

I live on the Hamstead Estate near Yarmouth Isle of Wight, with my husband and dogs. We have four daughters, they have now flown the nest but we all meet and usually whatever the weather we tog up, and take dogs out, we have a tidal river about three hundred yards down the lane and the beach about two miles away, so the dogs and us have plenty exercise swimming and running in the fields and woods. We have always had dogs in our family.

I started showing labradors in 1982, Hamstead Willis was our first pedigree dog, and I soon learnt he did not have the best conformation, but one of the best working dogs ever, but by this time the bug had bit, and with help and guidance from a great stockman, we aquired our first bitch, and it went on from there.

My K.C. affix is Nunneyswood, after the idyllic little wood where we live.

I was constantly asked to judge at open shows, but I preferred to exhibit my dogs, In 1991 i started to judge, mostly labs but I did some of the other gundogs when asked. I have also spent the last twenty six years picking up on various shoots on the island ,I also used to run in working tests with some success.

I am member of the Isle of Wight Gundog Club, for years I was in charge of the working section, now for my sins I am show secretary.

It was whilst on a working test all those years back I saw my first Chesapeake this lady was waiting to run, with this regal looking dog, and I just had to ask what breed, she told me not to be fooled by appearance, they were not wavy Labradors, but I could not get them out of my mind and every show and game fair e.t,c I attended I went up to chessie owners to find out more. Trouble was they saw me with my meek ,well trained liver boy and straight away thought I could not possibly handle a Chesapeake. little did they know that I had handled lots of labs, and helped other handlers with problem gundogs as a trainer for our club.

The next season a man joined our picking up team with six chessies, I saw them work and that was it, I asked him to keep me a bitch if he bred from his again. The next year he rang to say my bitch was born, I chose the runt of the litter, and life with chessies started. I soon realised they are different, in temperment to the labs, but Wight Wizard at Nunneyswood had to intigrate, and when I took Wizzy out to shows with the labs fellow exhibitors used to say Wizzy thinks she is one of Margaret's labs, I prefer to think that as I am leader of our pack that anything I own, would work to please me.

When people ask me the difference between the labs and chessie, I tell them my labs are my tools, and my chessies are my companions.

I started to judge chessies in 1995at open level, and now I am passed by K.C. to judge Chesapeake Bay and Labrador retrievers at championship level.

I have been to the American specialties a couple of times, and I often attend the Swiss shows.

Thank you for the kind invitation I am looking forward to judging your show in august 2012