



Field trials newsletter

Spring 2022

The IGL Retriever Championship report

By Clare Wood

The IGL Retriever Championship is “fundamentally about excellence” and at Ampton Estate in 2021 this was certainly the case.

A ground that had been faultlessly conceived and prepared for the three days by host Peter Rushbrook, Head Keeper Alan Hammond and landowners the Turner Family. Alan Hammond and his team of beaters and stops who patiently and precisely executed his detailed instructions as Steward of the Beat throughout the three days of the trial, flags only ever seen in the far distance. A team of guns that efficiently put the game presented on the ground. The dogs and handlers that time and time again made finds that were difficult look “simple and easy”. And, finally, excellence in breeding: a Retriever Championship where both the first and second placed dogs were by a sire that had also won the Championship, FTCh Beileys Aguzannis of Fendawood (Ampton, 2016).

The Championship this year was held at the Ampton Estate in Suffolk by kind permission of the Turner Family and by invitation of Mr Peter Rushbrook of Box Tree Game Supplies on 29 November, 30 November and 1 December. The main sponsor of the IGL Retriever Championship is Skinner’s Field & Trial.

The guns were hosts Peter Rushbrook, his son Charlie and grandson Sam, Ben Skinner of Skinner’s, Norman Onens (placed 2nd at Out Rawcliffe in 2017 with FTCh Kestrelway Freddie), David Wall (a previous Championship qualifier), and finally Phil Parkin and Damien Newman (who have both previously judged at, and qualified for, the Championship).

Day 1

The first day dawned cold and frosty. Steward of the Beat, and Head Keeper, Alan Hammond organised the line. An area of mustard and fodder radish stretched out ahead with strips mown in the crop. This was to prove challenging ground but the judges ensured that the trial was kept even. Jamie Bettinson and Garry Ford judged on the right, Kevin Doughty and Mark Demaine on the left.

The first bird of the trial was a pheasant shot in front of the line. David Logan’s Craigmaddie Mufasa of Bishopbrae had marked this well. Mel Brooks’ Anningtonbay Maddi May made a good start with an accurate mark in front of the line.

Judge Jamie Bettinson had kept his mark on a bird towered far behind the line. Unfortunately, for the three handlers and dogs taken back to try for this, they had not and it was to be picked by the judges.

Liz Taylor’s dog worked with her to pick a tricky pheasant on the edge of the mustard in an icy puddle that the first dog tried had failed to locate.

Westerkames Rigline of Brogdenview required minimal handling by Kirsty Cousins to pick a duck that had carried on and landed out of the mustard and then another 70 yards further onto the stubble the other side of the track.

Gary Wood’s Millbues Ghillie was already showing his class and gamefinding in the first round, picking a partridge shot behind the line in the thick crop that the first three dogs tried had failed to find.

For the last retrieve of the day Tony O’Hare’s FTCh Burrendale Ace was tried on a bird that the first two dogs had failed on. The bird had been shot on the left in front of the line and the dog proved its memory, picking without help from the handler.

Day 2

The judges took 33 dogs through to the second round. It was an overcast morning. The line was over 100 yards long in the oil seed rape. Throughout the day, dogs had ample opportunity to show their marking ability; multiple flushes were notable by their absence.

Fraser Forbes’ FTCh Omachie Colonel of Carnochway looked smart on a long retrieve behind the line and out of the crop into the area of scrub beyond.

FTCh Stauntonvale Lemon Posset needed no assistance from handler Laura Hill to pick a mark across the line. Nor did Millbues Ghille, swiftly and accurately picking a marked retrieve.

At times, it appeared that handlers stepped in to direct the dogs when it didn’t seem necessary but the Championship is a trial where experienced handlers don’t take chances.

Ronnie Laughton and FTCh Wytonruss Finnigan had to work hard to pick a pheasant that had gone some way towards the wood behind the line.

27 dogs were taken through to the third round. The trial continued in the oil seed rape which stretched on and on, an area of some 100 acres.

Mel Brooks’ bitch continued to show its game-finding, picking a long retrieve across the line behind the first dog tried.

The wind got up a little and the scent seemed to improve with Liz Taylor’s FTCh Tagabea Loganberry and Mr and Mrs Berry’s

A round-up from the editor

Welcome to the spring 2022 edition of the field trials newsletter!

The 2021 field trial season has come to an end, and this issue is full of stories from the trials and championships that have taken place. You will also find the final part of the 'life of a field trial secretary' Ode, written by Anne Greeves, as well as some usual features and updates!

If you have any questions relating to The Kennel Club's field trials, please contact Kate Broers at the following email address – ft.secretary@thekennelclub.org.uk

If you have any queries relating to field trials or have general questions relating to licences, judges etc, please email the team at gundogs@thekennelclub.org.uk

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Continued from page 1

Berryshot Bernie handled by Jason Mayhew both winding their retrieves from afar.

FTCh Omachie Colonel of Carnochway went down the gears and settled to pick a moving partridge behind the line. For its second third round retrieve it was taken to the other end of the line where it made easy work of picking a bird that the previous dog had not located.

Annette Clarke's FTCh Castlemans Gobi of Garronpoint (placed 4th at Packington in 2018) went directly to the fall and quickly found the game where its partner dog had failed.

John Cardno and FTCh Etomanni Comanche showed great teamwork in their third round retrieves: they swiftly picked the second of two birds shot with absolutely minimal handling, and then did exactly the same again on their next retrieve.

Tony O'Hare's Burrendale Bruno had marked their bird to the spot and arrived at the fall before it could move.

Ronnie Laughton's FTCh Wytonruss Finnigan and Marlene Edvinsson's Burrendale Dee both showed excellent marking ability, needing no help from their handlers on long marks across the line.

Day 3

This was a fast moving and as exciting a day of trialling as could ever be hoped for. 17 dogs were through to the third and final day.

In the fourth round one retrieve was required by the judges. A long Championship line of over 100 yards set off in oil seed rape but soon progressed into a field of mustard of approximately 120 acres.

