

Red and White Standard

Newsletter of the Irish Red and White Setter Club of Great Britain for members at home and abroad

Issue 2016/2



Winter Edition





Irish Red and White Setter Club of Great Britain officers and committee

Honorary Life Members: Mrs Ann Gormley and Mr Bob Knapton

President: Mary Sherratt
Vice Presidents: Mr Rod Baron, Mrs Pat Brigden, Mrs Mary Knox,
Mrs Ann Millington, Mrs Joyce Webb
Chairman: Shelagh Walton
Email: shelagh@waltonandco.com **Tel:** 01371 820401
Vice Chairman: Gaye O'Connor
Treasurer: Jim Cuddy
Email: j_cuddy@yahoo.co.uk **Tel:** 01959 570669
Secretary: Alison Bloxham
Email: ajb@jeffbloxham.com **Tel:** 01785 284018

Committee: Alan Bamford
Graham Bayne
Graham Hart
Val Jarvis
Ian Lamb
Ray McDonald
Gaye O'Connor
Brian Pilmer
Val Wade
Diane Jones
Diana Walpole
Maureen Newman (co-opted)

Sub Committee Secretaries

Judges: Jackie Howatson
Working: Fiona Chapman
Rescue: Ann Jeffrey
Genetics: Ann Millington

Other club contacts

Year Book editor: Susan Barry
Webmaster: Alison Bloxham

You can also keep up to date with club events, activities and latest news on the website or the Facebook Group.

Website: www.irishredandwhitesetterclub.com

Facebook: Search "Irish Red and White Setter Club of Great Britain"



Message from the Chairman

Dear Members,

It only seems like yesterday that we were welcoming the New Year in and here we are with the Festive Season very nearly upon us. Time seems to have flown by.

During the year the Club held its usual two Open Shows and one Championship Show. I was sorry that the Open Shows were not as well attended as in the past. There was a great atmosphere at both shows round the ring, despite the low numbers and everyone enjoyed themselves. Please do come along to these shows next year and support your Club and Committee who work very hard to put these events on. Unfortunately, as I was attending the Patron's lunch in honour of Her Majesty the Queen I was unable to come to the Championship Show in June. I understand that the show went splendidly and was a great social occasion. The Club held an eye testing clinic at the show which was well supported with 39 dogs being tested. Thanks must go to Alan Bamford, Diane Jones and Linda Ward for organising this.

The Irish Red and White Setter was represented at Discover Dogs and the National Pet Show this year and Ray McDonald is to be congratulated for putting on such superb stands. This is a great opportunity for the general public to learn what a wonderful companion a Red and White can be and heartfelt thanks must go to Ray and his team of helpers for all their hard work.

The Committee is planning a fun day for all the membership to attend. We hope to cover the different aspects of the breed. There should be something of interest for everyone. Further details will be released soon; please keep an eye on the website and on our Facebook page.

The Club is in need of another Committee Member. The Committee meets at Newton Regis Village Hall near Tamworth about 4 or 5 times a year and if you feel you would be interested in joining us and can afford the time to attend meetings and support the Club's activities we would love to hear from you. Please have a word with either me or Alison, our Secretary.

I wish you all Season's Greetings and look forward to seeing you throughout next year.

Best wishes,
Shelagh Walton, Chairman

Front Cover Image

Selection of photos from the championship show held 12th June 2016 at Stoneleigh.

Photos copyright Ray McDonald Photography



Message from the editor

My second newsletter has come around quickly, Thank you everyone for your comments on the first, and I hope you enjoy this just as much (with a nice cup of tea!) and thank you to all those who have submitted articles and information.

At the Club's Championship Show this year, it was lovely to see some of the founders of the club. Ann Gormley was involved in the present revival of the breed and has kindly shared her thoughts on what is an Irish Red and White Setter. I hope you all enjoy reading it as much as I did.

We also have an update from Ann Millington regarding eye health in the breed, for the research to continue, we need help from all owners of the breed.

