

Red and White Standard

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

Issue 2020/2



Winter Edition





Irish Red and White Setter Club of Great Britain

officers and committee

Honorary Life Members

Mrs Ann Gormley, Mr Bob Knapton, Mr Peter & Mrs Ann Jeffery, Mrs Pat Brigden,
Mrs Joyce Webb, Mrs Ann Millington

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	Graham Hart	Breed Education: Julian Barney
	Ray McDonald	Working: Fiona Chapman
	Maureen Newman	Rescue: Ann Jeffrey
	Brian Pilmer	Health & Genetics: Brian Pilmer
	Val Wade	
	Diane Jones	Other club contacts
	Cliff Ball	Year Book: Vacancy
	Ned Bardey	Webmaster: Alison Bloxham
	Anita Tattersall	Newsletter: Roxanne McDonald

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"

Front Cover Image

Tillia, a 1 year old having fun in Rosbeg, owned and loved by Mrs Shirley Scott

If you have any images of your Irish Red and White Setter for use on the front page, please email them to roxanne@roanjora.co.uk.



Message from the Chairman

Sadly our dear friend Gaye O'Connor has passed away and those who knew her will remember her for her driving enthusiasm for the breed and for dogs in general. Her humour kept us all sane during some of those moments when disaster was about to happen but somehow was rescued and usually in there sorting it out was Gaye. She was part of the beating heart of the Club and she will be sadly missed, our deepest sympathies go to Eamonn, her husband, and her family and friends.

Covid of course is still with us and those that are trying to guide us through this pandemic are fighting something that no one has ever faced before so be diligent, work with those trying to look after us and especially feel a lot of warmth for those that are not able to see their loved ones throughout this.

We are all missing the shows and the company of our friends at the shows, 2020 has been a complete washout although there have been a few online shows that have allowed us some respite and indeed a little fun. We are arranging one as I write this and it is hoped that it will be on in the early part of next year. Excitingly, we are also looking at a real show where in particular we might focus on getting some of those puppies that have yet to see a show ring out and about. Watch out on Facebook and the Website for updates on both of these events. It has also been welcome news to see a few more litters this year and also updates on Facebook of the early fortunes of these puppies in their new homes, wonderful to see them and do keep them coming.

It has been a really trying time for those working hard to arrange dates and venues for the shows in 2021 as they also need the strictest Covid arrangements to keep our members, friends, judges, stewards, and everyone involved in the shows safe and healthy during the shows. Special instructions, risk assessments, signage, ring management, etc has all been taxing but we are getting there and we look forward to getting back to the shows.

I'm sure many of you will have occupied your time over this year with some interesting things that you could share with us all, please do write a few lines for the next newsletter and keep us all amused. My new hobby is later in the newsletter which I hope you will find interesting.

Take care, stay safe, and I hope you can all have a lovely Xmas and at least forget Covid for a few hours.

Jim Cuddy
Chairman



Message from the editor

This year has been one of the slowest but quickest years and I can't believe we are already coming to the end of 2020—the year I think we all want to put into the past!

However, we have positive news to go into 2021, that hopefully during the year some form of normality and socialisation will come back and sporting events and hobbies will resume. Until then, I know I am enjoying spending more weekend time with Giles & Jasper, while my weeks have been kept busy as I've been fortunate to keep my job but work from home, spending even more time with the dogs and with the winter, getting to walk them in the daylight everyday. I have a very considerate boss!

The newsletter is a little thin on the ground this time. Please remember this is YOUR newsletter. I am here only as editor to put all the tales and stories from our members and the updates from our committee into a single publication. Photos are always a welcome edition too. Thank you to Mrs Shirley Scott for the lovely cover photo of her young, homebred bitch.

Have a great Christmas and New Year! Let me know if your 2021 adventures by emailing me at roxanne@roanjora.co.uk

Roxanne McDonald
Newsletter Editor



Club update

Last year our organised shows went out of the window – we managed to hold the spring open show but the autumn open had to be cancelled and the championship show was postponed. We are going to be able to hold the 2020 Championship Show during 2021 and are currently trying to sort out a suitable date.

At the moment organising the shows for next year is a bit of a nightmare! We have our usual shows booked – see the back of the newsletter – however, these dates are possibly going to change because of the COVID situation. So please keep an eye on the website and Facebook page as we'll put up news about the dates as we get them.

The AGM is something else that may have to be moved – we will be holding 2020 and 2021 AGMs on the same day, again keep a lookout on the website or Facebook page for more information. The AGM is currently planed for Sunday 11th April.



IRWS Calendar

Following the success and positive feedback of the previous calendars, the club has produced one for 2021. If you would like one then please email Alison at secretary@irishredandwhitesetterclub.com.