Two birds were shot on the left. FTCh Omachie Colonel of Carnochway smartly picked the first and Berryshot Bernie went directly to the second that was out of the crop and on the grassy headland. Westerkames Rigline of Brogdenview needed no handling on its mark across the line in mustard.

Liz Taylor's FTCh Tagabea Loganberry efficiently picked a hare that had moved some 15 yards or so. Nathan Laffy's Golden Retriever dog FTCh Think Twice Zero to Hero had an accurate mark.

2019 IGL Retriever Champion Int FTCh Miller McDuff showed his class to pick a woodcock that had moved about 20 yards from the fall and in so doing ended the campaign of John Cardno and FTCh Etomanni Comanche who had been going well to that point.

FTCh Burrendale Ace went straight to the fall of a pheasant that had bounced on some 5-10 yards. The dog kept its head down, persisted in the area and finally picked.

Sixteen dogs were now through to the fifth round.

FTCh Wytonruss Finnigan was bought across the line and sent for, and found, a bird that Anningtonbay Maddi May and FTCh Tagabea Loganberry had failed to locate.

Kirsty Cousins and Westerkames Rigline of Brogdenview fought hard to pick a pheasant that had towered over 200 yards off the end of the line.

Lee Hartis and FTCh Troddenmills Full Throttle of Leacaz were taken to the other side of the line and picked behind Clare Baker's Arklebear Caribou and HM Queen Elizabeth II's FTCh Buccleuch Bowhill of Sandringham handled by David Lisett.

FTCh Wytonruss Finnigan was again taken across the line to be tried on a bird, this time to pick behind FTCh Miller McDuff.

The sixth round saw 11 dogs still standing.

Gary Wood and Millbuies Ghillie secured their championship campaign when the dog settled with minimal handling to hold the fall and find a snipe in the mustard that Laura Hill's FTCh Stauntonvale Lemon Posset and Mike Tallamy's FTCh Brindlebay Brigands had failed to locate.

There are some 20 acres of lakes at Ampton and the final round saw eight dogs sit through a duck drive and then retrieve from across the water. The judges had seen enough to decide the final placings and the trial was declared over.

The results of the championship are as follows:

Championship winner - Gary Wood's Millbuies Ghillie awarded The Retriever Trials Championship Challenge Cup, The Lady Auckland Memorial Salver, The Hiwood Challenge Trophy, The Lorna Countess Howe Memorial Trophy and the IGL President's Trophy.

2nd place - Fraser Forbes's FTCh Omachie of Carnochway awarded The FTCh Ulstare Style Challenge Trophy

3rd place - Nathan Laffy's FTCh Think Twice Zero to Hero

4th place - Ronnie Laughton's FTCh Wytonruss Finnigan

Diploma of Merit were awarded to:

Kirsty Cousins' Westerkames Rigline of Brogdenview
Mr & Mrs W Berry's Berryshot Bernie handled by Jason Mayhew
Tony O'Hares's FTCh Burrendale Ace

Facts and figures

This is the fourth time that the IGL Retriever Championship has been held at Ampton Estate. Previously it has been held there in 1988, 2006 and 2016.

54 dogs qualified this year and 52 competed for the title. Mark Demaine's double qualifier FTCh Breckmarsh Ethan of Caytonfell did not run as Mark was judging this year. Qualifier Balleyvalley Riley was withdrawn by owner/handler John Dawson.

13 bitches competed for the title.

Three of the dogs qualified were Golden Retrievers: Nathan Laffy's FTCh Think Twice Zero to Hero (awarded a third this year and a DoM at Glenalmond in 2019), Pieter Vivij's Think Twice Uh La La La and Kim Jinks' Mistybrook Ochre.

The oldest dog, and running to defend the title of IGL Retriever Champion, was Declan Boyle's Int FTCh Miller McDuff. This was the 5th time that this dog has qualified and it is the only dog to have run in both the 2016 and 2021 Championships at Ampton. It is also the only dog to have won both the IGL Retriever Championship and the Irish Championship in the same year.

Tyrrellison Jafar was the youngest dog in competition (whelped 1 June 2019). Gunnerspeg Apollo and Burrendale Bruno were just a few months older.

Paula Cullis's Flashmount Tenor of Tagabea is only the third chocolate Labrador to have competed at the Retriever Championship (Ged Leeson's Pintail Hector of Styleside was the first in 2008 and Miss D V Walls-Duffin's Grangemead Flint handled by Mrs D Smith-Haines ran in 2012). Paula has now handled all the colours - black, yellow and chocolate - at the Retriever Championship.

Declan Boyle's FTCh Jake of Blackburn was a treble qualifier.

Double qualifiers were HM Queen Elizabeth II's FTCh Bowhill of Sandringham handled by David Lisett, Keith Broomfield's Lowtrey Klay of Ticefield, Kevin Butler's FTCh Turpingreen Bohol, Jon Cardno's FTCh Etomanni Comanche, Mark Demaine's FTCh Breckmarsh Ethan of Caytonfell, the Duchess of Devonshire's Emmanyan Spring of Chatsworth handled by John Halsted, Tess Lawrence's FTCh Hawksgarth Sirooco and Laura Hill's FTCh Stauntonvale Lemon Posset.

FTCh Bellsaddle Otto and FTCh Troddenmills Full Throttle of Leacaz qualified on Bs.

Five handlers qualified two dogs: Simon Capstick (Gunnerspeg Apollo along with his dam Drakeshead Casey), Kieron Coey, Declan Boyle, Kevin Haynes and Tony O'Hare (Burrendale Bruno and that dog's sire FTCh Burrendale Ace).

There were no fewer than eight previous championship winning handlers at Ampton this year: Declan Boyle, Keith Broomfield (his 15th championship), John Halsted (his 29th championship), Leigh Jackson (his 12th championship), David Latham (his 21st championship), Tess Lawrence (her 23rd championship), David Lisett and Mike Tallamy (his 15th championship).

