



Scottish Field Trials Association

(ID 387)

SCHEDULE OF SPANIEL FIELD TRIALS 2023/24

Held under Kennel Club Limited Rules and Field Trial Regulations

Kindly sponsored by



STAKE 1

Open Qualifying Stake for 16 Cocker Spaniels

As defined in KC Ltd Regulation J.3d(1)
Preference in the draw will be as defined in KC Ltd Regulation J.6i(2)

Date:

Saturday 5 August 2023

Venue:

Byrecleugh, Lauder

by kind permission of Roxburghe Estates

Judges:

Mr Paul Matthews (A 3389) and Mr Robert Lithgow (B 3768)

Entry Fee

Members: £40 Non-Members: £50

Prize Money

First £40 Second £30 Third £20

Entries Close:

Thursday 20 July

Draw:

12 Noon on Friday 21 July at Easter Clova AB54 4LB

STAKE 2

Open Qualifying Stake for 16 Any Variety (Ex Cocker) Spaniels

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

Tuesday 17 October 2023

Venue

Gairnshiel and Micras, Invercauld, Ballater

by kind permission of Invercauld Estate

Judges

Mr David Wilson (A 3230) and Mr Jim Adamson (B 3460)

Entry Fee

Members: £40 Non-Members: £50

Prize Money

First £40 Second £30 Third £20

Entries Close

Saturday 30 September

Draw

12 Noon on Sunday 1 October at Easter Clova AB54 4LB

STAKE 3

Novice Stake for 16 Any Variety Spaniels

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

Date

Saturday 9 December 2023

Venue

Emblehope and Burngrange Estate by kind permission of The Kennel Club Ltd

Judges

Mr William Drummond (A 3718) Mr George Dobbie (B 3891)

Mr Andrew Barr (NP) Mr Alan Sankey (NP)

Entry Fee

Members: £35 Non-members: £45

Prize Money

First £35 Second £25 Third £15

Entries Close

Saturday 25 November

Draw

12 Noon on Sunday 26 November at Easter Clova AB54 4LB

Directions to the Meets for all trials will be included with the Draw

PLEASE USE THE SCOTTISH FIELD TRIALS ASSOCIATION ENTRY FORM PROVIDED

Email Entries

Entry form to: anne.heading@gmail.com

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.

Postal Entries

Mrs Anne Heading

Easter Clova, Lumsden, Huntly, Aberdeenshire AB54 4LB

Phone: 07710 230569

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 J6.d 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.

~~~~~

### 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 J6.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 SPANIEL 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(C) Spaniels:** This section lays out what is required from your dog in a field trial for spaniels. Credit points are listed under J(C)4. Take note of the eliminating and major faults under Regulations J(C)5 and J(C)6, respectively. Does your dog repeatedly show any of these traits? Is it ready for trial? If you are in doubt, seek a panel judge's advice in advance of entering a trial. J8.b. *Handling and competing* explains what is required on the day.

Details of Kennel Club Panel Field trial judges can be obtained by using the 'Find a Judge' facility.

**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-spaniels-ft-judges.pdf](https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/media/3465/ft26-seminar-script-for-spaniels-ft-judges.pdf) ([thekennelclub.org.uk](https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk))

### THINGS TO BE CONSIDERED BEFORE ENTERING YOUR FIRST TRIAL

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 judges.

If you would like to attend a field trial as a spectator or helper, please contact the club secretary in the first instance for information about the venue, and what will be expected of you on the day. [Email us](#) for a list of all the gundog societies and field trial dates

Ensure your dog has been shot over. Dogs will need to be steady to flush and shot and the fall of any game. Handler and dog must have had plenty of experience picking warm freshly shot game. This includes picking wounded game.

Offering to help or requesting to view before entering your first field trial is highly advised. As a steward or game carrier you will be in a position behind the judges to observe all of the trial which is a great place to learn from. You will have the opportunity to speak to experienced handlers and judges.

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

### THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN ATTENDING A FIELD TRIAL

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
- Field trial etiquette. As a competitor you should never publicly impugn decisions of the judge or judges

- Neither should you criticise the host, ground or guns who give of their land and time freely. If you are not sure why you have been eliminated speak to 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. Judges are not required to give a critique of each dog's performance but should be prepared to discuss their decisions in confidence with competitors, if requested.
- Social media should never be used to discuss grievances
- If you are spectating or are eliminated from the trial you must not leave the trial ground without the permission of a judge or Chief Steward. This is imperative for safety where the direction of the line can change and to ensure ground is not disturbed
- Dress appropriately - wear conventional and acceptable clothes, i.e. No denim jeans. Good footwear for all terrains is advisable, as is good water/bramble-proof clothing. Looking tidy and presentable in muted or neutral country attire shows respect for the event and the landowners. This is a country sport
- The welfare of your dog is your responsibility. You should always 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
- Dogs should never be left unattended in unventilated vehicles/trailers in hot weather
- Harsh handling of dogs will not be tolerated
- Any concerning issues you may see at a trial should be reported to the Chief Steward on the day, if possible
- If for any reason you need to withdraw from a trial it is courtesy to inform the secretary in good time to give others the chance of taking that run
- Withdrawing within seven days of the trial may incur losing your entry fee
- Any competitor not present when the chief steward announces the commencement of the trial, risks forfeiting their run
- It is essential for the smooth running of the trial that all competitors arrive at the trial's ground before the stated time for the commencement of the day's proceedings
- 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 host/landowner, club officials, judges and estate staff at the conclusion of the trial
- It is important not to forget the guns
- To say 'thank you' costs nothing, but goes a long way. It shows good sportsmanship by congratulating the winner and those in the awards
- Respect your environment. It is your responsibility to make sure you pick up after your dog, especially in public places, hotels, car parks etc and if requested at the meet area
- Be aware many field trial venues meet out in the field and do not have toilet facilities
- Take your rubbish home

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

### **The Handler**

- Attends several field trials as a spectator/helper
- Attends a Kennel Club seminar on J Regulations
- Be conversant with the Kennel Club J Regulations
- Has experience of working dogs in the shooting field

### **The dog**

- Has sufficient experience in the shooting field on live game and has been shot over
- Has no recurring eliminating or major faults
- The Kennel Club recommends that these targets are achieved before entering a licensed field trial.