

## IRISH SETTER BREED NOTES

W/C MONDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2021

The latest casualty on the Championship Show calendar is WELKS who have cancelled completely. The ISCW Championship & Open Shows together with the Joint Irish Setter Clubs Championship show have been postponed as has the ISCS; such a shame for the Dragons and the Unicorns. There is now a big black blob of deletions on my database for the first 4 months of the year.

It is sad to see the announcement from the Irish Kennel Club that they feel it is impossible for them to grant any licences for the remainder of the year.

Caskeys Jezamy of whom I wrote last week had a litter by Sh Ch Fearnley Firehurricane in 1991. The Herons kept a bitch, C. Humming Bird who gained her title and won 4 CCs and 4 RCCs. Her first was in 1996 at Blackpool from Mary Duncan who gave the RCC to Carnbargus Continuity. Sh Ch Caspians Intrepid won CC #13 and Sh Ch Caspians The Music Man of Danaway was Reserve.

The following year at Manchester David Christian awarded her the CC and the RCC to Sh Ch Reddins Myrna. David gave CC #23 to Intrepid and the RCC to Sh Ch Shenanagin Stockbroker.

Jim Smith made her up at ISBC later that year with a first RCC going to Timadon Airs and Graces. She already had one CC won at Blackpool 1997 from Priscilla Smith.

Jezamy had had a litter to Millcroft The Matador in 1989 and a bitch, Zilpha was kept. She in turn was mated to Reddins Niall and produced Sh Ch Caskeys Blarney.

He won 3 CCs and 5 RCCs. His first CC came from Jeremy Bott at Border Union in 1999, his second from Priscilla Smith at GSW and third from Mary Duncan at WELKS in 2000. Reserves to him were Shandwick Arathorn, Konakakela Zorro and Sandstream Rhodian Romeo.

Blarney sired several litters, one of his progeny was Sh Ch/Ir Sh Ch Amberlight Firecracker J.W. who won 27 CCs and 19 Reserves.

In 1998 a bitch was bought in from Ailsa Harvey from a litter out of Dunnygask Artemis by Sh Ch Thendara Kennedy. Sh Ch Dunnygask Ginger Spice At Caskeys won 5 CCs and RCCs. Alister Watt gave her her first at Paignton in 2000 and Erinade Jaunty took her second RCC.

Not until the following year did she pick up her second from Magi Henderson at Three Counties. Magi gave a first Reserve CC to Carnbargus Continuity. This was Magi's first time giving tickets in Irish and she found her dog CC winners in Sh Ch Caspians Palmerston and Danaway Fortune Teller. Not long after, at Blackpool, Ginger gained her crown from Chris Sheldon who found her RCC in Brayville Leading Lady.

In 2002 Ginger Spice produced a litter to Sh Ch Kirkavagh Kalaglow and so Sh Ch Caskeys Vaguely Scottish was born. He won 3 CCs and 3 RCCs from Linda King at Birmingham National 2004, Ron James at LKA 2004 and Valerie Foss at ISCS 2005. Reserves to him were Karidell Connoisseur (twice) and Sh Ch Gwendariff Dom Perignon.

In a second litter from Ginger Spice by Caskeys Persuader from Amberlight in 2004 a dog was born; the future Sh Ch Caskeys Concept At Aoibheanne. He won 16 CCs and 9 RCCs.

Teresa Gisby gave him his first at ISCW in 2006. Teresa awarded the Reserve to Reddins Tillerman. Alister Watt was her co-judge and he gave the Bitch CC, her third, to Sh Ch Lynwood Sealed With A Kiss and Reserve to Sh Ch Serrula Angelina.

The following year at Three Counties Marion Sweeney judged both sexes and gave Concept his second CC with the Reserve being awarded to Sh Ch Thendara Don Corleone. In bitches she gave an only CC to Covarney Miss B Havin although she did pick up a RCC from Dee Milligan-Bott at SEISC in 2009, and Reserve to Sh Ch Braidmount Geisha Girl.

Penny Jeffries was the dog judge at GSW and she made Concept up; she awarded the RCC to Sh Ch Danaway Discreet.

