

'Chatter'

An occasional magazine
for devotees of the
Irish Red and White
Letter

Issue No. 1

SEPTEMBER 1983

Welcome to the first edition of "CHATTER".

This is intended to be an informal magazine for lovers of the Irish Red and White Setter.

Provided that you the readers can contribute sufficient material, we hope to publish every two months.

Isabel will keep us up-to-date with what's happening in the World of Field Trials and will write a regular page.

We will publish the results of the major shows and there will be details of stud dogs, matings and puppies available. All adverts are free. So send in any information that you would like to see in future issues.

Gilbert Leighton-Boyce will be writing about pedigrees in the next issue and we hope he will be a regular and valued contributor.

Mary Blackwell is off to Ireland for the August shows and is going to write up the shows, with results, for our next issue. If we can, we will provide a regular Irish feature.

We shall also have a letters page and all views are welcome (provided they are not libellous, blasphemous or pornographic!)

We will also publish a pedigree in each issue. This time it is "MEIKLE RED HI-WAY MAN". Keep reading "CHATTER" to get a full collection.

"CHATTER" is published free of charge. A contribution of £1.00 will ensure you get six bi-monthly issues posted to your home address.

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Norfolk.

STOP PRESS

CONGRATULATIONS

Alan and Cathie Rankin's
dog Jake (otherwise known
as Shannon Lee Amber light)
has won the Baworth prize
donated by Isabel Somersfield
of £100.00 for the Puppy winning
most points in the Show Competition
who subsequently reaches Field
Trial Standard. Congratulations to
Alan, Cath + Jake and also to
Jake's breeders, Maurine and Joy Webb.

THE IRISH RED AND WHITE SETTER SOCIETY'S DESCRIPTION OF

THE IRISH RED AND WHITE SETTER

Recently the old breed standard for the Irish Red and White Setter came into my possession and is reproduced below, of particular interest is the points system showing EVERY aspect of the dog is important and no one should be single minded about any one point.

The Irish Red and White Setter is bred primarily for the Field, and the points as set out hereunder must be interpreted chiefly from this point of view. These points are merely guides to what the Society considers to be the qualifications of a good working dog or bitch, and all judges at Bench Shows whether members of the Society or not, must be encouraged to judge the exhibits chiefly from the working standpoint.

The Irish Red and White Setter should be strongly built, well balanced and proportioned with a body designed for long strenuous work and a certain degree of speed.

The head should be broad in proportion to the body with a good stop: eyes hazel or dark brown. The head should be set on a muscular neck which slopes gradually into oblique shoulders.

The body should be "well over the heart," deep in its girth, with well arched ribs. The back and quarters should be very muscular and powerful, set on legs which convey the impression of speed. The bone should be strong, and well built up with muscle and sinew. The hocks should be sufficiently let down to meet the requirements of endurance but not dropped to the extent found in dogs bred exclusively for speed.

The coat should be fine in texture with good feathering. A slight wave is permissible, but it should not be curly. The colour should be white and red and both colours should show the maximum of life and bloom.

He should display a kindly, friendly attitude, behind which should be discernible determination, courage, and the high spirit and intelligent expression only to be found in a well bred animal.

POINTS

Symmetry and Proportion	40
Style and Movement	10
Bone	10
Back and quarters	10
Head and Stop	20
Coat and Feathering	10
Total	100

This standard is believed to have been written about 1944 and forms the basis for our present Interim Breed Standard.

Mary Blackwell

TRIUMPHS..... AND.....DISASTERS!!

An amalgam of Field Trial comments and contributions concerning training and work.

I should firstly like to thank Mrs. Brigden for her initiative in getting together this little newsletter and also for 'volunteering' me to collate Field Trial reports and your contributions concerning the training and working of our lovely Setters! I feel very honoured and hope that you will enjoy reading these little articles as much as I shall enjoy writing them, and will rely upon you to send in anything you would like to see printed.

The BIG news is that the Rankin's dog, Jake, has just (10th August) run in his first Trial. He fully lived up to Allan's hopes and got through the first round. In the second round he found a bird missed by his brace-mate and pointed it but unfortunately he was not one of the three dogs which got through to the third round and thus gained awards. I understand that the Judges (Mr. H. C. Embery & Mr. R. Gourtorbe) were well pleased with Jake and will be sending testimonials to me so that Jake will have complied with the terms and conditions of the 1982 Bawnrhu Award..... and I will have to fulfill my part of the bargain by sending Kath and Allan Rankin a cheque for £100.00 as a realistic contribution toward training costs! My personal congratulations go to Allan (which I am sure you will echo) and 'bon chance' for the future!

