

IRIH SETTER BREED NOTES

W/C MONDAY 15TH JUNE 2020

Last Saturday should have been Belfast and District Irish Setter Club's Championship Show and Open Show. If you recall they were rescheduled to the end of September to be held with Belfast Championship Show but both were cancelled.

The club has undergone some turbulent times in the recent past with a mass resignation of the committee in July 2016 followed by deregistration. This was quickly reversed and a new committee elected. The Championship Show judge was to have been first timer Pam Blay (Stablaheim) and the Open Show judge was to have been Sue Randle (Rionore).

There are two General Championship shows that have not yet cancelled. Both have their own showground and are trying to reschedule. Blackpool has applied for 25th to 27th September, the date of cancelled Belfast, and Bournemouth is trying for the first weekend in October. The ISAE is scheduled for the first Saturday in October and I can't see that there has been any announcement from them so it could be a very busy weekend. Jim Sharman's final tally for his Karaoke fund raising was just over £1,900.00. Well done, Jim!

There has been much speculation about next year's Crufts so I'm sure you are all pleased to see the KC's announcement. If you haven't read it here it is:

"The Kennel Club and the Crufts Committee are committed to holding Crufts 2021 if permitted to do so by the Government.

We greatly appreciate the support the show receives each year from our exhibitors, sponsors, trade-stand holders, public visitors and Channel 4. The qualification criteria for the show will be announced once the Government guidance is clear on future events, which may not be until the autumn.

It may be that the show will need to be reformatted in a way to comply with new regulations. If so, more details about this will be announced as information becomes available.

We would ask for patience at what is a difficult time for everyone with limited information currently available as to how things will progress in the coming weeks and months.

Crufts is the world's best known celebration of dogs and we very much look forward to welcoming you all to the show in happier times in 2021, if circumstances allow."

More good news from the KC, they have overturned a recent ruling and are now allowing A2 assessments to run for the whole of the 5 year transition period between the current judging system and the Judges Education Programme (Breed Shows), formerly the JCF.

Next weekend would have been Border Union and I was interested to find that 4 Irish Setters have gone Best in Show there.

The first was in 1935 when the show was the Ayrshire show. Ch Borrowdale Brangane was bred by Mrs M Ogden in March 1932 out of her Ch Norna by Ch Rheola Benedict. One of her littermates was also a Show Champion, Sh Ch Borrowdale Juan. I can only find one litter of Brangane's by Borrowdale Baronet whelped in 1936, perhaps because her sire R. Benedict was a known carrier of PRA? Mrs Ogden was a campaigner in trying to eradicate the condition. She was also a former secretary of The Setter & Pointer Club.

In 1952 Mrs Walker's Ch Hartsbourne Popsy went Best in Show under Frank Warner Hill; he was a well known Gundog exhibitor, judge and writer of several books. Popsy was whelped in June 1948 out of Hartsbourne Poppet by H. Senor of Shadowood who was an import from the USA. Senor won one CC and was a reluctant stud dog but through his daughter he had a great influence on the breed. Popsy won 22 CCs in her renowned career and was the bitch breed recorder holder; her two litters to Sh Ch Hartsbourne Tobias were very successful.

The first, born in May 1951, produced Ch Hartsbourne Bedelia J.W., Sh Ch Hartsbourne Bloom, Sh Ch Hartsbourne Brilliant, Aust Ch Hartsbourne Brutus and Ch Hartsbourne Buster Of Acres J.W.

The second, whelped in December 1952, produced Sh Ch H. O'Hara who himself went on to sire 3 Show Champions.

I shall write about the other two next week.

I found a Little Mate story from June 2019:

Today we are at Three Counties show and having benched the dogs we go for a walk round. First stop is the Flat Coat Retriever ring.

MLM: I think that's the Flat Coat I gave a Stakes Class to; I'd like another look to see how it's come on

She leans over the ring tape and starts to go over the dog

Me: Chris, you need to come away

MLM: I won't be long I'm just having another look

Me: Chris you really need to come away now

MLM: Yes I heard you, I won't be long

Me: Chris, you really, really need to come away now

MLM: Oh for goodness sake, what's wrong with you?

Me: Well the judge is standing there waiting to start the class and you're holding up proceedings!

And on the way back, this:

When we travel south, I meet MLM in a lay-by just off Junction 30 of the M1. I usually drive to the show and she drives back. As we get back today I say 'Don't pull up too close to the kerb because it makes it difficult getting down the side of the van to get stuff out'.

Why do I waste me breath?

Guess who tripped over said kerb and fell down the ditch?

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