

CHATTER



An Occasional magazine
for devotees of the Irish
Red and White Setter

Issue Number 12

November 1986

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I am sorry your Chatter is rather late this time. This is because the person who normally helps with the production has not been available. Anyway, here it is at last. By the time you read this, most of you will have received the official newsletter which is being produced by the Irish Red and White Setter Club of Great Britain. We welcome this new development, and indeed hope to make a regular contribution. We wish it Good Luck and hope readers will enjoy it.

Until now, Chatter has been a source of news, but it has always tried to be a magazine rather than a newsletter, and we hope to continue in this form for a while yet. The future of this magazine beyond 1987 is rather doubtful as the assistance which your editor receives will not then be available to her, and thus the very low cost which enables it to be produced will mean either a re-think, or perhaps the end.

Crufts

For the first time, our breed will be separately classified

at the world's most famous show. There are a lot of good dogs qualified. Our judge is Olga Hampton, I believe, who judged our breed one year at Hammersmith Gold Medal Show in the days when that was the only Open Show giving us classes in the South. I am sure the Spinone people (still in Unclassified) will be very glad to see the back of us, as we have dominated this section at Crufts for the last two years.

Club Show

I understand we are moving North for the Open show on March 1st and that our judge will be Alan Gormley. What a thrill it must be for him, as he will undoubtedly have a super entry and the numbers of dogs for him to go over will be probably more than they have in Ireland in total. This will be a wonderful day for all of us.

News from Ireland

The Munster Circuit this year proved the usual enjoyable holiday for the British visitors. Our contingent this time was Jill and Paul Sanford, Yvonne and John Davies, and Harry Brigden and myself.

Yvonne did very well, winning green stars and best of breed with her red and white, Shannonlee Amber Flame, and also her home bred red, Arrowbrook Impish Miss.

TRudi Walsh, showing Canon Doherty's dogs, had a very good run, winning green stars with Champion Meudon Blaze and a new one, his daughter, Heather Blaze. This lovely bitch, only about ten months at the time, has already won three green stars and is one of the best I have ever seen. I believe they are going to bring both dogs over for Crufts which will give everyone a chance to see them.

Showing Dogs on the Continent

Pauline Perriam and I recently had the very pleasant experience of visiting our friends in Belgium and going with them to the All Winners Show in Amsterdam. There we met up with Stephanie and Rod Baron, and Lesley and Paul Conway. The occasion was marred for them by the rotten bad luck of Stephanie's handbag being stolen from their car.

The show was excellent, being clean, spacious and well laid out. We particularly liked the benching, which consisted of very large cages, with doors, in which the dogs had plenty of room, and could not be interfered with. We saw a number of breeds we had never seen before, including the Dutch Partridge Dog, which is not unlike a R and W, except that it was a dark brown and white. There was another I liked, but could not understand the Flemish name. This looked rather like a small grey and white Chesapeake.

Showing is very costly there. Each entry cost about £18.00. A single page advert in an open show catalogue cost £37.00 so I don't think we can complain!!

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JUNIOR PAGE

NO ORDINARY DOG

This is the story of Tucker, a Red and White Setter of unusual character who claimed fame among the forces of Law and Order by his extraordinary powers of detection. You and I know Red and Whites as show dogs, working gun dogs or just about the best pets ever. Philip and Andrew smile secretly to themselves about their tucker because he is all of these things plus being a great detective.

Tucker was marked out for fame at a very early age when he appeared on BBC TV at six weeks. He photo was splashed all over the U.S.A. and Canada before he was one year old, so there was no chance of him being an ordinary dog after that.

Of all the Setters and Pointers, Irish Setters have the best noses, and Irish Red and Whites, being the oldest setter breed, have head start over the others in many directions. Tucker's nose was his greatest asset and when he was just a fat little pup, he began to educate his nose, and train it to lead him to whatever he was thinking about. I am sorry to say that, in his youth, he was usually thinking about food. He is not called "Tucker" for nothing - and he always was a sturdy pup!

