

Sadly during the winter period several friends passed away. Sally Else died after a short period in hospital. Sally and her husband Den, were great supporters of the society, always willing to help clear up after a trial.

John Gascoigne's funeral was held just after Christmas. He had suffered ill health for some time. He was secretary and treasurer of the society for many years, roles that he had carried out efficiently and enthusiastically. In addition he was devoted to the Border Collie breed being well known in breeding, showing, obedience and judging circles.

Bill Fairhall will be missed by many, having been a valued member of the society since the fifties. There is a fitting obituary published in the sheepdog news and in the Surrey Newsletter.

Wynn Burvill passed away at the beginning of the year. She and her late husband Dave played an active part of setting up and running trials. Wynn and Gwen Willis provided many a full English breakfast, a service much appreciated.

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The society were pleased to send a team from the South East to the English Nursery Final at Myerscough College Preston. Although on the day, it was not meant to be as storm damage caused Ray Edwards unable to attend. However Mark soldiered on, on the long journey to Preston. The course was set over a flat pasture and had an outrun of approximately 350 yards and a right hand drive. The dogs were running on Texel Cross sheep, which required firm handling. Although his run didn't earn a place we are still grateful to Mark Banham for representing the South East.

### **Summer Dates 2022:**

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June- Starter and Open/Novice, Lynsted, ME9 ORH

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July- Starter and Open/Novice, Westwell, TN25 4NH

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August- Kent Championship(Open/Novice), Snargate, TN26 2NH

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September- John & Molly Memorial Starter and Open/Novice, Ringlestone, ME17 1NU

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September- Open/Novice, Tonbridge, TBC

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October- Open/Novice, Lydden, TBC

Don't forget to hand any raffle donations to Amanda or Grace Gower!

Visit our website for up to date information  
[www.rmdsheepdogsociety.com](http://www.rmdsheepdogsociety.com)

## **Winter Results**

**14<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

**At Whitehall, ME9 ORF**

**Judge: Dave Thompson, Lynsted**

**23 ran**

CRADLE

1. Hazel Long, Canterbury, Ted, 78
2. Harvey Lauder, Lynsted, Mick, 68
3. Louisa Taylor, Surrey, Cash, 54
4. Joanna Dorrell, Dover, Tip, 53
5. Steve Burton, Herons Ghyll, Rick, 50
6. Ian Robinson, Essex, Lexi, 41

NURSERY

1. Mark Banham, Chipstead, Madog Bedw, 93
2. Rob Moore, Ditchling, Cled, 71
3. Elaine Anstey, Kirdford, Roy, 63
4. John Mitchell, Wokingham, Meg, 53

## News From The Marsh Spring 2022

### NOVICE

1. Harvey Lauder, Lynsted, Jake, 76
2. Grace Gower, Lydden, Cap, 59
3. Louisa Taylor, Surrey, Holly, 58 OLF
4. Grace Gower, Lydden, Jade, 58

### 12<sup>th</sup> December 2021

At Whitehall, ME9 0RF

Judge: Dave Thompson, Lynsted

26 ran

### CRADLE

1. Hazel Long, Canterbury, Ted, 57tu
2. Joanna Dorrell, Dover, Tip, 55tu
3. David Heywood, Dunmow, Penny 54tu
4. Steve Burton, Herons Ghyll, Rick, 52
5. Harvey Lauder, Lynsted, Mick, 49tu
6. Geoff Ayling, Herne Bay, Dubh, 45tu

### NURSERY

1. John Marsh, Golden Cross, Dell, 90
2. Rob Moore, Ditchling, Cled, 83
3. Mark Banham, Surrey, Madog Bedw, 82 OLF
4. Steve Burton, Herons Ghyll, Moss, 82
5. Steve Burton, Herons Ghyll, Beau, 76

### NOVICE

1. Paul Mayhew, Cross in Hand, Cain, 84
2. Harvey Lauder, Lynsted, Jake, 77
3. Grace Gower, Lydden, Jade, 74tu
4. Mark Banham, Surrey, Hattie, 69
5. Grace Gower, Lydden, Cap, 58tu
6. Karen Gearing, Hove, Swan, 54tu

### 9<sup>th</sup> January 2022

At Whitehall, ME9 0RF

Judge: Dave Thompson, Lynsted

22 runs

### CRADLE

1. Hazel Long, Canterbury, Ted, 74
2. Steve Burton, Herons Ghyll, Rick, 70
3. Joanna Dorrell, Deal, Tip, 59
4. Harvey Lauder, Lynsted, Mick, 55
5. David Heywood, Dunmow, Penny, 52

