

Utility Gundog Society
Beds, Herts & Bucks
Yearbook 2025



Utility Gundog Society - Herts, Beds & Bucks

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Website: <https://www.utilitygundogsociety.com/branches/hbb/>

Committee & Officers

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Committee Members	Deborah Goodman, John Keegan, Sharon Smith, Vince Thorby, Josefine van der Dussen, Andrew Wright

Chairman's Report

2024/25 was a busy year for the Club. Harriet Newcombe meticulously organised a series of Working Tests starting off with the Open Qualifier at Easneye Estate, followed by a Novice and Special Puppy at Cuffley, Puppy, Novice Dog/Novice Handler and Veteran at Rickneys and ending with the Open Walked Up Sugar Beet at Manor Farm, Royston. Thank you Harriet for negotiating to use the grounds, for carefully selecting the Judges and for attracting the many willing and experienced helpers and for casting the Club in such a professional light.

With the resignation of our Field Trial Secretary at the end of 2023 season I was relieved when John Keegan stepped up to the mark again as Field Trial Secretary for 2024. John skilfully organised the All Aged Qualifier at Cuffley, a Novice at Black Notley, a second Novice at Standon and lastly the UGS All Aged Finals at Ampton. We are grateful to John for his care in selecting the grounds, the Judges and the helpers and for the smooth running of each event. John is due a big promotion for all his efforts so watch this space! Steve Coxell has kindly volunteered to take over the Retriever Field Trial Secretary role for the Club going forward.

Training is a very good way of initiating and graduating ones interest in competing and working with Gundogs. We are grateful for Louise Bailey's hard work finding the ground at Rickneys, Bengoe and organising the evening training sessions. As well as helping trainees to assess and improve their abilities, training also has a beneficial social and financial impact on the Club.

We can only enjoy our sport because of the generosity of landowners who allow us to use their beautiful grounds for Working Tests and Field Trials. We are exceedingly grateful to Philip Smith, Jeffrey Pearman, David Rand, Andrew Wright, Danny Breeze and Peter Rushbrook. A special thank you to David Thomas at Cuffley who has helped and supported the Club with Working Tests and Field Trials over a very long period. We wish you a long and happy retirement!

I may at times appear efficient and effective as a Club Chairman but this is only achieved because of the loyal and hard working Committee who never cease to amaze me with their passion and ingenuity for our sport. Thank you team!

I wish all the Committee and Members a successful and happy year ahead with your dogs

Jim Collins
Chairman



Notice of AGM

**The Annual General Meeting of the Herts, Beds and Bucks
Branch of the
Utility Gundog Society will be held on
08 March 2026 at
Standon, Herts
All members most welcome.**

Election of Officers & Committee Members

All Officers to retire annually but may offer themselves for re-election.

No member of the committee may serve for more than 3-years without standing for re-election.



Membership and Subscriptions

Subscriptions are due on 1st February each year

Single Member	£12 per annum
Joint Members	£17 per annum
Young Handlers – under 16-years of age	FREE

New members will pay a “one off” joining fee of £10 together with the annual subscription.

Joint membership is offered to allow for dogs that are registered with multiple owners but does not allow both joint members to participate in the same event.

If your subscription is not received by 1st April, a re-joining fee of £10 will become payable in addition to the annual subscription fee. Members can update their details through their profile page online.

Please be aware that only fully paid-up members of UGS Herts, Beds & Bucks are entitled to participate in our Working Tests at the membership fee of £15. Non-members are welcome to enter if space permits at an increased fee of £25.

We prefer that membership payments are made by Bank Transfer, or through Standing/Debit Order (please use your surname and post code as the payment reference) as per the Standing Order Mandate. We do still accept cheques.

Cheques should be made payable to:

Utility Gundog Society Herts, Beds and Bucks

And post to: Jonathan Desmarais
Membership Secretary
17 Apple Tree Close
Biggleswade
SG18 8NF

Change of details:

Please send any address changes to the above address, or by email: jonde99@yahoo.com

When renewing your membership annually you agree to your personal details being held on our computer (see *UGS Rules and Regulations on our website detailing the club's privacy notice*).



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Using the Website

The UGS HBB uses the website as an online portal for membership and event management. It also provides entry into our events. Below is a short guide on how to use the new online portal. We welcome constructive feedback so we can improve the user experience. Please read the sections below carefully.

User Registration

Existing members will not need to create a new portal account, [your username will be your recorded email address](#). You should have received an email from the system with these instructions. If you did not receive this email, check your spam folder. If you are unsure which email we have in our records, contact us via the support options listed below in the "Need Help?" section.

If you need to register a new user account, click on the [LOGIN](#) menu item above and complete the **USER REGISTRATION** section.

Membership

User registration does not constitute membership. Membership should be applied for by following the instruction on the [MEMBERSHIP](#) page. Our events are open to non-members; therefore, membership is not mandatory.

Updating Your Details

You must [LOGIN](#) with your portal user to access your profile details.

You can view your account details on the [PROFILE](#) page which can be found in the **MEMBERS** menu. Please ensure your details are accurate and maintained. Only you and system admins can see these details. Your details will never be shared.