Among the handlers new to the championship this year were Tom Birchall, Mel Brooks, John Cardno, Amy Collier (at 16 years of age by far the youngest handler but with not inconsiderable experience-she has been successfully competing since she was 10 years old), Marianne Copp, Jon Dower, Fraser Forbes, Phillip Dyson, Marlene Edvinsson, Kim Jinks and Francesca Prentice.

The most prominent sires were FTCh Asterix Aguzannis of Chatsworth (2015 IGL Retriever Champion), FTCh Beileys Aguzannis of Fendawood (2016 IGL Retriever Champion and noteworthy in siring both the winning and second place dogs this year) and FTCh Ferbury Lancelot of Smithsteads. Each had 4 progeny qualified. Int FTCh Ragweed's Travel should also be recorded as not only being the sire of FTCh Asterix Aguzannis of Chatsworth and FTCh Beileys Aguzannis of Fendawood but also of two of this year's qualified dogs FTCh Riverview Farm Finalist and FTCh Meadowlark Big Rock of Fendawood.

Judge Kevin Doughty is one of only a few who can claim to have judged (on no less than three occasions), and to have competed, and shot, at the Retriever Championship.

Three of the judges have featured in the awards at previous Championships: Garry Ford with FTCh Auchendolly Beaver in 1999 (DoM), Mark Demaine with FTCh Leacaz Ricky of Caytonfell (3rd) in 2017 and Burrendale Fergie of Caytonfell (DoM) in 2019 and Jamie Bettinson with FTCh Levenghyl Peacock (3rd) in 2009, FTCh Whitesmiths Widgeon (DoM) in 2011 and FTCh Tanyrhallt Blue Bloods (2nd) in 2019.

The life of a field trial secretary – part three – after the trial

With a sigh of relief that all has gone well
The next few days still have much to tell

Flags and high viz vests to be stored away
Needing a wash after that so very muddy day
Any damage to be noted and who can repair?
Food carriers cleaned, rubbish binned, too much I fear

Letters of thanks are an absolute must
An email will do the same but only just...
They truly make the difference if you want the ground again
So very, very important, with available grounds on the wane

Include marked running cards all fresh and clear
Those of the day were all soggy and wet, oh dear
Copies to your President, Vice Presidents and such
They will really appreciate being kept in touch

Pay expenses promptly providing they're in order
Details to the Treasurer for Judges, Stewards, and those
helpers from over the Border
Peruse them carefully and don't get caught out
There will always be one, the rules attempting to flout

Not to forget that little fracas over Dog Number Six
Must be in the Incident Book so's not to be in a fix
You are sure to get a call and a long whining moan
Tell them to put it in writing and lower the tone

Here we go, that Dilly Tarnish has just sent a text
She's lost her lead and whistles and is naturally rather vexed
There's that lovely brace of pheasants you need to pluck
and dress
Kindly given by the Keeper but it does make such a mess!

A full report for your Committee as soon as you possibly can
Squashing those silly rumours about the day and how it ran
Marked Running Card to The Kennel Club Reference J4.e.
Making sure it's very, very clear, for everyone to see

Within 14 days this has to be done, with Game Certificate
and copy of the draw
Plus the Incident Book with that tiff under Rule J4.h. oh my lore!
Along with those Water Test Certs and any S.G.W.C's
All to be accounted for, in ones, twos or threes...
Stick to the Rules and you can't go wrong
With everything in order you may receive a gong!

Not quite time to take a break, you need to get ahead
For that Trial at Lower Grumpston, where careful you must tread
Their Keeper never smiles and seldom says a word
But his team is very helpful and the day's success assured

In your mind all is ready and now you can relax
Before those entries cascade again, your brain to tax!

Anne Greeves

The Kennel Club Cocker Spaniel Championship report

By Kate Broers

The 91st Cocker Spaniel Championship was held on Monday 3 and Tuesday 4 January 2022 at Windsor Great Park by gracious permission of Her Majesty The Queen. It is always a real privilege to be invited to attend any event on a Royal Estate but to hold the Championship at Windsor was a true honour. Windsor is one of the oldest landed estates in the United Kingdom and the spectacular habitat of ancient oak and beech trees surrounded by rich bracken beds was perfect ground for the little spaniels to show off their hunting skills.

The Championship had been two years in the planning owing to the pandemic and The Kennel Club and the Spaniel Championship Working Party alongside Head Game Keeper Peter Clayton had meticulously organised every aspect of the event.

The championship began with rather damp and cold weather, but the conditions did not put a dampener on the spirits of competitors, spectators and officials alike, and the atmosphere was of nervous anticipation as the announcements were read out. The estate had very kindly provided Estate Landrovers and a beaters' trailer to transport the competitors to the start, and after the morning briefing the first 20 dogs and excited handlers loaded into the wagon for the short trip up the road.

A total of 40 Cocker Spaniels had qualified for this prestigious event, with 39 dogs running on the day to compete for the coveted title.

Judges Mr Steve Bates, Mr Carl Colclough, Mr Andrew Cunningham and Mr Garry Veasey lined out and the opening

competitors and officials made their way through the dense woodland with the gallery following on behind. The line moved faster on the left as the game was sheltering in the pine trees that bordered the ancient woodland. Mr I Openshaw had two very successful retrieves with a lovely hare flush off the nose of Mr S Charlton's FTCh Mallowdale Shine.

As the day moved on the numbers in line evened out, with Mr D Templar's Mallowdale Foden of Countryways having a smart flush and an excellent mark, the little dog locating the bird cleanly and picking well. Mrs J Righton's Craiwarn Tinkers Stella of Costapakit was sent for a flushed hen bird a long way out to the left, and the dog was decisively sent and retrieved well.

Miss F Ardley completed her run with a stylish eye wipe and was hunted on smartly followed by Mr P Avery's Deepfleet Junia who made a tidy job of a flush and retrieve. Mr S Winspear's FTCh Kiltonbeck Arrow was sent for a long loose woodcock which was nicely gathered by the little dog. As the line moved through the bracken into rushy grassland Mr T Phillips' FTCh Lowallin Lorcan and FTCh Wolferton Drama handled by Mr I Openshaw and owned by our host, Her Majesty The Queen both completed after smart runs.



