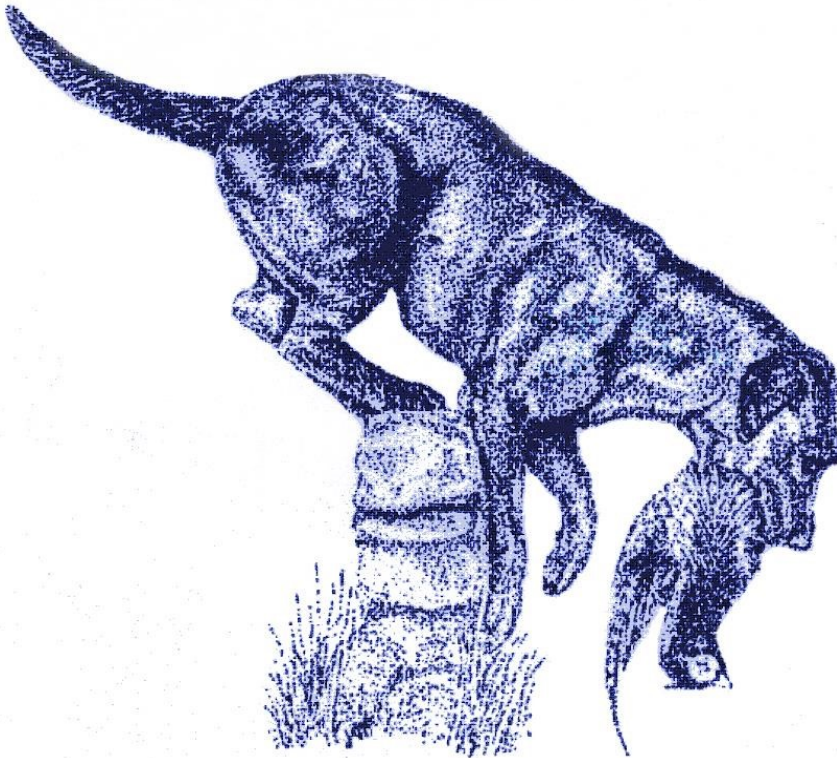


Guildford Working Gundog Club

Yearbook 2026



Visit our website at www.guildfordworkinggundogclub.co.uk

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Chairman's Message

Dear Members

Welcome to this year's Yearbook. Your Committee has once again done an outstanding job in organising and running our events during the year with great attendance from our members. There have been a number of firsts for our Committee this year:



- ◆ We have welcomed four new Committee members during the year (see pages 7-8 for a short bio for them). Christina Bluhme has taken on the role of Communications and Sam Larbey is in charge of our Catering. Sue Booker is planning her first year of Working Tests and, finally, Stuart Mainwaring is working to help develop our strategy for the future.
- ◆ James Prout has completed his first year as Field Trial Secretary and has seen successful trials at Windsor, Englefield and Ampton with good support from all.
- ◆ Lauren Wright had baby Arthur (with Luke of course!) and met with HRH The Princess of Wales at our Windsor 2-day - lots of smiling faces and a great day.
- ◆ Well done to Patti Money-Coutts for making up her dog who is now FtCh Stauntonvale Caracal.

Sadly, we say goodbye to Mandy Bloomfield as she steps down from the role of Working Test Secretary. We thank her enormously for everything she has done for us over the past 3 years and we wish her well for the future.

The strength of the club is founded on the Committee performance and it is very comforting to see a "one for all and all for one" attitude throughout the year. We have tremendous depth and width of experience and it is something we hope to build on as we develop a "Pathways" programme for new Committee members.

I have been especially pleased to have received a number of compliments from participants attending our events on the professional organisation and openly friendly environment, something they do not always see everywhere else. Looking forward, I think we are in a strong position and are starting to question where we want to be in the future and how to keep your club meeting or even exceeding your expectations.

Finally, of course I can never finish a Yearbook report without thanking all those members who make things happen, be it in the background or foreground. We are, of course, very grateful to all the landowners who allow us to hold our events on their grounds. Their support is so critical, thank you. There is also an army of helpers willing to give their time and effort in making sure the events run smoothly. Well done all and hopefully your support will continue.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Chris Geal', written in a cursive style.

Chris Geal, Chairman

GWGC President: Mr Bill Biddell

Officers

Chairman

Chris Geal
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Subscription Information

Annual subscription for ALL members (including new members): £12.00

At the 2025 Annual General Meeting, it was agreed that, with effect from 1st February 2026, the club would abolish the joining fee of £3. **New members therefore now only pay £12, the same as existing members.**

Please ensure that you pay the correct amount of £12. We spend an enormous amount of time every year chasing members who do not pay the correct amount on time - too little, too much, too early or late!

If we do not receive your full subscription by the end of April, your name will be erased automatically from the members' register (in accordance with Rule 8 of the Club's Rules). You will not be eligible to enter any of the Club's events as a member until you have rejoined and you will need to contact the Club's Membership Secretary, Jane Best, to do this (contact details below). If you have decided to resign your membership from the Club, **please** let us know. This will save us the job of having to contact you.

If you have not already done so, please set up a Standing Order so that your subscription is paid automatically on 1st February each year (not before please!). The Club's bank details are:

Lloyds Bank (business account)

Account Name: Guildford Working Gundog Club

Sort Code: 30-93-49

Account Number: 00151140

You should be able to set up a Standing Order easily via online banking but, if required, a postal standing order form is available on our website: www.guildfordworkinggundogclub.co.uk/membership. Please send this directly to your bank, not to us!

The club now has to pay for the privilege of banking cheques so **please** only pay by cheque if you really have to. Cheques should be made out to **Guildford Working Gundog Club** and posted to:

Jane Best
GWGC Membership Secretary
1 Aston Villas
Wonersh Common Road
Wonersh
Guildford
Surrey, GU5 0PP

Jane can be contacted by e-mail at jane.gwgc@btinternet.com or on 07721 855470.

Notice of Annual General Meeting



Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Guildford Working Gundog Club (GWGC) will take place in **The Grain Barn, Gosden Hill Farm, Mellow, Guildford, GU4 7LE on Saturday, 7th March 2026 at 12.30pm (what3words: hats.palace.watch - please follow the directions on page 15).**

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, 21st February 2026. Light refreshments will be provided by the Club - please e-mail Lauren Wright, the Club’s Secretary, if you wish to attend.

The following Officers and Committee members will stand for re-election: Chris Geal, Jane Best, Patti Money-Coutts, Lisa Murrell, Colin Pelham, James Prout, Julia Reardon Smith and Lauren Wright. Having been co-opted on to the Committee during the year, Christina Bluhme, Sue Booker, Sam Larbey and Stuart Mainwaring will also stand for election.

Nominations for Officers and Committee Members should be submitted to the Secretary no later than Saturday, 21st February 2026 using the slip below.

The AGM at The Grain Barn, Gosden Hill Farm, Mellow, Guildford will follow Club training on the same ground. Whether or not you attend training, please support your Club by attending the AGM.

