

Guildford Working Gundog Club Yearbook 2024



Visit our website at www.guildfordworkinggundogclub.co.uk

Subscription Fees

Initial subscription: £15.00
(£12.00 subscription plus a £3.00 one-off joining fee)

Annual subscription for
UK & overseas members: £12.00

Subscription Payment

All standing orders for subs payment should have been amended for the current subscription amount of £12.00, introduced on 1st February 2023. We spend time each year chasing members who do not pay the correct amount on time.

Your name will be erased automatically from the members' register (in accordance with Club rule 8) if we don't receive your full subscription by the end of April.

Please consider setting up a standing order for your subscription on 1st February annually if you have not yet done so. Our bank details are: Lloyds Bank; account name Guildford Working Gundog Club; sort code 30-93-49; account number 00151140. The postal standing order form is available under downloads on our website: www.guildfordworkinggundogclub.co.uk.

If you are paying by cheque, please make it out to "Guildford Working Gundog Club" and post it to: Jane Best, GWGC Membership Secretary, 1 Aston Villas, Womersley Common Road, Womersley, Guildford, GU5 0PP. Jane can be contacted by email at jane.gwgc@btinternet.com.

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Chairman's Message

Dear Members,

I have now been on your committee for over 17 years, having joined as Membership Secretary and then taking over as Chairman shortly thereafter. I spent a short time covering as Interim Treasurer in 2015 and quickly passed this on to Julia Reardon Smith as soon as possible—a very wise action. However, each year takes me longer than previously to vary the content and style of my report to you, and clearly this is still impossible.



The 2023/2024 season has managed to avoid repeats of the disruptions in 2020 through to 2022 and at last it appears we are back in control. All our event secretaries completed their schedules and our supporters and helpers returned to make sure the days ran smoothly.

Training classes continued under Lisa Murrell with good attendance and wonderful trainers. In 2022 we won the Southern Inter-Counties (thank you Colin Pelham) which meant it was our responsibility to host in 2023. I was delighted with the result, especially seeing so many committee members and helpers supporting Mandy Bloomfield on the day. There were over 90 people involved and all had to be fed, watered and communicated with throughout the day. Not a cheap event to organise but highly rewarding.

Our Working Test and Field Trial schedules have run very well with full cards and wonderful locations. I would like to thank all the landowners and helpers for their support throughout the year. Without them none of this would be possible. It was rewarding to see James Prout (our new committee member in 2023) win his first Novice Field Trial and for Patti Money-Coutts to qualify for the Championship by winning the Cambridgeshire 2-day Open. Well done guys.

Finally, I would like to close with a huge thank you to all your committee. They work very hard to establish great venues and events. They operate as a team to ensure that all events are successful. They work very hard in managing budgets and communicating with you. This all makes my life easy, so thank you again.

Chris Geal, Chairman

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Chris Geal'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

GWGC's Annual General Meeting



Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Guildford Working Gundog Club (GWGC) will take place at **West Clandon Royal British Legion, The Street, GU4 7TD, on Saturday 16th March 2024 at 12.30pm.**

A copy of the Agenda, Treasurer's Annual Report and Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting will be available on request in advance of the meeting. Items for the Agenda should reach the Secretary no later than Saturday 2nd March 2024.

The following committee members will stand for re-election: Chris Geal, Julia Reardon Smith, Mary Adkins, Jane Best, Lisa Murrell, Colin Pelham, Lauren Wright, Belinda Bainbridge, Patti Money-Coutts and Mandy Bloomfield. James Prout will stand for election to the committee.

Nominations for officers and members of the committee should be submitted to the Secretary no later than Saturday 2nd March 2024, using the slip below. We would welcome your nominations.

*The AGM at the Royal British Legion will follow Club training nearby. Whether or not you attend training, we urge you to support your Club by attending the AGM. The what3words location is: **slam.shall.ruler.***

Proposal for the Guildford Working Gundog Club Committee

Return to: Lauren Wright, Hon Secretary, Guildford Working Gundog Club, c/o Crail, Cutsdean, Cheltenham, GL54 5RX

Nominee and Post _____

Nominee's Signature _____

Proposer _____
(please print name and sign)

Seconder _____
(please print name and sign)

Guildford Working Gundog Club President: **Mr Bill Biddell**

Officers

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Dr James Prout
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Club News 2023

In April we Hosted the Inter-Counties Team Event

As previous winner, the Club organised and hosted the Inter-Counties Team Event at Windsor Great Park, by gracious invitation of His Majesty the King and the Crown Commissioners.

Mandy Bloomfield writes: What a fantastic day! Everything ran smoothly. The weather was kind, everyone had a good time, and we were able to set some interesting tests which proved challenging yet achievable.

Fifteen clubs invited to participate each provided a team of three open dogs.

The award winners were:

1st **The Kelly Memorial Shield**
Arun & Downland Gundog Society.

Team *(pictured right)* Mitforton Quarrel of Cadenzahill, Carly Madgwick; Abney Affinity, Beth Morgan; Caitlin Primrose, Robert Smallman.

2nd Hampshire Gundog Society
Team FtCh Etomanni Comanche, John Cardno; Ffynongain Buzzard of Wauniago, Mike Jones; FtCh Berryshot Bernie, Jason Mayhew.

3rd Dukeries (Notts) Gundog Club
Team Tarnedge Jaina, Claire Carvis; FtCh Tarnedge Flynn, Eden Parish; Salemasky Ebor of Brackenfarg, Margaret Pearce.

