



Royal Kennel Club



Field Trials Newsletter

Winter 2025

Pointers & Setters Champion Stake 2025 report

By Jon Kean

The 2025 Royal Kennel Club's Champion Stake for Pointers and Setters has been won by 4 year old Irish Setter bitch FTCh Coldcoats Ginny for the second time in 2 years. Ginny's handler, Steve Robinson from Northumberland, has now won the championship four times and he bred last year's winner, FTCh Coldcoats Reggie. It's a remarkable record by any standards.

In football parlance it is the Cup Final for the country's top Pointers and Setters. The premier event is revered as the most prestigious event on the field trial calendar for bird dogs and is one of the oldest sporting events of its kind in the United Kingdom.

On Grouse moors, Pointers and Setters are known for their hunting power, their grace, their beauty, their athleticism, their drive and stamina. This year's championship was held at Bollinope Moor, County Durham, by kind permission of His Highness Sheikh Mohammad Al Maktoum and his Head Keeper, Peter Fawcett. Bollinope, at 12,600 acres, is one of the best grouse moors in the UK. This year I witnessed many coveys of full-grown healthy Grouse. The championship was hosted by the International Gundog League Pointer and Setter Society on behalf of the Royal Kennel Club, and judged by three A Panel Judges; Fiona Kirk, Gerry Devine and Dominic Goutorbe. The 2025 Championship attracted competitors from throughout the UK and Ireland. The Championship programme consisted of 28 Pointers, 15 Irish Setters, 4 English Setters and 1 Gordon Setter. On the day, 21 brace took to the field. The Champion

Stake is held in alternate years by the International Gundog League Pointer and Setter Society and the Scottish Field Trials Association. Since 2006, the Champion Stake in Scotland took place at Byreclough Estate on the Lammermuir Hills in the Scottish Borders.

At Bollinope, it was evident right from the word go that there were good coveys on the ground. The first brace featured 2 Irish setters – Kim Brown's Shanrycon Dexter and Steve Robinson's Bownard Everest. Kim's setter had a very stylish point on a covey which she produced in classical fashion. Kim was awarded the Ladies Trophy for the most stylish dog in the first round of the Champion Stake.

Before lunchtime, many coveys pitched in ahead on the beat and it proved to be a minefield for many of the dogs. Four and a half brace were called back for the second round.

Terry Harris, from County Durham, was in action throughout the trial. He handled 5 Pointers – so it was a busy day at the office for Terry! In the second round, Terry and Maria Jacques had a good find on a pack on the right wing of the beat with Pointer bitch FTCh Sparkfield Sidekick.

Two Pointers and an Irish Setter from Ireland were in the shake up during the second round – Davy O'Neill's Pointer bitch FTCh Crahan Amber at Shanrycon, and James Coyle's Pointer dog Sionmills Captain of Koram, handled by Michael Houston. Bill Connolly's Irish setter bitch Ballyellen April had an excellent find on a single bird.



Competitors await their turn to compete on Bollinope Moor
©ARC Photography

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A round-up from the editor

Welcome to the winter 2025 edition of the Field Trials Newsletter.

This edition of the newsletter hosts the 2025 Pointers & Setters Champion Stake report, as well as some of our usual features including reminders to judges, secretaries and competitors, Working Gundog Certificate awards and updates to the J regulations.

We would like to give our congratulations to those competitors who have gained awards during the 2025/26 season so far. Good luck to all competing and we wish you all a very enjoyable and successful season.

We hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

If you have any questions relating to the Royal Kennel Club's field trials or Championships, please contact Kate Broers at the following email address – ft.secretary@royalkennelclub.com

If you have any queries relating to your society or licences, please email your Regional Support Advisor directly or RSN@royalkennelclub.com

For more information on the RSN team please go to [Regional Support Network | The Royal Kennel Club](#)

If you have any queries relating to field trial regulations or judges etc, please email the team at gundogs@royalkennelclub.com

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Mr Davy O'Neill's Pointer FTCh Crahan Amber at Shanrycon on point ©ARC Photography

Two dogs were called forward for an extension to the second round – Maria Jacques Sparkfield Airstream and Steve Robinson's FTCh Coldcoats Ginny. With that, the Judges' closed their books on the Championship. Conditions on the day were perfect for the Pointers and Setters.

The keepering staff led by Head Keeper Peter Fawcett did a brilliant job on the day.

The roll of honour reveals that the first Champion Stake took place in 1869. Records stretching back to then makes fascinating reading.

The name of Isaac Sharpe appears 3 years in succession. A great sportsman and excellent shot, Mr Sharpe won the Champion Stake with his Pointer dog Stylish Touchstone in 1921, 1922 and 1923. There is exceptional footage on British Pathe from the 1930s of Mr Sharpe's Pointers and Setters. The film is entitled "Helpmates of the Guns!"

Isaac Sharpe had one of the largest kennels of Pointers and Setters in the world. He bought an empty Speyside distillery at Keith in Banffshire and rebuilt it into a large kennel. British Pathe film archives have truly amazing film footage of his kennels filmed in the 1930s and it shows hundreds of Pointers and Setters being exercised by Mr Sharpe's trainers and kennelmen. At the time, Mr Sharpe stated: "It takes 10 carcases of beef, a ton of biscuits, half a ton of Indian

meal, one ton of potatoes and one ton of turnips every week to feed this pack." Isaac Sharpe was one of the most significant bird dog breeders in history, both the size of his kennel operation and with the legacy he left behind. While he probably became most famous for his Stylish pointers, he also made huge contributions to the breeding of English, Irish and Gordon setters as well as field spaniels.



