

Field Trials Newsletter

Spring 2025



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

By Kate Broers

The Any Variety Spaniel (Excluding Spaniel [Cocker]) Championship was held on 22, 23 & 24 January at Blenheim Palace and generously hosted by the Trustees of Blenheim Palace.

The Championship is held over three days and 67 English Springer Spaniels had qualified over the 2024/25 season to compete for the highly coveted winning position. The Any Variety Championship is always a highly anticipated occasion in the Gundog calendar and owners, handlers and officials were all very much looking forward to this season's event.

The Blenheim Palace Estate team lead by Headkeeper Lee Walker, assisted by Ian Openshaw and Aubrey Ladyman had done a fantastic job in preparing in the ground. Over

the previous year, in liaison with The Kennel Club's Spaniel Championship Working Party all the arrangements had been made for the prestigious event. The Championship was once again generously sponsored by Skinner's Pet Foods, Sporting Saint - Gundog Training Equipment and BASC - The British Association for Shooting and Conservation

Day One

Judges Will Clulee, Wayne Greig, Gerry Mehan and Louis Rice, supported by reserve judge Adrian Slater set off with their four man gun team and Headkeeper Lee Walker. The group striding into the mature bracken filled native woodland which Blenheim Palace is so renowned for. Wayne and Gerry took their positions on the left as Will and Louis prepared to see their opening dog on the right.



Competitor Barry Faley and spectators at Blenheim Palace
© ARC Photography

A round-up from the editor

Welcome to the Spring 2025 edition of the Field Trials Newsletter!

We hope that competitors, judges, and societies had a successful 2024/25 season. As we gear up for the upcoming season, this edition reflects on The Kennel Club trials and championships that took place during the 2024/25 season.

In addition to these comprehensive reports, you'll also find our regular updates and features for judges and societies.

We also welcome Clara Hickman to the team as the new Field Trials Liaison Advisor.

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 your society or licences, please email your Regional Support Advisor directly or **RSN@thekennelclub.org.uk**

If you have any queries relating to field trial regulations or judges etc, please email the team at **gundogs@thekennelclub.org.uk**

The field trials department

Meet the team

Debbie Deuchar

Senior Manager Canine Activities

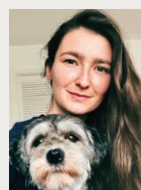


Alison Morley

Activities Liaison Manager

Tel: 020 7518 1059

Email: gundogs@thekennelclub.org.uk



Clara Hickman

Field Trials Liaison Advisor

Tel: 020 7518 1059

Email: gundogs@thekennelclub.org.uk



Kate Broers

Gundog Events Manager

Tel: 020 7518 1059

Email: ft.secretary@thekennelclub.org.uk



Gemma Hallisey

Events Co-Ordinator

Tel: 020 7518 1059

Email: ft.secretary@thekennelclub.org.uk

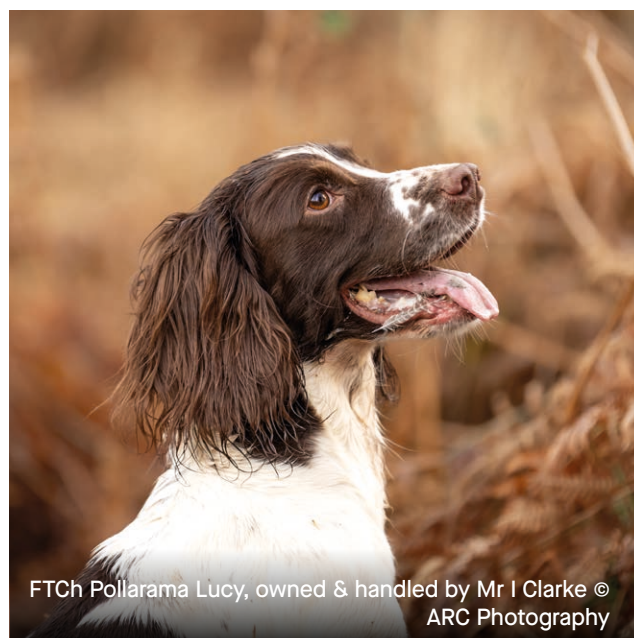
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Continued from page 1

FTCh Roman Lucy of Spanbella owned by Tina Nicholas and handled by Steve Brewer was the first of the even numbered dogs in on the left. The bitch working the bracken cover and producing a cock pheasant which was tidily retrieved. She was followed in by FTCh Broomfield Jackie, owned and handled by Eddie Scott, successfully completing her run on a woodcock.

The right hand side judges Will Clulee and Louis Rice worked their way through the odd numbered dogs, with the rich game filled woodland proving fruitful for many of the opening dogs.

Raymond Wilson's Anahoe Snickers, his second dog running in this year's Championship, hunted hard through the bracken and bramble cover as the line pulled round a small reed edged pond. Two birds were flushed and the right hand dog was sent, but didn't pick, the judges bringing Raymond and Snickers over for the retrieve. She successfully picked the live bird, eyewiping the other



FTCh Pollarama Lucy, owned & handled by Mr I Clarke © ARC Photography

side and putting herself in a good position for the second round.

FTCh Gort Busy Bee, owned and handled by Adrian Doris was in on the right hand side and had a lovely retrieve on a loose bird and was hunted on, having a nice flush on a woodcock followed by another retrieve on a live loose bird which completed their run. Barry Faley's FTCh Skitters Abbie made very tidy work of a retrieve on a hen pheasant which was brought back tenderly to hand. Tom Tanner's FTCh Rosebay Blue hunted the sturdy fern cover well, the dog showing his class on his first run under the left hand judges.