4th Midland Gundog Society
Team FtCh Laggengill Dawn of Blackgrass, Leigh Jackson; Swiftlands Briar, Ellena Nunneley; FtCh Sothebys Choice of Wedgnoock, Steve Richardson.

Top Dog (with the highest individual score) went to Beth Morgan's Abney Affinity. The youngest dog in the awards went to Robert Smallman's Caitlin Primrose.

We would like to give a huge thank you to our Judges: Heather Bradley, Jayne Coley, Barbara Kuen, John Stubbs and Barry Taylor, and to our large team of helpers, who all gave up their valuable time.



James Prout Joins the Club Committee

James writes: I was most pleased to be invited to join the GWGC committee, without portfolio, in 2023.

Having got to know most of the committee from helping out and competing in the Club's tests, trials and training over the years, I knew that I would be joining a strong and accomplished team, supported by an enthusiastic membership, from whom I could learn and contribute. Indeed, with various dogs, whatever handling skills I have were mostly acquired in classes run by current committee members.



James with field trial winner Calista

I have been around labradors as pets and working dogs most of my life, from rough shooting in my teens to various organised shoots as an adult. Picking up with my dog was always an important part of the experience for me, and so once I had found the world of working tests and latterly field trials, I was addicted.

I bred Calista, my second competition dog, in 2019 and now have a nine-month-old puppy, Theia (aka indefatigable ball of energy and mischief on legs!) learning the ropes from Calista.

I eagerly await the opportunity to meet more of the membership in 2024 at the various Club events.

In June our Team Entered the Southern Inter-Club Match

Belinda Bainbridge writes: The Utility Gundog Society (Kent and East Sussex Branch) hosted the Southern Inter-Club event at Brissenden Farm, Frittenden, by kind invitation of Dick Minton.

Fifteen clubs each entered a team comprising an open, novice and novice dog-novice handler. Congratulations to the winners UGS Surrey, West Sussex & Hampshire.

The judges for five tests were John Stubbs, Colin Pelham, Alan Buckland, Kim Jinks and Kelvin Nettleingham.

GWGC was represented by:

Open	Jane Best with Kinegar Hobby
Novice	James Prout with Fongaillo Eurydome Calista
ND-NH	Belinda Bainbridge with Norlands Xoriguer

continued overleaf

Club News continued

Our first test was a picking up scenario which involved sweeping for four “birds” and a runner. I don’t think Team GWGC really understood the brief; we had never encountered this type of test before which was reflected in our score.

Things improved for us as we undertook marks, memories and blinds set to suit the level and ability of each class of dog. We were not in the awards but James had some solid scores.

It was a fantastic day out in beautiful countryside. I gained lots of experience and confidence from being part of a team, and my thanks go to team mates Jane and James. I would also like to thank Guildford for the opportunity to represent the Club at such a superb event.

Special thanks to our hosts, Gill Sweeting and her team, who put on a wonderful day, starting with bacon rolls, endless refreshments, including ice lollies, and a Hog Roast, strawberries and cream, washed down with Pimms to end the day.

Summer Sport at the Edenbridge and Oxted Show

Mike Crutchley writes: The Edenbridge and Oxted Show is a weekend event held at the end of summer each year.



Colin Pelham (left) and Mike Crutchley with Violet and Amber

The Showground boasts an amazing Gundog Arena, specially built by the show team for the Annual Gundog Challenge, organised by Dave Breach and SEGS. The public can view the arena easily while the dogs and handlers demonstrate their skills (or not!) over two days of competition.

A Retriever Challenge on Sunday 27th August consisted of 14 open level dogs nominated by 7 local clubs, plus this year, Penny Morris with Beetle, defending last year’s victory and the coveted trophy, the Nick Potts Memorial Tankard.

It was a real honour to be invited to run for Guildford with my open red bitch, Amber. Colin Pelham, the Club’s team manager, entered his open black bitch, Violet. Our aggregate scores for GWGC would go towards determining the winning club “team”.

Each competitor first had six walked up retrieves before the 300-strong crowd,

who had a clear view from the mound which runs the entire length of the arena.

Our judge was Di Stevens, and I was drawn Number One. We started with a long mark over a jump followed by a blind to shot at a different angle by the lake. On the return, a mark in the form of distraction to shot was thrown deeper over the same jump. Then a double mark which we had to nominate followed by a blind to shot in a tree-lined small pen. The very long white grass this year proved to be quite a challenge for many of the dogs.

After the first three dogs had run, we had a three-dog walk up with one marked retrieve each over a jump and the lake. Amber was first to go and her mark turned into a blind which resulted in a big handling effort to achieve the dummy. This cost valuable points and put us out of the awards by just one point.

Overall, both Amber and Violet ran really well and our combined team score of 195 meant the Guildford Team were second overall. Penny Morris retained her title with a massive score of 116/120. So, get your dogs in training for next year, she's the one to beat.

The day is rounded off with the Edenbridge and Oxted Express. Here, members of the public can bring their dogs in to try for a long mark against the clock.

This is entertaining, with dogs of varying ability getting up to mischief; this year the lake proved a distraction to many for whom a cool dip seemed more inviting.



Retriever Gundog Training in Surrey
Field Trial/Working Test Training
Novice, Open, Novice dog-Novice Handler
Walked up, water, steadiness, roots training
Ground available to rent for training
Get ready for the Working Test Season
Liz & John Barnes, Deerbridge House,
Milford Road, Elstead, Surrey GU8 6LA.