Ms Maddy Raynor casts of Irish Setter FTCh Dunroon
Ginger Storm of Wiscombe ©ARC Photography

Another great fieldsports enthusiast was Lady Auckland of Cromlix in Perthshire. Lady Auckland's Pointer dogs Swift of Cromlix and Lark of Cromlix won the Champion Stake in 1960 and 1963. Four years later her kennel manager and trainer Angus McLaughlin, handled Pointer dog Swallow of Cromlix to win the Championship. Perhaps the greatest achievement in the Champion Stake goes to Lord Arthur Rank, founder of the Rank Organisation.

His Scotney Pointers won the Champion Stake on 9 occasions – a quite remarkable record. The Sharnberry English Setters, owned by landowner Captain W Parlour, feature no less than 5 times on the Roll of Honour. Over the last 30 years, one other person who has won the Champion Stake on six different occasions is Richard MacNicol from Halkirk in Caithness – the most recent win in 2021 with Tressady Estate owner Monsieur Laurent Hild's Pointer bitch FTCh Langwell Kerry of Morness. Billy and Penny Darragh have had huge success with their Irish Setters and Gordon Setters winning the championship 5 times. Two other handlers have won the Championship on three separate occasions – Pointer men Terry Harris and Wilson Young.

In the 18th and 19th centuries it was the custom to hunt and shoot feathered game over Pointers and Setters and kennels of working Pointers and Setters were maintained by many Estate owners. In 1865 a group of pointer and setter owners met on the Estate of Sir Samuel Whitbread in Bedfordshire and created the sport of field trials for gundogs. These, with other owners, subsequently formed the National Pointer and Setter Society. This Society inaugurated the Champion Stake which was held at its meeting on 28th and 29th April 1869 on the Moreton Corbet Estate near Shrewsbury. When the National Pointer and Setter Society ceased to exist after its field trial in 1938, the Scottish Field Trials Association and the International Gundog League Pointer and Setter Society mutually agreed to promote the Champion Stake, with the approval of the Royal Kennel Club, each of these organisations promoting this stake in alternate years, initially the SFTA on grouse and the IGL on partridge in September at Sutton Scotney. After Lord Rank died this ground was not available. Partridge stocks were declining so it was decided to run the IGL Champion Stake on grouse, the first grouse trial being held on Bollinope Moor in 1973.



Mr Steve Lound casts off his Pointer bitch
in the first round ©ARC Photography

The title of Field Trial Champion was not introduced by the Royal Kennel Club until December 1898. The Champion Stake was not promoted between 1901 and 1903 due to the Boer War. The First World War prevented its running between 1915-1920 and the Second World War meant there was no Champion Stake between 1940 and 1949.

There is no greater sight than a brace of pointers and setters hunting a moor with pace and style in search of red grouse. William Arkwright's famous book *The Pointer and his Predecessors* (1906) captures what it is like to work with these beautiful gundogs on a day's walked-up shooting. Arkwright states: *"The chief glory of the sport is to shoot over a brace of raking pointers, matched with speed and style, sweeping over the rough places like swallows, and passing each other as if they were fine ladies not introduced. Let one of them get a point and the other will, as if connected by invisible wire, instantly point at him (i.e., back him). And as the pointing dog advances to make sure of the birds, the backer will do the same – often with an absolute mimicry of his leader's movements."*

As set out in the Royal Kennel Club regulations for Pointers and Setters, the basic requirements are as follows: *"Dogs shall be required to quarter ground systematically with pace and style in search of gamebirds, to point gamebirds, to be steady to flush and shot and, where applicable, to fall. Dogs should not be gun shy. The dog should work its point out freely, on command without the handler either touching the dog or moving in front of it".* Sounds easy, but in practice can be very difficult.



Mr James Coyle's Pointer Sionmills Captain of Koram
at full gallop ©ARC Photography

In recent years, a 3-judge system was introduced by the Royal Kennel Club Field Trials Committee for the Champion Stake.

The qualifications for the 2025 Champion Stake - For Pointer and Setters which have won a First or Second award in Open Stakes or a First award in an Open Breed Stake since 30 July 2023. The winner and runner up in the 2023 and 2024 Champion Stakes and the winner of the 2025 Royal Kennel Club Puppy Derby Stake are entitled to run. The 2024 winner of the Irish Championship for Pointers and Setters is eligible to compete. A recent addition is the winner of the 2025 Partridge Challenge Stake.

Here are some interesting facts about Red Grouse. Grouse are often referred to as being the King of Game Birds. They are very territorial and are one of the few indigenous species of game bird in the UK. Grouse can live up to eight years old. Grouse eat predominately Ling heather and other heathers, berries and seeds. Grit must be eaten every day to aid the digestion of the tough heather. The incubation period is 22 days, and the grouse chicks depend on insects. Grouse can be fully grown in 35 days and the chicks can fly at between 12 and 18 days. Grouse are regarded as a sedentary species; most grouse live and die within 1 mile of where they were hatched. Diseases which can affect a grouse population – namely strongyle worm, sheep tick and louping ill virus.

