

IRISH SHETTER BREED NOTES
W/C MONDAY 1ST FEBRUARY 2021

The Kennel Club Journal for February is available online. The following judges are announced:
2021 Richmond, Linda King; Belfast, Moray Armstrong; Gundog Society of Wales, Jacquie Ward.
2022 Irish Setter Club of Scotland, Paula Lucas; Bath, Brian Limpus; National Gundog, Jackie Boyd-McNeil, dogs, Ruth Martin, bitches; ISAE, Gerry Condron, dogs, Brenda Berry, bitches, Teresa Gisby, referee.

I know that we all pray that shows go ahead this year. I was pleased to see Windsor's announcement but sad that we won't be able to caravan there and sit and watch the swans go by on the Thames. In 2017 two species of seahorses found a home further south in the river, the short-snouted seahorse and the spiny seahorse. I wonder if they will ever make their way up river? The new arrangements with no benching, no spectators or spectator dogs will feel quite alien to us but they are in place for our safety.

With the passing of Bob Heron, I realise that a review of the Caskeys Irish Setters is long overdue. Bob and Christine have bred or owned 12 Show Champions, 5 ticket winners, 8 RCC winners, Junior Warrant winners and Stud book entrants.

I believe his and Christine's first Irish was Sh Ch Wendover Caskey. His breeder was Miss C Besford but he was registered with the Wendover affix. He was whelped in October 1965 and was sired by Sh Ch Wendover Vagabond and was out of Wendover Sorrel. Vagabond was the sire of 7 show champions.

Caskey won 8 CCs the first of which was in 1968 at LKA when M Paterson was the judge. Reserve to him was Hedgeway Ensign; this was his second of 2 RCCs. On the day Sh Ch Raycroft Chorus Girl was made up and Fearnley Firecracker took her second RCC. She gained her title the following year. At Leicester in 1969 L.C. "Jimmy" James judged the breed and gave Caskey his second CC, the RCC he awarded to Sh Ch Scotswood Barabbas. Timadon Ballywestow Festoon won her first CC and Cornevon Primrose won her first RCC. Mrs. "J" James made him up later in the year at SKC and she too gave the RCC to Barabbas. During his career Caskey also won 5 RCCs.

At the same time as they were showing Caskey, Bob and Christine had an Orichalc dog, Orichalc Irvine who was born in February 1967 and he gained an entry into the Stud Book. His breeder was Mrs Culpin and he was by Sh Ch Cornevon Snowstorm out of Orichalc Frejja.

Mrs Culpin was from Baldock in Hertfordshire and she also owned two Joanma's litter sisters, Lucille and Lottie. They were bred by her out of Wendover Kara Of Longbailey by Wendover Game in June 1964. Lottie gained her title and in 1968 she was mated to Caskey; from this litter Bob and Christine took a bitch that they registered as Caskeys Cleoni. Cleoni won her way into the Stud Book and in 1970 she was mated to Caesars Fine Fella who was by Caskey out of Norlan Silhouette and in this litter was Sh Ch Caskeys Zoe who was therefore, a double granddaughter of Caskey.

Zoe won 7 CCs and 8 RCCs. Her first was from Pat Rhodes at SCCA in 1974, Sh Ch Rickerscot Bridget Maguire took the Reserve. Stephenshill Gamebird won his first CC and Timadon Kendel was Reserve to him.

Not until the following year did she win her second which was at Birmingham National when Brenda Levick judged. Sh Ch Moval Bronze Model won her 4th RCC. Brenda's dog ticket winners were Sh Ch Cornevon Lovebird and Sh Ch Hurricane of Carramore. Rita Brydon made her up at the ISAE later that year. Rae Furness was Rita's co-judge and she found her Dog CC winners in Lovebird and Gamebird.

Before her success in the show ring, Zoe had had a litter by Sh Ch Margretwoods Craftsman and a Mrs Rolands took a bitch called Caskeys Tarontelle. When mated to Fearnley Firespark, Tarontelle produced a bitch who was the future Sh Ch Pollyanna Of Caskeys.