Tel 01252 702493 Email deerbridgelabs100@gmail.com

Training Organiser's Report

Lisa Murrell writes: We began 2023 with our first training at Upper Birtley. It was lovely to be back there again; we had 32 trainees which was a superb turnout. We are always welcomed by Sir Graham Wilkinson Bt. and his lovely wife Hilary. We are having our first working test this year at Upper Birtley, which will be a most happy return to our tests there.



For training in 2024, we will be coming back to our usual grounds at Knaphill and Deerbridge where we had some worthwhile training last year and lots of fun, which is the main thing. Paul Stevens at Knaphill and John and Liz Barnes at Deerbridge are so hospitable. They work hard to give all our trainees a productive time at their grounds. As always, I am very grateful on behalf of the Club for their continued support.

Our trainers also work incredibly hard to impart their extensive knowledge and experience, so again thank you to Colin Pelham, Barry and Liz Taylor, Liz and John Barnes, Joy Venturi-Rose and Leigh Sutton.



I could not put on training sessions without the team behind me: Jane Best, and now also Helen O'Brien, who has been a wonderful addition to the training team. Both arrive early and leave late, so a huge thank you to them.

Helen was awarded a training dummy for the massive

improvement in handling her little dog Bonnie (*pictured above left at Deerbridge training*). It was a close-run thing this year but Helen was pipped at the post by Ali Williams, who took the cup for Most Improved Trainee.

New Training Ground

We have some exciting news, a new training ground this year. It's the first time in a long time that we will have a ground in Guildford.

Noel Grant has offered the Club his superb facilities at Gosden Hill Farm in Merrow, Guildford. His initial contact with us was our Treasurer, Julia Reardon

Smith. She and I went to look at the ground several times during the summer. Noel has been exceptionally encouraging and has cut some swathes through his woodland for us to enjoy. There is plenty of hard standing for parking and a grain barn for shelter if need be. I have scheduled two early training sessions at Gosden Hill Farm when the weather can be mixed.

To access Gosden Hill Farm we are giving a what3words location for a gateway to the farm. From the gate there is a long, winding track to our meeting point and I promise it is worth the drive. Our directions (*see page 12*) avoid entry to the farm directly off the A3, which we judge to be potentially dangerous and too great a risk for our members.

I sincerely hope that many of you will turn up and support Club training for these sessions.



Our trainers preparing for training.

Please would anyone planning to attend a Club training session email me in advance at lisa.gwgc@gmail.com so that I have some idea of numbers. I won't hold you to it but it has helped in the past two years to have an idea of how many trainers I will need. We work hard to keep our classes to a manageable size by having enough trainers on the day.

For more information about Club training, please email our Training Organiser, Lisa Murrell, at lisa.gwgc@gmail.com.

2024 TRAINING SCHEDULE		
Date	Time	Place
Saturday 17 th February	10am	Gosden Hill Farm, Merrow, Guildford
Saturday 16 th March	10am	Gosden Hill Farm, Merrow, Guildford
Saturday 6 th April	10am	Knaphill Manor, Chobham
Saturday 4 th May	10am	Knaphill Manor, Chobham
Saturday 25 th May	10am	Deerbridge, Elstead
Saturday 29 th June	10am	Deerbridge, Elstead

Directions to Club Training Grounds

Club signs will be out

Gosden Hill Farm, Merrow, Guildford

The what3words for the Gosden Hill Farm entrance are: **rungs.torch.frogs**

From the North:

From the A3 take the Burpham/Merrow exit. At the first mini roundabout take the first exit into Great Oaks Park and immediately turn left into London Road.

****** Follow this road, taking a sharp right bend into Merrow Lane. Gosden Hill Farm is on the left hand side—GWGC signs will be out. Continue straight (not left or right to the houses), through a gate and a small yard and then follow the signs along a track through the farm (approximately a mile) and you will see a big grain barn on your right. Turn in here and parking will be on the hard-standing in front of the grain barn.

From the South:

From the A3 take the Wooden Bridge exit and follow the A25 towards Dorking passing Ladymead Retail Park on your left. Go straight on at the traffic lights (Stoke Interchange), past the Spectrum Leisure Centre on your left and, at the next roundabout (Boxgrove Crossroads), filter first left onto the A3100/London Road, signposted A3 (London). Continue on this road, going straight over a roundabout, then passing Aldi on your left. Take the second exit at the roundabout and, again, the second exit at the next roundabout, turning into Great Oaks Park and immediately turn left into London Road. Then follow the instructions above from ****** above.

Knaphill Manor, Carthouse Lane, Chobham, GU21 4XT

After you turn into Carthouse Lane, Club signs will indicate the entrance to the ground .

Deerbridge, Elstead, GU8 6LA

From the A3 Milford roundabout: take the B3001 towards Elstead. After about a mile, you will see two big Scots Pines on the right-hand side on either side of an entrance, painted with white rings around their trunks. Turn here and follow Club signs.

Ali Wins our Top Trainee Accolade

Each year the Jean Baveystock Most Improved Trainee Award is given to the handler who has progressed furthest at Club Training.

Ali Williams writes: I was absolutely thrilled to receive this Most Improved Trainee trophy. Thank you so much.

I found out about the Club training at the GWGC Novice Dog-Novice Handler Test on 1st April 2023.

To enter the test I had done some very basic training, so the prospect of taking part in such an event for the very first time with a timid young dog was daunting. However, I thought the test environment and the opportunity to mix with other dogs and people might help Archie to overcome his shyness. At this event the test team were awesome and had an immediate understanding of our position, helping Archie with his social skills and me with my handling skills.



