

IRISH SETTER BREED NOTES

W/C MONDAY 14TH DECEMBER 2020

Apologies to you all and to Jim Sharman; his Christmas Karaoke on FB will be on Friday 18th December at 20:00 and not on the 10th as I said last week.

The Committee of the ISBC has taken the decision to postpone its March 2021 Championship Show until the 29th August. It will still be in the Lady Eastwood hall at the Newark and Notts showground so you will still get the chance to show and the judges get to keep their appointments.

I feel for Joan Kniveton though because the two societies for whom she was to have judged, NEEISC and MISS, have cancelled and not rearranged. It seems such a shame as the Kennel Club has made it so easy for Breed Clubs to rearrange and General Championship shows are more than willing to host them.

Last week I forgot to mention that we should have been at the postponed SKC Championship Show on 29th November.

The judge was to have been John Thirlwell (Ferndel). Although John is most famed for his WSS his first breed was Irish Setters. His Irish was of Fearnley/Wendover breeding and she had a couple of litters by Sh Ch Twoacres Wayward Caesar.

In 1999 he ventured back into Irish with a dog bred by Pat Butler-Holley. 'Liam' was by Intrepid out of Withersdale Crystal Maze At Shandwick (Sh Ch Konakakela Zagar By Romarne ex Withersdale Livia) who was bred by Will Brown and the late Chrissie Soanes. Crystal Maze won one RCC from Ann Aitken at Leeds in 1997.

Livia was out of two Show Champions owned or bred by Pat; her sire was Sh Ch Wickenberry Knight At Arms and her dam was Sh Ch Shandwick Golden Rose, litter sister to Pat's Sh Ch Shandwick Golden Spray. Livia's litter sister was Sh Ch Withersdale Dangerous Lady Of Glennara who won 3 CCs and 3 RCCs. Her first was from Pat Rutherford at MISS in 1998 with the Reserve going to Sh Ch Bonhomie Forgotten Dream. Her second was at the same show a year later when Lynn Dale judged; she gave the RCC to Lynwood Timeltell and David Bell made her up at ISCS in 2000. Fearnley Faberge took her one and only RCC.

Livia had previously produced another Show Champion when mated to Sh Ch Reddins Ferdinand; Sh Ch Withersdale Songbird Of Serrula was the winner of 4 CCs and surprisingly no RCCs. Gordon Evans awarded her her first CC at Paignton in 1993 and gave a first Green Card to Konakakela Ziggy of Strathmead who was RCC. At Darlington later that year Peter Armstrong judged at CC level for the first time and gave her CC number 2 and a second RCC to Caskeys Humming Bird. Her crowning CC was in 1994 at NGA. Gordon Hogsflesh was the judge and he gave the RCC to Latneys Pease Blossom. Lynn Dale gave her her fourth at GBAS in 1994 and a fifth Reserve to Laggan Uptown Girl.

And so back to John T.: Liam won his first CC in 2002 at Bath when Jim Smith was the judge and Sh Ch Amberlight Firecracker was Reserve. Shortly afterwards Peter Hall judged at Paignton, his first appointment I believe, and awarded him his second and RCC again was Firecracker. Sally Foster made him up at Leeds and gave the Reserve to Duncarreg Red River at Chanstor. If memory serves me right, John's friend Moray Armstrong judged the Group that day so Sh Ch Shandwick Amethyst at Ferndel did a lap of honour and did not compete in it. He won a further CC at Driffield that year from Christine Schofield (who had given him his first Green Card, a RCC, at Richmond 2001) and another 3 CCs in 2003 under Marita Bott, June Hill and John Powis. Liam won 7 CCs and 8 RCCs in total.

Joan Kniveton had his litter brother, S. Diamond at Orestone J.W. who won a RCC from Val Lockhart at Blackpool in 2003, Gwendariff Dom Perignon took his second CC; another litter brother became Int Ch Shandwick Topaz.

Liam sired 6 litters. Gill Tully used him on Satlas A Star Is Born At Highclare and Paddy Catlin's bitch, Highclare Mary Poppins at Teleri, from this litter won a CC at WKC in 2009 from David Tobin.

Pat mated him to her Bardonhill Wishuwerere and indulged in her passion for Rod Stewart by naming the litter after his songs.