Proposal for Guildford Working Gundog Club Committee	
Return to: Lauren Wright, Hon Secretary, Guildford Working Gundog Club, c/o Crail, Cutsdean, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL54 5RX.	
Nominee and Post	_____
Nominee’s Signature	_____
Proposer	_____
	(please print name and sign)
Secunder	_____
	(please print name and sign)

Club News

Meet our new Committee members

Last year, we asked for some new Committee members to ensure that we have a good mix of people with the right skills going forward. We're thrilled to have had a wonderful response and we've welcomed four new Committee members during the year, each bringing their own ideas, knowledge and areas of expertise. Here's a short introduction to each of them:

Christina Bluhme



My heart has always belonged to dogs. I grew up surrounded by working gundogs and got my first dog when I was eight years old, a beautiful, working-bred yellow Labrador Retriever. Since then, the breed has held a special place in my heart.

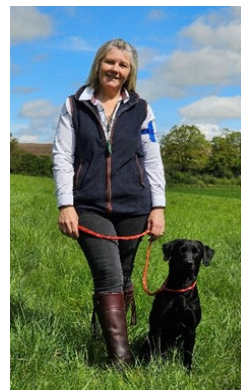
I was born and raised in Denmark but over the past 15 years, I've lived in various parts of the world before happily settling here in the UK. Life in Esher, Surrey, suits me perfectly and I enjoy sharing it with my family and our dogs.

Thank you to everyone at GWGC for such a warm welcome. From the very first training session, I felt at home and I'm delighted to contribute to the Committee. I look forward to seeing you at training and throughout the season.

Sue Booker

I am delighted to have been so warmly welcomed to the GWGC Committee earlier this year and I am particularly excited to have been offered the opportunity to become Working Test Secretary in 2026.

Having joined GWGC in 2022, I subsequently attended as many group training sessions as I possibly could. The Committee, club members and trainers have always been exceptional in their encouragement and support and have been instrumental in helping me progress with my dogs. I love the challenge of running my dogs in working tests but equally find helping at these events to be fun and rewarding. My involvement to date has led me to meet a diverse network of people, many of whom have become great friends. I am genuinely overwhelmed by the passion, kindness and generosity of spirit shown within our sport and look forward to meeting more friends of the future throughout the coming seasons.



Sam Larbey



I am a newbie to the gundog world; my first dog, Ziva, a partially trained Labrador sort of chose me, and whilst I love spending time training her, a lack of competitive instinct means that I'd rather be out beating or picking up than competing. I also have a naughty Teckel, Velma, and a young cocker named Wren.

I am delighted to have joined the GWGC Committee earlier this year - I was made to feel welcomed and supported from the very first day. My role is to ensure that everyone is fed and watered during the competition days. I have always had a genuine love of food, coming from a Mediterranean background; it is the cornerstone of family life. I started cooking at 13 and still really enjoy satisfying hungry appetites. I look forward to fuelling judges and helpers during future competition days.

Stuart Mainwaring

Having grown up with Labradors, I'd long promised myself I would one day take up gundog training - but only found the time to finally dive in two years ago. Since then, I've been completely hooked. What struck me most about the gundog world was the sheer generosity of its community: the advice, the training support and the willingness to run events for others. After competing in a few working tests over the summer and meeting members of GWGC, I realised joining the Committee was a chance to give something back to a community that has helped me so much.



I hope that my logical approach and business background will serve the club well in the years ahead - and if I'm honest, it's far from selfless; I simply enjoy the company and the wisdom shared along the way.

The rest of the Committee is delighted to have Christina, Sue, Sam and Stuart on board and we are very grateful that they all stepped up when we were in need. We look forward to working with them over the next few months/years!

Remembering Gerry Price

We were all so sad to hear about the passing of Gerry Price in July 2025. Gerry was always a HUGE supporter of the club over the years and we remain immensely grateful for his support and kindness. For many years, when he was the owner of The Inn at West End and before he moved to Granby, Gerry hosted some wonderful evenings for GWGC members, always raising a lot of funds for the club's "Guns' Fund", particularly when he was in charge of the auction. He was a true gentleman, very convivial, always had a kind word to say, was a wonderful dog man and really knew his wine! He was a huge part of the gundog world, not just with GWGC but several other clubs too. He is sorely missed by us all.

Lisa Murrell, our Training Organiser, attended Gerry's funeral and writes: "Liz Barnes and I attended Gerry's funeral on 18th August. It was a very special celebration of the life of a very special man and was hugely well-attended. As is often the case at funerals, we found out so much about the depth of the man and how many people he had helped and mentored in his life and, wow, we were blown away. Those who knew Gerry well would be amused to hear that, during the tribute by Ann, Gerry's wife, Ann told us that he had donated his kidneys and liver and she was surprised that anyone wanted his liver!

She had received a letter from the organ donation service to say one kidney had gone to a girl who had been on the donor list for 6 years, the other to a man of 70 who had been on it for many years and his liver had gone to a 50 year old man who was in desperate need."

Gerry was so kind and always thinking of others, right up to the very end. Rest in peace Gerry and thank you from all of us.



The future of the club's Yearbook

This is likely to be the last year that a printed copy of the Yearbook is sent to all members. Although no final decision has yet been made, it costs a significant proportion of our annual income to print and post a copy to all members every year. We are aware that many members would be happy with a digital copy instead. However, we are also aware that some members still really like a printed Yearbook landing on their doormats!

If we go digital from 2027 onwards, we will almost certainly offer a printed copy opt-in and we will be in touch in due course with all members by e-mail or post (in the absence of an e-mail address) about this. **Please ensure that we have an up-to-date e-mail address for you.**

The Inter-Counties Team Event

Fifteen clubs are invited each year to provide a team of three Open dogs to compete for The Kelly Memorial Shield with the winning team hosting the following year's competition. This event has been running since 1979 when the Barton-on-Humber Wildfowlers Gundog section hosted an invitation Open Test for teams from different counties and regions.

On 19th April 2025, Dukeries (Notts) Gundog Club hosted the 2025 event at The Osberton Estate in Worksop, Notts by kind permission of Mr R Foljambe and Head Keeper Gareth Hilary. The judges were Tim Brain, Steve Crookes, Geoff Dogg, Dave Field and Steve Richardson.

Colin Pelham, our A-Panel judge and Team Manager, headed the team himself this year and writes: "We had a great day which was fantastically well-organised by The Dukeries (Notts) Gundog Club. My team members were Gill Sweeting (running Bolebrokeold Burnet by Parrockbrook) and Colin Coley (running Bizzy Lucy) and I ran my home-bred dog Norlands Seren. There were 5 great tests which were really well thought out by Dukeries and, on the day, Stewart North and his team kept everything running really smoothly.

As a team, we were thrilled to be placed 3rd overall and I was placed 2nd overall. We were really pleased with the result because, of the 45 dogs running, there were several FtChs, 7 x England team members and 4 x dogs ran in the 2024 IGL Championship. Overall, a really good day was had by all."

The winning team was from Midland Gundog Society - team members were Jayne Coley, Laura Hill and Leigh Jackson. Top Dog was Jayne Coley's FtCh Mekoro Shot Marker of Waterford with 96/100 points and Colin is too modest to say that he scored 94/100 with his dog!