From left: Lisa Murrell, Ali with Archie & Colin Pelham

Following the test and the welcome we received, we signed up to all the Club training sessions. This has opened up a whole new world in so many ways. It provided:

- An opportunity to learn from highly experienced trainers who gave me the confidence to push the boundaries whilst ensuring success.
- Venues to meet like-minded people, training pals and fabulous friends.
- Training locations, offering amazing grounds that enabled the dogs to experience being worked in long grass, open ground, woodlands, water and over varying topography.

I am pleased to be given the opportunity to write this as it gives me a chance to say thank you to the trainers, particularly Colin and Barry; to Lisa for organising the training and making us feel so welcome; to all the judges and helpers at the tests and to the landowners for letting us use their grounds.

We have a long way to go but we received some fantastic guidance throughout the training season to overcome problems as they arose. This has all helped to build a firm foundation, enabling us to move our training to the next level.

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Field Trial Secretary's Report

Patti Money-Coutts writes: At last! After four years in the role of Field Trial Secretary I am delighted to report that the Club had a wonderfully “normal” season. Both Covid and avian influenza played nice and we were able to enjoy our 2-day Qualifying Open Stake at Ampton as well as two novice trials closer to home on two beautiful estates.



Before I go into the details, I would like to give a heartfelt thank you to all of the people who help make our trials successful—from the landowners and keepers to the generous guns, the judges, and my fantastic helpers. You all contribute to making each trial a wonderful day and I truly appreciate it. I would also like to thank our sponsors, Silent Pool Gin, and Roger Skinners Ltd, who do so much for our sport and for our Club.

Guildford Working Gundog Club held its Open 2 Day Qualifying stake at the Ampton Estate on 30th and 31st October .

The first day was walked up in a large rape field with challenging birds and retrieves that led to the exit of many of the dogs and their handlers (including yours truly!). The second day, in a field of mustard, produced some good dog work that everyone enjoyed watching.

The Club held its first novice trial of the year, a 14 dog Stake, on the Englefield Park estate . We were made welcome by Head Keeper David Wiggins and his team of guns, beaters and pickers up.

The day was cold and grey but stayed dry-ish. After the drives everyone enjoyed an al fresco treat of tomato soup and warm sausages before heading back to the shoot lodge for the results.

We were delighted to have a full roster of awards including first place to our own committee member James Prout.

Our final trial of the season was a novice held on 29th December on the beautiful Bereleigh Estate during the festive season. Steward of the beat was Head Keeper Nick Canter whose team of guns shot brilliantly in challenging, windy conditions.

Unfortunately, it was Birds one, Dogs nil. Most dogs seemed to put themselves out for various reasons and there were no awards apart from Guns' Choice.

Nick and his team generously shot a second drive and all competitors were invited to sit their dogs up for a spot of impromptu training on wonderful ground.

Field Trial Results for the 2023-2024 Season

Trial 1: 24 Dog Two Day Open AV Retriever Stake

Monday 30th and Tuesday 31st October 2023

Venue: The Ampton Estate,
Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk
By kind permission of Mr Peter Rushbrook
and at the invitation of the Guildford Guns

Judges: Colin Pelham (A2681)
John Keegan (A2858)
Peter Abs (B3395)
Andy Mutimer (B3733)

Awards: 1st Tideshot Vinny of Highsea,
Kevin Doughty
The Cornwood Salver
& Deerbridge Trophy
2nd Etomanni Amber of Corsemalzie,
Carol Probert
The Curtis Trophy
3rd FtCh Ticefield Dazed N'Confused,
Reuben Corbett
COM Bellspaddle Dexter at
Wephamdown, Kate Bollen
COM Miss Bossing Master of the House,
Jan Wiberg
Best Retrieve Tideshot Vinny of Highsea,
Kevin Doughty
The Norlands Trophy
Guns' Choice Suthcharic Roux, Sue Berman
The Foxhanger Tankard



Kevin Doughty

Trial 2: 14 Dog Novice AV Retriever Stake

Tuesday 21st November 2023

Venue: Englefield Park, near Reading, Berkshire
By kind permission of Lord Benyon and Englefield Park estate

Judges: John Stubbs (A0134)
Reuben Mort (B2977)
Josefine van der Dussen (NP3490)
Bill Gardiner (NP3570)

Awards: 1st Fongailo Eurydome Calista,
James Prout
The Hydonsdown Bowl
2nd Griffin via Deerbridge, Liz Barnes
The Bratton Shield
3rd Tallamelie Grizzly Bear,
Nigel Sheppard
Guns' Choice Braltontwist Lou Lou,
Chrissie Walton



Right: James Prout's winning Calista (right) with kennel mate Theia, displaying James's First Place award.

Trial 3: 14 Dog Novice AV Retriever Stake

Friday 29th December 2023

Venue: Bereleigh Estate, near Petersfield
By kind permission of the Tyrwhitt-Drake family

Judges: Heather Bradley (A1870)
Liz Taylor (B3536)
Shane King (NP4060)
Mark Schiller (NP4065)

Awards: No awards given
Guns' Choice Threecliffs Mistletoe (*pictured right*)
Sally Sturt
The Gala Vase



Norlands Gundog Training

Novice/Open, Field Trial/Working test training
Novice dog-Novice handler/Basic gundog training
One-to-one tuition and group training sessions
Dogs taken in for training and boarding
Puppies, part trained and trained dogs sometimes available
Stud dog, black lab, throws yellow,
good looking, trial winner, clear eyes, 0-0 hips
Call COLIN PELHAM on 07798 787490/01932 563691
(Kennel Club A Panel Judge)

Field Trial Reports: 2023-2024 Season

Trial 1: 24 Dog 2-Day Open AV Retriever Stake, Ampton, Monday 30th and Tuesday 31st October 2023



The Award winners and judges.