John last judged Irish at Three Counties in 2016 when he found his Dog CC in Sh Ch Copper's War Of Roses with Reserve going to Sh Ch & Ir Sh Ch Gwendariff Whippersnapper JW. His Bitch CC winner was Sh Ch Int Ch Fairhaven Louise Mountbatten At Braidmount and Reserve Sametsuz In A Fankle.

Yesterday should have been LKA when Rosie Dudley (Fairuby) was to have been our first time judge.

I am grateful to Simon Parsons for telling me that the only Irish Setter ever to have been BIS at LKA was Dorothy Whitwell's Ch Ravenhill Phil in 1927!

Phil was whelped in February 1921 by Mr T J Monahan and was by Greencastle Giant out of Ch Ravenhill Sally. Sally produced another Show Champion when mated to Ch Terry Of Boyne, she was Sh Ch Florrie Of Boyne.

Phil sired 9 litters that I can find which included 4 Show Champions, they were Ch Cymwran Juniper, Ch Corona Toby and the litter sisters Ch Delaware Kate and Sh Ch Delaware Peggy. Phil was described as 'a solid well ribbed dog with a noble head' and his daughter Kate as 'the best show bitch in the breed for many years'. In 1927 she won seven CCs in a row for Dorothy Forster Whitwell and four more in 1928.

When researching Mrs Whitwell (I dare not refer to her as Dorothy) I found the following in an Australian Kennel Gazette from 1936:

'Although youthfully attractive, Mrs. Whitwell is perhaps the leading English woman judge of dogs, notably gun-dogs. This is proven by the fact that the English Kennel Club recently asked her to take the Irish Setters' section at their show - a compliment never before extended to a woman. Her uncle, Sir John Renwick, an English baronet, is a recognised horse and dog judge in England, and she accompanied him to the Eastern States by the Narkunda, which passed through on Tuesday. There the pair will judge at both the Adelaide and Melbourne Shows.'

The article goes on to say:

'Mrs. Whitwell's own kennels of "Arlaw" and Ardagh English and Irish Setters and Pointers are known throughout England, and indeed are of international fame It is these Kennels which bred or owned 14 champions (seven Irish and three English

Setters three Pointers, and one Greyhound) over a period of eight years, a phenomenal performance in England, where so few champions are created each year.

An illustration of this is seen in the fact that in all of England, Ireland, and Scotland the ratio of champions created during a year to registrations of dogs received by the Kennel Club is 1 in 143, whilst

in Victoria it is 1 in 19. Four of the occupants of Mrs. Whitwell's kennels carry the coveted title International Champion. None of them is a mere bench champion,

for the stock has a greatly respected name in English Field Trial circles.

Mrs Whitwell will break a precedent at the Melbourne Royal Show by being the first of her sex to judge for the Society in any section but that for Women's Industries. She broke a similar precedent when she judged Irish Setters at the English Kennel

Club's Show last year,
for she was the first lady to receive that honour. She drew
the second largest entry at the Show of sixty different breeds.
Her identity as a keen judge is far from being confined to Gun Dogs,
for apart from her adjudication on all breeds she has frequently accepted special engagements for all Toys and several of the larger breeds.'

Born Dorothy Forster Renwick on 18th November 1905 she married Henry E L Whitwell in 1925 and died on 16th December 1994. She was also a successful breeder of Whippets and Greyhounds under the Seagift affix.

She gave tickets in Irish 11 times after WWII and judged Crufts in 1957 when she also did the Gordon Setters. Her Dog CC was Sh Ch Raycroft Rowdy, RCC Sh Ch Hartsbourne O'Mara. Bitch CC was Sh Ch Willow of Casamia and RCC Flicka of Casamia.

Her last appointment was at LKA in 1971. Dog CC was Sh Ch Carnbargus Hartsbourne O'Brady, RCC Boisdale Begorrah, Bitch CC Sh CH Twoacres Traviata, RCC Sh Ch Cornevon Primrose.

A Little Mate Christmas Story

8 December 2017

So MLM goes Christmas shopping.

No shoving and pushing in Meadowhall for her, she'd rather shop online.

Her granddaughter, Ezmi, is animal mad so she buys her a DVD called 'I Love Animals.'

And it's a bargain too; £4 rather than the recommended £14.00.

It arrived today.

It's in Spanish.

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