

IRISH SETTER BREED NOTES

W/C MONDAY 4TH MAY 2020

You will have seen by now that East of England Championship Show has been cancelled.

We have already lost two Breed Club Championship Shows this year and are in danger of losing more so it is good to see that the K.C. will allow these clubs to hold 2 Championship Shows next year.

Furthermore, Bath, Birmingham National and Welsh Kennel Club are extending invitations to all Breed Clubs to hold their shows in conjunction with them. I'm sure that many more arrangements of this kind will be made.

I was sorry to read on Face Book that Gerry

Condron

(Covarney) has been in hospital after suffering a sudden heart attack. He is home now so please join me in wishing him a speedy recovery.

The Kennel Club Journal for May 2020 is available now online. There are some judges listed as follows; Driffield August 2021, Tania Gardner; City of Birmingham September 2021, Ray Strudwick; Midland Counties October 2021, Wendy Morley; Gundog Breeds Association Scotland November 2021, Diane McDonald dogs, Joanne Parsons bitches; Birmingham National May 2022, Julie Greenan.

There are no Junior Warrant winners listed and under the current circumstances I can't see there being many in the next edition. There has been some debate about what the Kennel Club will do for dogs who will have missed out on their Junior Warrants due to the current crisis.

It may seem trivial to some to be worried about not getting it but it is the Stud Book number attached to it that is the real cause for concern.

Consider this, you have been judging for years, have got your numbers, have passed a seminar with hands on assessment, attended all the required KC seminars, attended a field trial and have 2 SBNs. You are now approaching retirement age and this is the last puppy you are going to have; it needs 3 points to get its warrant and you have 4 months to do it in. Then all shows are cancelled.

Hopes and dreams are dashed through no fault of your own.

Now you may be thinking that if it's good enough it will get its SBN with a ticket or reserve or a win/place in Limit or Open. But how many more years will that take? Irish are slow maturing so you could be looking at another 2 to 3 years.

And when you consider that most Championship shows contract their judges 3 years in advance your health/circumstances could be very different.

I have been looking back through stuff on my laptop to find something Irish Setter related to write about. I came across this about Sybil Lennox:

My lasting memory of Sybil is of one summer's evening when

Joan Kniveton

and I went to visit her at Treetops; the purpose of the visit totally escapes me now as it was back in the 1970's. But we must have gone straight from school as we can't possibly be that old!

Anyway, as we were driving up the road there ahead of us was Sybil leading a young heifer by the nose towards a field at the end of the lane. This young cow was having none of it and really dug her heels in as Sybil pulled and tugged on the rope.

We abandoned the car and started off down the lane to help but when we were almost there the heifer gave Sybil an almighty push in the chest and knocked her backwards over a stone wall! All we could see were Sybil's legs thrashing about in the air as we ran faster towards the scene. I went to Sybil but the heifer took one look at Joan and decided that she really didn't like her and started to charge at her.

Joan set off back down the lane with the cow in hot pursuit but as I pulled Sybil up she saw what was happening and shouted in best Captain Mainwaring fashion 'You stupid girl! You're running the wrong way. Run into the field; that's where I want her.'

None of us were ever brave enough to disobey Sybil so Joan did a quick about turn and legged it into the field with the cow, who now appeared to be breathing fire, very hot on her heels.

Sybil climbed back over the wall, brushed herself down, closed the gate and said 'Tea, then?'

I can't ever remember how Joan escaped but it brings a whole new meaning to the phrase 'mad cow'.

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