His first success was the "Little Binzo Bone Mystery". I won't call it the "Great BBM" because it was not all that mysterious - at least not to us. Santa Claus usually left all the dogs a Binzo Bone in their Christmas stockings - that is all he left them actually, but they did have Turkey Giblet Gravy on their tripe for their Christmas Dinner.

Binzo Bones used to make the dogs go mad. They nearly wagged themselves to pieces, carried their Binzo Bones about, rolled on them and made the whole human family spend all Christmas seeing that no one dog had more than its one B.Bone. No one actually saw a dog eat a B.Bone but they did like them very much. During the weeks that followed Christmas B.Bones would turn up here and there, hidden in all kinds of funny places then all the silliness would begin again. Santa doesn't bring Binzo Bones any more, they are too exhausting for the family.

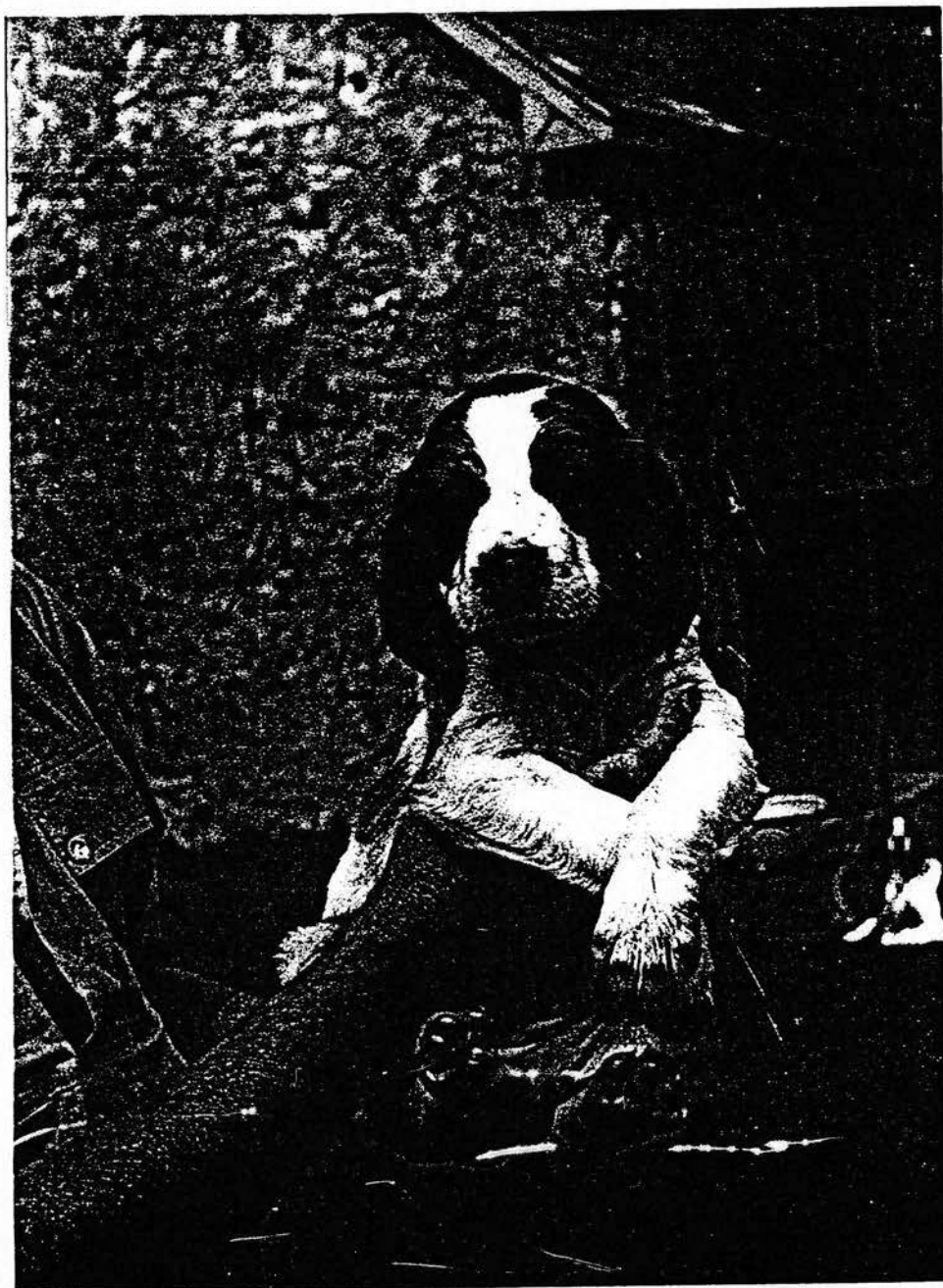
One morning Tucker, sitting thoughtfully thinking, which is one of the things he likes doing best, got an interesting whiff of something he did not understand. It made him go all dizzy and whizzy and waggy. After he had exhausted himself with rushing about, he had to sit down for a rest and a ponder. This is where being no ordinary dog comes in. Most ordinary dogs would have had a little (or big) snooze but a dog who is not ordinary, exercised his brain. Rushing about whizzing and wagging does not exhaust brains - ever.