Promoting the breed is a regular discussion amongst breeders, owners and the club. More details are featured within the article Promoting the Irish Red and White Setter.

We are starting to see an increase in Irish Red and White Setters in other activities too, including Jane Valentine and Aoife competing in agility finals at Discover Dogs and myself with Jasper in Canicross races. We all know, wherever a Red & White goes, they get spotted and adored, and normally after a conversation including the words "spaniel" and "pointer", people go away more informed about the Irish Red and White Setter.

My final note is to wish you all a very Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and wish every Irish Red and White Setter enthusiast the best of luck for 2017 in whichever field they compete.

Roxanne McDonald
Newsletter Editor



What is an Irish Red & White Setter - by Ann Gormley

My first comment would be that we have a standard for both the Irish Red Setter and the Irish Red and White Setter.

But the standards for both dogs are very different. The Irish Red should be Racy and the Irish Red and White should be Athletic. With that in mind we need to ask ourself in the interest of the Breed, what are we looking for?

This is only my opinion, I have been lucky to have been involved in the present revival and I have seen many of the early dogs. Looking back on both breeds there would have been very little difference, colour being the only one, as both dogs were bred to work, and a good dog was worth its weight in gold regardless of the colour. You may have had a red and white, a white with red, a shower of

hail, or a lemon and white or the rare one would have been the all red. But with one very important aspect which was the instinct to work, and very important to both set and retrieve.

The Irish Red and White Setter was bred for working all day in the field, an example was when Lord Decider ran ten miles beside his master's carriage and then won the field trial in which he was entered. Yes there should be a difference and those who judge our breed should be aware of this.



Ann with her Best Bitch & Best Dog after judging at Crufts 1988

We started with a very small gene pool and were very lucky with some of the puppies, which in my mind were very true to type, and that is what I would look for in the breed today. You must keep in mind the qualities of the breed, could you see it work in the field and also be true to the standard.

Standards are very important but you have to allow certain aspects when judging; those people should be aware that they are judging a different breed.

In my opinion (and please I do not want to get into any discussions) I feel that one of the many mistakes made in the standard was for, flecking to disqualify. That for me led to the fact that many good dogs were lost to the breed. Some of the dogs today are very different to the dogs of yesterday, we have in our mind the type we would like to see and I feel in some cases the dogs I see are very like their cousin the Irish Red.

I can see where the gene pool is sadly getting smaller and breeders have to be very aware of this, so it may come to the stage where once again we have to be very selective in breeding, the popularity of a breed can also be its downfall, and when we see how the numbers have declined both in Ireland and England you have to wonder why???

But on the other side when you see how this breed has made its mark in the world, loved by all those who own it, it makes me very proud to have been a small cog in what is now a very big wheel. It has been a wonderful experience. Mrs Cuddy once said, it would take thirty years to get this breed reinstated and another thirty to have the type established. Well we have done the first part will we do the second???

I think it is lovely to see those who have worked so hard to combine both working and showing, it just goes to show you can have a working dog which is the right standard and can also compete successfully in the field.

They have come a long way from when we first had Harlequin at Crufts, the

ultimate Ambassador for any breed, bred by Mrs Cuddy (Knochalla) but proudly owned and loved by us. A dog who has given many of the good qualities which is still in the breed today. My one regret is that I do not still have a Irish Red and White Setter but sadly life dictates which path you will take.

One mention to my Husband Alan for his commitment to this lovely Breed.

Thank you all so much, for your friendship over the years, because without our dogs I would not have made such wonderful friends.

Ann Gormley (Meudon)

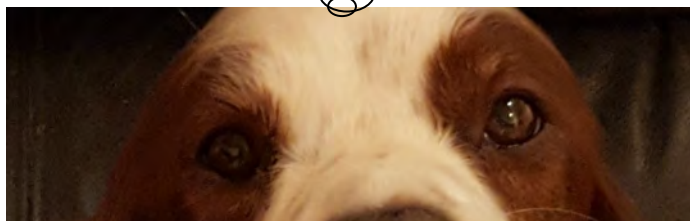


Looking into the Irish Red and White Setter eye conditions - update

The Animal Health Trust (AHT) has almost 300 DNA samples from Irish Red and White Setters, mostly from dogs long gone which are stored for research into genetic health issues in our breed - present and future. The present research is into Posterior Polar Cataract (PPC), which, at the moment, is stalled by insufficient Irish Red and White Setter cases and the extremely complicated mode of inheritance, not only in our breed, but in the other breeds also - none of which link up in a constructive way.



