

## IRISH SETTER BREED NOTES

W/C MONDAY 11TH MAY 2020

There is a lot of planning, organising and hard work that goes in to putting on a dog show so it is a real blow when it has to be cancelled. On top of this when the show is a special anniversary one the heart ache is even harder to bear.

My heart goes out to the Officers and Committee of The National who had such a wonderful show arranged for the VE Day Celebrations. They had a special VE Day Anniversary Show planned including 'Vera Lynn' opening Group proceedings every night, a parade by The Watchman & Handler in full military regalia, a VE Day Fancy Dress Competition and Best VE Day Trade Stand.

Watchman is a military mascot of the now disbanded Staffordshire Regiment and the now withdrawn 3rd Battalion (Staffords) of the Mercian Regiment.

He is a Staffordshire Bull Terrier and continues his duties as part of the Staffordshire Regimental Association. He is gifted by the people of Burton-on Trent to the Staffordshire Regimental Association, previously the Staffordshire Regiment. Previous Watchmen also paraded with the West Midlands Regiment and related reserve regiments. The mascots family line comes from Cannock, in Staffordshire. Each successive mascot carries the name Watchman, to date there have been six. When a mascot dies or a handler retires, another Staffordshire Bull Terrier puppy is chosen to replace him. When a Watchman passes away, they are buried with full military honours in St Edwards Square in Burton upon Trent, Staffordshire. The National Dog Show is of course held at the Staffordshire County Showground.

Our judge should have been Richard Bott who last judged at Three Counties in 2018. On this occasion he awarded the Dog CC to Riverbrue Alchemist Amidst Kespas JW, Reserve to Gwendariff Thyme Bomb At Jacwilins JW, the Bitch CC to Riverbrue Gloriana and the Reserve to Ixia Ever Hopeful. He also made breed history on the day by giving five classes to five litter mates. Apart from the two ticket winners they were Eva Ciechonska's Riverbrue Altissimo At Aoibheanne JW, Graduate dog, Jenny Evan's Riverbrue Keepsake, Graduate bitch, and Katrina Hall's Riverbrue Ophelia at Glennara JW, Post Graduate bitch.

Since then four of them have gone on to gain their titles. They were bred by Blake Crocker, Amelia Siddle and Jenny Evans out of Sh Ch Neathamill Nerissa by Sh Ch Copper's War Of Roses (Imp Swe).

By popular request, Jim Sharman is doing another live karaoke session on Friday night, the 15th May, at 8 o'clock. So, if you've got any favourites from those he's already done, let him know.

I had a lovely message from Gerry Condron

Hi Chris, hope you Andy & all your loved ones are safe & well

Thank you for "mention in dispatches" last week after my sudden heart attack. It came after a very trying & tiring few days. It certainly was a shock for myself & dear Kate, who as you know is still recovering from her own problems after heart surgery.

I am well on the way to recovery although I have to take things slowly and steadily.

May I through your breed notes thank all the people for their concern & well wishes. It's good to know that we are in people's thoughts.

Thank you for giving us a chuckle with your MLM. I also remember when Mandy told you I had passed away (confusing me with Gerry Conlon (Daniel Day - Lewis, Sins of the Father).

Stay safe & well love to all & hope to see you soon Gerry x.

And finally, a Little Mate Story

Back in the 1990s I lived in Milton Keynes, a long way from MLM. She rang me one day and asked if I would go to stay with her for a weekend and show one of her Irish Setters. Naturally I said yes, booked my train and off I went.

When I arrived at hers the dogs needed trimming so I spent all Saturday afternoon fighting with them to get them 'match' ready.

By Sunday morning they look good so off we go to the show. On arrival she gets concerned because the secretary of the show is stewarding and decides that we should offer to steward after we've done showing.

Then she starts to notice that other people who should be judging are also stewarding.

Then we bump into an old friend who we've not seen for years.

MLM: 'What are you doing here?'

Old Friend: 'I'm judging Irish Setters'

MLM: 'No you're not it's Ron James'

Then the penny drops; the show we are entered in was yesterday!

We stand with a group of friends and as I berate her and tell them the story of how I've struggled to groom the dogs when we've already missed our classes she looks down and says 'Oh no'.

'Oh no what?' I ask? 'Oh no' she repeats.

'What? What?' I shout

'Oh no, I'm wearing odd shoes.....'

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