The trial was ably led at Ampton by Alan Hammond, who always knows where to find birds and who provided a nice, steady flow of game throughout the day, as well as calm leadership. Thanks to Alan and all of his team.

We were blessed with an excellent set of judges, Colin Pelham, John Keegan, Peter Abbs and Andy Mutimer, who kindly gave up their time to judge this trial when they would almost certainly have got a run in at least one of the many trials taking place on these days. They were a very good team giving the dogs and handlers every opportunity to shine.

We were delighted that Kevin Doughty and Tideshot Vinny of Highsea went forward from our open to compete in the Championship.

Kevin Doughty writes: I had the pleasure to run in the Guildford 2-day Open Stake at Ampton. The first day was in a large rape field with a good supply of game. On the second day we were in mustard cover crop, again with a good supply of game.

The guns shot very well over the two days and a friendly atmosphere among the competitors was enjoyed by all. There was a good standard of dog work and I was very pleased to come away with first place, which made my dog up to FtCh.

A very well organised trial by Guildford Working Gundog Club. Many thanks to the Field Trial Secretary, Patti, and all those involved.

Our committee Chairman, Chris Geal, organised an exceptional team of guns which included Chris, the legend that is Geoff Allen as well as Kevin, Paul, John and Scott. They knew what the trial needed. Thank you to you all for your tremendous contribution to the days.

Our wonderful team of helpers deserve praise. They are now so slick and professional that our Field Trial Secretary, Patti, can relax as she runs the trial. The helpers team were Dog Steward Lisa Murrell, Judges' Stewards Jane Best and Lauren Wright, game carriers Luke Nightingale and James Prout and pickers up Ray Allgood and Angie Musk.

Trial 2: 14 Dog Novice AV Retriever Stake, Englefield Park, Tuesday 21st November 2023

James Prout writes: After the success of the trial at the Englefield estate in 2022, the Club was delighted to return, thanks to the generosity of Lord Benyon, and the expertise of Head Keeper David Wiggin and his team of guns and beaters.

On the first drive, most of the game fell into woodland beyond a small stream and varied hedging, requiring sharp obedience from the dogs where you could guide them, plus good hunting skills and self-reliance where the cover rendered them beyond sight. Challenging terrain for competitors and judges alike.



The Award winners and judges

It was my, and Calista my 4 year-old bitch's first trial and I certainly felt more adrenaline in play than at the many working tests we had competed in. Calista was on fire from the first round, returning birds consistently and eye wiping several fellow competitors' dogs. There was one tense moment in the second round when none of the dogs sent could find the bird, but fortunately Calista was business-like in her attempt and the judges could not find the quarry either, so we were still in.

Non-forecast drizzle set in for the second drive with game falling in the same woods from another direction onto and beyond a steep bank. We were asked to

reports continued overleaf

continued from previous page

rapidly retrieve a runner which Calista found in a heartbeat within the ferns, and then it was back to sending from an open field into the deep cover of the woods. Calista's last retrieve was a nice partridge, where she was out of sight hunting for what seemed ages. The judge in the woods told me later Calista was air scenting on her hind legs such was the undergrowth—something I have never seen her do and certainly had no part in teaching her. She religiously copied her mother, Pandora, while training and picking up, so that is where the credit is due, perhaps helped by a long-lost Goldie cousin!

My thanks to all my fellow competitors who were generous with their help, advice and camaraderie, and Patti and her fabulous team for the superb organisation before and during the day. It is certainly one I will never forget.

Trial 3: 14 Dog Novice AV Retriever Stake, Bereleigh Estate, Friday 29th December 2023

We held our final trial of the season, a novice on 29th December, with the kind permission of the Tyrwhitt Drake family.

Unfortunately there were no awards apart from Guns' Choice (receiving the Gala Vase) for Threecliffs Mistletoe, handled by Sally Sturt.

The trial was driven; the first was in low rape either side of a quiet lane. The guns brought down plenty of game on the ground by the end of the drive and our judges, Heather Bradley, Liz Taylor, Shane King and Mark Schiller, used the game effectively to challenge the dogs. Another big thank you to them.

Our venue was the beautiful Bereleigh Estate near Petersfield. Steward of the beat was Head Keeper Nick Canter, who looked after us very well. Nick organised a team of guns who shot brilliantly in challenging, windy conditions. Thanks to them for shooting for us. Thank you too to all the beaters and Sophie for picking up. A trial has to be a truly group effort.

Our helpers, many of whom are on the GWGC committee, turned out again, providing a tried and tested team. Finally, thanks to our sponsors, Skinners Dog Food and Silent Pool Gin.



The gallery at Bereleigh

Working Test Secretary's Report

Mandy Bloomfield writes: 2023 was my first year as Working Test Secretary. We saw three successful working test days plus we hosted the Inter-Counties in April.

The Novice Dog-Novice Handler and Special Puppy tests took place on what turned out to be a pleasant day at the beginning of April, after we nearly drowned when setting the tests a couple of days beforehand. The Novice Test took place in June; the Open in July. We welcomed a large number of competitors and hope everyone enjoyed their days.

For these days to go ahead we rely on the generosity of landowners. I would like to thank His Majesty the King and the Crown Commissioners, Ms Susette Watts, Mr Tom Slocock, Mr Neil and Mrs Penny Morris.