Note: *your email address is also your login name, you can change that at any time from the [PROFILE](#) page.*

Adding Dogs

In order to enter events, you must add your dogs to the system; this can be done from the [PROFILE](#) page, which can be found in the **MEMBERS** menu. At the bottom of the [PROFILE](#) page click the **ADD DOG** button and enter the required details.

Note: *It is important that you maintain your dog's qualifications, as this will be considered during event draws.*

Entering Events

To enter events, you must [LOGIN](#) to the portal.

Events can be entered through the [EVENTS & RESULTS](#) menu item.

Choose the desired event from the list and click the **EVENT DETAILS** button. You will be presented with the main Event Page, divided into TABs (Schedule, Entries, Draws, Results). You can enter the event on the **SCHEDULE** tab, using the **ENTER EVENT** button. The other tabs are self-explanatory.

Withdrawals: *If you need to withdraw from an event, please contact the appropriate events secretary.*

Substitutions: *If you need to substitute your dog at any time please contact the appropriate events secretary.*

Note: *The event system is "Dog Owner Specific". That presents some limitations with respect to managing other people's dogs.*

- *Dogs added to a user account assume that user to be the dog owner, and will be recorded as such in all documentation.*
- *Dogs can only be entered into events by the user account to which that dog is added.*
- *If you manage other member's dogs, you will need to maintain one user account for each of those members.*
- *All automated notifications will only be sent to the user email address.*

Reset Password

Your first login will require a password reset, do that on the [password reset page](#). Make sure the field does not include any blank spaces before or after your email address.

Need Help?

We understand a new system can be somewhat daunting; we are here to help. If you have any problems accessing or using the website, feel free to contact us.

- Via Email [Support](#)
- Via [WhatsApp](#)



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Spaniels Field Trial report

The 2024-2025 field trial season started off with 3 field trials booked. Our open (Excluding cocker spaniels) at Cuffley in Hertfordshire, our Novice AV at Beckingham Hall near Maldon and our Open cocker trial at Shotesham Park, Norfolk. Sadly, the latter was cancelled due to a lack of entries, which is incredibly unfortunate; and our apologies go to the host, Mark Watson for all of the arrangements he made to ensure we would've had a good trial.

On a personal note, I would like to express my thanks to Nikki Hunter who I have taken over from. Nikki did a huge amount of work getting these trials ready and my thanks and best wishes go to her for her continued support to ensure that everything handed over to me as smoothly as possible. My thanks to the parent body committee who have supported me as I jumped into the role and to the support I have also had from the competitors who were very understanding of my late arrival to the party!

I am very much looking forward to 2025. Plans are already underway for at least one working test and I look forward to the 2025/26 trialling season.



James Reavil
UGS Spaniel Section Field Trial Secretary



Spaniels Field Trial results

Open Stake (excluding Cocker spaniels) - 11th December 2024

A chilly day at Cuffley, Hertfordshire, kicked off our field trial season by kind permission of Mr David Thomas. A great spaniel ground providing plenty of cover and game to test the dogs. Our judges, Mr Guy Stubbings and Mr Kev Richardson we able to give the following awards:

- 1st place Shiveck Siouxie, owned and handled by Terri Siwek
- 2nd place Briarbank Mungo, owned and handled by Peter Kerry
- 3rd place & Gun's Choice: Rocket Rosey of Valanjess, owned by Clarence Colclough and handled Mark Colclough
- 4th place Loperwood Harmony, owned and handled by Nick Cox
- CoM Belvden Yarnold, owned by Mark Clifford and handled by Mark Colclough
- CoM & The Rod Chapel trophy: Shiveck Boss of Wateravens, owned and handled by Shirley Stephens



Our thanks goes to the guns for dropping the birds, for the dogs and handlers, the stops and to the picking up dogs not to mention the stewards and game carriers and those behind the scenes that helped me



Novice AV Spaniel stake - 12th December 2024

Our second and final trial of the season, quickly followed our open stake being held at Butterfield Farm, part of the Beckingham Hall Estate by kind permission of Mr Henry Carr. The day started chilly and consistently damp throughout the day. The trial was held in bird seed cover predominantly throughout the day giving everyone the same type of ground and cover. Sufficient game to test all of the dogs allowed the judges, Mr Angelo Lo Curto and Mr Jonathon Nightingale to award the following:

- 1st place Rosebay Starling, owned and handled by Ben Wright
- 2nd place & Gun's Choice: Teybrook Warfdale, owned and handled by Andrew Waterhouse
- 3rd place Kenzduo Apricotta, owned and handled by Julie Cracknell
- 4th place Nossewej Javert, owned and handled by Tracey Jewesson-Newman
- CoM Gort Colleen, owned and handled by Andy Ling
- CoM Churail Candour of Finnvale, owned and handled by Victoria Gross



Again my thanks goes to the guns who shot well throughout the day, the stewards and helpers that allowed the trial to flow smoothly

Working Test report & results

Working Test report

We've had another successful year for the Working Test season with all the tests going well.