Grouse counts are carried out in March before nesting begins when birds are well established in their territories. The same areas (selection of beats) are counted every year. Some estates have these areas marked out permanently. Dogs are used to flush the pairs of Grouse which are then recorded in a book. Care is taken that the same birds are not counted twice. The same areas are then counted in July to establish how well the birds have bred. Careful records are kept of the sizes of coveys that are flushed, especially the numbers of young birds. Counts from previous years can be compared. Possible numbers of days shooting can then be predicted, and having long term records help build up the capital value of the moor.

On the Glorious Twelfth – the 12th of August each year – some of the field trailers will head to grouse moors in the UK to shoot grouse over their dogs. It's called walked up shooting over Pointers and Setters. The 2026 Champion Stake for Pointers and Setters will be held at Burncastle Estate in the Scottish Borders in August next year by kind permission of the Duke of Northumberland.



Champion Stake winner Steve Robinson's Irish Setter bitch FTCh Coldcoats Ginny with the Heywood Lonsdale Perpetual Challenge Trophy ©ARC Photography

The awards for the Champion Stake 2025 were as follows:

1st place - FTCh Coldcoats Ginny

Irish Setter, owned and handled by Mr Steve Robinson

2nd place - FTCh Sparkfield Sidekick

Pointer, owned by Ms Maria Jacques, handled by Mr Terry Harris

3rd place - Crahan Amber at Shanrycon

Pointer, owned and handled by Mr Davy O'Neill

4th place - Sionmills Captain of Koram

Pointer, owned by Mr James Coyle, handled by Mr Michael Houston

Diploma of Merit was awarded as follows:

Ballyellen April

Irish Setter, owned and handled by Mr Bill Connolly



The Royal Kennel Club HPR Championship

The 23rd HPR Championship was held at Emblehope & Burngrange Estate on 14 and 15 November 2025. Generously sponsored by Skinner's, BASC - The British Association for Shooting and Conservation and Sporting Saint - Gundog Training Equipment.

A fantastic two days trialling with difficult conditions, but some lovely dog work. The judges, Peter Howard and Mark Spearing worked the field out expertly, the beat was well set by Headkeeper Raymond Holt, and great shooting by the experienced gun team led to well deserved awards.

The full report on The HPR Championship will be available in the next edition of the Field Trials Newsletter.



Brookshead Edelweiss with owners Mr R & Mrs A Kay
© The Royal Kennel Club

The awards for the HPR Championship 2025 were as follows:

1st place - FTCh Brookshead Edelweiss

German Shorthaired Pointer, owned by Mr R & Mrs A Kay, handled by Mr Ryan Kay

2nd place - Annagora Ballyoran Belle

German Shorthaired Pointer,
owned and handled by Mr Jordan McCooe

3rd place - FTCh Sutchest Isla

German Shorthaired Pointer,
owned and handled by Mr Jim Bird

4th place - Goldstar Miss Teeq from Szajani (Imp Usa)

Hungarian Vizsla, owned by Mrs S L Harris, handled by
Mr Rory Major

Diplomas of Merits were awarded as follows:

FTCh Islasbraw Ash

German Shorthaired Pointer,
owned and handled by Mr Darryl Elliot

FTCh Beechwolf Tonka

German Wirehaired Pointer,
owned and handled by Mr Rory Major

Gun's Choice - Venatordream Michigan

Hungarian Wire Haired Vizsla,
owned and handled by Ms Luise Janniche

Certificate of Merit - FTCh Etomanni Missouri

Retriever (Labrador),
owned and handled by Mr R Laughton



The Royal Kennel Club Open Retriever Field Trial

The Royal Kennel Club Open Retriever Field Trial was held on 17 and 18 October at Emblehope & Burngrange Estate and generously sponsored by Skinner's.

A fantastic two days, with well-spaced and plentiful game, excellent shooting by the guns and some very stylish dog work. The standard was very high across the two days and the judges, Kirsty Cousins, David Jackson, David Latham and John Yarwood, worked well as a team to sort the final placings.



The awards were as follows:

1st place - Idawood Laser of Dawsonlee

Retriever (Labrador),
owned and handled by Mr S Dixon

2nd place - FTCh Gunnerspeg Apollo

Retriever (Labrador),
owned and handled by Mr S Capstick

3rd place - Carnochway Red Rooster

Retriever (Labrador),
owned and handled by Mr F Forbes

4th place - FTCh Stauntonvale Margay of Ruchbrigg

Retriever (Labrador),
owned and handled by Mrs S Morley-Riches

Certificate of Merit - Luddesdowne Finn of Tagabea

Retriever (Labrador),
owned and handled by Mr S Cullis

The Royal Kennel Club Open AV HPR and Novice AV HPR Stake

The Royal Kennel Club Novice & Open HPR field trials were held on 28 & 29 October respectively at Roxby Estate by kind permission of Mr M Taylor and sponsored by Skinner's.

The mixed terrain moorland was the perfect setting for the wide ranging dogs to prove their hunting, pointing and retrieving skills, all ably judged by Mr L Loveridge and Mr S Pleasance.

The brisk wind conditions tested the hunting techniques of both dogs and handlers, and the mixed game bag of grouse, pheasant and woodcock lead to some challenging and skilful flushes and retrieves over the two days. Congratulations to all in the awards.



