

Irish Red and White Setters

Ann Gormley's Memories



The dog makes no distinction between the great and the humble, between the rich and powerful. and those who have nothing to offer him, except his company.

INTRODUCTION

It has been my privilege to have been have been part of the present revival of the Irish Red and White Setter breed. The breed has survived against all odds, when we were down to a few dedicated breeders and even fewer dogs.

There have been many written articles by very eminent people down the years. I wish to share with you some of my memories and most of all, the dogs that made this happen.

The baton has now been passed to those dedicated breeders and owners, to continue to keep this stunning breed alive.



First and foremost, what is history. History is yesterday. I am sharing articles that I have read, information which I have been given, also sharing part of which I have been involved.

History is the sharing of information between those who are interested, it is the snip bits of information that people give you, because it has been shared and shared again, and possibly some of it may have been lost in translation.

I am not writing a book and I have never claimed to be an expert, so if anyone is willing to add or change items, be free to do so, possibly in a book, which I would be very interested in reading.

*It is not about winning, it is not about showing, it is not about working. It is about the **dog**. It is a combination of all that have kept this breed alive.*

Ann Gormley

Title Page: This painting hangs in Fottrell House, home of The Irish Kennel club, a lovely example of the early Irish Red and White Setter.



Hawking, R. Ansdell, 1863

For as long as I can remember, I have always wanted an Irish Red Setter. It was not until 1970 that my dream became a reality, when my husband Alan bought me my first dog, of what was eventually to become the Meudon prefix of Irish Setters.

How we got the name PK for my first dog? When I was brought to pick my first Irish Red Setter, all puppies were in a basket and all I could see were all these brown eyes looking at me. At that time Alan had working with him in the Airport a friend from India, who was completing his Engineering Certificate and we became very good friends. Well, he had the most amazing brown eyes and his name was PK Mytre, hence the name PK.

PK was a lovely old type of dog, large and rough by today's standard, but what a character. He slept on the bed, he taught our children to walk, he even knew what shift Alan was working and would wait for him at the door. When he was small, he "drove" the car, until he became too big and I had to be relegated to the back seat, while he sat beside Alan.

At that time, we lived in a large house on the outskirts of Swords called "Meudon", built during the time of Grattan's Parliament, so it did not take much imagination to call PK "Meudon Boy". Alan used PK, for rough shooting. He was a tireless worker and we had many hours of pleasure with him.

We were then introduced to showing and field trials and started to build our Kennel. But what we were breeding was not what we wanted. We loved the older type of setter, a heavy Irish character best suited to the 1950s and earlier when they existed as an ancient breed.

THE IRISH RED AND WHITE SETTER

This breed was almost extinct in the early 1970s, with no registrations for some years. We first heard that it was still alive in some remote parts of Ireland, and knowing the type of dog he was, very similar to our first Red in type and in character, we had to get involved.

The Irish Red and White Setter as we know him is a dog who is handsome to look at. He is a strong-willed character, full of charm and intelligence. He needs discipline and firmness but will give much pleasure to anyone who owns him.

He is heavy in body and is described as athletic rather than racy. He was bred for working, and as a rough shooting dog will give endless pleasure.

He possesses natural gundog ability; he is keen and determined and is a very stylish worker and has tremendous endurance and consistency. They are renowned for their ability in the field, they need plenty of space, but can also stay in your armchair all day.

Irish Red and White Setter is a dog who can be a faithful and devoted companion, who will steal your heart and will be a joy to own.

The base colour is a soft pearl white with patches of red. The red should only appear in large patches and should vary from a deep colour to a lighter red. His coat is of medium length and easy to maintain. The desirable size is 24 to 26 inches for dogs and 22 to 24 inches for bitches.

The Irish Red and White Setter is becoming very popular in the showing, but we must remember he is not a Red Setter in a white coat. The Irish Red Setter is graceful and elegant and most definitely the thoroughbred, where the Red and White is like the heavy Irish Draught horse.

Showing with all its glory, while very important to continue standards, is not the be all and end all. The ability of the dog to work should be of paramount importance, while still maintaining breed standard.

To own an Irish Red & White Setter is not just for the glory of winning, but to be part of its history and to understand a breed that was almost extinct.



Sir Nathaniel Bacon, by Sir Nathaniel Bacon, c. 1625

This is self portrait of Sir Nathaniel Bacon, and with him is his setting dog, red brown on a white coat, which has been referred to as “an unmistakable White and Red Setter”. It has also been referred to as an Irish Setter, by which was meant its type and not necessarily its country of origin.



Bayeux Tapestry

There are two small hawking dogs in the 11th century Bayeux Tapestry. They are being taken aboard a ship from England for their visit to William of Normandy. Both dogs are depicted as being self coloured, one red and the other a lighter shade. Those dogs, like the falcons with which they were associated, were given as presents between great leaders of the day. This exchange repeats itself from country to country, down the centuries.

In Wales, before 10th century, the Clan of Ivor is said to have arrived in England from Spain with spaniels or setting dogs, and there are similar tales of a later exchange with dogs from Spain to England.

The French maintained that the oldest type of setting dog came from England in the 14th century. This was a white dog with chestnut patches and a long-feathered tail and looked, when it was revived around the 19th century, very like the heavier sort of White and Red Setter found in Ireland at the same time.

Most of the 16th century references to Setters, or setting dog, or setting spaniel, refer not to a separate breed but to a way a particular dog was trained.

One of the oldest pictures, in which a dog appears with the type, colour and expression of the present-day Red Setter, is the portrait painted by Van Dyck and dated 1634.

Sir Nathaniel Bacon's Setters were not the same as the red setter of 1635. Neither type was associated with Ireland at that time. The evidence is that the early Setters were almost any colour and that in Dublin in 1698 there were Black and White Setters, and those were referred to as English Spaniels.



Philip Herbert, 4th Earl of Pembroke, with his Family. Anthony van Dyck, c. 1634



The Three Eldest Children of Charles I. Anthony van Dyck, 1635



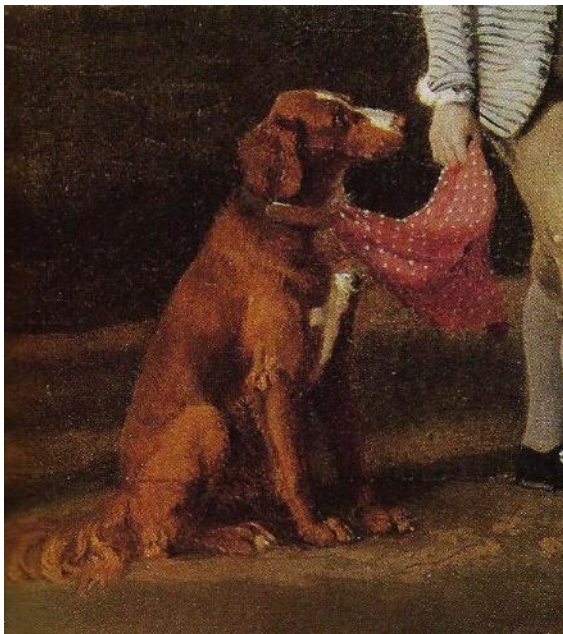
The Lord Burleigh. Print made by John Smith, after William Wissing, 1687

In September 1595 Sir George Saville wrote to Sir Robert Cecil about a setting dog that had been stolen and to say that he had despatched another one from Ireland to England. Cecil was the son of Lord Burleigh who created Burleigh House.



Huntsmen Setting Out from Southill, George Stubbs, 1770

History depends on articles and paintings by artists of that time. Here we see another Red Dog not unlike the painting from Van Dyck of 1635 and very like our Irish Red Setter of today, so it is possible that as well as Red and White setting dogs we also had whole coloured red dogs around the same time.



Huntsmen Setting Out from Southill (detail)

Many of the present day dogs used in this revival were Irish Red Setters and were referred to as mismarked reds, not unlike the red dog in the print.



Windham Quinn of Adare with Gun Dog and Game. Stephen Slaughter, 1734-44



The Reckoning. George Charles Morland (1773-1804)



A Brown and White Setter in a Wooded Landscape. Sawrey Gilpin, 1773



A Setter at The Edge of a Wood. Sawrey Gilpin, between 1775 and 1785

In the early years working dogs in general had smooth coats, so we may assume that they came from the small spaniel type dogs shown in the earlier prints.



Rover, the Duke of Kingston's favorite setting dog, George Haugh, 1776

What is history?

The revival of our breed is now history, but we need to share the articles and paintings and photos, so that this history does not become lost.

You can make up your own mind about what is history and what is not.

This breed belongs to all of us who are interested in the past, the present and the future, included are comments from those who are part of this present revival.

As we can see from many of the early prints and paintings, most of the early dogs were smooth coated and small in stature. But as they progressed, they developed into the dogs that we know today. We can also see how they also acquired a heavier coat to compensate for the harsher climate.



The Scotch Gamekeeper. R. Ansdell, 1855

In my mind this is a fabulous example of what an Irish Red & White Setter should be like.

This is a very interesting painting also because it depicts a Gordon Setter, a Red Setter and a Red and White Setter.

The Gordon setter was named after the Duke of Gordon in the late eighteen century and it is maintained that it was a combination of the Bloodhound, the English Setter and the Red Setter that were used in the development of this breed. As the painting shows us three different breeds, we could assume that dogs were bred to suit the terrain in which they worked.



Gamekeeper's Daughter, Watercolour, Frederick C Taylor, 1852



The Keepers Daughter. Richard Ansdell, 1852

This was given to me as a present when we judged in New Zealand in 1999

It may be of interesting to note that many of the early prints/paintings depict a Red with White dog and a White with Red Dog, and also a Cavalier, which were all setting and working dogs.

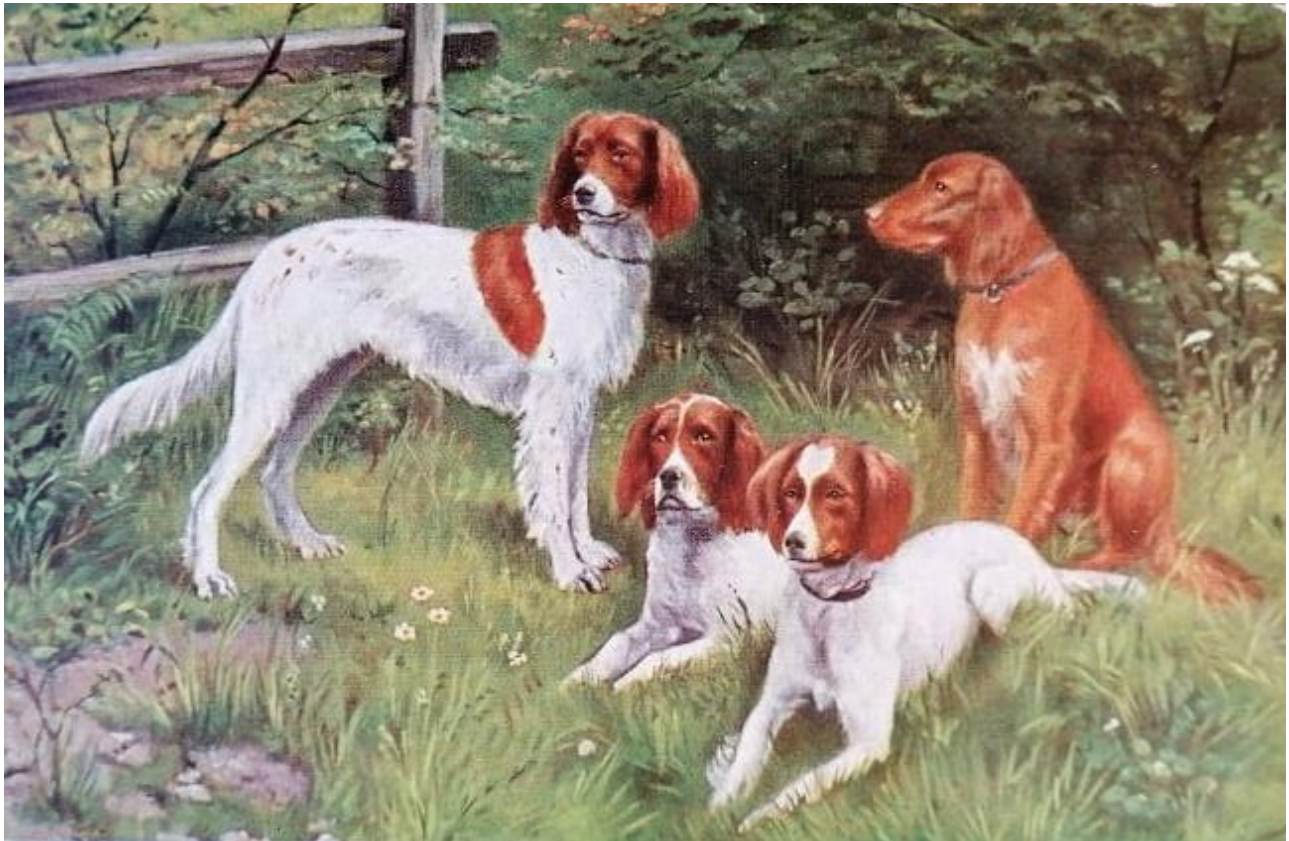
IRISH SETTERS

The dogs of today will be the history of tomorrow, but we can be certain that for a time they worked side by side.

We can thank the Gentry of the day who had their preference in colour. We had the Earl of Enniskillen who bred Irish Red Setters as far back as 1796 and we also had the Rossmore Setters, which were Red and White and kept their line pure right through the most difficult times.

Both Setters are very different in type. Reds are more graceful and are faster in the field, where it has been said that for working purposes the Red and Whites, so long bred for use in the field, are easier to train and less inclined to be temperamental than the Reds. They lack the speed of the Red dog, but they have tremendous endurance and consistency.

It may be unfair to blame Field Trials and Dog Shows alone for the extinction of a breed of such obvious value.



Another card depicting Red and Red and White Setters and dated 30/9/13



Dog, Ilya Repin (1844–1930), 1894, Yekaterinburg Museum of Fine Arts



Gamekeeper with Dogs. Richard Ansdell, 1866.
The keeper is standing with two Red and White Setters with a Black and White Pointer



Dogs of Loch Lomond Scotland 1875





Setters on Point, Thomas Blinks, 1899



In many of the photos you will find that as well as a Red and White, you will have a Gordon Setter



Irish Setters

Given the rarity of the Irish Red and White Setter, compared to its close relative, The Irish Red Setter, it is perhaps surprising to realise that the whole coloured dog is descended from the parti-coloured rather than vice-versa.

Much of the very earliest proof of the existence of Setter type dogs in Ireland comes from paintings as well as written records.

That he is an old dog there is no doubt. But we can believe him to have been a Red dog or a Red and White, a smart active animal, full of courage. Rather headstrong, an untiring worker and as good as any other dog used for a similar purpose. It would appear that even from the earliest of days, some degree of all-round ability was expected of Irish Gundogs.

In the sixteenth century the Setter was gradually developed to suit the purpose of sportsmen living in a land where game was never plentiful. The dogs were kept solely for work, every dog had to earn his keep and it was in these conditions that the modern Irish Setter developed into the untiring and hard-working dog of today.

There is very little written history of the breed before the end of the eighteenth century, but by then there were several good kennels of setters in the country. In some cases, the ground colour is red with white markings, in others white with red markings, similar to the red and white spaniel.

Also, to compare the type, it is interesting to note that in some cases the early red and white dog had no feathering and is completely smooth in coat.

In the second half of the 17th century casual references to setters and to setting dogs became more frequent, and so do references to the law.

In Ireland a proclamation of 1662 ordered that for the preservation of game for the benefit of the Lord Lieutenant and officers of the state, all persons were forbidden to take any pheasants, grouse, hares, or any game whatsoever, by hawks, nets, guns, or setting dogs or any means whatsoever. It was only those with lands that were allowed to have dogs of any kind.

Also, these dogs were sometimes referred to as “Couchers”, as once they located a bird they couched down until the net was thrown over them. Until the early part of the 17th century dogs were used for hawking and netting for grouse, and over time became known as setter or setting dog.

The flintlock rifle was first issued to the army about the 1700s and it was then that the sport of shooting at flying birds became very popular. So, a faster, further ranging dog was required.

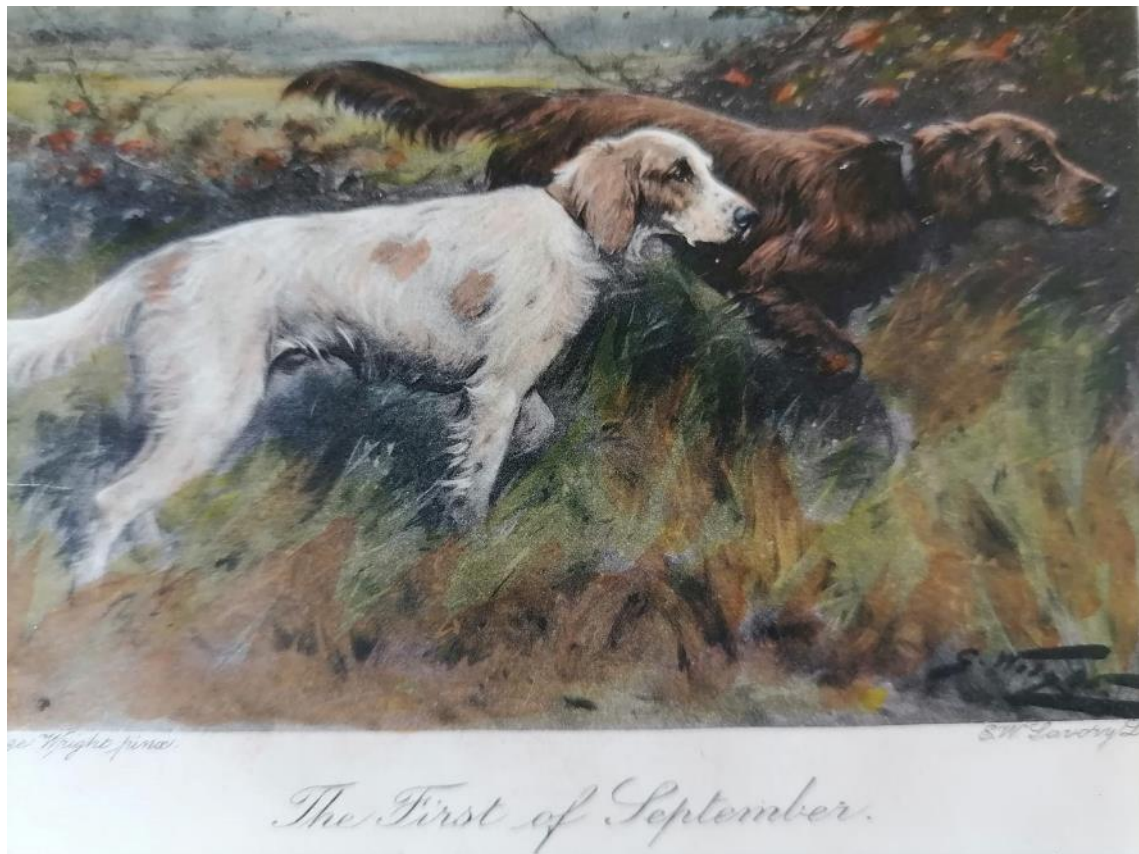
The concentration on the red and white and red setter began, and these dogs were raised to a high peak of excellence in Ireland by a number of land-owning families. It has been said that the sporting gentlemen of Ireland were more partial to setters than pointers or spaniel as they were better adapted to that country. It is also possible that they were the oldest varieties of setter to emerge as distinct from the generally large island spaniel.

For about the next 100 to 150 years various types of setter existed side by side, The Irish Red Setter, the Irish Red and White Setter, and the Shower of Hail, each one with their own distinguishing features but all renowned for their ability at finding birds and also for their stamina in the field. It was about 1870 that two distinct types remained, The Red and White and The White and Red.

At no time I am suggesting that the dogs we are showing are IRWS, but it is interesting to note just how the dogs are becoming more and more like the dogs that we know today.



Postcard with two dogs sitting at fireplace, 1905



The First of September. George Wright



An October Day. James Hardy



John Vandeleur of Kilrush with his Setter. Robert Hunter, 18th Century

Richard Miles

Here's an 18th century portrait of one of my Irish ancestors, John Vandeleur of Kilrush with his setter. The nose is fairly aquiline! I have another portrait of Peter Westenra (1664-1693), also of Dutch origin, with his setter dog, which is more black and white than red and white. My youngest red & white purebred setter dog, Flynn, has the red spot alluded to by the Rev. Houston in the centre of his forehead, but I'd never noticed until today that it's of blacker hue than the rest of his red patches.

Irish Portraitists such as Robert Hunter, whom was the artist of this painting, were commissioned to ensure that their subject was in the fore. Their subject's accompanying dogs were subsequently diminished in size. I would think that this is an early setter, feathering on the forelegs, a head not of spaniel appearance, but more aquiline. The development of early setters to the modern IRWS remains contentious and perhaps it will never be solved, but setter like dogs do appear in early Irish portraits, whose subjects are often of Dutch origin.

There are many articles written about hunting and working dogs and many names of those who helped keep this breed alive.

Among the written references to Irish Setters are the family records of the **Mahon's of Galway and Mayo**. Those documents, covering the period from about 1760 to 1840, clearly state that among the family's many sporting dogs, whole coloured setters were rare, hard to train and generally larger than the Red and White. Mr. Mahon, an ardent sportsman and owner of many setters, all of which were Red and White, which he maintained was the true colour of the Irish Setter.

The present M. Mahon informs us that in his early days whole coloured dogs were rare, though he admits they existed and were considered more difficult to train than the parti-coloured, which he said were smaller.

Another gentleman, who was involved with Irish Setters throughout a period from about 1835 to 1865, was **Mr. John King of Ballylin, Co. Offaly**. He too records that both in the field, at trials and in the earliest shows held in Ireland, Red and Whites outnumbered pure Reds by a considerable margin.

He mentions in particular the Show held at the Rotunda Gardens, Dublin 1863, where many Red and White Setters were displayed by their owners. Although Mr. King kept a record, in which he jotted down the names of dogs and incidents connected with them, he seldom had to refresh his memory of either owners, breeders or dogs and he firmly states that the entirely Red dog was not only in the minority but difficult to obtain at all.

He mentions a gamekeeper from Roscommon, whom he was in habit of purchasing dogs, bringing him a Red dog and urging him to buy him because of its rarity. He also mentions shooting over three of four setters. Only one of these was whole coloured and this dog was a pale golden with a white snip on the forehead. All the others were Red and White.

Other references to setters in Ireland are to be found in the works of **William Hamilton Maxwell** (The Field Book: Or, Sports and Pastimes of the United Kingdom; Compiled from the Best Authorities, Ancient and Modern, 1833) and **William Youatt** (The Dog, 1845) (see <https://archive.org/details/dog00youagoog/page/n6/mode/2up?view=theater>), who refer to parti-coloured setters (both red and white and lemon and white) as being fairly common throughout Ireland from as early as 1800.

Mr. Bennet of Grange, whose recollection goes back to the early part of the last century, in the year 1835 owned a light red bitch called **Cora**, which he mated to a light red dog, the property of **Captain Vaughan of Golden**, Co. Offaly, and all the progeny were all red and white. Captain Vaughan had two braces of this strain in his kennel and those were all red with white. They were described as being large and muscular.

Mr. Bennet also considers the **O'Connor** and **O'Keefe** strain of setter the best he ever shot over. The latter paid great attention to keeping them pure. He preferred the parti coloured to the whole coloured variety and maintains that the whole coloured Red were scarce and much more difficult to break than the Red and White Dog. The Red and White was kept in comparative purity in certain kennels. He mentioned that there were a few if any men in those days who would not use a Red and White if he were proved in the field.

Sir Thomas Staples from Tyrone is said to have owned such dogs from some years before this date, as did **Lord Rossmore** from Monaghan.

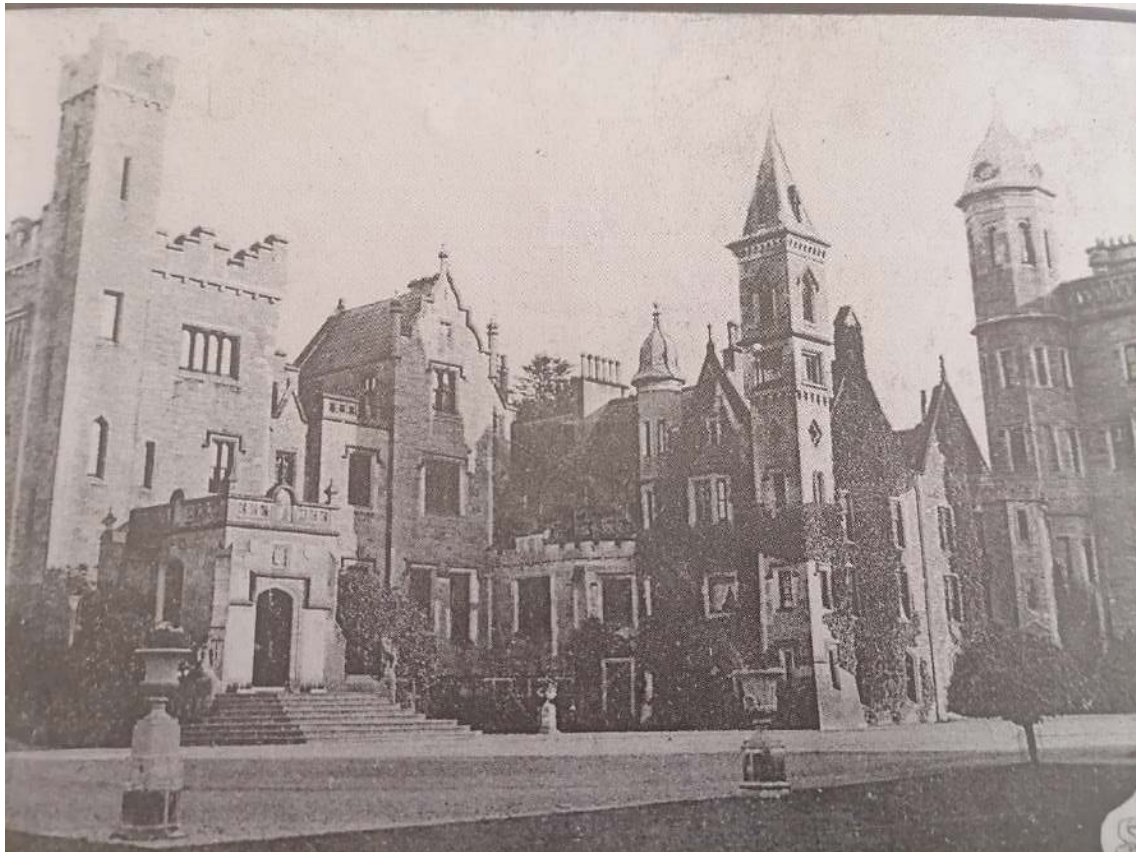
Rossmore Setters

The Rossmore Setters, named after their owner **Lord Rossmore of Rossmore Castle, Co. Monaghan**, were a separate strain of Red and White, perhaps the earliest in Ireland and date with certainty into the eighteen century.

This particular gentleman (Lord Rossmore), one of many to hold the title and a love of dogs, was known to have disliked whole coloured red dogs and to have refused to use them in his breeding program. This is interesting if for no other reason, that it suggests that whole coloured and parti-coloured Irish Setters co-existed from the earliest days.

The family had for some years the shooting rights in the Isle of Arran, Strathclyde, Scotland, which is why the strain was sometimes referred to as Arran Setters.

The Rossmore family continued to breed their setters until well into the nineteen twenties, so the strain covers a remarkable time span.



Rossmore Castle destroyed by fire 1922

Richard Miles

Very interesting and well researched. My mother was a Westenra, only child of Richard Westenra, 2nd son of 'Derry' Rossmore. She said that the Rossmore setters or their ancestors were introduced to Ireland by two Dutch van Wassanaer merchant brothers, anglicized to Westenra, in the early 17th century from the then Spanish Netherlands, as hunting dogs.

Henry Robert, 3rd Baron of Rossmore (1792-1862) married the only daughter of the 8th Duke of Hamilton. She inherited her father's hunting estate on the Isle of Arran, the family had established Kennels there and they became known as Arran Setters, could they be transporting dogs from the mainland.



Rowing to the Moor, John Isaac Richardson

Richard Miles

Possible connection. Henry Robert, 3rd Baron Rossmore (1792-1860), married Anne Douglas Hamilton, a 'natural' daughter and only child of the 8th Duke of Hamilton. She inherited her father's hunting estates on the Isle of Arran, which passed on to the Rossmores. Her son, my great grandfather, 'Derry' Rossmore, mentions in his book, 'Things I can Tell'(1912), that the family established kennels of Rossmore setters there and they also became known as Arran setters. It's possible that this painting depicts these setters being transported by rowing boat to another shoot area on that estate. What a great evocative image.



Henry Robert Westenra, 3rd Baron Rossmore, with Duchess & Bob. John E. Ferneley, 1810



Lord Rossmore and his brother Jack Westenra with their setters on the moors at Glendyke. John Ferneley, 1812 (Information provided by Richard Miles)



Lord Rossmore And His Setters. Stephen Catterson Smith, Sr., c.1850



Pooie, Dublin

AT ROSSMORE CASTLE, MONAGHAN

Lord and Lady Rossmore and Miss Betty Lee, who is Lady Rossmore's daughter by her first marriage. Lord Rossmore is in the R.N.V.R. and served in that unit through the war. The setter in the picture is Rossmore Grouse

1981 - Photo provided by Sinead O Reilly (Old Memories of Rossmore Park – Facebook)

When we were researching the IRWS and we were in Rossmore, we discovered that Alan's grandfather Bernard Gormley was head gardener there for many years. We had the pleasure of looking at the house and walled garden where he worked. Sadly, the only other thing left is the doggie graveyard which is down by the lake, a very beautiful place.



This photo shows Bernard Gormley who was head-gardener in Rossmore Castle before the destruction in 1922.

It seems that he may have also been involved with the Rossmore Setters as it looks very like some in the photo with him.