Thank you to all those that helped make the days run so smoothly, I honestly couldn't run the days without my amazing helpers; Mick, Amanda, Kevin, Hilary, Ellen, Richard B, Richard J, Becs, Claire, Jacqui, Ollie, Julie, Caroline, Helen, Josie, Leanne, Lesley, Andi, Rhiannon, Penny, Debbie, Jim, Sarah, and Guy.

I would like to thank our generous sponsors Sporting Saint and Skinners for their continued support at each of our working tests and I am pleased to announce they will be sponsoring us again this year.

If anyone would like to offer their help this year please email me at Harriet.newcombe94@gmail.com, helping is a great way to learn about working tests and to see what is required by both dog and handler. It also allows you to see some truly great dog work.

Looking forward to the year ahead!.

Harriet Newcombe
Working Test Secretary



We held our **Open Qualifier** on Sunday 17th March at Easneye Estate, Ware by kind permission of The Buxton Family.

Judges: Nick Clitheroe (A2450), Joy Venturi-Rose (B1930), Lesley Crompton and Jennifer Thomas.

We were very kindly sponsored by Skinner's Field and Trial, and Sporting Saint. A big thank you to the landowner, judges and helpers for all your hard work and for a great day.

Open Qualifier

1 st place	Michael Crutchley with Mitforton Teal
2 nd place	Anthony Peters with Atikonak Bullrush
3 rd place	Ellena Nunneley with Swiftlands Briar
4 th place	Robert Small with Troddenmills If Only
CoM	Abbie Reid with Lyebreach Golden Eagle Of Riverlily
CoM	John Keegan with Geordieland Wolfie



- Michael Crutchley with Mitforton Teal winning The Marlborough Trophy and The Rayleas Cup.
- Anthony Peters with Atikonak Bullrush winning The Edrith Cup to the Runner-up.
- Jacqui Crew with Hanans Kertis winning The Leanchor Cup for The Best Golden Retriever.

Congratulations to all those in the awards! 1st - 4th qualify for the UGS Area Finals team event.

Second test held was a **Novice Working Test** and **Special Puppy Working Test** on Sunday 21st April at Cuffley by kind permission of Mr Dave Thomas.

Judges: Jo Rollinson (B3838), Andy Cooper (NP4041), Steve Coxell and Roy Jarman.

We were very kindly sponsored by Skinner's Field and Trial and Sporting Saint. A big thank you to the landowner, judges and helpers for all your hard work and for a great day.



Special Puppy

Unfortunately there were no awards in Special Puppy.

Novice

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1 st place | Marianne Copp with Easthoath Benedict |
| 2 nd place | Andi Whitwham with Cecile Pearl Witherington |
| 3 rd place | Cathy Brooks with Kirbyhall Gwilym |
| 4 th place | Kerry Gurman with Olanena Lusty Gaze Bay |
| CoM | Paul Buckenham with Snipe Sister |

Third test held was a **Puppy, Novice Dog Novice Handler and Veteran Working Test** on Sunday 7th July at Rickneys Training Ground by kind permission of Andrew and Julie Wright.

Judges: Glynis Hillier (A2280), Josefine van der Dussen (NP3490), Jacqui Crew and Sam Davis.

We were very kindly sponsored by Skinner's Field and Trial, and Sporting Saint. A big thank you to the landowner, judges and helpers for all your hard work and for a great day.

Puppy

- 1st place Cynthia Thackwell with Anningtonbay Loyal
- 2nd place Sarah Cox with Blackenvoy Tenacious Dee
- 3rd place Ben Starns with Blackenvoy Tic Tac
- 4th place Ben Starns with Blackenvoy Revelry
- CoM David Barnes with Millgreen Tansy
- CoM Linda Peake with Marhystin Steele

Novice Dog Novice Handler

- 1st place Sarah Cox with Colquite Mary Poppins Of Blackenvoy
- 2nd place Alice Trett with Norse Raven
- 3rd place Pearl Tickell with Pallingforth Mirabelle Of Artistryn
- CoM Helen Knight with Jaycote Firestorm Tallulah
- CoM Debbie Cullen with Bobwalden Lillan

Veteran

- 1st place Michael Crutchley with Mitforton Neon
- 2nd place Mike Hamilton with Tealcreek Little Miss Bad
- 3rd place Abbie Reid with Riverlily Summer Star
- 4th place Abbie Reid with Riverlily Summer Storm
- CoM Jenny King with Riverlily Sunshine Swift At Lyebreach

Congratulations to all those in the awards!



UGS HBB held an **Open Walked Up on FT Lines in Sugar Beet** on Sunday 4th August at Manor Farm. At Hatchpen Farm, Royston by kind permission of Mr D Rand.

Judges: Lee Hayman (B3732) and Vince Thorby
Steward of the Beet: Julian Williams (NP3797).



Awards

1 st place	Andy Cooper with Dapplebrook Laxtons Superb
2 nd place	Tim Brain with Cornstraw Drake Of Flypatch
3 rd place	John Keegan with Geordieland Wolfie
CoM	Lesley Crompton with Hanwoodgold Breeze
CoM	Daniel Egan with Krakenmac Curtanas Ruby

We were very kindly sponsored by Skinner's Field and Trial, and Sporting Saint. A big thank you to the landowner, judges and helpers for all your hard work and for a great day.