Concept was Top Sire in Irish for five consecutive years and Top Sire all breeds from 2011 to 2013. He sired 35 litters whilst he was alive in which were 18 UK Show Champions, 8 Overseas Show Champions, Stud Book entrants and Junior Warrant winners.

He is third Irish Setter Top Sire behind Sh Ch Kerryfair Night Fever who fathered 23 Show Champions and Sh Ch Caspians Intrepid.

His matings with Balintyne Copper's Home N Dry prompted something of a Viking invasion.

Louis sired his 36<sup>th</sup> litter by AI in 2018 to Sh Ch Thendara Jocasta.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if there is more semen stored somewhere from these three iconic dogs and for us to see more of their progeny in the future?

A litter brother to Louis was C. Checkmate who belonged to Barbara Lake but was handled by Christine. He won 2 CCs; the first from Tommy Eisgard in 2008 at Paignton and the second from Leslie Armstrong-Rodgers at SKC in 2009. Reserve to him at Paignton was Atron Throstle Boy and at SKC RCC was Wickenberry Jacks Lad of Rionore.

He also had 3 RCCs

The last Show Champion bred by Bob and Christine was Sh Ch Caskeys Happy Hour born in January 2006 by Caskeys Persuader From Amberlight out of Caskeys Vivacious. Vivacious was from the Kalaglow/Ginger Spice mating.

Jim Smith gave her her first CC at Birmingham National in 2008, John Thirlwell her second at Blackpool 2008 and Katrina Hall her third at ISBC 2009.

C. Persuader was an influential sire too; as well as C. Happy Hour he was the father of Sh Ch Shenanagin Shooting Star, Sh Ch Shandwick Love In A Mist For Teleri J.W. and Sh Ch Henaleas Carry On Flirting J.W.

The Herons were not prolific breeders but they have left behind a lasting legacy.

They both awarded tickets in Irish.

Bob's first time was at NGA in 1976 when he did the dogs and gave a second CC to Ruani King's Treasure and a 4<sup>th</sup> RCC to Wendover Colas. His last was Paignton in 2004 when his dog ticket winners were Sh Ch Amberlight Firecracker and Sh Ch Kirkavagh Fidalgo and bitches Amberwave Spangle, her second, and Follidown Red Hot Poker.

He judged dogs at Crufts in 1992 and gave an only CC to Dunnygask Vital Spark and an only RCC to Gold Fever of Balintyne.

Christine's first time CC appointment was for dogs at Driffield in 1980. Her CCs went to Sh Ch Twoacres Wayward Caesar and Shaytell Goldfinch. Her last was Paignton in 2011 for bitches; the CC went to Sh Ch Outfoxed by Kerryfair and Reserve to Reddins Esther of Blaysdell.

She too got to judge Crufts. In 1990 she did the dogs and gave the CC to Sh Ch Barleydale Pascali and the RCC to Sh Ch Bardonhill Supergrass.

Bob's judging and showing career was cut down when he suffered a stroke and Christine became his carer taking him to the shows in a wheelchair. She always kept smiling.

I remember talking to Bob at one show and he was trying to tell me that Christine was going out in the evening with some of her girl friends and fellow dog showers. He sometimes had difficulty recalling names and words and as he grunted and pulled faces at me we laughed and laughed as I did my best to understand.

Christine came along and asked what we were laughing at and when I told her she too fell about laughing.

Bob's grunts were an attempt to say 'Uhuh' 'Uhuh' and his face pulling was an attempt to curl his lip. It turned out that Christine was going to see an Elvis Presley tribute act.....

Christine cared for Bob until she passed away in May 2016 and now they are reunited.

They were very proud of their daughter Fiona and thrilled to see her give CCs at Windsor in 2011.

The Herons will be fondly remembered by many for years to come not only for their legacy in Irish Setters but for their kindness, fun and laughter.

*"Now you feel like you have someone by your side to share the journey with you."*

- Harley Quin

A Little Mate story from 23 January 2017.

We didn't get stuck in the mud on the car park but MLM got off to a good start.

I picked her and Debs up at 6:30 in a lay by just off Junction 30 of the M1; it was pitch black.

Debs climbed into the cab of the van and sat on the middle seat.

MLM climbed up into the cab only to slide straight off her seat and fall into the gutter.

In she got again and reached over to pull the door closed.

And promptly fell out again.

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