He was also Grandfather to the Gormley clan, of which Alan was part of.

We have been able to go and see the Cottage where they lived (see below), just beside the walled garden, not too far from the doggie grave yard just beside the lake

Bernard Gormley



The Gardeners House, House 3, Corlatten

The third bench show in the United States held in **Chicago's Exposition Building on 26th January 1876** had classes for both Red and Red and White Setters as well as native Setters of the same colour.

At the first ever **Westminster Show held in New York in 1877**, shipping records show that the Steamship Nevada carried over a number of competitors from the United Kingdom including at least one Irish Red and White setter.

When the first national American Kennel Club Book was published in 1878 it listed, Irish only dogs imported from Ireland or their progeny, dogs with doubtful pedigrees, were classed separately under Crossbred and other Setters.

Furthermore, by the year 1900 the **Dunlop Boot Company of Canada** had adopted as their trademark a picture of a Red and White Setter which they embossed on the insides of all their boots. Company records state that the choice of the Irish Red and White as the logo. was dictated by the reputation for endurance enjoyed by the breed in Canada at that time. (Just think if you had a pair of those boots now.)

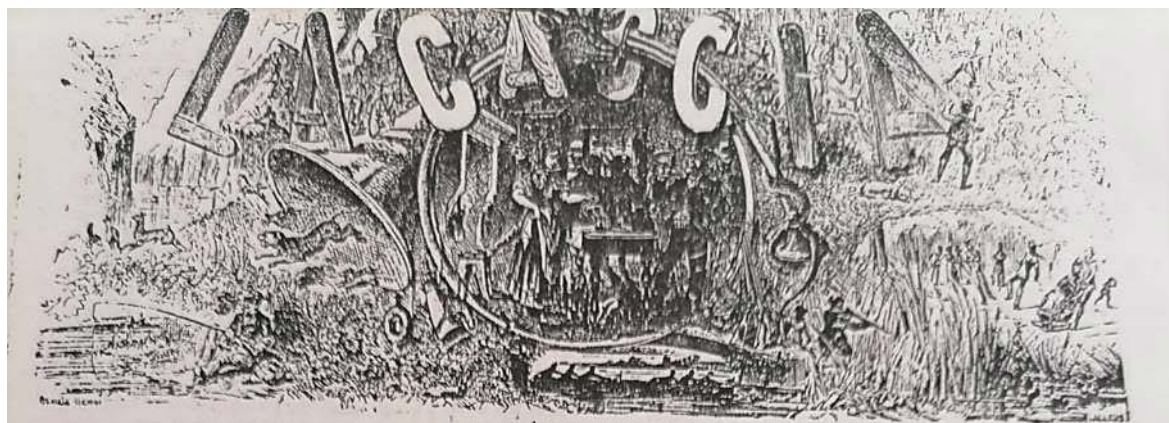
It would seem that the breed excelled in other parts of the world as well and is also recorded as being in several European countries during the later half of the 19th century. In Italy in particular the November 1880 copy of **Gironale Illustrare Dello Sporto Italiano** (published in Milan) shows both colour varieties of Irish Setter and states that they were very much in favour with Italian sportsmen of the day.

Story of Dr. Quintino Toschi, Chairman of The Kennel Club of Imola

Dr. Quintino Toschi came to Swords with his very good friend, who was judging The St. Bernard Club Championship Show (and who had no less than 60 St. Bernard's in his Kennel). Having heard about the Irish Red and White Setters, he wanted to see them, his breed being Irish Red Setters. He came to our house to see our IRWS. We had a litter of puppies at the time and he decided he wanted one. After some considerably long time looking at them, he picked Meudon Moon Beam. When Alan brought the puppy to Milan (as he delivered all our puppies to their new homes), it was to be a quick trip over in the morning and the last flight home. Well, they had other ideas, as they wanted to bring Alan around to see kennels of Irish Red Setters, where he had to give a critique on each dog. Also, to pick the wine they would drink (not a problem). I could not contact Alan, as the person who answered my calls had no English and I had no Italian. Two days later Alan found someone who spoke English and eventually they sent him in a car to the nearest airport (approx. 200 miles), and home.

We became great friends with Toschi and for the following years that we showed at Crufts he came to see Blaze. Although he did not speak English, after a glass of Irish and Alan and Quintino could understand one another perfectly.

Dr Quintino Toschi sent us a comparison between both the Irish Red and The Irish Red and White Setters.



GIORNALE ILLUSTRATO DELLO SPORT ITALIANO.

CONDIZIONI D'ABBONAMENTO:		ESCE TRE VOLTE AL MESE	GLI ABBONAMENTI SI RICEVONO:
In Milano	all'Anno L. 12 —	Un Numero separato Cent. 50.	In MILANO
e nel Regno:	al Semestre 7 —	Pagamento anticipato all'Ufficio del Giornale presso	press: l'Amministrazione del Giornale La Caccia,
All' Estero:	per i paesi compresi nella	il Magazzino d'armi, Piazza San Carlo, 2.	Piazza San Carlo, 2.
	Unione postale 14 —		nel REGNO
			presso i principali Librai e Negozianti d'armi.

SOMMARIO

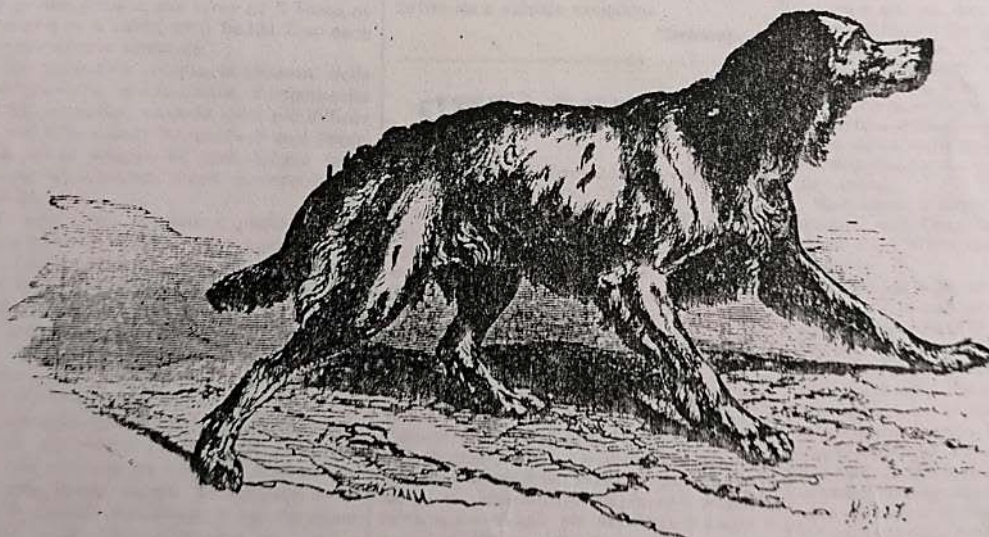
Can! Inglesi (continuazione) — Chiarchere — Otto giorni a Lucania — I cavalli d'una volta e quelli d'oggi in Italia (continuazione) — Le mie prime due beccaccine — Memento del cacciatore — Fichi alla caccia — Tiro al piccione — Necrologio — Un po' di tutto — Notizie ippiche — Sport nautico.

e tranquilli non hanno nulla a sperare da un gagliardo simile.

Come al *pointer* leggero, al *red irish* abbisogna un campo d'azione degno di lui. Nel fisico è un animale avente la resistenza dell'acciaio, nel morale un temperamento di fuoco.

nella sua attitudine, quanta intelligenza, quanto fuoco splende nel suo sguardo allorchè si anima! Come bene esprime quanto si può aspettare da lui.

Oltre tutti i caratteri propri del *setter*, il *red irish* possiede un'alta e complessa statura, cranio molto sviluppato, naso ben spaccato



SETTER IRLANDESE (*With-red irish setter*)

CANI INGLESÌ

(*Setters irlandesi*)

XVIII

(Continuazione al N. 124).

Accoci a parlare del più rimarchevole dei cani inglesi a lungo pelo, il gran *setter rosso irlandese* (*red irish setter*). I cacciatori amanti dei cani saggi, freddi

Grazie alla sua alta statura, ed al suo pelo lungo, fino, lucido e di quel color *fauve* di un tono caldo e profondo più facile a dipingere che a descrivere, il *setter irlandese*, in unione al *pointer fauve*, rappresenta uno dei cani più seducenti all'occhio del vero amatore.

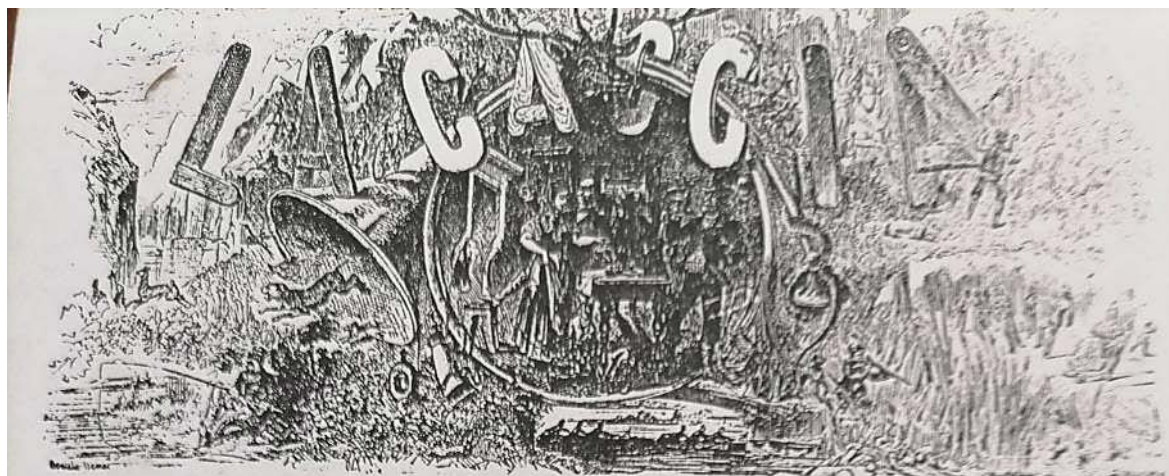
Il colore non è tutto. Quanta fiera nobiltà

e rialzato, labbra leggermente cadenti, tracciato largo e profondo, spalle, reni e garretti potentissimi.

La coda per esser bella non deve oltrepassare la giuntura del garretto, anzi è corta, robusta alla radice e fine in punta, meglio indica la distinzione d'origine.

Tutto il suo corpo è coperto di peli lunghi

Article in the Giornale Illustrato Dello Sport Italiano, 1880



GIORNALE ILLUSTRATO DELLO SPORT ITALIANO.

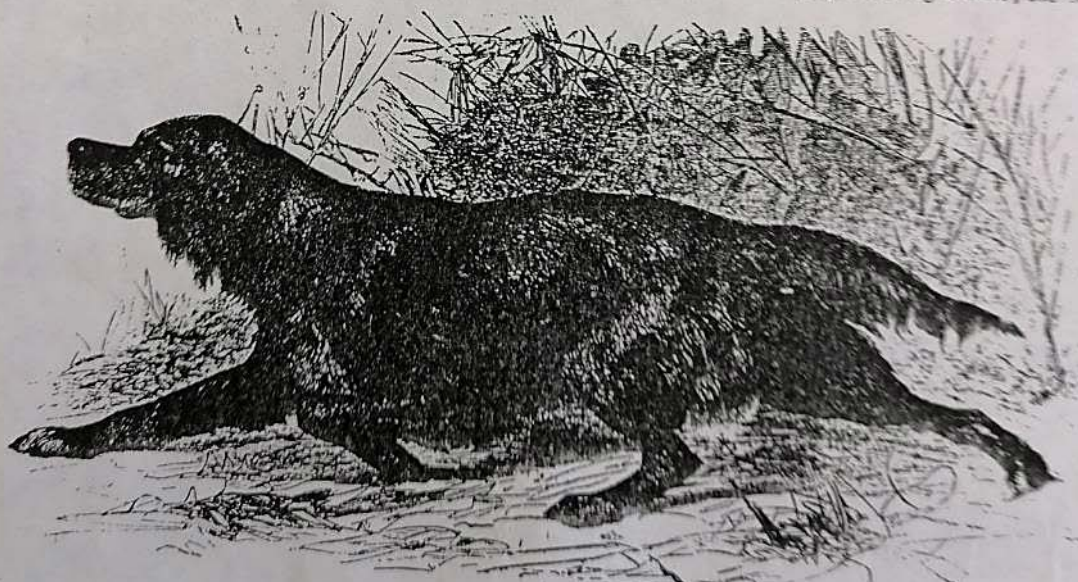
CONDIZIONI D'ABBONAMENTO:		ESCE TRE VOLTE AL MESE	GLI ABBONAMENTI SI RICEVONO:
In Milano	all'Anno L. 12 —	Un Numero separato Cent. 50.	In MILANO
e nel Regno:	al Semestre 7 —		presso l'Amministrazione del Giornale La Caccia,
	per i paesi compresi nella	Pagamento anticipato all'Ufficio del Giornale presso	Piazza San Carlo, 2.
All' Estero:	Unione postale 14 —	il Magazzino d'armi, Piazza San Carlo, 2.	nel REGNO
			presso i principali Librai e Negozianti d'anni.

I signori Associati cui è scaduto l'abbonamento, sono pregati a rinnovarlo il più presto possibile, inviando l'importo a mezzo vaglia postale intestato all'Amministrazione del giornale LA CACCIA. Chi desidera avere la ricevuta a mezzo cartolina unica alla lettera un francobollo da centesimi 10.

XVII;
CANI INGLESI
(Setters)
(Continuazione, vidi N. 122).

Una grande famiglia dei *setters* si suddivide in tre gruppi principali che trovano, per così dire, un fedele ri-

tagonista nel *pointer* forte; il *Setter-English* lo trova nel *pointer* *black and tan*; infine il *setter* inglese ed i suoi derivati *Liverock*, *Macdonal* ecc., sono rappresentati dai *pointers* comuni dalle svariate livree. Non perdiamoci fra le nubi delle ipotesi per spiegare le singole origini di codesti cani proprii del Regno Unito, che sabbene



SETTER IRLANDESE (*Red Irish setter*).

SOMMARIO
→→→
nel Inglese (continuazione) — Un cacciatore in Bandiera —
Caccia dei Cacciatori Svedesi (continuazione) — Rehi detti
— La Recupera.

scontro nei gruppi formanti la grande famiglia dei *pointers*, tanto sotto i rapporti della livrea, che della natura, e della loro utilità, si sono rivestiti in modo da sembrare di origine

Article in the Giornale Illustrato Dello Sport Italiano, 1880

Irish VID arrives in Italy

ITALIAN television and newspaper reporters jostled on the apron of Milano airport on Friday last to catch a glimpse of an escorted VIP from Ireland. Or should that be VID since the celebrated arrival was the first Irish Red and White Setter pup ever to arrive in Italy.

With the six-week-old pup was Swords breeder, Mr Alan Gormley of Seatown Road, who handed over his charge to Dr Quintino Toschi of the Italian Kennel Club. It was a momentous occasion for him, and the biggest success to date in the campaign to revive the Irish red and white setter breed.

Descended (possibly)

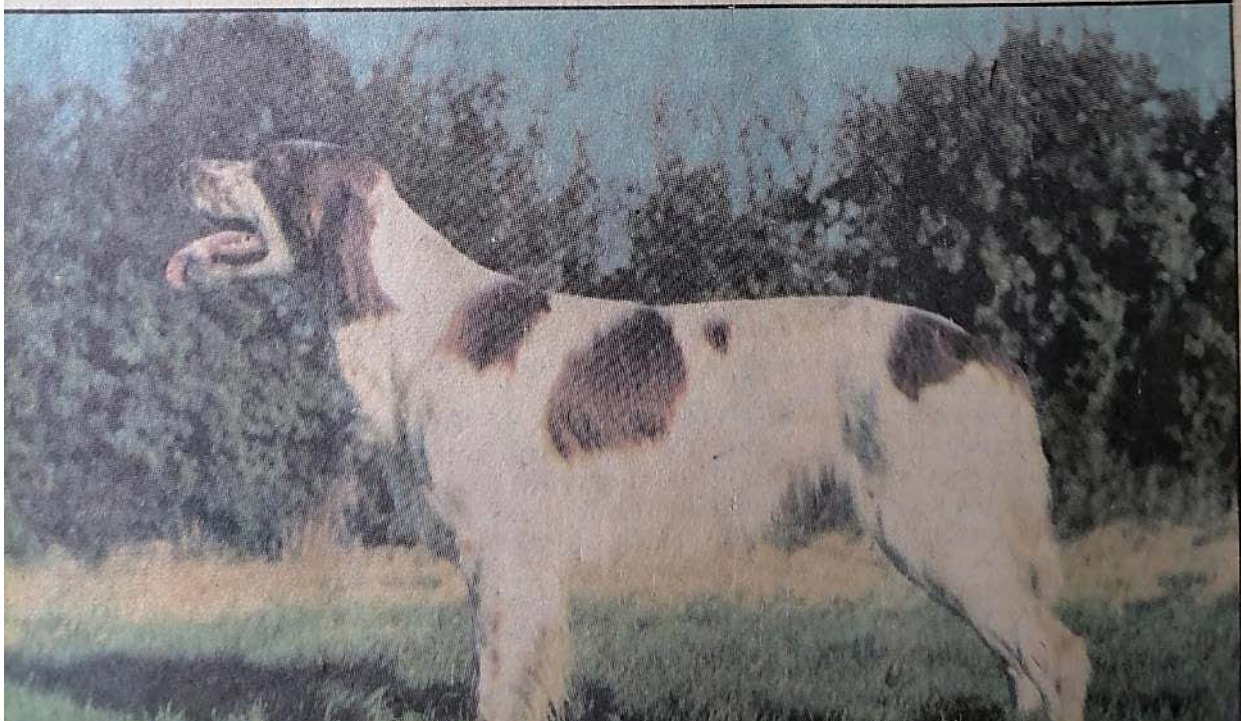
from the 'Brittany Spaniel' which dates from the 16th century, the Irish red and white setter in 1823 outnumbered its current rival and descendant, the Irish red setter. But this working dog breed fell to the preferences of American buyers despite revival attempts. Now under the aegis of the Irish red and White Setter Field Society, a revival campaign begun in 1973 is showing results.

Alan Gormley began to breed the dogs when he bought 'Blaze' from the recognised authority on the breed, Mrs Cuddy of Middleton, Co Cork. 'Blaze' was to cause a sensation at such prime canine events as Cruft's show when he

became the first entry of his kind.

Unaware that the Irish red and white setter was a distinctive breed, even the Cruft's organisers made the mistake of entering Blaze under the red setter category.

Now the phoenix of the canine world numbers 130 according to the society records and they are spread throughout Ireland and Britain, and in Belgium and Italy there is one each. America, which showed a preference for the mono-coloured breed has not yet been tapped, though approaches to breeders like the Gormleys have been made.



Article in Evening Herald (August 1981), written when the first puppy went to Dr. Quintino Toschi in Italy. As the little puppy had already left for Italy before the papers knew, they took a photo of Blaze instead.

When you have a Very Important Person travelling, they get the very best of treatment. When Aer Lingus heard of this little puppy going to Milan, and the fact that he was the first one going for many years, they sent him from Dublin first class as a Very Important Puppy, with Alan accompanying him.

The Red and White Dog, regardless of whether the dog is Red and White or White and Red, was kept for working, in relative purity, in certain kennels, which were owned by the Gentry of the day. It was only those with Titles or otherwise that were in a position to keep animals at all.

So, when does the Irish come to the fore, could many of those dogs that some seem to dismiss have been Irish Setters? **Mrs. Ingle Bepler**, who wrote one of the first specialist books on Setters generally (Setters Irish, English And Gordon, 1930), also refers to a type of dog to be found exclusively in Co. Donegal at this time. She called it the “Shower of Hail” Setter. This dog she described as being red in colour, but peppered over with white dots.

The old red and whites were by no means marked in a uniform manner. They varied from white feet and tip of tail, or a patch on the chest and a blaze on the forehead, to red patches or islands completely a red coat.

A well-known setter of the last century was **Dr. Stone’s Dash**, a well-made dog with white on the head and around the neck. Dash was from stock that had been bred in Dr. Stone’s Kennel for about twenty years.

When **Mr. R. P. Llewellyn** of English Setter fame came to Ireland for stock to improve his strain, he bought the celebrated Field Trial winner **Plunket** for 150 guineas. Plunket was small but had speed, endurance and style on point. Plunket’s grand sire was Dash.

The best-known working Red and White Setter of the last century was **Mr. Cooper’s Wrestler**, who was possessed with a sheer inexhaustible fund of energy and stamina. He ran successfully at the Irish Trials of 1891, but before arriving at his point of destination had already galloped ten miles beside his master’s carriage on his way to the trial and his style was described as superior to any dog at that time.

It should be borne in mind that in early days men kept dogs of all breeds for their working qualities alone, and I think it reasonable to suppose, that if an enthusiastic sportsman had a particularly excellent red dog and his neighbour an equally good red and white bitch they were pretty certain to breed them together.



It is important to note that both setters are very different in type, and not to be confused with just colour. We know that for some time they ran side by side, it is up to each one to decide if, and when, the difference may have occurred. In the world of dogs, the breed is only as pure as the breeder, but in the case of some breeds it needs careful planning, so that each breed keeps their own identity.



Picture restored by Louisa dated 1890

This was a painting restored by Louisa Nally

We became very good friends with Louisa since she became involved in restoring the print of two Irish Red and White Setters. Also, when we were judging in America, we brought many of her prints with us.

Louisa continued her interest in the Irish Breeds and became very successful with her fabulous paintings. Well, I must say without a shadow of doubt, that the painting of Harlequin (see page 139) became a “must have” between IRWS owners well done Louisa.



Day on the Moor, Postcard



Ready for Home, Arthur Wardle, 1893, Hand Coloured Engraving



Return from Shooting. Emanuel Samson van Beever (1876-1912)



Waiting for Master. George Armfield (1840 – 1985)

Again, we can show you this print *Waiting for Master* depicting Gordon Setter, a Red with White Setter, a White with Red Setter and a Cavalier King Charles, all setting dogs.

There is sufficient evidence to prove that the original Irish Setter was red and white and that the fine red race was the rarer of the two. Even amongst the earlier days of Dog Shows few of the best dogs were wholly red.

Mr. Cecil Moore, another admirer of the working setter, relates of having a pure red bitch, which he mated to one of the red and white variety and had a pup of similar markings. It would appear from Mr. Moore's remarks that a white patch on the chest, feet or back of the neck was little regarded and frequently appears in the best of Irish Setters. One may reasonably ask, is this some former cross with the Red and White repeating itself, or as Mr. Moore had many dogs, including the famous **Champion Palmerston**, who had a thin strip of white on his forehead and who has thrown pups of similar markings. Palmerston died in 1880 and it is believed that his mounted head became the property of The Irish Setter Club of America in 1918.

Sir Francis Loftus, whose estate was in Co. Kilkenny, was another early pioneer of the Irish Setter. Also, another man who owned both varieties was a **Mr. Quinn of Castlebar, Co. Mayo**. Other early fanciers of the all reds were **Sir George Gore**, **Mr. Baker of Lismacue**, the **O'Connor** family, **Mr. Bennet**, **Mr. Long**, **Mr. Charles O' Keefe** and **Captain Vaughan**, all of County Offaly.

Another Lady was **Miss Lidwell** of Beggars Bush Barracks, Dublin. It seems that **Mr. Edward Laverack** of English Setter fame took a fancy to this Lady's Red and White Setters, and came to acquire the services of some of her dogs for use in his own breeding program. It is recorded that the Lady met such advances with a firm NO.

Other noted breeders who maintained interest in Irish Setters, both whole coloured, throughout the later half of the 19th century, included **Mr. De Touch** of Harristown, **Mr. Dunne** of Wicklow, **Lord Howth**, **Lord Waterford** and **Mr. Trumble** of Malahide.

Lord Rossmore and the Mahons favoured the parti-coloured and kept their lines pure.

The Irish Red Setter Club was formed in 1882 to eliminate the white out of the breed, and with the increase of dog shows the red became the more popular of the two.

Both Setters are very different in type. Reds are more graceful and are faster in the field, where it has been said that for working purposes the Red and White, so long bred purely for use in the field, are easier to train and less inclined to be temperamental than the Reds. They lack the speed of the red dog but they have tremendous endurance and consistency.

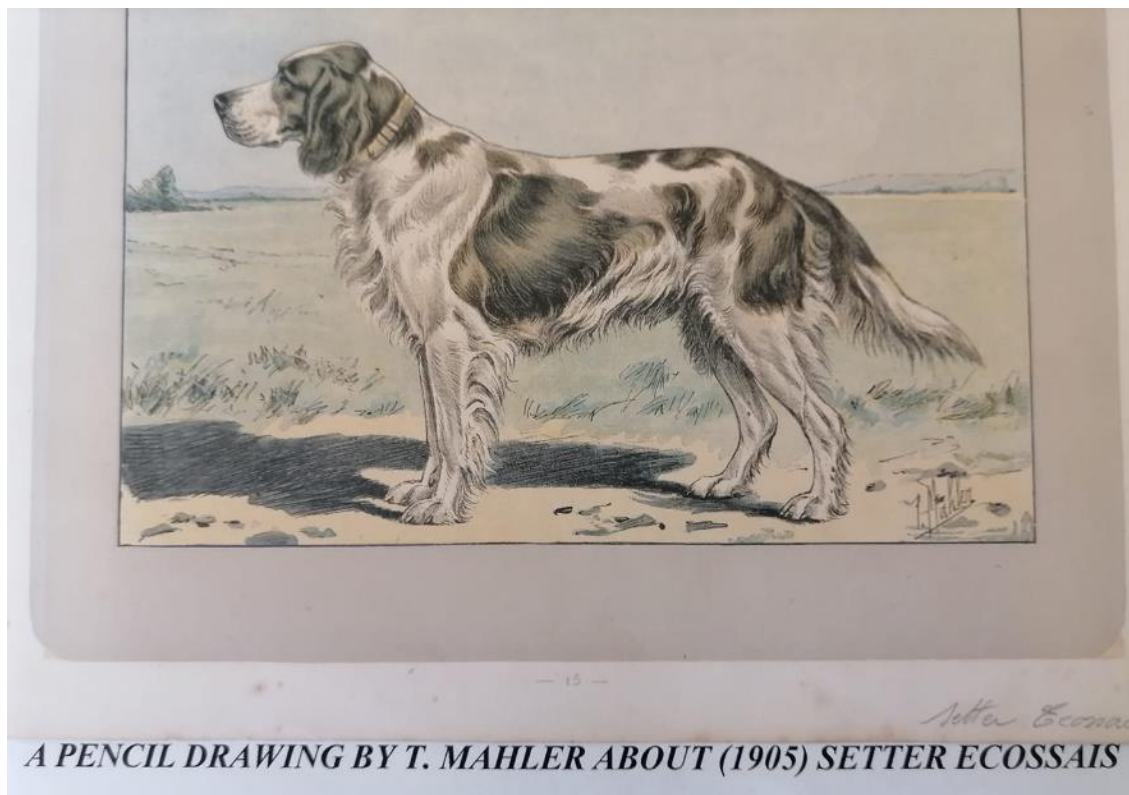
It may be unfair to blame field trials and dog shows alone for the extinction of a breed of such obvious practical value.

Also, **Captain Stewart** of Donegal and **Mr. Wilson of Tyrone** had a Kennel of these dogs and showed them at Strabane until 1904, where there was always a class for Red and White Setters.

Dr. A. Baldwin from Co. Cork writing on the breed in 1910 states:

When I was a boy in West Cork, I frequently heard my mother say my father was out shooting with his spaniels. By that she meant his Red and White Irish Setters, which were exactly like French smooth spaniels.

The same breeding as the Rossmore setters is believed to have been acquired by **Count Robert De Montbron** when he was shooting in Rosshire, Scotland. These dogs or their descendants were taken by him to France, where he continued to exhibit them up to 1908 as examples of "Setters Ecossais" or "Scotch Setters".



A pencil Drawing by T. Maher (1905) called Setter Ecossais

Craig Koshyk

The image is from a book published by the Manufrance company in 1907. Beside each image is a short history and description of the breed depicted. Unfortunately, many copies have now been taken apart so that the illustrations could be sold individually. You can still find intact copies, I was lucky, I found one in Paris, but the prices for good copies on eBay and Abe books can be pretty steep.

The book came out after Comte Robert de Montbron, the most influential breeder in France at the time managed to convince the French canine establishment to change the name from "le Setter blanc et rouge" (white and red setter) also sometimes called the "le Setter blanc et brique" (white and brick-red setter) to Setter écossais (Scottish setter).

Eventually, after Montbron died, the decision was reversed and the old breed name was reinstated.



Print of Count De Montbron's Setters at the Exhibition Centre in Paris 1900, First Prize Bitch, Second Prize Dog.

We have now looked at painting of Red and White Setting Dogs, but as records were not always kept, it is difficult to establish if the Reds were developed from the old Red and Whites. or whether they were two distinctive breeds. Regardless, dogs of both colours were used for their working qualities.

We have also seen many paintings of Setting Dogs; were they bred from the early smooth coated Spaniels and were adapted to work in a country which needed a more robust dog to work on the moors and wet lands of Ireland. The dog was always a major of the working house.

Even in the field however, the numbers of Irish Red and White Setters declined fairly steadily, until about the 1920 they had dwindled to a handful of dogs in the possession of an even smaller number of breeders.

Can we blame it on the fact that it was only titled, and monied people, who were in a position to keep dogs of such a high quality and as major changes took place, so did the dogs.

Other people whose names are linked with the breed, mainly from a working point of view, over the lean years: **Mr. and Mrs. McIlroy, Mr. T. A. Lennox, Mr. Kidd, Mr. D. Tynan, Mr. E.C Bewley** and **Mrs. A. Gillespie**, who owned a field trial winning Red and White called **Lord Decider** (see photo below).