At the 2017 club show, the IRWSCGB will pay for all eye tests for Irish Red and White Setters 7 years + when DNA swabs are also sent to the AHT



Our current concern is with Late Onset Progressive Retinal Atrophy (LOPAR). Five Irish Red and White Setters have reported LOPRA and their DNA is at the AHT and has been tested with the Irish Setter DNA test for PRA rcd1 and PRA rcd 4. However, these do not appear to be of the same type that Irish Red and White Setters have. A breed specific test needs to be created, and to do that, we need to discover more cases in the Irish Red & White Setter.

It is so important that our dogs are examined regularly - not just breeding stock (although it is essential that they are clear before breeding) but all Irish Red and White setters, so that we have a clear general view of the breed.

In order to make this easier for owners, the Club will hold an eye testing session at the 2017 Breed Championship Show held at the KC Building in Stoneleigh. The normal cost of examination of one dog is £55 - for extra dogs in the same ownership it is £48.50. However, if we can get 25 dogs or more to attend the session, the cost for each dog is £38. To encourage owners of older dogs to have

their dogs examined, the cost for dogs over the age of 8 is £32.

In the past, the club has paid the eye test fee for all Irish Red and White Setters over the age of 8 years old. Because late onset eye conditions are under scrutiny, the use of the DNA of older dogs is important, so the club has now decided to pay for the eye testing fee for all Irish Red and White Setters over the age of 7 years. This is on the condition that their DNA is sent to the AHT.

If your dogs DNA is already at the AHT then it does not need not be sent again, but DNA kits for new dogs will be available from the club. So, on Sunday, 15th July 2017, any Irish Red and White Setters aged 7 years or older can have their eyes examined and their DNA dispatched, all paid for by the Irish Red and White Setter Club of Great Britain. This will contribute greatly to the health information for the whole breed, now and in the future.

If anyone would like more information on eye conditions in our breed, or any other health issues, please get in contact with Ann Millington (annmillington34@gmail.com).



Championship Show report

The Club's 2016 Championship Show was held on Sunday 12th June at the Kennel Club Building, Stoneleigh.

Unfortunately the weather (rain) kept us all inside, but with plenty of space for everyone and a decent sized ring for our breed, it was no surprise that there was a superb atmosphere throughout the day.

Alan Bamford and Di Jones had arranged the eye testing and were helped by Linda on the day. Ray McDonald with his camera capturing the moment on behalf of the club. The two Vals (Jarvis & Wade) were in the kitchen assisted by others on the committee. Our stewards were Jim Cuddy and Brian Pilmer who ensured the ring ran smoothly.

A special mention must go to Helen Cohen, who, having left the committee after 15 years service, was still there doing the raffle, which was so well support with gifts and ticket sales.

Our judge for the day was a breed specialist, Rodney Baron, this was his 9th time awarding tickets in our breed and his second appointment at a Club Championship Show. Lastly a big congratulations and well done to all the winners on the day.

This show was sponsored by Royal Canin and each class winner received a small bag of food, and the principle winners receiving a large bag of food.

Please see the results and pictures of the principal winners on the following page.