Pollyanna's tally of top awards is 8 CCs and 4 RCCs. Having won 2 RCCs in 1978, 1979 was a great year for her. She won 7 CCs and another RCC.

Her crowning CCs were from Val Page at SEISC, Elsa Rishworth at Blackpool and Audrey Harper at Windsor. RCCs to her were Cornevon Starkissed of Cribbarth, Fearnley Firecinders of Dallowgill and Sowerhill Sarabelle.

Pollyanna had a litter by Wendover Jackanory and the Herons kept a bitch C. Babette who proved to be a very good brood bitch giving them 3 Show Champions. She gained entry into the Stud Book and in 1979 had a litter by Sh Ch Ruani Kings Treasure. Ann Smith of Horley had a bitch from this litter and she won 4 CCs and 2 RCCs to become Sh Ch Caskeys Pandora.

Alicia Coupe gave her her first CC at SCCA in 1985, Sh Ch Rysford Lady Galadriel was Reserve. Barry Lincoln judged the dogs and he gave a first CC to Corriecas Gideon with Sh Ch Ballywestow The Tetrach taking Reserve.

Mary Duncan gave her her title at SEISC 1986 and gave the RCC to Shandwick Golden Spray. Alister Watt made it a double day for Caskeys by giving the CC, his 9th, to Sh Ch Caskeys Bo-Jo and a first RCC to Danaway Baccante.

Sh Ch Caskeys Bo-Jo was from a later litter of Babette's in 1981; this time the sire was Sowerhill Sailor Of Wendover. Bo-Jo was owned by Mr and Mrs P J Cooke of Guildford and he won 11 CCs and 4 RCCs.

He won his first CC at Bath in 1983 from Willy Duynkerke. I believe this was Willy's first time awarding CCs. Her RCC winner was also a first for Suterese Hot Rumour. Kate O'Callaghan judged dogs and gave a second CC to Wendover Country Maid and a one and only CC to Wendover Sportsgirl at Twoacres who had won her only CC from Jean Quinn the year before.

A year passed before June Coates awarded Bo-Jo his second CC at City of Birmingham. Twoacres Gold Eagle won his 4th RCC before going on to be made up later that year.

Bo-Jo was made up at Crufts in 1985 by Geoff Coupe and went on to win a further 4 CCs that year. In Reserve spot at Crufts was Wendover Tonic winning his second RCC. Barry Rhodes judged bitches and gave the CC to Sh Ch Timadon Exclusive Edition and a one and only RCC to Clonageera Clarissa of Whimbrel.

A litter sister to Bo-Jo was Caskeys Burgandy who won a CC from Sylvia Muggeridge at NGA in 1987. She was owned by Sue Dakeyne of Headley Down, Hants. An only ever RCC went to Whimbrel The Wicked Witch.

When Babette had a litter to Night Fever in 1984 Jill and Phil Cooke took a dog, Justin, who won 3 CCs to become Sh Ch Caskeys Justin. Olwen Hunt gave him his first in 1987 at Richmond, his second was from Mary Gurney at WELKS in 1988 and his third from Ailsa Harvey later that year at Windsor. Sh Ch Reddins Fintan of Riqitta, Royal Archer and Brayville Dynamic Delegate were Reserves.

The Herons kept a litter sister of Justin's, C. Jezamy, and she won 6 RCCs between 1988 and 1990 but never a CC and a litter brother, Jazzman, won one CC and one RCC. He was owned by Bob and Pat Berridge of Selsdon, Surrey. His CC was at Setter & Pointer in 1988 from Roy Rout and Delsanto Scarlet Pimpernel of Fondador won his only ever RCC. Eve Gardner had awarded Jazzman his RCC at NGA earlier in the year when Sh Ch Danaway Debonair took his 6th CC.

There are six more Caskeys Show Champions to write about but they will have to wait until next week.

A Little Mate Story from Manchester 2017.

So we're out of the mud and on our way home. MLM is driving and says she needs to phone home to tell them she's on her way. I tell her that I'll dial on her phone so I turn it on and the screen comes up asking for her security number.

Me: What's your security number?

MLM: Oh you don't need that on my phone you just have to hold your thumb over the button.

God I've missed her these past few weeks!

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