IRISH RED AND WHITE SETTER, "Lord Decider," winner at Field T

Lord Decider (born 1926), owned by Mrs. Gillespie

IRWS REVIVAL

When a breed is in decline it needs something special to get them on the map again and against all odds this is what this breed has done.

The main purpose of a working breed is to work, and it is thanks to the very small number of dedicated breeders and owners who have done exactly this.

However, it must be stated at this point that a small number of people in Ireland had the good sense to see what was happening and they did preserve some of the good working lines. To those people we owe a great deal for the preservation of the present-day Irish Red and White Setter.

There may have only been a span of 50-60 years to the present revival but each and every one has been important and needed.

Some of the very well-known kennels that played a part in this revival (in alphabetical order) are:

Ardbraccan	Trudy Walsh
Ardnagashel	Audrey Kaulback
Boroughbury	Mrs. Elsie James
Brosna	Fr. Griffin
Craigrua	Jim Sheridan
Dearg Ban	Terry O'Leary
Eldron	Rev. Noble Houston
Glenkeen	Pat Keenan
Knockalla	Mr. and Mrs. Cuddy
Lougherne	Vincent Brennan
Ludford	Sean Walsh
Meudon	Alan and Ann Gormley
Moanruad	John Nash
Movalgrand	Bob Cleland
Rushfield	John Kerr
Sheebhin	Canon Doherty
Sugarloaf	Brian McDiarmada
Sulhamstead	Florence Nagle (She did not breed IRWS but many of her dogs are in the early pedigrees.)
Winnowing	Dermot Mooney

REVEREND NOBLE HOUSTON - ELDRON PREFIX

One of those devoted breeders was the Rev. Noble Huston of Ballynahinch, Co. Down. This gentleman, realising that the breed had all but died out, took the bull by the horns and mated the very last Red and White bitch named **Gyp** to first one, and then a second red dog. From this beginning and over a period of years, he gradually re-built a kennel of Red and Whites by colour, if not by name.

The strain included such dogs as **Unagh**, **Blanco** and **Cohan**, together with a dog registered as **Bobs of Derry** who, with his owner Mr. Early, covered himself in glory at British Field Trials and at Crufts, also winning the All Ireland Challenge Cup in 1926.

Rev. Houston shared his interests and his dogs with his cousin Dr. Elliott and with Professor Mayer, who lives in Dunmurry, outside Belfast. A photograph of one of the dogs gives us some idea of how similar the breed was then and how it appears today.



Dog owned by Professor Mayer and shown by Pauline Killen, bred by Doctor Elliott of Eldron

One of the most recent outstanding dogs coming from those lines was the famous International Champion **Ballymac Eagle**, who died at the age of 14 year and left a legacy of very good working dogs.

The old **Ballymac Eagle** had white hair through his coat and a white tail tip. He was sired by **Prince of Killmurray** by **Brownie of Ballynahinch** by Spinner's brother; the Ballynahinch dogs were from Rev. Houston's kennel. Brownie was by **Jimmy** and **Meesa**, who was sired by the **Brigadier**, an outstanding dog bred by Lord Rossmore.

I do not have more information on the Rev. Houston, but I do have photos of some of his dogs which were given to me.

Next, I will share with you some of the letters written by The Rev. Huston to Mrs. Cuddy (Miss Clarke).

Reverend Houston's Letters to Mrs. Cuddy

In the early 1940s the Rev. Houston, who was by this time an elderly man, was writing to Mrs. Cuddy, then Miss Clarke, about interest in the Irish Red and White Setter and here are some of the quotes from his letters:

13th October 1941

I hope you are to breed for work and not merely for the bench. There are not classes for the R&W in the show, unless they are guaranteed and they can be shown under Any Variety of Game Dog. But they are workers, magnificent workers, easily trained and stay trained.

The ideal is, of course, more white than red. Mr. Gillespie who suggests that the breed should be called White and Red to show that there should be more white than red, but it is to invent a new name for an old breed.

Two hundred years ago they were Red and White Setters, no matter what colour predominated and the present red and whites are not a new breed nor a revived breed (like the Irish Wolfhound) but a continued breed and their name ought to be Red and White Setters.

29th March 1943

The points are almost the same as for the Red Setter, except that the nose must not be Greyhound in type and ears shorter not so far back. The colour is the colour of a freshly opened chestnut and pure, not creamy white. Red and White must be divided clearly and no shading off. A red spot in the centre of forehead is common and desirable.

22 April 1943

I told him I thought you had got 7.00 pounds to 9.00 pounds for the best Red and White puppy, so do not dispose of Jeffery too cheaply.

Mr. Houston gave Mrs. Cuddy detailed advice about the pedigrees of his dogs and his recommendations for using certain strains of Red Setters as suitable crosses, emphasising always the working qualities of the animals to be used.



Eldron Brian (Left of Ballynahinch X Brownie of Ballynahinch, born 1925), Red and White winner of many stakes



*This is a litter of Red and White puppies from the Houston Kennel
Written on the back of the photo is "M O Killen".*



Another dog from Eldron Kennel, I have no name

FROM THE REV. HOUSTON'S KENNEL TO THE PRESENT DAY DOGS

The link from the Rev. Houston's Kennel to the present day dog's can be found from the details below.

Grouse of Ballyleck	X	Eldron Gyp
Glen of Rossmore	X	Eldron Gyp
Lord Decider	X	Eldron Clover
Left of Ballynachinch	X	Brownie of Ballynachinch
Eldron Brian	X	Red and White Ivy
Jack of Glenmaquin	X	Judith Cunningham Of Knockalla
Tullamore Rory	X	Jennifer of Knockalla
Laddie (Garton Lad)	X	Diana of Knockalla
Jeremy Of Knockalla	X	Felicity of Knockalla
Hendry's Whiskey 1	X	Fox's Bitch (Vixen)
Ruan's Rusty	X	Gaynor's Duchess
Glenkeen Sandy	X	Gaye of Knockalla
		(Hickory, Hawk, Harlequin, Holly of Knockalla)

The fabulous work that **Eileen Walker** has done (IRWS Pedigrees Database <http://irws.anisbrig.co.uk/>), combined with information of where and who owned the dogs, could make very interesting reading.

BOB CLELAND – MOVALGRAND PREFIX

The story is best taken up by the Late Mr. Bob Cleland, an expatriate Irishman who lived in Liverpool for many years before his death at the age of 79 in 1987. Bob's name and his prefix (Movalgrand) is associated with Springer Spaniels and Irish Setters, although he also owned and supported Irish Red and White Setters. Bob also judged the first championship Show at the National Gundog for IRWS in 1980.



Gundog Show, the first-time classes were on offer in 1980.

Maurice and Joyce Webb, Ribchester, Stephanie Baron, Bob Cleland Judge, Alan Gormley, Rebecca Gilbert, Ann Gormley and Trudy Walsh. Judge Mr. Bob Cleland

The following is a letter which he wrote to a friend in 1955:

I have been interested in Irish Setters all my life, coming from a farming community and shooting men. From my boyhood days, all I have lived for was a good days shooting with my uncle the late Bob Douglas Junior and brother to the late Mrs. Spratt whose was still breeding Irish Red Setters., my cousin carrying on the home farm and breeding Irish Setters for work and showing.

I think I am the oldest person alive that has been interested in the true Irish Setter of the true colour, which should be White and Red not Red and White. They should have an all white body, legs and feet with red patches on body and ears. Strawberry roan is wrong as far as markings are concerned, they should be the same standard in shape and make as our own present day all Reds.

My first Red and White was bred by the late Reverend Noble Houston of Ballynahinch, who was one of the few breeders still carrying on the colour. The dog I had was one of a brace that Houston bred and run on. He had them trained by the late John White of Carnlough. One of them was named Right of Ballynachinch and the other was named Left of Ballynachinch.

Right was renamed Carnlough Red Ranger and was shown at Belfast Champion Show and won the CCs and BOB, the only time CC were on offer for this colour. Reserve CC was won by a dog called Bobs of Derryboy, which in turn was shown at Crufts and won 1st in Any Variety Gundog not Classed.

Sometime after this I bought Carnlough Red Ranger from Mr. White. The last White and Red Setters that I owned were at the outbreak of war, when I got a present from Mrs. McIlroy of two bitches, so I found homes for them. One died from distemper and the other went to a farm in Donegal, then she changed hands again to Mrs. Cuddy, now at Knockalla, this was her first

one. She was renamed Judith Cunningham of Knockalla and this lady bred from her and started showing her offspring. So this is why they have come to the fore again.

Just a story, I entered my White and Red Setter at Ballymena Open Show, when under a famous English all Round Judge, where there were classes for Irish Setters, no colour mentioned, and when I took my dog into the ring the Judge came over and said "Sorry son, but English Setters are on next."

I wonder just how many of us can relate to that.

Grace Ward Carrick

Yes I can relate to the latter part, remember a Red and White exhibitor entering in an any variety Gundog class at a show in Scotland, the judge was a well know Cocker judge who said "My I haven't seen one of these Llewellyns for years!", of course the Red and White didn't get into the tickets but the judge obviously didn't know his English setters either as Llewellyn Setters are tri coloured!.

Anna Gormley

Grace, that is great that is what makes things so interesting, I love stories like that.

Grace Ward Carrick

I laughed that day too, but these were the things you came up against at the beginning with judges who didn't have a scooby what Red and Whites setters were.

Mary Sherratt

I remember when entering one show in the 80's there was a steward pointing us in the direction of our benches. I was sent to the right with Bonnie, Charnborough Cheri and my husband was sent left to the Welsh Springers with Smartie, Fire Miss of Shannonlee at Charnborough.

Anna Gormley

I remember been at a show and Mr. John Nash was judging, he placed all dogs and then Sharon went into the ring to compete for BOB and he started the next breed leaving her standing in the ring, and when asked why, he said they were not Setters.

Grace Ward Carrick

That wasn't very nice Ann, poor Sharon.

Sharon Gormley

Oh gosh, I remember that well... This is after placing me 1st in the Open class. I was left standing in the ring with Blaze and they called the next breed in and nobody told me anything!! Was this the show that a few exhibitors put an official complaint in to the secretary?? Paul Conway is ringing bells with me??? I think on the basis that you can't place a dog 1st and beating other dogs and then not award a Best of Breed.

Anna Gormley

Some of the many things that we had to contend with, we did wonder what standard he was judging to, if they were not Setters.

Grace Ward Carrick

Aye well that was a rather daft statement, that they weren't setters Ann, especially when you look back in history and see the various different types etc. across all the setter breeds.

Andrew Agus Berri Beare

Is it a fact that white is not considered a colour and that is why they are termed Red and White?

Anna Gormley

Yes. That was the main problem we had in the club as I think you remember well, they wanted the club to be called White and Red Setter Club, but as the Irish Kennel Club had no breed of that name, they could not register the club. That was when both Alan and myself walked out of a meeting, and when we hoped to be reinstated, the club refused, the final vote going to a Clergy man who refused to vote for us. If nothing else, we made waves. You always have been so supportive of the breed.

MR. AND MRS. CUDDY - KNOCKALLA PREFIX

Mr. and Mrs. Cuddy have made the greatest contribution to the survival of the Irish Red and White Setter since the Reverend Noble Houston.

Mrs. Cuddy had a life long interest in dogs and had fallen in love with the Irish Red and White Setter, but the dogs were rare and hard to come by. In 1940 she was given a small bitch puppy which was ill and needed a loving home. This puppy survived, she was registered as **Judith Cunningham of Knockalla** (after Mrs.Cuddy's daughter Judith).

This was the puppy from Bob Cleland and probably every Red and White today is descended from her.



Will Cuddy with Judith Cunningham of Knockalla, as he was not as involved as Mrs. Cuddy, it is lovely to have this photo, dated 1941.

The Irish red and White Setter Society

In 1944 the Irish Red and White Setter Society was formed the objects of which were:

- a) To encourage the working qualities of the breed in every way possible.
- b) to promote the breeding of them upon sound working principles.
- c) To ensure that if they were classified at shows, they are judged from a working standpoint.

Mrs. Cuddy was appointed secretary of the society and remained so. Whilst the society did endeavour to popularise the breed, it did not have great success, and the ravages of time caught up with many of its members. Mrs. Cuddy however continued to breed and kept careful records, which were to prove invaluable to the establishment of the breed and managed to keep the line unbroken for over fifty years, even when family circumstances were at their most difficult. Lord Rossmore, whose family had been associated with the breed for some 200 years, wrote to Mrs. Cuddy about the new society in the following terms.

Letter from Lord Rossmore to Mr. Cuddy

To William L. Cuddy, Esq.
Knockalla
112 Collins Ave, Dublin, Ireland

From Rossmore Castle,
Monaghan, Ireland

11th November 1944

Dear Mr. Cuddy,

Your rules are so good that I do not think it is worth suggesting any modification but I am sending you a proposal for adding a paragraph when you come to describing the Irish Red and White Setter. I strongly recommend that you have the reference in in the points as to colour considerably amplified somewhat as follows:

The colour of the Red and White and Setter is most important. White should predominate and form the back ground or major colour. The red should only appear in large blotches and should be a deep red not less than the deepest red in the Irish Setter.

The boundary between the red and white should be clearly defined although the boundary line may be irregular. There should be no gradual blending of colour between the red and white. The head should a red blotch but the nose should be white.

The ears should be all red. There should be no red specks on the body but freckles on the nose and feet are allowed. the tail my be all white but if marked with a red blotch is improved.

As I previously mentioned. I do congratulate you, Mrs. Cuddy and your friends on the splendid work you have done and the time spent in efforts to reinstate the red and whites but I cannot help feeling that you are jumping rather far ahead in laying down rules at this stage for an association when the dogs only in such a limited quantity that we are almost certain.to be faced with the necessity of using the red blood.

It is important that we should not commit ourselves to too definite a standard at this time when we are not certain that we can maintain it. If everything went very well, we could make the rules as now proposed even stricter.

I do feel it would be a mistake to hurry too fast at first and I would suggest that you print nothing in the way of rules at this stage but that we have a morally benefiting association in which the present members stand fast together and a few new ones be invited who would be prepared to maintain a small breeding established and help create a greater foundation.

I think that if any member wishes to sell a puppy there would be little difficulty in finding a purchaser at a price that would reimburse the owner for his expenses in breeding. There should be no difficulty in getting some person to give 5.50 pounds to 7.70 pounds for a puppy of four or five months old and to ensure that such a person would be one who would be interested in sticking to the our 'Honorary' rules and help to establish the breed.

I think that the public work in showing a few dogs that you have done up to date has all been to the good, but I am against any general publicity in the near future, just when the war has doubled the value of dogs. Definitely a breeder might make big money at the present time which might result however strict we try to make our rules, in some unscrupulous person putting on the market a number of dogs not really true to character although they might be red and whites or white and reds.

What ever power might lie in the association would really have no legal rights as far as I can see. Perhaps you would be kind enough to put these views before the other members of the association and I shall be glad to come to Dublin (Mrs. Cuddy lived in Dublin before she moved to Middleton) and to have further a further discussion if necessary. If others are of the opinion

that the association rules etc. should go ahead and be printed, I am quite prepared to abide by the wishes of the majority.

I am deeply interested in the association and only hope that I shall be able to help materially in the resurrection of the original breed of the Red and White Setters.

P.S I enclose 1.10 pounds as my first subscription.

We also know of a red and white puppy called Edward of Knockalla, who won First Class Gold Medal in Barcelona in July 1948, when he was only 10 months old.

A letter written to Mr. and Mrs. Cuddy

*Enrique Belda
Madrid, 24th July 1948.*

*Mr. and Mrs. Cuddy,
"Knockalla", 112 Collins Ave.
Dublin.*

Dear Sir,

It is long time I have the idea to write to you about the little dog EDWARD OF KNOCKALLA I bought last year when I was staying in Dublin.

Well, this little puppy has become a very important Sir with all honours a dog could never award. My wife, very fond of dogs, has inscribed last May her Eddy (its family name) on the XXII INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION here in Madrid, as JUNIOR CLASS. After four days of shown and competition, our EDDY has been awarded with: FIRST CLASS GOLDEN MEDAL; DIPLOMA OF HONOUR and EXTRA-ORDINARY PRIZE consisting of a very fine silver cup with the title engraved as explaining the meaning of its importance.

My wife and myself, are very honoured to explain to you and your wife, the magnificent result of your breeding. We must point that in our country, the International competitions are very hard; and please note that EDDY was, at the time, only 10 months old. We hope great events for next Exhibition, providing that nothing bad comes on. I forgot to tell you that ??? has been awarded at Barcelona with first CLASS GOLDEN MEDAL and Diploma of honour. And ELAINE was not inscribed for it was absent.

If this year, I should have the possibility to go to Dublin, I will be very glad to meet you and Mrs.

In the meantime, I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,

Enrique

ENRIQUE BELDA
MADRID 24th July 1948.

Alfonso XII, 22, PASEO
Teléfono 21 18 04

Mr & Mrs Cuddy.
"Knockalla". 112 Collins Avenue.
D u b l i n

Dear Sir,

It is long time I have the idea to write to you about the little doggy EDWARD OF KNOCKALLA I bought last year when I was staying in Dublin.

Well, this puppy has become a very important Sir with all honours a dog could never award. My wife, very fond of dogs, has inscribed last May her EDDY (its family name) on the XXIII INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION here in Madrid, as JUNIOR CLASS. After four days of shown and competition, our EDDY has been awarded with: FIRST CLASS GOLDEN MEDAL ; DIPLOMA OF HONOUR and EXTRAORDINARY PRIZE consisting of a very fine silver cup with the title engraved as explaining the meaning of its importance.

My wife and myself, we are very honoured to explain to you and your wife, the magnificent result of your breeding. We must point out that in our country, the International competitions are very hard; and please note that EDDY was, at the time, only 10 months old. We hope great events for next Exhibition, provided that nothing bad comes on. I forgot to tell to you that EDEN has been awarded at Barcelona with FIRST CLASS GOLDEN MEDAL and DIPLOMA OF HONOUR. And ELAINE was not inscribed for it was absent.

If this year, I should have the possibility to go to Dublin, I be very glad to meet to you and Mrs.

In the meantime, I remain, Sir, yours faithfully, *Enrique*

This is important, because it shows that Irish Red and White Setter Puppies were exported at that time, and were judged and awarded with high honours.

It seems even then The Irish Red and White was prized above all else.



Mrs. Cuddy with Jennifer of Knockalla, 1944

In the mid nineteen forties, some interest in the breed led to Green Stars being offered by the Irish Kennel Club at a few shows. One of the very first Green Stars winners was Mr. and Mrs.'s Cuddy lovely bitch **Jennifer of Knockalla**, who later distinguished herself by producing no less than nineteen puppies.

Sadly, however, within a few years. interest again diminished and by 1951, numbers had dwindled to the point where once again there were only the Knockalla dogs to carry on the pure Irish lines. In the late seventies, when interest was reviving in the breed, particularly within the Kennel Club itself. Mrs. Cuddy set down in writing the following sequence of dogs, with which she was concerned over the second lean period in the breeds history.

The following are the results of her research, which was finally accepted by the Irish Kennel Club in 1974 and thus allowing registration to proceed.

(A) The first litter of Irish Red and White Setters bred by Mr. Mac Menamon was born on the 20th May 1953. They were by **Jeremy of Knockalla** X **Felicity of Knockalla** and resulted in five dogs and five bitches. Of those a dog went to Mr. Mac Andrew, a dog to Mr. Dodd, a dog to Mr. Hendry and a bitch to Mr. Heffernan. Puppies (sex unknown) also went to Mr. Mac Hale, Drumshambo, Co. Leitrim and to Mr. Long of Raphoe, the owner of the sire. The pet-name of Mr. Mac Andrew's dog was **Shot** and Mr. Heffernan's bitch was **Sherry**.

Subsequently **Felicity** and some of the remainder of the litter were exported to America. Mr. Mac Menamon did not give the names or pedigrees with the above puppies.

(B) Colton's **June** (a red bitch) was mated to Mac Andrew's **Shot** probably in 1956, and of this litter Mr. Mac Andrew got a bitch **Nell**. There is also evidence about this time of persons around Ballina, who owned part Red, part Red and White Setters, but would not give services.

(C) About 1960 Mr. I. Heffernan mated his bitch **Sherry 1** to Mac Andrews's **Shot**, which gave him his present bitch **Sherry 11**. This was a brother and sister mating and should have given all typically marked Red and White's I suspect that the remainder of this litter went to America.

(D) About 1961, Mac Andrew's **Nell** (see note B) accidentally mated Mac Andrew's **Shot**. This was a father and daughter mating, and there was a statement attributed to Mac Menamon, that only one puppy had been kept. This dog was **Sandy**, who was nearly all red with white paws, chest and blazes. But since half this litter should have been typically marked Red and White and the other half should have been Red and White, it seems strange not to have kept a typical specimen.

(E) In the early 1960, a red bitch **Belle** was mated to **Sandy** (litter D) and produced a dog **Finn**, who was red with white markings. Both **Finn of the Fairy Host** and **Waydown Sandy** belonged to a Priest in the North of Ireland.

(F) In the mid 1960s Mr. Heffernan mated **Sherry 11** to **Finn** (litter E) and from tis litter came Dermot Mooney's (Prefix Winnowing) **Beauty (Charleville Beauty)**, and Mr. Fox's bitch **Vixen**. Mr. Mooney also had another bitch from this litter, which he called **Starry**, but later returned to Mr. Heffernan. Mr. Mooney, who then lived in Westport, believes **Rusty** also came from that litter.

(G) Circa 1968 Fox's bitch **Vixen** (litter F) was mated to Mr. Hendry's old dog (litter A). Of this litter 2 were exported to America (one typically Red and White, and one red with white markings), one dog went to Mr. Hendry, one dog went to Mr. Moore and subsequently Mr. Gaynor bought his bitch **Duchess** from Mr. Fox. There were supposed to be six in this litter, but only one typically Red and White.

(H) In 1970 Gaynor's **Duchess** was mated to Ruan's **Rusty** and on November 25th produced a litter, ten of which survived. One of those was my **Gaye**.

Since those notes were compiled, there has been news of another brother/sister mating and the resultant progeny were all correctly marked. This brother and sister mating came from Mr. Gaynor's litter and belonged to Mr. T. Sheedy.

All this information was compiled as the result of a search to investigate whether the present strain is still pure Irish, or whether anyone had introduced English setter blood. In addition, fortunately for the results of this research, Mr. Gaynor's dog and bitch (both from litter H) were accidentally mated, resulting in 12 puppies (only one survived). All were perfectly marked, typical Red and White Setters. In such an inbred litter, had there been English Setter blood in the pedigree, it should have shown up as black markings on some of the puppies. Therefore, I conclude that this line is still pure Irish.

We do know that dogs were also imported to America.

Pet Name	Name	Sire	Dam	Year (Litter)
<i>Felicity</i>	Felicity of Knockalla	Garton Lad (IS)	Diana of Knockalla	1950
<i>Shot</i>	Shot 1	Jeremy of Knockalla	Felicity of Knockalla	1953 (A)
<i>Sherry</i>	Sherry 1	Jeremy of Knockalla	Felicity of Knockalla	1953 (A)
<i>Nell</i>		Colton's June (red bitch)	Shot 1	1956 (B)
<i>Shot</i>	Shot 11	Shot 1	Sherry 1	1960 (C)
<i>Sherry</i>	Sherry 11	Shot 1	Shot 11	
<i>Sandy</i>	Waydown Sandy	Shot 1	Nell	1961 (D)
<i>Belle</i>	Rahard Belle	Portown Romeo (IS)	Red Blaze (IS)	1956
<i>Finn</i>	Finn of the Fairy Host	Waydown Sandy	Biddy of Slievebawn (Waydown Sandy X Rahard Belle)	196? (E)
<i>Beauty</i>	Charleville Beauty	Finn of the Fairy Host	Sherry 11	1966 (F)
<i>Vixen</i>	Mr. Fox's Bitch	Finn of the Fairy Host	Sherry 11	1966 (F)
<i>Rusty</i>	Ruan's Rusty	Finn of the Fairy Host	Sherry 11	1966 (F)
<i>Duchess</i>	Gaynor's Duchess	Mr. Hendry's dog (A) (Whiskey 1)	Mr. Fox's Bitch Vixen	1968 (G)
<i>Gaye</i>	Gaye of Knockalla	Ruan's Rusty	Gaynor's Duchess	1970 (H)

Most of the above dogs were used in the revival many red and some red with white. Also, in one or two cases there were brother and sister matings. Many were not registered, but all played their part in the history of the Irish Red and White Setters.

MR. WILLIE GAYNOR

Mr. Willie Gaynor, the owner of **Duchess** and breeder of **Gaye of Knockalla**, helped Mrs. Cuddy in every way possible, even when the breed was at it's most difficult. He preferred flecking or spots on the body to islands of red and was affectionately known as "Spotty Gaynor".



Gaye of Knockalla (photo from Evan Devlin)

Mrs. Cuddy continued to breed and show her Dachshunds and in 1975 began a friendship with Alan Gormley, which was to have a lasting effect on the present revival of The Red and White setter.

Mrs. Cuddy mated **Gaye of Knockalla** (Red and White) to **Glenkeen Sandy** (mismarked Red) and on April 4th 1977 had nine puppies, all very different. Four of those were registered as Red and White.

Holly of Knockalla was white with one red ear and went to Mr. Walter Thompson (Moira), North of Ireland.

Hawk of Knockalla was a beautiful mismarked Red and White and he proved to be an excellent working dog, he went to Sean Walsh (Ludford).

Hickory of Knockalla was almost all white who was another excellent working dog. He went to Mr. Terry O'Leary (Dearg Ban).

Harlequin of Knockalla was a lovely marked red and white
There was a 23-year waiting list for a perfectly marked puppy, Mrs. Cuddy gave Alan his choice.



Glenkeen Sandy (Moanruad Nestor X Moanruad Keen Girlie) - Four white paws, white strip on neck, and white chest, like many of the Moanruad setters at that time, and behind many of the dogs in this the present revival



Glenkeen Sandy with owner Pat Keenan



Gaye of Knockalla, bred by Willie Gaynor

<u>GAYE OF KNOCKALLA</u>		
	<u>D MOANRUAD RAFF</u>	<u>S MOANRUAD DAN</u>
<u>S MOANRUAD NESTER</u>		<u>D RUBY MOANRUAD</u>
<u>GLENKEEN SANDY</u>	<u>S SULHAMSTEAD NATTY</u>	<u>S SULHAM NEARCO D'OR</u>
		<u>D SULHAM UNA D'OR</u>
	<u>D BALLYMAC EAGLE</u>	<u>S PRINCE OF KILLMURRAY</u>
<u>D MAONRUAD KEEN GIRLIE</u>		<u>D CURROW GEM</u>
	<u>D PATRICA OF KILLONE</u>	<u>S WAYDOWN SANDY</u>
		<u>D RAHARD BELLE</u>
<u>AYE OF KNOCKALLA</u>		
	<u>D FINN OF THE FAIRY HOST</u>	<u>S WAYDOWN SANDY</u>
<u>S RUANES RUSTY</u>		<u>D BIDDY OF SLIEVEBAWN</u>
	<u>S SHERRY II</u>	<u>S SHOT</u>
		<u>D SHERRY I</u>
	<u>D WHISKEY I</u>	<u>S JEREMY OF KNOCKALLA</u>
<u>D GAYNOR'S DUCHESS</u>		<u>D FELICITY OF KNOCKALLA</u>
	<u>D FOX'S BITCH</u>	<u>S FINN OF THE FAIRY HOST</u>
		<u>D SHERRY II</u>

Pedigree of Gaye of Knockalla and Glenkeen Sandy



Hawk of Knockalla



Hawk of Knockalla



Hickory of Knockalla

Mike O'Dwyer

Fabulous, Ann! The best pic yet that I've seen of Hickory. To me, another well-constructed dog of that all-important litter, and the whitest IR&WS I've seen (I know that Terry later bred the largely white dog, Dearbán Blanco). I understand that in the early days, dogs with close to all-white coats, with perhaps one red ear or a solitary red patch on the body, were not too uncommon?

Anna Gormley

No, when you consider the rest of the puppies were all white, interesting all round, and possibly could have produced the best IRWS ever.

Holly, a bitch very like **Hickory**, went to Walter Thompson in the North of Ireland, who bred her to his Red Dog **Beau**, who had some of the old working lines in his pedigree. One of these puppies went to Tommy Agnew from Bangor, Co. Down., both of them showing with some success at open shows.



Left to Right: Hickory of Knockalla, Harlequin of Knockalla and Meudon Bonny Bess

The puppy at that time, who was to have a remarkable influence on the breed was **Harlequin of Knockalla**. Although also trained to the gun, his show presence helped in some small way create the interest that was needed at that time.

Meudon Bonny Bess was a very sturdy bitch and when mated to **Winnowing Guillemot** she produced a lovely litter including **Meudon Merry Belle**, who was one of the foundation bitches of the Coolfin Kennels. The repeat mating produced **Meudon Special Edition**, who also went to Italy for working.

MRS. ELSIE JAMES – BOROUGHBURY PREFIX

It should be noted that at this time, Irish Red and White Setters were being bred and shown in England, notably by Mrs. Elsie James of Boroughbury Wolfhound Fame, she also had Irish Red Setters.

In 1945 Mrs. Elsie James imported two Irish Red and White puppies from Mrs. Cuddy. Those were **Constance** and **Colleen of Knockalla** (whelped April 1945). The two puppies were renamed **Boroughbury Vari** and **Boroughbury Wendy** and were shown a few times.

