



Scottish Field Trials Association

(ID 387)

SCHEDULE OF THE 104th RETRIEVER TRIALS

Held under Kennel Club Limited Rules and Field Trial Regulations

Kindly sponsored by



STAKE 1

NOVICE STAKE FOR 16 ANY VARIETY RETRIEVERS

As defined in KC Ltd Regulation J.3d(3)

Date

Wednesday 3 September 2025

Venue

Gairnshiel and Micras, Ballater

Judges

Mr Kevin Haynes (A 3731)
Mr Michael Brown (NP)

Ms Kirsty Cousins (B 3310)
Mr Tom Gold (NP)

Entry Fee

Members £50 per entry

Non-Members £60 per entry

Prize Money

First £50

Second £25

Third £15

Entries Close

Monday 18 August

Draw

Tuesday 19 August at Easter Clova AB54 4LB

STAKE 2

OPEN QUALIFYING STAKE FOR 24 ANY VARIETY RETRIEVERS

As defined in KC Ltd Regulation J.3d(1)

Preference in the draw will be as defined in KC Ltd Regulation J.6i(1)

Date

Monday 27 and Tuesday 28 October

Venue

Thirlestane Castle, Lauder by kind permission of Eskdale Shooting Services
Mr Wilson Young Snr and Mr Wilson Young Jnr

Judges

Mr Declan Boyle (A 3170)
Mr Lee Hartis (A 3244)

Mrs Sam Boyle (A 3868)
Mr Fraser Forbes (B 3942)

Entry Fee

Members £90 per entry

Non-Members £110 per entry

Prize Money

First £90

Second £45

Third £20

Entries Close

Thursday 9 October

Draw

Friday 10 October at Easter Clova AB54 4LB

PLEASE USE THE SCOTTISH FIELD TRIALS ASSOCIATION ENTRY FORM PROVIDED

Draws

The result of the Draw will be e-mailed to you. If you do not use e-mail, please enclose a large stamped addressed envelope for the Draw.

Meets

Directions for each trial will be included with the respective Draw

Email Entries

Entry form to: Anne Heading - anne.heading@gmail.com

Postal Entries

Mrs Anne Heading
Easter Clova, Lumsden, Huntly, Aberdeenshire AB54 4LB
Phone: 07710 230569

Entry Fee Payment

For those successful in the Draw, payment by BACS transfer must be received one week before the date of the trial.
Bank details will be notified with the Draw.

GENERAL INFORMATION AND CODE OF BEST PRACTICE SEE BELOW

GENERAL INFORMATION

Dogs entered at Kennel Club Ltd licensed Field Trials must be registered at the Kennel Club Ltd in accordance with Kennel Club Ltd Regulations for Classification and Registration B.

All dogs resident outside the UK must be issued with a Kennel Club Ltd Authority to Compete (ATC) number before entry to the Field Trial can be made. All overseas entries without an Authority to Compete number will be returned to the Competitor.

Entry Form: Please complete your entry form in *legible* block capitals. Incorrect entry forms will not be placed in the Draw.

Ownership: When a dog is in joint ownership, **all** owners must be members of the Scottish Field Trials Association to qualify for Members' preference in the draw for the Open Stake. Please ensure that details of ownership are correct. If the dog is owned in partnership, **all** owners must be named. Incorrect details could result in a Kennel Club fine. If you have applied to The Kennel Club for transfer of ownership, please write TAF (transfer applied for) after the dog's name.

Multiple Entries: Where an individual enters more than one dog in a stake, he/she must nominate his/her first Choice The Association reserves the right to refuse entries.

Stud Book Number: Please use a Stud Book number where appropriate in place of Registration number.

Ballot: If entries or nominations exceed the number of permitted runners, the right to compete shall be decided by Ballot.

Return of Entry Fees: Kennel Club Ltd rule J6.f applies.

Substitution of Dogs: The Association does not permit substitution of dogs while reserves stand.

The Association reserves the right to refuse entries. Kennel Club Ltd rule J7.i applies.

Should circumstances so dictate, the Society, in consultation with the Judges, may alter arrangements as necessary. Such changes and the circumstances surrounding them must be reported to the Kennel Club at the earliest opportunity.

No modification will be made to this Schedule except by permission of the Kennel Club, followed by advertisement in Appropriate journals if time permits before the closing of entries.

Judges at a Trial are prohibited from entering a dog which is recorded in their ownership or part ownership.

All competitors attending the trial must consider themselves under the orders of the officials and must follow closely behind the flagman.

Videography and photography will only be permitted with the express permission of the Chief Steward and the host prior to the start of a trial.

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### DEFINITION OF AN OPEN STAKE

A Stake in which dogs have the opportunity of gaining a qualification towards the title of Field Trial Champion (K Regulations refer) and towards entry in the Championship in which entry is open to all dogs of a specified breed. It may be limited to a prescribed number of runners (J4 refers), in which case these shall be decided by a draw conducted in accordance with Regulation J7.i so that preference is given to previous performance.

### DOGS IN CARS ON HOT DAYS

Your dog is vulnerable and AT RISK if left in a vehicle in high temperatures and even on days considered as slightly warm. Please take care of your dog. If your dog is found to be at risk, forcible entry to your vehicle may be necessary without liability for any damage caused.