Extra thank you to Amanda for your help at all of my tests this year and John for the bacon rolls. Perfect weather today and the most perfect ground with the cleanest beet I've seen! Well done to our winner for not dropping a point all day.

Thoughts from the podium...

A chance to hear a sampling of the thoughts of a few of the all-weather, all-terrain entrants who shone on their days:

Michael Crutchley with Mitforton Teal – 1st Place Open Qualifier

17th March 2024 at Easney Estate

“Easney Estate, near Ware, home to the Buxton Family is a fabulous venue for testing dogs, boasting a mix of terrain; varied woodland, large stretches of open fields with a small river running through.

Teddy, a 3 year old yellow Labrador, has been slow in growing up. Having only recently qualified out of Novice he'd picked up a CoM in his first Open outing, and so I was fairly confident we wouldn't disgrace ourselves. Just looking through the running order though, it was clear that we were stepping up a grade. So we arrived with the attitude it'd be a practical training day with a chance to brush up on our communication skills! He'd be doing all the work, with me on hand to back him up. The tests were the best I've seen in 25 years of mucking about with retrievers, testing the dogs' marking and distance, with quite precise technical handling required to test the drivers.

We started in the woods with Lesley Crompton judging a blind and a mark across a wide ditch and over rough terrain through quite a bit of brash. Some of the dogs running in our group seemed to struggle as we could hear a lot of whistling. Not knowing what to expect, we managed to get away with it and I hardly had to touch the dog. It was the same on the next test with Jennifer Thomas. Two marks with no shot at right angles in undulating woodland involved precise directional handling. Teddy's honesty with the stop whistle made it look easy. We were starting to enjoy ourselves! Nick Clitheroe's 4 dog walk up was very challenging. We were last of the four to go – the previous three dogs having a blind to shot off the right end of the line followed by a very long memory ahead.

There was a lot of handling from one of our running partners and I felt that at any moment all would be lost with such a young and green dog – but Teddy kept his head and steadiness, before polishing off his two retrieves in great style.

Last test was with Joy Venturi-Rose. Two massively long marks to shot at right angles. The first mark I could hardly make out in the distance and there was no time for the dog to register the fall, because we had to turn swiftly to our left to clock the second mark about 200 yards out, over the river. The bunker was the shot echoing off a building 50 yards to the right; so the trick was to point the dog's head at the area of the fall. Once over the river he ran slightly off-line and I had to step in and burn a point or two, then back to the distant memory which was nailed without any fuss.

I felt Teddy had run his little socks off on the day, and so I was thrilled beyond words to discover we had not only won, but qualified to run in the UGS Area finals – a real honour. I was truly excited about representing HBB in the finals only to be disappointingly struck down with Covid three days before the event. For now I'd like to thank Harriet and all the team at HBB for running such a remarkable and enjoyable day's Test for both dog and handler and look forward to more next spring.”



Marianne Copp with Easthoath Benedict – 1st place Novice

21st April 2024 at Cuffley

“A lovely day for a working test, warm enough for the handlers and not hot for the dogs, we were welcomed by Harriet and introduced to the judges, Jo Rollinson Andy Cooper, Steve Coxell and Roy Jarman, and off we set... Basil's first test was walk up, which he managed, just, dropping five marks for his very best heel work! Redeemed by good marking and retrieving. Second test was two very long marks, picking the first one first, both becoming memories, which he managed well.

Our third test was water, really interesting questions for handlers and dog. A mark was thrown on to the water, over a ditch, through long reeds and no vision of it landing. Dogs were sent and handlers could only hope that they kept going in the right direction and had the confidence to pick off the water when they got there, all out of sight. Seemed to take forever, but back he came from the right place with his dummy. The last test for us was a long mark at the top of a hill, before which we were asked to pick a blind at an angle of about 30 degrees from that line to our left, over a ditch, in long grass, about 40 yards away. One stop whistle, left handle, pick, no problem, nobody more surprised than me, and then pick the mark, which had become a very long way away, needed a little handle when he got to the top of the hill and picked.

I was delighted with his behaviour all day and really surprised and grateful to the judges and to the club and brilliant helpers for a super day and a win!

Big thank you to the Cuffley Estate and to Dave Thomas for having us all there and to Harriet for all her hard work, and to her wonderful helpers, who made the day run like clockwork. Basil turned from Naughty Basil to Darling Basil overnight, however it's still work in progress!”

Cynthia Thackwell with Anningtonbay Loyal – 1st place Puppy

7th July 2024 at Rickneys Training Ground

“Firstly a huge thank you to Andrew Wright for providing such a lovely venue for the test and for all the hard work that Harriet and her team of helpers put into making it such a lovely day for all of us.

Despite the odd rain shower we had some lovely tests and even lovelier judges (I know how to creep!!) – no, honestly, they were so helpful and settled us in well. Thank you Gylnis, Sam, Jacqui and Josie for giving up your day for us to work our dogs, it is much appreciated.