We also rely on the helpers and I thank EVERYONE who gave up their time.

I would like to thank our committee for their continued support, especially Lisa Murrell, who worked hard to put together a great spread, Julia Reardon Smith, who I leaned on a great deal, Belinda Bainbridge for rallying up the helpers and stepping in to help with the food when needed, and Colin Pelham who gave up a lot of time to set the tests and who always gives them great consideration. An enormous amount of time goes into test days behind the scenes, so thank you all, and a big thank you to our judges for their time and expertise.

Congratulations to our award winners in 2023. We look forward to four test dates in 2024. Your help at one or two of these tests would be greatly appreciated. Offers of help can be emailed to mandy.gwgc@gmail.com.



Mandy Bloomfield (left) at the NoviceDog-Novice Handler and Special Puppy awards with Club Chairman Chris Geal and Wendy Bardsley, Special Puppy winner

Working Test Schedule for 2024

Working tests for AV Retrievers will be run under the Kennel Club J-regs to include withdrawing from a test. All enquiries to Mandy Bloomfield, Working Test Secretary, at: 7 Vine Cottages, Alfold Road, Cranleigh, GU6 8NB, tel 07827 920065; email mandy.gwgc@gmail.com.

Entry fee (all tests): Members £10; Non-members £15; Late Entries £15. All entry fees *must* be paid before the closing date for entries. No refunds after closing dates.

Novice Dog-Novice Handler & Veteran Working Tests

Saturday 23rd March 2024

Venue: Upper Birtley, Haslemere
By kind permission of Sir Graham Wilkinson Bt.

Judges: Colin Pelham
Beth Morgan
Ben Starns
Joy Venturi-Rose

Trophies: NDNH 1st The Foxhanger Trophy
Veteran The Thames Trophy

Closing date for entries Saturday 16th March

Special Puppy & Intermediate Working Tests

Saturday 27th April 2024

Venue: Knaphill Manor, Chobham, Surrey
By kind permission of Mr Tom Slocock

Judges: Lisa Murrell
Sue Berman
Hilly Hoar
Rob Smallman

Trophies: Special Puppy 1st The Copsey Bracken Salver
2nd The Rayleas Trophy
Highest placed puppy under 18 months,
The Roderick Award
Intermediate 1st The Gunner Cup

Closing Date for entries Saturday 20th April 2024

Novice Working Test

Sunday 9th June 2024

Venue: Burstow Park Farm, Outwood
By kind permission of Mr Jim Nicholson

Judges: Alistair House
Lauren Wright
Liz Taylor
Liz Barnes
5th to be announced

Trophies: 1st The Entonlee Trophy
2nd The Hoopwick Trophy

Closing Date for entries Saturday 1st June 2024

Open Working Test

Sunday 21st July 2024

Venue: Windsor Great Park
By gracious invitation of His Majesty the King
and the Crown Commissioners

Judges: Barry Taylor
Coral Meakes
John Stubbs
Alan Buckland
Patti Money Coutts

Trophies: 1st The Challenge Cup
2nd The Rollin Shield

Closing Date for entries Saturday 13th July 2024

Working Test Definitions

SPECIAL PUPPY: Any dog or bitch less than 2 years old on the day of the test.

NOVICE DOG-NOVICE HANDLER: Neither dog nor handler to have won 1st place in any working test (affiliated or unclassified) or had any award in a Field Trial.

NOVICE: Any dog or bitch which has not gained a Field Trial award or 1st, 2nd or 3rd in an Open Working Test or 1st in a Novice Test held in accordance with Kennel Club regulations.

INTERMEDIATE: Any dog or bitch which has not gained a Field Trial Award or 1st, 2nd or 3rd in an Open Working Test or a 1st in an Intermediate Working Test

OPEN: Open to all.

VETERAN: Any dog or bitch 8 years or over on the day of the test

Results for the 2023 Working Test Season

Novice Dog-Novice Handler & Special Puppy Working Tests

Saturday 1st April 2023

Venue: Parklands, Farnham, Surrey
By kind permission of Susette Watts

Judges: Peter Castleman
Sue Berman
Karen Handley
Liz Barnes

Novice Dog-Novice Handler Working Test

Awards: 1st Berryshot Shuri, Edd Lewington
The Foxhanger Trophy
2nd Elmertown Holly, Robert Lovegrove
3rd Norlands Corrie, Sue Adams
4th Dulcet Dora, John Bryce Malcolmson
COM Wellingtons Dark Night, Ali Williams

Special Puppy Working Test

Awards: 1st Laborie Kwaduma, Wendy Bardsley
The Copsey Bracken Salver
2nd Pridingpoint Firebird, Henriette Fletcher
The Rayleas Trophy
3rd Sealsun Eleanor, Simon Pestell
4th Laurinco Calypso Spark, Peter Aston
COM Braltontwist Pumpkin, Chrissie Walton
Also highest placed puppy under 18 months
The Roderick Award

Novice Working Test

Sunday 4th June 2023

Venue: Knaphill Manor, Chobham, Surrey
By kind permission of Mr Tom Slocock

Judges: Dave England Diana Stevens
Lisa Murrell Alan Buckland
Roger Wade

Awards: 1st Troddenmills Hot Bloodied, Kieran Green
The Entonlee Trophy
2nd Mitforton Muir, Henny Brown
The Hoopwick Trophy
3rd Abbotsann Honeydew, John Scott
4th Mitforton Teal, Micheal Crutchley
COM Birdsholding Inkerman, Sophie Adshead
COM Berryshot Shuri, Edd Lewington