The judges (L-R) Garry Veasey, Andrew Cunningham, Carl Colclough, Steven Bates © Nigel Kirby / The Kennel Club

Second round

The spaniels hunted their way through the thick fallen bracken, working hard to ignore the distraction of muntjac deer which were hiding within the cover. FTCh Mallowdale Shine had a nice find amongst the fallen trees and delivered the cock bird to hand followed by Dr L Whitley's Jadenmoss Ash of Mullenscotte with another clean flush and retrieve. Mr N Partis' FTCh Tiptopjack Firebug had a fast run, picking a hen pheasant with style and class, followed by Mr D Lee's FTCh Kenaiteen Sagitta handled by Mr W Clulee who also completed their championship run.

Mr D Templar showed his skills with Mallowdale Foden of Countryways needing minimal handling to pick and deliver a cock bird shot 20 yards from the dog. Mrs J Righton's Craiwarn Tinkers Stella of Costapakit was sent for a loose cock pheasant fresh off the lead, the little red bitch had no opportunity to sight the bird so was sent blind and made a tidy retrieve of the large bird. Miss F Ardley's Rowston Sublime of Tarncrag had a nice clean run, followed by a cock bird which was shot off the nose of Mr P Avery's Deepfleet Junia, which was picked nicely even as the little spaniel fought through the thick bracken with the bird.

Mr S Winspear's golden bracken coloured dog hunted well alongside Mrs K Varty's FTCh Delphaven Enya who had a long run, concluding with a challenging retrieve on a loose woodcock but handler Mr W Clulee expertly handled the dog to the fall.

The second round was brought to a close with FTCh Lowallin Lorcan being quietly and smartly handled by Mr T Phillips to a retrieve on a flushed woodcock, and Her Majesty's FTCh Wolferton Drama picking a well flushed cock bird, the heavy bird covering the bitch's face as she persevered to get back to handler Mr I Openshaw.

The judges reviewed their books as the gallery looked on in anticipation, and a three dog run off was announced. Mr N Partis' FTCh Tiptopjack Firebug, Mrs J Righton's Craiwarn Tinkers Stella of Costapakit and Her Majesty's FTCh Wolferton Drama were hunted on until the judges were satisfied that they had seen enough to make their decision.

Presentation

His Royal Highness The Earl of Wessex graciously accepted the invitation to present the awards which made the ceremony truly special. In recognition of hosting the Championship Her Majesty was presented with a Kennel Club commissioned portrait of her two Field Trial Champion Cocker Spaniels, which His Royal Highness the Earl of Wessex kindly accepted on Her Majesty's behalf.

The championship was won by FTCh Wolferton Drama, a 4-year-old Cocker Spaniel bitch, bred and owned by Her Majesty The Queen. Handled by Mr I Openshaw, from Market Drayton winning spaniel FTCh Wolferton Drama is known at home as Lissy in honour of Her Majesty.



FTCh Wolferton Drama © Nigel Kirby / The Kennel Club

Speaking about the win, handler Ian Openshaw said: "Winning the Championship was the greatest day of my life, it is a true honour to handle dogs for Her Majesty and it has been a lifetime ambition to win for the Queen.

"Lissy has always been a very good dog, excellent at all working elements and she is particularly fantastic on a runner. She used to be a bit of a monkey when she was younger, but she has really come into her own now. She is a great all-rounder."

On behalf of The Kennel Club we would like to send our sincere thanks to our gracious host Her Majesty The Queen for allowing the use of this wonderful ground. The cover of varied woodland with a great distribution of game, lead to some fantastic hunting runs and challenging but rewarding retrieves. Head Game Keeper Peter Clayton and his team had prepared the ground wonderfully, and thanks must go to all who were involved in the planning, preparation and running of the event.

An event of this scale could not be run without significant support and The Kennel Club would like to thank the Spaniel Championship Working Party, Chairman Anne Heading and members Steve Adams, Jon Bailey, Jim Briggs, Sally Jenkins, Paddy Morley and Duncan Sutherland for their significant contribution to the Championship ensuring every detail was taken care of.

We are very fortunate to be ably assisted at the event by many gundog enthusiasts, whose help with the setting up and running of the event is invaluable. The Kennel Club would like to thank those that go above and beyond to assist with the running of these events, we couldn't do it without these hard working individuals.

The judges at the competition; Mr Steve Bates, Mr Carl Colclough, Mr Andrew Cunningham and Mr Garry Veasey who worked incredibly hard and must be thanked for their dedicated concentration in distinguishing between these hard hunting dogs. Their time and expertise when judging the dogs was greatly appreciated.

The Kennel Club would also like to express our gratitude to our sponsors, Skinner's Field & Trial and BASC. Skinner's give an awful lot to the world of working dogs and their representatives are passionate about providing the best nutrition for our gundog needs. BASC promote and protect the sports of shooting and trialling and their knowledgeable support is of great importance to these Championships. Our sponsors are always appreciated, and we would not be able to run these events without their generous support.

William Delamore, Skinner's Commercial Director said: "We know how passionate Her Majesty is about working gundogs and we are delighted at her success at the championship, in her platinum Jubilee year."