## CODE OF BEST PRACTICE FOR RETRIEVER FIELD TRIAL COMPETITORS

**The Kennel Club Field Trial Regulations**, sometimes known as the J Regulations, are vital reading. No competitor should enter a field trial unless they are fully conversant with the current Kennel Club Field Trial J Regulations relevant to Retrievers:

<https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/media/3465/field-trial-j-regulations.pdf>

### **Regulation J(B) Retrievers**

This section lays out what is required from your dog in a field trial for Retrievers. It is important to understand these requirements. Take note of the eliminating and major faults under Regulations J(B)5. and J(B)6., respectively. Does your dog repeatedly show any of these traits? Is it ready to trial? If you are in doubt, seek a Panel judge's advice. Email [gundogs@thekennelclub.org.uk](mailto:gundogs@thekennelclub.org.uk) for the current list of Kennel Club Official Panel of Field Trial Judges.

**J Regulations Training Programme.** This programme has been created to manage the understanding of the J Regulations for field trial judges, societies and competitors. This is done through a seminar followed by an optional multiple-choice exam. Attending a seminar is strongly recommended. Even if a candidate refrains from taking the examination, they should find the seminar useful and beneficial. The seminar script for the Retriever sub-group is available on The Kennel Club website:

[ft26-seminar-script-for-retriever-ft-judges.pdf \(thekennelclub.org.uk\)](#)

**Success in working tests does not mean your dog is suitable to be trialled.** Working tests are great fun and a good benchmark to see how you and your dog are progressing. It also enables you and your dog to get used to competing in company and under the scrutiny of the judges, as well as being watched by other people. Although working tests and field trials are 'poles apart', if a dog does not handle well on dummies, in most cases it is unlikely to handle proficiently on live game.

**Offering to help** (or request to view) before entering your first field trial is highly advised. Find out if there are any trials taking place near you. You learn so much from watching both handlers and dogs, and asking questions. Contact the Field Trial Secretary prior to the trial.

Email: [gundogs@thekennelclub.org.uk](mailto:gundogs@thekennelclub.org.uk) for a list of all the gundog societies and field trial dates.

**Before you enter a driven Retriever field trial**, ensure that your dog has been shot over, or at least has sat near a gun so you know it is steady when birds fall close by, especially when they drop on open ground.

**Handler and dog must have had plenty of experience picking warm freshly shot game.** This includes picking wounded birds.

**Standards will be expected.** Do not enter a field trial if you know your dog persistently commits any eliminating or major faults. A field trial is a competition not a training day.

**Dress appropriately.** Wear conventional and acceptable clothes. No bright colours or denim jeans and no white baseball caps. Looking tidy and presentable in muted or neutral country attire shows respect for the event and the landowners. This is a country sport.

**Manage your expectations.** The extra pressure and nerves of working under a judge can affect your decision making and handling. Mistakes often occur through 'pilot error' so be ready for disappointments. Never publicly impugn decisions of the judge or judges. Neither should you criticise the host, ground or guns. If you are not sure why you have been put out of the trial, have a word with the judges at the end of the trial when they have completed their official duties. Questions should be restricted to the performance of **your** dog and not the dogs of other competitors. Social media should never be used to discuss grievances.



**Should you be put out of the trial.** You must not leave the trial ground without the permission of a judge or Chief Steward. You will learn from watching, if you are able to stay.

**When you win a Novice Trial,** you have a Novice Trial Winner. Should your dog win after a couple of trials and, especially if it is young, it is most likely to need more 'miles on the clock' before you consider entering it in Open field trials. Competing in All Aged Stakes with a Novice Trial Winner is an ideal way of giving an inexperienced dog (and handler) invaluable proficiency before you consider entering it in Open field trials.

**A higher standard of work** is expected in all open stakes, which carry a qualification for the title of Field Trial Champion.

**Harsh handling of dogs** will not be tolerated.

**The welfare of your dog is your responsibility.** You may need to carry drinking water, especially in hot weather. Likewise, you may have to consider taking an appropriate dog coat for protection from wet and cold as well as from the sun. Have a drying towel in your vehicle should your dog need to be dried off before you drive home.

**Any concerning issues you may see at a Trial** should be reported to the Chief Steward *on the day, if possible*.

**Be respectful at the end of a Trial.** A lot of people will have given their time to make your day take place. Regardless of what has happened to you, it is good manners to thank the judges, the keeper and the host/landowner, and the Field Trial Secretary. It is important not to forget the guns. They may have paid for the day. To say 'thank you' costs nothing, but goes a long way. Show good sportsmanship by congratulating the winner and those in the awards.

THE FOLLOWING TARGETS ARE **VOLUNTARY AND SELF-ADMINISTERED**, AND SOMETHING NOVICE HANDLERS CAN STRIVE TO ACHIEVE BEFORE ENTERING A FIELD TRIAL.

THE PURPOSE OF THESE TARGETS IS TO GET NOVICE HANDLERS TO READ THE J REGULATIONS TO GAIN A BASIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE RULES OF THE COMPETITION THEY PROPOSE TO ENTER. THIS WILL ALSO ENCOURAGE HANDLERS TO TAKE A DOG OUT ON A *PROPER* SHOOTING DAY INSTEAD OF JUST RELYING ON A FEW TRAINING DAYS, WHICH MAY GIVE A FALSE IMPRESSION OF THEIR DOG'S ABILITY AND SUITABILITY FOR FIELD TRIALS.

## **TARGETS TO ACHIEVE BEFORE ENTERING A FIELD TRIAL**

### **The handler:**

- Attends a Kennel Club seminar on J Regulations.
- Helps at a Kennel Club licensed field trial on three separate occasions.
- Helps on an organised shoot as a picker up for a minimum of one season.

### **The dog:**

- Has worked on an organised shoot as a picking up dog for a minimum of one season before being entered in a field trial (training days do **not** qualify).
- Has no recurring eliminating faults and has had sufficient experience on live game before being entered into a field trial.

**The Kennel Club recommends that these targets are achieved before entering a licensed field trial.**