A litter in lockdown

Back in March, a new virus was starting to spread outside of China, but the UK hadn't had many cases and no deaths. Crufts and Cheltenham went ahead as usual and with a bitch in season thinking naively that all this will have blown over within the 9 weeks of pregnancy, so we went ahead with the planned litter.

As the weeks went on, the UK figures were not looking good and into lockdown we went as April approached, with a bitch who was now starting to expand as she grew her puppies.

Panic was starting to set in amongst ourselves and fellow breeders in a similar position—the country in lockdown, vets only seeing emergency appointments and their oxygen and PPE supplies being diverted to the NHS, we could only hope that our bitch could have a easy whelping and healthy puppies.



Her due date came and on the 4th May we saw the arrival of 7 healthy, chunky puppies, and a happy mum. Phew! It all went well.

But now our thoughts turn to raising the pups and sending them to their new homes. They all had homes lined up and the very excited families still wanted their puppy, but how and when would they get to see them!? We like families to visit a couple of times to see and watch the puppies develop before making a final choice on who will join their family.

As the puppies grew, we found our time was spent on WhatsApp video calls, speaking to the new owners and allowing them to see the puppies and mum together. We could also show them the rest of the adult family, while they could show us their home and the rest of their family. It didn't make up for face to face contact, but it was a great substitute for the times and something we plan to keep for the future—a balanced blend of using technology and face to face.



Takeaways were allowed in the summer

We were busy trying to understand the rules at the time, could new owners come and see the puppies? Could they come to collect, or would we have to use a courier? I even investigated registering as a pet courier so I could transport them myself!

Luckily, as the puppies got to 4 weeks when they would normally have visitors the restrictions in England started to relax and we could meet other people, outside in the garden. Feeling please we had a spring / summer litter, this made it easier for the new owners to come and meet the litter along with a few friends and family to come and help socialise them.

The restrictions remained eased for when the pups could be collected which made things that little easier and allowed them to go off to their new homes.

The following 4 months has proved different. Lack of training classes, pubs and restaurants closed and everyone keeping 2 metres away has made socialisation different and more challenging, but not impossible. The pups are now 7 months and all doing well in their new homes, learning new tricks (good and bad) and the owners are doing a grand job.

We never thought that while sitting on the patio with two dogs in the rain back in March, that there would have been this much extra stress and worry in a 2020 litter, but thankfully it all turned out well. And who knows, our keeper might see a show ring before she starts her canicross training - but we won't be holding our breath!

Roxanne McDonald
Roanjora Irish Red & White Setters



Promoting the breed

Promoting the breed has been challenging this year with the lack of events like The National Pet Show, Discover Dogs and the Game Fairs where we get the opportunity to show our lovely breed off to the general public. But this year has had it's challenges. However I have recently re-found my knowledge of Instagram, and I was pleasantly surprised with how many owners around the world have created Instagram pages for their Irish Red and White Setter. Tapping into this social media platform has allowed me to follow, see and communicate with many breed enthusiast from around the world who are all promoting the breed while sharing wonderful photo's of their beloved pet and their latest antics.

This follows from a comment on the Crufts 2020 channel where they did interviews around the British and Irish native breeds, and what stuck in my head was the presenter who asked how she would see these breeds. As a Social Media Influencer, she spends a lot of time on these platforms, and while most people know about the common breeds, this is a fantastic way to get the lesser know breeds out there.

To everyone on Instagram—keep up the great work.

To all those who are asking “Insta...what?” Well I won't mention TikTok then!

Keep up the great work to everyone who is promoting the breed be it though your activities, via social media, or by just making everyone at the local pub aware (Covid restrictions allowing!) It all helps, and who doesn't like talking about their dog.

If you have any stories to share for the newsletter on promoting the breed then please email me at roxanne@roanjora.co.uk.



Puppy registrations

As I reported in the previous newsletter, breed registrations in 2019 were an all time low at 39, the lowest of all breeds. The first quarter of 2020 (January to March), saw 16 puppies registered from three litters and two imports registered.

Second quarter (April to June) saw 28 puppies from 4 litters and quarter three saw 18 puppies from 2 litters, taking the running total for 2020 registrations to 62 puppies and two imports, with three months left to report.



Puppies

If you would like to enquire about up-coming litters or announce your puppies on the club's website please get in touch with our puppy co-ordinator, Di Jones at diane@berryessa.co.uk

A reminder to anyone who has or is having a litter that we give free membership to new puppy owners. When you have your next litter, let Graham Hart know and he can send you the information and membership forms for you to include in your puppy packs.



Passing time in lockdown

Looking for something different to do during these restricted times - why not try hiking?

