



Northumberland and Durham Labrador Retriever Club

Incorporating The Northumberland & Durham Retriever Society. Est. 1923

Welcome to our 2024 update for members as another very busy year ends for the officers and committees.

We have had some changes to committee personnel and give our thanks to those who have left and warmly welcome the new people who take up these voluntary roles; committing to giving up some of their valuable spare time to provide events for the benefit of the wider Club membership.

There are less than 20 people on our three committees who organise our events each year and fill the voluntary roles that keep our club running smoothly. We also thank and greatly appreciate club members (and non-members) who offer help at events. **Without you there would be no events!**

REMINDER: INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP FEES.

Annual Membership Subscriptions are due on the 1st of January. If these are not fully paid by the 31st March, you will not receive any member benefits for that year.

Full details of rates are on our website <http://www.ndlabclub.co.uk/membership.html>

Contact: Anne Beckley ndlabclub@gmail.com

REMEMBER, WE NOW ONLY HAVE ONE INTAKE OF NEW MEMBERS PER YEAR, IN MARCH, SO APPLICATIONS (WITHOUT PAYMENT) MUST BE WITH US BEFORE MARCH IF YOU WISH TO APPLY

Our Annual Eye Testing Clinic in February 2024 was very well attended and we thank our Chair, Lynda Heron for organising this. **2025 Eye Clinic will be held at Bowburn Community Centre on Saturday 1st February with Stuart Ellis. Appointments are almost filled but if you wish to be placed on our stand by list, please contact Lynda Heron.**

Our 2024 Championship Show was held in February at Haltwhistle and our **Open Show** in October at Bowburn.

Our thanks to Cheryl Mitchell, Show Secretary and the Show Committee, the setup teams, the kitchen team and the pull-down crews, worked brilliantly to organise the days.

The show 'Ring Teams' worked well thanks to our Stewards and Judges.

Sincere thanks also to our show sponsor C.S.J. for their immense continuing support for our shows.

Our exhibitors turned out to support the Club to put on great days, where we had worthy winners.

NEW WORKING TEST SECRETARY FOR 2025.

We are very pleased to announce that committee member, Anna Coates will take on the Working Test Secretary role from 2025. Anna is already working on the 2025 test schedule which will be out to members in January 2025.

Sincere thanks to Lee Hartis for taking on the running of the 2024 working tests; but his limited time means he could not continue. **Lee remains our Field Trial Sec. and active committee member.**

Thanks to Anna Coates for providing the judge catering at each test in 2024. Thanks also to Geordie Atkinson, Ian Palmer and other committee and non-committee members who supported the days.

Help on the day from members is VERY necessary and appreciated to ensure successful tests and we hope this continues.

We had excellent attendances at all tests & offer our sincere thanks to our valued judges and landowners. We cannot thank our working test sponsors **SKINNER'S, SPORTING SAINT and HALSTED GUNDOG ACADEMY** for their support for the test season providing vouchers and prizes for our winners.



Our Annual General Meeting was held at Chester-Le-Street Cricket Club, in May 2024 when Officers presented the accounts and reports of the previous year to members; via email, post or in person, showing a healthy membership and our finances to be in good order, thanks to our Treasurer and Membership Secretary, Anne Beckley.

We also arranged a very interesting talk after the AGM from John Houlton FRCVS on 'CAN WE EXTEND THE WORKING LIVES OF OUR GUNDOGS?' and we thank everyone for supporting this event.

Our Annual Returns were submitted to the Kennel Club by Club Secretary, Irene Davison in good time and without amendment.

Our **FREE TO MEMBERS Puppy Register** is available to members who breed from dogs that are suitably health tested. Please make use of the facility which was put in place to assist you and potential Labrador buyers choose from reputable sources. Contact Vice Chair, Linda Thompson for more information. <http://www.ndlabclub.co.uk/labrador-register-breeders-questionnaire.html>



Lee Hartis, organised four field trials in 2024. All trials were held at Emblehope and Burngrange Estate and provided fair and efficient judging throughout as well as having great teams of guns.

Effective helpers, enhanced the professional organisation of the days by Keeper Raymond Holt, who ensured we had ample game for all trials on this challenging ground.

Sincere thanks to our trial sponsors SKINNERS, SPORTING SAINT and HALSTED TRAINING ACADEMY for providing their support.

There is no better way to get into working tests and field trials than to come along to spectate (with permission) or even better, help and get to see the dog and judge work up close.

Being one of the 13 Labrador Breed Clubs in the UK, we are continually working with the Kennel Club regarding Breed Health matters. Lynda Heron is our Representative on both the Breed Council and Breed Health Committee and we continue to promote health matters for the good of our Breed.

We sadly said last goodbyes to some members and friends during 2024 including Wendy Wilson who was a stalwart of our Club and an Honorary Life Member. She is greatly missed by us all. Also, Honorary Life Member Maeve Johnson who was a fountain of historical knowledge.

We hope we can rely on your continuing support in 2025 and if you are interested in becoming more involved with your Club by helping on committees and at events; please contact any of us by emailing the Club ndlabclub@gmail.com

A few people were experiencing difficulties accessing our website on mobile phones. The site has now been re-vamped and it should be available to use on mobile devices.

Following the set-up of our online working test and field trial entry system with Northgate Management Systems, we are pleased to see this is an easier option for our members entering working tests and field trials.

Entries and membership payments can be made via this system

<https://tcms.ndlabclub.co.uk/>

(Our Show competitors continue to use Fosse Data for entries).



The Officers and Committees of Northumberland and Durham L.R.C. wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy 2025.