



# West Dartmoor Working Gundog Club

## Spaniel Training for Members 2025

*New Members are very welcome* □

### 1. Monthly Gundog Training for New & Novice Handlers

Last Sunday of the month starting

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March – Come and meet us, have a coffee, Sign-up & start training! Please book in advance via [trainingspaniels.wdwgc@gmail.com](mailto:trainingspaniels.wdwgc@gmail.com)**

**Then April 27<sup>th</sup>, May 25<sup>th</sup>, June 29<sup>th</sup>, July 27<sup>th</sup>, Sept 28<sup>th</sup>**

The training runs for six sessions initially and is for young and novice spaniels over 9 months old with basic control, who are intended to be working Gundogs. There are limited places, so book your place now!

10am – 12.00am. Small group training.

Each group will be led by an experienced Trainer or Handler. Tea and Coffee provided.

(Two more sessions available for October and November depending on interest.)

Venue: South Devon

Costs: 6 Sessions = £ 90.00 to be paid at sign-up. Membership can be done at the same time.

There are two more sessions planned for later in the year if there is sufficient interest.

**(Kennel Club Working Gundog Certificate** – offered for those interested later in the year)

#### *Lead Trainers:*

*Dave Whittaker: "I have always had Spaniels, originally as a pet dog, then discovering the world of Gundogs through my local Spaniel club many years ago, opening my eyes to their versatility as an all-round working dog, i have spent many years giving back to the sport i love by helping all levels of training from puppies and novice handlers through to competing in Working Tests and Field Trials , or preparing for a life of working on a shoot either Beating or Picking up. Nothing gives me more joy than helping someone succeed with their Spaniel."*

*Val Brookes: "I had my first pet spaniel when I was five! I've been working, training & competing my spaniels for the last fifteen years. I too, get great satisfaction from helping others build a bond with their spaniel and to watch them succeed. I'm a KC Accredited Gundog Instructor and Assessor for the KC Working Gundog Certificate".*

***Any offers of help appreciated!***



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## Spaniel Training for Members 2025

### 2. Sat 1<sup>st</sup> March Pre-Working Test Training - for New & Novice Handlers ✓

A Training Day geared exclusively to providing advice and guidance to new & novice handlers wishing to compete in Gundog working tests this spring. Providing a view to what judges may ask of the dogs, what they may be looking for and how the marking system works.

Session on **Saturday 1st March** from 10.00 – 3.00pm. Limited places, so please book and payment secures your place. Bring a picnic lunch.

Venue: Nr Ivybridge. Details confirmed when you book.

Trainers: Dave Whittaker, Val Brookes, Jon West.

Costs: £40.00 due at time of booking

**For more information contact Dave Whittaker** [Trainingspaniels.wdwgc@gmail.com](mailto:Trainingspaniels.wdwgc@gmail.com)

### Guest Trainer Days : for Novice & Advanced-Novice Handlers

(Beginners wishing to spectate on the days should contact Dave)

*Guest trainers providing unique insights and specialist training on specific subjects. These days are aimed at Handlers with Novice & Open dogs – who are already starting to compete and would like to do more training ... so expect to be given feedback and homework from these days. The Trainers will help you towards showing your working spaniel off to its best.*

### 3. March 23<sup>rd</sup> 2025, with Nick Gregory ✓

Subject: 'Working Test Preparation'. Six Handlers per session (one dog only per session please) £40 per session. *Nick likes to work with you on the problems you bring – difficulties with delivery, retrieving, hunting, etc.*

Time: March 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9.30am -12.30 for Novice Handlers  
1.15pm – 4.15pm for more advanced Novice Handlers

Venue: Nr Okehampton

For those that don't know Nick, he is an experienced A panel judge, trainer and competitor. He runs both Cockers and Springers (but I have a feeling he has a real love for the cockers!) and is based in Devon. Nick has judged both the Springer and Cocker Championships, and he has won the Cocker Championships. Nick also undertakes Gundog demonstrations and, before his season starts, he will be joining Club Members for the day to help us prepare and get the best from our dogs, in-advance of the WT season.

**Any offers of help appreciated!**

#### 4. May 4<sup>th</sup> 2025, with Steve Bates - [RESERVE LIST](#)

Subject: **'Hunting'**. Limited numbers (one dog only please) NAMES FOR RESERVE LIST PL

Time: Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May 10.00am – 4.00pm

Venue: Nr Wellington

Cost: £65.00

Steve is an experienced A panel judge; he has judged the Springer Championships and is also an experienced trainer and competitor. Steve is based in the Midlands and will be coming down to us – as a repeat visit! Steve is very good at giving you confidence in working your dog and ensuring you show your dog off to its best. Steve will also help you understand how to develop a nice hunting pattern with your spaniel. Run in collaboration with Whiterush Gundogs who will be hosting a day with Steve on the Saturday.

#### 5. June 8th 2025, with Nick Gregory - [RESERVE LIST](#)

Subject: **'Working Test Preparation'**. After our first very successful day with Nick, we have booked a second date! Six Handlers per session (one dog only per session please) £40 per session. *Nick likes to work with you on the problems you bring – difficulties with delivery, retrieving, hunting, etc.*

Time: June 8th from 9.30am -12.30 for Novice Handlers

1.15pm – 4.15pm for more advanced Novice Handlers

Venue: Nr Plymouth

For those that don't know Nick, he is an experienced A panel judge, trainer and competitor. He runs both Cockers and Springers (but I have a feeling he has a real love for the cockers!) and is based in Devon. Nick has judged both the Springer and Cocker Championships, and he has won the Cocker Championships. Nick also undertakes Gundog demonstrations and, before his season starts, he will be joining Club Members for the day to help us prepare and get the best from our dogs, in-advance of the WT season.

#### 6. July 13<sup>th</sup> 2025 A FUN-DAY, for Spaniels and Retrievers\*\***CANCELLED**\*\*

#### 7. October 4<sup>th</sup> 2025 'Coached' day with Paul Bowyer & Aled Jones for Novice dogs/handlers intending to trial this season – [RESERVE LIST](#)

*Application via email, limited to ten handlers. As places for this are limited, we will give preference to those intending to trial their dog this season. There will be a reserve list for this event.*

*Date: Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2025*

*Time: 9.30-4.00pm*

*Venue: Nr Exeter*

*Cost: £120 tbc*

*Paul is well-known to many of us as a Host, a Judge and sometimes a Competitor, at/of training and competition events. He is very experienced, and good at helping you to relax, and get the best from your dog.*

*Aled is an APanel Judge and keen competitor. He has won the Spaniel Championship and competes in FT regularly during the season as well as being a regular member of the Welsh Spaniel team. Aled is thoughtful and encouraging in his training.*

**For more information contact Dave Whittaker [Trainingspaniels.wdwgc@gmail.com](mailto:Trainingspaniels.wdwgc@gmail.com)**