Championship Show 2016 principal winners



Dog CC & Best in Show

Sh Ch/Ir Sh Ch Casafelice Montadale
JW

Owned by: Mr & Mrs I Lamb

Bitch CC & Reserve Best in Show

Sh Ch Countdown Beautiful Dancer

Owned by: Mrs S Blackmore



Reserve Dog CC

Sh Ch/Ir Sh Ch Vanders Va Voom
avec Wroxham

Owned by: Mrs E Walker

Reserve Bitch CC

Sh Ch Spyefire Seven Steps JW

Owned by: Mr & Mrs R Humphries



Best Puppy in Show

Alanea Royal Reward of Berryessa

Owned by: Mr & Mrs D Jones

Reserve Best Puppy in Show

Killary's Class Act at Alanea

Owned by: Mrs A Tattersall



Best Veteran in Show

Sh Ch Shireoak Hurricane Ruby Rustasha
(Imp Can)

Owned by: (Mr & Mrs B Barry)



Autumn Open Show report

The Club's Autumn 2016 Open Show was held on Sunday 16th October at Hasland Village Hall, Chesterfield.

There was a total of 34 entries split 17 dogs and 17 bitches. Full results can be found on the club's website.

Our Judge Linda King found her Best in Show and Best Veteran in Show in Walker's Sh Ch/Ir Sh Ch Vanders Va Voom avec Wroxham, Reserve Best in Show was Jarvis' Shannonlee The Wood Lark, also a veteran. Best Puppy in Show went to Rowles' Zendarric Isle of Avallon and Reserve Best Puppy in show was Jones' Alanea Royal Reward of Berryessa.

Reserve Best Dog was Lorenzi's Spyefire May Spring Rainbow and Reserve Best Bitch was Callaghan's Corranroo Coco.

This show was sponsored by Orijen

Please see pictures of the principal winners below.

**Best Dog, Best in Show & Best
Veteran in Show**
Sh Ch/Ir Sh Ch Vanders Va
Voom avec Wroxham



**Best Bitch & Reserve Best in
Show**
Shannonlee The Wood Lark



Reserve Best Dog
Spyefire May Spring Rainbow

Reserve Best Bitch
Corranroo Coco



Best Puppy in Show
Zendarric Isle of Avallon

Reserve Best Puppy in Show
Alanea Royal Reward of Berryessa



Promoting the Irish Red and White Setter

At the Club's AGM back in April, there was a brief discussion about what can be done to help promote the breed to potential new owners. Whilst the breed is regularly represented at the Kennel Clubs Discover Dogs events in March and November, this year we were invited to partake in the Meet the Breeds section at the National Pet Show, also held twice a year at the NEC and ExCel. After discussion in committee it was agreed that the club would love to accept the invite as this would help gain more exposure of the breed to the general public and people looking for their next family companion.

Discover Dogs - London October 2016

First we had Discover Dogs in October at ExCel London, in Stratford. Now becoming firmly established following its move from Earls Court and was as popular as ever.

My thanks to Debbie and Roxanne McDonald for their help in setting the stand up, Paul and Ginny McCarthy, Sam Soper, Bren Bailey and Helen & Graham Farrow for giving up their weekend to man the stand and help to promote our lovely breed. Special thanks to Helen and Graham for taking the stand down on Sunday.



Bren Bailey's Rhys enjoying the fuss at Discover Dogs



The stand at The National Pet Show.

National Pet Show - Birmingham, November 2016

Then 2 weeks later we made our first appearance at The National Pet Show at The NEC, Birmingham. This is a new event that started in 2014 and is growing year on year. Featuring all manner of pets including cats, dogs, small furries, reptiles and lots more. This year they have significantly increased the representation in their 'Meet the Breeds' section.

Unfortunately it was harder than expected to find people available for the Saturday. Pleas on Facebook were to no avail as people already had other commitments so Debbie and I had to choose between Setter and

Pointer and representing the breed at the National Pet Show.

We did have some lovely volunteers for Sunday so thanks must go Alison Bloxham, Diane & John Jones, Linda Ward and Alan Bamford with Alan and Linda also taking on the task of taking down the display.

Thank You

Without all those people and their dogs giving up their time at weekends, we wouldn't be able to promote the breed at these events, so thank you from me personally and on behalf of the Club for your support.

We are always looking for Red & White owners to help out at these events to talk to potential owners about the breed and what they are like to live with.