*So – 4 great tests. I really wasn't sure how ready we were for putting ourselves out there in public but my Rosie is a very biddable little girl who just wants to get it right so we thought we would give it a go!
We started with a double mark, turn away from the second one thrown and send them up the hill and then send for the shorter mark. Well that all seemed to go Ok, we didn't drop it or run off or forget where the second mark was, we even marked it!!*

So off to test 2 – This was a mark and a blind and we did need a stop whistle. I think Rosie was listening to the instructions as she managed this one perfectly too. Test 3 – water – we love water! A mark over the water and a memory on the bank – Rosie hurred



herself over the stream picked and was back in a flash and managed to get the memory as well. Just the dreaded walk up! This was a nice puppy sized walk up, one dog, bit of heel work and a mark.

Lovely puppy tests, encouraging the pups but asking a few questions too and I couldn't have asked for more from my little girl as she got full card of 20s! Not a bad start as our first venture out together.

Thank you to all my fellow competitors for the friendly encouraging atmosphere and camaraderie. It was a truly lovely day and one I will remember for a long time indeed. Our first win together.

Thank you to everyone who has helped and supported us this year and I would like to wish everyone a happy and successful season for 2025.

Sarah Cox with Colquite Mary Poppins Of Blackenvoy – 1st place Novice Dog Novice Handler

7th July 2024 at Rickneys Training Ground

“On Sunday 7th July Ben and I were very fortunate to be able to run 4 of our dogs at at UGS HBB working test held at the wonderful Rickneys training ground in Hertfordshire. I ran my 3 year old homebred bitch Colquite Mary Poppins of Blackenvoy in NDNH and her 17 month old daughter Blackenvoy Tenacious Dee in Puppy. Ben was running Dees two siblings also in puppy, Blackenvoy Revelry and Blackenvoy Tic Tac.

This was my first season competing in working tests, having spent the past 15 or so years enjoying working my dogs picking up on shoots all over the country and generally not worrying too much about the finer details. Ben however really enjoys competing so to show support and solidarity to his passion I decided to have a go at a few tests and this was my 4th attempt at a NDNH with my little dog.



I have to say my first few tests were not especially enjoyable, I was wracked with nerves and felt that Mary and I could absolutely do better despite being placed each time.

With dogs I think you really do have to take the rough with the smooth and people always say that you need the luck to be with you on the day as well as putting the time in. Well today was the day for Mary and me, the tests were challenging but very fair and having got to the end of the day I knew we had done pretty well. More importantly I had finally enjoyed my day, knowing that we had done everything to the best of our ability with no obvious bloopers. The previous failed attempts in the end were in hindsight helpful, they taught us so much and each time we went off and worked on ironing out the creases that had been highlighted by previous competitions, coming back with a little more confidence in our abilities at each test.

I won't lie to you I actually cried big fat tears when the awards were announced and Mary's

name was read out, realising that we had finally gained that all important win and were officially not novices!

The icing on the cake for me was that Mary's daughter Dee had also gained a second in Puppy, and Bens two youngsters were a very close third and fourth meaning all 4 dogs had worked their paws off and we had a full set of lovely rosettes to take home and show their kennel mates.

We had a fantastic day at this fabulous ground, the judges were all so lovely and the day brilliantly run by all involved in putting the test on. Thank you UGS HBB"

Michael Crutchley with Mitforton Neon – 1st place Veteran

7th July 2024 at Rickneys Training Ground

"There weren't that many Opens left by July so I took Amber for a run out all the way from West Sussex for the HBB Veteran at Rickneys in Hertfordshire, to get me out of gardening. The tests were set at a perfect level for the puppies, novice handlers and veterans. Not too tricky or too far; fairly basic stuff both to test the puppies' level of training and to entertain the older dogs.

Judges were Josefine van der Dussen, Glynis Hillier, Sam Davis and Jacqui Crew. Josie judged two dog walk up with a single mark; Glynis a mark followed by a blind at an angle in rough ground under a tree; Sam gave us a mark along a straight track followed by a blind in the same area, and we finished with Jacqui's test, a blind behind a fallen log followed by a memory mark over a small stream.

Each dummy retrieved was marked out of 20, making a possible total of 140, and everyone went home with plenty of points and happy memories - great encouragement for those new to the circuit.

Amber sailed through the event, only dropping a point at Sam's test – caused by her handler's unnecessary use of the stop whistle. I won't repeat the lame excuse I gave the judge. Amber's the sort of dog that needs minimum handling and after 10+ years I still haven't got the message.

There were plenty of helpers in Harriet's team to ensure the day ran smoothly and I can recommend to anyone wanting a super fun day out in great company to enter next summer's Tests."



Andy Cooper with Dapplebrook Laxtons Superb – 1st place Open Sugar Beet

4th August at Manor Farm, Fowlmere

"We arrived at Hatchpen Farm, nr Royston, by kind permission of Mr David Rand, with no expectations. "Pip" Dapplebrook Laxtons Superb, had been injured since the end of the shooting season, and we had had a long road to recovery.