The Trials run in April of this year were run as usual at this time of year in Suffolk and Norfolk. As usual the lack of support and interest from IRW owners in the UK was noticeable. Only one IRW owner came as a spectator - and that was in an endeavour to arrange a mating for her bitch! Owing to incredible admin. blunders as far as entries were concerned I did not do too much better! In the end Flynn was entered in only two stakes in the first of which the devil was in his feet and cotton wool in his ears! In the final Trial however he lived up to the reputation he had gained in the previous Autumn Trials by running well and getting through the second round. Due to weather conditions there was no third round and thus no awards. He was handled as usual by Miss Norma Watts who was also running her own IRS bitch, Grouse of Almanor whose breeding goes back to FT CH M. Kerrygold and thence back to Ballymac Eagle and Patricia of Killone. Grouse, with Flynn and Mr. Dick's (of Co. Cork) IRS bitch were the only three qualified for the third round had there been one so it was a good day for Irish Setters!

Due to domestic and farm commitments I was unable to attend any of the Grouse Trials but hope to get second hand reports for the next Newsletter. I understand that a w/r type Irish, registered as Red was running. The comment in Dog World states that it was a dog and so I assume that means it was different from Mr. Truman's bitch, Juno of Assarts (reg. Red). I should be extremely grateful for any enlightenment in this matter.

The Autumn Trials will be run from 5th September on for 8 days, excluding Sunday, in North Norfolk, Cambridgeshire and Suffolk. Please ring me for details. If you chose to bring your dog (not strictly speaking allowed) they must be SILENT and on a SECURE lead AT ALL TIMES. The Trials are on stubble so Wellies/tough shoes and wind/water proofs advisable.

I. SOMERFIELD (049 376 821 after dark)

IRISH RED & WHITE SETTER FIELD & SHOW SOCIETY

The A.G.M. of this Society will take place in Dublin at 7.30 p.m. on 1st September.

By the time this reaches you Paid up Members will have received notices but if you have any queries please contact the Hon. Sec. who is now Mr. Brian MacDiarmada, of Season Park, Newtownmountkennedy, Co. Wicklow. Tel. No. (dial 0001 from UK) 819389.

IMPORTANT.....IMPORTANT.....IMPORTANT !!!!

The Irish Red & White Setter Field & Show Society will be holding a Field Trial on 22nd October, 1983. At the moment I don't have further details except that I think it is Port Loaise area. The last trial was held at Wilkinstown 13.2.83, was written up in the Shooting Times and was won by Sean Walsh's Hawk of Knockalla. There was no representation from the UK., at that trial but I do hope we will be able to field one or two dogs this time. Please contact me after I get back from Dublin AGM (1.9.83) for further details and entry forms.
I.C.S.

WARNING!

Some of you may have read in the recent ISBC Newsletter of the lady member whose IRS swam in the sea with a Seal. Please do not encourage your dogs in this foolhardy practice if the opportunity presents itself! Momma seals often swim just off-shore, leaving their pups safely tucked away on the beach. If you, or your dog, were to approach the seal pup it is quite incredible how fast Momma can leave the water and get herself over the sand to attack. She could make a big mess of your dog - and she would not be too pleased to see him in the sea either! So, do be very careful, the ISBC correspondent was incredibly fortunate because the story could well have had a tragic ending.

Happy family trio having lunch in Pub. Dog left in car.

Man: "Hurry up! Murphy dog wants to go for a walk"

Lady: "I'm still eating - walk him to the Post Office."

Man: "Got no lead for him."

Lady: "He doesn't need a lead - he can wait outside the shop - he's used to it."

Man: "I'm not having Murphy hanging around with all those other dogs!"

Talk about dogsnobbery!! And the fellow still does not know why we all howled with laughter!

For those of us used to Show bred dogs owning an Irish Red & White Setter opens a whole new can of worms! The Irish Red & White Setter has survived because it has been bred and maintained as a working setter by a few dedicated enthusiasts and it is recognised therefore ~~that~~ if we are to preserve this type of Irish Setter for the future we must now breed selectively for those dogs which both look and play the part.