A line of communication was set up between brain and nose and legs. In no time Tucker's little chubby paws followed instructions and were off on the trail of the enticing smell. It was only a short time later that Tucker emerged from the corner-no-one-can-get-to-without-moving-furniture with a fluffy old Binzo Bone firmly grasped between his teeth. No had he been an ordinary pup he would have trotted about showing off to his Mum and sisters, he Red Aunts and Uncle. They would all have scuffed his ears, told him he was a cheeky young puppy and taken the B.Bone away (and gone all silly and puppyish themselves over it). But our Tucker was already a smarty-pants. He sneaked away with his prize and I expect he ate it all himself.

Success followed success for Tucker and he became more and more interested in solving mysteries and helping the Police. He became less and less interested in ordinary dog-life, shows and working and such.

Although you may see him at a show and think he is there to win a prize. You would be wrong. He is probably there with his assistants, Philip and Andrew, on a secret mission for Scotland Yard.

I will tell you more of his adventures fighting crime next time.



"I could never do anything wrong!"

FIELD TRIAL NEWS

Readers of Shooting Times will have read Keith Erlandson's somewhat restrained remarks on the Field Trials (Grouse Circuit) this summer. I will refrain from further comment save to say that all is not well in the State of Denmark.

On the Red & White front we continue in a very minor way with such a tiny representation from the breed. The biggest disappointment this year was that Terry O'Leary was unable to complete the circuit due to a family bereavement. In the event he ran in just one trial, handling Sean Walsh's noted dog, Ben of Sugarloaf, surely the most unlucky Trial dog one could find, and his own Ch. Knockane Sherry. Due to a prior engagement I was unable to attend this stake but understand from one of the Judges and a good few of the onlookers that Ben really impressed them but..... Ben's luck again..... and no award for him. Apart from that disappointment on a personal level I was thwarted in my desire to qualify my little bitch who ran superbly but just managed to fluff things at the last minute, fortunately nothing too dramatic...., just one of those things! She'll get there in the end.

Success wise the Red & Whites can claim to be reaping in the awards if one looks at the tiny number running in comparison with the other breeds. No need for complacency, though, and we continue to work very hard indeed - only by adopting a really professional and unsentimental attitude toward our Setters and breeding stock can we hope to go on from here.

Mrs. Mary Tuite has put in an lot of effort with her BAWNRIU MARANDA OF RUA (G.Shane ex B. Heather) and was rewarded with a very good Reserve in one of the Scottish Trials.

Congratulations are in order - 'Mollie' has had considerable success on the Bench and so her Trial awards are not before time!