*The Guildford Team - before and after!
L to R Colin Pelham, Gill Sweeting and Colin Coley*

The Southern Interclub Team Match

UGS Kent & East Sussex hosted this year's Southern Interclub Team Match on Sunday, 21st June 2025 at the stunning Isenhurst Estate, by kind permission of Clive and Gilly Nickols. The GWGC team was proudly represented by Sam Larbey with Enchanting Wren (NDNH), Amy Jobson with Bellaroyal's Star Cracker (Novice) and Jane Best with Kinagar Hobby (Open). Amy said that "Being part of such a friendly and supportive team made the day all the more special."

The judges - John Stubbs, Colin Pelham, Alan Buckland, Kelvin Nettleingham and Mandy Smith - oversaw a set of thoughtful and challenging tests set by Di Stevens, making fantastic use of the estate's natural features, including some tricky water and woodland work. Gill Sweeting and her team organised a smoothly run day, complete with thoughtful touches (ice lollies mid-round were a definite highlight!). The weather held - it stayed cooler than expected with plenty of shade for the dogs.

All three team members gave it their all with some brilliant retrieves and a well-played joker. Special congratulations go to Amy and Frankie whose consistent work throughout the day earned them the title of Top Novice Dog. A wonderful reflection of the dedication and hard work they've put into their training.



Amy Jobson and Frankie



GWGC team - L to R - Amy and Frankie, Jane and Hobby and Sam and Ziva

Are you a Team Player?

Our Team Manager, Colin Pelham, is always on the lookout for members willing to put themselves forward as future GWGC team members.

We enter team events which require contestants at Open, Novice and Novice Dog-Novice Handler level so there are opportunities for everyone. If you'd be interested in representing the club in the future, please e-mail Colin at colin@norlandsgundogs.co.uk.

The Edenbridge and Oxted Show

Sam Kirkham writes: "Sarah Wicks and I were delighted to represent Guildford Working Gundog Club at this year's Edenbridge & Oxted Show on the August Bank Holiday weekend. It was a pleasure to take our two old boys into the ring once again - Sarah with the ever-reliable **Alfie** and me with **Fergus**, both proud veterans who still love every moment of competition.

As always, the show delivered a fantastic atmosphere. The crowds were really enthusiastic, creating a brilliant backdrop for a day that celebrates working dogs at their best. The course itself proved challenging, demanding precision and steady handling but that only added to the enjoyment and sense of achievement.

It was, as ever, a great day out - one that reminds us why we love being part of this sport and this club. Thanks so much for enabling us and our two "old boys" to have a great day!"



L to R –Sam and Fergus and Sarah and Alfie

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www.dogitivity.com



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Training Organiser's Report

Lisa Murrell writes: "It has been an absolute pleasure to watch the progress of the dogs and handlers who attended training this season. We saw teams consolidate strong foundations, polish steadiness and handling and grow in confidence across different grounds and challenges. Regardless of where each partnership started, the consistent effort and teamwork on display throughout the season were genuinely impressive.



At our final training session, we were delighted to present the **Baveybuilt Award for Most Improved Trainee** to Hannah Shergold & Doug (please see the report on pages 16-17). Their development over the season was a real highlight and our trainers unanimously agreed they were worthy winners of the trophy. A very well-deserved award. Congratulations to them both.



Summer training class at Deerbridge

As always, organising training dates becomes more challenging each year with the number of working tests, training days, and events in the diary - and it takes a whole team to run each morning smoothly. Most importantly, we could not do it without our fantastic trainers: **Colin Pelham, Barry and Liz Taylor, Liz Barnes, Leigh Sutton and Joy Venturi Rose** who always help the club when asked.

I am also extremely grateful to our Committee members and regular helpers who arrive early to help park cars, throw dummies and keep everyone going with tea and biscuits. Thank you to **Jane, Chris, Julia, Mandy, James, Belinda, Christina, Lauren, Luke and Helen** - your support makes these training sessions possible.

Puppy class at Knaphill Manor



We may try and arrange a special training day later on in the summer although nothing is confirmed yet. It's always difficult to find a day when there is nothing else going on which would mean members would be busy elsewhere. If we are able to do this, we will send an e-mail to members well in advance of the date.

A quick reminder: if you plan to attend training, please let me know in advance. It helps enormously with planning and allows us to keep groups at a sensible size with enough trainers on hand which is important for quality training. My e-mail is lisa.gwgc@gmail.com.

Thank you again for supporting the club training this season. I welcome any feedback on how we can improve, and I wish all members a successful and enjoyable working test season ahead."

2026 TRAINING SCHEDULE		
Date	Time	Venue
Sat. 21st February	10:00-12:00	Gosden Hill Farm, Merrow, Guildford
Sat, 7th March	10:00-12:00	Gosden Hill Farm, Merrow, Guildford
Sun, 19th April	10:00-12:00	Knaphill Manor, Chobham
Sun, 3rd May	10:00-12:00	Knaphill Manor, Chobham
Sat, 23rd May	10:00-12:00	Deerbridge, Elstead
Sat, 20th June	10:00-12:00	Deerbridge, Elstead



COLIN PELHAM is a Royal Kennel Club A Panel Judge and runs Norlands Gundogs, based near Thorpe in Surrey. With a huge amount of experience, he provides:

- Working Test and Field Trial training for all levels
- Novice Dog-Novice Handler and basic gundog training
- One-to-one tuition and group training sessions. Training is tailored to the dog's level and the handler's experience
 - Dogs taken in for training and boarding
- Puppies, part trained and trained dogs sometimes available

For more details and/or to have a chat with Colin about how he could help you, please call **07798 787490** or e-mail colin@norlandsgundogs.co.uk

Directions to Club Training Grounds

Club signs will be out. Please do not enter the grounds until they are.

Gosden Hill Farm, Merrow, Guildford, GU4 7LE (the AGM will take place in The Grain Barn)

what3words: **///hats.palace.watch**

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, Carhouse Lane, Chobham, GU21 4XT

what3words: **///fake.dock.degree**

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

Deerbridge, Elstead, GU8 6LA

what3words: **///speaking.streaking.conductor**

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 in here and follow the Club signs.

Top Trainee: Styling out the Walk of Shame!

Each year, the Baveybuilt Training Award (kindly donated by Jean Baveystock) for the Most Improved Trainee is awarded to the handler who the trainers feel has progressed furthest at Club Training during the year. In Summer 2025, it was awarded to Hannah Shergold.

Hannah writes: “Whilst Doug, my chocolate labra-thug, isn’t my first retriever, or even my first picking up dog, he’s the first that I’ve taken through formal training and working tests. Doug (the Thug) is a seasoned townie – bomb-proof to all noise, traffic, people in weird hats and wielding umbrellas and an absolute sucker for playing with, being chased by, and showing off in front of other dogs. Enter... the zoomies!

Those that have trained with us will remember me standing in utter desperation, watching in vain as my dog charged round a training field, swinging a dummy by its toggle, prancing like a prat in front of fellow class mates, with the occasional grand finale being to hump another dog. He was wise to the long line, immune to scolding and content to entertain himself for a good 15 minutes.