I was talking to a friend on the phone a few months ago and the subject of hiking came up, a hobby of his. The conversation went,

Derek; "I'm planning on doing Scafell Pike soon with a few people"

Me; "That sounds like a challenge, can you fit me in"

Derek; "Have you hiked anywhere already?"

Me; "No, but I, m sure I will manage"

Derek; "Haha"

So came September and he calls me to say that his wife has had a fall so they have had to call it off. However, once the challenge has been set I'm not one to give in so I started to plan to do it with Harley. Finding out where Scafell Pike is, is a good start! Well it's in the heart of the mountains in the Lake District. Right, ordnance survey map, compass, good hiking shoes, rucksack and waterproofs, all recently recruited, I thought I'd make a start by doing a lesser climb first and chose a couple of days where the weather looked good,



checked the route, and set off.

Eight hours later I reached my accommodation in which I would stay the night before embarking on the hike the next day.



It took a couple of hours but I reached Honister Pass where my intended hike route would start. The car park was full of kitted out hikers and I asked what would be a good hike for experience before tackling Scafell Pike. The plan became, up Fleetwith Pike, over to Haystacks, the main mountain, from there up onto The Ridge. A long trek from the ridge over to Green Gable, another high one, and then along a route called Piles of Stones back downhill and eventually to Honister Pass. This took me five hours and my legs were

literally wobbling as I came back down to the pass.

Harley had a great time and he must have covered ten times the area that I did but I enjoyed it although it was very testing. My inaugural hike was done and I started to plan the big one all the way home that evening.

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Scafell Pike, at 978 metres, is England's highest mountain and war memorial, cared for by the National Trust as a result of a gift after the war. Thousands of people enjoy Scafell Pike each year with Fix the Fells working year round to manage footpaths and care for the fragile montane habitat. The climb to the top should not be underestimated so, to have the best experience, plan ahead, use a map and compass and check mountain weather conditions before setting off.

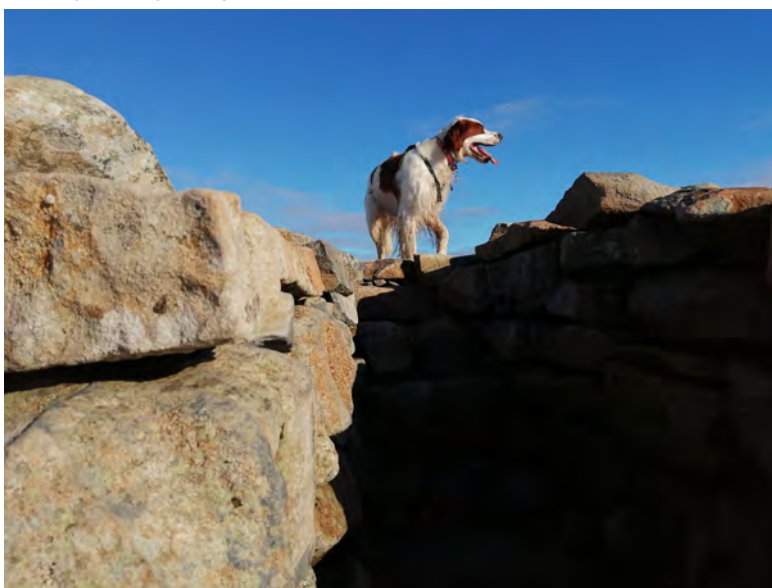
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So Harley and I were ready for the big challenge. It was now November and it took five changes of date before I homed in on a good weather forecast for the day. Another eight hour drive and an overnight accommodation before arriving at Wasdale Head car park which was the start point. Where was everyone, did they know something I didn't know? A friendly Ranger came by and told me that November is not usually a good time to do the Pike as the visibility can be bad and can make it dangerous but today should be ok.

Because I couldn't depend on the light at that time of year we had to take the most direct route which also happened to be the steepest but my mind was set and off we went. The first part of the climb was fairly straightforward, the route was clear and the weather was great. The telling part was the incline by which the further you went the steeper it got. My legs and breathing were being stretched and after fording a heavily running stream, with Harley enjoying every minute of it, I began the mind games, is it too much, will I make it, should I have brought Harley, etc. When I reckoned I was about half way I met a lady coming down and as is the way you always have a chat. She said the visibility at the top was poor but yesterday had been worse. What, I thought, she is doing it two days in a row, wow. We kept going and the incline was relentless, the going was much harder and I was now climbing through clouds, which by the way are wet (see photos). On we went but I

was suffering now and needing to stop every 50 metres or so for a break. This at least got me into a rhythm of climbing and stopping for a breather but at one point it turned a bit embarrassing when a young very fit couple came by me and stopped and asked if I needed any help (show-offs, but kind to offer).

