA**, Retriever (Labrador), Mr J Stepien

Congratulations to the following handlers and their dogs who have achieved the Working Gundog Certificate on game:

**MACGIRIAGHT KINGSTON**, Spaniel (Cocker), Miss A Scott

**BANSHEE OF THE CLEUGH**, Retriever (Labrador), Miss S Mason

**CASBLAIDD VALDOONICAN**, Retriever (Flat Coated), Miss L Mappin

## Application for Permission to Hold Field Trials

Societies wishing to register their views on the following application should do so in writing, stating reasons for supporting or objecting to the application. The application will be considered at the next available Field Trials Committee meeting and therefore responses must be with the Kennel Club by 31 August 2020.

### The Hunt, Point & Retrieve Gundog Association

One Day, 12 Dog Open Stake

## Kennel Club Field Trial Panel Judges

Due to COVID-19 and the restrictions in place, our last face to face meeting was February 2020, since then meetings have been held remotely and via teleconference. Because of this all panel nominations received are being held and will be put forward to the Field Trials Committee when possible. If you have a panel nomination, please send a scanned copy to [gundogs@thekennelclub.org.uk](mailto:gundogs@thekennelclub.org.uk)

We regret to report the death of the following judges: Mr J D Pope (2001) ('A' Panel Spaniel), Dr G L W Cunningham (1959) ('A' Panel Spaniel), Mr H Taylor (1639) ('B' Panel Retrievers), Mr C Snelling (2606) ('A' Panel HPR), Mrs L Petrie-Hay (2161) ('A' Panel HPR) and Mr R Keers (77) ('A' Panel Retrievers).

## Kennel Club Library Donation

We would like to say thank you to Victor McDevitt who has donated some interesting Field Trials material to the Kennel Club Library, including pedigrees and historic field trials cards for trials held in Northern Ireland. The Kennel Club Library team are very grateful to receive them.

If anyone else in the field trials world has material they think might be useful to the Library, they should contact us on [library@thekennelclub.org.uk](mailto:library@thekennelclub.org.uk)

## Amendments to Field Trial J Regulations

The Field Trials Committee recommended approval of the following amendments to the J Regulations. These have been approved by the Board.

The intention of the Show Gundog Working Certificate (SGWC) is to demonstrate that a show gundog retains basic working abilities, and is used to allow a Show Champion (Sh Ch) to become a full Champion (Ch). It has not previously been permissible to use the letters 'SGWC' as part of a dog's name, however, the Committee acknowledged that a dog's ability to perform its original purpose should be reflected, and agreed that owners should be encouraged to undertake this assessment with their dogs. It also accepted that gaining a SGWC was very meaningful to owners of show gundogs, and agreed that it should be permissible for the letters 'SGWC' to be used after the dog's name on entry forms and in show catalogues.

### Show Gundog Working Certificate

Regulation J(F)1.

#### TO:

The Show Gundog Working Certificate is not a qualification in itself, however, when awarded it enables the 'Sh' to be removed from the title of 'Show Champion' **and the letters SGWC may be used after the dog's name on entry forms and in show catalogues.** ~~In no circumstances can the letters SGWC be placed after a dog's name.~~

(Insertion in bold. Deletion struck through)

**(Effective 1 July 2020)**

Regulation J4.b. Numbers of runners

#### TO:

To qualify for entry in the Kennel Club Stud Book the numbers of runners permitted is as follows:

#### b. Spaniels

(1) Open stakes – maximum 18, minimum 14.

(2) Other stakes – maximum 18, minimum 12.

(3) **Any Variety Spaniel (Except Spaniel [Cocker] and Spaniel [English Springer]) maximum 18, minimum 10.**

(4) Cocker **Spaniel Championship** or Any Variety Spaniel [Excluding Spaniel (Cocker)] Championships – no maximum number

(Insertion in bold)

**(Effective 2 February 2021)**

Regulation J9. Control of Dogs and Competitors under Trial

#### TO:

#### b. Handling and Competing

(13) The Kennel Club's Codes of Conduct specify the sort of behaviour expected of those who take part in competitive gundog work. **All** participants should be aware of their contents **the Codes of Conduct and must abide by them, and by Kennel Club Regulations**, and, in particular, should never publicly impugn decisions of the Judge or Judges. Neither should they criticise the host, ground or guns.

(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold)

**(Effective 2 February 2021)**

## Extension of Annual Returns Deadline to 31 December 2020

Due to the current circumstances, the annual returns deadline for registered societies has been extended to 31 December 2020 and will be further reviewed as appropriate. Therefore clubs do not need to submit anything by 31 July if they are not ready to do so and if they have not held their Annual General Meeting.