Back in January 2025 I bought a shovel, but had yet to decide whether to dig myself a hole to hide in or to leave the dog at the training ground in a shallow, unmarked grave. We were ousted from training groups, laughed at, huffed at... the shame spiral was real!

But persevere we did.

One of the biggest lessons I’ve learnt is that not every trainer suits every dog or handler... and that’s totally OK. It has taken a bit of confidence and knowing my own dog to be able to steadily filter the information and narrow down the direction we needed to go in. GWGC has been instrumental in this process. Not just the fantastic trainers, but the multitude of committee members, helpers and fellow handlers that have been so warm and welcoming to us newbies. You have all offered advice and guidance so freely and when washed down with tea and chocolate biscuits, you’ve been the difference between going home and giving up or returning for another round of sprints across a muddy field.



Hannah and Doug

Thank you GWGC for our award. Whilst we are still so far from perfect (my dog is still convinced that he must say a quick hello to every dummy thrower within a 500 yard radius) we have turned a corner. It may well be the only trophy we ever win, but we are truly addicted and here for the education!"



Celebrating at the last training session



Doug and his trophy!



Retriever Gundog Training in Surrey
Field Trial/Working Test training
Novice Dog-Novice Handler, Novice & Open
Walked up, water, steadiness, roots training
Ground available to rent for training
Liz & John Barnes, Deerbridge House, Milford Road,
Elstead, Surrey, GU8 6LA.Tel: 01252 702493;
E-mail: deerbridgelabs100@gmail.com

Field Trial Secretary's Report

James Prout writes: "Another season comes to an end and the first for me as Field Trial Secretary. I must immediately acknowledge all the help I have had from Patti Money-Coutts, who held the role for the previous five years. Like James Bailey before her, Patti made incremental improvements throughout her tenure for her successor to inherit, whether that be proper boxes for the trophies or useful to-do lists to follow, plus answers to a constant stream of questions on WhatsApp. It made a huge difference. Colin Pelham also deserves special thanks for his wise counsel and help with judging, shooting teams and notably finding a replacement judge for Englefield at the last moment.



The GWGC Committee and club members were also incredibly supportive, from cooking to printing, stewarding to judging or shooting to marking. Organising a Field Trial is a team sport in itself and we are very fortunate as a club to have a thriving and enthusiastic community of triallers and members who want to get involved. My sincere thanks to those who helped us this season. I would also like to thank our sponsors, Skinner's and Silent Pool Gin, for their generosity and continued support of the Club and our sport.

Nevertheless, despite an abundance of proficient dogs and handlers in Working Tests, I believe that there is still a barrier for many to get involved in trialling. Helping at a field trial is undoubtedly the best way to learn and gain enough confidence to enter a trial. Some of the more straightforward roles eg game carrying or marking for drives give you the best seat in the house when it comes to observing the trial. So please contact me or any of the Committee if you would like to know more.

And so to the season and our three trials. First up was our 2-day Open at Windsor by gracious invitation of His Majesty the King and The Crown Commissioners. Head Keeper Peter Clayton, ably supported by his team, handled the day with his usual aplomb and expertise, setting the scene for a wonderful two days. The first of our Novice stakes was again supported by Lord Benyon, with Head Keeper David Wiggins and his beating team capably managing some challenging and interesting drives for the dogs and handlers alike. Englefield is a lovely estate and we are very grateful for yet another opportunity to trial there. After the arrival of the New Year and some real winter weather, it was time to focus on our second Novice trial at Ampton by kind invitation of Peter Rushbrook and under the calm, professional stewarding of Alan Hammond in charge of the line. We were lucky enough to avoid Storm Goretti and, with plentiful game, dogs and handlers were given every opportunity to shine, retrieving through the mustard and maize crops as the frost dissipated under the weak winter sun. The results, details and perspectives from our winners follow."

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Field Trial Results for the 2025-26 Season

Trial 1: 24 Dog Two Day Open AV Retriever Stake

Monday 4th and Tuesday, 5th November 2025

Venue: Windsor Great Park, Windsor, Berkshire
By gracious invitation of His Majesty The King and The Crown Commissioners

Judges: Heather Bradley (A2431)
Liz Taylor (A3536)
Peter Castleman(B1846)
Karen McCarthy (B3201)

Awards: 1st Gunnerspeg Gambler, Simon Capstick, The Cornwood Salver and The FtCh Deerbridge Alex Trophy
2nd FtCh Kilpen Nightcap of Waterford, Jayne Coley, The Curtis Trophy and also awarded Guns' Choice, winning The Foxhanger Mascot Tankard
3rd Willowrise Lilly, Paul Wheeler, also awarded Best Retrieve, winning The Norlands Trophy
4th FtCh Stauntonvale Margay of Rushbrigg, Samantha Morley-Riches



What a backdrop!

Trial 2: 14 Dog Novice AV Retriever Stake

Thursday, 27th November 2025

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

Judges: Colin Pelham (A2681)
Matthew Gould (B3776)
Sue Berman (NP3094)
Lisa Murrell (NP3990)

Awards: 1st Allmikamores Glorious Day, Louise Munchaus Adsbøel
The Guildford Cup and also awarded Guns' Choice, winning The GWGC Tankard
2nd Newwood Sankuru, James Scott, The Guildford Vase and also awarded Youngest Dog in the Awards, winning The GWGC Tankard
COM Famfish Crinle of Casper, Colin Coley
COM Crickmay Atlas, Alice Dowling
COM Eadiespools Rosefinch, James Prout

Trial 3: 14 Dog Novice AV Retriever Stake

Thursday, 8th January 2026

Venue: Ampton Estate, Bury St Edmund's, Suffolk
By kind permission of Peter Rushbrook and at the invitation of the Guildford Guns

Judges: Kevin Doughty (A0032)
Kim Jinks (A3430)
Patti Money-Coutts (NP4069)
Adam Snare (NP4088)

Awards: 1st Hectorkirk Nine, Charlie Cerullo
The Hydonsdown Bowl and The
Bratton Shield
2nd Millgreen Basil of Wadesmill, Andrew
Wright, The Pheasant Decanter and
also awarded Youngest Dog in the
Awards, winning The Gala Vase

Guns' Choice Tildaross Ouse, Peter Hurst
The Ged Leonard Tankard



Walking in line in the winter sunshine!

Field Trial Reports for the 2025-26 Season

Trial 1: 24 Dog Two Day Open AV Retriever Stake, Windsor Great Park

The winner of the trial, Simon Capstick, writes: "I started my 2025 season with enthusiasm, having my current Open dog FtCh Gunnerspeg Apollo in the form of his life, super fit, keen and with plenty of experience having qualified for the IGL Championship on 4 previous occasions and still only 5 years old. At our first 2-day Open at The Labrador Club of Wales, Apollo was awarded 3rd Place and we were off to a good start. His next trial was The South West Scotland Gundog Club's 2-day Open. The first day started perfectly with an A+ on a running partridge followed by 2 clean A retrieves, leaving Apollo the front runner at the end of day 1.

