

## Mabel Coulter (Lurgavon)

It is with great sadness and heartfelt loss, of our dear friend and mentor, Mabel Coulter that we write this.

Mabel died 23/7/16 following a short illness, having celebrated her 87th birthday on the 5th July 2016.

There were three things Mabel held very dear her family, her dogs and her close friends. She was immensely proud of her children Wilson, Billy and Meta and her many grandchildren revelling in their achievements. The highlight of her week was a Thursday visit to her three great grandchildren who affectionately called her "grand gran".

Mabel was born into a farming family, in Newtownhamilton on 5/7/1929, from which her love of animals stemmed. She had a wealth of experience and knowledge of dogs having owned, bred and shown under her Lurgavon affix, German Shepherds, Cavaliers, Poodles, and Cairns but is probably best known for her Yorkshire Terriers and beloved Irish Setters. Indeed it was through her Irish Setters that we first got to know Mabel. Based on Cornevon Lines, Lurgavon setters were renowned for their sound movement and good temperament, traits she was always very proud of and endeavoured to maintain in her breeding programme. Her dogs have been used as a foundation for many kennels here and abroad. Indeed one ended up in the Palace of Sudan Hussain.

Mabel enjoyed the show scene where she could be seen sporting her red blazer in the Irish and Yorkie rings, until very recently, her last show she attended being Banbridge this year as a spectator, the last one she exhibited at was the Northern Ireland Gundog of the Year, where her beloved Ringo (Irish Sh Ch Lurgavon Ringleader JunCh Cw'08) was 3rd in Veteran. Mabel was also qualified to judge many breeds and awarded CC's in Irish Setters. She was highly respected in the dog world, forthright and honest in all her ways, with a wicked sense of humour and a quick wit.

Gillian and I had many a laugh at shows with her, we have missed her presence over the last year, but telephone calls were always the norm on a Saturday and Sunday to keep her in the know. Always one of the first to encourage and help new exhibitors and impart some of her vast knowledge and experience Mabel was passionate about her Irish Setters. I feel privileged to have owned and bred from the Lurgavon lines the basis of my Edenaveys kennel. To us Mabel was more than a friend, she was part of our family and will be greatly missed. We are grateful to her family for allowing us the opportunity to visit Mabel yesterday. We wish to express our sincere condolences to them at this sad time.

Funeral arrangements to follow.

Karen McKelvey, Gillian Sterritt