If you are interested or would like more details, please contact me.

Ray McDonald
Discover Dogs Co-Ordinator
Ray@roanjora.co.uk



The Red & Whites in History

Sh Ch Spyefire Pandora's Box

There are a number of Irish Red & White Setters that are well known in the history of the breed. Plenty spring to my mind, but one that was doing the winning when I got my first Irish red and White Setter and was starting to take showing that bit more seriously was Sh Ch Spyefire Pandora's Box (Mary), owned and bred by Suzanne Humphries.

Suzanne has kindly shared her memories below of Mary, not only as a show dog, but also a pet.

Mary was sired by Sh Ch Spearpoint Sambooka Flambeé, out of Glenessa My Ameme to Spyefire. There were two girls and five boys in the litter, all names after the Mutiny On The Bounty. I kept both Mary and a dog called William (Sh Ch Spyefire Captain Bligh)

From a puppy Mary had that extra special outward going nature, always to be there first, in all she did at home, always wanting to please. She had an endearing character, but could be a real "snob" at times, even putting her nose in the air, and saying to me, "sorry it's not good enough!". She kept me on my toes.



Scottish Kennel Club 1996, with judge Peggy Grayson.

As a show puppy from the age of 6 months she was ready, she just shone from the moment she stepped into the ring. She was starting to get a name for herself. It was as if she relished being the centre of attention.

At the Windsor Gundog Open show, Mary won Reserve Best Puppy in Show. In those days it was unheard of for an Irish Red and White Setter to take such top honours. Mary went on to gain her Junior Warrant with ease at 15 months. Remember, breed classes at open & championship shows were few and far between.

I recall the first time that she stepped into the big ring. This was at Bath Championship Show, with no CCs on offer. The judge was Angela Barton (Ashfield). Mary won Best Bitch and Best of Breed from Junior and once in the big ring, she really extended her stride, covering the ground and I had great difficulty keeping up with her. The gundog group was judged by Peggy Grayson, who at the time commented, such a youngster, but beautiful!

From then, there was no stopping her, she was a champion by the age of 17 months, her first CC came at Gundog Society of Wales in September 1994, from Mr Clive Davis, then quickly followed by 2 more. By the November I had made up both William and Mary up to Show Champions, taking the "double" on more than one occasion.

At the time in Mary's show career there were not many tickets on offer and group placing's unheard of with only a Best in Group and Reserve Best in Group being declared. This did not deter the group judges from selecting Mary into the final few. I have no hesitation in saying that she certainly helped to put the Irish Red and White Setter as a breed into the foreground in the gundog groups.

With regards to Breed Championship shows, Mary won Reserve Best in Show in 1995, with her brother Toby (Sh Ch Spyefire Able Seaman to Wroxam) going Best in Show under Miss Trudy Walsh.

Also in 1995 Mary won Best of Breed at Crufts from Junior Bitch and took Best of Breed again in 1996. She also took Best in Show under Rod Baron at the club championship show in 1996.

When Mary was 3 years old, I decided I would like a litter from her, but sadly Post Polar Cataract (PPC) had been discovered in the breed, I duly had her eyes tested to find she was affected in both eyes! This was a devastating blow to not only myself, but the breed as a whole. As no-one really knew much about PPC, or the mode of inheritance, I felt it was too risky to breed from her, so sadly she never was.

In 1994, 95, 96 & 97 she was Best Bitch in Breed, and the first three 3 years, best overall in the Pedigree Chum CC's. Her total number of CCs came to 21 CC and 6

RCCs. She also won numerous Best of Breeds at non CC Shows.

In April 2001 Mary started becoming a bit lethargic, and it was found she had a small growth in her womb. She was duly spayed and she soon returned to her usual happy outward going bright nature, and the snob that she was! Those who knew her well would confirm what I have said as true. We used to call her "The Queen Bee", which truly rounded her up. She seemed to know what I was going to do, even before I did! Always one step ahead of me!