The awards were as follows for the Open Stake:

1st Place - FTCh Sutchest Isla

German Shorthaired Pointer,
owned and handled by Mr Jim Bird

Gun's Choice - Vizellven Eks Wizard

Hungarian Vizsla, owned by Mr & Mrs Froome,
handled by Mr Jason Froome.

The awards were as follows for the Novice Stake:

Guns' Choice - Lagopusmoor Black Mandala

On Elfrindrew

German Shorthaired Pointer, owned by Mmes M Dodd & T Hayes, handled by Mrs Megan Dodd

Working Gundog Certificate

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

BRACKENBEAT ATHENA

Spaniel (English Springer), Mr K Barry

GREENFOX TAFF

Spaniel (English Springer), Mr M Edge

BRECKMARSH KING TASCROFT

Spaniel (English Springer), Mr A Prichard

VINCHIP KING COBRA

Spaniel (English Springer), Mrs T Brown

SIXCHIMNIES MR BLUE SKY

Spaniel (English Springer), Miss L Allen

BRYNARWS ROISIN

Spaniel (English Springer), Miss E Lewis

KENTWONE LOUD CRACKLE

Spaniel (English Springer), Ms B Huntbatch

CRAIGSCOURT HOT CHOCOLATE

Spaniel (English Springer), Miss D Bainbridge

SOURMASH SPOTLESS OF CRAIWARN

Spaniel (Cocker), Mrs H Malcom-Day

POPPYMORE FIREFLY

Spaniel (English Springer), Mrs L Redman

MALORA BELLE

Spaniel (English Springer), Mr R Thompson

MENDIPS COVER

Spaniel (English Springer), Mrs K Fleet

NEFERTITI GIRL

Retriever (Labrador), Mr C Lewington

QUINCEGROVE FIRECRACKER OF PURPLEPLUMES

Spaniel (English Springer), Mrs N Filler

MYHEN BLACK ANT

Spaniel (Cocker), Mrs D Beaney

ASCHFAHL KEPA SPY VON TRUBON

Weimaraner, Ms S Burton

DARWIN GURDAU (IMP CZE)

Hungarian Vizsla, Ms M Kubikova

CHARGOT SMOLT

Retriever (Labrador), Mrs J MacMaster

EMBER MIST

Spaniel (Cocker), Miss B Isaac

EPISKEY LUISA

Spaniel (Cocker), Mrs H Hughes

FEILDPAODOX SHAD

Retriever (Labrador), Miss G Harvey

MR GINGERSNAP

Retriever (Golden), Mrs J Dixon

KEYNEPARK YELLOW THISTLE

Spaniel (English Springer), Miss L Combe

WILDFLOWER BRUCE

Spaniel (English Springer), Ms A Thomas

PANETERNE HAWKER HURRICANE

Retriever (Labrador), Mrs A McDermott

WINCHESTER HARRY

Retriever (Labrador), Ms C Tague

JESS'S LITTLE TINKY

Spaniel (English Springer), Miss J Leech

KENLEAP HARMONY

Retriever (Labrador), Miss L Barrington-Earp

HAMISH OF BOLTON

Spaniel (Cocker), Ms C Burch

MISS BUTTERCUP OF BATUU

Spaniel (Cocker), Miss C Newman

BRIMBLEWORTH LEVITATE

Spaniel (English Springer), Mr J Denmead

BLACKTHORN YOSHIMI AT EXMOORVALE (IMP HUN)

Retriever (Labrador), Mrs J Adams

WOLFZONE'S RAVEN CRUISING

Retriever (Labrador), Mrs K Hutter

CUTCOMBE CHORUS

Spaniel (Cocker), Mrs K Foster

RODHUISH CHAFFINCH

Retriever (Labrador), Mr J Cleave

ROXWOODBAY RIVER OF YONSAFF

Retriever (Flat Coated), Mrs J Jones

KENZDUO WILD MUSHROOM

Retriever (Golden), Mrs L Galitzine

MISS MALLORYS TICKETY-BOO WRENSMEAD (IMP SWE)

Retriever (Flat Coated), Mrs S Henesey

KENAITEEN BUTTERCUP SILK OF SILVERACE

Retriever (Labrador), Mrs L Rhodes

CORBIELODGE HONOUR

Retriever (Golden), Ms S Carlyle

DEPIBRAC RIVES FOR GLENFIDRA

Retriever (Labrador), Ms P Philip

FELIXFIERI AURELIA

Retriever (Golden), Dr N Charles

CUSTARD CHAOS

Retriever (Golden), Mrs A Hughes

MAPLE SHINING DASHER

Retriever (Labrador), Mrs C Meakes

OAKLEAF HANDSOME LADDIE

Retriever (Labrador), Mr N Wilson

HOLLY BERRY JEN OF DOWNFARM

Retriever (Labrador), Miss M Robertson

WILLOW WEEPING LASSIE

Retriever (Labrador), Mr C Lewington

OLD STYLE FROM DOUBLE GOLD

Retriever (Golden), Mrs A Waebke

MADDOUSE LIBERTY

Retriever (Golden), Mrs S Phipps-Baker

QUAG'S QUINTESSENCE LOYAL GOLD (IMP POL)