FTCh Helmsway Hot Babe, owned and handled by Jim Wardrope had a quick retrieve straight off the lead on a loose bird and made neat work of the retrieve. The bitch was hunted on, as the second of Eddie Scott's qualifiers, Rhanna Matchlock was brought in on the other side, picking a loose bird that was crossed from the right and was well shot on the left. The dog was hunted on through the cover and completed her run with another smart retrieve, the bitch marking the fall well and going straight out and back. Jim Wardrope's FTCh Helmsway Hot Babe nosed a bird out of the dense bracken which was well shot by left hand gun Ian Openshaw.

As the working line moved down towards the large lake situated in front of the imposing Blenheim Palace the dogs quickly came into game and the judges worked speedily through their dogs.



The Judges AV L-R Louis Rice, Gerry Mehan, Will Clulee and Wayne Greig © ARC Photography

Chadsmynydd Crystal, owned and handled by Nathan Quinn located a bird tucked into the blowdown tree cover and was handled to pick the bird amongst the fallen trees. Newcomer to the Championship, George Dobbie and his dog Chinachgook Samcro joined the working line after lunch, hunting through the cover and making a quick retrieve. The pair were then brought over to the other side of the line to pick a hen pheasant which the other side dog failed to retrieve, George and Chinachgook Samcro completing their run with the eye wipe and bringing day one's proceedings to a close.

Day Two

The second day of the Championship started with a light, early frost, but as the attendees marched out to the running ground, drizzly rain began to fall, the increasing temperature improving the scenting conditions for the

dogs. FTCh Marketgate Darling, owned and handled by Richard Wells and Eddie Scott's FTCh Broomfield Sarafina were the opening dogs on the left and right respectively. FTCh Marketgate Darling was cast off the lead and had a flush and retrieve on a cock pheasant that was buried in the bramble. FTCh Broomfield Sarafina also hunted hard through the thorny shrubs and nosed a cock pheasant out of the cover, the bitch taking an excellent line on the running bird, picking it neatly and completing her run. Richard and FTCh Marketgate Darling were brought over to locate an elusive woodcock that had not been picked by the right hand side, the bitch being handled skilfully into the wind and nicely delivered.



FTCh Rytex Reo of Hollydrive, owned & handled by Mr M Walsh © ARC Photography

Ian Clarke's FTCh Pollarama Lucy worked well in front of the judges, showing her hunting abilities nicely and making tidy work of a retrieve on a cock pheasant finishing her run. FTCh Rytex Reo of Hollydrive owned and handled by Mick Walsh was next in on the left, retrieving another cock pheasant from the bouquet of birds that were hidden in the cover. The dog was then brought over and eyewiped his running partner, completing his run on a loose running bird that was well found and delivered.

FTCh Kilhopemoss Harlequin owned by Paul Cassidy and handled by Raymond Wilson made tidy work of a flush and retrieve on a hen pheasant, and the right hand judges, Will and Louis, brought the first of the second round dogs into line. Tina Nicholas' FTCh Roman Lucy of Spanbella was quickly rewarded with a flush, which was nicely picked and delivered to handler Steve Brewer, the bitch was briefly hunted on and completed their run. Eddie Scott's FTCh Broomfield Jackie made efficient work of a retrieve on a loose cock bird which was well collected by the black and white bitch. Once the line had walked their way towards fresh ground the last dog of the first round was brought in, FTCh Churchview Cortinio, owned and handled by Jon Bailey. The dog making fine work of the thick bracken and bramble cover, hunting out a cock pheasant which was nicely picked. The dog was hunted on, being rewarded for his work with another retrieve which was delivered cleanly, completing their run.

Adrian Doris' FTCh Gort Busy Bee was the first of the second round dogs on the left hand side, under judges Wayne Greig and Gerry Mehan. The bitch hunting through the dense bracken fronds and working a cock pheasant

out, which was well shot by the experienced gun team completing their run. FTCh Skitters Abbie, owned and handed by Barry Faley, hunted the woodland covering, being credited by the judges for taking a nice line to a shot hare which was then retrieved.

Eddie Scott's Rhanna Matchlock was next in line, the bitch being just one of the three dogs he had qualified, all of which had made it through to the second round of judging. The partnership had a successful run, delivering a cock pheasant to hand. Tom Tanner's FTCh Rosebay Blue quartered his beat stylishly, with drive and purpose, covering the area of white grass and fallen trees well and being rewarded with a retrieve on a hen bird shot out to the right.

Chadsmynydd Crystal owned and handled by Nathan Quinn had a flush and retrieve on a hen pheasant and was hunted on, the dog following this with a lovely piece of work on a running bird which took off at pace and was picked 50 meters from the fall. Jim Wardrope's FTCh Helmsway Hot Babe was in on the right, flushing a bird and completing day two's proceedings.



FTCh Borrikanni Indulge, handled by Mr T Giles
© ARC Photography

Day Three

The overnight weather forecast had been terrible, with many parts of the country being severely impacted by Storm Éowyn, the UK's most powerful windstorm for over a decade. Provisions had been put in place by the Championship organisers and the Estate Team, however the historic woodland of Blenheim Palace was remarkably unaffected, and the Championship was able to proceed to its conclusion.