Open Working Test

Saturday 16th July 2023

Venue: Five Oaks Farm, Billingshurst
By kind permission of Neil and Penny Morris

Judges: Colin Pelham
Mell Brooks
Alistair House
Paula Graystone
Liz Taylor

Awards: 1st Rookhollow Dahlia of Woodllandway, Beth Morgan
The Challenge Cup
2nd Ringbarn Flint, Manfred Abraham
The Rollin Shield
3rd Mitforton Neon, Michael Crutchley
4th Birdsholding Inkerman, Sophie Adshead
COM Abbotsann Firefly, John Scott

Entering GWGC Working Tests

We would like all working test entries to be submitted on the Field Trial Management System (FTMS) at www.fieldtrial.info and for payment to be made via PayPal. Entries must be completed the day before the closing date, because FTMS closes at midnight before the closing date.

We will accept paper entries if you cannot access FTMS. Please write your email address clearly on the entry form, or if necessary enclose a stamped, addressed envelope.

No refunds after the closing date for entries

2023 Working Test Reports

Novice Dog-Novice Handler & Special Puppy Working Tests Parklands Farm, Saturday 1st April

Our Novice Dog-Novice Handler and Special Puppy Working Tests took place at Susette Watts's Parkland ground in Farnham, Surrey.

Congratulations to Novice Dog-Novice Handler winner Edd Lewington.



Edd Lewington and Wendy Bardsley

Special Puppy winner Wendy Bardsley

writes: The Special Puppy Working Test was an ideal opportunity to test my youngster, Blue, and see where we were by entering puppy tests to transition up to the novice standard.

The tests set were fit for purpose and challenged us in a variety of ways. It was essential to have the basic foundations in place and work together as a team to succeed with each test.

My aim of the day was to enjoy the test environment, enjoy working my dog and not set any expectations. It was only on the last test of the day that my nerves kicked in and I just about held it together to complete the test successfully with Blue.

The judges were fabulous and there's no doubt the helpers and the test organiser were the stars of the day. Thank you to all involved for a well organised and enjoyable event. It was a very special day for us.



The award winners and judges

Novice Working Test, Knaphill Manor 4th June



The award winners and judges

Our Novice Test took place at Knaphill Manor, a ground well known to the Club for both working tests and training, thanks to the landowner, Tom Slocock, and the Shoot Chairman and Manager, Paul Stevens.

On the day, the ground was stunning, enhanced by rhododendrons in bloom, and offering some fantastic terrain for our tests.

The level of competition was high, ending in two run-offs for 1st and 2nd and 3rd and 4th place. It was reported to be the best Novice run-off seen in a long time. Thanks are due to the judges: Alan Buckland, Dave England, Lisa Murrell, Diana Stevens and Roger Wade.

Congratulations go to the overall winner, Kieren Green.

Open Working Test, Five Oaks Farm, Saturday 16th July

The level of competition at our Open Working Test was very high with one run-off for 1st and 2nd place and a second for 3rd, 4th and COM.

The judges did an amazing job: Colin Pelham, Mell Brooks, Paula Graystone, Alistair House and Liz Taylor.

Open Test winner Beth Morgan writes: The Guildford Open Working Test was held at Five Oaks farm by kind permission of Neil and Penny Morris.

The ground provided a mixture of very long grass and areas of woodland.

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Award winners and judges

There were five challenging tests, including extremely long marks and blinds with distractions, tricky angles in woodland and a walk up with two retrieves each.

Five handlers and dogs were called back for a run-off but at this stage we had no idea what place it was for.

The final retrieve was a very long mark through tall grass. Fennel made a lovely job of picking without any help from me.

We all had a very enjoyable day. I would like to thank Guildford Working Gundog Club and all the judges, helpers and, of course Neil and Penny Morris, for a lovely day.

Ship-Shape and Packed Away until Next Test Season

The Open Test completed, marking the end of the Working Test Season 2023 for Guildford Working Gundog Club, it was time to tidy up the trailer and make sure all equipment was accounted for.

The trailer is being stored safely, awaiting its 2024 debut on 23rd March.



Club Rules

1. NAMES & OBJECTS

The Club shall be called Guildford Working Gundog Club. Its objects shall be to promote and encourage the training of gundogs for work in the field and to organise training classes, working tests and field trials.

2. OFFICERS & COMMITTEE

The Club shall consist of a President, Chairman, Hon Secretary, Hon Treasurer and Hon Field Trial Secretary, a Committee of 12 and an unlimited number of members.

3. COMMITTEE

The management of the Club shall be in the hands of the Officers of the Club and a Committee consisting of 12 members, all of whom shall retire annually but shall be eligible for re-election.

Meetings of the Committee shall be held as often as deemed necessary and a quorum for Committee meetings shall be 5.

The Committee shall have the power to appoint sub-committees as it deems necessary. The Chairman of each sub-committee shall be on the general Committee and report the sub-committee's recommendations to the general Committee.

4. ELECTION OF MEMBERS

Candidates for membership shall be proposed by two existing fully paid up members and approved by the Committee.

5. MEMBERSHIP LIST

The Club must maintain an up to date list of members' names and their addresses, and make the list of names available for inspection if so requested by the members of the Society (Club) or by the Kennel Club.

6. CLUB PROPERTY

The property of the Club shall be vested in the Committee. In the event of the Club ceasing to exist a General Meeting shall be called to decide the disposal of the Club's assets and the outcome of the meeting notified to the Kennel Club.