It really was gritted teeth time as we neared the top and you can see from the photos what the terrain was like. Harley of course was still wandering around really enjoying himself, a real mountain dog now. We had made it and it was extremely cold at the top where there is a monument which is a war memorial that the Rangers upkeep, Harley had to be photographed on top of course. Lunch of a sandwich, a chocolate bar and Lucozade, and also biscuits and meat for Harley, after which we set off back down, the easy bit I thought, how wrong can you be. The hike down is as strenuous as the way up you just use the same bits in different

ways. Knees, hamstrings, and toes get the battering on the way down. By half way my toes were really sore at the tips, knees were being jarred every step, and I got cramp in each hamstring at different times causing 20 minute stops to ease them up. Gingerly is what I would call the rest of the descent and when I had to recross the stream I felt like just laying down in it and calling it a day. Anyway we got back to the car park and I just sat in the car for half an hour recovering, then washed Harley down, he had got black, changed shoes and tops, and decided to make for home. Seven hours the climb up and down had taken and it was harder than any of the marathons I had run before.



Well home now and planning on doing Snowdon and Ben Nevis next year to complete the Three Peaks as they are called. A new hobby underway.

Jim Cuddy and Harley



Membership renewals

Don't forget your membership renewals are due on 1st January 2021.

- Joint Membership (UK & Ireland)—£15
- Single Membership (UK & Ireland)—£12
- Overseas Membership (single or joint)—£17.50
- Junior membership—50p

Cheques to go to Graham Hart, 199 Sandon Road, Stafford. ST16 3HQ. Standing order mandate available on the website.



Stop Press—Crufts 2021

Crufts have changed their dates for 2021 and are planning to go ahead between Thursday 15th July to Sunday 18th July.

Gundogs will be exhibiting on Saturday 17th July and we are waiting on confirmation on if Discover Dogs will go ahead or not. If you would be interested in helping on Discover Dogs please email our co-coordinator, Ray McDonald, at roanjora@roanjora.co.uk.



Stop Press— online show

With the challenge of Covid-19, the committee are hard at work exploring the possibilities and organising an online show that we can all enjoy from the comfort and safety of our homes.

Keep an eye on the website and Facebook page for more details in the new year, and get those pictures ready!

**Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year**

**From all the officers and
committee of the Irish Red & White
Setter Club of GB**





Gaye O'Connor obituary



As many of you will know Gaye tragically passed away at the end of August this year – she was so much a part of the Club and committee that we are going to find not having her around really difficult. Her illness was very sudden and fierce and right up to the end she was saying ‘I’ll sort it out’.

I’d only known Gaye for a short time compared to many in the Club but she was my main ‘go to’ person for advice. She had done so many of the roles on the committee that if she didn’t know the answer then it either hadn’t been asked or it had already been sorted out and she would point me in the right direction.

A number of times one of my questions would be followed by ‘come over and I’ll show you/teach you and we’ll have lunch’. So off I’d trot – over to Newton Regis and I’d play with her dogs, be shown how to do whatever it was and then sit down in the kitchen to a lovely lunch with Gaye, Eamonn and often Wendy, Gaye’s sister.

My husband has mentioned how quiet our phone has been recently – neither of us had realised just how often I spoke with Gaye, until now. I know there’s a big hole in many people’s lives that was Gaye shaped!

Eamonn and Wendy have all our love, thoughts and good wishes as they adjust to their changed lives – having been married for over 40 years Eamonn has so many good memories and stories that I hope to continue going over for lunches!

Alison Bloxham



Dates for your diary - club events

Please note: Dates are subject to change in light of any further Covid-19 restrictions.

Event: Irish Red and White Setter Club of GB Open Show - Spring
Date: Sunday 7th March 2021
Venue: Steventon Village Hall, Oxfordshire. OX13 6RR
Judge: Mrs J Eyeington

Event: Irish Red and White Setter Club of GB AGM (2020 & 2021)
Date: Sunday 11th April
Venue: TBC

Event: Irish Red and White Setter Club of GB Championship Show (2020 Postponed)
Date: TBC
Venue: TBC
Judge: Mrs Mary Knox

Event: Irish Red and White Setter Club of GB Championship Show
Date: Sunday 18th July 2021
Venue: The Kennel Club Building, Stoneleigh, CV8 2LZ
Judge: Mrs S Humphries

Event: Irish Red and White Setter Club of GB Open Show - Autumn
Date: Sunday 21st November 2021
Venue: Hasland Village Hall, Eastwood Park, Chesterfield, S41 0AY
Judge: Mrs J Ward

Working events

The Working sub committee is hoping for a number of events next year. As soon as dates and venues are confirmed, details will be available on the clubs website and Facebook page. If you would like to have information and booking forms sent directly to you, please email Fiona Chapman

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