The results of the championship are as follows:

Championship winner – HM The Queen's FTCh Wolferton Drama, handled by Mr I Openshaw

2nd place – Ms J Righton's Craiwarn Tinkers Stella of Costapakit

3rd place – Mr N Partis' FTCh Tiptopjack Firebug, handled by Mr I Openshaw

4th place – Mr I Openshaw's FTCh Mallowdale Shine

Diplomas of Merit were awarded to:

Ms F Ardley's Rowston Sublime of Tarncrag
Mr P Avery's Deepfleet Junia (also Gun's Choice)

Mr D Lee's FTCh Kenaiteen Sagitta, handled by Mr W Clulee
 Mr T Phillips' FTCh Lowallin Lorcan
 Mr D Templar's FTCh Mallowdale Foden of Countryways
 Mrs K Varty's FTCh Delphaven Enya, handled by Mr W Clulee
 Ms L Whitley's Jandenmoss Ash of Mullenscote
 Mr S Winspear's FTCh Kiltonbeck Arrow



HRH The Earl of Wessex with winning handler Ian Openshaw, Wendy Openshaw, two of the Keeping team and Head Game Keeper Peter Clayton © Nigel Kirby / The Kennel Club

The Kennel Club AV Spaniel [Excluding Spaniel (Cocker)] Championship report

By Kate Broers

The 91st Kennel Club AV Spaniel [Excluding Spaniel (Cocker)] Championship was held on 20, 21 & 22 January 2022 at Snilesworth Estate, North Yorkshire by kind permission of Mr N Williams. The championship is always a highly anticipated occasion in the gundog calendar but due to the pandemic the event had not been held since 2020, and owners, handlers and officials were all very much looking forward to this season's event.

The Snilesworth Estate team, Moorland keepers Rob Simpson and Tom Shuttleworth, and Lowground keeper Albert Barber had done a fantastic job in liaison with The Kennel Club Spaniel Championship Working Party in arranging all aspects of the Championship. From positioning the marquee and parking to selecting which areas of the estate to work. The emphasis of the estate is to run the shoot by combining old fashioned values and modern best practice, and Mr Williams had made the decision in 2021 to turn Snilesworth into a wild bird shoot, making for an exciting few days.

As the sun rose over the marquee on Thursday morning the competitors nervously collected their armbands and Skinner's energy bars before the announcements were made. Spaniel Championship Working Party Chairman Anne Heading made the introductions and briefed the attendees on the running of the day, and the estate vehicles were loaded with the first few competitors. A bracing wind met those disembarking at the edge of the moorland and the atmosphere was of nervous anticipation as the group set off.

Judges Mr R Claydon, Mr J Cook, Mr A Cunningham and Mr M Smee lined out with their gun team, Mr D Lisett, Mr J Sutton, Mr C Dickman and Mr G McClennan. 62 dogs had qualified, and with 56 runners to see over the course of three days, the gentlemen knew they had their work cut out for them.

The first two dogs on the left had fast finds, though an eye wipe by Mr N Satchwell's FTCh Dawsonlee Lightening at Follyview ended Mr G Veasy's day early. As the line moved

through the white grass and broken heather, dogs 7 & 10 were called in. Handled by Mr I Clarke and Mr I Openshaw respectively, both dogs were owned by Mr S Dixon, whose knee injury had necessitated alternative handlers for his five qualified dogs. Both dogs completed their runs successfully.

While the judges worked their way through the card, some dogs struggled to hit their mark, or found that the patchy heather was shielding its game very tightly, reducing the number of competitors. As the dogs moved further down the beat, the line was spilt by a high dry-stone wall, with further walls each side of the working field. Miss A Hayes' Rytex Rizzle was expertly handled on a runner by Mr I Openshaw, completing their run. Mr J Dransfield's Eborakon Anna nicely retrieved a pheasant shot over to the right-hand side, followed by Miss T Siwek's FTCh Surefly Sassy making an excellent job of a flushed hen bird picked in thick bracken. As the oldest dog in the Championship at over eight years old, the quality of the little bitch was clear to see, with two of her daughters also running in the competition. Mr J Wardrope's Helmsway Hot Babe brought the morning's running to a close, completing her run before lunch as a pair of USAF F15 fighter jets made a spectacular appearance across the sky.

Following lunch the competition lined out again on the bottom beat, Mr P Barker's Cornermarsh Gayle Ing Girl picking a well shot cock bird on the left with Mr S Dixon's FTCh Dawsonlee Karrisma making a smart job of retrieving over the wall on the right. The fallen bracken at the bottom of the gully held tightly sitting woodcock which some dogs were sadly just not able to locate. However Mr & Mrs Mackender's FTCh Slibah Lola of Crispico made a good flush and quick, clean retrieve on one of the little wading birds, completing their first run.

The line was brought round for the final beat of the day, heading back towards home into the last of the low afternoon sun with the gallery following on behind. Mr J Bailey's Churchview Cortinio was worked through rushy grassland on the trail of a rabbit, flushing a hen pheasant on his way which was nicely picked. The dog was hunted on, and the rabbit was expertly shot by Mr J Sutton, completing the run.

Mr R Gorman's Bishwell Barrett of Commonshall picked a shot bird as the line moved through the rushy paddock in the fading light of the afternoon. As the final hill of the day was climbed Kneenshot Sarabi owned by Miss S Higgins' was the last dog of the day, picking a nicely flushed hen bird.

Day two

The second day started crisp and clear, with ten dogs left to see in the first round and 32 taken through to the second round. The competitors and gallery made their way swiftly to the steep heather bank that was the setting for the start of the day.

The first two dogs of the day were unfortunately eye wiped by the judges, proving that hunting in the low heather would not be as simple as it had appeared. Mr M Light's FTCh Whiznic Westlyn of Moonreed had a smart retrieve on a loose cock bird shot right at the top the line, and was hunted on to be rewarded with a flush on a hen bird, which was also neatly picked completing his round.

Mr I Openshaw was next in line, with consecutive dogs, Penwills Pinot and Mr S Dixon's FTCh Dawsonlee Jellybean, both completing their runs with finesse, Jellybean making a particularly good job on a woodcock.

Mr & Mrs Mrs Mackender's second dog of the competition, also handled by Mr C Colclough had a stylish flush on a hen pheasant that was then shot over a wall and on the edge of a

line of fencing. The judges brought the dog and handler down the bank and over the Yorkshire stone where the dog was sent and made a clean job of the retrieve.