Breeding selectively is a sorry business, not to be undertaken lightly. One will travel up many a blind alley before apparently finding the Motorway - only to find 'Road Closed' or 'Diversion' signs just when least expected. Sadly of the very many bred only a very few will prove suitable for further breeding. So far bad mouths, missing testicles, H.D., ticking and roaning (a rogue line now, I understand, clearly identified and which seems to dominate in matings where it is a constituent factor) are some of the present problems which will hopefully be eliminated to a minimal risk by careful and selective breeding. If we "get it right" now we will be doing ourselves and the Gundog fraternity a favour for the future. We surely owe it to those that will inherit our dogs to hand on to them a type of Irish Setter that is at least as good as those we inherited from the many past generations who kept them alive whilst the Irish Red Setters rose to such great heights of popularity. -

As an illustration of the heartbreak involved, and as an opportunity for many of us to reflect upon whether we will be tough enough to take "the heat in the kitchen", two of my seven adult w/r type Irish Setters will have to be discounted as far as breeding is concerned! Both were their breeder's pick of litter and each one is outstanding in many ways. One is the only UK registered Irish Red & White Setter to have run in Trials here - but he looks like an English Setter and misses a Testicle. The other has also a problem thought by many to be Hereditary. I know that despite my very best endeavours, both now and in the future, this will not be the last time that I will have to discount a very much loved animal. Making this sort of decision is tough, every time one looks at the dog one is inclined to lessen one's resolve, but decisions such as these are essential for the future of the Irish Red & White Setter.

Apart from assessing the appearance, temperament, and conformation of one's dog or bitch one must then consider the other all important factor in the Irish Red & White Setter breeding equation - WORK!

In common with every other novice in the matter of breeding Irish Red & White Setters I had to learn that a Pedigree littered with some of the most notable Field Trial Champions of our age is merely an indication of possible hope. There is only one way to find out if a Setter is trainable - and that is in a field with a whistle and a dog! It is said that out of a working bred litter you may expect to find 50% to be useless, sometimes even more. Others will tell you

THE CHALLENGE!
(cont.)

that the ability to work is far from prepotent..... rather the reverse is true. This, for those of use who prefer the "fireside" approach to training gundogs is rather tiresome. However I have found that it is certainly true that the dogs will amply repay any effort one cares to put in to training. An alternative is to have one's Setter trained professionally. This is not nearly as expensive as you may think and is certainly far less expensive than regular attendance at Dog Shows. Whatever one's approach to the problem it remains true that the dog will have to be trained. You cannot, nor must you, rely upon the fact that your Setter has a prestigious pedigree, or that his litter brother / sister is trained, that is NO proof positive that YOUR Setter has what is required.

Having found two likely candidates for breeding which are suitably bred, correct in marking, conformation and of acceptable ability in the field, the puppies will then be born, those that are obviously unsuitable will have to be culled, IMMEDIATELY, before both you and the bitch get too attached to them! There is one more hurdle to jump.... do not be in too much of a hurry to sell your puppies.... it has been the experience so far that however carefully one does one's homework one cannot possibly guarantee the markings until the puppy coat has been cast. It is therefore incumbent upon Breeders to explain the problem of standardisation within the breed at present and that although all reasonable care has been taken that no surety can be given that the puppy sold will develop into an animal from which any benefit can be derived as far as breeding is concerned.

Having mentioned some of the responsibilities - and they do indeed seem to be all hard work and heartbreak - where's the fun? Well, there's plenty of it. Firstly the dogs themselves, no matter their appearance, are an enormous pleasure to own. Apart from the pure enjoyment of living with, exercising and training the dogs there is the enormous challenge and interest to be derived out of being involved in an attempt to re-establish sound breeding lines for the old white and red type Irish Setter. Many of the people one meets in the quest for clues and information are extremely interesting, kind and helpful. The people in Ireland whom I have visited have been more than generous with their hospitality and advice. As for the Field Trials I had been led to understand that as a newcomer I would be best placed sitting in a dyke with a periscope for company in order to view the proceedings! Quite the reverse is true. Many highly accomplished and experienced Field Triallers have taken time off to give encouragement to a "Learner / Driver".

Finally, it would appear that if all goes well the Irish Red & White Setter is here to stay, not as a relic of the past, but as a useful and active member of that group of Setters bred in these Islands. It is hoped by many that if bred true to type on rigorously selective grounds, out of purely bred Field Trial Irish Setter stock there will not be a division between "working" and "Show" strains and that the Irish Red & White Setter will once again be seen as a strikingly handsome dog well able to play his part in the field - a job for which he has been selectively bred for well over two hundred years.