Taken when Mary won BOB at Crufts

Mary was shown a few more times after being spayed, once at Chippenham Canine Society's open show where she took Best Veteran in Show and on her last appearance at Crufts in 2004 she won the Veteran bitch class under Chris Atkinson, who had previously given her top awards in her show career. She was then retired from the show ring.

Sadly in October 2004 Mary was diagnosed with a growth in her spleen, and my vets gave her two more months of life. These last two months were pain free, and happy, she was as bright as ever, but we knew the time was coming, so she was spoilt. We tried to make it as good as it gets. My husband Richard and I truly loved this bitch for herself. She gave us all she could. When her time of need came, we gave our all too. God Bless Mary.

Suzanne Humphries.



Amendment to sending club show schedules

To help save costs and due to the rising popularity of our exhibitors entering online, going forward the club will not be sending printed schedules automatically to all members or past exhibitors.

If you would still like to receive a pre-printed paper schedule, you can request one by contacting our secretary, Alison Bloxham, who will get one to you.





Help required at the Champ Show 2017

We are looking for anyone who can spare some time on Sunday 16th July at the Championship show, held at The Kennel Club Building, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, CV8 2LG who can support with the eye testing session.

We hope to have lots of people on the day to take advantage of the much needed results from Irish Red and White Setters over the age of 7 years, but also owners of all breeds can take advantage of the reduced rate of £38 on the day (as long as there is over 25 dogs booked in).

If you have some time to help out, please contact our secretary, Alison Bloxham



Breed Health & Genetics

A copy of the Breed Database is now in the hands of the Club Chairman as a precaution should the operating database somehow be compromised (though in its 30 year existence all has been well).

The copy of the database is held on a memory stick and is encrypted and password protected. In order to look at the contents it would be necessary to have the particular programme and the password to view it.

The password is held by a member of the Breed Health & Genetics Sub-Committee and the copy and password will not be together in the same place unless some unexpected emergency arises and the database would otherwise be lost.

The database contains every litter and its named dogs registered with the Kennel Club since 1979 to date with their pedigree details, COI, and health test results - all of which are in the public domain, having been published by the KC.

It also holds details of Imported Irish Red and White Setters, their pedigrees, health results, breeder and owners.

The most important table in the database is the Special Conditions which contains reports submitted by owners or breeders of any health issues in individual Irish Red and White Setters. This is highly confidential and NOT in the public domain.

In the interests of breed health, reporting causes of death and need of veterinary attention for disease, hereditary or 'common', is crucial if we are to be able to monitor our breed and be proactive in handling issues before they become a 'breed problem'.

Obviously these issues have to be discussed and investigated by the Breed Health & Genetic Sub-Committee, but dogs' names or owners are not used - each case is just a number.

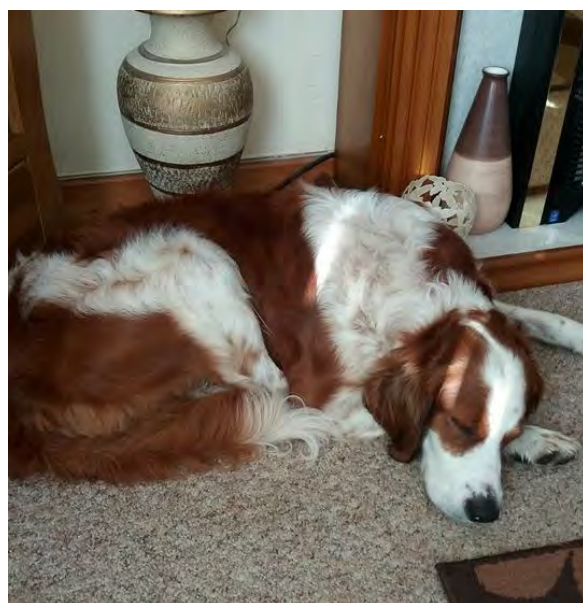
If any owner is concerned about the security of the information in the Special Conditions Table would they please contact me.