Second round begins

The stewards had done a fantastic job in organising the dogs and handlers, and the second round followed smoothly on from the first, with dogs three and four starting on the last beat of the heather bank. Betleycourt Holly, owned and handled by Mr D Ross made a clean flush and retrieve on a woodcock and was quickly replaced by Mr S Mcguire's Mulraven Mismark who was brought down from the right to retrieve a loose hen bird shot to the left.

The viewing for the gallery was excellent, with the dogs working on the bank above them meaning all spectators were able to witness the action first hand. As the line followed the last of the heather round the edge of a stone walled paddock, Mr S Dixon's FTCh Dawsonlee Maddy flushed a rabbit off her nose and Mr I Clarke handled the dog nicely to the fall.

FTCh Carnival Willow owned and handled by Mr P Smith tidily completed her retrieve on a woodcock, Mr S Dixon's FTCh Rytex Rapeds hunted hard on the line of a rabbit, which was flushed and was rolled by a shot on the left. The dog was brought down to pick but was unable to locate, and the right hand side dog was tried, the appropriately named Missymog Bunny handled by Mr S Burman. She was also unable to locate the rabbit and despite the judges walking out, the picking up dog was sent. Mr I Openshaw completed Rapeds' run with a tidy flush and retrieve on a woodcock.

The line moved up the dale to the old gamekeeper's cottage, last inhabited some 40 years ago, but since playing host to a number of cock pheasants who had taken up residence in the overgrown garden. Mr S Burman's Bunny completed her long run with a well picked cock bird and Mr J Dransfield's Anna did a nice job on a loose bird which was retrieved gently to hand. Miss T Swiek's FTCh Surefly Sassy made lovely work of a hen bird shot behind, picked on return with the wind to the delight of the watching gallery. Mr J Wardrope's Helmsway Hot Babe smartly followed on, sent for a decent retrieve on the left on a bird flushed from the right and ending her run with a find and retrieve from within the dense bracken.

As the final two dogs were cast off, the white grassland was petering down to cropped green field grass and the judges made the decision to end the day there.

Day three

The final day of the championship began clear and bright, with frost glittering in the early morning light. However, as the competitors lined out the clouds began to move in, providing more protection for the scenting conditions for the 14 dogs that remained to be seen.

The new beat provided plenty of game for the Springer Spaniels to show off their skills, Mr J Bailey's Churchview Cortinio making a nice job of picking a loose cock bird shot from the left over a ridge. Mr C Lewis' FTCh Gorsebay Snipe completed two stylish retrieves on rabbits, one skilfully shot by Mr C Dickman and both retrieved to hand by the little bitch. Dog 35 Mr S Dixon's FTCh Dawsonlee Karrisma was handled nicely by Mr I Clarke to the fall of a loose bird, and then was hunted on to a rabbit which was also picked. Mr I Clarke's own dog FTCh Chinachgook Minding also made a very smart job on a flushed and retrieved rabbit, successfully completing their championship run.

As the line began to curl round towards the bottom of the valley Mr R Gorman's Bishwell Barrett of Commonshall was

sent for a quickly shot hen bird which was nicely gathered up. FTCh Whiznic Westlyn of Moodreed owned by Mr M Light was hunted on through the rushes and white grass and also made a stylish flush and retrieve. Mr I Openshaw ran consecutive dogs, his own Penwills Pinot and Mr S Dixon's FTCh Dawsonlee Jellybean. Both dogs made tidy work of their flushes and retrieves, Jellybean making a very neat, clean flush and retrieve on a rabbit down by the brook at the base of the gully, Mr I Openshaw making the handling of these racy dogs look effortless.

FTCh Broomfield Eve, owned and handled by Mr E Sott was the final dog on the right and FTCh Belvden Trott, owned by Mr & Mrs Mackender, handled by Mr C Colclough was the final dog on the left. As the gallery looked on from the top of the valley these last two dogs hunted on towards home, FTCh Broomfield Eve picking a nicely shot high pheasant which came sailing over the spectators and FTCh Belvden Trott smartly marking and picking a pheasant and then a rabbit, the final shot of the championship.

Presentation

The presentation was made by Snilesworth Operations Manager Mrs Linda Currie and it was lovely to have a representative of the Estate presenting the awards. The gallery gathered round the impressive display of trophies which are awarded to the various award winners of the Championship. As the awards were read out in reverse order the excitement was palpable as competitors and spectators alike applauded those who had done well over the course of the three days.

The winner of the championship was announced as Rytex Rizzle owned by Miss A Hayes and handled by Mr I Openshaw and the emotion was clear from both handler and owner.

Following the championship, Miss Hayes said "we are still in shock at Annie winning the championship, something we have always dreamed of. It was obvious to us that from a young age Annie was a special dog, she had all the talent and drive needed. She has taken time to mature and nurture her natural ability, which all came at the right time for the championship it would seem. When you see her hunting you cannot help but be impressed and her marking ability is fantastic. She is the dog of a lifetime. Thank you to Ian Openshaw and Simon Dixon for getting her there".



(L-R) Wendy Openshaw, winning handler Ian Openshaw, winning owner Alex Hayes and Michael Foster
© Nigel Kirby / The Kennel Club

William Delamore from Skinner's said "we are delighted to have supported the AV Spaniel Championship this season. Congratulations to all those in the awards and particularly to Alex, Ian and Annie for being awarded first place".

Thanks must go to all those involved in the championship, The Kennel Club for funding and organising the event, the Spaniel Championship Working Party for all their hard work, the guns for shooting so well over the dogs and to the volunteers without whom we would not be able to successfully run the event.

Thanks must also go to our sponsors, Skinner's Field & Trial and the British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC). Our sponsors are always appreciated and we would not be able to run these events without their ongoing generous support.

Thanks must finally go to our Host Mr N Williams and his keeping team for allowing the Championship to be run on this special estate and for preparing the ground so wonderfully.

The judges for the competition did a fantastic job of distinguishing between the dogs over the course of the three days. Judge Mr R Claydon said; "The AV Spaniel Championship at Snilesworth was a resounding success, very well organised by all, a testament to the hard work of the keepers at the Estate. It was a great test for the best spaniels in the country, and it was a real pleasure to judge this event."