SEAN WALSH has continued with his BEN OF SUGARLOAF running in Ireland, a good dog this, whose reputation goes before him but who has the most rotten bad luck where Trial awards are concerned. This year, however, Ben has qualified for Open Stakes and so now begins what will inevitably be the long haul to his title. It is good also to see that his young son MACALLA (Ben of Sugarloaf ex Lafalla Beauty) has his father's quality (but not his "luck") he has run in just three stakes, a Puppy Stake where he was in line for an award then blotted his copy book, a Novice Stake where he gained Reserve, and recently in the Kerry Novice Stake where he gained 1st and Best Puppy and is now qualified for Open Stakes. (Ben, of course, is ex that most influential bitch, Quail of Ludford by an IRS Mr. Silver Rock). Macalla (which means 'Echo' in English) is owned by Brian MacDiarmada.

The really big news, of course and now almost inevitably, concerns Mr. Red & White Field Trial himself! Terry, and his bitch Ch. Knockane Sherry which this year was qualified to enter the Irish Championship run, as ever, at Laragh, Co. Wicklow. The first Red & White for about forty years to qualify and she capped it all by gaining the third award. What a super achievement as this Championship stake is really considered THE big stake of the year in Ireland, the setters are really required to perform (and the handlers too) as the ground on the second day can be tough going indeed for both dog and handler.

We now have a third Champion in CANON P. DOCHERTY's MOUNTEAGLE BELLE, this bitch ran her qualifier recently and I have it that she qualified in no mean style - well, the bitch Champions are certainly keeping it in the family - 'Cora' and 'Skippy' (Terry's bitch) are litter sisters by Winnowing Grouse ex Judy.

The IRWFSS as usual ran a Trial the day following their breed Show. This seems such a nice tradition to institute - hopefully we can see how the Show winners perform! Unfortunately due to my being in Scotland shooting I was unable to attend either event this year. The Trial on this event was a confined stake for Red & Whites and I understand there was a full field of twelve runners. One of the Judges was that well known Pointer man, Jimmy Dalton and sadly I didn't make a note of the other Judge. By the second round the field was well sorted out - ^{only} Quail of Ludford progeny went through to the second round, five of them, and the rest weren't (on the day) considered up to scratch! Unfortunately there was no game found by any of the dogs in contention for awards and so the Judges rightly came to the conclusion that they could not give awards, however Terry and I had donated a very nice trophy to the Club and so the Judges decided

they would award this to the best dog of the day - BEN OF SUGARLOAF - see what I mean about Ben's luck? Had there been birds he should have won the Stake!

Autumn Trials in England this year saw no representation by Reg. Red & Whites since both Mary Tuite and myself had other commitments. However I'm not sure if Paddy McCabe was running his Red & White (reg. as Red) which is just a young dog but coming on very well.

The next trials in England will be in the Spring. However for Red & Whites it is hoped to run an Assessment Day on a very informal basis. The details of this will appear in the Club Newsletter which has a somewhat wider distribution than Chatter, and also in the Breed Notes. If anybody knows of any Red & Whites fully or part trained owned by persons who are not members of the Club would you please ask them to contact me for details of this wonderful opportunity which we hope to run in Yorkshire in about the week or two before the Spring Trials. The purpose of this day is multifold but ultimately it is hoped to find dogs of Field Trial quality and to see if there any common themes running through the Red & Whites so that those of us seriously interested in them can get a slightly broader picture than that presented by those few currently running in Trials. We hope, in an informal atmosphere, to have an enjoyable day which should be as instructive as it is rewarding for all those participating. It is intended that we will have as an assessor an experienced and respected shooting/trialling/Irishsetterman, we will also have on hand some really good Setters of quality for demonstration purposes and will work hard to ensure that the day is of maximum benefit to all participants. We need to have firm commitment from those wishing to present themselves and their dogs as early as possible in order to arrange an appropriate area of land with a supply of game. If you think you might be interested please get in touch with me 049 376 821 (Somerton Hall, West Somerton, Norfolk) for further information.

Isobel Somerfield - October 1986.