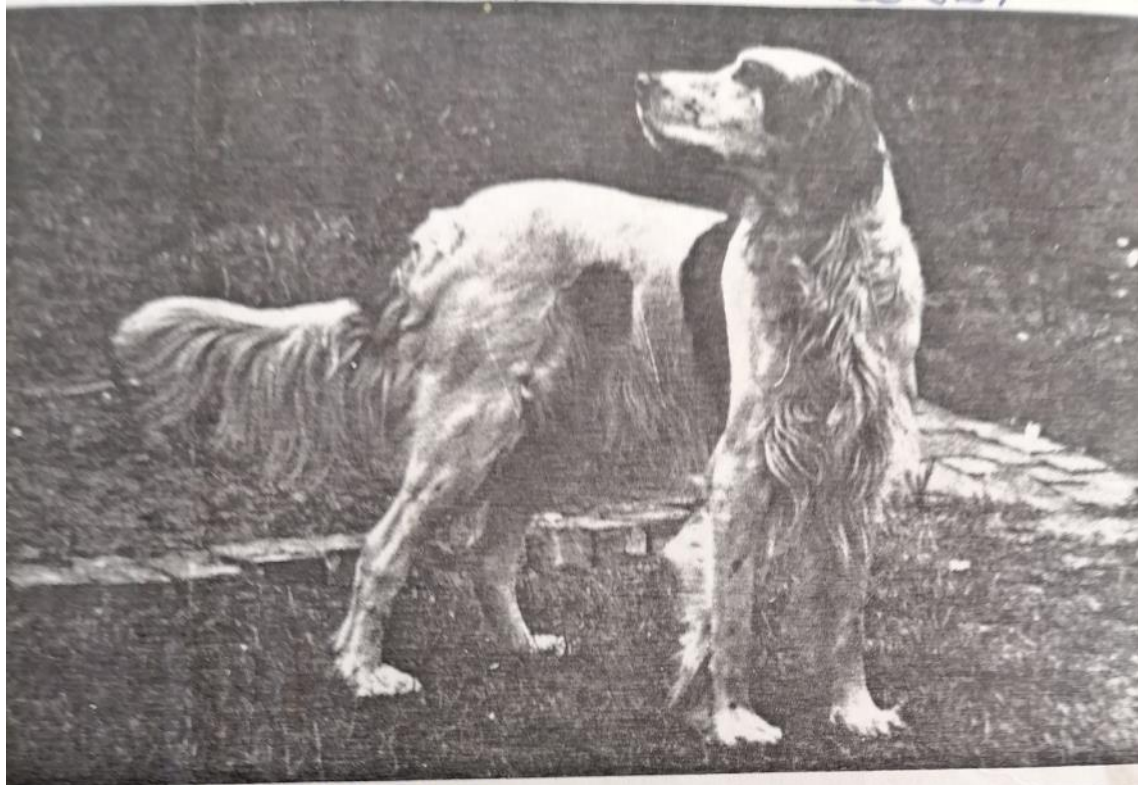
Boroughbury Vari (Constance) returned to Ireland and was mated to Mr. Oswald Barton's dog **Snowfire**.

As Mrs. James was unable to create enough interest in the Red and White Setters, the fate of her dogs is not known. But it is believed they may have been used for breeding as a number of dogs were registered in the late 1940s as cross-bred or inter-bred Setters and as Red and White or White and Red. This practise was permissible at that time.



Mrs. Elsie James with her Irish Red Setters and Wolfhounds and Irish Red and White Setter

With the declining interest in the breed after the war, when dogs were not in the forefront, we may assume that some may have been bred to the Irish Red, where they still produced the odd Red Setter carrying the white gene. Also, I have been told that, it was not unknown to have a Red and White puppy in a litter of Reds.



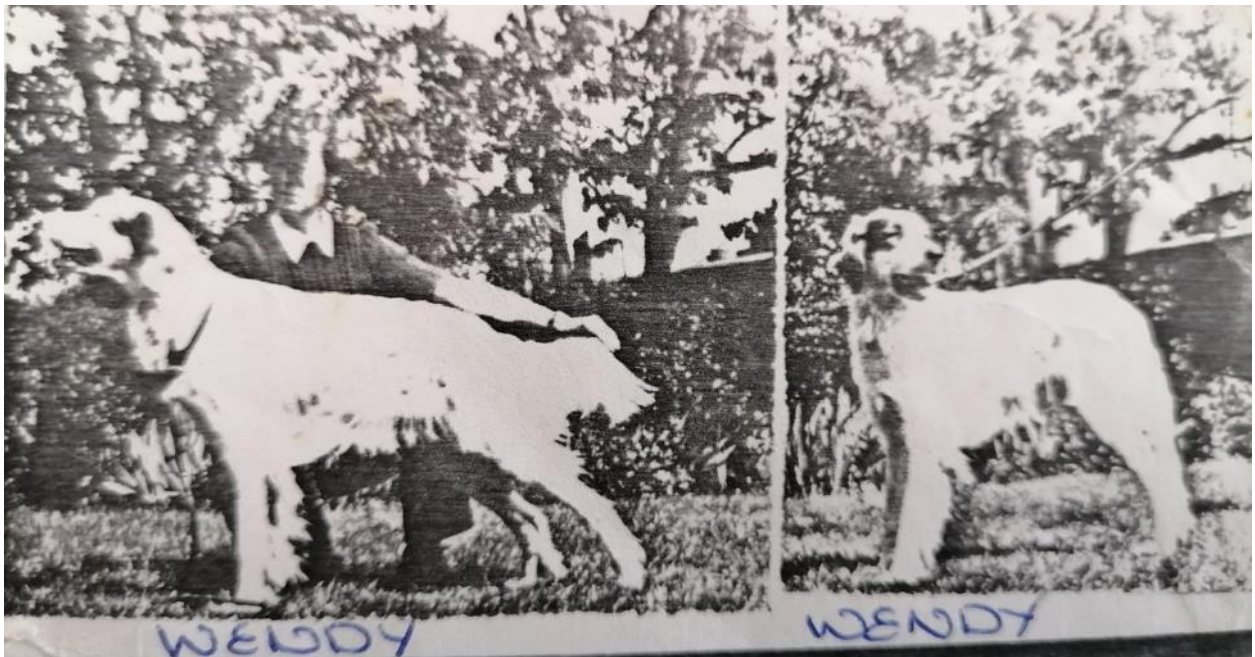
Boroughbury VARI



Boroughbury Vari (Constance of Knockalla)



Bourghbury Vari (Constance) with puppies by Snowfire



Bourghbury Wendy (Colleen of Knockalla)



Bonnie, the dog Mr. Barton got before Snowfire, with Oswald Barton Jr.

Extract from a letter from the Irish Kennel Club dated 8th October 1993 to Mr. Oswald Barton (Ossie):

We have been able to trace that a Setter, Irish Red and White named Snowfire, was entered in our Championship Show, from 1944-1947, in the name of your late father.

The Catalogue also indicates that Snowfire was the sire of a litter bred by Mr. Wil Cuddy and that your father entered a puppy from that litter, Allafire of Knockalla in 1945.



Snowfire with Mr. Oswald Barton

Extract form a letter sent to Alan from Mr. Barton's son Ossie:

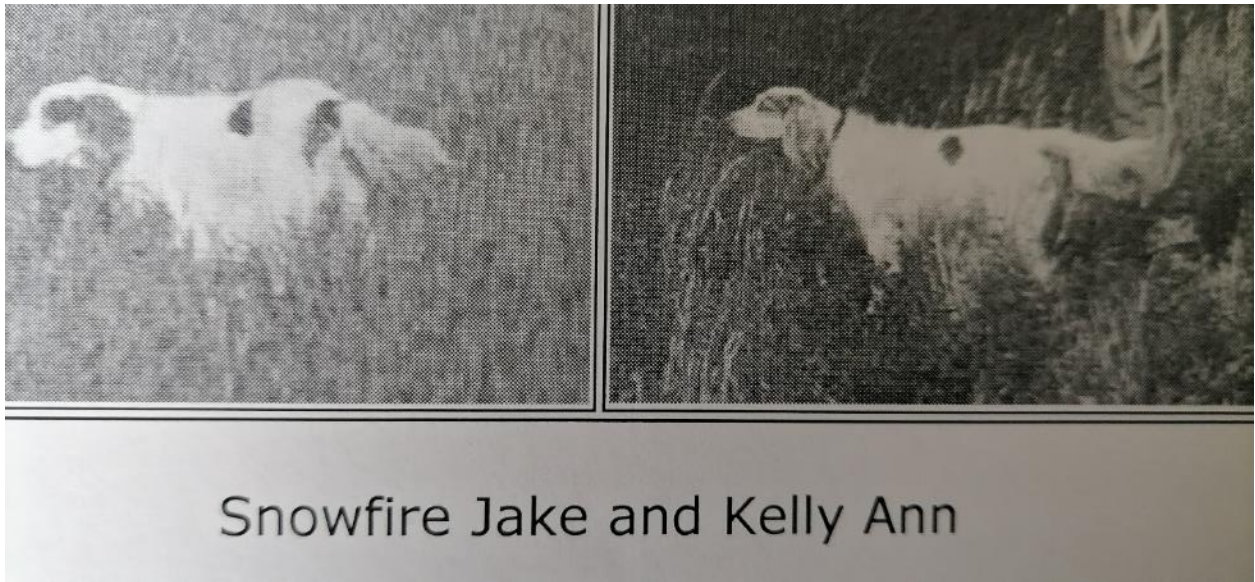
I enclose photo of Snowfire as promised.

My brothers and sisters recall a Clergyman from Northern Ireland as being the one who encouraged my late father to show Snowfire and they think father got him from the Clergyman. One brother said he can also recall his father getting an almost white bitch with light coloured markings in our family home. They also think she arrived before Snowfire.

Also, at that time Mr. Willian Jennings from Kentucky, USA, had expressed an interest in the Irish Red and White Setter and had imported from Mr. John Kerr a dog called Rushfield Shane, from a mating had a dog called Car Creek Casper. He also had Snowfire Copper and Snowfire Penny. This is interesting, because could they have been part of the Snowfire litter owned by Mr. Ollie Barton? We do know that at that time dogs were imported to America.

Mr. Jennings tried many outcrosses but was unsuccessful in breeding a Red and White dog. Although we do know that in many cases the red dog also carried the white gene, it was not as simple as that, as those dedicated breeders knew from past litters.

Mr. Jennings also wrote to us, enquiring about exporting Red and White pups, but we declined at that time, as we did not have enough stock.



Mr. Edward Eldredge of the famous Tirvelde Irish Red Setter Kennels in the USA wanted to import some IRWS puppies, and also expressed an interest in Blaze and said he would put his photo in the Irish Setter Club of America's Memo to members at that time. We had to decline his offer because the breed was not strong enough to export so far.

MRS. AUDREY KAULBACK - ARDNAGASHEL PREFIX

Audrey Kaulback was another of Mrs. Cuddy's friends, who like her was associated with Dachshunds for many years. Audrey lived in a stunning house on the shores of Bantry Bay and her house was used as the look out point for passing ships.

Audrey became interested in Irish Red and White Setters and obtained from Mrs. Cuddy the lovely **Genevieve of Knockalla** (Glenkeen Sandy X Gaye of Knockalla, born 1975).

Genevieve was mated to Mrs. Cuddy's dog **George** (bred by Canon Doherty) and in June 1978 was to produce no less than twelve puppies.

Boreen of Ardnagashel	went to Mrs. Joyce Webb, UK
Beulagh of Ardnagashel	went to Mrs. Joyce Webb, UK
Brisket of Ardnagashel	went to Ruth Fletcher, UK
Bonfire of Ardnagashel	went to Mrs. Chris Morrison, UK
Bantry of Ardnagashel	went to Malahide, Co. Dublin
Britvic of Ardnagashel	kept at home
Benson of Ardnagashel	kept at home



Boreen of Ardnagashel



Beulagh of Ardnagashel



Boreen and Beulagh of Ardnagashel



Brisket of Ardnagashel, another lovely dog, with Ruth Lawson (Fletcher)

Stephanie Hurren Baron

This is Brisket of Ardnagashel. Owned by Ruth Lawson (Fletcher). Litter sister to Boreen and Beaulagh who went to the Shannonlee kennel. She was mated to Winnowing Gannet in 1980 and produced a litter born in September that year. I think I am right in saying she only had the one litter. From this mating came Meiklered Hi-Wayman and Hi-Honey.

Ruth travelled down to National Gundog in November 1980 where the IRWS were classified for the first time, with the litter. Alan Gormley, Trudy Walsh Rod and myself went outside to take a good look and hopefully to pick out a puppy. We went home with Hi-Wayman.

For those interested, here is more reading about Audrey Kaulback on the internet:
(Press CTRL and click on the links below to open the articles.)

[Audrey Kaulback 1](#)

[Audrey Kaulback 2](#)

[Ardnagashel House](#)



Britvic and Benson of Ardnagashel (Photo from Stephen Hourihan, Facebook)

I remember going to visit Audrey on a few occasions and she lived in this stunning house overlooking Bantry Bay. It was always painted white, as it was used as a marker for ships coming into the bay, and a beautiful drive lined with the most stunning Rhododendron. Another fabulous memory.



Ardnagashel House

CANON PATRICK DOHERTY - SHEEBIN PREFIX

Interestingly, in the year of 1953, Pat Doherty acquired some working stock with which to carry on his passion for shooting. He bought a working setter from Mr. Billy Hubbard, a well-known hotelier in Waterville, Co, Kerry. This dog was called **Tony** (not to be confused with later Tony, who was a bitch) and was descended from a famous Red setter from England named **Grouse of Taughnamore**. He was a tireless worker and one occasion they counted no fewer than 40 brace of snipe on one day, which is a tremendous achievement for any setter.

From **Tony** and other working setters, Pat Doherty established his own working lines. Most of those dogs were in face mismarked Reds, i.e. "Red Setters" with white on chest or on the feet. They were heavier boned and more powerful headed than his earlier stock, but excelled as rough shooting dogs.



Tony the First

In 1975 the Canon had in his litter a lovely Red and White bitch called **Judy**, which he gave to his friend and shooting companion Fr. Griffin. A repeat mating produced **Tony 11**, a small sturdy bitch with a white chest, white nose, and four white paws. She had a fabulous spring of rib and wide front, lacking in many dogs of today.



The lovely Judy, the bitch given to Fr. Griffin and became the foundation Bitch of the Brosna Kennel

John O Donnell

Aw, she was beautiful and such a great nose, many happy days shooting over her.



Tony 11 with Canon Doherty

We first met the Canon when he was a Priest and lived in Ballybunnion Co. Kerry.

When Fr. Doherty became Canon, he was then over three parishes, the main one being Rathmore, he then moved into a very large house which had been the Monastery for the Capuchin Fathers (who came from France in the 16th century), before going to Newgrange in Co. Meath, Ireland. The house had many outhouses, not unlike Meudon where we first lived. The rooms were so large that he would have been able to get a grant to add on-suites to each room. It was a fabulous place for dogs. I also remember there would be fresh milk, vegetables and whatever he needed on the doorstep in the morning, yes, a great place to live.

He had been breeding working dogs for many years, dogs that were very important in the revival of the Irish Red and White Setter.

On the occasions we would show dogs in what was known as the Circuit, which was a combination of four Shows in the South of Ireland and became known as the Holiday Shows. Friends from far and wide generally assembled, good fun was had and many memories made. With his housekeeper Maureen we had many a good time. But they also played host to the many Irish Red and White Setter enthusiasts, who travelled from many parts of the world to meet Canon Doherty.

I remember when the dogs were out running and came back home, they would get egg flips with brandy and many times fillet steak. Who wouldn't want to be a dog in his house?

Tony 11 was mated to **Glenkeen Dan** (litter brother to **Glenkeen Sandy**), both dogs having been described as “Mismarked Reds” and on May 3rd 1977 produced six puppies.

Four were mismarked and two were Red and White, which were passed by the panel set up by the Irish Kennel Club. (I will explain at a later date.)

George (Red and White) went to Mrs. Cuddy, he was shown lightly but was used at stud producing some very good stock.

Heidi (Red and White) was the foundation bitch of the Meudon Kennel



George with Mrs. Cuddy, judging at Swords Show in 1978

Mary Sherratt

Reminds me of seeing her standing there in person. I just didn't realize at that time the significance of her or the dog. I'd have only been in my mid 20's.

Stephanie Hurren Baron

The first trip to Swords Show and meeting Mrs. Cuddy, I would have been just 22. Like you say, if only we had realized the significance. I was very fortunate to have had quite a number of long conversations with Laura Dunne who was another exceptional knowledgeable lady.

Mike O'Dwyer

From available photos and descriptions of George, he has long been another of my favourite IR&WS from the 1970s. My sense of him is that he was a dog of great substance, type and character.



Heidi of Meudon

	D <u>MOANRUAD RAFF</u>	S <u>MOANRUAD DAN</u>
S <u>MOANRUAD NESTER</u>		D <u>RUBY MOANRUAD</u>
	S <u>SULHAMSTEAD NATTY</u>	S <u>SULHAM NEARCO D'OR</u>
(RED)		D <u>SULHAM UNA D'OR</u>
	D <u>BALLYMAC EAGLE</u>	S <u>PRINCE OF KILLMURRAY</u>
D <u>MAONRUAD KEEN GIRLIE</u>		D <u>CURROW GEM</u>
	D <u>PATRICA OF KILLONE</u>	S <u>WAYDOWN SANDY</u>
		D <u>RAHARD BELLE</u>
<hr/>		
	D <u>TONY I</u>	S <u>GROUSE OF TONGHAMORE</u>
S <u>BRAN II</u>		D <u>FINN</u>
	S <u>FINN OF THE FAIRY HOST</u>	S <u>WAYDOWN SANDY</u>
(MARKED RED)		D <u>BIDDY OF SLIEVEBAWN</u>
	D <u>KELLY NEWCASTLE WEST</u>	S
		D
D <u>SHOT II</u>		S <u>V DENNHIHANS DOG</u>
	D <u>SHOT I</u>	D <u>P NAYLORS BITCH</u>

Pedigree of Tony 11 and Glenkeen Dan



Bran and Sandy, earlier dogs of Canon Doherty



Tony, Hunter, Rita and Meudon Blaze (pet name Brian)



Finn of the Fairy Host

Irish Kennel Club IRWS Panel and Green Stars Controversy

With the interest now growing in the breed, the Irish Kennel Club appointed a panel to examine the litters and to pronounce whether the puppies were typical of the Red and White breed. This Panel comprised of:

- John Nash, Limerick, Prefix Moanruad, Irish Red Setters
- Tom Wall, Cork, Irish Red and White Setters
- Laura Dunn, Dublin, Prefix Mullencluen, Irish Red Setters
- Dr. Mulligan, Monaghan
- Patsy Kelly, Prefix Cill Dara, Dublin, Irish Red Setters
- Mrs. Cuddy, Middleton, Prefix Knockalla, Irish Red and White Setters

It was necessary to bring puppies to any two of the above panel for inspection before they could be registered as Irish Red and White Setters.

Green Stars were on offer for the Breed at the St Patrick's day show in 1978, for the first time in over 30 years. The Dog to take the BOB on that day was Mr. Terry O' Leary's **Hickory of Knockalla**.

By the middle of 1978, quite a number of Green Stars were on offer at Irish Championship Shows for Irish Red and White Setters.

By 1979, The Irish Red Setter Club who, pending full affiliation of the Red and White club, had been looking after the interests of the breed, recommended to An Ard Comhairle that Green Stars should be temporarily withdrawn from Red and Whites. Their grounds for this controversial suggestion, in which they were supported by a majority of the Panel on Red and Whites, was that sufficient time had not elapsed to allow the breed to develop properly, either in numbers or in type.

The IKC had little choice but to agree and championship status was not restored to the Breed until four years later, in 1983, by which time the Red and White Club were in an official position to speak for themselves and their dogs.

It should be emphasised that many of the dogs described in this sequence were in fact pure working Irish Setters. By far the greater number of them would better have been described as "Irish Setters with White markings", or even in some cases, "Irish White and Red Setters with red markings", or it may have been easier to have called them mismarked. Some were also described as Lemon and White and on some the odd occasion there were red dogs with white dots, also called a Shower of Hail.

Harlequin of Knockalla had the required number of points in the show ring and had had also qualified in the field, or so we thought. But the title of Champion was denied him

So, we had to travel to England and enter in Any Variety classes to get recognition. We had decided to show, because we needed people to see the breed.

After the required amount of time and still no agreement with Green Stars, we took things into our own hands. At a very large Limited Show Mr. Sonny Plunkett, our then Chairman of the IKC, was judging. Alan took Topsy, one of our Pomeranians, and entered under him. Surprised, Sonny asked Alan – "Where is your Red and White?" and Alan replied – "I will show them when we get our Green Stars back." Silence. Then Sonny said – "You will have them for St. Patrick's Day."

Alan said out loud - "Hi folks, we got recognized again."

And so we had our first Championship Show on St. Patrick's Day in 1983.

Rita Byrne

Well done Alan - he put Sonny Plunkett on the spot and made sure he couldn't wriggle out of his commitment.

Trudy Walsh

Yes. That was a good day, but we were unaware of the drama that ensued. I had to speak to the IKC to confirm that Ch Meudon Blaze was not at the show. We had great fun in those days.

Trudy Walsh

Ann, do you remember the time John Nash withheld the Green Star from Bran? (Ch Meudon Blaze)?

Anna Gormley

Trudy, if I remember rightly, it was at a show somewhere like Clonmel when he withheld (the Green Star). Many stories and said after judging that they were not setters. On another note, when we brought Count Regent's litter to him to be passed, he said that he did not like his colour and would we bring him back in about six months. We then brought him to Mrs. Cuddy who passed him. Many stories...

Trudy Walsh

J. Nash was very much against the revival. He said that they resembled Saint Bernards. I was chatting to him when Ch. Meudon Blaze ran for his Qualifier. He was quite impressed. I don't think he realized that Bran was the dog he had withheld the Green Star from.

Anna Gormley

Sonny was a really great guy but the Kennel Club at that time was run by the field trial men The Irish Red Setter Club was very powerful.

Sonny brought Alan home a beautiful box with an Irish Setter Head on it from Brazil. they always agreed to differ but were good friends.

Anna Gormley

I remember we were showing at Bray and a very famous Irish Judge was judging. Angie Carroll was to show Count Regent, as Alan was not showing, she was late and Trudy took him into the ring (Trudy always showed Meudon Blaze, Bran). We were very lucky, because Sharon won with her bitch and Trudy won with Count Regent. They were good wins, as both were 10 point Green Stars. Well, the Green Star went to the Canon for Bran, even though he was not there. The Judge assumed the dog was Bran. We had quite a problem getting it back. Yes, many, many stories.

Stephanie Hurren Baron

Green Stars were reinstated in 1983. The Irish Red & White Field & Show Society (as the Irish Irish R & W Setter Club were then known) held their Championship Show in conjunction with the IKC St Patrick's day Show. The judge was Roy Harrison (UK) Fiveacres Pointers. There was a good entry of both Irish and UK bred dogs present. Green Star dog and BOB/BIS was Webb's Meudon Amber Glow and Green Star Bitch and BOS/Res BIS was my own Meudon Gay Princess. Res Green Star Bitch was Mary Sherratt's Charnborough Cheri. Res Green Star dog is just evading the grey matter at the moment.

Rita Byrne

Do you know more about the people on the panel, e.g. Tom Wall, Dr. Mulligan or Patsy Kelly? I don't recognize the names at all!

Anna Gormley

Tom Wall had a Red and White Setter at one time, Patsy Kelly had Red Setters but I never met her and when we brought a litter of puppies to Dr. Mulligan, he wanted to know what he should do with them. Yes, all fun and games.

Rita Byrne

So who decided that these should be on the panel? I can understand Laura Dunne, Mrs. Cuddy and John Nash.

Anna Gormley

It was the Irish Red Setter Club who were looking after the interest of the IRWS.

Rita Byrne

And these were experts in the IS/IRWS breed?

Anna Gormley

Yep.

Margaret Sierakowski

Dr Mulligan, Bishop of Clogher, was a well-known breeder and field trialler of Irish Setters going back I think to the 1930s. In the 1950s he worked with John Nash on a breeding strategy to develop the field trial reds, which was very successful. There are many references to him in Ray O Dwyer's book. So a good person to be involved with a breeding strategy for the IRWS. Not sure, but wasn't he president of the Irish Red Setter Club?

Trudy Walsh

Patricia (Patsy) Kelly was the owner/Breeder of the Cilldara Irish Setters, one of the most famous being Int. Ch. Cilldara Robinhood. I remember she judged at the Irish Gundog Field and Show Society Ch Show held at Goff's Livestock Mart. Her winner that day was White's Joanmas Romeo.

Anna Gormley

I do not want to bring in nasties but to answer Rita Byrne and Margaret Sierakowski:
We had a lot of problems trying to get puppies passed. When I went to Dr Mulligan, it was with a very good friend Marie Durken Roche and we had eight puppies in the back of her van. When we arrived, after making an appointment to see him, it was lashing rain and we were told to sit outside, as he was having lunch. When he did come to see them, he asked what was he supposed to do?
Another incident - we had our second litter waiting to be passed, Swords Show was on and John Nash was there, we asked him would he look at the puppies, he said he was on day off. So, it took The Chairman of the IKC Mr. Sonny Plunket to ask him. When he did come, he said he was not happy with the colour and to bring them to him in about six months' time. That was our second litter and included dogs like Count Regent, Gay Princess and Meudon Lord. I rest my case; Laura Dunn had already passed them. Happy days.

This is the lovely **Patricia of Killone** with the late John Nash (Moanruad). Patricia is by **Waydown Sandy** x **Rahard Belle** and was made into an International Champion by Derry Angue, Scotland and is behind many of the dogs today.



John Nash with Patricia of Killone

Mike O'Dwyer

A noble bitch, from her graceful name to her great working reputation and field achievements. Lovely photo.

Ann Walsh

John Nash had some lovely dogs used to train them across the road from my house.

Margaret Sierakowski

Patricia of Killone was handled in field trials by John Nash. Derry did some training with her; I think he was only about 18 at the time.

John Nash was without doubt the pillar of the Irish Red Setter Club. Amazingly his family Crest has what appears to be three Irish Red and White Setters. But where most of his own dogs carried the white gene, and are behind many of the dogs in the revival, he was not happy when this present revival began. We had many clashes of personality before the breed gained the recognition it deserved.

FATHER GRIFFIN - PREFIX BROSNA

In 1975 Canon Doherty gave his good friend Father Griffin a lovely Red and White Bitch called **Judy**. She was an excellent rough shooting dog, very pleasant, with a lovely temperament. Father bred three litters from Judy but the second and most important was in 1981, when **Judy** was mated to Dermot Mooney's **Winnowing Grouse**.

This mating produced 12 perfectly marked puppies.

Brosna Grouse	went to Mrs. Pauline Perriam (Elaphill), UK
Brosna Judy	went to Mrs. Pat Brigden (Autumnwood), UK
Knockane Sherry	went to Mr. Terry O'Leary (Dearg Ban)
Mount Eagle Belle	went to Canon Doherty (Sheebin)

I must also say that the first litter in 1978 produced a Red and White dog called **Knight of Desmond**, a lovely dog very like **George**, from the litter bred by the Canon. This dog was shown for a while by Dr, Roach of Irish Wolfhound fame.



Knight of Desmond (from Father Griffins first litter born in 1978) with Dr. Roach

John O Donnell

So she was a sister to my red dog if I am not mistaken.

Anna Gormley

I do not know John, all I know is that Mrs. Cuddy contacted Alan to tell him about this Red and White pup that Dr. Roach had.

John O Donnell

When Fr. Griffin bred Judy first time, it was to a red dog in Castleisland. That was to revive the breed out of that mating. I got a red dog, he kept one himself a red dog but he got killed before he was a year old. So it was the next mating. I got my red & white bitch. So I bred her to the Canon dog and it was a bitch out of that mating I gave the Canon and I think she was a champion.

John O Donnell

I sent two to Canada so it's a pity I lost all my paperwork.

Anna Gormley

It is possible John, because we only got to know the Canon in 1977 and as you know pedigrees were all kept in the head. To my knowledge both Mrs. Cuddy, Alan and the Canon spoke about getting dogs registered, but before that time I have no knowledge. I know both Alan and Mrs. Cuddy had a friendship from about 1974, when his interest began in the Red and Whites.

John O Donnell

It Was 1977 he bred her to the dog in Castleisland because my daughter was only a baby when I went to collect my red setter puppy that time and he said I will be mating her again and I will give you a red and white next time.

Anna Gormley

I think Knight of Desmond is very like George in type.

Mike O'Dwyer

That is my impression too, Ann, and what a compliment to Knight.



Brosna Grouse (Winnowing Grouse X Judy, born 1981) with Elaine Roberts (daughter of Pauline Perriam)



Brosna Judy of Autumnwood (Winnowing Grouse X Judy, born 1981) with Pat Bridgen

Sharon Gormley

I think this was taken at Swords and District canine society.

Anna Gormley

You are right, Sharon, and Mrs. Cuddy was judging we were not showing, because Alan was Show Manager and I am not sure what I was, it could have been secretary at that time.