### NURSERY

1. Mark Banham, Surrey, Madog Bedw, 88
2. John Marsh, Golden Cross, Del, 87
3. Steve Burton, Heron's Ghyll, Beau, 62

### NOVICE

1. Paul Mayhew, Cross in Hand, Cain, 94
2. Mark Banham, Surrey, Hattie, 84
3. Harvey Lauder, Lynsted, Jake, 82
4. Joanna Dorrell, Deal, Rosa, 76

5. Roger Levy, London, Megan, 57tu
6. Grace Gower, Lydden, Jade, 56tu

### 30<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Leigh, Tonbridge

Judge: Dave Thompson, Lynsted

33 ran

### CRADLE

1. Hazel Long, Canterbury, Ted, 47 tu
2. Steve Burton, Herons Ghyll, Rick, 45 tu
3. David Heywood, Dunmow, Penny, 36 tu

### NURSERY

1. Michaela D T, Brecon, Elin, 83
2. Michaela D T, Brecon, Gin, 79
3. Mark Banham, Surrey, Madog Bedw, 66 tu
4. Rob Moore, Ditchling, Cled, 62 tu
5. Ray Edwards, Chulmleigh, Smithymoor Tan, 60 tu
6. Ian Wheeler, IOW, Adge, 53 tu

### NOVICE

1. Jakub Josa, Czech Republic, Lord, 58 tu
2. Grace Gower, Lydden, Cap, 52 tu
3. Harvey Lauder, Lynsted, Jake, 50 tu
4. Ian Wheeler, IOW, Jock, 49 tu OLF
5. Mark Paice, Wartling, Nell, 49 tu
6. Karen Gearing, Hove, Swan, 40 tu

Young Hander rosette: Grace Gower

### AGGREGATE AWARDS

Cradle: Hazel Long, Ted

Nursery: Mark Banham, Madog Bedw

Novice: Harvey Lauder, Jake

Young Handler: Harvey Lauder

### TROPHIES:

Puppy Cup: Geoff Ayling, Dubh

Novice Handler: Joanna Dorrell

**Obituary – Bill Fairhall**

1st March 1927– January 2022

William D J Fairhall (Bill) was a skilled and successful shepherd notably working for the Hills family at Swallow Mill Farms, Little Chart, Ashford for 60 years. During that time he worked for three generations of the family. He had many passions, including breeding canaries, pigeon racing, football, growing prize dahlias and, of course, sheepdogs and sheep. His parents had a smallholding and he was brought up helping with many tasks whether it was milking goats by hand or holding the horse and cart while his father bartered goods from the holding. His parents also ran a pub. He described his education as “here and there”, meaning that frequently he was not at school because he was always helping on the smallholding.

Before his time as a shepherd, Bill was in the Fleet Air Arm until just after the Suez Crisis. He enjoyed his naval career leaving with many tales to tell of his time, most of these escapades not repeatable here but shared with many over the years.

Bill went into shepherding after meeting the foreman of Romney Marsh Farms who was looking for a shepherd. He spent 3 years learning his trade.

He started working for Mr Tom Hills of Swallow Mill Farms in 1956, retiring as Head Shepherd in 2016 at the age of 89. Swallow Mill Farms were renowned for the quality of their Suffolk and Romney rams and they had much success in the show rings and at market. The rams Bill produced for Swallow Mill carried the best bloodlines and were the envy of many. In 2006 the Royal Agricultural Society of England awarded Bill the long service medal for employment at Swallow Mill for 50 years. It was presented to him at the Kent and County Show, Detling.

Bill was a supporter of his local sheepdog Societies, running dogs for many years. Dave

Thompson first met Bill back in 1957 at a Romney Marsh trial held on Cheriton Cricket Ground and there began Bill’s long association with the Society and the creation of many lasting friendships.

At trials, in Bill’s mind there was a right and a wrong way! When letting out he would alter the pen if it could be set up differently so that the sheep came out more quietly. He could be scathing about “so-called” shepherds who “don’t even know how to cut string”, (in case you’re wondering — if the string is cut at the knot it can be used again at the next trial). Bill would insist on taking up the flexinet himself at the end of the day to ensure that it was folded and not rolled in a tangle. On the other hand handlers spoke of his generous advice and encouragement and the tremendous value that they put on his words of praise.

He was happy to help, as well as share some fabulous stories as he did so. He was always keen to talk dogs and sheep and share his wisdom and memories. There are a number of sayings that people will remember hearing. As he walked off the trial field after a less than satisfactory run, “Back to the drawing board”. In reference to farming, “You know boy, there is no limit on the number of sheep you can look after badly.” He will be missed by many, both as a great shepherd and good company at trials. Dave Thompson reminded me that as Bill left the trial field after his run he would declare, “another page in the book of disasters.” That book is now closed. Rest in Peace Bill.