IRISH RED & WHITE SETTER FIELD & SHOW SOCIETY

Our Championship Show was held in September on the day prior to our Confined Stake. The Show was judged by Walter Thompson (who will be judging Setter & Pointer Ch. Show in England this year) Best of Breed & Green Star Bitch was **GLENKEEN MILLIE** (by FT Ch. Glenside Red Hugh ex Danusa) and owned by Brian MacDiarmada who currently has puppies, ex Millie by his Trial winning dog, Macalla, for sale. The puppies were born early October. Reserve Best of Breed went to Mr. & Mrs. Gormley's **MEUDON COUNT REGENT**. I have no doubt the Field Trial Show award was won by Terry and Skippy! No doubt somebody will correct me if I am wrong.

The major achievement of this Society, by a long chalk, has been done behind the scenes over the past three and half years of intense and intricate negotiations between ourselves, the Irish Red Setter Club and the Irish Kennel Club. As you will well know about three or four years' ago the relationship between this Society and the IRSC had become quite unworkable until in the end almost the only civilised communication between Red & White people and the IRSC was that between myself and Dermot Mooney with Jack Nash and Pat Keenan who is a close personal friend of mine. For reasons which I will not attempt to outline the IKC then rescinded the traditional practice of breeding Red & Whites to Reds. This was seen to be a disastrous blow to our hopes for the Red & White but in hindsight it has perhaps proved the blow we needed. It caused the Red & White people to get their house in order, in short, 'to grow up' and to realise that we must work with the Red Setter people. After initial 'social' contact we were able to commence grown up discussion in a mutually respectful atmosphere, assess what we had, where we had to go, and how to do this. Over the years we have worked very closely with IRSC personnel and this culminated in an important meeting at Port Laoise where a sensible programme for onward breeding was worked out between ourselves and the IRSC - a real co-operation this, the discussion document was arranged by us and the final document was typed up by the IRSC! With the full support of the IRSC behind us we approached the IKC and eventually a top level meeting was held between ourselves and the IKC earlier this year. Since then there have been many comings and goings but finally we have obtained permission for an extremely tight breeding programme to include the use of Irish Red Setters. After the initial discussions were opened between ourselves and IRSC I have not been 'up-front' in negotiations so I feel it is quite in order for me to say that ALL Red & White people owe sincere thanks to Brian MacDiarmada, Terry O'Leary and Sean Walsh who have been over

the past three and half years directly involved in these tricky negotiations, without their hard work and the support of Mrs. Cuddy, Jack Nash, Pat Keenan, Dermot Mooney and the Canon we could not have gone forward as a breed. I can only add that the rest of the Committee has been most supportive of these three men who not only have been up-front where breeding to Reds is concerned but who fronted the negotiations with the IKC and all other interested parties when we were called upon to provide a finalised version of our Breed Standard. An extremely hard three and half years' work which will have long lasting benefit for the breed as a whole.

On top of all these lengthy and complex negotiations three very successful Breed Championship Shows have been held under the auspices of the Irish Breeds Society and a number of successful and popular Field Trials for Pointers & Setters have been run each year - next year there will be the usual Field Trials as well as our Championship Show and it is hoped to add to the current schedule of Trials by including at least one Stake to be run on Grouse.

The Irish Red & White Setter Field & Show Society set up as it was amidst much murmuring from those outwith the Breed was soundly instituted by our founders, Mr. & Mrs. Gormley, and as such has weathered tempests both internal and external and has proved that although only very small in comparison with other Canine Societies that it can and does ^{work} extremely hard for not only the present but also the future well-being of the breed. Field Trials, a Championship Show, a finalised Breed Standard written with the advice from those such as Mrs. Cuddy and now a promising breeding programme have been achieved for the benefit of ALL Red & White owners and it is up to you to make the best use of the facilities available.

Isobel Somerfield - October, 1986.

IRISH RED & WHITE SETTER BREEDING PROGRAMME - EIRE

As mentioned above a Breeding Programme for the Irish Red & White Setter has been arranged between the IRWFSS the IRSC and the IKC with the sole objective of extending the genetic base on which the breed is founded. It is intended that limited use will be made of Irish Red Setters, to many the inclusion of Red Setters will seem a radical step so I hope these few notes will put their minds at rest.