I retired back to my hotel for the evening, which is where the nightmare began. On walking the dogs later that night, I heard a squeal and Apollo came back limping. On inspection, it was apparent he had a serious injury - a badly cut wrist with his tendons visible through the laceration. I had no option but to withdraw him from the trial and away home he went for further veterinary treatment. His prognosis was at least 4-6 weeks off to allow the cut to heal naturally and, sadly, this was probably the end of his season.

On thinking my IGL dreams were over for the year, I decided to try my young dog, Gunnerspeg Gambler. A half-brother to Apollo, being out of the same dam (FtCh Drakeshead Casey), Gambler was only 2 years, 3 months old and had qualified out of Novice the previous season but I felt that, whilst he was a quality dog, he still had a way to go before he would become a reliable Open dog. I managed to get a run with him in the Southern and Western 2-day Open at Windsor. He picked all of his retrieves with style and was likely to be in the awards but his last (and 8th) retrieve, was a hare. He went to pick but the hare squealed so he put it down having never experienced that before and was eliminated from the trial. However, his performance prior to that point was solid for such a young dog. His next trial in The Labrador Club of Scotland, was far more successful, On day 1, he had a smart retrieve behind another dog on a snipe in a gorse bush followed on day 2 with a 2-dog eye wipe on a pheasant in deep canary reed grass. He was awarded 1st and qualified for the 2025 IGL Championship. He was then awarded 2nd in his next trial, the following 2 days at Checkley Wood for the Cheshire, North Wales and Shropshire Spaniel and Retriever Society - so, so near to making him up to a FtCh in just 2 days.

The following week, he was drawn to run in Guildford's 2-day, back at Windsor. He ran a super clean trial on tough and varied grounds and, with strong judges, he was awarded 1st place, so earning him his FtCh title.



Simon Capstick and Gambler



Judges and award winners



*FtCh Gunnerspeg Apollo at the 2025 IGL
Championship
Photo credit: Russ Aurelio*

I was thrilled that Apollo made a super recovery and also qualified for the 2025 IGL by winning the Midland Gundog Club 2-day trial at Packington.

The IGL Championship at Lauder in late November was a brilliant trial for the Gunnerspeg kennels with both Apollo and Gambler making it through to day 3, with both dogs down to the last 7. Gambler ran another lovely trial but ran into a mishap yet again on his last retrieve - he jumped a small river, misjudged the jump and fell in and under the water. He recovered, found the bird, put his head down to pick it, then lifted his head to shake the water out of his ears, then picked the bird. It was a minor misdemeanour but enough to eliminate him from the Championship. Apollo was more fortunate and was awarded 3rd place which was fantastic considering his injury only 7 weeks earlier.

From a disaster at the start of the season, the young dog Gambler was given a chance to shine, and shine he did, making up to FtCh in a handful of trials and completing the Retriever Championship until his last retrieve. I am very excited to see what the 2026 trialling season will bring with this talented young dog."



*Jayne Coley's FtCh Kilpen
NightCap of Waterford (placed
2nd) about to deliver, watched by
judge Heather Bradley*



*L to R Barry Taylor, Luke
Nightingale and Colin Pelham*



*Simon Capstick and Gambler with
judge Heather Bradley*

Trial 2: 14 Dog Novice AV Retriever Stake, Englefield Estate

The winner, Louise Munchaus Adsbøel writes: "I was pleased to get a run at Guildford's first Novice event of the season at the beautiful Englefield Estate by kind invitation of Lord Benyon. The trial was held on very natural undulating ground, ideal for a trial, and with some testing retrieves.

The Gamekeeper/Steward of the Beat David Wiggins produced some excellent high quality birds and I was happy to see the guns were up to the task of putting plenty on the floor. As all field triallers know, a team of guns can break or make a trial and ours were excellent. We had three lovely drives for the dogs, with most of the birds falling into woodland and bracken, making game finding a priority.

I was running my young bitch Allmikamores Glorious Day (call name Glory). Glory is home-bred by FtCh Beileys Aguzannis of Fendawood x FtCh Skovager's Six Mile Woodcock. With both parents Championship winners, on paper, she should be good! I feel you can train your dog day in day out but until you've actually had a few runs in trials, you never really know if the temperament is right! Glory is a repeat mating. I kept a dog from the first litter, Mikamores Fahrenheit, who won his novice earlier in the season. Both dogs have a super temperament. Around the home, Glory is very kind and, for a better description, "a girly labrador". It wasn't until I took her picking up that I realised what she had in the tank. She took to picking up "like a duck to water" - to watch her work heavy cover, you would think she'd been at it for years.

On the first drive we were lined up with our backs to the woodland and some birds fell close behind us, which really tested the young dogs' steadiness. I was asked to pick a pheasant out of a ditch that ran through the wood out of sight to the handlers. Glory entered the wood and jumped straight into the ditch, I stopped her and asked her to hunt. Fortunately, it wasn't long until the judge indicated she had picked the bird. Half of us also finished the second round on this drive.

The second drive was in woodland and we were lined up just behind the guns on a slope. The birds now dropped all around us, again testing the dog's steadiness to the max. Here we picked two birds. By the time the third drive came, we were down to five dogs. The guns continued to shoot well with birds landing in grass and woodland. All the four other dogs picked and I was the last dog to go. At this stage of a trial the atmosphere was tense as there were not many birds left and I still needed a retrieve.

For my final retrieve, I was given an area in the wood, the panel judge was in the wood and had positioned himself so he was able to assess the dog's work (but we couldn't see the judge). Glory held her line well as she entered the wood, pushing

through cover/bracken and briars - now it was up to her to do her part of the job. The judge said over the radio that Glory was in the area so I stopped her and asked her to hunt. I was told later Glory touched scent a good distance away from the bird which had landed into a thick briar patch. She drove straight into the nasty briars, picked and headed home.

We then retired to the shoot-shed to await the result and for some much needed lunch. The Guildford Committee cooks not only fed the judges, guns and helpers but us competitors too, such was their industry!

Thanks to the judges Colin Pelham, Matthew Gould (who kindly stepped in as a last minute replacement), Sue Berman and Lisa Murrell for doing a great job and for giving up their valuable time. Thank you, too, to the FT Secretary James Prout and his team of helpers, who made the day run like clockwork."



Award winners and judges



Impromptu catering in the field!

Trial 3: 14 Dog Novice AV Retriever Stake, Ampton

The winner of the trial, Charlie Cerullo, writes: "With the start of January failing to deliver favourable weather conditions, it was a cold winter's day at Ampton for GWGC's Novice trial. The day began with us starting third in the line. The first retrieve was a marked pheasant; Cooper was in excellent form and completed a clean and confident retrieve. The second retrieve proved slightly more challenging, a blind retrieve of a hare behind the line. Cooper had only previously picked one or two hares but after the judges gave a rough indication of the fall, I sent him back. Following a determined hunt of the area, Cooper successfully located the hare and delivered it perfectly, taking us through the first round.