Mary Sherratt

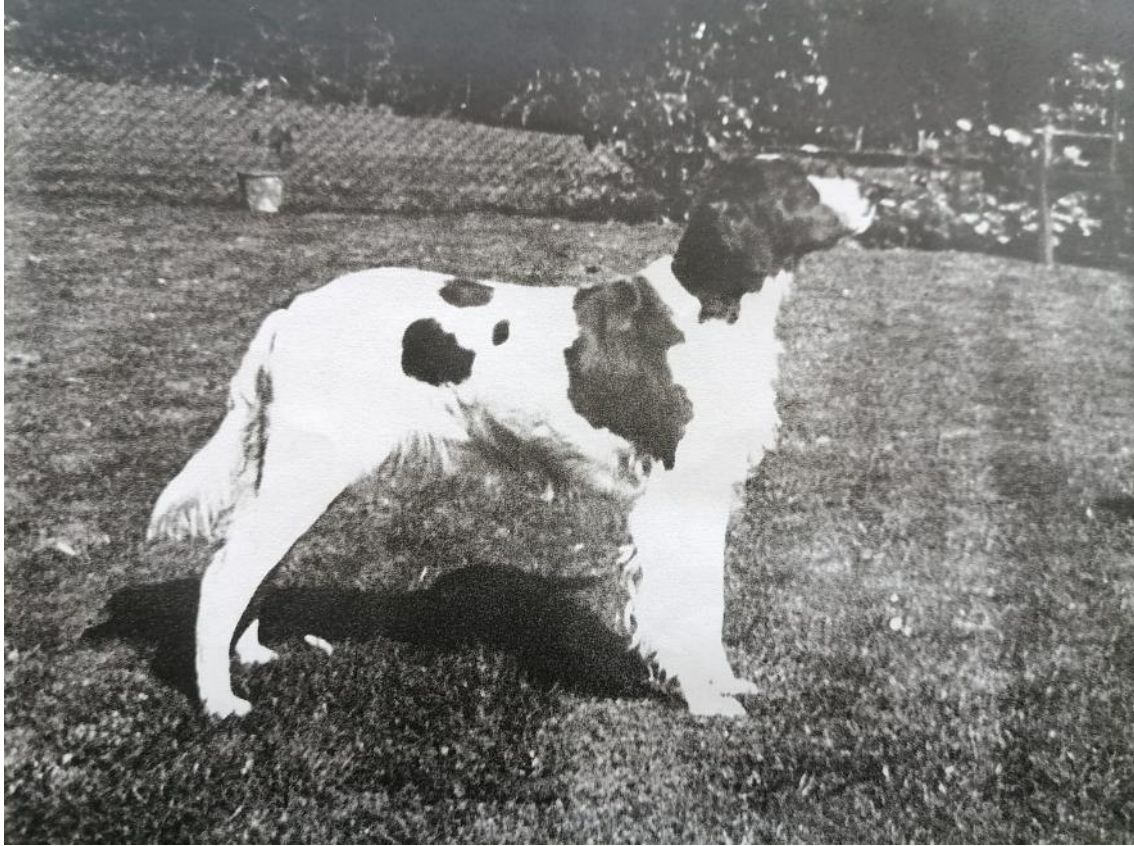
This wasn't Pat Bridgen's first IRWS, she had either a Shannonlee or something that way bred. Pat rehomed this first bitch because it was ticked. Then purchased Brosna Judy. Pat was obsessed with colour and even idiots can spot a ticked dog. It is my opinion that this did not help, as some of the ticked stock was by far the best constructed. I have an article somewhere written by John Kerr for the Shooting Times title something like 'A good dog is never a bad colour'.

Anna Gormley

It is of my opinion that some of the best dogs were never used, because of the Kennel they came from, also many of the dogs were not used because of colour.

Stephanie Hurren Baron

Mary Sherratt you are right her first IRWS was a Shannonlee. And yes, totally obsessed about colour, to the detriment of construction.



Brosna Judy of Autumnwood (Winnowing Grouse X Judy, born 1981)



*Right: Knockanne Sherry (Winnowing Grouse X Judy, born 1981), owner Terry O'Leary
Left: Aoibh of Sugarloaf (George X Quail of Ludford, born 1981), owner Pia Hjertquist, Sweden*

Champion. Knockanne Sherry, owned by Terry O'Leary, became the first Red and White Setter to win an award at an all age stake for over 60 years. She also won first place in Cork Field trial association Open Stake in 1985.



Mount Eagle Belle (Winnowing Grouse X Judy, born 1981), owned by Canon Doherty, gained her points on the bench and ran her qualifier in 1986 which made her a full Champion

John O Donnell

Just wondering is that the bitch I gave him.

Anna Gormley

Fr. Griffin bred her, in 1981 Judy X Winnowing Grouse.

John O Donnell

Ok so it was a sister of her I had, so I would love to find out about the bitch I gave the Canon out of her sister.



Another memory, when Mrs. Cuddy judged at Swords Show. Jimmy Doyle, Mary Knox, Lesley Conway, Sean Walsh, Pat Bridgen, Elaine Perriam, Dr. Roach, Father Griffin and Mrs. Cuddy

DERMOT MOONEY - PREFIX WINNOWING

Dermot Mooney also played a very important part in this present revival of The Irish Red and White Setter. Coming from a family which always had Irish Setters and Field Spaniels, he enjoyed rough shooting and became interested in field trials.

He noticed that the dogs who performed better were the dogs that had white markings. He discussed with his friend John Nash (Moanruad Prefix) the possibility of obtaining a dog with the markings and type of a true Red and White. Such dogs did exist, but were rare and hard to obtain.

In the 60's Dermot Mooney obtained his first Irish Red and White bitch **Charleville Beauty**. She was mated to **Whiskey 1**, a Red dog with a white flash on the chest. This mating produced seven puppies, three good Red and White ones and four mismarked. One of these Red and Whites went to John Kerr in Scotland of the Rushfield Prefix.

Charleville Beauty was mated a second time, this time to **Kilshannig Ranger**, a Red dog. This produced a very good litter of working dogs, but they were all mismarked. Dermot kept one bitch for himself called **Tristar**.

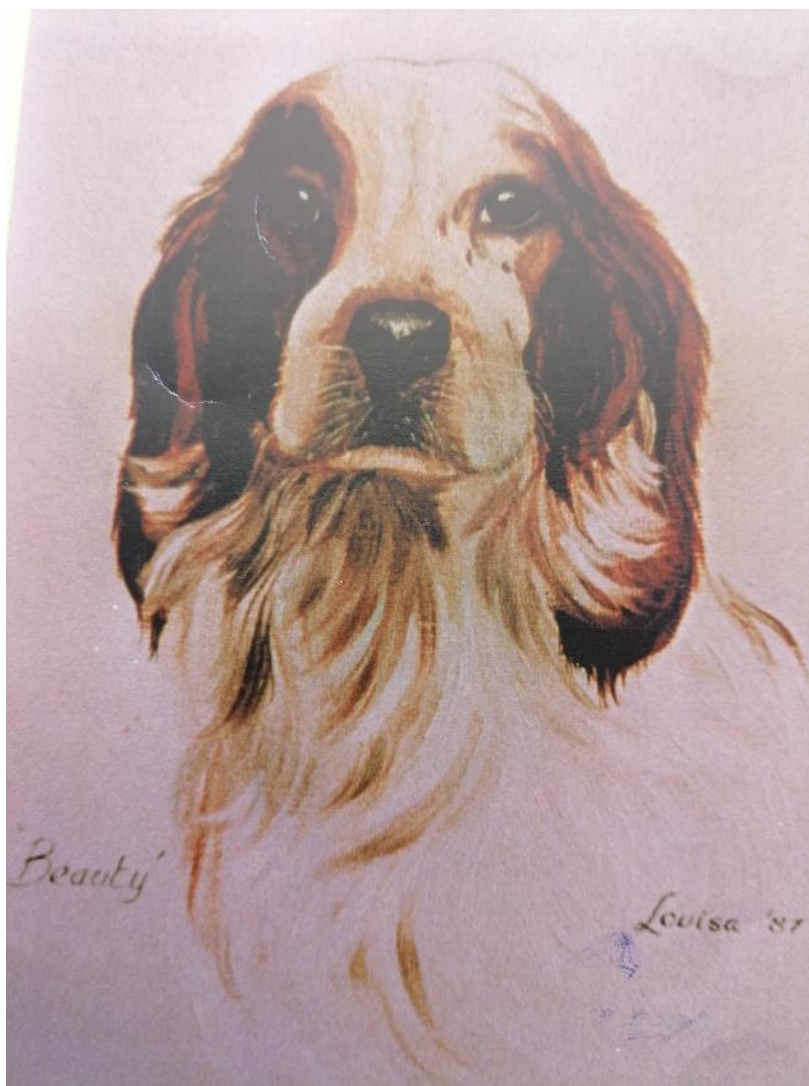
In 1975 **Tristar** was mated to **Glenkeen Sandy** and this mating produced eight puppies, six mismarked and two good red and white ones. Again, Dermot kept one red and white bitch called **Winnowing Breeze**.

Winnowing Breeze was mated to **Moanruad Brendan** in 1978 and this time produced seven puppies, five well marked Red and Whites and two mismarked. This was to prove to be a very important litter as several were imported to England and also played their part in the development of the breed in Ireland.

The five puppies were:

Winnowing Goldfinch	went to Ruth Lawson and later to Joyce Webb (UK) and was the foundation bitch of Shannonlee Kennel
Winnowing Gannet	went to Ruth Lawson
Winnowing Goshawk	
Winnowing Guillemot	went to Paul and Lesley Conway, UK, mated to Gormley's Meudon Bonny Bess.
Winnowing Grouse	mated to Fr. Griffin's Judy and also mated to Sean Walsh's bitch Quail of Ludford with the progeny going to Isobel Somerfield (Bawnrhu) and so introducing good working lines into England.

We owe a great deal of respect to those breeders who have kept this breed alive against all odds. I only wish that Dermot Mooney and John Kerr could have seen just how much this breed is proving itself in the field in many parts of the world.



Charleville Beauty (Finn of the Fairy Host X Sherry 11, born 1966)



Wallowing Goldfinch (photo from Ruth Lawson)

Ruth Lawson

Gannet was male and Goldfinch was female, Goldfinch actually went to the Webbs when we hit a very hard patch within our family. The Wallowing dogs were very cleanly marked Red and White without ticking and with beautiful conformation.



Winnowing Goldfinch



Winnowing Gannet, 10 months (photos from Ruth Lawson (Fletcher))

Mary Sherratt

Cracking dog for type and it showed in his progeny.



Winnowing Breeze (Glenkeen Sandy X Tristar, born 1975)

Mary Sherratt

I loved her and many of her offspring were very good examples of breed type.

Mike O'Dwyer

Another very welcome pic, thanks Ann. 'Winnowing' has been one of my favourite IR&WS kennel names. It fits the upland moors setting so well. Together with this dog's 'given' name, both sound and meaning are gorgeous.

		S <u>WAYDOWN</u>
	D <u>FINN OF THE FAIRY HOST</u>	D <u>BISSY C</u>
S <u>CHARLEVILLE BEAUTY</u>		S <u>SHOT</u>
	S <u>SHERRY II</u>	D _____
<u>TRISTAR</u>		S _____
	D <u>PUNCH BOWL F.C.</u>	D _____
D <u>KILSHANNIG RANGER</u>		S _____
	D <u>RILEY OF TELVARA</u>	D _____

Pedigree of Tristar

JOHN KERR - RUSHFIELD PREFIX

Another man who was very much to the forefront of The Irish Red and White Setter is John Kerr from Coleraine in Londonderry.

I never had the pleasure of meeting him, but I do know that he came to see Alan on one occasion when he was judging in England, and they exchanged information, and possibly a whiskey or two. Also, Derry Argue who came to Swords to see (buy) Harlequin, and when it was not on the table, he sent a lovely bitch called **Rats**, very like Patricia of Killone, to be mated to him. But the lady had other ideas.

John Kerr from Londonderry, now Scotland, has for many years been associated with Irish Red and White Setters. John believed that the ancestors of Ireland's top Field Trial dogs were Red and White, but he knew that breeding a Red and White in itself would not produce the working ability required.

Ballymac Eagle X Patricia of Killone produced Rushfield **Moanruad Kailen** (born 1969), the bitch that became the dam of John Kerr's Red and White litter. **Kailen** was placed in every field trial she was entered since she was a puppy. When mated to **Finn of the Fairy Host**, a ten years old dog of similar markings, who had been retired from field trials but had outstanding working ability, produced in March 1972 six puppies, one white with red and five red with white.

The red and white puppy went to Italy.

One bitch puppy went to Pennsylvania but sadly was killed.

One dog (Rushfield Shane) went to Mr. Jennings, Kentucky, USA.

John kept three of the litter as foundation stock and from them he gradually built up his kennel of Red and Whites.

He mated **Rushfield Niall** to **Rushfield Great Lady** and this produced
in 1978:

Rushfield Whin	went to Vincent Brennan (Lougherne), she became the foundation Bitch in his Kennel.
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in 1979:

Rushfield Race	went to Joyce Webb (Shannonlee)
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Rushfield Sal

Alan was very impressed with John Kerr and spoke very highly of him.

He spoke afterwards to me about John's dedication to the breed, and we hoped that we lived up to the expectations of those who put their trust in us.



Rushfield Whin X George



The stunning Rushfield Race



Grace Ward Carrick

My friend Carolyn with John Kerr's dogs.

Mary Sherratt

One of my friends (Carol Calvert), whose father was a good pal of John's and fellow Irish Setter enthusiast, went to see John Kerr in a home not that long before he died. By then he had returned to his beloved Ireland. He only moved to Scotland when the troubles were on, to bring his young family up elsewhere. She said he was sitting slumped in a chair when she arrived but within a few minutes talking about old times and dogs he was sitting up and animated, enjoying the chat. It must have been about 4 years ago that she was running an IS bred from one of John's last IS litters in Scotland at a Field Trial. It was lovely to see the Dam's name as a Rushfield.

Margaret Sierakowski

Carol Calvert still uses the Rushfield affix for all her reds that were bred from John's dogs. They have a noticeable amount of white on them and almost certainly carry the parti colour gene.



Grace Ward Carrick

We often all met up at shows in those days, trying to get classes for Red and Whites. Here's John Kerr at one of my exhibitions and a mystery woman.

Grace Carrick is not only a very talented artist but has also shown a great interest in The Irish Red and White Setters, having had Irish Reds in the past. She made up Irish Champion **Ardbraccan Bonnie Lass** (Ardbraccan Starlight Love X Snow King of Tormore, bred by Trudy Walsh in 1991), going back to Ch Meudon Blaze and Harlequin of Knockalla.



Ardbraccan Bonnie Lass

Grace has kept the flag flying in Scotland, with **Susan Patterson** also having made up Champion **Coolfin Cherokee At Torrweaving** (Meiklered Hi-Wayman X Meudon Lady of Coolfin, bred by Mary Knox in 1982) and **Lynn Goddard** with Show Champion **Clehurst Billy Budd** (Meudon Count Regent X Miss Kaleigh of Clehurst, bred by Lynn Goddard in 1982).

VINCENT BRENNAN - LOUGHERNE PREFIX

Vincent Brennan has also played a very important part in the revival of the Irish Red and White Setters. Vincent got a lovely Red and White Bitch called **Rushfield Whin** from John Kerr. She was the foundation bitch of his kennel.

Rushfield Whin was mated to **Harlequin of Knockalla** and on May 30th 1981 produced ten puppies.

Mountain Queen

Pride of Erin

Gameshot went to Mrs. Pat Brigden (Autumnwood)

Snow Queen became the foundation bitch of the Craigrua Kennel - Jim Sheridan.

Vincent also got Meudon Lord from us, which we gifted to him. He was a lovely puppy but had a lot of red.

Vincent was very much into the working side and showed occasionally, but he never got the credit he deserved. He also exported many of his stock to England, and when mated back to some of the Irish bred dogs, produced the foundation of many of the Kennels in England.



Rushfield Whin (Rushfield Niall to Rushfield Great Lady, born 1978) with Vincent Brennan



Rushfield Whin with puppies by Harlequin of Knockalla

Stephanie Hurren Baron

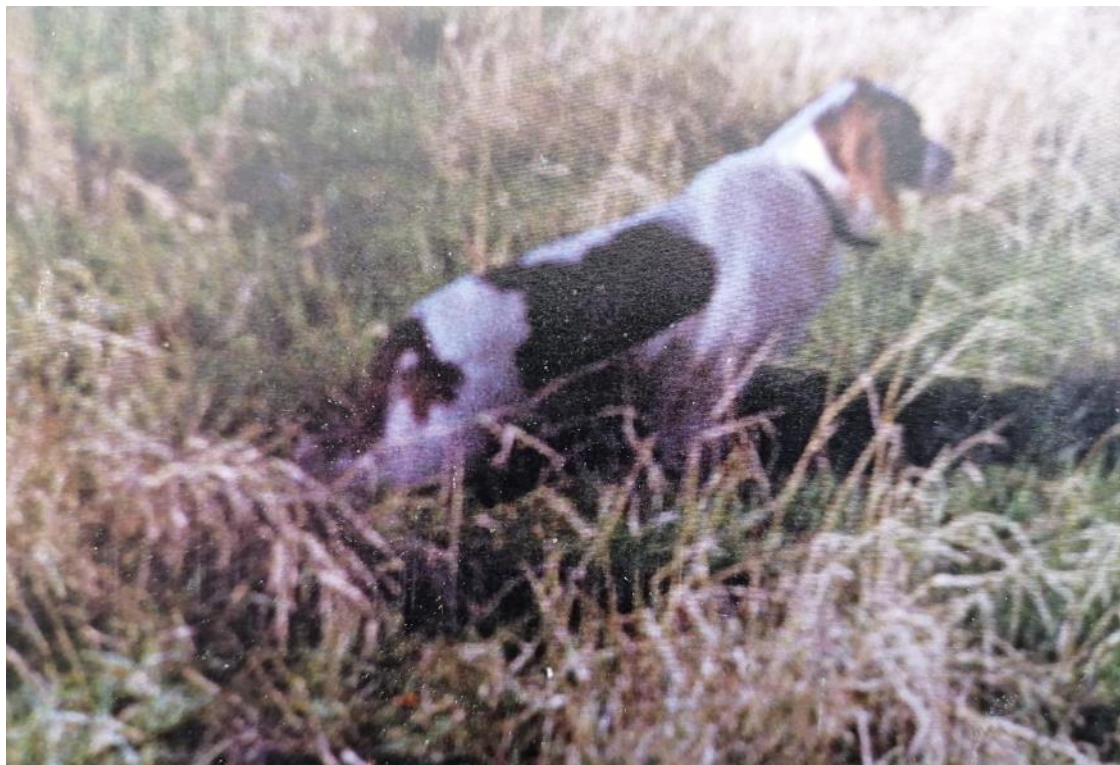
This would be the litter that produced Pride of Erne (dog) and Mountain Queen (bitch). I travelled via ferry and bus to Vincent's home in Enniskillen with Lesley Conway to collect a puppy from his 2nd litter. What a trip. Lucky enough to get the radio officers cabin on the ferry home with puppy making it stress free. Can't just remember to name of the puppy but it will come to me. Vincent was so welcoming and the puppies were all healthy and well cared for.



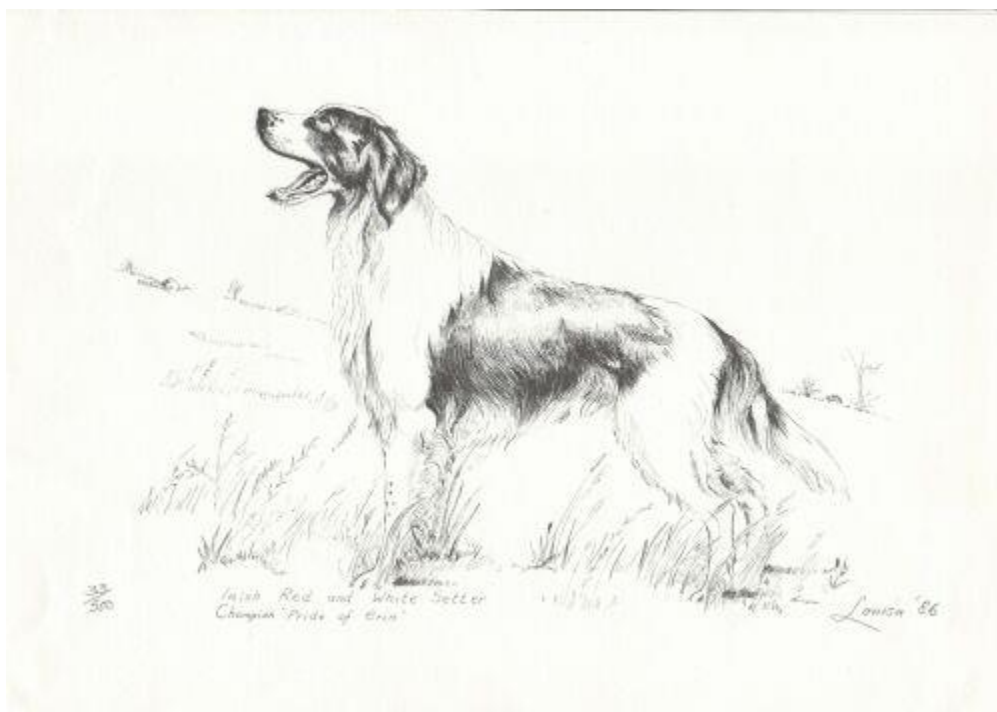
Gameshot of Autumnwood, bred by Vincent Brennan Lougherne, by Harlequin of Knockalla x Rushfield Whin



Gameshot of Autumnwood with Pat Bridgen



Pride of Erin



Pride of Erin, Print by Louisa Nally

ALAN AND ANN GORMLEY - MEUDON PREFIX

Our prefix came from a House we lived in when we were first married. It was called Meudon and it was built in 1835 during the time of Grattan's Parliament on the outskirts of Swords. It was a stunning house, with coach houses and a beautiful Adam's fireplace in the dining room, but it was completely knocked down because of development. The only thing left is the name, apart from the town of Meudon just outside Paris France. The fact that we became involved in a breed of setter that was much older, needs no words.

I got my first Red Setter in 1971 for my birthday. He was the old type, heavy in build, but a good rough shooting dog. We started showing and always got placed but never won anything major. In about 1974/1975 Alan and Mrs. Cuddy began a friendship that was to have a lasting effect on the revival of the Irish Red and White Setter.

Alan and Mrs. Cuddy would meet at the shows Mrs. Cuddy attended when showing her Dachshunds. Our real involvement started when Mrs. Cuddy had a litter of IRWS in 1977 (Gaye of Knockalla x Glenkeen Sandy) and invited Alan to go and see the puppies, which of course we did and arrived home with **Harlequin**. Mrs. Cuddy was looking for dependable owners, Alan recommend Terry O'Leary, as he already had two working Red Setter bitches from us. He got **Hickory** and Sean Walsh got **Hawk**.

In the same year Mrs. Cuddy heard about some Red and White pups in Co. Kerry and asked Alan to go with her to look at them. So, plane to Cork, car to Middleton to pick up Mrs. Cuddy, drive to Co. Kerry, to see these puppies, which was quite a journey. And the same back.

It was then that we met Canon Doherty, who had this lovely litter of mismarked reds, included in the litter two Red and White pups. He was informed of the importance of the pups, which were duly registered (as was **Judy** from a previous litter). One was **George**, who went to Mrs. Cuddy (but came home with us, until she could tell Mr. Cuddy that she had got another pup) and the other was **Heidi**, who became the foundation bitch of the Meudon Kennel. Canon did not want any money, so both Alan and Mrs. Cuddy put 25 pounds each behind the mantle, and then they shook hands.



Heidi of Meudon (Glenkeen Dan X Tony 11, born 1977)

Heidi was small and pleasant, with a lovely temperament and although she did not like showing, she had a number of Green Stars to her credit. She was bred only twice to **Harlequin**.



Heidi of Meudon and Harlequin of Knockalla, about 10 months old, with Ann Gormley



Harlequin of Knockalla and Alan Gormley

Mary Sherratt

It is my opinion that although there were attempts to revive the breed in the 1940's, they were not successful and the IRWS remained in the hands of a very few enthusiasts. It was only when the Gormley's exhibited an IRWS at Crufts in the last 1970's, and so many of us Irish Setter people became involved. The Webb's and the Shannonlee Kennel being the most well know, it was only then that they became popular and some may say to quickly and that's what caused the problems in Ireland. Show vs Working. The outcross programme in 2011 was just that. The breed was already established and the powers that-be in GB in the main were against it. Again, this was Show vs. Working the later feeling that there had been little focus on the working lines which was correct. It was without any doubt that the Meudon Kennel exhibiting at Crufts that put the breed on the map.

The Cuckoo in the Nest

There is no doubt that our dogs have made us many friends, with many stories to tell, but I am sharing this special one with you.

Although I had been going to Crufts since 1974, Harlequin of Knockalla (Blaze) was our first dog ever that we entered to show. Well, the big morning arrived and I could not find the ring numbers, so no panic, as Alan was meeting with Maurice Webb (Shannonlee), as some pups had already been exported to England causing a certain amount of interest.

Now Alan and Blaze went on the first freighter, and I was to follow by regular flight. When I got to Crufts, I could not find Alan anywhere. We had entered Blaze in Any Variety not Separately Classified. But the Crufts committee in their wisdom had put him in Open Class Dog Irish Red Setter. Not only that, but he was in the middle of the Irish Reds, just as you came in the front door. Later to become known as "The Cuckoo in the Nest".

Judging the Irish Setter Dogs on the day was the well-known Setter judge Judy Russell, Prefix Ballyweston. She sent her steward over to Alan on a few occasions to ask him to show under her. We did not think it was right to do so, but looking back, if only we had, just imagine the extra publicity the breed would have got.

Our Judge was Mr. L.C. James of Wendover fame, and our Blaze got second in Open, only beaten by the Hound Group winner from the previous year. Maurice Webb was speaking to the judge at a later date and was asked - Where did that fabulous dog come from?

Well, I can honestly say without a shadow of a doubt that I have never been at a Show quite like that day. I would say there were more photos taken of Blaze than any other dog in the show. We had people helping us in answering questions about the breed, who became very good friends and yes, we are still friends today, although sad to say our circle is getting smaller. I made the mistake of taking off my shoes early in the day, and as I was unable to get them back on. So I went from Earls Court to Dublin to Swords tired, but very happy.

There are many dogs who have played their part in the survival of this breed and on the following pages we have shown some of the early ones. But this is only my account of articles and prints to allow you to see and possibly to make up your own mind about the History of The Irish Red and White Setter.

Over the years we have had many stories to tell about our involvement in the breed. Both Alan and myself worked and were involved in running The Swords and District Show and it was because through this involvement we got to know many oversea judges. One Lady in particular, Valerie Foss, was among the many who were responsible the Irish Red and White Setters getting classes at championship level in England.

Many people thought it was too soon, but my honest opinion is no, without the publicity the dogs could possibly have gone into decline again. The most we charged for a puppy was 150 euro delivered, regardless of who bought one.

One story I need to tell is this:

After Alan brought the puppy to Italy, there was another family who became interested in some working setters. This Was the Gallariti family in Imola, they wanted the dogs for a working programme. So, Alan decided to send one from our Kennel and three more to complement our bitch, so he bought them from Terry O'Leary, Jimmy Doyle and Dermot Mooney. They were kept with us until ready, and Alan was duly delivering to Imola. He was met at the airport by a Lady with her minders and a case of money to be paid before they left the airport. She opened her case and said to Alan - in what currency would you like to be paid?

As money had not been discussed, she said *"4,000 for each dog"*, and Alan said shocked *"No, for all"*. That, my friends, is why we never made money from dogs.

We had a Gentleman call on evening informing us that he was from the Inland Revenue (Tax Office), informing us that they had been told that we were making a lot of money from exporting dogs. To say we were shocked was an understatement! Well, we gave him permission to contact the Irish Kennel Club to check the number of litters we had bred. We also explained to him the importance of what we were doing, thankfully after about one week we heard from them to say that we were quite in order and all was ok.

Harlequin of Knockalla X Heidi of Meudon

Heidi's first litter in June 18th 1979 produced eight puppies, all Red and White:

Meudon My Honey	went for working
Meudon Call Me Madam	went for working to Brussels
Meudon Amber Bronze	went to pet home
Meudon Bonze Delight	went for working.
Meudon Blaze	we gifted to Canon Doherty He proved to be a good stud dog siring very sound type progeny. He was also the very first Champion in the Breed.
Meudon Bonny Bess	stayed at home
Meudon Heather	went for working
Meudon Amber Glow	went to Maurice and Joyce Webb (Shannonlee)



Meudon Call me Madam

When Alan brought Meudon Call me Madam to Brussels, they were collected at the Airport and brought to her new home. On the way they stopped at one of the over the road restaurants and before orders were taken, she was fed first.

Her new owners also owned the William Tell Inn in Brussels. She was a very important lady, as she was going to work on land owned by Count De Witt and Alan said it took them about four hours to go around the inside perimeter of the land. On a very sad note, the family gave their only son a car for his 21st birthday, and he died in a car accident.



Amber Bronze

The owner of Amber Bronze, Mrs. Freyme, who remembered IRWS from way back, owned a very high-class pub. The dog wandered around all the time, quite happy. Have pup will travel, I am sure there were many kids who would stray him and then, when he was reported missing, tell Mrs. Freyme and she would send her Rolls Royce for him.

Trudy Walsh

I remember when I picked him up from a busy dual carriageway in the lashing rain. He was filthy and soaking wet. I brought him home and washed him. Then I set about trying to find out who owned him. I brought him out to you Ann to see if you recognized him, which you did. He was returned to his owner the following morning, when he was collected by the chauffeur driven Rolls. The pub has now been demolished to make way for houses and apartments.



Meudon Blaze



Meudon Blaze with Trudy Walsh, 1987

Grace Ward Carrick

Probably my all time favourite dog. A beautiful head and shape.

John O Donnell

What a great picture.

Grace Ward Carrick

I think that was mine, taken on his last ever show at Killarney racecourse, think he was 10 years old then.



Meudon Bonny Bess

Meudon Bonny Bess was for me a lovely example of an IRWS. Sturdy, compact with a lovely spring of rib, which she passed on to many of her puppies.

Meudon Amber Glow (Murphy) had many firsts to his credit. He won BOB at the St. Patrick's Day Show, when Green Stars were reinstated. He was the first and only Red and White to win Best Rare Breeds all Breeds. This he did twice and was invited to take part in the Contest of Champions, among others.



Meudon Amber Glow with Maurice Webb

Stephanie Hurren Baron

He won the first Green Star at the IRWFSS Club Champ Show held in conjunction with the IKC Ch Show judged by Roy Harrison in 1983. Murphy was already 9 years old when the breed gained Championship status in the UK in 1988. He sadly just missed out on his title but did win two CC's

Trudy Walsh

Always a favourite of mine. I took that photo at the Killarney Ch. Show.

Mary Sherratt

Murphy was his pet name, he was a dog before his time and a true Ambassador for the breed. He was the sire of a number of significant IRWSs and played a big part in the revival of the breed in the UK.

Gail Harrison

And from the UK to North America. I have only seen him moving in video. Just from that, the eye is immediately drawn to him. So smooth.



Meudon Amber Glow with Maurice Webb, First Championship Show, 1983



Meudon Amber Glow (Murphy) with puppies

Lisa Bingham

The escapologist that would climb up the fencing and sit on the roof for fun! Such a lovely boy, too good before his time.

There was a lot of interest expressed in the Irish Red and White Setters, including from America.

