

IRISH SETTER BREED NOTES
W/C MONDAY 24TH July 2023

Although I said there would be no breed notes this week, I have been prompted to write about the new Kennel Club Reserve Challenge Certificate Champion Rule.

On the 11th May 2023 the Kennel Club made the following announcement:

“Following the May Board meeting, it has been decided that dogs which win two Challenge Certificates (CCs) in addition to five Reserve Challenge Certificates (RCCs) will gain the title of Champion/Show Champion, effective from 1 July 2023.

This decision has been taken following extensive consultation by The Kennel Club Shows Liaison Council formed of representatives from within the show scene and further supported by the Show Executive Committee and The Kennel Club Board.

This will mean that from 1 July 2023, in order to gain the title of Champion, dogs will either need to be;

Awarded three CCs under three different judges, one of which when the dog is over 12 mths of age, or

Awarded 2 CCs, with one being awarded when the dog is over 12 months of age, in addition to five RCCs awarded from 1 July 2023, with the awards coming from seven different judges.”

This announcement was met with much scepticism and criticism of the Kennel Club. BUT PLEASE NOTE that as stated in the announcement this decision was not the Board's alone; the Shows Liaison Council is made up of 31 regional representatives, elected for a three-year term to act as a channel of communication between breed societies, exhibitors and The Kennel Club. These representatives are elected by The Kennel Club's registered societies and clubs which have an active interest in dog showing. So, they are people from the grass roots of dog showing. A list of these reps can be found on the KC web site.

Now, Windsor champ show this year was over four days, Thursday 29th June to Sunday 2nd July. The KC has clarified that those winning RCCs on the Thursday and Friday do not qualify but those winning RCCs on the Saturday and Sunday do.

Again, much criticism but for the purposes of these Irish Setter notes it means that our breed qualifies.

Winning his first RCC at Windsor was Claire Lewis and Blake Crocker's Riverbrue Wonderwall At Hernwood who then won the CC at East of England.

Winning her third RCC at Windsor was the Sturrock girls' Forfarian Tickles Yer Fancy however for the purposes of this ruling it only counts as her first RCC.

This new show champion award doesn't have to be claimed; it will be awarded automatically.

My husband's database goes back to 1947 and here are the dogs that retired on 2 tickets and 5 or more RCCs. Carek Nice Fella, Panda Of Dochra, Wendover Game, Beorcham Blases Of Wendover, Maydorwill Shadow Girl and Ridgetor Avocado.

When these dogs were being shown it was not the norm for show champions to pursue multiple tickets but we live in a different world now.

Currently Riverbrue Cloudburst Over Strathmead has 2 CCs and 7 RCCs so had this rule been in force a few years ago she would qualify.

A dog that I remember struggling to win his title was Sh Ch Dunnygask Gladiator who was bred by Ailsa Harvey in December 1994 out of D. Tutti Fruiti by Sh Ch Caspians Intrepid JW. He was owned and campaigned by Elizabeth Woodgate.

He won his first RCC in 1996 under Clive Davies at Driffield; his sire, Intrepid, won his 18th CC that day.

His second was the following year at GBAS under Chris Atkinson; Intrepid won his 38th CC that day.

His third came in 1998 from Brian Marshall who gave a 16th CC to Sh Ch Shenanagin Stockbroker.

Also that year Gladiator won his 4th RCC under David Laidlaw at NGA; Intrepid took his 42nd CC.

In 1999 Brian Gurney judged at WELKS and awarded him his first CC with S. Stockbroker taking the reserve.

Later in the year Colin Waddell gave him his second CC at May SKC; Sh Ch Clonageera Flambouyant As Starchelle was in the reserve spot.

So, when Pat Rutherford judged at SCCA in 1999 and gave him the RCC he would have gained his title. Sh Ch Konakakela Zagar By Romarne won his 4th CC at this show.

He did however win his 3rd CC at August SKC under David Laidlaw just a few months later. Sh Ch Clonageera Flambouyant As Starchelle was in the reserve spot once more.

He went on to win 3 more RCCs in 1999; Three Counties under Val Foss, Windsor Liz Atkinson and Darlington Brenda Berry. The CC winners were Sh Ch Crimbledale Country Gossip Of Casperosso, (#6), Sh Ch Caspians Intrepid (#56) and Intrepid (#63).

In 2000 Gladiator won 3 more CCs; Belfast ISC, Ruth Ellis; Darlington, Liz Atkinson and Belfast, Jack Bowen.

He also won another RCC from Brian Marshall at SCCA, this time behind Shenanagin Some Might Say It's Bardonnill (his first) and then another from Val Foss at City of Birmingham behind Bai Breeze Bi Thendara (his first) and then another from Chris Atkinson at City of Birmingham in 2001 behind Cedrus Solitaire (his first).

His total is 6 CCs and 11 RCCs.

As well as holding the breed record of 77 CCs, Intrepid also holds the record for RCCs with 34 to his credit. Second behind him with 25 RCCs is Sh Ch Thendara Pot Noodle (29 CCs).

Talking of living in a different world as I mentioned above, when I look back through the database, I see how formal things used to be with judges listed by their title, initial and surname. I do my best to find out the first names of these judges and change them as I go along.

When I first started showing in the 1970s I wouldn't have dared call the judges by their first name, it was always 'Mr James', 'Mrs Jarosz', 'Miss Russell', 'Miss Lennox'. What a complement it was if they invited you to call them by their first names.

How different things are now; we live in a much more informal world.

I always refer to judges by their full names and if I don't know their first name, I try my very best to find out what it is. The recently mentioned Carolyn Cederman is a case in point.

Likewise with exhibitors; I don't know everyone but I do my best to find out full names by using Facebook or simply asking.

It is my opinion that formality belongs in the past and I find it much more friendly to use first names if I can.

As a reporter of the breed, I feel that this is my job.

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