During rounds two and three, Cooper continued to produce strong, accurate retrieves, boosting both his confidence and mine. By round four we were still going strong. However, after being called back into line to hunt for a pheasant, neither of the remaining dogs was able to locate the bird. After deliberation, the judges concluded that it had run on. We continued, with another pheasant shot and both dogs again called into line. Despite some excellent hunting from both dogs, the bird had once again run on. A dry run is not typically one of Cooper's strengths but not on this occasion. He remained composed and focused throughout. We then moved through the mustard fields where another bird was shot. This time Cooper produced a beautiful, clean retrieve and clearly took pride in this after having two dry runs previously.



To complete the trial, two further birds were required. The guns entered the cover crop and several birds were successfully flushed. The final retrieve of the day, and potentially the deciding factor, saw a bird fall on the edge of the cover crop. The judges moved our position further back into the mustard, increasing the difficulty. Cooper rose to the challenge and completed a lovely retrieve, bringing our day to a close.

At that point, I had no idea whether Cooper and I had scored highly enough to secure the win but I was immensely proud of the standard of work he had delivered throughout the day. I have owned Cooper for two years, during which time he has been used on the peg, picking up and competing successfully in a number of working tests, achieving multiple placings and a win. We only began field trialling twelve months prior to this event and with a handful of second and third places already behind us, I was absolutely thrilled to win GWGC's Novice Field Trial at Ampton. I am very much looking forward to a productive spring and summer of training as we prepare for Open tests and trials.

My sincere thanks go to Guildford Working Gundog Club for an excellent day that ran extremely smoothly and to all those involved in making the event such a success.”



Award winners and judges



The Guildford Guns









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THE GUILDFORD WORKING GUNDOG CLUB

Field & Trial combines decades of experience and understanding with specialised canine nutrition, helping generations of working dogs to perform at their peak.





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Working Test Secretary's Report

Mandy Bloomfield writes: "In 2025 we hosted four Working Test days. Our Novice Dog-Novice Handler and Veteran Tests were held in March at Parklands, Farnham where it was wonderful to see so many promising dogs and handlers taking part as well as those who have seen it all before! April brought our Special Puppy and Intermediate Tests at Upper Birtley, Godalming, attracting a strong entry and creating healthy competition across the classes. Our Novice Test took place in June at Knaphill Manor, Chobham and the Open Test was held in July in the beautiful grounds of Windsor Great Park. Our sincere thanks go to His Majesty the King and the Crown Commissioners, Mrs Susette Watts, Sir Graham Wilkinson Bt. and Mr Tom Slocock for their generosity and support. As we all know, without grounds and the support of landowners, we would not be able to enjoy these days at all.

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the helpers, upon whom we rely so heavily to ensure these events run smoothly. I am also extremely grateful to our Committee members for their continued support. A tremendous amount of work goes on behind the scenes to organise each Test day and I thank everyone involved, particularly Colin Pelham who sets all the Tests. My sincere thanks also go to all our judges for giving up their time and for their expertise. Congratulations to all our award winners in 2025.

After three years as Working Test Secretary, I am stepping down from the role, having thoroughly enjoyed my time in the position. The GWGC Committee is an exceptionally supportive team and it has been a pleasure to work alongside them. I wish my successor, Sue Booker, every success and hope she enjoys the role as much as I have. Please support Sue as much as you can and if you are able to offer to help at one or two Tests, please e-mail her at sue.gwgc@gmail.com."

Working Test Definitions

OPEN: Open to all.

NOVICE: Confined to dogs which have not gained an award or certificate of merit at a Field Trial, been placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in an Open Working Test or 1st in a Novice Working Test held in accordance with Royal Kennel Club regulations.

NOVICE DOG-NOVICE HANDLER: Confined to dog and handler who have not gained any award in a Field Trial or classified Working Test or won a Novice Dog -Novice Handler test.

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

INTERMEDIATE: Any dog which has not gained an award or certificate of merit at a Field Trial, been placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in an Open Working Test or 1st in an Intermediate Working Test

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

Working Test Schedule for 2026

Working Tests for AV Retrievers are run under The Royal Kennel Club "J Regulations" to include withdrawing from a test. All enquiries to Sue Booker, Working Test Secretary, at: 2 Leewood Road, Fleet, Hampshire, GU51 5AL, tel 07887 746890; e-mail sue.gwgc@gmail.com.

Entry fee (all tests): Members £10; Non-members £15; Late Entries £15. **To be included in the draw, entry fees (other than Late Entries) must be paid before the closing date for entries.** No refunds after closing dates for entries unless in accordance with the "J Regulations" of The Royal Kennel Club.

Novice Dog-Novice Handler, Special Puppy & Veteran Working Tests

Saturday, 21st March 2026

Venue: Deerbridge, Elstead
By kind permission of Mr John & Mrs Liz Barnes

Judges: Kim Jinks (A3430) Liz Barnes (NP2551)
Karen Handley (NP4084) Gill Sweeting (NP)

Trophies: ND-NH 1st The Foxhanger Mascot Trophy
Special Puppy 1st The Copsey Bracken Salver
2nd The Rayleas Trophy
Highest placed puppy under 18 months,
The Roderick Award
Veteran 1st The Thamis Trophy

Closing date for entries: Saturday, 14th March 2026

Novice and Intermediate Working Tests

Saturday, 13th June 2026

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

Judges: Martin Bagg (B3233) Alan Buckland (B3426)
Peter Castleman (B1846) Joy Venturi Rose (B1930)
Beth Morgan (NP)

Trophies: Novice 1st The Entonlee Trophy
2nd The Hoopwick Trophy
Intermediate 1st The Gunners Challenge Cup

Closing Date for entries: Saturday, 6th June 2026

Open Working Test

Sunday, 19th July 2026

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

Judges: Colin Pelham (A2681) Barry Taylor (A1633)
Liz Taylor (A3536) Patti Money-Coutts (NP4069)
Lisa Murrell (NP3990)

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

Closing Date for entries: Saturday, 11th July 2026

Entering GWGC Working Tests

IMPORTANT: Maximum 2 dogs per handler per day. Please bring a helper with you to hold one dog while competing with the other. Please do not assume that a steward or a fellow competitor will be able to do this for you.

When the club runs more than one class of Working Test on a given date, any one dog may only run in ONE class on that day. For example, the same dog may NOT run in both our Novice Test and our Intermediate Test. However, a handler may run a different dog in, for example, the Novice Test and Intermediate Test on the same day, subject to the overall maximum of 2 dogs per handler per day.

