

Chairman's AGM Speech May 23rd 2024

Summary of the past year of 1st April 23 to 31st March 2024

Firstly I thank Louis for stepping in to chair the AGM last year you did a grand job thank you so much.

When trying to compose this speech all sorts of thoughts go through my head. Basically, it is a recap on all the club's activities during the past year all the opportunities we have put on for you as members to participate in with your dogs should you choose to.

This club relies on the generosity, dedication, and support of the membership and very often their relatives and friends who get shanghaied into helping.

What a very busy year we have had the committees continue to arrange training session for both ring craft and working. The trainers give freely of their time and expertise for everyone to benefit from. With regard to training in ringcraft as was reported last year the up take for this is spasmodic in order to keep this viable, please support it and encourage others to come along. Use it or lose it is the mantra. Thank you to everyone who took their turn in training and to Mike Cass for doing all the working classes so grateful to you all.

Monthly matches are a regular fixture culminating in a dog of the year in January.

September 2023 a working test was held by kind permission of Mr & Mrs Haig-Thomas at Barton manor a stunning venue including a lake in front of the house. This was obtained for us by Tim Pressey who helped in every way to make the event a success. It was a lovely hot day till there was a downpour which did for many as helpers and competitors alike got soaked. Many could have entered a wet shirt competition. The event pulled in a wonderful entry with results in all categories Puppy, Novice and Open.

Continuing on in **September** we held our first Open Show at the lovely outdoor venue of Porchfield Cricket Club a good entry great judges culminating in the crowning of BIS .The weather was wonderful, it was an enjoyable day for all with the committee working hard to ensure its success.

November saw the club's first field trial being a Novice held at Hill Farm due entirely to Shelia & Robert Lovegrove, their support, generosity, and hospitality was just wonderful. No first place was awarded on the day by the judges as the Novice dogs found it taxing but nevertheless a good day.

December saw our Christmas dinner held at the Bargemans thanks to Jan Drake for arranging it. It was a good meal enjoyed by all who attended.

January we held our second Trial which was an Open once again Tim Pressey was the person who got this off the ground for us. There was sponsorship from members totalling £1800 my thanks go to Steve Tanner John Ford and Wendy Perera. Grateful thanks to Tim and his team of guns who were prepared to put their hands in their pockets and shoot for us. Thanks of course to Steve Dorman and his shoot team for supporting the club. A great and amusing day with very large pigs joining the spectators. The senior judge was Heather Bradley who was her usual wonderful self. Heather has done it all won it all judged it all she said she judged her first trial on the Island and this one will probably fittingly be her last. She is one of the greats in Gundogs. Thank you Heather.

Continuing on in **January** saw the club hold The Dog of the Year at East Cowes Town Hall a great judge who enjoyed our hospitality of an American supper, super food for all to share. This is a great event with all the past monthly winners competing for the title of dog of the year. Thanks to Sharon and all the helpers for running an efficient event.

February: Working Tests at a very muddy Lessland Farm by kind permission of Mr & Mrs Conrad Wiberg. With test set by Steve and myself a large entry super judges resulting in all places being awarded. Sudden judges books made handing over the scores very difficult and at the last knockings the first place in the Open was presented to the wrong dog. Once this was realised it was quickly rectified and the correct recipient Jane Manley was notified, she knew her dog had run well but said nothing. Once corrected Jane sent a wonderful email saying she was sorry for being the cause of someone's disappointment what a way for someone to not be fazed by missing her moment of glory.

March saw us return to Ryde Academy for an Open Show much of the preparation was done the night before to erect the rings etc. This venue has a marvellous caretaker who is very helpful making sure we have all we need to make the day go well. When the caterer was unable to come on the day the caretaker made facilities available for us to be able to provide hot drinks for everyone. The judges were lovely and really enjoyed their oversea visit with BIS judge Betty Smith making a holiday of it.

The show committee put in hours of work to insure the two Open Shows, the monthly matches and the training happen. All of this takes organising publicising and manning. Judges need asking, stewards at the ready, halls to be booked rosettes and prize cards ordered, rule books and insurance to hand, rings made ready food available, raffle tickets to be sold etc., etc., Then when the event is over everything has to be packed away at a time when everyone is exhausted and in need of a sit down with the drink of their choice there is just an endless list of jobs. The work that goes on behind the scenes is relentless everyone giving their time for the members.

Many many thanks to the show committee of Shirley Staples, Sharon Baxendall, Jan Drake, Jamie Hall, Laura Wilcox, Pete Miller and Dave Smith.

The working committee work very hard to put on all the working events no sooner is one completed than the next one is on the way. Judges to be found ferries booked, paperwork, tests helpers secured tests set etc etc to ensure that all is in place for the event. Then clear up when the event is over and store everything till the next time. Thank you everyone who helped.

So my very grateful thanks go you Wendy Perea, Steve Tanner, Julia and John Ford. Thanks also to Mike Cass for taking the training and passing on his expertise.

Thanks to all the landowners who allow us to train and compete on their land for nothing more than a thank you very much.

The Executive: The work they do besides contributing to the Exec. Meetings which run the club is as follows:

Tim Bateman is responsible for the website and emailing notifications.

Sharon Baxendall serves on the show committee and is responsible for the monthly matches among other things.

Shirley Staples is the club's show secretary a huge job which takes hours of work

Wendy Perera is our Field Trial Secretary running the FTMS and compiling the paperwork for each event

Nick Gallin has been the Vice Chairman this past year a post that he relinquishes today he is also The Treasurer again spending hours keep the club's finances in order Nick is also our membership secretary.

Laura Wilcox was coopted to be the club's secretary and is really getting to grips with the work this post entails.

Me I help with the working and show events and try to steer the club on the straight and narrow.

For most of the committee there is something to be done everyday it pulls on our time commitment and loyalty to make ensure jobs are done and try to keep on top of things

To finish up this club is so very very lucky to have so many members willing and able to put on events for others to participate in. Make no mistake every helper is worth their weight in gold the club cannot run without you. The dedication and selflessness to help is wonderful. The motivator for us all is to have a well-respected club which runs good events in the hopes that everyone goes home happy.

Wishing you all fun and success with your dogs

Thank you all.