Retriever (Golden), Mr P Zygadlo

RAVENSFORT STEADY AS YOU GO

Retriever (Flat Coated), Miss A Bratby

ROSGAR DOLLY O'DARE AMONG MOSSBURN

Retriever (Golden), Mrs S Pounds-Longhurst

WAYAN OF RIDERSFORT

Retriever (Golden), Mrs J Baert

MASTER CRAFTSMAN

Retriever (Flat Coated), Mr R Dean

TEALCREEK FLEUR DELACOUR PER VITAORO

Retriever (Golden), Mrs F Grant

SHASHKROX NEVER GROW UP

Retriever (Flat Coated), Mr P Holliday

TEALCREEK REED BUNTING

Retriever (Golden), Dr M Hamilton

TREGARTH BELLA

Spaniel (Cocker), Mr W Sibley

TREXON TRUE LOVE
Spaniel (Cocker), Dr L Kalra

HALORROS CORAL SEAS
Retriever (Labrador), Mr R Janes

RIVERIRK MAGNETISED AT TREXON
Spaniel (Cocker), Mrs A Yeo

CLEARSTREAM RIVER PLYM
Retriever (Labrador), Mr C Fuchs

KING ROBOROUGH
Retriever (Labrador), Ms B Law

BLISSFUL BO
Spaniel (English Springer), Mrs A Bolitho

BRADRIDGE COPPLEROCK
Retriever (Labrador), Mrs R King

GOLDEN MOON GINNY
Spaniel (Cocker), Ms L Wood

PEPPY CRACKLER
Spaniel (Cocker), Miss A Brown

CAPTAIN THEODORE
Retriever (Labrador), Ms G Critchlow

STONEALDER'S SAINT HELENA
Retriever (Labrador), Mr S J Robshaw

FACANVADASZ DEMETER
Hungarian Vizsla, Mrs H Melvin

MIDDLETOR KAJSA
Spaniel (English Springer), Mrs J Nuthall

BRANDEE THISTLE
Spaniel (Cocker), Miss S Hosking

BRUMBLECLOSE BORIS
Spaniel (Cocker), Mrs L Richardson

FREYAS COLD FROST
Spaniel (Cocker), Mrs V Mitlon

SELPATCH WOODCOCK
Retriever (Labrador), Mrs K Coleman

RAMALLEY MABEL
Retriever (Labrador), Mrs C Cox

RAMALLEY MAVIS
Retriever (Labrador), Mrs C Cox

WOODRUFF UNFORGETTABLE
Retriever (Labrador), Mrs J Woodcock

TAWNYHILL SWIFT
Retriever (Labrador), Mrs J Woodcock

HARLOW SYDNEY
Retriever (Labrador), Mrs J Bridger

SUGARHILL EVA
Retriever (Labrador), Ms S Noble

KRAKENMAC GO WITH THE FLO
Retriever (Labrador), Miss K Woods

HONEYFITZ SENECA
Retriever (Labrador), Miss K Woods

JALK REASON TO BELIEVE
Retriever (Golden), Miss Z Harrison

PENTWEEDL PRESLEY AT WOODMUS
Retriever (Labrador), Miss S Brown

RUDDLEBERRY DUMBLEDORE
Retriever (Flat Coated), Mr M Kay

KENYNTEN SUNNY SOUL
Retriever (Labrador), Ms C Lillywhite

JUMBI BLACK MAGIC
Retriever (Labrador), Mrs L Johnson

LEOSPRING CRAZY ABOUT YOU
Retriever (Labrador), Mrs R Shannon

LYJANSEN MADAME JEANETTE
Retriever (Labrador), Mr S Jenner

LYJANSEN SIMBA'S SAVANNA
Retriever (Labrador), Mrs J Jenner

BUCKHOLT JUBILEE KINDLE
Retriever (Labrador), Ms A Nettelbeck

MINTERBURN PINOT BLANC
Retriever (Labrador), Dr M Kelly

HANANS GOLDEN TREASURE (A.I.)
Retriever (Golden), Miss A Stachan

WOODMIST WARBLER
Retriever (Labrador), Mrs K Godden

BACIO DI LATTE
Spaniel (Cocker), Mrs P Harte

EASTHOATH BRIGADIER
Retriever (Labrador), Mrs H Kelderis

DANSHARLEY COOL HAND LUKE
Spaniel (English Springer), Mrs L Head

KENT'S SUNNY DISPOSITION
Retriever (Labrador), Mrs S Crawford

ROUGHYEDS REGAL RETURN
Retriever (Curly Coated), Mrs B Snudden

ROUGHYEDS REGAL GEORGE AT TREECAVE
Retriever (Curly Coated), Miss R Arnold

TWEEDISLE TO KISS ME CHASE ME
Retriever (Flat Coated), Mrs S Lawton

TOLLISTY BLOW YOUR MIND AT CITANABEL
Retriever (Nova Scotia Duck Tolling), Mrs S Lashly