Ann Millington
Breed Health & Genetics Sub Committee Secretary
annmillington34@



Rescue update

We have helped 11 dogs this year, 6 bitches and 5 dogs. It's very unusual to have more girls than boys. Five of these re-homings were needed due to change of circumstances, no fault of the dogs involved. Two were via the breeder who needed assistance and two were in animal rescues. Still very worrying that they keep turning up here, one boy with Blue Cross had over 50 enquiries for him! One was because of a sudden bereavement and one young bitch was "free to a good home" on Gumtree!



Belle

This poor bitch was called Belle, she is 5 years old and we are led to believe, although it is only hearsay, that she was brought back from Zakynthos by the family after holidaying there a few years ago.

I managed to contact her owners to offer our assistance to be told that they had found a home for her with acquaintances of theirs. I tried to find out why they were re-homing her but they were not very forthcoming. I did however manage to give them my contact details to pass on to her new owners. This they obviously did as less than a week later I had a call from her new owners to say that she had to go as the lady of the house had asthma and was reacting badly to Belle.

We set the wheels in motion, had some fantastic support from Fiona Quint, who very kindly offered to fetch her and foster her for us for as long as was necessary, so when I received a message to say that there was a bitch called Belle for sale on Pets4homes I just couldn't believe it !

I contacted her people to be told that they were covering all options. I told them we were all organised to collect her, and would they just hold fire, they assured me

they would.

The following day I received a text to say they had found her the perfect home. Please spare her a thought and hope that she has in fact found her forever home, this will be her fourth to our knowledge.

Pleased to say while writing this I have just heard that she is doing well. Happy ending? Certainly hope so.

Ann Jeffery
Breed Rescue Sub Committee Secretary
ann.lanelwy@sky.com
01745 852745 or 07817 505863



Judging

There was a full agenda for the Judges' Sub Committee (JSC) meeting on Sunday, 20th November when amongst other things the 2017 Judging List was compiled and will be ready for publication in the new year.

On Saturday 18th March 2017 there will be a breed specific seminar with both Module 1 and Module 2 assessments being held at the Kennel Club Building Stoneleigh.

Full details will be available shortly on the Club's website and Facebook page. If you are interested in more details or would like to attend, please contact the JSC secretary.

Jackie Howatson
Judges Sub Committee Secretary
vanderssetters@hotmail.co.uk



***NEW* Open Show Club Points Competition**

To help support the entries of Irish Red and White Setters at open show and promote the progression of judges the club has introduced a new points competition for open shows held from 1st January 2016. This is separate to the Championship Show Points Competition.

Points can be claimed in Irish Red & White Setter classes held at general open and gundog open shows, where the judge is on the clubs B or C judging lists (specialist or non specialist). The qualifying period runs to the end of the calendar year and placings within the points competition will be recognised at the AGM the following year.

Please note; championship shows and single breed open shows are not qualifying shows.

The points

First = 3 points,

Second = 2 points

Third = 1 point

Best of Breed = 5 points

Best Puppy in Breed = 3 points

To enter the points competition, submit a claim form (available on the club website) to Alan Bamford by January 2017.

STOP PRESS: It was agreed at the last committee meeting, following a member's suggestion, that from January 2017 points gained from entering (Any Variety Not Separately Classified (AVNSC) classes would be included in the Open Points Competition.



Membership subs



Thank you to everyone who has already sent their subs in for their 2017 membership. For those who haven't yet, don't forget that membership renewals are due on 1st January 2017.

If you haven't already, why not set up a standing order? Forms can be downloaded from the clubs website.

Membership fees

Joint Membership: £12.50

Single Membership: £10.50

Overseas Membership: £17.50 (Joint or Single)

Junior Membership: £0.50

Jim Cuddy

Treasurer

j_cuddy@yahoo.co.uk



Puppies

If you would like to enquire about litters or advertise your puppies on the club's website please get in touch with our puppy co-ordinator, Val Jarvis.