Mr. E. Irving Eldridge of the Tirvelda Kennels was interested in a breeding bitch, or if we would consider Harlequin. Although we exported to England, the time was not right to send puppies so far away. In time the interest grew and the dogs are now bred in United States of America, Canada, Europe and Australia.



Jim Hogan, Ann Gormley and Robyn Mackintosh from Australia, who imported the first IRWS, with Meudon Avondale and Meudon Royal Heritage, at Malahide Castle

When Judging Matters

In 1998 we had the honour of being invited to judge Gundogs in Australia. We were there almost three months, judging on the east coast from Newcastle to Canberra.

On one occasion Alan was judging IRWS, all owned by Robyn Mackintosh, who had imported dogs from England. There was great interest in this, but there was one bitch whom Alan withheld on and explained why. (I agreed with him.) Well, the week after we were due to leave, they had their **Spring Fair** and there was a very eminent Irish judge, also judging IRWS, so we were invited to stay. The judge in question gave all IRWS excellent and when asked why, he stated "Well, if you give all dogs excellent, you will always be asked back."

I rest my case...

Harlequin of Knockalla X Heidi of Meudon

The second litter proved equally as good as the first. On 26th April 1980 she produced nine puppies. These pups still had to be passed by any two people on the panel that was set up by the Irish Setter Club. Again, all well marked Red and White:

Meudon Lord	went for working to Vincent Brennan
Meudon Copper Lass	went for working to Tom O. Donoghue
Meudon Copper Knight	went for working to Frank Corr
Meudon Colleen	went for working to England
Meudon Minstrel of Sarelle	went to Wales
Meudon Prince Charming	went to England
Meudon Gay Princess	went to Stephanie and Rod Baron, England
Meudon Lady	went to Mary Knox and was the foundation bitch of Coolfin kennel
Meudon Count Regent	stayed at home.

Meudon Count Regent was never supposed to stay with us. The story goes as this: He had the red strip on one side of his mouth, very like the one as shown on Jennifer of Knockalla, and because of that he was called The Sherriff. He was to go to Mary Knox, but she declined the offer. He was then to go to England, but when he had his last injection, one of his eyes turned blue so that was a No, No, even though it was ok within a few days. Then we had another well-known judge Jimmy Tait of the famous Aberthorne Collie Kennels staying with us, he was over to judge their Championship Show. (It was usual at that time to have judges from other breeds staying when you were not in the breed, as it helped a lot with expenses.) Jimmy was so taken up with The Sheriff, that he said he would give up his Kennel if we would let him have him. But with all that had happened, The Sherriff stayed at home.

Meudon Count Regent	won many BOB Best in Show Irish Gundog Field, Judge Mr. Gerry Hickey Best in Show Club Show England, Judge Mrs. Rae Furness Best Rare Breed Crufts 1981, Mr. Bobby James. Reserve Best Rare Breed Crufts 1981
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Also was second to **Meudon Gay Princess** (Emma), who went Best Rare Breed Crufts 1982.



Heidi of Meudon X Harlequin Second Litter

Sharon Gormley

This photo was taken on the front lawn of our house in Swords. It was at the time that the puppies had to be passed by 2 persons on the panel before they were registered. I am trying to stack the Sheriff (Sh Ch Meudon Count Regent) but even at that age, he had other things on his mind.

Stephanie Hurren Baron

Emma (Sh Ch Meudon Gay Princess) is the puppy at the front right facing away from camera... well, at least it looks like her markings. I think Meudon Lady of Coolfin is the second puppy from the right.

We only mated Heidi and Harlequin twice and the second litter was as good if not better than the first. We still had to get puppies passed by the Panel approved by the Irish Setter Club. It still entailed a long trip with young puppies, so when we knew that John Nash was attending Swords Championship Show, we asked him, if possible, could he come and look at the puppies. He declined and it was only when we asked Sonny Plunkett, Chairman of the Kennel Club to intervene for us, that he agreed to look at the puppies. We were only five minutes away from the showground, and they had already been passed by Laura Dunn on the same day. He was not happy with the colour, particularly Count Regent, and wanted to see the puppies again in six months time. Well, as he had already said to me on a previous occasion, what would I know with my two dogs in my little back garden... It would have been impossible to keep all the puppies for the time he suggested, so we then went on a four hundred mile trip to Middleton Co. Cork to have them passed.

At this time, with the interest growing in England and puppies already crossed the pond, some had to be brought back to Ireland to be passed. My opinion only not only did this put extra expense, but I also think you needed to be in the right place at the right time. I rest my case.



Meudon Copper Knight



Meudon Colleen

Meudon Copper Lass went for working and proved to be a very good rough shooting dog. When we had our first Championship Show, she was shown by Trudy Walsh and won Dog/Bitch Class. Well, Tom was such a proud man, that he put the Rosette on his front door. That is what makes everything worth while.



Tom O. Donoghue with Meudon Copper Lass at the first Championship Show at the Irish Kennel Club in 1983

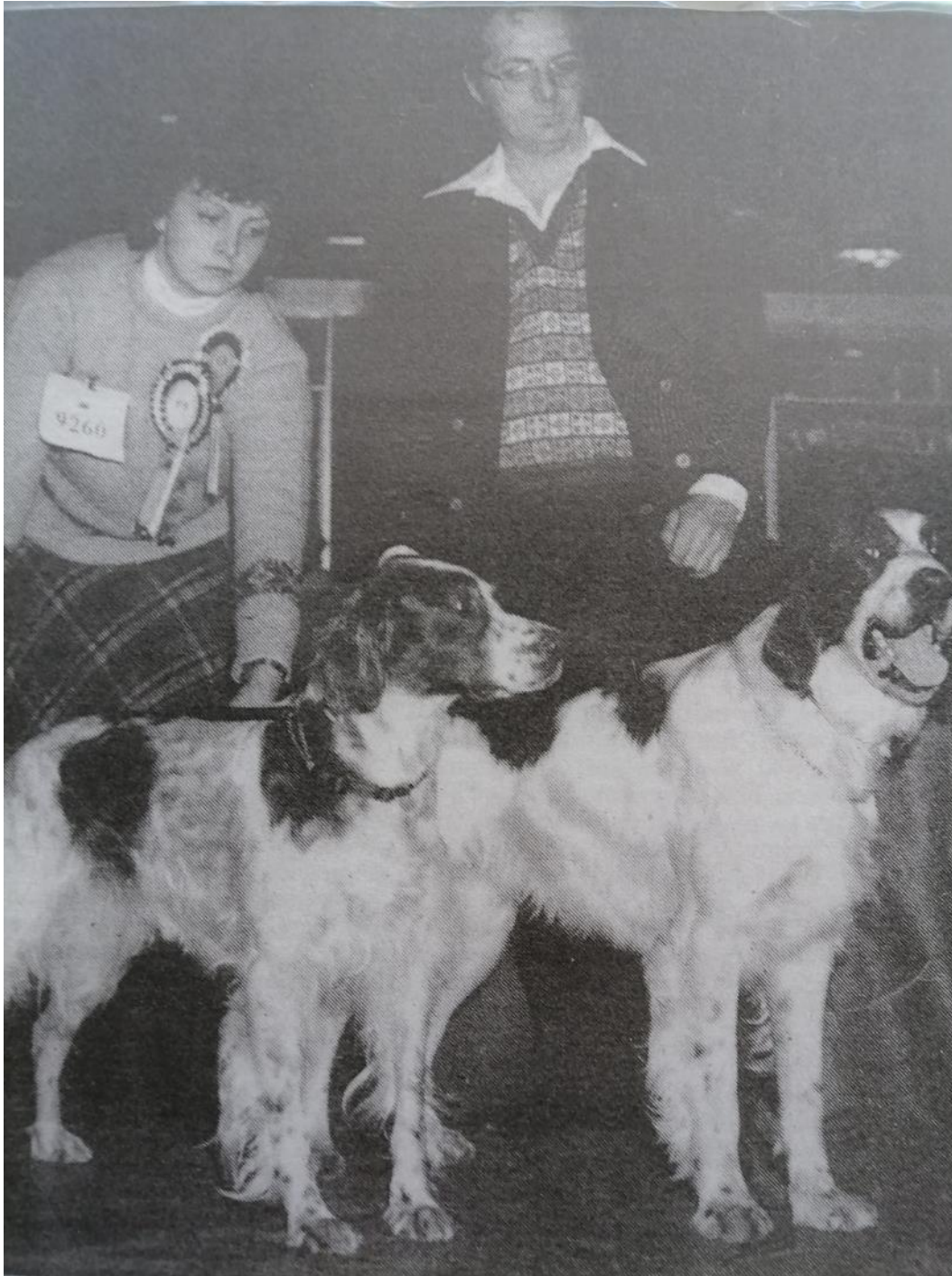
Trudy Walsh

I handled him that day. He was a really nice dog.

Ann Gormley

I remember it so well, Trudy, and Tom was so delighted he put the Rosette on his front door. He was purely a working dog and we had asked him to come, as it was the time we got Green Stars reinstated at the St. Patrick's Day Show, and we had a bigger entry of IRWS than Irish Reds. We also ended up with about 50 people in our house after the show.

That was the time of the big snow in Ireland, when everything was locked down. We had people in our house, who were unable to get home. Suddenly we heard barking outside and all our dogs had got out, because the snow had drifted against the wall and although we had kennels, they were never locked. Well, Sherriff (Meudon Count Regent) was missing for over a week! We went everywhere looking for him, morning, noon and night... We then got a call from Mr. Helly Hutchinson (the Chairman of the Bank of Ireland who lived on the Eastbury, where we used to run our dogs) to say a red and white dog was on his estate and would we go and see him. Well, yes it was Sheriff, but he would not come to us. So, Alan went home and got Blaze, who went right up to him and brought him home. Relief, yes.



Gay Princess with Stephanie and Count Regent with Lou, lovely memories



Stephanie with Meudon Gay Princess

Stephanie Hurren Baron

My own Show Champion Meudon Gay Princess by Harlequin of Knockalla ex Heidi Of Meudon, born April 1980 and bred by Alan and Ann Gormley to whom I will be eternally grateful.

She enjoyed showing but hated travelling and used to stand all the way there (no matter the distance) and all the way home. I can remember the day we picked her up from Manchester Airport together with her litter brother Meudon Prince Charming. We had two very soggy puppies in a crate delivered by Alan. Should have known then.

She won numerous awards competing in Any Variety classes in those early days. As the breed gained their own classes at Open Shows and later at Championship Shows, she won at those too. At Crufts in 1983 she was awarded Best AVNSC by judge Mr. Reg Gadsden, emulating the success of her litter brother Meudon Count Regent in 1982. By the time the breed gained Champion status and the allocation of Challenge Certificates she was already 8 years old.

She achieved a number of firsts in the breed, Best Veteran in the breed classes at Crufts 1988 under judge Ms. Joyce Webb (Shannonlee). She won the Bitch Challenge Certificate at the Breed Club of GB's first Championship Show in 1989 under judge Mr. Jim McKenna. The Irish Red and White Setter Field and Show Society (Eire) held their first Championship Show in conjunction with the IKC show, where she won the first Green Star Bitch under judge Mr. Roy Harrison (Fiveacres Pointers). She gained her Show Champion title in 1990 aged almost 11 years old, winning 3 CC's and 3 Res CC's.

She died in 1993 aged 13 and I can honestly say I have never connected with a dog before or since like I did with her. I still miss her terribly. Yes, she had her faults like all dogs however she was so very special to me. My companion, my guardian and my best friend. My adorable Emma.



Meudon Gay Princess

Stephanie Hurren Baron

Oh, my gorgeous girl. Just loved her, she had such a sweet nature. It still brings a tear to my eye when I think about losing her and it's 20+ years ago...

Eileen Walker

She was a lovely girl, the 1st IRWS I had set eyes on, she had me hooked.

Ann Gormley

Lovely words Stephanie. Yes, she was special and did her part in the revival of this fabulous breed.



Meudon Lady of Coolfin



Meudon Count Regent with Alan Gormley



Meudon Count Regent with Alan Gormley

Mike O'Dwyer

A great photo and fabulous dog from his conformation to his markings.

Anna Gormley

I think that we are losing the straight top line which should be the opposite to the Irish Red.

Mike O'Dwyer

Regrettably, I think you are correct there, Ann. To me, this seems a consequence of both inadvisable selection for breeding and inappropriate awarding of show placings. Greater all-round familiarity with, and adherence to the breed standard would surely help remedy this tendency.

Anna Gormley

Yes, I think so as well, I also feel that in some cases you have dogs made up before they are matured as well.

A little story, we were judging in New Zealand many moons ago, and Alan was judging IRWS well he withheld on this bitch, we were asked to stay another week for the Spring Fare because there was an Irish Judge. a very respected Kennel Club man. He judged and awarded all excellent, when we asked why, he said well if you give them all excellent, they will ask you back again. I rest my case.

Mike O'Dwyer

Yes, and it isn't difficult to see how such willfully unprincipled decisions can subsequently further affect breeding choices. The phenomenon of "cause and effect" has broad application...

Stephanie Hurren Baron

I judged last week and pleased to see the majority having a level topline which they held on the move.

Anna Gormley

That is lovely to see, it makes it all worthwhile.



Meudon Count Regent in the Group ring in Crufts, 1982

Stephanie Hurren Baron

It was February 1982 and Sheriff would have been 22 months old. He was awarded BEST AVNSC Gundogs and Toys, after competing against GWP's, Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, Affenpinchers and Australian Silky Terriers. An absolutely fantastic memorable day.

Ann Gormley

What a time that was and then he piddled on the flowers in the big ring.

Over the years many people called to see the Red and Whites, not to buy, but just to see this lovely breed. There was one occasion at one of the dog shows, we had as usual a full house, standing room only, when we had a visit from Mr. Fred Nutbeam, an International Judge, who was over in Ireland from Nova Scotia, to Chair 'The Council of Kennel Club Meeting', which took place every few years and called to see the dogs. Well, he ended up sitting on the floor with two of my Pomeranians, of which we always had about four. Yes, dogs have broken many barriers and we have made many friends.

As well as playing our small part in the showing, I would also hope that we helped in some small way in showing that these dogs were also good shooting dogs.

Winnowing Guillemot X Meudon Bonny Bess First Litter

on 28 May, 1981 gave us nine puppies, all lovely marked puppies.

Meudon Merry Belle	went to Mary Knox (Coolfin)
Meudon Polly Perkins	nearly all white bitch, went for working to Lacy and Doyle, Ireland
Meudon Moon Glow	went to England
Meudon Modern Millie	went to England
Meudon Moon Beam	went for working to Italy, Dr. Quintino Toschi, Chairman of the Italian Club of Imola
Meudon Regal Lady	went for working to Ireland to Mr. Charles Haughey, who was An Thoiseach (Prime Minister) at that time
Meudon Prima Donna	went to Paul and Lesley Conway, who later mated her back to Dermot Mooney's Winnowing Guillemot.
Meudon Country Lass	went for working to England
Meudon Winsome Lass	went for working to James Doyle, Ireland

Meudon Prima Donna X Winnowing Guillemot litter became the first litter under the **Bilbro** Prefix, owned by Paul and Lesley Conway in England.



Meudon Prima Donna with Lesley Conway and Winnowing Guillemot (Winnowing Breeze X Moanruad Brendan, born 1978) with Dermot Mooney

Meudon Count Regent X Meudon Winsome Lass

in 1983 produced eight puppies and gave us the lovely bitch **Knockdowney Lovely Lass of Meudon (Kerry)**, winning no less than 6 BOB in 1985.

This was possibly the best litter of lovely marked puppies at that time. Our only regret was that Jimmy was unable to repeat this mating, as The Irish Red and White Setter Club were very much against it. If he did, we would not be allowed to continue in the club. (Their loss.)



Knockdowney Lovely Lass of Meudon with Sharon Gormley



Knockdowney Lovely Lass of Meudon (Kerry) with Sharon Gormley

Sharon Gormley

It's about 37 years ago. Kerry won the 10 pointer Green Star and I think this was the show that Sheriff (Sh Ch Meudon Count Regent) won the other, but it was sent to the wrong dog. Kerry also won the BOB that day and I won Overall Best Junior handler with a massive entry. It was one of those days that you can't forget. This photo was from a newspaper article that was covered.

Winnowing Guillemot X Meudon Bonny Bess Second Litter

on 23rd February 1983 produced nine well marked puppies:

Meudon Judies Boy	went to England
Meudon Brandy Snap	went to England
Meudon Minstrel Boy	went for working to Ireland
Meudon Rambling Rose	heavy marked red, went for working to Ireland
Meudon Sweet Sensation	went for working to Ireland
Meudon Something Special	went for working to Ireland
Meudon Morning Mist	almost all white, went for working to Frank Korr, Ireland
Meudon Delightful Sherry	went to Tommy and Ann Eisgård, Sweden.
Meudon Special Edition	was sent for working to Galaratti, Italy (together with Terry O'Leary's and Dermot Mooney's dogs)



Meudon Judies Boy

Judy and Bill Brooks got two IRWS puppies from us (**Meudon Judies Boy** and **Meudon Brandy Snap**) and on one occasion, when Crufts was still in Earls Court, we were travelling from Dublin to Ferry and Earls Court, and meeting Mary and Jim Knox, I also think Margaret and Bill Boardman were with us. Well, Judy lived near Earls Court and we were all invited to stay in a two bedroom house. Who slept where I have no idea, but we sure did have some fun, and made many memories.

When I first went to Sweden all those years ago to meet up with Tommy and Anna Eisgård because of their interest in our lovely breed, they got from us this lovely bitch. This was one trip that I did on my own without Alan. They were so interested, and it was my pleasure to be able to help in any way that I could.

Tommy also exported a bitch from Mary Knox and we both decided to mate her with Meudon Count Regent, so I went on a couple of occasions with my flash and semen to hopeful do the deed, but with no success.

We then decided to send **Meudon Delightful Sherry** (Winnowing Guillemot X Meudon Bonny Bess) in whelp, I went to visit quite a while later and as she was living in a lovely farmhouse. Tommy took me to see her, and they said that I was the only person she never barked at when I went into the house. Amazing.

I went on a number of occasions to visit, but Tommy was having much the same problem as we had in the early stages - people just were not interested. Such was some of the many the problems we had in the beginning.



Ann Gormley with Meudon Count Regent and Meudon Delightful Sherry



Meudon Delightful Sherry

Tommy and Anne Eisgård's first love was Irish Red Setters and under their Prefix of Red Tails they bred and made up many Champions. It was also interesting that many of the breeders who were interested in the Revival were those who had or also bred Irish Red Setters. We became very good friends with Tommy and I had the pleasure of judging a few times for them at Championship show level.

Tommy was also a great cook and to be invited to his table was a great pleasure indeed. He also gave me six hand crafted horses from large to small, which I believe are very precious in Sweden.

Gameshot of Autumnwood X Knockdowney Lass of Meudon

In 1985 produced 7 puppies:

Meudon Clannad of Rustobber

went for working to Ireland

Meudon Fascination

went for working to Jane Valentine

Meudon Avondale

went for working to Jim Hogan

Meudon Teardrop

stayed at home

Meudon Redwing

very red all over, went for working to Ireland

Meudon Touch of Class

went for working to Ireland

Meudon Copper Beauty

went to Tommy and Anne Eisgård, Sweden



Meudon Teardrop



Meudon Copper Beauty, the first bitch that went to Tommy Eisgård in Sweden



Meudon Royal Heritage and Meudon Avondale, both working and owned by Jim Hogan

Over the years we be became very good friends with Jim Hogan. He loved his dogs and campaigned both of them to wins both in the field and on the bench. But the other love of Jim's life was whiskey. He would go to Scotland and have his whiskey blended, and of course Alan would have to taste the result.

Harlequin of Knockalla X Knockdowney Lovely Lass of Meudon

in 1986 produced four puppies:

Meudon Muscatel of Cataluna

went to England

Meudon Crested Ten

went to Ireland

Meudon Sharannas Choice

stayed home

Meudon Classic

went to Mr. and Mrs. Sisk, Virginia, USA



Meudon Classic

I remember Mr. and Mrs. Sisk came just to see the dogs and not intending to get one, but we had a litter of four puppies and they fell in love. They were on a tour of Ireland and I took the puppy down to Shannon to meet them when they were going home. We were in touch for quite a while but as family and work took over the dog went to Mr. King, who showed him to some success. We were sent a fabulous Virginia Ham for Christmas with a recipe for the biscuits but customs decided that they needed it more than us.

Harlequin of Knockalla X Knockdowney Lovely Lass of Meudon

on 18th February 1987 produced seven puppies:

Meudon Shades of Gold	went to Mrs. A. Dilly, England and was rehomed to Mrs. Mary Knox
Meudon Royal Heritage	went to Jim Hogan, Ireland, for working
Meudon Ginger Snap	went to Joe Kelly, Ireland, for working
Meudon Bright and Breezy	went to Mr. and Mrs. Lucas, England
Meudon Saucy Belle	went to Mrs. P. Bland, England
Meudon Super Trooper	went to Mrs. Freyme, Ireland
Meudon Royal Consort	went to Mrs. Jean Armitage, England



Meudon Count Regent (front left), Harlequin of Knockalla (back), Knockdowney Lovely Lass of Meudon (lying down)

The dogs have come a very long way since the early litters when every pup was precious, regardless of colour.

HARLEQUIN OF KNOCKALLA - OUR STORY WITH BLAZE

With so many of you remembering Harlequin of Knockalla and as he was with out a doubt part of the reason many people fell in love with the breed.

When we were entrusted with this amazing puppy, Alan promised Mrs. Cuddy had he would do everything in his power to put this breed back where it belonged.

So, as well as showing him, we also had him trained to the gun professionally, but for keeping him in tune it was hard to find places to run as Alan worked shifts and times were difficult.

So, Alan always maintained one person for showing and one for field work, so our very dear friend Tommy O' Flaherty was delighted to take this on.

I wrote to Mr. Charles Haughey, who was An Thoiseach (Prime Minister) and had land in Kinsealy, not far from where we lived, and got permission to run Blaze on his land, as there were pheasants there. We also had permission from a farmer near us, Jones, who bred the birds, and they allowed us there as well.

In 1978 we ran Blaze in The Gundog Field and Show Society at Wilkinstown in Co. Meath on October 29th in a qualifier and handled by Tommy O'Flaherty. Our Friend Laura Dunn was there and congratulations all round, the dog did good.

Laura Dunn brought me to my first Field Trial and a few others as well. I would stay over night with her and when I survived her driving down the middle of the road in her Volkswagen Beetle, saying Laura many times – “Laura, there is no white line on this side”, you would survive anything.

In 1979 Blaze was then entered in a Trail on The Wicklow Mountains, Tommy again handling, where he got into the second round. He ran with an Irish Red Setter and they both set on the side of a hill, but a bird flew on the other side. But it was fabulous sight to see both setters quartering and working, each complementing one another.

Having not heard from the Irish Kennel Club about his qualifier, they had no results from the show about Blaze. So, I contacted both A judges, one Judge from Northern Ireland, who was very happy to sign another card, but the other Judge from Cork was not happy, as there had been no bird in his beat. Both agreed that he quartered well and was steady to shot. Although it had been agreed on the day that he got his qualifier.

In 1980 We decided to run him again in another Qualifier, again handled by Tommy, who would take him out working. One of the Judges was the lady who had owned the Irish Red Setter, when they were both disqualified in the trial in the Wicklow Mountains in 1979. It was a lovely day and he was sent out in a very large field of stubble, lovely to see, when up in front of him a bloody big hare. Tommy blew him down and he dropped like a stone. He did not qualify because again no birds, but that sure did make our day, it was so special.

In the meantime, Alan was showing Blaze in Any Variety Classes in England and qualified him for Crufts. But he had also qualified in Ireland, as Green Stars were not suspended at that time.

Blaze got 120 Best of Breeds and qualified no less than seven times for Crufts, so much so that we became very good friends with the stewards Mr. and Mrs. Bill Deyner and exchanged cards for many years after.

He was shown for the last time at Crufts by Sharon in 1986, one of the oldest dogs by the youngest handler, judging was stopped and they were given a lap of honour. There was another occasion when we were late because of the tube, and they held up judging for fifteen minutes. Yes, great memories.

Blaze never gained the title of Champion but I do not think that really mattered, he was a Diplomat, a Showman, a Character and every desirable thing wrapped in to one.

We have tried to show you just how Blaze has matured down the years.
Sharon always showed him. She was eleven and he was nine, fabulous memories.

Harlequin's last visit to Crufts:



*Harlequin of Knockalla with Sharon Gormley, Last visit to Crufts 1986
Photo by Louisa Nally*



*Harlequin of Knockalla with Sharon Gormley, Last visit to Crufts 1986
Photo by Louisa Nally*



Harlequin by Louisa Nally

Louisa Nally

It was Harlequin that started my career of specializing in 'The Irish Native Breeds'. Thank you Blaze, Ann an Alan.



Harlequin. A dog for all seasons, with Louisa Grehan (Nally), opening an Art gallery with some of her favorite paintings.



Harlequin of Knockalla with Ann Gormley

Harlequin of Knockalla left a legacy in the pups that he sired:

Meudon Count Regent	1982 Crufts Best Rare Breed
Harlequin of Knockalla	Reserve Best Rare Breed
Meudon Gay Princess	1983 Crufts Best Rare Breed
Meudon Count Regent	Reserve Best Rare Breed
Meudon Amber Glow	1984 Crufts Best Rare Breed, also Contest of Champions
Coolfin Commanchie	1985 Crufts Best Rare Breed International Champion

One of the big problems was that when Green Stars were taken away from the breed. We took the decision not to show in Ireland, but we did travel to England to show in Any Variety Not Classed, to keep the breed in the forefront and to qualify for Crufts.

In 1983 we got Green Stars reinstated for the breed.



Left to Right: Meudon Gay Princess, Harlequin of Knockalla and Pride of Erin

Stephanie Hurren Baron

I would guess this was taken at IKC show Dublin in early 80's under judge Roy Harrison. When the IRWS got Green Stars reinstated.

Ann Gormley

About right Stephanie and Meudon Amber Glow went BOB.

Stephanie Hurren Baron

Yes, that's right, Meudon Amber Glow Dog Green Star and BOB and Meudon Gay Princess Bitch Green Star. The Irish Breed Club held their Championship Show in conjunction and a fabulous party for all after judging. A brilliant day and for those of us who had travelled over to Dublin for the show, we were made to feel so welcome.

When Green Stars were reinstated, we had our first Championship Show in conjunction with the Irish Kennel Club Show at the RDS on St. Patrick's Day. Our entry on the day was more than our sister breed, the Irish Red Setter. We had our club stand with trophies and rosettes, but the Irish Kennel Club objected to our rosettes, as we had not asked permission.

The same day Terry Thorn, an international judge, was also judging and had finished early and was trying to get home early. Alan used his influence and got him an early flight. On the way home we brought him to the airport. I am not quite sure just how we all fitted into our car but I do remember Sharon sitting on his lap and yes, he got an early flight. Some time later there arrived from him a large selection of Bic products for the family. (He was also Chairman of the Bic Company.)

Also, to round off a truly fabulous day, a few Irish was had with many friends in our house that evening.



Harlequin of Knockalla with Alan Gormley, Judge Bob Cleland

Val Jarvis

Just found this photo when looking for something else. Joyce must have given it to me.

Stephanie Hurren Baron

Judge was Bob Cleland. It would be National Gundog Dec 1980. This was the first time Irish Red and White Setters had their own classes at a UK Championship show.



Harlequin of Knockalla, Crufts 1982

When Blaze won in 1982, it was a mad dash to the airport to get the dogs in their crates. Well, the hostess was not very helpful and was not going to allow us board, as she said there was no time.

Next the door opened and the skipper, who we both knew well, asked us to take the dogs out of the crates, he would like to see them. Well, the hostess went mad, he turned around and "I am the skipper on this flight and the plane is going no where without me." The Captain of the flight, whom we both new very well, was Angelo Cunningham, a very keen shooting man and very interested in the IRWS.

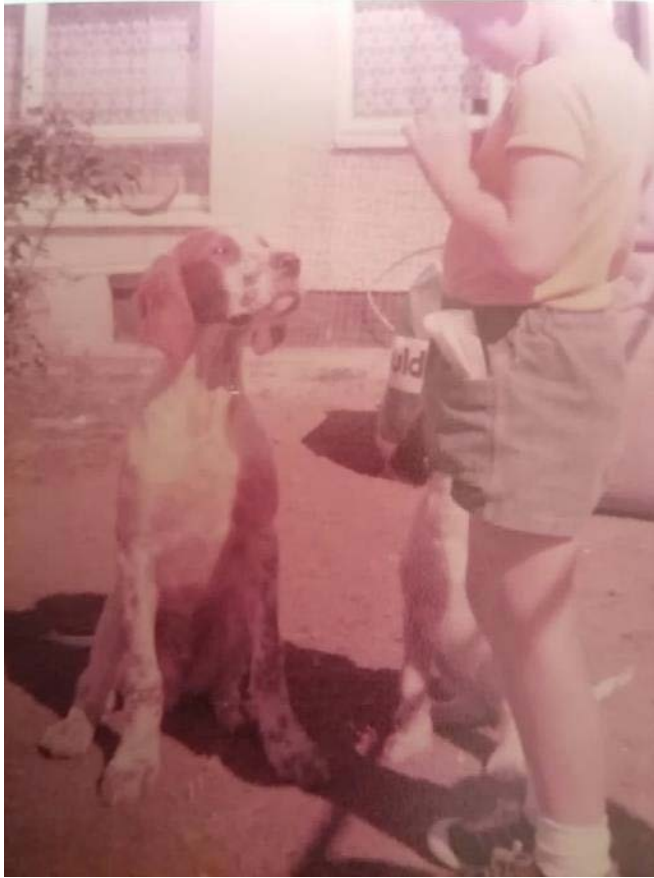
We are both proud and honoured to have had such a wonderful dog, but I do not take away from the wonderful dogs who are working in the fields and the breeders who are now keeping this lovely breed alive. My articles have been on the very early dogs in this revival, and there will be many more to take this breed to where it deserves.