There was a lovely field of sugar beet, ideal for a working test, the weather was great, good scenting conditions, and steward of the beet, Julian Williams, had set some testing and varying retrieves for everyone.

We started with judges Lee Hayman, and Vince Thorby. To my delight Pip's first 2 retrieves were spot on, she was keen and marking well. As the day progressed, it was apparent quite a few dogs were going very well, Tim's and John's dogs were fault free. By the end of the day, we had all been in front, behind, down and across the line, if nothing else, an excellent day to test your dog. I knew Pip had gone well, but, to not have dropped a point, and won was beyond my expectations, a day I will remember, my first open test win with a dog I had bred.

All in all, a great day with great company and the perfect end. Thank you UGS HBB, and all of the helpers and competitors.



Field Trial Reports & Results

John Keegan, Field Trial Secretary

The All-Aged stake, Cuffley on 11th September 2024

Judges: Mrs. Sue Hutton, Mr. Mark Polley, Mrs Sam Kirkland and Mr. Mark Schiller.

On the 11th September 2024 the HBB branch ran their All Aged trial at Brook Farm, Cuffley by the very kind permission of Mr. David Thomas and the Brook Farm Shoot. The keeper, Dan Serdiuk and his beaters worked hard to drive the partridges over the guns. The splendid shooting by the team of nine guns resulted in the trial being completed in just two drives and some 120 birds in the bag.

The standard of dog work was very high, and the judges worked hard to find the best dogs on the day, with six featuring in the awards. A big thank you to all those that helped on the day, we could not do it without you.

1st Place: winning The Liphook Game Farm Trophy:

Tim Brain with - Kiato Isaac of Flypatch

2nd Place & Gun's Choice: winning The Manymills Cup & Geordieland Cup

Julia Reed with Santanna Moonflower

3rd Place John Keegan with Geordieland Wolfie

CoM: Liz Barnes with Griffin via Dearbridge

CoM: Ben Almey with Ticefield Dazed & Confused

CoM: Roy Jarman with Winners Avenue of Sirenbirch



Over the years, the trials at Cuffley have always been relaxed, enjoyable and great atmosphere. There has been many in the 25 years I have been involved with the shoot, both retriever and spaniel trials. Unfortunately, all good things come to an end, and this will be the last for Cuffley as the shoot will close at the end of the season. The club extends our heartfelt thanks to David Thomas and wish him well in his retirement.

16 Dog Novice stake on 13th November 2024, at Black Notley, Essex by the very kind permission of Mr. Danny Breeze and the Black Notley team of Guns.

Judges: Ms. Jo Rollinson, Mr. Stewart North, Ms. Abbie Reid and Mr. Roy Jarman.

NO AWARDS GIVEN

The keeper, Danny, and his beaters worked hard to drive the partridges and pheasants over the guns.

The judges managed to complete the 1st and 2nd round on the first drive but unfortunately, we lost several dogs for various reasons which meant only 5 dogs going forward to sit on the second drive. Again, the guns shot well despite the low winter sun which made it difficult to see the birds coming.

Drive over and the judges set about picking the birds which had dropped into a belt of woodland and on the grass around the gun pegs. Four dogs were sent in order, to pick a bird in the wood with only the fourth having a find, thus eye-wiping the first three. This left just two dogs in the trial both needing retrieves to complete the third round. The judges then tried both dogs on a partridge that had fallen on the grass in front of the gun peg. Sadly, neither dog was successful with the judges going forward and finding it exactly where the marker told them it had landed.

A big thank you to all my helpers on the day, judges for their hard work, Danny and his team of beaters and the Guns for their superb shooting.





12 Dog Novice Dog Stake on 16th November 2024, at New Street Farm, Standon, Herts by the very kind permission of Mr. Philip Smith and Mr. Jeffrey Pearman

Judges: Mr. Phil Allen, Mr. Dave Barnes, Ms. Josefine van der Dussen and Mr. Peter Childs. *Peter kindly stepped in at the last moment after one of the judges had to pull out for family reasons.*

1st Place Not awarded

2nd Place Winning the Pintailen Cup: Mr Jim Collins Lab bitch
Willowmount Goldicova at Brockaghs (IKC)

Gun's choice: Winning the Rayton Park Trophy: Mr Dave Bevan Lab dog
Dukesholt Atlas of Roosthole



This is a friendly family shoot, and we were blessed with, not one but two keepers; Phil Congreve and Andy Freeman. They, together with a big band of beaters and helpers, run a tight ship, putting plenty of birds in the air for the guns to shoot with superb precision. The first drive saw the guns lined out with their backs to the lake and a mixture of pheasants and partridges dropped along the lake margins, in the water and on the island.

As is quite common nowadays with driven trials, the judges elected to use the odds and evens system. Drive over, and the judges set about selecting

appropriate retrieves for each of the dogs. It became apparent that those birds in the water were proving a challenge for most of the dogs, and very quickly we were down to just two dogs remaining in the trial. The judges sent one of the dogs for a bird that had dropped just on the edge of a cover crop, but it failed to pick, with the second dog duly eye-wiping it. The last dog standing required one more retrieve to complete the 3rd round and was taken round to the other side of the lake and asked to pick a bird on the very edge of the water under the overhang of a tree. I am happy to say it succeeded and looked very smart doing so, and the judges declared the trial over.