If possible, please enter our Working Tests using Field Trial Management System (FTMS) at www.fieldtrial.info and pay via FTMS using PayPal. Entries must be completed the day before the closing date because FTMS closes at midnight before the closing date. **To be included in the draw, entry fees (other than Late Entries) must be paid before the closing date for entries.**

We will accept paper entries if you cannot access FTMS. Please write your e-mail address clearly on the entry form (available on our website) or enclose a stamped, addressed envelope. Since the club now has to pay for the privilege of banking cheques, **please** pay entry fees for paper entries directly to the club's bank account rather than sending a cheque if you possibly can. The club's bank details are:

Lloyds Bank (business account)
Account Name: Guildford Working Gundog Club
Sort Code: 30-93-49
Account Number: 00151140

Working Test Results for the 2025 Season

Novice Dog-Novice Handler & Veteran Working Tests

Saturday, 22nd March 2025

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

Judges: Colin Pelham, Joy Venturi Rose, Alistair House and Lauren Wright

Novice Dog-Novice Handler

Awards: 1st Ginflight Valentina Of Fenwynhart, Lynne Zorab
The Foxhanger Mascot Trophy
2nd Hughjack Winston, Stuart Mainwaring
3rd Meddrrows Primrose, Jeanette Lithgo
4th Rosschalls Bryn Of Beb, Dylan Edwards
COM Flowingfleet Elizabeth, Jacqueline Burden

Veteran

Awards: 1st Troddenmills Filthy Blonde, Liz Bridger
The Thamis Trophy
2nd Mitforton Neon, Mike Crutchley
3rd Polihale Bucks Fizz At Baveybuilt, Jean Baveystock

Special Puppy & Intermediate Working Tests

Sunday, 27th April 2025

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

Judges: Peter Castleman, Patti Money-Coutts, Lisa Murrell and Tom Sage

Special Puppy

Awards: 1st Bellaroyals Desert Fox, Milly Brotherhood
The Copsy Bracken Salver and Melissa also received The
Roderick Award for the highest placed puppy under 18 months
2nd Lonningend Lady Flora, Bryony Hamilton
The Rayleas Trophy
3rd Mitforton Kindred, Louie Robertson
4th Carrigvale Ollie, Emma Mills
COM Jenberry Colquhoun At Colwellbay, Amanda Wiltshire

Intermediate

- Awards: 1st Idawood Limo, Kerry Wallis
The Gunners Challenge Cup
2nd Brisingamen Pyethorne Wood, Olu Jenzen
3rd Threelcliffs Mistletoe, Sally Sturt
COM Thalia Aphrodite Of Redvalci, James McKenzie

Novice Working Test

Sunday, 8th June 2025

- Venue: Knaphill Manor, Chobham, Surrey
By kind permission of Mr Tom Slocock
- Judges: Colin Pelham, Liz Barnes, Karen Handley, Coral Meakes, Helen Sanderson and Lauren Wright
- Awards: 1st Wellingtons Dark Knight, Ali Williams
The Entonlee Trophy
2nd Bondekirefu Pegasus, Audrey Howie
The Hoopwick Trophy
3rd Bradley Green Eclipse Sue, Lee Dunn
4th Birdsmill Ralph, Carl Smithers
COM Dulcet Dora, John Bryce Malcolmson
COM Red Hot Wasabi, Bonnie Drysdale

Open Working Test

Sunday, 20th July 2025

- Venue: Windsor Great Park, Windsor, Berkshire
By gracious invitation of His Majesty The King, The Crown Commissioners and the Head Keeper, Peter Clayton
- Judges: James Bailey, John Stubbs, Barry Taylor, Liz Taylor and Alan Buckland
- Awards: 1st Welige Lady Sybil of Wight, Bryony Hamilton
The Challenge Cup
2nd Rookhollow Dahlia Of Woodlandway, Beth Morgan
The Rollin Shield
3rd Troddenmills If Only, Robert Small
4th Hardhamhouse Moet Of Woodlandway, Beth Morgan
COM Gwidigada Ivy, Jennifer Thomas
COM FtCh Tullysedge Incas Gold, Sue Jordan
COM Jocifers Storm, Tim Pain

Working Test Reports for the 2025 Season

Novice Dog-Novice Handler & Veteran Working Tests

Novice Dog-Novice Handler winner Lynne Zorab writes: "What a memorable day! A first on several counts - my first visit to GWGC, my first test of the season and finally the day culminating in Purdey and I managing to come first!

The weather was dry, if a little cool, but not unexpected for the time of year. The four tests were dotted throughout attractive woodland and one open field. I found everyone very friendly, albeit with a general feeling of nervous excitement! Having collected my number and bought my raffle tickets, it was time to focus on the task ahead, walk my dog and get my nerves under control!

Throughout the day it was lovely to sit and chat to fellow competitors as we waited at each test, have the opportunity to meet new faces and just share experiences about our beloved dogs. I found each judge to be very helpful and supportive, giving much appreciated advice, which is so important at any level, but particularly when you are a novice handler. The stewards, too, were helpful and friendly, giving a bright "Good luck!" to each competitor as they took their turn.

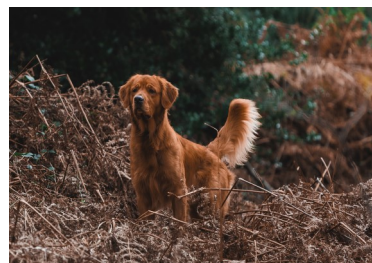
So, a marvellous day with lots to think about going forward and areas to work on, but one I shall always remember. Thank you GWGC!"



ND-NH award winners and judges



Veteran award winners and judges



*L - ND-NH winner Lynne Zorab
Above: Waiting for instructions?!*

Photo credits: George Hodgson Fieldsports Photography

Veteran winner Liz Bridger writes “This was my first test of the year and I had never been to this venue before. What a great place! Grass tracks in woodland with some natural bunkers. Each test was a double retrieve with a mixture of blinds and marks. We started on 2 blinds with some heelwork in between the retrieves, then a mark with a stop onto a shorter dummy. The next test was a 2-dog walk up where Snatch showed her enthusiasm and was very keen to do her retrieves. Our 4th test was a blind down a track, a short walk to heel, then a blind in the woods. It was a great day. Running Snatch is such a joy and she loved the day. A fantastic group of people and many thanks to GWGC for such a well organised day. I was so pleased to have won after a 3-dog run-off.”



*Two of the Veteran entrants in action
L to R 2nd placed Mitforton Neon with Mike Crutchley and
3rd placed Polihale Bucks Fizz at Baveybuilt with Jean Baveystock
Photo credit: George Hodgson Fieldsports Photography*

Special Puppy & Intermediate Working Tests

Special Puppy winner Milly Brotherwood writes: “Our first test was at the pond. A mark up a slight incline with the dummy landing out of sight, followed by a blind in the water. In the exercise area beforehand, Timber had mismarked and very uncharacteristically dropped his practice retrieves so I was feeling the nerves! I needn’t have worried - he retrieved and delivered both dummies perfectly.

The next test was a mark and a memory. He got a bit disorientated as there was a crossing track half way up the other side so I had to stop him and give a back. He quickly realised his mistake, picked and then went back for the memory.

Our 3rd test was a mark and a blind. We were stood on a rise looking across to a plantation with a few scrubby bushes partially obscuring the fall of the mark on a winding track. Timber’s outrun through the rushes and over a ditch was fast and accurate but he slightly overshot the mark. I had my whistle ready but he quickly corrected himself and picked without help. He took a good line to the blind, just off the original track in the plantation. I stopped him on the track and directed him left - he picked quickly, coming back fast and earning himself a coveted 20.