George Dobbie and Chinachgook Samcro finished their second run on a high, the stylish dog showing pace and drive in his ground treatment. FTCh Broomfield Sarafina, owned and handled by Eddie Scott also put in a good performance, alongside Richard Wells' FTCh Marketgate Darling on the right. After being tried on a loose hen bird which neither the dogs nor the judges could find, FTCh Broomfield Sarafina was brought back over to the left where she was sent straight for a previously shot loose bird, the bitch making impressive, no nonsense work of the retrieve. FTCh Marketgate Darling was hunted on, completing her run on a loose cock pheasant which was cleanly picked and retrieved. Paul Cassidy's FTCh Kilhopemoss Harlequin showed pace and efficiency in retrieving a cock pheasant, delivering the colourful bird competently to handler Raymond Wilson, completing their second Championship run.

After a woodcock, shot on the left, was not picked, Ian Clarke's FTCh Pollarama Lucy was sent blind for the retrieve, the dog showing her natural game-finding talent as she was pulled from the thick cover where she had been hunting to make a tidy job of the retrieve. She then completed her run on a hen pheasant which was also picked from heavy cover. The left hand side judges had now seen all their second round dogs so the right hand side was running solo.

The final dogs of the Championship came under the judges; Mick Walsh's FTCh Rytex Reo of Hollydrive hunted well and with plenty of drive, the partnership completing their run with a flush and retrieve on a cock pheasant. As the watery, winter sun shone down on the viewing gallery, the spectators all positioned themselves to watch the final run of the Championship. Jon Bailey's FTCh Churchview Cortinio courageously tackled the thick cover, making a lovely flush on a cock pheasant that was nestled under a fallen tree, unfortunately the bird was not shot but the dog persisted and was rewarded with a flush on a hen bird which was picked from amongst the tree roots.

The judges came together to review their books while the gallery waited in the sunshine, many taking the opportunity to take pictures in front of the spectacular Blenheim Palace, just visible between the banks of woodland. The judges wished to see just a little more, and a runoff was held, with Adrian Doris' FTCh Gort Busy Bee showing her style, pace and drive, bringing the Championship to a close.



Presentation and Awards

Huge thanks 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 and organisation, the guns for shooting so well over the dogs, and the stops, game carriers and helpers without whom we would not be able to successfully run the event.

Thank you to Headkeeper Lee Walker and his keeping team, as well as Aubrey Ladyman and Ian Openshaw for preparing the ground so beautifully.

To the judges; Will Clulee, Wayne Greig, Gerry Mehan and Louis Rice for their time and consideration when judging the dogs. Thanks also to all the competitors and spectators for their support of the Championship.

Gratitude must also go to our sponsors, Skinner's Field & Trial, Sporting Saint and BASC. Our sponsors are always appreciated, and The Kennel Club would not be able to run these events without their ongoing generous support.

Final thanks must go to our Hosts, The Trustees of Blenheim Palace for hosting the Championship on this very special Estate.

Commendations to those who qualified for the competition and huge congratulations to those competitors in the awards, in particular Championship winner Tom Tanner and FTCh Rosebay Blue.



Championship winner, FTCh Rosebay Blue, owned and handled by Mr T Tanner © ARC Photography

The results of the Championship are as follows:

1st place - FTCh Rosebay Blue,
owned and handled by Mr T Tanner

2nd place - FTCh Gort Busy Bee,
owned and handled by Mr A Doris

3rd place and Gun's Choice - FTCh Pollarama Lucy,
owned and handled by Mr I Clarke

4th place - Chinachgook Samcro,
owned and handled by Mr G Dobbie

Diploma of Merits Awarded to:

FTCh Roman Lucy of Spanbella,
owned by Mrs T Nicholas, handled by Mr S Brewer

FTCh Broomfield Jackie,
owned and handled by Mr E Scott

Anahoe Snickers,
owned and handled by Mr R Wilson

FTCh Skitters Abbie,
owned and handled by Mr B Faley

FTCh Helmsway Hot Babe,
owned and handled by Mr J Wardrope

Rhanna Matchlock,
owned and handled by Mr E Scott

Chadsmynydd Crystal,
owned and handled by Mr N Quinn

FTCh Marketgate Darling,
owned and handled by Mr R Wells

FTCh Rytex Reo of Hollydrive,
owned and handled by Mr M Walsh

FTCh Broomfield Sarafina,
owned and handled by Mr E Scott

FTCh Kilhopemoss Harlequin,
owned by Mr P Cassidy, handled Mr R Wilson

FTCh Churchview Cortinio,
owned and handled by Mr J Bailey

The Kennel Club Cocker Spaniel Championship report

By Kate Broers

The 94th Cocker Spaniel Championship was held on 2 & 3 January at Ayot Shoot, kindly hosted by Mr James & Mrs Sarah Nall-Cain. James' Grandfather, Lord Brocket had planted the native woodland specifically for shooting back in the 1930s and Headkeeper Clive Colclough and his wife Julie joined the Estate in 2023 to manage the main shoot.

The Cocker Championship is always a highly anticipated occasion in the gundog calendar and owners, handlers and officials were all very much looking forward to this early January event. Clive and his family have been

heavily involved in Gundogs for many years and he had done a fantastic job over the past year, in liaison with The Kennel Club's Spaniel Championship Working Party in arranging all aspects of the Championship. The Championship was also generously sponsored by Skinner's, Sporting Saint - Gundog Training Equipment and BASC - The British Association for Shooting and Conservation



FTCh Kiltonbeck Nahar of Tomlinswood, owned & handled by James Elliott © WetDog Photography

Day One

Day one started cold as the vehicles began to fill up the parking field, and an air of excitement began to build as the owners and handlers collected their armbands and Skinner's energy bars for the dogs.

Judges Aled Jones, Stuart Morgan, Eddie Scott and Steve Winspear, supported by reserve judge Jeremy Organ set off with their gun team and Headkeeper Clive Colclough. 45 dogs had qualified, and with 44 runners to see over the two days, the gentlemen knew they had their work cut out for them.