The results of the championship are as follows:

Championship winner - Rytex Rizzle, owned by Ms A Hayes and handled by Mr I Openshaw

2nd place - FTCh Whiznic Westlyn of Moonreed, owned & handled by Mr M Light

3rd place - FTCh Rytex Rapeds - owned by Mr S Dixon, handled by Mr I Openshaw

4th place - Helmsway Hot Babe, owned & handled by Mr J Wardrope, also awarded the T J Greatorex Memorial Trophy for best newcomer to the Championship.

Diplomas of Merit were awarded to:

Mulraven Mismark, owned & handled by Mr S Mcguire

FTCh Dawsonlee Maddy, owned by Mr S Dixon, handled by Mr I Clarke

FTCh Carnival Willow, owned & handled by Phil Smith

Missymog Bunny, owned & handled by Mr S Burman

Eborakon Anna, owned & handled by Mr J Dransfield

FTCh Surefly Sassy, owned & handled by Miss T Siwek

FTCh Dawsonlee Karissma, owned by Mr S Dixon, handled by Mr I Clarke

FTCh Cornermarsh Gayle Ing Girl, owned & handled by Mr P Barker

FTCh Sliabh Lola of Crispico, owned by Mr & Mrs Mackender, handled by Mr C Colclough

Churchview Cortinio, owned & handled by Mr J Bailey, awarded the Thomas Gaunt Trophy for best dog in the competition

FTCh Gorsebay Snipe, owned & handled by Mr C Lewis

Bishwell Barrett of Commonshall, owned & handled by Mr R Gorman

FTCh Chinachgook Minding, owned & handled by Mr I Clarke, also Gun's Choice, awarded the John Lukies Memorial Trophy and BASC Game Bag

Penwills Pinot, owned & handled by Mr I Openshaw

FTCh Dawsonlee Jellybean, owned by Mr S Dixon, handled by Mr I Openshaw

FTCh Belvden Trott, owned by Mr & Mrs Mackender, handled by Mr C Colclough

Working Gundog Certificate

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

LOVATNOIR RAVEN

Retriever (Labrador), Mrs J Mason

ISLEOFMAN GORSE OF WYLANBRIAR

Retriever (Labrador), Mrs D Stevens

ZORRAZO CHEEK BY JOWL WITH CHANDERHILL

Spanish Water Dog, Mrs K L Hodgkinson-Rutherford

GATELODGE BOMBARDIER

Retriever (Labrador), Mr J Horler

HANREBOR AMBER JACK

Retriever (Labrador), Mrs L Browne

SHOTGUN MAGIC SIKA

Spaniel (English Springer Spaniel), Mrs R Pryce-Lewis

KENYNTEN LUCKY LORD

Spaniel (Cocker), Mr L Carrington

HECTORKIRK PENNYCROFT

Spaniel (Cocker), Mrs L Morgan

WILLOWSAUL ZEPHYR

Spaniel (Cocker), Ms S Evans

CRAIWARN LUMIERE

Spaniel (Cocker), Mr D Ross

PALMERSHILL LILY

Spaniel (Cocker), Mrs J Hutt

CLAYCLATTER FRIEDRICK

Spaniel (Cocker), Miss S Chisnall

SEALPIN ARES TRIGGER

Spaniel (Cocker), Mr J Satwick

RIVEROLL RUMMY

Spaniel (Cocker), Mrs S Stephens

ISLA BINKSEY

Retriever (Labrador), Mr J Sirett

TIRCETHIN TORNADO

Spaniel (English Springer), Miss J Devine

MOELARTHUR BULLET

Spaniel (Cocker), Mrs H Gibbs

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

CASBLAIDD ABYSSINIAN

Spaniel (Cocker), Miss L Mappin

SWEET LICORICE SECRET'S SURPRICE (IMP SWE)

Retriever (Flat Coated), Miss P Goriainoff

ESPANOL KIRA

Brittany, Miss L Southern

DIDDYMOWG XMAS CRACKER

Spaniel (Irish Water), Mr J Bint

WARSOP GOOSEBERRY

Spaniel (English Springer), Mr C Clay

RYTHEDEAN RHUMA AT BUMBLYN

Retriever (Flat Coated), Miss L Irwin

ATHERBRAM JACOB

Retriever (Flat Coated), Mrs S L Tamblyn

CASBLAIDD CHASE ME CHARLIE

Retriever (Flat Coated), Mrs J H Hewison

RAMALLEY JUNE BERRY

Retriever (Labrador), Mrs C A Cox

OPALREEF ECLIPSE

Spaniel (Sussex), Miss L Judge

IVCAR BRIGADOON

Spaniel (Sussex), Mr A Grainer

RIVIERATOR'S DEVON PINE

Spaniel (English Springer), Mrs S Garratt

MANDYS MAPLE MAYHEM

Spaniel (Cocker), Mrs A Pither

CUVANA OSCAR'S GIRL

Retriever (Labrador), Mr C Green

JOSALYN NANA NATALLIA

Spanish Water Dog, Mr A Green

JACKPOTSTUD KISS ME QUICK

Spaniel (Clumber), Mrs J E Morton

FOXHAMPTON FIELDS OF GOLD

Spaniel (Sussex), Mrs A L Moon

ABBYFORD CLAIRETTE BLANC

Spaniel (Clumber), Ms H C Mayes

RIVERFORST IRISH EIDER AT CUVANA (IKC)

Spaniel (Irish Water), Ms J Hempstead

OTHAMCOURT BETTY

Retriever (Labrador), Ms J Hempstead

VERMELHO BEAU

Retriever (Labrador), Mrs L Hermann

JENBERRY MYSTERY HERITAGE

Retriever (Labrador), Ms V Ruston

POPPYMORE TODD

Spaniel (English Springer), Mrs L Redman

TREPHILIP RIVER PUZZLE

Retriever (Flat Coated), Mrs V Wellfair

CHERRYBLOSSOM ROSE

Spaniel (Cocker), Mrs R Oldfield

GWIDIGADA ATLANTIC SPIRIT

Retriever (Labrador), Mrs J Thomas

JENNY WREN COTSWOLDAWN

Spaniel (English Springer), Mrs H Phillips

Application for permission to hold field trials

Societies wishing to register their views on the following applications should do so electronically, stating reasons for supporting or objecting to the applications. Please note that all letters should be sent by email to gundogs@thekennelclub.org.uk.