A big thank you to all my helpers on the day, judges for their hard work, the keepers and their team of beaters and the Guns for their superb shooting.

As the trial was completed in one drive, our hosts asked if the competitors wanted to pick up on the next couple drives before we went back to yard for lunch and presentations. Most people duly complied with some staying to pick up on the remaining drives after lunch.



12 Dog UGS All Aged Field Trial Finals on 7th December 2022, at The Ampton Estate, by kind permission of Mr Peter Rushbrook

Judges: Tom Lowe, Peter Abbs, Lee Hayman and Adam Holmes.

Awards

1 st Place	Jason Mayhew's Lab Dog, Wauniago Fabino – winning The Quinton Dick Challenge Cup, The R Sharpe Memorial Cup & The Double Champion Bolo Perpetual Challenge Cup
2 nd Place	Adam Snare's Lab Dog, Halorros Milkyway of Mearcastle – winning The Liphook Game Farm Cup
3 rd Place	Kelvin Nettleingham's Lab Bitch, Luddesdowne Ebony – winning The Spratts Patent Challenge Cup, The Wheeler-Galton Perpetual Challenge Cup & The R Sharpe Founder Members Cup
4 th Place	John Keegan's Lab Dog, Geordieland Wolfie
COM	Roger Wade's Lab Dog, Klato Jackdaw of Wadeshot
COM	Janna Zours Lab Dog, Northglen Lester Hunt – winning: The Gate Court Challenge Cup for best lady handler at the finals
COM	Anna Mayhew's Lab Bitch, Wauniago Dara
COM	Kim Jink's GR Dog, Jinkster Golden Gamble – winning: The Goldspan Trophy for best Golden Retriever at the finals
COM	Dr Marianna Morris-Worral's Lab Bitch, Castletioram Red Maggie

The twelve competitors, judges, guns and helpers gathered in front of the Hall for the introductions as storm Darragh raged around us.

Our Guns for the day were Ian Carpenter, Ken Byron, Roy Jarman, Ed Lawson, Richard Bunyon and Mike Chamberlin.

Helpers for the day were Josefine van der Dussen, Tammy White, Steve Bancroft and Ellin for whom this was her first experience of a retriever trial. We assured her that it can only get better as the weather was not usually this bad.

We were in the very capable hands of Richard, our Keeper for the day. He had decided that due to the weather conditions, we would have several mini drives with walked up in cover crops in between the drives.

Despite the windy conditions the guns were on form, they provided us with a constant supply of shot birds for the dogs to pick. It was clear from the very start that this was going to be a trial of the highest standard and over the course of the day, we only lost two dogs from the original twelve. After the last drive we moved into a field of sugar beet as we still had 4 dogs requiring one retrieve each to complete their third round. This was achieved quickly with a minimum of fuss, and we retired back to the Hall to get out of the wet clothes and await the presentations.



UGS Team Events 2025

The Club plans to enter the following Team Events in 2025:

East Anglian Game Fair Team Event

27th April at Euston Hall Estate

The Team will include 3 open dogs.

UGS Finals

8th June, at Woodhall Estate near Hertford

The Team will include 3 open dogs.

The Southern Area Interclub Team Challenge

22nd June, at Isenhurst

The Team will include 3 dogs: 1 open, 1 novice and 1 NDNH.

URC Inter-Area Finals

6th July at Windsor Great Park

The Team will include 3 open dogs

If you have a dog with suitable experience, please email Abbie Reid at outdoorchick99@hotmail.co.uk to express your interest in joining the Team. The Club is willing to make a contribution towards the expenses of those members selected to run for the Teams and everyone will be given a club t-shirt.



Retriever Test: 30th August 2025

UGS HBB have been invited to organise a Retriever Test at the Country Fair and Dog Show at Walkern Hall on Saturday 30th August 2025.

To enter the Retriever Test please contact the organiser **Abbie Reid** at: outdoorchick99@hotmail.co.uk

On Saturday 30th August 2025 Walkern Hall, Stevenage, SG2 7JA, will open its stunning gardens to host a Country Fair and Dog Show. Attractions will include gun dog testing in the main arena, a gun dog scurry, dog show classes to cater for both the serious show goers and the more light hearted. All proceeds of the event will go to the Essex and Hertfordshire Air Ambulance Trust. Further information and ticket purchase can be found at: www.walkernhallcountryfair.com



2025 Working Test schedule

Retriever

Open Qualifier: Sunday 16th March at Easneye Estate

Judges: Craig Horwill, Julia Reed, Andrew Wright and Michael Crutchley

Novice and Special Puppy: Sunday 4th May at Standon Lordship

Judges: Jim Collins, Steve Coxell, Marianne Copp and Sarah Nickels-Hawkins

UGS Area Team Finals: Sunday 8th June at Woodhall Park, Watton-at-Stone

Judges: Jim Gale and John Keegan

Puppy, NDNH and Veteran: Sunday 13th July at Rickneys Training Ground

Judges: Phil Allen, Angie Townsend, Kieth Townsend and Cynthia Thackwell

Open Walked Up in Sugar Beet: Sunday 3rd Aug, Royston

Judges: (tbc)

Retriever Working Tests can be entered on our website or with a postal entry. Entry forms are available on the branch events page on the website.