The working line started relatively close to the meet and the dogs quickly came into game with the first few dogs finishing their runs in quick succession, Chris Linney's Penwills Charlie of Winhocklin and FTCh Breckmarsh Jana owned and handled by Lee Cooper doing particularly neat work on their runs.

Garret Marson's FTCh Delphaven Gina of Smallbrooks was rewarded for her hunting efforts with a find on two pheasants, both of which were well shot by the experienced gun team. The little golden bitch tidily picking one on the left, and the other being offered to Damien Kelly's Clentohill Jessie Jay under right hand judges Aled Jones and Stuart Morgan.

The line moved out of the first block of bracken filled woodland and into an open mixed foliage shrubland field, where Gavin Lockyer's FTCh Endashaw Desire handled by Ian Openshaw was expertly hunted through on the left, with Susan Hunton's Spirocon Cassandra of Novaton on the right. Susan's little liver bitch showing her skills with two finds and two very tidy retrieves and Ian Openshaw quickly swapping dogs to handle Francis Briley's FTCh Popsheath Art at Canalgame. The smart black dog worked nicely on the open ground, picking a loose bird which was shot on the edge of the field.



Judges L-R Aled Jones, Eddie Scott, Stuart Morgan, Steve Winspear © WetDog Photography

As the dogs and handlers completed the last of the vegetation, the gallery were gathered together before the Championship moved back into a large block of woodland, lining out again on the fresh ground. James Newhouse's FTCh Donnachaidh Losgaintir, handled by Will Clulee completed his run quickly and efficiently, whilst a woodcock ended the Championship hopes of the next two runners.

Will Clulee was back in, with the second of the two dogs he was handling at this year's event; Phil Lewis' FTCh Uplands Bluebell of Badgerford, a very smart black and tan bitch, which hunted the bracken, and was rewarded with a flush and retrieve on a hen pheasant. Jack Walton's FTCh Pixiefen Adelaide worked through the woodland cover, the red bitch showing her quality in the dappled sunlight filtering through the trees.

The working line continued through the stunning woodland, with ample game for the hard hunting little spaniels to locate, James Elliott's FTCh Kiltonbeck Nahar of Tomlinswood and Nigel Partiss' FTCh Tiptopjack Firebug both being handled smartly to complete their first runs. Both sets of judges had worked through their dogs at a fairly equal rate, a clear indicator of the standard of the ground and the guns, and as the first round drew to a close Matt Warren's FTCh Taffswell Roberta was through to the second round with a tidy mark and collection.

Second Round

The second round began, on the right the first of the even numbered dogs, Jaseon Atkinsons' Croimhor Kathleen coming under the judges for a second time, completing their Championship with a lovely cast out and retrieve on a flushed cock bird. Lee Cooper's FTCh Breckmarsh Jana was next up, hunting towards the end of the woodland, completing their run with two retrieves on two loose pheasants tucked into the bracken.

FTCh Delphaven Gina of Smallbrooks owned and handled by Garret Marson was next in, the golden bitch's truly remarkable success in competing in yet another Championship despite being stolen at the 2022 Game Fair. The partnership began their second run with multiple retrieves, one loose bird and one flush, and made a tidy job of both, bringing day one to a close.



FTCh Taffswell Roberta, owned and handed by Mr M R Warren © WetDog Photography

Day Two

With a reduced field, day two started cold and icy, with frost clinging to the bracken tendrils as the wintery sunshine warmed the backs of the opening competitors and watching spectators. Twenty dogs had made it through to the second round, with Penwills Charlie of Winhocklin, owned and handled by Chris Linney and Garret Marson's FTCh Delphaven Gina of Smallbrooks starting the day. Gina picked a loose partridge on the right and was briefly hunted on and completed, bringing in Ian Openshaw handling Gavin Lockyer's FTCh Endashaw Desire.

Last year's Championship winner, Desire had a neat retrieve on a cock pheasant on the right-hand side whilst Chris Linney's Penwills Charlie of Winhocklin was sent for a loose cock bird which was nicely picked. The talented gun team were showing their skills as Linney's dog was sent for another loose partridge which lifted from the left and was brought down on the right, followed by a running cock bird which again was tidily collected by the spaniel, completing their run. Ian Openshaw and FTCh Endashaw Desire were then sent for a loose shot hen bird which completed their second run.

James Newhouse's FTCh Donnachaidh Losgaintir, handled by Mr Will Clulee had a beautiful retrieve on a cock pheasant, the black and tan bitch's paws flying across the frozen bracken, as Damien Kelly's Clentohill Jessie Jay efficiently picked a running bird and was briefly hunted on before the judges Eddie Scott and Steve Winspear completed the partnership's run. Jack Walton's golden bitch FTCh Pixiefen Adelaide shone amongst the orange bracken in the crisp new year sunshine, as Susan Hunton's Spirocon Cassandra of Novaton was in on the left. A speedy flush and retrieve on a cock pheasant completed their Championship and brought Francis Briley's FTCh Popsheath Art at Canalgame, handled by Ian Openshaw into line. FTCh Pixiefen Adelaide on the right was sent for a woodcock which was shot a long way out and was still very lively, the spaniel delivering the wading bird nicely to hand, followed by a neat collection of a cock pheasant completing their run.

The hard frost would usually lead to poor scenting conditions, but the sun had some warmth to it in the enclosed woodland, and the dogs were not struggling to pick the game. Ian Openshaw skilfully handled FTCh Popsheath Art at Canalgame onto a running cock bird; the dog hit the fall quickly, but the bird took off in the opposite direction and the dog worked the scent trail and went on to pick, much to the delight of the watching gallery.

