



The Yorkshire Sporting Spaniel Club's ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING was held on Monday 27th April 2026 at 7pm at The Darrington Hotel, Pontefract

Present:

Committee Members: Alison Kay, Ryan Kay, Natalie Boothroyd, Barbara Lowndes, Melvin Jacques

Members: Darren Shaw, John Gallimore

Minutes

1. Apologies

Alison welcomed everyone and thanked people for making the time to attend

Apologies were received from committee members Alice Fox and Lindsay Hermann; and from member Noel Sykes who had planned to attend but was no longer able to.

2. Minute of previous Annual General Meeting

It is noted that the last AGM was held on 21 April 2024. This was under the previous committee and no minutes had been located for this.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes

No matters arising.

4. Chair's Report

Chair's report was circulated.

In April 2025 AK and RK were co-opted on to the Committee by Colin Hudson and David Anderson. Colin's wife Rosemary had undertaken the role of Club Treasurer for many years but latterly had been unable to continue in the role therefore this had fallen to Colin in addition to his role as Chair. David had undertaken the role of FT Secretary for many years. Both were wishing to

relinquish their roles and a handover of all Club information and assets was arranged. There was only one other active committee member at that time, Melvin, who was in the role of Vice Chair and wished to remain in this role.

Colin, Rosemary and David undertook their respective roles for very many years and we would like to acknowledge their service and commitment to the Club; and to express our sincere thanks for this. Colin and David have been made life members.

Natalie, Alice, and Barbara were co-opted on to the committee. Initial priority was for the Committee to familiarise themselves with all information pertaining to the running of the Club, much of which required updating. I would like to thank the committee for their huge assistance in this regard, especially Treasurer Barbara who worked tirelessly to work through much of the historic financial and membership information to produce updated records, and to facilitate the transfer of the Club's banking and upgrading this to being fully accessible online.

The Club was extremely fortunate to have access to excellent trial grounds for the four trials usually held. It was a priority to ensure that we were able to continue with these trials in 2025, and the new committee had a steep learning curve in order to facilitate the first Cocker trials being held on 31 July and 1 August 2025 at Westerdale.

We then held our Novice AV at Wolfen Hall, Chipping on 27 October, with the final trial of the year being the Open AV Spaniel trial at Huttons Ambo on 24 November.

All four trials were very well subscribed and were deemed to have gone extremely well.

We are delighted to have retained access to these trial grounds and our very grateful thanks must go to the landowners and their keepers for allowing this. Thanks also to each of the Judges who gave up their time and expertise for the benefit of the Club and its members.

The Club were also able to secure sponsorship from Vetspec, Pureflax and Field & Fireside for the 2025 Trials and I would like to extend grateful thanks for their support also.

Since the season came to an end the committee has been working to make further improvement to existing systems and processes. Thanks go to Natalie for her work so far on improving the Club's branding, comms and marketing. We

aim to further improve communications with existing members and also look to raise awareness of the Club with a view to attracting new members.

5. Accounts and Financial Report

The Treasurer's report was circulated.

Barbara took on the role of Treasurer in April 2025 and systematically worked through all the Club's historic financial records to bring everything fully up to date and enable the transfer of banking signatories to the new committee members approved for this.

The Club's financial transactions were summarised in the income statement circulated, which had been checked and audited appropriately and found to have been conducted satisfactorily.

The auditor recommendations were as follows:

- Trials – Cash Income, requires 2 signatures to confirm income. At least 1 signature must be different on each trial to reduce potential fraud.
- Trials – Expenditure, possible carbon cash book to record any unreceipted payments i.e. Ground Keeper Tips. Prize Money. Again 2 signatures confirming payments have been made.
- Bank – Suggest that the Current Account carries no more than £3.5k, this account has been as high as £7k plus therefore missing out on interest

The membership report was circulated

Barbara also took on the role Membership Secretary in April 2025. First priority was to review all the available information to set up a membership database. It was noted that we still don't have up to date contact information for some of our members and if members have not been receiving emails from us they are encouraged to contact Barbara: teamlowndes@gmail.com

It is pleasing to note that the vast majority of those who were members last year have renewed their membership and the current number of members stands at 172, of whom two are honorary members, 16 are joint members and 14 are either gamekeepers or juniors. Amongst these 14 are one or two who have not paid the full membership fees and they will be asked to top up their fee should they wish to enter any of our events taking preference as a paid up member.

As a reminder, single membership is £10 an year, payable on 1st February. Joint membership is £12. Gamekeeper/junior membership is £8.

6. Election of Office Bearers and Committee

Current positions:

- Alison – Chair
- Melvin – Vice Chair
- Barbara – Treasurer / Membership secretary
- Natalie – FT Secretary / Communications
- Alice – WT secretary
- Lindsay – Committee member
- Ryan - Committee member

Melvin advised that he is happy to continue in his role as Vice chair.

Discussion was held about the above co-opted roles and it was unanimously agreed for each role to be confirmed.

7. Subscription and Joining Fee

Committee had previously voted for Membership subscription rates to remain unchanged for 2026, but to ensure the joining fee of £10 be consistently imposed from May 2026.

Reviewed rates from Feb 2027 and agreed that these should remain unchanged

8. Honoraria

This was previously £1100 in total.

Reviewed this for the current year. It was proposed that the overall amount be increased slightly to £1200 in total, and be split equally three ways between BL, NB and AK. This was unanimously agreed

Action: BL to process payments accordingly.

9. Trial and Test Arrangements for 2026.

- Working Test, Sheffield, 20 June
- Novice Cocker, Westerdale, 6 August

- Open Cocker, Westerdale, 7 August
- Novice AV, Chipping, tbc. (date provisionally agreed, awaiting licence from RKC)
- Open AV, Huttons Ambo, date tbc.

Discussed the possibility of reinstating the Inter Club WT with Tyne Tees and Tweed. Discussed how well subscribed this had previously been with large numbers attending the selection test and the day itself. Felt there is insufficient time for a selection day this year but that we could potentially bring together a YSS Club team if it was held late summer and if TTT were able to secure an appropriate ground.

Action: RK to follow up with DB from TTT.

Explore also the possibility of running an additional Novice Cocker Trial in January 2027.

Action: AK to explore further with RKC.

10. Amendment of Constitution.

Copies of the most recent constitution (titled Rules & Regulations) were circulated. Discussed that this is the opportunity to review and update it to ensure it reflects the Club's current position and is compliant with legislation and with RKC requirements.

A number of amendments were accordingly agreed.

Action: New version to be drafted and sent to RKC for ratification

11. Northgate Management System

In recognition of the Club's current website being somewhat outdated, and seeking to improve the overall system for Trial entries, priority-levels, and the draw; the Club has been exploring the Northgate Management system. A number of other clubs are now using this and the system receives consistently positive feedback from Clubs and users alike. NB provided an update on the benefits of this for the Club, and for members. A down payment has been made to allow first draft of the new website to be created.

Action: NB to lead on this including populating all required information.

Updates to be provided to members once system is ready to go live.

12. AOCB

- Trophies:

Discussed that there were 3 trophies previously owned by the Club, along with a shield which was awarded to the winner of the Inter-Club WT.

Action: to issue an appeal to see if the missing trophies can be located

To check with TTT if they have the Inter-club shield.

- Standards of dress:

Discussed that there have been some examples of people being inappropriately dressed at some trials. To ensure we are demonstrating respect to the Landowner and their respective Keepers we wish to lead by example on this.

Action: to ensure that the schedule and the draw, set out standards of appropriate dress.

NB to explore obtaining Club ties, or similar, for Committee members.