Spaniel

Novice & Open Working Test: Saturday 7th June at Romanriver Gundogs, Freeland Lane, Brightlingsea, Essex. CO7 0SU by kind permission of Mr Andy Waterhouse

Judges: Mr S Newman (B3771) and Mrs V Payne (NP)

NOVICE STAKE: Open to dogs or bitches not having won a 1st in a Novice Working Test, or a 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in Open Working Test or ANY Field Trial Award

OPEN STAKE: Open to dogs or bitches of an Open Test Standard

ENTRY FEES: Members £15.00 per dog Non Members £20.00 per dog

ENTRIES CLOSE: Friday 23rd May 2025

ENTRIES TO: James Reavil. The Old Cottage, Smallhythe Road, Tenterden, Kent. TN30 7NF Telephone:07545476381 e-mail: James.reavil@icloud.com

Please include your name, membership number and Code SWT1 on Entry Forms.

2025 Branch Training schedule

This spring and summer you can train and test your dog on the prestigious and purpose build Rickneys Dog Training Ground in Bengeo, hosted by the Herts, Beds and Bucks branch.

Several classes run in parallel, with handlers and dogs grouped into appropriate levels for Spaniel and Retriever. We welcome new handlers.

Dogs require at least basic obedience: walk to heel, sit and stay and must be at least 6 months old to attend. Bitches in heat should not be brought to the ground.

Costs are **£13 per session. Cash only!**

No booking required, just show up. Enjoy some tea, coffee, cake and a chat after the class!

Contact the training evening coordinator, **Louise Bailey** at louisebailey24@icloud.com with any questions.

Dates: 1st May, 15th May, 29th May, 5th June, 19th June, 3rd July,

Time: 18:00 for 18:30 start usually continues for about 2 hours, light permitting.

Details can be found on the website.
www.utilitygundogsociety.com

Leigh Jackson Training Day

DATE: 16 July 2025 TIME: 09h00 (Novice dogs) and 13h30 (Open dogs)

By profession Leigh is a gentleman farmer, based on the family farm near Kidderminster. He has been an active and respected participant in our sport for nearly 25 years. His first Trial with a labrador was in the year 2000 which he did not win. Leigh persisted and continued to compete with the dog until it won a Certificate of Merit when he cut his losses and put it into retirement.

It didn't take Leigh long to rise to the top of the field trialling world and he has actually qualified for the IGL Retriever Championship 14 times. He won the Championship in 2013 with his Field Trial Champion Ellijas Danny at Lauder in Scotland and came 3rd in 2024 with Blackgrass Dougal at the Coombe Estate in Devon. Shortly after the 2024 Championship Blackgrass Dougal won a one-day Open Trial and Leigh made up another champion!

Over the years Leigh has made up 5 Field Trial Champions. He has been an England team member with three different dogs. Leigh enjoys competing with his dogs in Tests and Trials and is a regular picker-upper at his local shoot in Kidderminster.

Anyone interested in training with Leigh at Rickney's Dog Training Ground, Bengeo on Wednesday the 16th **July 2025 @£70.00 per handler per session and £35 per spectator per session** please contact:

Jim Collins at jim@grenville.uk.com or telephone 07860 835 731

2024 Training Day testimonial:

From: Josefine van der Dussen

A big thank you Laura Hill for coming to the UGS HBB on 17 July 2024 to train two groups of dogs and their handlers.

Laura's methodical and kind training directed To shooting and trialling dogs has achieved her huge successes with her dogs in field trials.

A participant said: *"I learnt so much just listening and watching, Laura is an Inspirational trainer with a clear and unjudging delivery."*



Definition of Working Tests

To be in conjunction with UGS and
Kennel Club GWT Regulations

Novice Dog/Novice Handler: (unclassified)

Neither dog nor handler to have won any award, including unclassified certificate of merit at a Field Trial, or 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th or COM in an Open Working Test, or 1st in ANY test.

Special Puppy: (unclassified)

Open to any dog less than 2-years old on the day of the test.

Puppy:

Open to any dog less than 18-months old on the day of the test.

Novice:

Any dog of any age not having won: a Field Trial award including a COM; a 1st in a Novice Test or any test above Novice level.

Intermediate: (unclassified)

Graded between Novice and Open. Any dog of any age not having won a 1st in any Intermediate or Open Working Test or 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in a Field Trial.

Open:

Open to all dogs although preference in a draw will be given to branch members and dogs who have qualifications making them ineligible to run in any other category test.

Veteran: (unclassified)

Open to all dogs aged 8-years or over on the day before the test.

Young Handler:

Any person under the age of 16 at the time of the test.