NATIONAL GUNDOG ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW
IRISH RED & WHITE SETTERS
JUDGE: MR. M. WEBB (SHANNONLEE)
SATURDAY, 6TH AUGUST 1983

The day may have started dull but the atmosphere around the ring was not affected by the weather. Everyone was cheerful and pleased to be judged early instead of having to wait for an empty ring. Maurice seemed to be in good spirits. It was nice to see some new puppies, especially Mr. & Mrs. Blackwell's "Rushfield" dog. They must have put a lot of hard work into getting him ready for the "Big Wide World" of dog showing.

After the judging everyone was invited to Mr. & Mrs. Webb's caravan for a get together with Alan and Ann Gormley who had come from Dublin for the show. This was a way of saying thank you for the hospitality which was extended to all English Red & White exhibitors in Ireland on St. Patrick's day this year. The food was very nice and enjoyable, once again the atmosphere was good. Thank you, Joyce, for the hard work you must have put in to make it such a success. It was nice to see an old friend with us again. Mrs. Rankin had travelled from Scotland for the show. It was nice to hear how Alan is progressing with his new job and that they are enjoying their new home.

Irish Red & White Exhibitor

NATIONAL CUNDOG 1983

Judge: Mr. Maurice Webb(Shannonlee)

All classes dog or bitch

- PUPPY: 1. Shannonlee Stonechat (BP)
 2. Coppermoor Catkin
 3. Rushfield Ryan
 4. Shannonlee Meadow Pipit
- JUNIOR: 1. Coolfin Commanche
 2. Hawklawn Sunset Charm
 3. Charnborough Cheri
 4. Sula Corafin
- GRADUATE: 1. Coolfin Commanche
 2. Sula Corafin
 3. Coolfin Concepta
 4. Coolfin Countess
- PCST GRAD: 1. Shannonlee Amber Sheen of Hawklawn
 2. Brosna Grouse of Autumnwood
 3. Meiklered Hi-Wayman
 4. Sula Corafin
- LIMIT: 1. Shannonlee Amber Light
 2. Shannonlee Fire Flash
 3. Meudon Merry Belle
 4. Brosna Grouse of Autumnwood
- OPEN: 1. Meudon Count Regent(B.O.B.)
 2. Shannonlee Amber Sheen of Hawklawn(BB)
 3. SHANNONLEE Majestic Flame (R.B.D.)
 4. Shannonlee Fire Flash

August 6th, 1983

FORTHCOMING SHOWS

Coulsdon Canine Society will be putting on classes for our breed on Monday January 2nd. The judge will be:

PAULINE PERRIAM (ELAPHIL)

Details from Patrick Holbourn,
169, Old Lodge Lane,
Purley, Surrey. Phone: 01-660 2366.

Bridgford Canine Society have classes at Newark on Sunday, Oct 2nd.
The judge will be:

BECKY GILBERT

Details from Les Payne
The Sherrads,
Lowdham, Notts.
NG 14 7B2. Phone: 0602 663367.
Entries Close September 10.

Liver Canine Assn. have classes on September 25th at Haydock Park Racecourse. The judge will be:

C Tonkyn (Willow Glen)

Details from I Blore
Briarsholme,
Briars Lane;
Lathom, Ormskirk, Lancs.
Phone; 0704 894151.
Entries close 31st August.

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Editors note;

This page could help to ensure exhibitors are aware of classes being scheduled for our breed which we otherwise might have missed. Please let us know of future plans by the local societies of which you have knowledge.

*
* PUPPIES AVAILABLE *
*

COPPERMOOR CABOODLE (Born 17.10.82.)

This attractive young dog is for sale to an exhibitor only, purely because I am unable to show him as he deserves. He is Crufts qualified, being Best R & W Puppy at Blackpool CH. Show 1983. Tucker (as he is called) has an easy-going nature, is sweet tempered and has potential as a working/field triale~~r~~ or as a future stud dog.

Sire: Brosna Grouse of Autumnwood
Dam: Allanah of Shannonlee

ANN MILLINGTON - MEIR HEATH, STOKE-ON-TRENT.
PHONE: 078 18 4222

ERRINIS

Well-marked puppies born early July by Gameshot of Autumnwood ex. Sancris Golden Cascade of Errinis.

JILL SANDFORD - 35 HARNESS CLOSE, COLEHILL, WIMBORNE, DORSET.

0202 889524

LITTER BOX

GLENKEEN SHANE X BAWNRRHU HEATHER
Whelped 25.3.83

I have two dog puppies available out of this litter. One is all white apart from the usual head markings with very little spotting on face and forelegs, his body is pure white and he is thus a very valuable proposition as far as breeding is concerned. The other has a number of well distributed red patches of colour about his body and has usual head markings - again with minimum spotting on fore-face and front legs. The pups are used to the car and to people as well as odd changes in routine and many different experiences. I. Somerfield, Somerton Hall, West Somerton. Norfolk. (049 376) 821 after dark.