Just thought I would tell you another story. When the Irish Gundog Field and Show Society first put on classes for IRWS, we went to Sean Delmar, a very good friend who worked in the jewellery business and Alan bought for my birthday a lovely cup, in memory of our first Irish Red Meudon boy. **Blaze** won it on four successive times and as such we were allowed to keep it. Well, we then gave it to the Club in England for Best in Show, and his son **Meudon Count Regent** won it.

As the Cup was no longer been used as such, it was then given to the first Championship Show in the Netherlands for Best in the Show.



Harlequin of Knockalla (Blaze) as puppy with our Red setter PK



Blaze as puppy, with Ken Gormley



Blaze as puppy, with Sharon Gormley



Harlequin of Knockalla with Sharon Gormley and Ann Gormley



Harlequin of Knockalla with Alan and Sharon Gormley, Donabate Beach



*Harlequin of Knockalla painting by Louisa Nally, 1984
This painting was donated to Ossie Barton Jr., later inherited by Rebecca Barton*

The dog kennel went down one side of the garden and across the bottom, like "L". The dogs never went down, they mostly stayed at the top, and we only locked them in when we were out.

One day, when Sharon came home from school, she found Blaze at the bottom of the kennel, with his head on his paws and he had gone to sleep... No fuss, not ill, nothing. Well, our very good friend Frank Corr came, and we put Blaze under a lovely tree in his orchard. That night Sharon wrote this poem:

*Like a leaf in autumn he is dead and gone
A picture of health I placed upon
Just no suffering and no pain
A life forever he will reign*

*The memories I hold with glee
His questioning eyes that glazed at me
His love and slightly worried brow
His ears that turned and asked - What now?*

*His muzzle all grey in hue
His clear brown eyes had all dimmed blue
My hands just glided along his coat
To see my loving heart a note*

*My fingers fondle under ears
That touch that tough with sentimental tears
The slope of life there is no end
The misery and the pain I can't risk again*

*With greedy love I hoped I prayed
That God may then deter the Day
A ghost I now see
He is just a memory*

*And now the King alone he dies
The memories that will never be
For he did live a life of love
And now the leaf has fallen like a dove*



Harlequin of Knockalla, about 13 years old, with Sharon Gormley

Frank Corr was a very good friend and had been for many years. Alan worked shifts, which suited us fine, and I worked fulltime. When we needed him, he was there for us.



Frank Corr

*Also, there is Jim Hogan with **Meudon Avondale** and **Meudon Royal Heritage**, all working, with Charlie Cullen with the English Setters.*



Frank was a typical rough shooting man, he had **Meudon Copper Knight** and **Meudon Morning Mist** from us.

Sadly, Frank passed away July 29, 2021.
RIP Frank, I hope that your dogs are waiting for you...

As I have said before, we took the decision to show, because we felt we needed other interested people to be part of this IRWS revival. Although the majority of our pups went for working, our decision had not been an easy one.

This did not go down well with some people within the Irish Red and White Setter Club. But within a very short time those who were breeding for working also exported abroad.

The kennels that continued to work their dogs are as follows:

Sheebin	Cannon Doherty
Dearg Ban	Terry O' Leary
Winnowing	Dermot Mooney
Lougherne	Vincent Brennan
Sugarloaf	Brian McDiarmada
Ludford	Sean Walsh
Craigrua	Jim Sheridan

From these small kennels of Irish Red and White Setters, the interest in the working ability of our lovely dogs began.

Among the top kennels was **Jim Sheridan** of the Craigrua Kennels, who has done for the working Irish Red and White Setters what John Nash did for the Irish Reds.

With the Interest now growing in the breed, here are some of the Kennels who imported dogs from Ireland in the early 1980s:

Shannonlee	Maurice and Joyce Webb
Coolfin	Mary and Jim Knox
Autumnwood	Pat and Harry Brigden
Elaphill	Pauline and Elaine Perriam
Charnborough	Mary Sherratt
Wroxham	Eileen Walker
Vanders	Jackie Howatson
Glenessa	Muriel Isles
Castlefenny	Elly White
Anjuli	Carol Pipe
Clehurst	Pete and Lyn Goddard
Copatain	Margaret Boardman
Torrweaving	Susan and Rob Patterson
Hyndcroft	Rod and Stephanie Barron

... and from the working kennels:

Rushfield	John Kerr
Rodoghvit	Phyllis Ralston
Bawnrhu	Isobel Somerfield

DOGS THAT HAVE MADE AN IMPACT ON THE BREED



Harlequin of Knockalla (Glenkeen Sandy X Gaye of Knockalla, born 1977)

Meudon Gay Princess (Harlequin of Knockalla X Heidi of Meudon, born 1980)

Meudon Amber Glow (Harlequin of Knockalla X Heidi of Meudon, born 1979)

Pride of Erin (Harlequin of Knockalla X Rushfield Whin, born 1981)

Mike O'Dwyer

To see images of so many of these seminally important dogs is fabulous. Thank you so much, Ann. The collective service to the breed that you and your beloved Alan have been at the forefront of, has not only been outstanding in its tenacity and effectiveness, but endlessly inspiring to so many of us at this time and, hopefully, well into the future...

MEUDON AMBER GLOW

(Harlequin of Knockalla X Heidi of Meudon, born 1979)



Joyce Webb with Meudon Amber Glow (Murphy)

Stephanie Hurren Baron

Meudon Amber Glow 2CC's Res CC's and he won the first dog Green Star at the Irish Red and White Field and Show Societies first Championship Show held in conjunction with the IKC Show.



Meudon Amber Glow with Maurice Webb



Meudon Amber Glow (Murphy) with Joyce Webb

MEIKLERED HI-WAYMAN

(Winnowing Gannet X Brisket of Ardnagashel, born 1980)



Meiklered Hi-Wayman with Rod Baron

Mary Sherratt

Hi-Wayman was such a strong, sturdy dog.

Stephanie Hurren Baron

Rory looks quite young in this photo. He was a character.

Mary Sherratt

Yes, he was young when I used him at stud that's probably when you gave me the photo.

SHANNONLEE FIRE BELLE

(Harlequin of Knockalla X Boreen of Ardnagashel, born 1980)



Shannonlee Fire Belle

Mary Sherratt

This was the bitch that Joyce Webb always said produced the best IRWS for Shannonlee by Meudon Amber Glow.

SHANNONLEE FIRE FLASH

(Harlequin of Knockalla X Boreen of Ardnagashel, born 1980)



Shannonlee Fire Flash

FIRE MISS OF SHANNONLEE AT CHARNBOROUGH
(Meudon Amber Glow X Beulah of Ardnagashel, born 1980)



Fire Miss of Shannonlee at Charnborough

Mary Sherratt

My sweet Smartie, my Mum named her after the spots on her coat. Not sure if she would have made a bird dog, she liked nothing better than catching little birds and eating them, beak first and feet last usually hanging out of her mouth.

Mary Sherratt has been a stalwart of the club since it's formation She is now the President of The Irish Red and White Setter Club of GB. She has had many successes under the Charnborough Prefix and continues to both show and trial her dogs.

MEUDON COUNT REGENT

(Harlequin of Knockalla X Heidi of Meudon, born 1980)



Left to right: BIS Meudon Count Regent with Alan Gormley, RBIS Brian Greaves' Shannonlee Nightingale, BPIS Alison Burton's Coppermoor Mavourneen.

First ever IRWS Championship of GB Show, 3rd March, 1985. Judge Mr. Ray Furness

Mrs. Ray Furness of the famous Rycroft Kennels was not only the judge but was President of our Club, always giving us good advice when necessary.



Left to Right: Meudon Count Regent with Alan Gormley, Meudon Bonny Bess (Harlequin of Knockalla X Heidi of Meudon, born 1979) with Ken Gormley, Harlequin of Knockalla (Glenkeen Sandy X Gaye of Knockalla, born 1977) with Sharon Gormley, Rodney Trenwith with Knockanne Sherry ((Winnowing Grouse X Judy, born 1981) (Photo Taken by Trudy Walsh at Dundalk and District - about 84/85, Judge Trudy Walsh)



Litter brother and sister – both Crufts Winners

Right: Sh Ch Meudon Count Regent (Sherriff) – Crufts Winner in 1982

Left: Sh Ch Meudon Gay Princess (Emma) with Stephanie Hurren Baron – Crufts Winner in 1983

MOUNT EAGLE BELLE
(Winnowing Grouse X Judy, born 1981)



Mount Eagle Belle, owned by the Canon Doherty, with Sharon Gormley



Mount Eagle Belle with Trudy Walsh

MEUDON MERRY BELLE

(Belle (Winnowing Guillemot X Meudon Bonny Bess, born 1981)



Meudon Merry Belle

Mary Sherratt

Foundation bitch for some cracking stock.

Stephanie Hurren Baron

Meudon Merry Belle was the dam of SH Ch Coolfin Emerald Princess (1985) and from a repeat mating in 1986 Ch Coolfin Border Brocade.



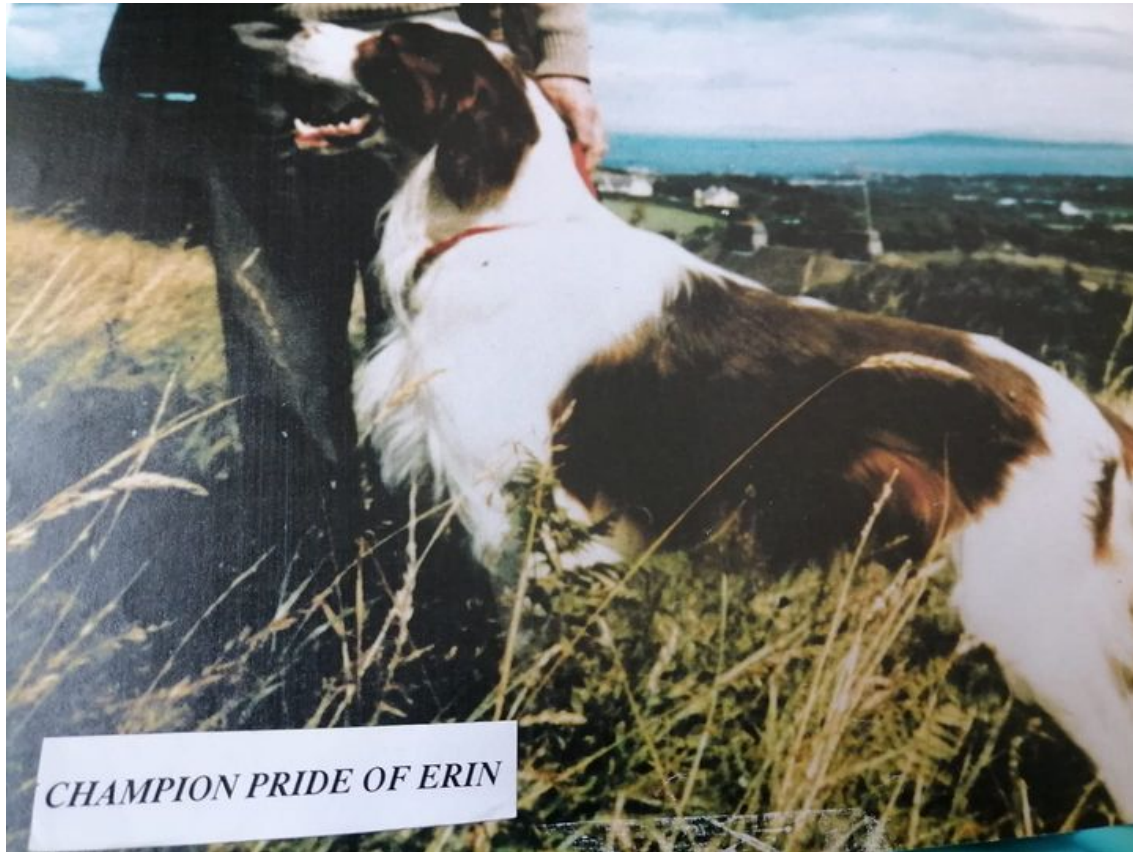
Meudon Merry Belle

Mary Sherratt

She produced some of the best type we had. Ann, it's lovely to see all these old dogs they bring back so many memories. We are privileged to have seen many of them and actually gone over them.

PRIDE OF ERIN

(Harlequin of Knockalla X Rushfield Whin, born 1981)



Ch Pride of Erin with Vincent Brennan

Vincent Brennan's main interest in IRWS has been from the working side and exporting many dogs to England and further afield. He never got the credit in the show ring that he deserved.

When he came to us, he had just got the lovely bitch Rushfield Whin from John Kerr, she was not registered at that time, but we mated her to Harlequin of Knockalla and the result was the lovely litter including **Pride of Erin**. In due time all dogs were registered and gave the IRWS another line. Some of Vincent's dogs are behind the early dogs in England and also played their part in helping this breed succeed.

CHAMPION KNOCKANNE SHERRY
(Winnowing Grouse X Judy, born 1981)



Ch KNOCKANNE SHERRY owned by T O'Leary (Dearg Ban) became the first White Setter to win an award at an all age stake for over 60 years. She also won 1st place in Cork Field Trial Association Open Stake in 1985.

COOLFIN COMMANCHIE

(Meiklered Hi-Wayman X Meudon Lady of Coolfin, born 1982)

Coolfin Commanchie was the first International Champion in the breed, having gained his show points and ran his qualifier in both Ireland and England.



Mary Knox with her International Champion Coolfin Commanchie, a fabulous Irish Red and White Setter true to type

Mike O'Dwyer

Indeed, Int. Ch. Coolfin Commanchie was a smashing dog, as every photo I've seen and descriptions heard and read attest. Another one I would have loved to meet.

Grace Ward Carrick

A super dog, strong and a great mover.

John O'Donnell

Great picture, beautiful dog.



International Champion Coolfin Commachie with Mary Knox

Stephanie Hurren Baron

Always loved this boy.

Grace Ward Carrick

Sire of my boy Coolfin Castlefinn, Commachie was one of the best moving dogs, with powerful driving rear action, a dog of great substance, one of my favourites in the breed.

Mike O'Dwyer

Everything I have heard and read of Coolfin Commachie, and every photo I've seen of him, would absolutely support that evaluation and well-deserved praise, Grace.

Louise Allman

I used to walk Mary's dogs and he was beautiful in every way.

MEUDON AVONDALE

(Gameshot Of Autumnwood X Knockdomney Lovely Lass Of Meudon, born 1985)



Meudon Avondale and Meudon Morning Mist (Winnowing Guillemot X Meudon Bonny Bess, born 1983), both working dogs owned by Jim Hogan, when he lived at Malahide Castle



Meudon Avondale with Sharon Gormley and Meudon Royal Heritage (Harlequin of Knockalla with Knockdomney Lovely Lass of Meudon, born 1987) with Jim Hogan, both winners in both field and show

Jim Hogan's mom and dad worked for the family and when they retired, they lived in a lovely house we would visit often. The Castle had been gifted by the Crown to the Talbot family in 1185 and the last remaining sister sold it to the State in 1975, hence what it is today.

SH CH SHANNONEE LITTLE GREBE (LUCY)
(Meudon Amber Glow X Rushfield Race, born 1985)



Sh Ch Shannonlee Little Grebe (Lucy)

Eileen Walker

The lovely Lucy, such a beautiful mover and so pretty too.

Mary Sherratt

The very young Joyce Webb and Jackie Howatson.

Val Jarvis

One of the best moving dogs I've seen.



Mary Sherratt, Cindy Stokes and Stephanie Baron

Gail Harrison

Val Foss judging. That's Suzanne on the right with Flambe and Jackie with Lucy on the left. She is definitely in my pedigree, though quite far back now.

Val Jarvis

If we had to nominate our favourite dog, Shannonlee Little Grebe would be mine. I remember her floating round the ring a joy to watch.

SH CH FIRECREST KERRY

(Shannonlee Stonechat X Shannonlee Wagtail, born 1986)



Sh Ch Firecrest Kerry with Margaret Pitman (photo provided by Suzanne Humphries)



Sh Ch Firecrest Kerry with Margaret Pitman (photo provided by Gail Harrison)

MEUDON CLASSIC

(Harlequin of Knockalla X Knockdomney Lovely Lass of Meudon, born 1986)



Meudon Classic, owned by Beverly and Dennis Sisk from Virginia.

Interesting to note that in 1990 the following states had litters of IRWS registered:
Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Michigan, New York, South Carolina, Virginia.

SH CH SHEEBHIN ARD NA COILLE
(Chief Ranger X Mount Eagle Belle, born 1986)



Sh Ch Sheebhin Ard Na Coille with Maureen Daly

Grace Ward Carrick

Here is Sam, taken at the Canons.

CH COOLFIN BORDER BROCADE

(Coolfin Commachie X Meudon Merry Belle, born 1986)

This is one of the best bitches that it has been my pleasure to judge. I cannot remember which show, but what I do remember was this fabulous bitch, everything to like. She reminded me in on type of Meudon Bonny Bess, my idea of what the bitches should be like. I think I gave her Best of Breed.



Ch Coolfin Border Brocade

Mary Sherratt

A full champion who was able to prove herself in the field as well. One of only 4.

Grace Ward Carrick

Great bitch.



Stephanie Hurren Baron

Ch Coolfin Border Brocade was the first full UK Irish Red & White Setter bitch champion. Bred by Mary Knox and owned by Rob & Susan Paterson.

Mary Sherratt

Her name was Connie and my Connie today goes back to those beautiful lines. Susan often comments on it.

CLADAMAR TAKE MY BREATH AWAY
(Glenkeen Shane X Whisper of Lennoxbank, born 1986)



Cladamar Take My Breat Away on point, owner Isobel Somerfield

CARRIGKERRY OF AUTUMNWOOD
(Meudon Blaze X Tureenablaha, born 1987)



SHOW CHAMPION CARRIGKERRY OF AUTUMNWOOD

Sh Ch Carrigerry Of Autumnwood, handled by Suzy Roffey

SPEARPOING SAMBOOKA FLAMBE

(Shannonlee Majestic Flame at Copperdale X Shannonlee Lark of Spearpoint, born 1987)

You know that feeling when you are judging and a dog come in to the ring and you say to yourself - I sure hope everything else is as good. And yes, it was.



Sh Ch Spearpoint Sambooka Flambe

Suzanne Humphries

My beautiful handsome big boy X. Always gave his best for me in whatever he did, and wherever he was. Wonderful temperament, which he passed onto his offspring. His coat was amazing, and I loved to bath and groom him, he liked it too. He was a strong dog, never pulled on the lead and always looked after me. We had a wonderful relationship with each other, certainly my best friend, and my introduction to the breed. I felt so very proud to own and love such a charming loving dog.

Sharon Gormley

Many years ago, I have seen a picture of this dog and I remember saying to my mum - why and when did that lady have our Blaze? (Harlequin of Knockalla). I also remember thinking, what a super picture it was of him. Even today, I still see so much Blaze in him and still admire him. I think he was his grandfather? But I can tell you that I did stalk this dog from afar, as I thought he was just stunning.

CLEHURST BILLY BUDD

(Meudon Count Regent X Miss Kaleigh of Clehurst, born 1988)



Sh Ch Clehurst Billy Budd

Lynn Goddard

Ann flew Meudon Count Regent over to mate our foundation bitch miss Kayleigh of Clehurst. This resulted in 9 puppies, one of which was our wonderful boy, Clehurst Billy Budd.

GLENNESSA BISHOP BLAIZE

(Sheebhin Bairre X Sheebhin Siog, born 1988)



Sh Ch Glennessa Bishop Blaize), owned by Muriel Illes

SH CH COOLFIN CIARA AT EXEDON

(Coolfin Commachie X Meudon Touch of Class at Coolfin, born 1988)

I loved this bitch, a super mover that just flowed around the ring.



Mary Sherratt

Exedon owners Dave & June Nash. She was a Sh Ch. I keep in touch with them, they are still on the Setter & Pointer Committee and always help out at our shows.

Val Jarvis

I owned her in partnership with Brian Nash as youngster. She missed her junior warrant twice both by 1 point when they changed the system. She went into Dave and June's name to add their affix and was never transferred back.



Gail Harrison

Coolfin Ciara on the right, with Dave Nash. Glen O'Shea Paper Lace on the left with Brian Greaves.

CRYSTALBLAZE FIREDANCER

(Meudon Royal Consort of Crystalblaze X Casbrook Lady Guinevere Of Crystalblaze, born 1988)



Copper is Grandson of Harlequin of Knockalla and first IRWS in Germany.

SPEARPOINT RITZ SPRITZA OF SUREAYNE

(Shannonlee Majestic Flame at Copperdale X Shannonlee Lark of Spearpoint, born 1989)



Spearpoint Ritz Spritza of Sureayne (Shannonlee Majestic Flame at Copperdale X Shannonlee Lark of Spearpoint, born 1989), with Alison Bennett

Alison Bennett

Our lovely Rafferty.

ARDBRACCAN BRAN

(Snow King of Tormore X Adrbraccan Starlight Love, born 1991)



Ardbaccan Bran

ARDBRACCAN BLAISE

(Snow King of Tormore X Ardbaccan Starlight Love, born 1991)



*Sh Ch Ardbaccan Blaise (Snow King of Tormore X Ardbaccan Starlight Love, born 1991)
with Jimmy Nolan*

SH CH BELLAVANTI BEACHCOMBER
(Pridewood Pioneer X Glennessa Madrigal, born 1993)

I gave this dog Best of Breed when I judged Crufts 1998. A stunning dog of the type that I like and I think it was his litter sister that I gave the bitch ticket to. I remember he was pulled out in the group, because we stayed to watch and missed getting home.



*Sh Ch Bellavanti Beachcomber with Jenny Wilsher
Ann Gormley, Judge Alicia Coupe (Timadon Gordon Setters) and Steward Chris Bexton*

When we Had our very first Championship Show in Swords, Alicia Coupe was one of the judges. She was also very helpful in getting the breed recognised in England

SH CH SPYEFIRE ABLE SEAMAN TO WROXHAM (TOBY)
(Spearpoint Sambooka Flame X Glennessa My Ameme to Spyefire, born 1993)



Sh Ch Spyefire Able Seaman to Wroxham with Eileen Walker

Suzanne Humphries

Beautiful boy, we remember being so thrilled to watch and see him show off in the ring, a champion in the making from a puppy that was for sure. You and Jackie Howatson came along, and chose him together from the litter. Photos can be changed now, but we knew how they were in life, simply the best!

Mary Sherratt

Fabulous dog, my choice when the KC asked me to select for the Gazette.

Grace Ward Carrick

One of my favourite dogs, was a lovely boy!

Eileen Walker

You gave him BIS at the IRWS Club of GB, I still have the lovely box hand painted by you donated for BIS, happy days, fabulous memories.

Grace Ward Carrick

Yes, it was a fabulous show Eileen, big entry too, it was honour to judge some really super dogs. Just a pity I had to rush off to get my plane. Entertaining night before too! happy days.



Sh Ch Spyefire Able Seaman to Wroxham with Eileen Walker



Toby at 9 months with Eileen Walker (photo from Eileen Walker)



Sh Ch Spyefire Able Seaman to Wroxham with Eileen Walker

Eileen Walker

Better picture of him, taken the day I retired him.



*Sh Ch Spyefire Able Seaman to Wroxham with Eileen Walker in the middle
Judges Martyn Ford (of the famous Cuboglach Irish Water Spaniels) and Elly White
Left – Jane Valentine, Right – Karen Lockwood*

Karen Lockwood

This was the final line up for the challenge that year.

SPYEFIRE MISTER CHRISTIAN

(Spearpoint Sambooka Flambe X Glennessa My Ameme to Spyefire, born 1993)



Spyefire Mister Christian (Fletcher), with John, Breeder Susan Humphries

ARDBRACCAN DAILTIN DILIS

(Cillairne Lad X Ardraccon Starlight Love, born 1993)



Ch Ardraccon Dailtin Dilis

Trudy Walsh

This was a totally natural shot. We had just entered a large field when Dilis picked up a scent. I took the photo and she then went on to put up a beautiful pheasant.

Judy Taylor

A work of natural art.

EARLY DOG SHOWS

FIRST IRWS CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW / IKC SHOW, 1983, Judge Roy Harrison



Best Bitch Meudon Copper Lass with Trudy Walsh, Alan Gormley and Steward Michael Kennedy



BOB Meudon Amber Glow with Maurice Webb



Alan Gormley, Trudy Walsh and Phyllis Ralston



Stephanie Hurren Baron with Meudon Gay Princess, Maurice Webb with Meudon Amber Glow, Judge Roy Harrison

SWORDS DOG SHOW - June 5, 1978



GEORGE + GYPSY.

Ann Hornley
 Dermot Moore
 George
 Sheila of Leuchow
 Winnawing Breeze
 Winnawing Lady

5th June 1978



Bob Cleland with Mrs. Cuddy with George and Gypsy



Sheila Hughes, Agnes Spratt, Bob Cleland and Mrs. Cuddy, with George and Gypsy



George and Heidi of Meudon, and Winnowing Breeze and Winnowing Windy, also Ann Gormley with Dermot Mooney

SWORDS DOG SHOW - 1983, Judge Mrs. Maureen Cuddy



Audrey Kaulback, Terry O'Leary, Jill Stanford, Elaine and Pauleen Perriam, John Squib, Vincent Brennan, Pat Bridgen, Angie Carroll.

Stephanie Hurren Baron

Pauline taking to Rod Trenwith.

Anna Gormley

It is Pauline talking to John Squid he was showing Hickory of Knockalla for Terry O'Leary.



Dr. Roach with Knight of Desmond, Mary Knox, Jill Sanford, Stephanie Hurren Baron with Hi-Wayman, Sean Walsh, Maureen Daly and Les Conway



Jimmy Doyle, Lesley Conway, Sean Walsh, Pat Bridgen. Angie Carroll, Dr. Roach, Fr. Griffin



Audrey Kaulback, Jill Sanford, Sean Walsh, Eileen Roberts, Pauline Perriam, Pat Bridgen, Angie Carroll, Terry O'Leary

Both Alan and I were involved in running the show we were unable to show our dogs.

Wendy Walsh was commissioned by a Post to paint the set of Irish postage stamps.

The Irish Red and White Setter was Meudon Count Regent and the Irish Red Setter was Champion Ardbraccan Aristocrat.

The Stamps were unveiled at Swords Dog Show in 1983.





Meudon Count Regent and Trudy Walsh's Champion Ardbraconn Aristocrat



When we were judging in Australia, we had Prize Cards printed with the head of Blaze. We got stamps from our friend Con O'Donoghue, who worked in the Philatelic Bureau of the Post Office, which we put on each card and then stamped them with the franking machine.



Standard for The Irish Red and White Setter by Wendy Walsh

The Native Dogs of Ireland was a book on the standards of all Irish Breeds, issued by The Irish Kennel Club in 1984.

The Illustrations were done by the very talented **Wendy Walsh** and for the standard of the Irish Red and White Setter four dogs were used in compiling the standard.

Photo shows Sotair Rua Ban (Camus Eighter, Co. Galway), Irish Red and White Setter.

NATIONAL GUNDOG SHOW - 1984, Judge Maurice Webb



Top Right - Harlequin of Knockalla, Bottom Left - Meudon Prima Donna, Bottom Right - Meudon Count Regent







BIS Meudon Count Regent with Alan Gormley Pictured with Ann Gormley, Laura Dunn and judge Gerry Hickey



Laura Dunn giving BIS Trophy to Alan Gormley at the Irish Gundog Field and Show Society, when Sheriff won Best in Show



Louisa Nally, Ann Gormley with Meudon Count Regent, Mary Knox and Sharon Gormley at the Irish Gundog Field and Show Society, 1985



Louisa Nally, Alan Gormley and Mary Knox at the Irish Gundog Field and Show Society, 1985.

Sharon Gormley

Probably one of the best days of my parents' lives.

CRUFTS - 1998, Judge Ann Gormley

At the end, I think the most rewarding thing is to be asked to judge your breed, Irish Red and White Setters, and this I had the pleasure of doing in many countries. While I have enjoyed each and every one of them, I was very honoured to judge at **Crufts in 1998**, where I had an entry of 160 dogs and bitches.

My best Bitch was **Glenessa Madrigal** and my best Dog and BOB was **Bellavanti Beachcomber**, both owned by Jennie Wilsher.



Jenny Wilshire with Glenessa Madrigal - Best Bitch and reserve BOB

Susan Roffey with Bellavanti Beachcomber - Best Dog, Best of Breed and 4th in the Group

Linda had been unable to travel with us, as the seats were full and Alan and myself had got both jump seats.

She decided to try another flight, so she went from Dublin to London and from London to Birmingham, arriving just as I was doing Best of Breed, just having had to eat white chocolate and Baileys, which she got in Duty Free.



Sh Ch Bellavanti Beachcomber



Sh Ch Glenessa Madrigal



Ann Gormley judging at Crufts 1998

Irish R/W Setters

PD (5): 1 Brown & Goldsmith's Ronjunes Ticket Master of Taniswood; 2 Hayburn's Ronjunes Ticket To Ride to Radclyfehall; 3 Mitchell's Glenfallan Finn McCoull. **JD** (7): 1 Walker's Keirish Handsome Allie; 2 R Ticket To Ride to R; 3 Bennett's Caispern Snow Knight at Sureayne. **PGD** (25): 1 RCC, Bateman's Cormallen Sparkling Light; 2 Payne's Spearpoint Trade Secret at Llanerrisk; 3 Howatson's Taniswood Latest Flame of Vanders. **LD** (11): 1 Elvines' Spyefire Mister Christian; 2 Hill & Elms' Spearpoint Harvey Happy Hour; 3 Cohen's Fieldtop Latest Edition at Shushana. **OD** (11): 1 CC & BOB, Wilsher's Sh Ch Bellavanti Beachcomber; 2 Brown & Goldsmith's Sh Ch Spearpoint Storm Force of Taniswood; 3 Stokes' Innsegall Malery. **FTD** (0). **VD** (4): 1 Iles' Sh Ch Glennessa Bishop Blaize; 2 Greaves' Glenshea Demander; 3 Harrison's Ambolero Precious Gold.