James Elliott's FTCh Kiltonbeck Nahar of Tomlinswood was wonderful to watch as the liver bitch covered the ground beautifully, the handler's synchronicity with his dog evident as she was sent for several consecutively shot loose birds, followed by an impressive retrieve on a running cock pheasant. The final bird shot from his beat was offered to the other side, with Phil Lewis' FTCh Uplands Bluebell of Badgerford, handled by Mr Will Clulee being brought over for a tidy collection.



FTCh Tarncrag's Razzamataz owned and handled by Fran Ardley © WetDog Photography

As the line moved further into the native woodland, Nigel Partiss' FTCh Tiptopjack Firebug, handled by Ian Openshaw was hunted on through the frost tipped bracken as the gallery slid their way along an ice filled track. A loose woodcock was shot a distance away, the dog was cast out and the 'night partridge', which can so easily be the downfall of many, was capably retrieved. FTCh Taffswell Roberta, owned and handled by Matt Warren worked nicely over the dwindling cover, picking a loose hare which was well retrieved by the working cocker spaniel.

The judges came together to review their books and determine the awards, and the Championship was brought to a close.

Huge thanks 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 the stops and game carriers without whom we

would not be able to successfully run the event. Thanks also to all the competitors and spectators for their support of the Championship.

Gratitude must also go to our sponsors, Skinner's Field & Trial, Sporting Saint and BASC. Our sponsors are always appreciated, and the Kennel Club would not be able to run these events without their ongoing generous support.

Final thanks must go to our Host Mr & Mrs Nall-Cain and Clive Colclough and his wife for hosting the Championship on this very special Estate and for preparing the ground so wonderfully.

Commendations to those who qualified for the competition and huge congratulations to those competitors in the awards, in particular Championship winner James Elliott.

Following the Championship, first place winner James Elliot said:



The gallery in the frosty bracken © WetDog Photography

"It's been an honour to have won this year's championship; I can't quite put into words the feeling that I went through the afternoon of the final day during the results and wasn't expecting to be announced as the winner!

My deepest thanks goes out to my fiancé Stephanie for all her help behind the scenes, and to James Luxford for all his guidance and training opportunities along the way!

Thank you to the host Mr & Mrs Nall-Cain, the judges for their time and the Kennel Club and all the Committee and helpers behind the scenes for making this year's championship so successful.

A special thanks to the keeper Clive Colclough and his guns for holding a fabulous championship credit to him and his team!

Lastly, thanks to all the other competitors, as someone who does this for a hobby we can all appreciate the time and effort that goes in and the sense of achievement just to compete at the championship is a privilege so thank you!!"

The Results of the Championship are as follows:

1st place - FTCh Kiltonbeck Nahar of Tomlinswood, owned and handled by Mr J R Elliott

2nd place - FTCh Endashaw Desire, owned by Mr G Lockyer, handled by Mr I Openshaw

3rd place - FTCh Delphaven Gina of Smallbrooks, owned and handled by Mr G Marson

4th place and Gun's Choice - FTCh Uplands Bluebell of Badgerford, owned by Mr P Lewis, handled by Mr W Clulee

Diplomas of Merits Awarded to:

Penwills Charlie of Winhocklin, owned and handled by Mr C Linney

Croimhor Kathleen, owned and handled by Mr J Atkinsons

Clentohill Jessie Jay, owned and handled by Mr D Kelly

FTCh Breckmarsh Jana, owned and handled by Mr L Cooper

Spirocon Cassandra of Novaton, owned and handled by Miss S Hunton

FTCh Popsheath Art at Canalgame, owned by Mr F A Briley, handled by Mr I Openshaw

FTCh Donnachaidh Losgaintir, owned by Mr J Newhouse, handled by Mr W Clulee

FTCh Pixiefen Adelaide, owned and handled by Mr J Walton

FTCh Tiptopjack Firebug, owned by Mr N Partiss, handled by Mr I Openshaw

FTCh Taffswell Roberta, owned and handed by Mr M R Warren

The Kennel Club Hunt, Point & Retrieve Championship report

By Kate Broers

Ardgroom Artemis, an eight-year-old German Wirehaired Pointer from County Galway in Ireland, has won the Kennel Club's Hunt, Point and Retrieve (HPR) Championship. The Championship was held on 18 & 19 November 2024 at Faccombe Estate in Hampshire, and was sponsored by Skinner's Sporting Saint Gundog Equipment Suppliers and BASC.



Championship Winner – FTCh Ardgroom Artemis (German Wirehaired Pointer) owned and handled by Derek O'Connor ©The Kennel Club

Judged by Suzi Burton and Roy Cullen, Ardgroom Artemis, known at home as Juno and owned and handled by Derek O'Connor, was awarded first place in the competition, which saw 24 working gundogs from HPR breeds tested on their natural working ability across the varied terrain of woodland and open crop fields.

Derek said: "It's been an absolute privilege to run in this year's HPR Championship at Faccombe Estate. Juno and I winning is the stuff of dreams for us, the highest honour. I'm delighted for Juno because she deserves it, she is a hardworking and intelligent dog, home bred and a valued family member that has brought us many years of joy. Huge thanks to everyone involved in such a fantastic event and a special mention to my beautiful family for all their love and support, I am blessed to have them."

Each of the competitors had qualified for the Championship by placing first or second in a qualifying field trial, which was held during the shooting season across the country by a number of registered societies.