If you would like to advertise in this section, send your details to the Editor.

All adverts are free.

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 * PUPPIES EXPECTED *
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GAMESHOT OF AUTUMNWOOD X BROSNA JUDY OF AUTUMNWOOD

A litter is expected in October. Both parents are correctly marked and good tempered and are not closely related.

Enquiries: Pat Brigden
 Phone: Caterham (0883) 42274

LITTER DUE

An important mating of IRS FT. Ch. to a well bred W/r bitch (good shooting dog trained to FT standard) due end of August, puppies end October. Puppies to be IKC registered. This mating should produce pure bred W/r type Irish of really good FT potential and provide a very valuable outcross. Enquiries sought from Show owners prepared to take on the responsibilities of owning and training FT quality gundogs. I. Somerfield. Somerton Hall, West Somerton. Norfolk. (049 376) 821 after dark.

 *
 * CHANGE OF ADDRESS *
 *

Harry and Pat Brigden have moved to:-

Autumnwood House,
 Markfield Road,
 Caterham,
 Surrey.

Phone: Caterham (0883) 42274

And so have, Poppet, Kim, Judy, Ben and Tina who now have more room to get up to mischief!

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PROPRIETORS:
 ELAINE ROBERTS
 PAULINE PERRIAM

 * DOGS AT STUD *

SHANNONLEE MAJESTIC FLAME

Ex MEUDON AMBER GLOW X WINNOWING GOLDFINCH

This dog has had a very successful show career to-date, having won several Best of Breeds and Reserve Green Star at the I.K.C. Show on St. Patrick's Day 1983.

Enquiries: Mrs. P. Peacock - 0252 . 548453

GAMESHOT OF AUTUMNWOOD

Ex HARLEQUIN OF KNOCKKALLA X RUSHFIELD WHIN

Bred by Vincent Brennan in Ireland. Beautifully marked dog, with clear white base coat free from roaning. Excellent temperament.

Enquiries: Pat Brigden
 Phone: Caterham (0883) 42274.

Will only be used occasionally to prevent proliferation of puppies.

BROSNA GROUSE OF AUTUMNWOOD

Ex WINNOWING GROUSE X JUDY

Bred by Reverend Daniel Griffin in Ireland.

Twomey is well known for his extrovert personality, good temper and lovely head. He has had success in showing and is being field trial trained.

Enquiries: Mrs. P. Perriam or Mrs. E. Roberts
 Phone: Sandbach 4982

GLENKEEN SHANE 29.2.80

FTW GLENKEEN SANDY X DANUSA

BR/Trained P. J. Keenan.

Shane is reckoned to be a good type w/r from a R/W. cross W/R mating. He is substantial, fast and keen. He is mainly white with a number of small patches of dark red colour. I have used Shane twice this year and will have no need of him next year (as far as I can see) so he will be available next year, 1984, to a limited number of approved bitches. In order to prevent a proliferation of like bred litters I would suggest not more than two litters by him next year in the UK unless there is some pressing reason to the contrary.

Isobel Somerfield, Somerton Hall, West Somerton, Norfolk. (049 376) 821

MEIKLERED HI-WAYMAN.		D. Born 17.9.80.	
WINNOWNING GANNET	MONRUAD BRENDAN	F.T.CH. MONRUAD KERRY GOLD	INT. F.T.CH. BALLYMAC EAGLE PATRICIA OF KILLONE INT. F.T.CH.
		MONRUAD AMERIGO	SW. F.T.CH. CROSSE ELN INT. F.T.CH. PATRICIA OF KILLONE
	WINNOWNING BREEZE	GLENKEEN SANDY	MONRUAD NESTOR
		TRISTAR	F.T.CH. MONRUAD KEEN GIRLIE KILSHANNIG RANGER CHARLAVILLE BEAUTY
BRISKET OF ARDNAGASHEL	GEORGE	GLENKEEN DAN	MONRUAD NESTOR
		TONY II	F.T.CH. MONRUAD KEEN GIRLIE BRAN II McMAHON'S SETTER SHOT II
	GENEVIEVE OF KNOCKALLA	GLENKEEN SANDY	MONRUAD NESTOR
		GAYE OF KNOCKALLA	F.T.CH. MONRUAD KEEN GIRLIE RUANE'S RUSTY CAYNOR'S DUCHESS

Owned by Mr + Mrs. Baron

Bred by Ruth Fletcher