Email: val.jarvis@ymail.com





Xylitol toxicity in dogs

Do you know what xylitol is and are you (fully) aware of the danger it poses to dogs? It was something we had heard of through Facebook, but had never experienced, or knew anyone who had experienced it. This was until one afternoon we found a chewed up pack of chewing gum, shortly followed by Janey losing her co-ordination and not acting herself. Quick check of the symptoms of xylitol poisoning and she was rushed off to the vets where she was kept in for the weekend before being given the all clear on the Monday morning.



What is xylitol?

Xylitol is a natural, sugar-free sweetener and while it is safe for humans, it can be harmful to dogs. The compound doesn't affect glucose levels in people, but when ingested by dogs it can cause a dangerous surge of insulin. At higher doses, xylitol is believed toxic to the canine liver.

There are certain sugar-free gums, sweets, toothpastes, mouthwashes, peanut butter and baked goods which contain xylitol. This naturally-occurring sugar substitute is also available as a granulated powder for cooking and baking.

Symptoms and types

In most cases, symptoms will develop within 15 to 30 minutes of ingestion of the xylitol. However, there are some sugar-free gums that delay the onset of symptoms for up to 12 hours. Some of the more common symptoms of xylitol toxicity include:

- Weakness
- Lethargy
- Collapse
- Vomiting
- Tremoring
- Seizures
- Jaundice
- Malaise
- Black-tarry stool

Liver failure may occur in severe cases of toxicity due to the dog's low blood sugar.

Causes

The ingestion of xylitol or xylitol-containing products causes a rapid release of the hormone insulin, causing a sudden decrease in the dog's blood glucose.

Treatment

Fast treatment by your veterinarian is essential to effectively reverse any toxic effects and prevent the development of severe problems. If your dog has just eaten xylitol but has not yet developed any clinical signs, your veterinarian may induce vomiting to prevent further absorption, depending on what your dog's blood glucose level is. If clinical signs have developed, treatment will be based on the symptoms that are being shown. Since xylitol toxicity can cause both low blood glucose and low potassium levels, your veterinarian will perform blood work to determine whether these problems need to be treated. In all cases, your dog will require hospitalization for blood sugar monitoring, dextrose administration, IV fluids, liver protectants, and any other supportive care that may be needed. Blood work should be monitored frequently to make sure that blood sugar and liver function remain normal.

Due to the fast actions of Debbie and our vets, we are pleased to say that Janey came home as right as rain from her weekend stay at the vets. It's one of those toxins that can be treated successfully if the signs are picked up early and acted on.

Ray & Debbie McDonald



Merry Christmas and



A Happy New Year

from the officers and committee
of the Irish Red and White
Setter Club of Great Britain





Dates for your diary - club events

Event: Irish Red and White Setter Club of GB Open Show - Spring

Date: Sunday 5th March 2017

Venue: Steventon Village Hall, Oxfordshire. OX13 6RR

Judge: Val Jarvis

Event: Judging Seminar and assessment for the Irish Red and White Setter

Date: Saturday 18th March 2017

Venue: The Kennel Club Building, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, CV8 2LG

Event: Irish Red and White Setter Club of GB AGM

Date: Sunday 23rd April 2017

Venue: Newton Regis Village Hall, Austrey Lane, Newton Regis, Nr Tamworth, Staffs. B79 0NL

Event: Irish Red and White Setter Club of GB Championship Show

Date: Sunday 16th July 2017

Venue: The Kennel Club Building, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, CV8 2LG

Judge: Val Wade

Event: Irish Red and White Setter Club of GB Open Show - Autumn

Date: Sunday 15th October 2017

Venue: Hasland Village Hall, Hasland Road, Chesterfield, S41 0AY

Judge: Andy Robins

Newsletter deadline: Tuesday, 1st May 2017

Biennial Year Book: Due out March 2017

Working events

The Working sub committee has plans for a number of working events. As soon as dates and venues are confirmed, details will be available on the Club's website and Facebook page. If you would like to have information and booking forms sent directly to you, please email Fiona Chapman (fiona.chapman123@btinternet.com).

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