If the constitution of a club requires that the AGM is held by a certain date, dispensation is given for it to be held later than specified this year. Should it still not be possible or advisable to hold the meeting later this year, then it can take place in 2021. However, at some point, there must be formal approval of the club's statutory business for the year – i.e. accounts, committee/officer elections, annual reports.

All queries regarding the submission of annual returns should be directed to **[gundogs@thekennelclub.org.uk](mailto:gundogs@thekennelclub.org.uk)**

## Field Trials Post Covid-19

The Kennel Club would like to advise and reassure competition organisers, exhibitors and competitors that our Sports Committees are working on solutions to help enable shows, competitions and other events to resume when Government guidance allows and the current restrictions are sufficiently reduced or relaxed. We are also actively seeking Government advice and clarification on guidance already issued. We are looking at the safety measures that may need to be put in place, together with any Kennel Club Regulations which may need to be amended or relaxed to enable competitions to resume. As soon as more information is available, our guidance will be issued. We are aware that everyone is keen to resume their dog-related activities as soon as it is practical to do so, but please bear with us as we work towards helping you to provide the safest possible environment to allow for this. The continued health, safety and security of all participants at Kennel Club events is of paramount importance.

Please keep up to date with our press releases via our website **<https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/press-releases/>**



## 2020 Pointer & Setter Champion Stake

In our spring newsletter we announced the details of the upcoming Pointer & Setter Champion Stake that was due to take place on the 10-11 August 2020. Unfortunately due to the Coronavirus pandemic the 2020 Pointer & Setter Champion Stake has been cancelled.

## Kennel Club Field Trials

**Date:** 9 & 10 October 2020  
**Venue:** Emblehope, Northumberland  
**Open AV Retriever Stake**

**Date:** 23 October 2020  
**Venue:** Emblehope, Northumberland  
**Open AV Hunt, Point & Retrieve Stake**

**Date:** 29 October 2020  
**Venue:** Emblehope, Northumberland  
**Novice Any Variety Hunt, Point & Retrieve Stake**

**Date:** 11 November 2020  
**Venue:** Hawkhurst, Kent  
**Novice English Springer Spaniel Stake**

**Date:** 16 November 2020  
**Venue:** Witham on the Hill, Lincolnshire  
**Open Any Variety Spaniel (except Spaniel [Cocker]) Stake**

**Date:** 23 November 2020  
**Venue:** Newburgh Priory, North Yorkshire  
**Open Cocker Spaniel Stake**

**Date:** 15 December 2020  
**Venue:** Batsford Estate, Gloucestershire  
**Novice Any Variety Retriever Stake**

**Trials yet to be confirmed**  
**Novice Cocker Spaniel Stake**  
**All Aged Any Variety Spaniel (except Spaniel [Cocker & English Springer]) Stake**

Schedules and entry forms will be available on the Kennel Club website from 12 August on the following link:

<https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/activities/field-trials-working-gundogs/kennel-club-field-trials-schedules-and-entry-forms/>

## Kennel Club Championships

**Date:** 27 & 28 November 2020  
**Venue:** Westerdale & Rosedale North Yorkshire  
**Hunt, Point & Retrieve Championship**

**Date:** 4 & 5 January 2021  
**Venue:** Tolishill, Lauder  
**Cocker Spaniel Championship**

**Date:** 21 – 23 January 2021  
**Venue:** Snilesworth, Northallerton  
**Any Variety Spaniel (except Spaniel [Cocker]) Championship**

### The Kennel Club Gundog Working Tests 2021

#### Dates:

Training Days for Retrievers, Spaniels and HPRs -  
 Wednesday 16 June

International Retriever Test - Thursday 17 and Friday 18 June

Open Retriever, Novice Spaniel and Novice HPR Tests -  
 Saturday 19 June

Open Retriever (day 2), Novice Retriever, Open Spaniel and  
 Open HPR - Sunday 20 June

Young Handler's competition for Retrievers, Spaniels and  
 HPRs - Saturday 19 June

**Venue:** Capesthorne Hall, Macclesfield



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*Making a difference for dogs*

### Introducing 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 retrievers and for the pointing breeds to show off their hunting abilities to the full.

Book your training activities with the  
 Emblehope Estate:


[www.thekennelclub.org.uk/emblehope](https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/emblehope)  
 Email: [emblehope@thekennelclub.org.uk](mailto:emblehope@thekennelclub.org.uk)  
 Tel: 01296 318 540 ext 290

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