

IRISH SETTER BREED NOTES
W/C MONDAY 19TH JULY 2021

Lesley Trow has attracted an entry of 102 making 112 at Leeds Championship Show.

I am writing this because I know that many of you will want to send get well thoughts and wishes to Joan Kniveton who is poorly in hospital at the moment. If you'd like to send cards, please mail them to her home address which can be found in the ISBC Year Book. I know she'd love to hear from you. I was so happy for Joan when she was given the appointment to judge dogs at the ISBC in August but sadly now she can't do it. I can't think of a more fitting person to take her place than Patricia Butler-Holley.

The entry for NGA is 76 dogs making 93 entries for first timer Ruth Lewis (Valasarch) and 78 bitches making 96 entries for first timer Diana Wilder (Riverman). The referee and Best in Show judge is our own Christine Schofield aka MLM.

I am grateful to Laura Kolbach for sending me the results from GBAS Open Show which was held on 11th July 2021. Abi Levene attracted a very good entry and she awarded BOB to Jackie Boyd-McNeill's Gwendariff Beam Me Up Scotty who was shortlisted into the last 8 for BIS.

Claire Lewis got in touch to point out that 'Norman' aka Riverbrue Wonderwall At Hernwood who won the Gundog Group and Best in Show at the East of England Open Show is co-owned with Blake Crocker. Please accept my apologies for the omission.

The following is something I never thought I would have to write.

On Monday 12th July Michelle Webster, Hooley Irish Setters, was admitted to hospital and passed away peacefully the following day with her cousin John and his wife Pauline by her side. She was 67 years old.

It is a huge shock to us all but particularly to her very close friends, Meg Webb (who had taken her to the hospital) and Carole Bailey who spoke to Michelle every single morning.

Michelle was from Cleethorpes in Lincolnshire and was an only child. She had always loved dogs and her first was a Pembroke Corgi.

After leaving Cleethorpes Grammar School for Girls she studied Music and English Literature at Westminster College, Oxford and became a teacher of reception pupils upwards. Carole tells me that Michelle was very musical and had a wonderful operatic singing voice.

When she married she got her very first Irish Setter. Kerrigan Amber Dream aka Oliver was bred by Dorothy Rees in March 1980 and was by Twoacres Nautilus ex Mahogany Red Flame.

Michelle divorced and returned home to her parents and in 1992 she bought an Irish Setter from June Coates. Flynn (Twoacres Joker The Hooley) was out of Twoacres Old Gold by Janter Jedadiah and having won second place at his first show Michelle was hooked.

At home he was known as Hooley O'Flynn because he was a typical Irish hooligan and Michelle took Hooley as her affix. He gained his Stud Book number.

Flynn was litter brother to Sh Ch Twoacres Jade and when she was mated to Goldings Festival in 1995 Michelle bought a dog, Twoacres Fergus. He won his Junior Warrant and two CCs.

Marjorie Jarosz gave him his first at NEEISC in 1998. RCC went to Dnawlen Crystal Rummer, his first of two.

Two years later in 2000 at GSW Alicia Coupe awarded him his second with Bai Breeze Bi Thendara taking his first RCC.

Oddly enough it was the last time that both ladies gave CCs in dogs.

June McAvoy had a litter by Fergus out of her Rua Vanity in 1998 and kept a bitch Cymbeline Aoife. She won a Reserve CC from Clive Davies at City of Birmingham in 2000 when Coppershell Red Beauty won her only ever ticket.

A second RCC came from Sally Foster at Leeds in 2002. Sh Ch Lynwood Timeltell won her 7th CC.

June used Fergus again in 2002 but this time from Timadon Miss Irresistable. June kept a dog, Cymbeline Fiseal, and he also won 2 RCCs.

The first was from Jackie Lorrimer at Belfast in 2004 when Sh Ch Kirkavagh Kalaglow won his 6th CC and his second was at GBAS in 2005 when Rosemary Whitelock judged. On the day Rosemary titled Sh Ch Brabrook True Blade.

Michelle had litter brother to Fiseal, Cymbeline Fallon By Hooley.

At the time of her passing Michelle still had an Irish at home. Mulligan aka Glenvarna Fire And Ice At Hooley was bred by Kevin and Liz Swainston in 2013 out of Glenvarna The Wow Factor by Togipoto Ice God At Glenvarna who through his dam is a great grandson of T. Jade.

Mulligan and Michelle's cat Charlie are being well cared for.

For many years Michelle was a very efficient and capable secretary of the East Midlands Social Region of the ISBC. She organised many educational and fun events and threw herself wholeheartedly into what ever she did.

But more than this she was a devoted and loyal friend who loved her dogs, her friends, her home and her garden. With Michelle what you saw was what you got.

Many years ago, when I was having a particularly troubling time, she was a great support to me and I shall never ever forget her words. "The truth will always out" she said and how right she was. I still hear here saying these words to this day.

Michelle was utterly devoted to Irish Setters and in 2016 at the ISBC Championship Show she was awarded the Carol Dines Memorial Award. This award is presented to those who have given continuing and significant service to the club and breed in a behind the scenes way, not in a prominent role.

Michelle's Irish Setter Pedigree database is an outstanding piece of work and my notes could never be written without them.

Michelle never had a real opportunity to campaign her dogs fully because she gave it up to care for her elderly parents and poorly dogs. She judged at Open Show level and did all that was required of her to award CCs with the exception of winning a third Stud Book number.

The Kennel Club requirement is for three Stud Book numbers save for exceptional circumstances but she was never put on an A3 list.

It is a crying shame that she was never granted A3 status because if caring for your aging parents and sick dogs is not exceptional then I don't know what is.

Thank you for all you did for the breed and those who own them Michelle, you will be sorely missed and I for one am very grateful and a better person for knowing you.

To your cousin John and Pauline and to your heartbroken friends Meg and Carole I send my most sincere condolences.

They have waited for you at the Rainbow Bridge Michelle so cross it together now and rejoice in joyous reunion.

A Michelle Webster Story from the 1990s.

Liz Rose-Hay held a fun day in aid of Irish Setter Rescue at her place in deepest darkest Cheshire with Susan George and Simon MacCorkindale as judges.

There were novelty classes and games played. The beer raffle was particularly popular. Tickets were bought and to everyone's surprise every ticket was a winning one.

The sun shone all day and we had a barbeque with sausages aplenty for the dogs.

As the day drew to a close a car came screeching on to the drive and a very hot and sweaty Michelle jumped out shouting "I made it".

Poor Michelle had been driving around the Cheshire countryside for hours trying to find Liz's place but with her usual good humour she asked "Have I missed anything?"

God Bless you Michelle, we will all hold our friends a little closer tonight and tell them how much we love them.

Christine Morgan

morgan@thechrisses.co.uk

07970 634780