DOBRO CATCHING CHILZER (A.I.) (IMP AUS)
Retriever (Golden), Mrs J Graham

MAHINDA HIGH CLOSE
Retriever (Flat Coated), Mrs A Bracegirdle

BENVELLYN MARAKELE INTO CASBLAIDD
Retriever (Flat Coated), Mrs C Hewison

DAVYLOG MELLOW ELO
Retriever (Golden), Mrs A Bailey

RIVER GLADFLY PIRATE
Crossbreed, Mr P Fretwell

JASSPORTA BEQUEST
Retriever (Labrador), Mrs H Hardwick

TARNEDGE FARA
Retriever (Labrador), Miss H Pinder

KENTWONE MADHATTER
Retriever (Labrador), Miss L Cousins

MATTEMWORTH EMERALD OF KELLWADE
Retriever (Labrador), Mrs J Hermann

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

SWEET SUNNY SUNSHINE
Retriever (Labrador), Miss R Johnson

DIKLERBROOK CARBON
Retriever (Labrador), Ms S Chapman

The Royal Kennel Club Field Trial Panel Judges List

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

RETRIEVERS "B"

Mr Michael Brown (3968)
Mr Alan Harper (3816)

SPANIELS "B"

Mr Garret Marson (4043)
Mr Chris Slater (4044)

POINTER & SETTERS "B"

Mrs Gwenda Dale (4032)

Throughout 2025 the following field trial panel judges retired from the list of field trial panel judges. The Royal Kennel Club wishes to thank the following judges for their contribution to the gundog community over the years:

Retrievers

A Panel

Mr D Benson (9)
Mr A Casserly (19)
Mr C Dearling (1855)
Mrs S Dilloway-Olner (1902)
Mr B. D. Gregory (2411)
Mr S Harvey (54)
Mr R Jeffery (2293)
Mr W Kelly (78)
Mr B Mack (88)
Mr V Olner (1902)
Mrs L Stringer (132)
Mr M Stringer (133)
Mr W. D. Squires (127)
Mr P. S. Thorpe (142)
Mrs A White (151)

B Panel

Mr S Agnew (1833)
Mr D Barnes (2197)
Mr A Friedrich (1863)
Mr M Heath (1874)
Mr N Mellows (2315)
Mr W Rostron (2784)
Mrs T Salaman (1912)
Mr P Scott (2577)
Mr J Toal (2561)
Mrs A Usher (2384)
Mr E. Venturi (1929)

Spaniels

A Panel

Mr R L M Black (1940)
Mr R Casey (2490)
Mr D David (1961)
Mr W Harrison (1974)
Mr B A Jones (1979)
Mr R Laud (2050)
Mr D McKeeman (1991)
Mr K Powell (2870)
Mr E Robertson (1433)
Mr M Scales (2005)
Mr M Smith (2010)
Mr J Vasey (2017)

B Panel

Mr E Edward Burchell (2027)
Mr G Edwards (2034)
Mr P Masters (2057)
Mr B Mogg (2059)

Pointers and Setters

A Panel

Mr J Coyle (2082)
Mrs P Wood (2118)

HPRs

A Panel

Mr T Horsefield (2149)
Mr T Rigby (2186)
Mr M Wakeham (2164)

B Panel

Mr J Burns (2569)
Mr R Butler (2684)

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 application. Please note that all letters should be sent by email to gundogs@royalkennelclub.com

The applications will be considered at the next available Field Trials Committee meeting and therefore responses must be with the Royal Kennel Club by 21 January 2026.

Central Scotland Gundog Club

Novice Any Variety Spaniel Stake

Cheshire North Wales & Shropshire Retriever & Spaniel Society

All Aged Any Variety Spaniel (Excluding Spaniel [Cocker] and Spaniel [English Springer]) Stake

Amendments to Field Trials J Regulations

[NOTE: All regulation changes for the forthcoming season are listed in the back pages of the J Regulation booklets for reference]

The following regulation amendment has been approved and becomes effective on 2 February 2026:

J(B)7d(5) - Trial Procedure

TO:

When a Judge tries his dogs, for example No. 1 & No. 2, behind other dogs, if No. 1 dog is successful, then the next retrieve under that Judge should be offered to No. 2 dog. **The back up dog in line must always have the first opportunity of an eye-wipe over its partner, irrespective of which round it is in. Lower round dogs should not be called over from the other side until after this dog has been given its chance**

If the two dogs fail on game, the Judge should not call fresh dogs into the line to try for the retrieve until all the other dogs already in the line have been tried.

(Insertion in bold)

The Gundog Working Test regulations have been reviewed and as a result the following regulation amendments have been approved and become effective on 2 February 2026:

J(G)1.b - Introduction

TO:

~~No title used to describe the winners of GWTs will be associated with such competition which is best understood as a means to an end rather than an end in itself.~~

Gundog Working Tests should be conducted in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere, welcoming to newcomers as well as being a test of the progress of a gundog's training for the shooting field and field trials.

No titles are to be used for the winners of Gundog Working Tests.

(Insertion in bold. Deletion struck through)

J(G)1.e - Introduction

TO:

Application for authority to hold GWTs must be made annually to the Royal Kennel Club and, ~~on the form provided~~, applicants should indicate the number of GWTs they propose to hold in the forthcoming year.

(Deletion struck through)

J(G)2.a(2) - Definition of Gundog Working Tests (GWT)

TO:

~~Sporting Spaniels other than Irish Water Spaniels.~~

(Deletion struck through)

J(G)2.b(3)- Definition of Gundog Working Tests (GWT)

TO:

PUPPY. **Open** Confined to all dogs of specific breed or breeds less than eighteen months of age on the date of the test **regardless of awards gained**.