The Championship was a great success, and it was wonderful to hold the competition in the South of England at Facombe Estate. Thanks must go to all who were involved in the planning, preparation and running of the event. The Kennel Club is extremely grateful to Facombe Estate for hosting the Championship this year – to hold the event on such an outstanding HPR ground was a real privilege.



2nd place and Guns' Choice - Islasbrow Ash (German Shorthaired Pointer) owned and handled by Darryl Elliot ©The Kennel Club

We would also like to thank the judges Suzi and Roy for their time and expertise when judging the dogs. They analysed the performance of dogs and handlers with great skill and attention to detail across the two days. Thank you to them for their hard work in separating these talented dogs.

Finally, we would also like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our sponsors, Skinner's Field & Trial, Sporting Saint Gundog Equipment Suppliers and the British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC). Skinner's are a family-run business who, for over 50 years, have supported the world of working dogs, and their representatives are passionate about providing the best nutrition for our gundog needs. Sporting Saint

are the market leader of gundog training equipment and are dedicated to manufacturing and supplying high-quality gundog training equipment to meet the needs of trainers at every level. BASC are the UK's largest shooting organisation, who are committed to ensuring that shooting is recognised as a benefit to the environment and economy. All of our sponsorship partnerships are greatly appreciated, and we would not be able to run these events without their generous support.



3rd place - Zoldmali Irka-Firka at Canalgamé (Hungarian Wirehaired Vizsla) owned and handled by Francis Briley ©The Kennel Club

Huge congratulations to all the dogs and handlers in the awards, and especially to the winners, Derek and Juno.

The results of the Championship are as follows:

1st place – FTCh Ardgroom Artemis (German Wirehaired Pointer) owned and handled by Mr D O'Connor

2nd place and Gun's Choice - Islasbrow Ash (German Shorthaired Pointer) owned and handled by Mr D Elliot

3rd place - Zoldmali Irka-Firka at Canalgamé (Hungarian Wirehaired Vizsla) owned and handled by Mr F A Briley

4th place – not awarded

Diploma of Merit awarded:

Radipole Coco (Korthals Griffon) owned and handled by Mr M Spearing.



Diploma of Merit awarded to Radipole Coco (Korthals Griffon) owned and handled by Mark Spearing.
©The Kennel Club

We appreciate that this news will be disappointing to many, and we would like to assure that this decision has not been taken lightly. The Kennel Club remains committed to supporting and hosting gundog events, including field trials, training days and the Field Trial Championships.

For further information please contact
FT.Secretary@thekennelclub.org.uk

Field Trial Champions

In the winter 2024 newsletter the list of Field Trial Champions from several seasons were listed. We apologise that the following dogs were omitted from this list.

German Shorthaired Pointer

FTCh DEEPTHATCH ROCKET
owned by Mr S & Mrs R Webster

FTCh QUINTANA CLOUD BERRY
owned by Mr P & Mrs S Nixon

Retriever (Labrador)

FTCh STAUNTONVALE MARGAY OF RUSHBRIGG
owned by Mrs S Morley-Riches

Spaniel (Cocker)

FTCh SANDYS TWINKLE TOES
owned by Mr J Bailey

Spaniel (English Springer)

FTCh CHURCHVIEW CORTINIO
owned by Mr J Bailey

Update on The Kennel Club Gundog Working Test

The Kennel Club would like to announce that unfortunately, due to a combination of factors, The Kennel Club Gundog Working Test will not be held for the foreseeable future.

Since its inception in 2002, the Gundog Working Test has been held at a variety of venues and has been extremely popular and well received by both competitors in the UK and internationally. However, circumstances have evolved, and following a comprehensive review, The Kennel Club has concluded that the continuation of the event is sadly no longer viable.

The Kennel Club would like to sincerely thank everyone who has been involved in the Working Test over the years, including the Working Party, volunteers, judges and of course the many dedicated competitors, all of whom have supported the event.

The Kennel Club is pleased to see that other Kennel Club registered societies continue to hold their own successful working tests, and we are encouraged by the ongoing growth of gundog events on the international stage.