The applications will be considered at the next available Field Trials Committee meeting and therefore responses must be with The Kennel Club by 15 June 2022.

Duchy Working Gundog Club

Open AV Retriever Stake

Grampian Gundog Club

2 Day Open AV Retriever Stake

Central Scotland Gundog Club

Open AV Retriever Stake

Exmoor Gundog Club

Open AV Retriever Stake

Bracco Italiano Club

Novice HPR Stake

Barton on Humber Gundog Club

Novice (Cocker Spaniel) Stake

Approved applications for permission to hold field trials

Hungarian Wirehaired Vizsla Association

Open HPR Stake

Leicestershire Gundog Society

Novice Cocker Spaniel Stake

Kennel Club Field Trial Panel Judges List

The following judges have been added to the official panels of field trial judges:

RETRIEVERS "A"

Mr T Bushby (3342)

Mr A Slingsby (3575)

RETRIEVERS "B"

Mrs S Wilkinson (3637)

SPANIEL "A"

Mr J Starkey (3478)

HPR "B"

Mr D Elliot (3814)

Mr J Hudson (3910)

Mr P Nixon (3160)

We regret to report the death of Mr M Newsam (100) (A Panel Retrievers) and Mr P Wagland (1931) (A Panel Retrievers) and send our condolences to his family. Mr Newsam was a member of The Kennel Club Gundog Working Test Working Party and had contributed greatly to the success of the event.

Field Trials Committee objection outcomes

At its meeting held on 2 November 2021 the Field Trials Committee imposed the following:

Breach of Regulations J9.b(4) – Ms Burton’s Weimaraner, TRUBON GRAFYTE TREVE out of control. Penalty as listed

TRUBON GRAFYTE TREVE’s record be marked to state that it was not eligible for entry in any event held under Kennel Club rules and regulations.

Breach of Regulation J9.b(13) – Mr P Howard impugned the judges decision. Penalty, warning and fine as listed

Mr Howard was warned as to his future conduct, a £100 fine was imposed and directed to undertake and pass the examination on Kennel Club J Regulations.

Breach of Regulation J8b(9) – Mrs D Mould ran her dogs with the incorrect numbers. Penalty and warning as listed

The first place awarded to the dog to be disqualified and Mrs Mould warned to abide by Kennel Club regulations in the future.

Spaniel Championships 2024

Societies are required to nominate four A Panel judges for each applicable Spaniel Championship in 2024.

The level of experience of the judges should be taken into account when selecting them and ensure they have been an A Panel judge for five years at the time of judging the championship and to have not judged the relevant championship within the previous three years.

Societies are required to gain written consent from those being nominated and to submit their proposed judges to The Kennel Club by **29 July 2022**. Nominations should be sent to gundogs@thekennelclub.org.uk

Results from societies will be presented to the September Field Trials Committee meeting. The Field Trials Committee will be required to recommend five judges, four selected judges and one reserve judge, for each championship. Once the Board has approved these, the judges will be formally invited to judge.

Reminders to field trial competitors and judges

We would like to remind competitors that an owner with a dog running in a trial should not have another dog of the same breed or sub-group running in another trial on the same day.

We would also like to remind competitors that it is not necessary to be a member of The Kennel Club in order to enter a Kennel Club field trial. Any competitors wishing to receive a schedule via email should email ft.secretary@thekennelclub.org.uk

A reminder to judges that the Show Gundog Working Certificate must be judged in accordance with the J Regulations – J(F).

Clarification on registration numbers

Due to some recent confusion, we wish to clarify for field trial secretaries the difference between registration numbers for dogs on the breed register and for dogs on the activity register.

A breed register number would begin with two letters – for example AB12345678.

An activity register number would begin with a K, followed by six numbers – for example K123456.

Clarification on preference for dogs under joint ownership

Following some confusion, we wish to provide some clarity to field trial secretaries with regards to dogs under joint ownership. If a competitor’s dog is in joint ownership, both owners of the dog need to be members of the club in order for that dog to gain the members preference in the draw.

Clarification on judging of partners or spouses

Following a recent query surrounding regulation J12a.(6), which states a dog may be disqualified if it has ‘been handled at a trial, boarded or prepared for competition by one of the scheduled judges within the previous 12 months prior to the trial. This provision does not apply to judges appointed in an emergency’.

We would like to remind competitors that it is advisable not to run under a partner or spouse at a trial, as there may be a perception that the partner or spouse had played a role in preparing the dog for competition.

Field trial online licence application form

We are pleased to announce that the online application form for field trial licences is now live and can be found within your club account on The Kennel Club website.

www.thekennelclub.org.uk/forms/field-trial-licence-application/

The form will ask for the following information:

Club – a drop down will allow you to select the club connected to your account.

Stake
Stake Type
Date

Venue – we will require a postcode for the venue to ensure your trial displays on the new Find a Show/Trial service. This information will not display on the licence or on the website. If the venue does not have a postcode, then the nearest postcode available is acceptable.

If you do not have a club connected to your account, please follow the help centre link for online account services and use the missing information form to request this - www.thekennelclub.org.uk/about-us/help-centre/help-centre-online-account-services/

If you have any issues, please contact us at gundogs@thekennelclub.org.uk

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As a Centre of Excellence for Working Dogs, the Estate also welcomes the full range of working dog activities including:

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- Gundog Working Tests
- Gundog Training Days
- Live Game Training Days
- Pointing Tests
- Working Trials
- Bloodhound Trials
- Activity Training Days
- Shooting and Gundog Activities



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