

Bridget Margaret Simpson 25-01-1947 - 03-07-2000

Dear Setter lovers and friends

It is with great sadness and a heavy heart that I have to advise you that my dear wife Bridget passed away peacefully from natural causes.

With this in mind there will no longer be a SETTER NEWSLETTER . She was the driving force behind this , researching her articles and typing them out while I was the editor and the photo inserter.

She got great satisfaction for efforts and I thank those that showed their appreciation for her work and hoped that she was of assistance in helping the newcomers to the Setter family in understanding the breeds.

Bridget & I met 55 years ago, July 1965 at the Orchid Ballroom in Purley, Surrey UK. We were both on a rebound from failed relationships. Became engaged in the December on a cruise ship and then on the 2nd April 1966 we became husband and wife,

Having owned dogs her entire life it was almost a natural progression that she and I became involved in the local dog scene a couple of years after settling in South Africa.

We owned our first Irish Setter in 1968 (a rescue), and in 1970 purchased our foundation bitch. From this modest beginning we built the flourishing family of Oakdale Irish Setters who have won top honours, in our hands and those of others throughout the country including three that were awarded Best in Show All Breeds multiple times and many other Group winners over the year.. In 2013 she was the proud breeder of the Kennel Union of Southern Africa National Top Gundog FCI Int.Ch. & SA Ch. Oakdales O'Driscoll, owned by Anthony and Rowena Wonfor.

Bridget & I were founding members of The Cape Town Kennel Club and she served for about 15 years as Secretary to the Club. She represented the Western Province Provincial Council as Chairlady and then became a KUSA Federal Councillor where she gained a very broad knowledge and understanding of dogs and dog folk.

Bridget commenced judging the Gundog group in the 1980's and then branched out into Hounds, Terriers, Toys, Utility and was subsequently eligible to judge Best in Show at All Breeds Championship Shows.

Still deeply involved with the Setters after 50 years Bridget & I, are the official Health Co-ordinators for all the Setter Breeds and keep statistics of DNA testing for inheritable diseased applicable to particularly Irish (Red) Setters as well as HD/ED Records For the time being I will continue with this important statistic.

She was instrumental in setting up the Setter health records as well as a driving force for the health certificates which accompany registration certificates upon request.

Rest in peace my darling wife

Mark Simpson