The first point to bear in mind is that until 31st December 1983 it was customary to include Red Setters in breeding, and had been so for the entire history of Irish Setters. For those not familiar with the working Red Setter it is necessary to observe that the Red & White and the Working Red are similar to each other but ENTIRELY different from the Show Red Setter.

In a letter to Mrs. Cuddy dated 11th January, 1943, the Reverend Noble Huston (who had had Red & Whites since at least 1896) advised Mrs. Cuddy of the necessity of breeding with the Reds.

Mrs. Cuddy advises us that early in the history of the IRWFSS she wrote reminding and recommending that Red & White breeders utilise Red Setters in their breeding programme - particularly because even then (about the late 1970's) the breeding of the then Red & Whites was considered too close to form the basis of an entire revival. The support of Mrs. Cuddy has been of great value to us in our negotiations with the IKC.

From experience, observation and reading I would make the following observations regarding colour inheritance with Irish Setters:-

The presence of white breeding in Red Setters appears to have some sort of dominance because if one of a pair of Red Setters is colour marked (ie carries white on him) even if the other is pure Red it is likely that some at least of their progeny will be colour marked.

If both dog and bitch Red Setter have either a) white breeding in their background and/or b) are colour marked the white genes adopt a 'recessive' mode and it is possible that in amongst a litter of otherwise Red Setter puppies (tho' some may be colour marked) there will appear white and red marked pups. My initial enquiries show that there are generally two white and red marked pups in a ^{such} litter, usually female, and lightly marked. The Reds appear to be almost entirely red with the minimum of Irish spotting on them. Usually the red pups are 'Red Setter' in type and the white & red pups are 'Red & White' in type.

Breeding a colour marked Red to a Red & White will produce a mixed bag, some white and red marked and the rest colour marked reds.

Mating Red & White to Red & White, even if they are the only two such marked in the recent pedigree can ONLY produce white and red marked pups none of which will be marked heavier than the heavier marked parent.

The programme worked out between ourselves and the Irish Red Setter Club, and now finally ratified by the IKC is extremely strict and any matings will be carefully documented and inspected throughout. Both dog & bitch are to be inspected prior to arranging the mating and, at the behest of the IRSC, apart from the usual considerations due attention must be paid to working capabilities.

The scheme will not bring short-term benefits to the individuals involved, rather the reverse, but has been instituted purely to extend the genetic base upon which this present revival is based.

Further details will be available from the IRWFSS.

Isobel Somerfield - October 1986.



' GRAND PA '

Harlequin of Knockalla in his
10th year at Colonel
1986.

POINTS...POINTS...POINTS...POINTS

COOLFIN COMMANCHIE	37
COPPERDALE HOLLY BLUE	24
SHANNONLEE AMBER SHEEN OF HAWKLAWN	24
SHANNONLEE NIGHTINGALE OF GLEN O SHEA	22
SHANNONLEE MAJESTIC FLAME OF COPPERDALE	21
SHANNONLEE AMBER LIGHT	18
GAMESHOT OF AUTUMNWOOD	15
CHARDINE COURT CORRIE...Leader Best Puppy...	15
MEUDON GAY PRINCESS	14
LLANELWY HARD DAYS NIGHT AT CHARDINE	11
LENNOKBANK RAMBLER	11

CRUFTS 1987 - We can now look forward to being scheduled for the first time, let us hope we get good classification. With 64 to date qualified (26 dogs 38 bitches) the classes should be well filled for Mrs. O. Hampton. What a relief for the numerically smaller breeds still in AVNSC, to know they don't have to compete with us.

For anyone who has not yet qualified their dog, there are still 5 remaining CH. SH's with breed classes. REMEMBER.... for none C.C.breeds

1st, 2nd and 3rd in both Limit and Open (Breed or A.V.Classes) now qualify for Crufts.

the full list is printed on page 46 of the August edition of the Kennel Club Gazette.

Sandy Williamson.

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