

AGM
CHAIR'S REPORT
MAY 2026

Welcome members good to see you here for the clubs AGM.

Firstly notable people who have sadly passed away Pam Blay who many of you will know I understand her funeral was very well attended she is a loss to all who knew her and to the wider community of dog owners.

Julie Matthews was this club's first Field Secretary and was instrumental in getting this discipline off the ground for the Island with the first trial held in 1992. Her and her husband Geoff did a lot for the club may she rest in peace.

This is a retrospective report covering the club's previous year from April 2025 to the end of March 2026.

Over the time I have been chair of this club I have been constantly amazed, hearten and humbled by the number of members and non-members who have contributed to everything the club does we are so very lucky to have so much support,

Starting with last year's AGM at which Jamie Hall put her name forward to be our show secretary it became clear over several conversations and emails Jamie felt unable to accept the post. Thankfully Shirley stepped back in to steer the show side with the show committee's support for which we are all grateful.

In June we entered a South of England working team event fielding mainland members representing the club the team captained by Ben Starns came second a marvellous result as the team that wins has to host the following year which is a huge undertaking.

August we held the Interclub Challenge against The Canine club at Porchfield bringing the two clubs together in friendly rivalry a lovely day enjoyed by everyone. Porchfield cricket club is very accommodating to our club and is a good venue.

September the 7th a working tests was held at Newnham Farm thanks to Mr & Mrs John Cleaver an excellent entry a fine sunny day great judges with tests set by Mike Cass one minor hiccup was one test had been set across a field which on the day was being ploughed thankfully with quick thinking

by Mike he changed the element to a different area which solved the problem.

20th September we were back at Porchfield for our Open show a great day with helpful and lovely judges and good weather which really helps with an outdoor event. The show committee worked hard to get the event off the ground with all the background paperwork and planned prior to setting up and the investable packing away at the end of a long day. Thank you all who helped with this workload.

October saw a milestone for the club with us travelling to Windsor Great Park to hold an Open Field Trial having been offered the venue by the King's keeper. What an accolade those members who were lucky enough to get a run were treated to a wonderful day with knowledgeable guns spearheaded by Colin Pelham super judges and a great backup team from the Island who thankfully all paid their own overnight and travelling expenses. The dog work was wonderful to watch as was the backdrop. Chris Gore won the trial. It was a truly sensational day.

November we were lucky to be able to return to Hill Farm by kind invitation of Shelia and Robert Lovegrove for a Novice trial. Not many dogs made it through the first round for several varied reasons including running in on a dachshund! Having said that we had a great day the guns and the team were very supportive.

January we held DOTY at East Cowes town Hall with Gemma McCarthy judging she did an excellent job what a talent this young lady is.

February the club held its first SGM which resolved the show secretary position with Shirley carrying on in the role and forming a committee of new and experience members to take showing for the club forward.

During this month Martin Rackett was co-opted on to the Executive.

To continue with February a working test was held at Gatcombe Mill by kind permission of Robbie and Baba Hobart. It was a horrendous rainy day which was miserable for the judges, helpers and competitors everyone was soaked through until the sun came out for the runoff at the end of the day.

Show training continued for part of the year and working training continued throughout the year with Mike Cass and Wendy giving their expertise and guidance for all.

I am pleased to announce that Wightlink and Red Funnel are now offering concessions for mainland members to travel over to events.

We have many compliments about our events our professional organisation and friendly atmosphere for a small club we punch above our weight.

This leads me on to The Thank yous:

To all the judges who have cast their eyes over our dogs and made the days work. The landowners who allow us to use their land or halls to the guns who shoot for the trials to the sponsors who support.

Time, expertise and manpower is what so many people give to this club freely and willingly. The stewards at shows, working tests and trials the trainers the committees show, working and Executive their contribution cannot be underestimated. They do this so competitors can enter their dogs in the club's events. So next time your competing spare a thought for the helpers you would not be there without them they are the unsung hero's.

The Exec put in more than most Nick spending hours as treasurer and contacting new members whilst compiling the membership list. Joe Raby works for us as the club secretary and serves on the working committee. Shirley works tirelessly to organise the shows with the help of the show committee and serves on the Exec. Tim keeping the website up to date and serving on the Exec. Wendy heading up all events working and assisting the Exec. Martin is learning the ropes in running the club. The show committee and the working committee work getting their respective competitions off the ground. We are so very lucky to have such a team of people long may that be the case thank you one and all.

We have future events in the pipeline I look forward to seeing you at one of them during the coming year. Wishing you success fun and enjoyment with your dogs. Thank you.