(Insertion in bold)

J(G)2.b(4) - Definition of Gundog Working Tests (GWT)

TO:

NOVICE DOG/NOVICE HANDLER. Confined to dog and handler who have not gained any award in a field trial or classified GWT or won a Novice Dog/Novice Handler test.

(Insertion in bold)

(Subsequent regulation to be renumbered)

J(G)3.d - Organisation of Gundog Working Tests

TO:

The organisers of GWTs will try, wherever possible, to simulate the circumstances of a shooting day. They must also ensure the tests are designed to further good Gundog work, and not inhibit dogs from marking or showing natural working ability. It is important, for instance, that guns and dummy throwers are positioned with such considerations in mind, **and that distances of retrieves and difficulty of test are achievable and relevant to the standard (e.g. puppy, novice, open).** Organisers may set tests in advance, using non-competing dogs of the same standard to ensure this.

(Insertion in bold)

J(G)3.g- Organisation of Gundog Working Tests

TO:

Only dummies acceptable to the judges, will be used for retrieves in GWTs. **The same type of dummy must be used within each exercise.**

(Insertion in bold)

J(G)3.h - Organisation of Gundog Working Tests

TO:

When dummies are thrown in association with gunfire in retrieving tests, the shot must always precede the thrown dummy with the gun pointing in the direction of where the dummy is to be thrown. The gun should be positioned within 'shot range' of a plausible distance from the retrieve. With unseen retrieves gunfire is optional.

(Insertion in bold. Deletion struck through)

J(G)4.g - Conduct of Gundog Working Tests

TO:

All judges must have **considerable** experience of dog-work under shooting field conditions **and competition.**

(Insertion in bold)

J(G)4.b - Conduct of Gundog Working Tests

TO:

The Code of Conduct expected at GWTs is the same as that for Field Trials. **The Code of Conduct documents can be found on the Royal Kennel Club website.**

(Insertion in bold)

J(G)4.h - Conduct of Gundog Working Tests

TO:

In an Open Gundog Working Test (GWT), each sub-group **there must have be** at least one Royal Kennel Club Field Trial Panel Judge from the relevant sub-group officiating. In all other GWT's a Royal Kennel Club Field Trial Panel Judge should officiate, if possible.

(Insertion in bold. Deletion struck through)

J(G)4.i - Conduct of Gundog Working Tests

TO:

The officiating judges must be announced to all competitors.

(Insertion in bold)

(Subsequent regulations to be renumbered)

J(G)4.j - Conduct of Gundog Working Tests

TO:

Each GWT day must have a minimum of 2 judges.

(Insertion in bold)

(Subsequent regulations to be renumbered)

J(G)4.k (previously J(G)4.i) - Conduct of Gundog Working Tests

TO:

All handlers must carry out the instructions of the judges. The judges are empowered to remove from the test any dog whose handler does not follow their instructions or whose handler willfully interferes with another competitor or **his** **their** dog.

(Insertion in bold. Deletion struck through)

J(G)4.p (previously J(G)4.n) - Conduct of Gundog Working Tests

TO:

No competitor may withdraw their dog and leave the GWT ground without informing the chief steward **Test Secretary or a Club Official.**

(Insertion in bold. Deletion struck through)

J(G)3.j - Organisation of Gundog Working Tests

TO:

Organisers and judges must be careful for the safety of dogs and must not require them to negotiate dangerous obstacles. Whilst judges should take reasonable precautions for the safety of competing dogs, it is the duty of the handler to satisfy **himself or herself** **themselves** that the dog is suitably trained, physically fit and prepared to undertake the work allocated by the judges before directing **his or her** **their** dog to undertake the allotted task.

(Insertion in bold. Deletion struck through)

J(G)6.a(1) - Instructions for specific sub-group tests (Retrievers)

TO:

At the start of a GWT, judges must ensure they have the correct dogs in the line, lowest number placed on the right. **A handler must ensure that only the number of the dog being handled at the time is displayed. It is the responsibility of the handler if handling more than one dog, to ensure that their dogs are being run in the correct order when competing.**

(Insertion in bold. Deletion struck through)

J(G)6.a(2) - Instructions for specific sub-group tests (Retrievers)

TO:

A Retriever must be steady to shot and fall and must retrieve only on command. Also, whenever possible, all dogs should be tested at a simulated drive, walking up and in water. **Whenever possible, all dogs should be tested in water. Except in Puppy and Novice Dog/Novice Handler GWTs, dogs should be tested either at a simulated drive and/or a walk up.** A dog must walk steadily at heel and retrieve tenderly to hand.

(Insertion in bold. Deletion struck through)

J(G)6.a(5) - Instructions for specific sub-group tests (Retrievers)

TO:

Credit points.	
Natural marking and hunting ability.	
Quickness in gathering retrieve and good delivery.	
Nose.	Drive and style.
Quiet handling.	Control.

(Insertion in bold)

J(G)6.a(6) - Instructions for specific sub-group tests (Retrievers)

TO:

Serious faults.	
Refusing to retrieve.	Whining or barking.
Running in or chasing.	Out of control.
Failing to enter water.	Changing retrieve.
Poor heel work.	Without merit.