The Club will obtain written acknowledgements from donors of Cups and Trophies that they are given as outright gifts to the Club.

7. CLUB ACCOUNTS

A Bank Account shall be opened in the name of Guildford Working Gundog Club into which revenue of the Club shall be paid and from which withdrawals shall be made on the Chairman, Hon Secretary, Hon Treasurer and the Field Trial Secretary's signatures (any two). The accounts shall be kept by the Hon Treasurer and Auditors shall be appointed at each Annual General Meeting who shall audit the Club Accounts for the Annual General

Meeting. NOTE: Certification of Accounts must be carried out by one qualified accountant or two unqualified individuals with accountancy experience unconnected to the committee. The certified accounts shall be made available to members 14 days prior to the Annual General Meeting.

8. SUBSCRIPTIONS

The annual Subscription and a one-off membership fee shall be such an amount as agreed by members in the General Meeting and notified to the Kennel Club. No member whose subscription is unpaid is entitled to any of the privileges of membership and if the member shall fail to pay outstanding subscriptions by the end of April, his or her name shall be automatically erased from the register. If a membership lapses then a new membership fee shall be required on re-joining.

9. EXPULSION OF MEMBERS

Any member who shall be disqualified under Kennel Club Rule A11.j.(5) and/or Kennel Club Rule A11.j.(9) shall *ipso facto* cease to be a member of the Society (Club).

If the conduct of any member shall in the opinion of the Committee of the Club be injurious or likely to be injurious to the character or interests of the Club, the Committee of the Club may, at a meeting the notice convening which includes as an object the consideration of the conduct of the member, determine that a Special General Meeting of the Club shall be called for the purpose of passing a resolution to expel him/her.

Notice of the Special General Meeting shall be sent to the accused member, giving particulars of the complaint and advising the place, date and hour of the Meeting that he/she may attend and offer an explanation. If at the Meeting, a resolution to expel is passed by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting, his/her name shall forthwith be erased from the list of members and he/she shall thereupon cease for all purposes to be a member of the Club except that he/she may, within two calendar months from the date of such a meeting, appeal to the Kennel Club upon and subject to such condition as the Kennel Club may impose.

10. FINANCIAL YEAR/ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The financial year of the Club shall be from 1st February to 31st January. The Annual General Meeting shall be held in March.

11. GENERAL MEETINGS

The Annual General Meeting shall be held for the following purposes:

- To receive and approve the report of the Chairman on the activities of the past year.
- To receive and approve the Accounts for the past year.
- To elect the officers and Committee for the ensuing year.
- To transact any other business on the Agenda.

No other business shall be transacted at the Annual General Meeting unless

notice thereof appears on the Agenda, with the exception of routine matters or those which in the opinion of the Chairman of the Meeting are urgent. Any member wishing to have any other matter placed on the Agenda must inform the Hon Secretary in writing 14 days before the date of the Meeting. Notice convening such a Meeting will be forwarded to every member not less than 28 days prior to the date of the holding of the Meeting.

A quorum for General Meetings shall be 10.

12. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

A special General Meeting shall be summoned by the Hon Secretary if six members send a signed requisition stating the subject to be discussed and requesting a Special General Meeting to do so.

No business other than that detailed on the Agenda can be discussed at a Special General Meeting. The Committee is empowered to call a Special General Meeting at its discretion. The following method of notifying members of a special General meeting will apply. In writing with 14 days notice of the Meeting.

A quorum for General Meetings shall be 10.

13. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

The Rules of the Club may not be altered except at a General Meeting, the notice for which contains specific proposals to amend the Rules.

Any proposed alteration to the Rules may not be brought into effect until the Kennel Club has been advised and approved the alteration.

14. ANNUAL RETURNS TO THE KENNEL CLUB

The officers acknowledge that during the month of January each year, maintenance of Title Fee will be forwarded to the Kennel Club by the Secretary for continuance of Registration and that by 31st July each year, other returns, as stipulated in Kennel Club Regulations for the Registration and maintenance of Title of Societies and Breed Councils and the Affiliation of Agricultural Societies and Municipal Authorities be forwarded to the Kennel Club.

The Officers also acknowledge their duty to inform the Kennel Club of any changes of Secretary of the Club which may occur during the course of the year.

15. KENNEL CLUB FINAL COURT OF APPEAL

The Kennel Club shall be the final authority for interpreting the rules and regulations of the Society in all cases relative to canine or Society (Club) matters.

16. The Society shall not join any Federation or Societies or Clubs.

17....No person whilst an undischarged bankrupt may serve on the Committee of or hold any other office or appointment within a Kennel Club Registered Society.

Programme of Events for Spring and Summer 2024

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Place</i>
Saturday 17th February	10am	Training	Gosden Hill Farm, Merrow, Guildford
Saturday 16th March	10am	Training	Gosden Hill Farm, Merrow, Guildford
Saturday 16th March	12.30pm	Annual General Meeting	Royal British Legion, West Clandon
Saturday 23rd March	9am	ND-NH and Veteran Tests	Upper Birtley, Haslemere
Saturday 6th April	10am	Training	Knaphill Manor, Chobham
Saturday 27th April	9am	Special Puppy and Intermediate Tests	Knaphill Manor, Chobham
Saturday 4th May	10am	Training	Knaphill Manor, Chobham
Saturday 25th May	10am	Training	Deerbridge, Elstead
Sunday 9th June	9am	Novice Test	Burstow Park Farm, Outwood
Saturday 29th June	10am	Training	Deerbridge, Elstead
Sunday 21st July	9am	Open Test	Windsor Great Park