Working Gundog Certificate

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

CHESILSTAR BOURBON

Retriever (Labrador), Ms F D'Lucie

SALROWBRA PAIGE'S COMET

Spaniel (English Springer), Mrs A Langhurst

CLEAVELEIGH LANE CONSTANCE

Spaniel (English Springer), Mr G Morgan

SKYFLIGHT DINAH

Retriever (Labrador), Ms J Fergie

SANSA OF STARK

Spaniel (Cocker), Ms C Johnson

ROTATING SPOT

Spaniel (Cocker), Mr D Law

KENZDUO SIMPLY BRILLIANT

Spaniel (Cocker), Mrs S Taylor

CURLIANNE GALAXY BUTTONS

Spaniel (Cocker), Mrs J Curling

COUNTRYWAYS URBAN

Spaniel (Cocker), Mr S Owen

PARKER PRESLEY

Spaniel (Cocker), Miss C Bowers

ROOKHURST THRONE OF CURLIANNE

Spaniel (Cocker), Mrs J Curling

CROWCOMBE RODOLFO

Retriever (Golden), Ms K Webb

MEDDRROWS PRIMROSE

Retriever (Labrador), Ms J Lithgo

EMMANYGAN SIXPENCE OF WYLANBRIAR

Retriever (Labrador), Mrs D Stevens

KERDISTONES'S AURORA

Retriever (Labrador), Mr M Smith

JENBERRY COLQUHOUN AT COLWELLBAY

Retriever (Labrador), Dr A Wiltshire

ZOLDMALI EZMI

Hungarian Wire Haired Vizsla, Mrs A Tasker

WAVERTON ICE AND FIRE

Retriever (Flat Coated), Mrs H Cobby

CIELBLUE STAR

Spaniel (Cocker), Mrs A Clemence

ZARONINIA PHOENIX RISING OVER JOLICOEM

German Shorthaired Pointer, Ms L Walker

RIDGERED HAGGIS

Retriever (Labrador), Mrs P Sawyers

HOMELANDSNEW GADWALL

Retriever (Labrador), Mrs S Steven

DIKLERBROOK CARBON

Retriever (Labrador), Dr S Chapman

GLENPHESHIE ONYX

Retriever (Golden), Mrs D Campbell

CACAO BLANCO BEAN

Crossbreed, Mrs S Leyshon

CUTLERBARN PIPPA

Retriever (Labrador), Mrs G Peake

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

STILLCURAN HELGA

Spaniel (English Springer), Miss N Brown

ABBYFORD LADY MERRY OF IVALE

Spaniel (Clumber), Mr M Lovell

KEVERAL MOONLIGHT

Retriever (Flat Coated), Mr J Honsel

CEDARLILY MOONLIT MISCHIEF

Spaniel (Cocker), Miss J Hrycak

LITTLETHORPE PRIMROSE

Retriever (Flat Coated), Mrs H Wills

CUVANA SWEET CASPER

Spaniel (Cocker), Mrs S Furlong

SCRUMPTIOUS SWEET COPPIN

Spaniel (Irish Water), Mr J Scrimshire

BROWFARM WILLOW

Spaniel (Cocker), Mrs D Shier

HOMELANDSNEW GADWALL

Retriever (Labrador), Mrs S Steven

KENSESQUI TIMPANI

Spaniel (English Springer), Miss L Harrison

RIDGERED HAGGIS

Retriever (Labrador), Mrs P Sawyers

NATCARW BARNES WALLIS

Spaniel (English Springer), Mr R Cayford

PEALLAIDH PHENOMENAL WOMAN

Retriever (Labrador), Mrs J Cooper

SCRUMPY DABINETT AT CUVANA

Spaniel (Irish Water), Ms J Hempstead

CUVANA MISS MAPLE

Spaniel (Cocker), Ms A Putt

CUVANA AINE'S HAZEL

Spaniel (Cocker), Dr A Rubikaite

CONWAYSHILL BRODIE

Retriever (Labrador), Mr O Curran

FENWAY GOODNESS

Retriever (Labrador), Mr T Williams

EKKOLANDER RUMOUR

Large Munsterlander, Mrs K Saynor

UTWO ROCHE DES BRUMES DES BOIS GALODY

Weimaraner, Ms J Laurens



The Kennel Club Field Trials and Upcoming Championships 2025/26 Season

All Aged Pointer & Setter Stake 13 dogs

Venue: Six Mile Bottom, Newmarket

Date: 13 April 2025

Judges: Sara Chichester (A1847) & Linda Westron (B3870)

Results: Gun's Choice – Ben Long's Crookspire Lucky Clover of Hannabergh

Open Pointer & Setter Stake 19 dogs

Venue: Six Mile Bottom, Newmarket

Date: 13 April 2025

Judges: Sara Chichester (A1847) & Linda Westron (B3870)

Results: Gun's Choice – Terry Harris' FTCh Koram Kasbar at Sparkfield

The Riverstown Ranger Cup (best performance of an English Setter) – Solid Gold's Asso

All Aged (AV Retriever) Stake

Venue: Tolishill & Burncastle

Date: Saturday 16 August 2025

Judges: TBC

Open (AV Retriever) Stake 24 Dogs

Venue: Emblehope & Burngrange Estate

Date: Friday 17 & Saturday 18 October 2025

Judges: TBC

Open AV Spaniel (Ex Cocker) Stake

Venue: South Farm Manton, Gainsborough, Lincs,

Date: 22 November 2025

Judges: TBC

Open Cocker Spaniel Stake

Venue: South Farm Manton, Gainsborough, Lincs,

Date: 3 December 2025

Judges: TBC

HPR Championship

Venue: Emblehope Estate

Date: 14 & 15 November 2025

Judges: Mr Mark Spearing (A3301) Mr Peter Howard (A2172)

Approved applications for permission to hold field trials

Slovakian Rough Haired Pointer Club

Novice Any Variety HPR Stake

Leicestershire Gundog Society

Open Spaniel (Cocker) Stake

Gordon Setter Association

Show Gundog Working Certificate

Kennel Club Field Trial Panel Judges List

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

RETRIEVER "A"

Mrs Samantha Boyle (Drysdale) (3869)

Miss Liz Taylor (3536)

RETRIEVER "B"

Mr John Dawson (3702)

SPANIEL "B"

Mr Paul Cassidy (3690)

Mr Tommy Giles (4021)

Mr David Hodgson (3815)

Mr Tom Philips (3486)

HUNT, POINT AND RETRIEVE "A"

Mr Bradley Dymond (3806)

HUNT, POINT AND RETRIEVE "B"

Miss Dawn Elrington (4005)

Applications 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 2025.

Barton on Humber Gundog Club

Open Spaniel (Cocker) Stake

Fermanagh Gundog Club

Open Spaniel (Cocker) Stake

Usk Valley Working Gundog Club

Open Spaniel (Cocker) Stake

Retired Judges

The following judges have retired from the official panels of Field Trial Judges. The Kennel Club would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank them for their contribution to the Gundog fraternity over the years.