(Insertion in bold)

J(G)6.b(1) - Instructions for specific sub-group tests (Spaniels)

TO:

At the start of a GWT, judges must ensure they have the correct dogs in the line. **A handler must ensure that only the number of the dog being handled at the time is displayed. It is the responsibility of the handler if handling more than one dog, to ensure that their dogs are being run in the correct order when competing.** Dogs must be run either singly or in pairs, with the lowest number on the right.

(Insertion in bold. Deletion struck through)

J(G)6.b(3) - Instructions for specific sub-group tests (Spaniels)

TO:

A Spaniel must be steady to flush, shot and fall and retrieve **tenderly to hand** on command from land or water.

(Insertion in bold.)

J(G)6.b(6) - Instructions for specific sub-group tests (Spaniels)

TO:

~~If live pigeons are released this must be treated as a separate exercise and not occur as part of an exercise involving a retrieve.~~

If there is a flush while the dogs are hunting that is not part of the test, they should not be asked to retrieve at this point. It is acceptable for the judge to ask the handler to redo the test.

(Insertion in bold. Deletion struck through)

J(G)6.b(8) - Instructions for specific sub-group tests (Spaniels)

TO:

Serious Faults.	Whining or barking.
Refusing to retrieve.	Out of control.
Running in or chasing.	Changing retrieve.
Failing to enter water.	

Without merit

(Insertion in bold.)

J(G)6.c(1) - Instructions for specific sub-group tests (Breeds which Hunt, Point and Retrieve)

TO:

Organisers must be aware of the limitations and possible problems when using game for pointing exercises.

A handler must ensure that only the number of the dog being handled at the time is displayed. It is the responsibility of the handler if handling more than one dog, to ensure that their dogs are being run in the correct order when competing.

(Insertion in bold. Deletion struck through)

J(G)6.c(2) - Instructions for specific sub-group tests (Breeds which Hunt, Point and Retrieve)

TO:

Dogs should quarter the beat across the wind hunting systematically and regulating their pace to suit the ground and cover. In **puppy, novice dog/novice handler** and novice tests dogs should not normally be required to work down wind.

(Insertion in bold)

J(G)6.c(7) - Instructions for specific sub-group tests (Breeds which Hunt, Point and Retrieve)

TO:

~~If live pigeons are released this must be treated as a separate exercise and not occur as part of an exercise involving a retrieve.~~

If there is a flush while the dogs are hunting that is not part of the test, they should not be asked to retrieve at this point. It is acceptable for the judge to ask the handler to redo the test.

(Insertion in bold. Deletion struck through)

J(G)6.c(9) - Instructions for specific sub-group tests (Breeds which Hunt, Point and Retrieve)

TO:

Serious Faults.	Whining or barking.
Refusing to retrieve.	Chasing.
Out of control.	Changing retrieve.
Failing to enter water.	

Failure to deliver to hand

(Insertion in bold)

Without merit



Deer at a Field Trial

Following some confusion regarding the flushing of deer during trials, we wish to remind judges and competitors that at a trial the dog should not be actively hunting for deer scent, and therefore a dog should not be credited for a point or flush on a non-quarry species that would contribute to an award. However, the steadiness of the dog should be merited.

The Royal Kennel Club Journal

Outcomes of Disciplinary Committee objections are published in the Royal Kennel Club Journal. The following 2025 Journals contain relevant information regarding Field Trials Disciplinary outcomes.



Code of Conduct

The Field Trials Committee wish to remind competitors of the standards of conduct which are required at Royal Kennel Club licenced events. This is detailed in the Code of Conduct which is available on the Royal Kennel Club website -

[Code of conduct](#) | [Our codes](#) | [The Royal Kennel Club](#)

Field Trials Schedules and entry forms

Societies are reminded of the following regulation amendment, that removes the requirement to send the Royal Kennel Club their schedules and entry forms before publishing. However, all schedules and entry forms must be available if requested.

This amendment has been approved and will become effective on 2 February 2026:

Regulation J4.c.(4). Application and documentation - Schedule

To:

The secretary of the society shall send a copy of the schedule and entry form to the Royal Kennel Club **within three days of printing if requested.**

(Deletion struck through. Insertion in Bold)
Effective 2 February 2026

Field Trials Liaison Council Meeting 2026

The next meeting of the Field Trials Liaison Council will be held on **Wednesday 6 May 2026.**

Proposals for inclusion on the agenda should reach the Field Trials Liaison Council Secretary by **Friday 6 March 2026.**

Each eligible society may submit, through their representative, items for the agenda. Individuals may also submit items for the agenda via the online form. Proposals must be concise and, if an amendment or an additional regulation is proposed, the regulation number must be given.

All items for inclusion on the agenda should be submitted via the online form -

Liaison Council Agenda Item

A full list of Field Trials Liaison Council representatives can be found here -

[Already competing in field trials? | The Royal Kennel Club](#)

Find a Club

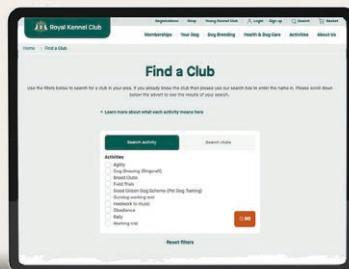
The Royal Kennel Club has announced that '**Find a Club**' service is available online. The service includes a list of field trials clubs and the purpose of the service is to enable new dog owners to find local clubs in their area.

The Find a Club service can be found here:

[royalkennelclub/findaclub](#)

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 royalkennelclub.com/fac



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