The last test was a walk up in long grass. I was very pleased with his steadiness as the dog we were paired with had trouble locating the dummy on both retrieves and was kangarooing enthusiastically up and down the field! Timber marked his two retrieves, made the area both times and had a short hunt to locate them. The walk up was proving tricky so I was thrilled he managed to complete them with no assistance from me.”



Special Puppy and Intermediate award winners and judges

Intermediate winner Kerry Wallis writes: “The Guildford Intermediate test at Upper Birtley marked Wilf’s and my first Intermediate competition of the season. Having moved up from Puppy after last year’s successes, we were now navigating both Novice and Intermediate levels.

The opening test was a two-dog walk-up with two marks to shot. However, starting pistol issues caused two false starts, leaving the dogs alert and on edge!

Test two presented a mark across a reed bed and stream, up a bank, then a blind further left into a plantation. It was a solid challenge that Wilf navigated confidently.

The third test proved interesting. A mark was thrown across the far bank but, first, we had to take a blind that required sending the dog down the bank, across a wooden bridge (Wilf’s first!), stopping, then redirecting left before returning for the mark. Wilf descended so quickly that he’d crossed the bridge before registering what it was but returned just as smoothly. I was delighted with him.

The final test incorporated water work: a blind approximately 40 yards out, followed by another along the bank into a small clump of trees. Once again, Wilf’s response was pleasing.

I was satisfied with Wilf’s performance in his Intermediate debut and genuinely surprised to hear him announced as the winner. The day offered excellent company, conditions and well-designed tests. Many thanks to the club, judges, helpers and the landowner for providing such a quality ground.”

Novice Working Test

Novice winner, Ali Williams writes: “Sunday, 8th June was the most amazing day and one I will never forget. It was a beautiful day with a good breeze and great grounds with longer grass, woodland and rough cover.

The tests were challenging but fair and doable. We had trained hard and we concentrated on every test each time thinking about the wind but quite frankly, Archie just went like a dream.

All tests done we stopped for a social lunch. I thought it had gone well but it was a strong field and I didn't anticipate what was to come. So, there we were just packing lunch things away and there was a voice in the car park calling “Number 29”, “Where is 29?”. Everyone looked around. “Heck that's us, what have you done Archie, you are only in the run-off!”. Wow, what a feeling that was after all those training days, tears and laps of honour! I woke Archie up and got him back in the game with a couple of short retrieves.

Wind direction checked, we were second out. The first dog was gone, only heard the shot and the dog being handled. We were up next, walking through an avenue of spectators towards the judges. What an experience! The test was a mark - not too long but tough with the breeze and the long grass which was making the task challenging for the dogs and handlers. Archie is generally a good marker and the conditions were perfect for him. Shot fired - “send your dog” - he went out directly for the mark turned on the wind, picked and came straight back with a perfect delivery to hand. No handling. We did it. At this point we realised that we were going to be placed in a Novice test but how thrilled we were to be the winner. Thank you to everyone for the planning and organising, very smart stewarding to keep the tests running so efficiently and thank you to all the judges. We had a wonderful day.”



Novice award winners and judges



Ali Williams and Archie

Open Working Test

Open winner, Bryony Hamilton writes: “After some very hot weather the day of Guildford’s Open Test at Windsor Great Park was cloudy and actually a little damp which was just perfect for working our dogs. Colin Pelham had set 5 really good Open tests which included a 2 dog walk up in quite challenging long grass with a short and a long retrieve for each dog, a long mark and then an equally long blind in a different area, a blind over water followed by a blind land retrieve, a mark through some woods with a blind through some tall bracken towards a fallen tree and, lastly, a long memory mark with the dummy falling just out of sight coupled with a blind in a different area behind a fallen tree.

Sybil, my 4-year-old Lab bitch is the softest dog ever. She worries about lots of things and prefers training with just me rather than any groups, but put her in a test environment and she absolutely steps up to the plate, looks after me if I’m suffering from imposter syndrome and tries her absolute best. A more honest dog you couldn’t ask to meet and on that day she did me proud dropping only 3 marks from the 5 tests to win us 1st place.

Thank you to the Committee for a really well organised day, to the 5 judges who gave up their day to allow us to compete - James Bailey, John Stubbs, Liz Taylor, Barry Taylor and Alan Buckland - and certainly not forgetting all the helpers, but mostly to my wonderful Miss Sybil, whom of course I just couldn’t do it without!”



Open award winners and judges

And finally ...

Congratulations to our Secretary, Lauren Wright and her partner Luke Nightingale on the arrival of baby Arthur in July 2025. Arthur has already been out picking up many times with Lauren and Luke and he came to our 2-day Open Field Trial at Windsor Great Park in November where he met HRH The Princess of Wales when she was out walking her spaniels at the start of day two!



Arthur helping judge Heather Bradley!



Snuggled up with Lauren

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, Hon Field Trial Secretary and 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 no more than 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 or by The Royal 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 Royal 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 Hon 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 shall be such an amount as agreed by members in the General Meeting and notified to The Royal 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.
9. **EXPULSION OF MEMBERS.** Any member who shall be disqualified under Royal Kennel Club Rule A11.j.(5) and/or Royal Kennel Club Rule A11.j.(9) shall *ipso facto* cease to be a member of the Society. 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 Royal Kennel Club upon and subject to such condition as The Royal 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 Special 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 Royal 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 Royal Kennel Club by the Secretary for continuance of registration and that by 31st July each year, other returns, as stipulated in Royal 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 Royal Kennel Club. The Officers also acknowledge their duty to inform The Royal Kennel Club of any changes of Secretary of the Club which may occur during the course of the year.
15. **ROYAL KENNEL CLUB FINAL COURT OF APPEAL.** The Royal Kennel Club is the final authority for interpreting the rules and regulations of the Society in all cases relative to canine or Society 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 or hold any other office or appointment within a Royal Kennel Club Registered Society.

Programme of Events - Spring/Summer 2026

We always try to avoid our events clashing with those of other clubs. However, there are many other gundog clubs based in the South East so, unfortunately, clashes may happen from time to time.

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Saturday, 21st February	10:00 - 12:00	Training	Gosden Hill Farm, Merrow, Guildford
Saturday, 7th March	10:00 - 12:00	Training	Gosden Hill Farm, Merrow, Guildford
Saturday, 7th March	12:30	Annual General Meeting	The Grain Barn at Gosden Hill Farm, Merrow, Guildford (see page 6)
Saturday, 21st March	09:00	ND-NH, Special Puppy and Veteran	Deerbridge, Elstead
Sunday, 19th April	10:00 - 12:00	Training	Knaphill Manor, Chobham
Sunday, 3rd May	10:00 - 12:00	Training	Knaphill Manor, Chobham
Saturday, 23rd May	10:00- 12:00	Training	Deerbridge, Elstead
Saturday, 13th June	09:00	Novice and Intermediate Tests	Knaphill Manor, Chobham
Saturday, 20th June	10:00 - 12:00	Training	Deerbridge, Elstead
Sunday, 19th July	09:00	Open Test	Windsor Great Park