RETRIEVER "A"

Mrs A White (151)

Mr C Dearling (1855)

Mr D Benson (9)

Mr M Stringer (133)

RETRIEVER "B"

Mr A Friedrich (1863)

Mrs A Usher (2384)

Mr D Barnes (2197)

Mr W Rostron (2784)

Mr E. Venturi (1929)

Mr S Agnew (1833)

Mr B Chesser (3527)

SPANIEL "A"

Mr M Scales (2005)
 Mr J Vasey (2017)
 Mr E Robertson (1433)
 Mr D T David (1961)

HUNT, POINT AND RETRIEVE "A"

Mr Trevor Horsefield (2149)

Field Trials Committee objection outcomes

At its meeting in February 2025 the Field Trials Committee imposed the following:

Breach of Regulation J8.(13) and point 2.3 from the Code of Best Practice for Judges - North of Scotland Gundog Association - Open HPR Field Trial - 8 November 2024 - social media complaint

Mr J Bird issued with a warning as to his future conduct, and suspension from the judging panel until such time the seminar and examination on Kennel Club J Regulations had been undertaken and passed.

Breach of Regulation J4.a.(1) - English Springer Spaniel Club of Northern Ireland - All Aged AV Spaniel Trial - 18 November 2024. Failed to apply and pay for a licence before the trial date.

The society issued with a warning to abide by the J regulations in future.

Spaniel Levy Payments

This is a notice to remind societies that championship levy payments are due by 30 September 2025. Please note that the levy payments are now as follows:

HPR – £50

Cocker Spaniel – £75

Any Variety Spaniel (Excluding Spaniel [Cocker]) – £100

Societies will shortly receive an invoice for the 2025-26 season, which will include all the relevant information on how to make payment via bank transfer.

If you have any queries or have not received an invoice by 30 June 2025, please contact your regional support advisor who will be able to assist you.

Reminder to Competitors

In the summer 2024 newsletter a reminder was issued regarding ownership of dogs.

We would again like to remind competitors that it is not an acceptable practice to amend a dog's ownership to gain additional runs in field trials.

Reminder to Secretaries

We would like to remind secretaries that whilst you can state on your schedule that online entries are preferred, you must still accept entries via post to ensure the trial is accessible to all.

The updated specimen schedule and entry form can be found on The Kennel Club website, on the field trial secretary information page: **Field trial secretary info | The Kennel Club**

Field Trial Secretaries' Seminar

The Kennel Club Field Trial Secretaries' Seminar focuses on providing essential knowledge and understanding for the management, organisation and stewarding of field trials and gundog working tests.

The seminar is an opportunity for those who are newly appointed field trial or gundog working test secretaries, club officials and existing field trial or gundog working test secretaries to benefit from the very latest information from the Kennel Club. Other field trial society representatives, competitors and anyone else with an interest in the discipline are also welcome to attend.

The seminar focuses on providing essential knowledge and understanding for the management, organisation and stewarding of field trials and gundog working tests.

The day will consist of presentations and breakout sessions which are designed around a variety of issues that a secretary is likely to encounter. Each delegate will receive a comprehensive information pack including copies of the presentations, examples of the various certificates, a copy of the 'J' regulations and a USB stick containing template forms which can be tailored for individual use.

Non-field trial secretaries can also attend, and we welcome anyone who has an interest.

Refreshments and a finger buffet lunch are included.

The Kennel Club Field Trial Secretaries' Seminar

Date: Saturday 17 May 2025

Time: 9am – 3.30pm

Venue: The Kennel Club Building, Stoneleigh Park, Coventry, Warwickshire CV8 2LZ

Price: £65

To book your place, please visit <https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/shop/events/field-trial-secretaries-seminar/>

For more information, please email our field trials team ft.secretary@thekennelclub.org.uk

The Regional Support Network

The Regional Support Network (RSN) was launched at the beginning of 2025, and all field trial secretaries should now have received an email from their Regional Support Advisor.

We currently have six advisors across the UK in place to provide tailored advice and resources for our organisers, ensuring they have quick and easy access to the support they need. They will be the primary point of contact for clubs and societies in their respective regions to help resolve their queries.

The Regional Support Advisors offer a wide range of support to over 1800 registered societies, including the following services:

Club Management

- Annual returns
- Rules and regulations
- Election processes

Event Support

- Booking dates
- Processing judges
- Rules and regulations

Resources

- Access and locating the appropriate resources

Communication

- Regular contact to clubs and societies so they feel supported
- Event announcement
- Rules & regulations updates

The Regional Support Advisors are:

Caron Bell - North West, Northern Ireland & Isle of Man:
northwestadvisor@thekennelclub.org.uk

Denise Newson - South East:
southeastadvisor@thekennelclub.org.uk

Helen Reaney - West Midlands & Wales:
midlands&walesadvisor@thekennelclub.org.uk

Kirsty Jones - South West & South Wales:
southwestadvisor@thekennelclub.org.uk

Tania Gardner - North East & Scotland:
northeast&scotlandadvisor@thekennelclub.org.uk

Yohann Dieul - East Midlands & East of England:
eastofenglandadvisor@thekennelclub.org.uk

If you are unsure on who your regional support advisor is, please email the team at **RSN@thekennelclub.org.uk**

We would welcome any feedback on this new support network, therefore if you have not yet completed the form please do so here: **<https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/forms/regional-support-network-contact-form/>**

Find a Club

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

The Find a Club service can be found here:

Find a dog club | The Kennel Club

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

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

Visit **thekennelclub.org.uk/FAC**

The Emblehope & Burngrange Estate Northumberland

A centre of excellence for working Dogs

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

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

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



Book your training activities with the Emblehope Estate:
thekennelclub.org.uk/emblehope | emblehope@thekennelclub.org.uk
01296 318 540 ext 290