

IRISH SETTER BREED NOTES

W/C MONDAY 6TH JULY 2020

How sad are we all not to have been at Windsor? It is held on one of the finest showgrounds at Home Park, Windsor under the ramparts of the castle with the River Thames as its boundary. The ground is always immaculate; as if Her Majesty had been there herself and cut the grass with nail scissors.

H.M. The Queen was appointed Patron of Windsor in 1956, relinquishing it in 2000, but she is still sent details of the entry every year.

The show has a specified area for food and drink but have you ever noticed that there are no fried onions with anything? They don't like the smell up at the castle so they are banned.

Our judge was to have been Terry Pearson (Lanspar). He awards CCs in Hungarian Vizslas, Hungarian Wirehaired Vizslas, German Wirehaired Pointers, Italian Spinoni, American Cockers and Weimaraners but this was to have been his first time giving ticket in Irish.

Terry and his wife Gill had Irish in the 1980's and I think their foundation bitch was Dalzen Royal Vanity Fair, a Sh Ch Sowerhill Satyr of Fearnley daughter. They certainly had a litter from her to Carriejay Marc of Cymbeline in 1983 and then another in 1986 to Cymbeline Red Woolley.

They also owned a Timadon dog, T. Bucks Fiz at L who was by Sh Cy Ballywestow The Tetrarch ex Timadon Treasure.

There have been many 'big' names associated with Windsor, one in particular having connections with the Royal Family. For many years their President was the charismatic Sir Dudley Forwood who was equerry to the Duke of Windsor, the former King Edward VIII. He moved with the Windsors to Paris after the Duke's abdication in 1936 and lived there with them until the outbreak of WWII. He made a photographic record of the Windsors' visit to Germany in 1937 where they met Adolf Hitler and other prominent Nazis.

The last time an Irish Setter won Best In Show at Windsor was in 1970. He was Sh Ch Twoacres Tamburlane bred by June Coates in January 1968 out of her Musbury Melisande Of Twoacres, his sire being Sh Ch Wendover Gentleman.

He was owned by Pam Scott and was primarily her pet but was pick of dogs. He won a Reserve CC from Marjorie Jarosz at Blackpool in 1970 and then later that year his first CC from Janice Roberts at Windsor where he was also BOB, Group 1 and Best In Show under Harry Glover. His second CC was won at Dumfries (now Border Union) from Jack Whittaker and his third at Leeds in 1971 from Rae Furness; he only had the one Best of Breed. In the following year L C James gave him the

Reserve CC at Cheshire; a Championship show that is no more and was held with The Royal Cheshire Show.

Pam had no desire to put the dog out to stud and so there are no progeny from him which is no surprise considering who his brother was.

He was, of course, from the famous 'T' Litter, his siblings being Sh Ch Twoacres Teresa owned by Sheila Whittaker (later Vant), Sh Ch Twoacres Traviata owned by Jean Quinn and June's own Sh Ch Twoacres Troilus.

June kept a bitch, Tosca, who didn't win any CCs but did gain her Stud Book number.

There were seven in the litter, 3 bitches and 4 dogs. In the dogs, apart from Tamburlaine and Troilus, were Titus and Triton.

Both boys were bought by Dawn Bannister who showed Triton and got his Stud Book Number from Bill Rasbridge at Darlington.

The two boys got to an age when they didn't get on and because Triton aka Sam was a runner, it was decided to rehome him. Sam was well known to the police in Blackpool who would often ring Dawn to say that they had him.

He was sold to Joan Sim who put him out at stud. Of his progeny I can find Hartsfell Fleur D'Amour but can't find a date of birth and Shannon Watergate of Kenstaff but again no DOB.

Joan moved to South Africa and so John and Sheila Vant bought him; John can't remember how old Sam was at the time.

They took him to WKC in 1974 [sic] when Stanley Dangerfield gave his first and only set of tickets in Irish and won the CC and BOB. The bitch judge was Brenda Howes who had given the Bitch CC to Carnbargus Hartsbourne Mattie.

His second CC came the week after at SKC where Patience Badenoch Nicolson was the judge. She did both sexes and gave him BOB.

He went on to win a Reserve CC from Ernie Froggat but sadly never got his title.

Sam got better with age and was twice Best Veteran in Show at National Gundog; once under Bob Clelland and again under Mary Roslyn-Williams.

In 1978 the Vants themselves put Sam to their Barleydale Isabella to produce B. Borachio.

As the lock down starts to lift it is announced that The Gundog Society of Wales has cancelled its Championship Show in October but on a brighter note Bournemouth Championship Show has put out the following statement:

"The Officers & Committee are pleased to announce that they have decide to go ahead with the BCA Championship Show on the 3rd 4th & 5th October 2020 Subject to Government Guidelines

The entries will Open after the 7th July online at Higham Press. Dog .biz. Schedule with Stamped Addressed Envelope, from Secretary Mrs Sally Duffin, Foxholes Cottage , Poole Road, Sturminster Marshall. Dorset BH21 3RR, 01258 857721

We look forward to welcoming you all to the show.”

Another announcement comes from the AHT:

“It is with deep regret that today we have announced to our colleagues that the Animal Health Trust’s Board of Trustees have concluded that the Trust needs to close and next week will formally begin the process to wind-up the AHT.

The decision to cease operations has been reached after several months of trying to secure funding. Although substantial progress was made, the charity has been unable to secure the significant funds it needs to have a long-term viable future.

Further announcements will be made in due course. However, at this point no further comment will be made.”

Two Kennel Club Vice Presidents, the Lord Kirkham and Sir John Spurling, were trustees as was former K.C. Chairman Ronnie Irving. Jim Sharman did another great karaoke live feed last Friday night and delighted us with songs by Eric Clapton, Creedence Clearwater Revival, Dire Straights and Gerry Rafferty to name just a few.

A Little Mate Story from Windsor 2015.

MLM, her husband Dave, me and my husband Andrew were caravanning there for the week leading up to the show. With 4 adults and several dogs it can get a bit crowded but we all get along nicely together.

We like caravanning there because it is an easy walk across Home Park into town.

One evening we decide to go into Windsor for dinner so it is the usual scramble to get ready, taking turns to use the bathroom and finding a corner to get changed in.

MLM and Dave are ready first so they set off walking. With a bit more space around us me and Andrew get changed but as we are ready to go, I can’t find my specs.

We hunt high and low but still can’t find them.

MLM is by now half way across the field so I shout after her: Have you seen my pink specs?

MLM (shouts back): No.

So we carry on looking.

Then MLM appears back in the caravan and announces: I’ve found them!

Me: Where were they?

MLM: On the top of my head

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