PB (3): 1 Williamson & O'Connor's Caispern Nobelesse; 2 Hill's Ronjunes Ticket Boo; 3 Lyons' Mischievous Meg of Marlban. **JB** (4): 1 Westron's Aurichalcum Ave Maria; 2 Bridgen's Autumnwood Lady Love; 3 Birch's Hitides Mist Over The Sea. **PGB** (18): 1 Barcroft's Chardine Too To Tango; 2 Newman's Taxus Silver Maple; 3 White's Castlefenny Harvestmoon. **LB** (18): 1 RCC, Pipe's Anjuli Poetry In Motion; 2 Knox's Coolfin Konchesssa; 3 Howatson's Taniswood Ruby Sunrise over Vanders. **OB** (11): 1 Humphries' Sh Ch Spyefire Pandoras Box; 2 Sherratt's Sh Ch Fieldtop Fait Accomplie at Charnborough; 3 Webb's Sh Ch Innsegall Betony. **FTB** (0). **VB** (7): 1 CC, Wilsher's Sh Ch Glennessa Madrigal; 2 Bridgen's Sh Ch Carrigerry of Autumnwood; 3 Nash's Sh Ch Coolfin Ciara of Exedon. Judge, Mrs A Gormley.

1998 Crufts Results

Judging at Crufts - from Dublin to Birmingham.

I think there is no bigger honour you can be given but to judge your Breed at Crufts.

But as it has been said many times, do not travel with Ann!

Gundog Day was on the last day, a lovely day to be there, because you see all the group judging and Best in Show. We were to leave on Saturday morning from Dublin Airport, but as we arrived, Alan was told a lightening strike of Air Traffic Control would take place at one o'clock, which would mean no flights after one, the time we were due to fly out at. We already got the two jump seats, as all seats were full, so a very nervous wait until we took off. Well, after being wined and dined and having a fabulous entry of 160 dogs, we decided to stay on to see the group judging, when the IRWS was pulled out in the Group.

The strike was still in place, so we then had to get a train to Holyhead and a ferry to Dublin. After a very exciting weekend we arrived home tired but feeling very accomplished.



Bill Denyer and Yevonne Davis and Alan Gormley on Harlequin's last time at Crufts.

Bill and his wife always stewarded in the same ring at Crufts every year.

There was one occasion when we were late and Bill knew we were on the way and he held up judging for fifteen minutes, possibly never done before or since.

Over the years we became very good friends and continued exchanging cards until Bill died. More fabulous memories.

IRWS CLUB of GREAT BRITAIN 10th ANNIVERSARY SHOW





NAMES OF DOGS/PEOPLE ON PHOTO ABOVE, IF KNOWN



Left to right: Majestic Flame Holly Blue, Coolfin Ciara of Exedon, Coolfin Emerald Princess, Spearpoint Shamrock Shamus, Sambooka Flambe, Shannonlee Amber Sheen of Hawklawn, Woodwater Flynn O'Grady, Dogtanian Ruby of Gameshot, Glenessa Madrigal Pat Peacock, not sure Suzy Roffey Dave Nash Mary Knox Eilly White, not sure, Suzanne Humphries, Sandy Williamson, not sure, Brian Gould and Jenny Wilsher

NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS AND ARTICLES

CHAMPION MEUDON BLAZE 1983 ANNUAL CHAMPION

Sire: HARLEQUIN OF KNOCKALLA 1979 CH. Dam: HEIDI OF MEUDON



We are very proud and delighted that "Bran" completed the points for his title by winning the Green Star and Best of Breed on St. Patrick's Day, from a record entry.

Our grateful thanks go to all of the judges who have thought so highly of him, and to his breeders, Mr. & Mrs A. Gormley, and to his Handler, Trudy Walsh. To date Bran has won 15 Best of Breeds at Championship Shows. We look forward to showing our new puppies, in the near future.

Proudly owned and loved by:

CANNON P. DOHERTY & MAUREEN DALY

The Presbytry, Rathmore, Co. Kerry.
Telephone: RATHMORE 26



A. Gormley's Harlequin of Knockalla — carried the flag well at Crufts 1980

MEUDON IRISH RED AND WHITE SETTERS



MEUDON COUNT REGENT

Top winning Red and White Setter in Ireland 1984. Best in Show Irish Gundog Field and Show Society 1984. Best in Show Irish Red and White Club of Great Britain March 1985. Where we had a record entry of 79 Dogs and an entry of 140 for Judge Mrs. Ray Furness (Raycoft).

Puppies later this year by:
Harlequin of Knockalla by
Meudon Delightfull Sherry
Pride of Erine by Meudon Bonny Bess

Proudly Owned and Loved by:

ANN and ALAN GORMLEY

"Meudon" Seatown Rd, Swords, Co. Dublin.
Telephone: 01-401017

Champion Meudon Blaze, Meudon Count Regent and Harlequin of Knockalla.

SHANNONLEE

Not only is Murphy the top winning Red and White Irish Setter, he has also proved his worth as a sire of top show and working stock.

We are extremely proud of his many achievements and take equal delight in the overwhelming success of his progeny.

Our special thanks go to the many friends who have diligently campaigned his stock throughout the year, thus helping to firmly establish the Shannonlee prefix with the Red and Whites.

Murphy's success speaks for itself: 43 times shown, 41 times BOB, his greatest achievement to date being Reserve Best in Show at Setter & Pointer Club Championship Show in 1983. On other occasions he has been awarded Best in Show at Coventry Gundog and Northern Counties Gundog Open Shows and Reserve Best in Show at Gloucester and Merioneth Open Shows. Best Rare Breeds (All Breeds) in 1982 and 1983. To start 1984 he was Best AVNSC Dog (Gundog and Terrier) at Crufts. Our thanks to all those Judges who in the past have thought so highly of Murphy and have gone some way to proving that AVNSC does not necessarily mean AV NOT SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED.

Puppies and young stock usually available.

MAURICE & JOYCE WEBB

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A proud dad and an outstanding sire.

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She is a consistent winner, taking Best of Sex at ALL of her last four Ch Show outings.

Numerous other wins. Grateful thanks to the many Judges who have thought so highly of her.

Proudly owned by
JIM and SANDY



THE DOUBLE AT LKA CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW



OUR DOGS, March 8, 1984



PADDY

CEILIDH

CAFY

Our small kennel consists of:

MEUDON PRIMA DONNA (Cafy), BILBRO GEORGIUS (Paddy), COOLFIN PEARL MISTRESS (Ceilidh) and our new addition GLENO'SHEA JENNY WREN NAF (Jenny)

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1986 BOB - Manchester ch show BOB -
Tay Valley Gundog Assoc (in last six for
BIS) Has best dog - SKC ch show BOB -
Tay Valley Gundog Assoc (res BIS Aug)
BOB - SKC Xmas show

Plus numerous other ch show awards
and BOBs

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Keepers Cottage, Maggot Reservoir
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COOLFIN SETTERS The winning team



COOLFIN COMMACHIE (Ari)

He's done it again!

Top dog in 1983, 85 & 86, now
BIS at the R/WVS Club of GB
show 1987

Thanks to breed specialist Mr A Gormley
Ari would like to say well done to its
offspring, McLennan & Patterson's
Coolfin Border Brocade (Glenelg) best
puppy in show breed club 1987, Baron's
Coolfin Cotton (Sex Cafy), Glenelg's
Coolfin Taffeta (Sex Jasper) and our
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DOG WORLD, March 20, 1987

IRISH RED AND WHITE SETTER CLUB OF GREAT BRITAIN



Best in show at the third open show held by the Irish Red and White Setter Club of GB was Mrs M Knox's Coolfin Commachie. The judge was Mr Alan Gormley of the Meudon affix.



The winner of reserve BIS, Mrs Y Davies' Shannonlee Amber Flame, is congratulated by Mrs Lesley Conway, the secretary, and Mr Rod Baron, show manager.



Best veteran, Mrs J Webb's Meudon Amber Glow.



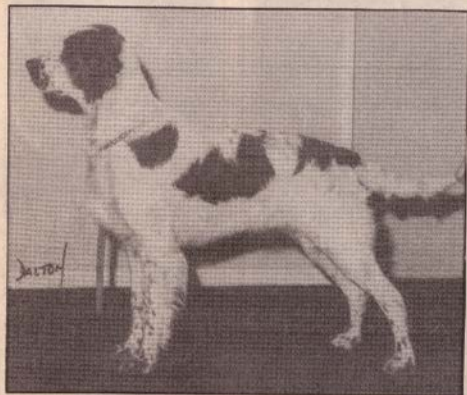
Officers and committee of the IR&WSC of GB.



DOG WORLD, March 20, 1987 - GB Championship Show, Judge Alan Gormley

Left to Right: BIS Sh Ch Coolfin Commachie with Mary Knox, Reserve BIS Shannonlee Amber Flame with Mrs. Davies, Best Veteran – Meudon Amber Glow with Mrs. Webb

NEW TO CC STATUS — THE IRISH RED & WHITE SETTER



The Irish Red and White Setter, Coolfin Commachie.

photo Dalton

Ready to take its rightful place

THE SETTING breeds have been in existence over several centuries, but were preceded by the spaniels where it is believed the setter's origins lie.

Old writers of the Irish Setter describe them as a red and white dog. Rev H Mabon (Galway) the owner of a kennel of Red and Whites maintained this was the original colour. His son stated that the red dogs were occasionally seen about 1835, were rare and it can therefore be concluded that the Red and White was more popular.

There were several strains of Irish Setter existing alongside each other, the Red, White and Red; Red and White and the Shower of Hail. The latter were described by Mr Quinn of Castlebar as 'a handsome strain found on the north-west coast of Ireland, predominantly red with white spots all over the coat as though a shower of hail had fallen and not melted.'

Towards the end of the nineteenth century the Rev Noble Huston was possibly one of a few enthusiasts who believed in the breed and its capabilities in the field. A dog he bred, Bobs of Derryboy, won the All Ireland Challenge Cup in 1926.

Revival

A group of Irish Red and White enthusiasts attempted a revival of the breed in the early 1940s and in 1944 the Irish Red and White Setter Society was formed. Their main objectives were to encourage the working abilities of the breed. It is from this revival that the majority of today's dogs can be traced.

It is thanks mainly to people such as Mrs M. T. Cuddy (Knockalla) and Mr John Nash (Moanraha) that

today's revival has been successful. In 1979 there were four litter sisters imported from Ireland bred by Mrs Audrey Kaulbeck (Ardnagashel). They were Boreen and Beulah to Mrs Joyce Webb (Shannonlee); Bonfire to Mrs Chris Morrison (Sancris) and Brisket to Miss Ruth Fletcher (Melkired).

Later in '79 there were three further imports, two to Ruth Fletcher litter brother and sister bred by Mr Dermot Mooney (Winnowing), Gannet and Goldfinch, and probably the most successful to Joyce Webb bred by Mr and Mrs Alan and Ann Gormley (Meudon), Meudon Amber Glow.

It is worth mentioning there were already a number of Red and Whites in this country, owned by Mr John Kerr (Rushfield). One of the dogs he imported was Finn of the Fairy Host, at the age of ten years, and he was reported to show outstanding ability in the field.

In 1980 Alan and Ann Gormley's Harlequin of Knockall was shown in AVNSC at Crufts under the late Mr L. C. James. In April 1980 the first litter bred in this country by Harlequin ex Boreen, produced Shannonlee FireFlash (D); Firefly (D); Fire Flame (D); Firelight (D); Firegem (B) and Firebelle (B). More imports followed Harlequin's appearance at Crufts, all Meudon by Harlequin ex Heidi of Meudon, namely Mrs. Hunton Girling's Minstrel; Mrs Knox's Lady; Mr and Mrs Ribchester's Prince Charming and Mr and Mrs Baron's Gay Princess.

In early 1980 the first moves were made to form a breed club. About 30 people attended a meeting at the Post House, Leicester. After paying our founder membership a steering committee was elected. The breed club was not, however, officially recognised until 1982.

The breed's first ch show classes were at National Gundog in December 1980. There were two classes and the judge was the late Mr Bob Cleland who owned several in the 1940s. The entry was impressive and a good deal of interest was shown around the ring. Of the 15 dogs entered all were sired by the BOB, Harlequin, with the exception of one which was his litter brother, Hickory of Knockalla owned by Mr Terry O'Leary.

Probably one of the more notable dogs in the early eighties was Meudon Amber Glow with many wins which included best in show at the Irish Red and White Setter Field and Show Society's first championship show in 1983. This show was held in conjunction with the IKC show in Dublin when Green Stars were reinstated. Later the same year he was Best Setter and reserve BIS at Setter and Pointer championship show.

First JW

Our breed club held its first open show in 1985 with a superb entry of 76 dogs making 134 entries. The judge was our present chairman Mrs. Rae Furness and the first best in show went to Meudon Count Regent, owned and bred by Alan and Ann. The breed's first Junior Warrant winners were litter brother and sister Shannonlee Reed Warbler and Nightingale owned by Brian Greaves. The former was to take best in show at second club show.

Three Irish Red and White Setters have been lucky enough to represent the breed in the group at Crufts after winning through from the AVNSC classes. Count Regent in 1982; Gay

© CONTINUED ON PAGE 31



CHARNBOROUGH
Look out for our new babies, in the ring very soon
(ex Charnborough Cheri by Bilbro Georgius)
CHARNBOROUGH HIGH SOCIETY (Molly)
and
CHARNBOROUGH HIGH FLYER (Beano)
LENNOXBANK AFFECTION AT CHARNBOROUGH (Purdy)
What a great start - 1st junior, 1st novice & best puppy Midland Counties ch show; 1st puppy bitch, 1st novice bitch and best puppy Merseyside Gundog ch show; 1st puppy and best puppy Gundog Breeds Assoc ch show, plus 3 best puppy in breed awards at open shows, and still only 8 months!
JOHN & MARY BLACKWELL
Charnborough Cottage, Bradwell,
Stafford ST18 6BZ
Telephone 089326 442

CHARNBOROUGH CONTENDER (Riley)

THE IRISH RED & WHITE SETTER CLUB OF GREAT BRITAIN'S FIRST

IRISH R/W SETTER C OF GB, Mar 12

The Irish Red & White Setter Club of Great Britain held their first ch show at Norton-on-Trent. It was a pleasure and a privilege to judge this lovely breed. My thanks to all concerned for a most enjoyable day.

A super entry of 146 dogs making 226 entries. I found a lot of variation in type, size and colour.

Unusual heads, straight stifles, large open feet and erratic movement — all these faults need to be watched. Having said that, I was pleased with my winners. As always I found the R & W exhibitors a very friendly & sporting crowd.

Best in show was Knox's Sh Ch Coolfin Commanchie; res BIS, and BOS, Baron's Meudon Gay Princess. Goddard's Clehurst Billy Budd was best puppy in show.

Minor puppy B (6): 1 Lawless' Dogtarian Brandon Buzzer, nice type puppy, pleasing head & neck, good body & quarters, ample substance. Needs to settle in movement; 2 Catton & Cook's Ferngate Royal Samuel, nicely developed for age, head, neck & shoulder placement good. Just needs more ring craft training. Has time on his side; 3 Armitage Johnstone's Crystal Blaze Flambeau. **Puppy D (10):** 1 C Billy Budd, a lovely young dog of type & quality, nice colour, good head & expression, well constructed body, sound & well balanced, well handled & presented, should have a bright future. Pleased to award him best puppy in show; 2 D Brandon Buzzer; 3 Downham's Kerock Shamrock. **Jun D (9):** 1 Greaves' Glenoshea Demander, nice young dog with head & eye, desired stop, well bodied up, nice quarters, moved very well. Needs to tighten in feet; 2 Hampshire's Spearpoint Sambrook Flame, sound dog with good body, front & quarters, nice colour, moved very well. Hope he has stopped growing. Close up; 3 C Billy Budd. **Yearling B (8):** 1 Howatson & Bridgewater's Vander Vindication, pleasing head, neck & shoulder, well made body, good depth of brisket, well muscled quarters, sound on the move; 2 S Sambrook's Flame; 3 Mitchell's Lennanbank Ambassador. **Nov D (6):** 1 D Brandon Buzzer; 2 F Royal Samuel; 3 Lyons' Shannonlee Red Polecat. **Grad D (5):** 1 V Vindication; 2 Carrick's Coolfin Castlefin, nice type of dog with most of essentials. Once he gets over his ring shyness could do well. Looked very good on the move, keep trying; 3 Kelly & Waterhouse's Glenoshea Delilah. **Post grad B (18):** 1 Whiting's Coolfin Glenbeigh, very sound young dog, liked his head & good reach of neck, good body, nice ribcage & depth of brisket, well muscled up, moved true, had to be good to win this good class; 2 V Vindication; 3 Catton & Cook's Coolfin Suramoonie. **Lamb D (19):** 1 Baron's Arrowbrook Heatsa, this boy is so sound & well balanced, good head,



The judge, officers and committee of the Irish Red & White Setter Club of Great Britain assemble to congratulate the principal winners at the Club's first championship show. **Best in show** was Mrs M Knox's dog Sh Ch Coolfin Commanchie (left); reserve BIS and BOS, Mr & Mrs R Baron's Meudon Gay Princess (centre); and best puppy was Mrs L. Goddard's Clehurst Billy Budd (right).

nice deep body, good spring of rib. Not big but full of type & quality, lovely mover; 2 Gomez's Coolfin Taaffeta Star of Corbally, close up to 1, super head & reach of neck, good colour, nice body, well sprung ribs, sound quarters, moved very well, a nice one; 3 Carrick's Hyndcroft Heritage. **Open D (10):** 1 Sh Ch C Commanchie, a great dog with all to like about him, have placed him highly in the past & have not changed my opinion, lovely head & expression, good shoulder placement, sound well made body muscular quarter, nice turn of stifle, sound active mover, lovely temperament, delighted to award him CC & BIS; 2 Patrick's Sir Gypsoe Sidney, another new one to me, in lovely coat & condition, good body, reachy neck, shoulder placement good, sound & well made dog with strong quarters, moved with style; 3 Rex CC; 3 Peacock's Sh Ch Shannonlee Majestic Flame at Copperdale. **Veteran D (6):** 1 Webb's Meudon Amber Glow, a grand dog in

every way, lovely head & expression, good body, legs & feet, enjoying his day, sound & true mover; 2 Bridgen's Gameshot of Autumnwood, excellent colour, nice head, neck & body, moved with drive; 3 Baron's Meudon Hi Wayman.

Minor puppy B (9): 1 Davies' Arrowbrook Starlight, well matured bitch of good type, pleasing head, neck & shoulder, body good, nice rib, strong quarters, nice happy mover; 2 Oldfield's Arrowbrook Moonlight, litter sister to 1, so much the same remarks apply. Not so positive in movement as 1. 3 Catton & Cook's Ferngate Wild Poppy. **Puppy B (10):** 1 A Starlight; 2 Marsh's Urrweaving Teagay, good head & neck, legs & feet. Needs to body up. Nice topline, sound & steady on the move; 3 F Wild Poppy. **Jun B (9):** 1 Greaves' Glenoshea Paper Lace, a real eye catcher must surely be to the top, excels in head & neck, shoulders good, nicely moulded body with good angulation,

strong quarters used well in her free driving movement. Litter sister to junior dog winner; 2 Roffey's Autumnwood Sea Jade, very nice young bitch, good colour, pleasing head & neck, good front & quarters, nice body. Unlucky to meet above. Good sound mover, presented & handled very well; 3 T Teagay. **Yearling B (8):** 1 Bridgen's Carrigerry of Autumnwood, pretty bitch with very good head & expression, colour good, nice body, well placed shoulders, nice outline. Needs to tighten in rear movement; 2 White's Coolfin Bonnie Lass of Castlefin, bitch of good type, correct head, body good, nice bone & substance, steady mover; 3 Blackwell's Charnborough High Society. **Nov B (9):** 1 T Teagay; 2 White's Coolfin Glattonia of Castlefin, pleasing head & body. Looks a little long cut, erratic in movement; 3 F Wild Poppy. **Grad B (7):** 1 Blackwell's Lennanbank Affection at Charnborough, very sound & well balanced,

pleasing head, body legs & feet, good nice topline. Movement very good; 2 Westwood's Vanders Verdict, good type, pleasing head & eye, nice body, front legs & feet good, nice turn of stifle, moved very well; 3 Wrobel's Elaphill Endless Love. **Post grad B (11):** 1 Paterson's Coolfin Border Brocade, elegant bitch of type & quality, good head & eye, nice shoulder placement, nice body, ribcage & depth, muscular quarters, moved with style; 2 Jeffery's Llanabwy Strawberry Fields, another nice type, pleasing in all departments, shown in nice hard condition, very sound mover; 3 V Verdict. **Lamb B (21):** 1 Davies' Arrowbrook Breeze, a lovely bitch with nice head & eye, good reach of neck, well made body, best of legs & feet, so sound & happy on the move; 2 Tindall's Shannonlee Hawfinch of Top Drawer, very good type, good bone, sound body, head & expression good, nice colour, moved very well; 3 Howatson's Shannonlee Little Grebe. **Open**

Continued on next page

DOG WORLD, April 14, 1989

Back Row - Left to Right:

Chris Bexton, Pat Bridgen, Rod Barron, Margaret Boardman, ???, Judge J.J. Mc Kenna, Pauline Perriam, Mary Sherratt, Pete Jefferies, Pat Peacock, John Blackwell

Front Row - Left to Right:

Mary Knox with BIS Sh Ch Coolfin Commanchie
Stephanie Baron with Reserve BIS and BOS Meudon Gay Princess
L. Goddard with Best Puppy Clehurst Billy Budd



DOG WORLD, April 14, 1989

Stephanie Hurren Baron

It was a fantastic day for the club and the breed. 1989 with Judge Mr. J. J. McKenna

MEMORIES ON THE MOOR



Jim Hogan, Isobel Somerfield, Alan Rankin, our Judge Paul Conway and Rod Barron



Stephanie Hurren Baron

Left to right: Stephanie Hurren Baron, Mary Sherratt, Kath Rankin and her son Ian.

Mary Sherratt

I think the dog on the right is Jake, Shannonlee Amber Light.



Muriel Isles and Pat Bridgen

Karen Lockwood

It's interesting that so many of the people that introduced the breed to the UK spent some time on the moors early days. Such a shame that the breed didn't take off so well in Field Trials as the other setter breeds. While we still have some interested in that side at least the breed is representing itself in all activities.

Stephanie Hurren Baron

Yes, there were a number of us very interested in seeing our dogs achieve their potential as a working gundog. Alan Rankin took our own Ross (Arrowebrooke Brennan) and trained him. Although he lacked the confidence, he had the ability. Rod went over to Ireland and up to Scotland regularly for shooting. I started to train Cali (Coolfin Cotton Sox litter sister to Susan Paterson's C Border Brocade) who showed that the natural instinct was there. On one training day that was organized Alan had placed trapped birds for our dogs to find. Cali was sent out, quartering the ground beautifully and came on point. It was fantastic to see; I was so proud of her. Later in the day we got the opportunity to run again. I was eager to have another try. She quartered the ground then suddenly something clicked in her brain and she took off in the wrong direction and came to a stop exactly where she found the bird the first time round. Oh dear. When she was still quite young, we had gone up to Shap to watch the trials up there and had taken Cali and Ross. I was holding the dogs as we walked the moor. I felt Cali dip but thought it was just the uneven ground. Maybe 500 yards later realized she was holding something in her mouth expecting it to be sheep poop told her to leave it and out popped a chick. Had to march 500 yards back to put it back, soggy but otherwise unharmed where she had got it from. Sadly, we lost her at a young age so couldn't take training/working any further.

Anna Gormley

Mary Knox was there as well and I am sure Frank Corr and Jim Hogan. If not that one then another one.



Isobel Somerfield (Bawnrhu)

Mary Sherratt

As you know I have always been interested in working as well as the show ring. But as the breed expanded and they were 'seen' in the ring they were bought either as pets or show dogs as with most breeds. We still have the ability to keep one breed and work together so they all look similar. I just don't want to see the same happen to us as happened to the IS. Folks just need to keep an open mind and work together.



*Shannonlee Amber Light (Meudon Amber Glow X Boreen of Ardnagashel)
on the Cromdale Moors, 1983, Owned by Alan and Kath Rankin*

FIRST SHOW OF IRISH RED AND WHITE SETTERS IN AMERICA

NEW YORK, USA - September 1996, Judges Ann & Alan Gormley



Pat Ua Siaghail with Ch Caniscaeli Two Is Bran Dil (Bran) (Meudon Classic X Hawklawn Silver Sixpence, born 1993) – BOS, Ann and Alan Gormley, Lee Robinson with Glennessa Fire on Ice (Morag) (Sheebhin Bairre X Sheebhin Siog, born 1988) - BOB



*Ann Gormley on the far right with Caniscaeli Frederick Austin (Shannonlee Fire Finch X Hawklawn Silver Sixpence, bred by Gail Harrison, owned by Doreen Steinacker)
4th from the right Jill Taylor with Shannonlee Snow Petrel (Tessa) (Ambolero Precious Gold X Shannonlee Ballyderry, born 1991)*

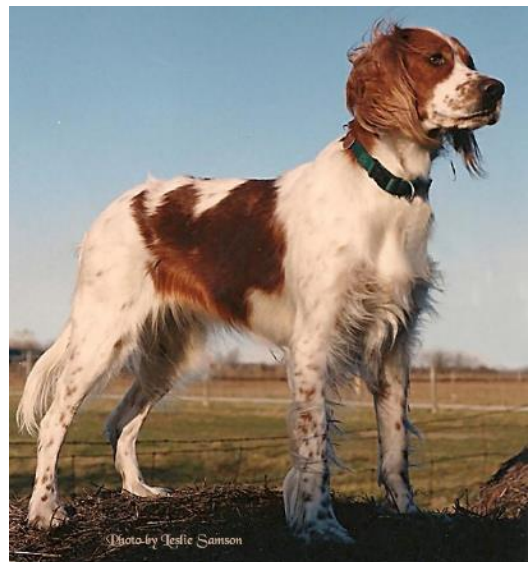
SHANNONLEE SNOWPETREL (TESSA)
(Ambolero Precious Gold X Shannonlee Ballyderry, born 1991)



Jill Taylor with Shannonlee Snow Petrel (Tessa). Lovely type bitch, she was a stunner.

Gail Harrison

Jill brought her to Canada. I had always loved that bitch, so when Jill went to the USA for a work term, she gave me Tessa. I adored her and was devastated when she died at 13. She was the sweetest girl in the whole world, but this was her first show ever, and she hadn't been to handling class or anything. We got her when she was seven, and started taking her out to specialties and she really enjoyed that. I would keep her with me full-time and she loved being there, wagging at everybody and all the other dogs. She was such a joy in every way. I got Tessa from Jill when she was seven. This is a stack I got of Tessa with Jill Taylor that day:



Shannonlee Snow Petrel (Tessa)

A FEW WORDS TO THE BREEDERS, JUDGES AND OWNERS



*Going North: King's Cross Station, London. George Earl (1824-1908)
National Railway Museum*

The above print is an example of where this breed has gone - North, South, East and West, to many people who have fallen in love with this extrovert and stunning dog. Where it came from, we have tried to show you, with the history of those people who were involved in the breed revival. It is now up to you to continue where we have left off.

But how does a breed survive? It survives because it takes certain people to breed to the type and confirmation, which is in the Breed Standard, whether it is for showing or working. Breed Standard is the criteria which is laid down by the club, like a blueprint, so we can all work to the same end. We can all read a Standard differently, but the end result should be the same.

Both Alan and myself were involved in overlooking the Standard of the Irish Red and White Setter and in my opinion, because it stated Red and White with no flecking, it has taken away the softness and expression of the dog. The coat in some cases is bland white, where it should be pearl white and the red in lots of cases is dark red where it should be like a freshly opened chestnut.

It is very important before you judge a breed that you read the Standard and know a little about the breed you are going to judge. We have come a very long way since the time when we were just a filler in breed, on the ladder to further judging. The standard for the IRWS has been changed on a few occasions, but some things remain important when judging - size, confirmation, head, expression, spring of rib, gait and colour.

Colour has always been a problem. I think we lost too many good dogs, because some of the early breeders put emphasis on pure white, sadly in some cases to the detriment of the breed.

Also (in my opinion only), there are many dogs that gain the title of Champion when they are not mature enough. I also think that when a dog wins a lot, they can be used too much at stud, which is not always for the betterment of the breed.

We have another breed of setter, the Irish Red, which has been worked side by side with the Red and White, but they are so different in type. And they should be judged as such.

This breed has fought hard to be where it is today it has overcome many obstacles but it is now up to the breeders of today to keep this breed alive. In the early days of the revival the choice was very limited in the dogs available. Now we have come a very long way but we still need to breed with caution.

The Irish Red and White Setters have proved to be excellent working dogs, but as well as working, it is of the utmost importance to keep this breed to the forefront, that is why showing plays its part in keeping this breed in the public eye.

This breed has now been exported and accepted in many countries. It has proved not only to be a very handsome dog, but a dog for all seasons.

All the information from the early IRWS was the information I collected for our first talk in Germany in Cologne to about 20 hunters in the early 80s (see photos below). I then shared it with any person who was interested in our breed. I also shared in America, New Zealand and Australia and also in England.



Germany - Jürgen Wegner, Ann Gormley, Uschi Meyer and Alan Gormley



Gerd Wolf, Alan Gormley, Jürgen Wegner, ?, Peter Beyersdorf, Walter Pieck, Bettina Smith-Horn with the dog



Alan Gormley

The above is not the end, it is only the beginning and it is now up to those who are lucky to own this breed, to make sure that it will be here for many years to come.

Thanks to all those wonderful people, who have strived over the years, and to all those new members who will now carry the baton, where many of us have left off. As I have said in my introduction, it is not about winning, it is not about showing, it is not about working, it is about the **dog**, and to be part of a breed that was nearly extinct.

*Regardless of whether we have these stunning dogs for **showing, working or loving**, we all need one another to keep this breed alive.*

One thing I would like to remind you is that they are not a Red Setter in a Red and White coat, they are a different breed in many ways and should be judged as such.

Our decision to show our dogs was decided on a number of things. For this breed to survive, it needed publicity and we also needed other people to continue what was started in the 1940's.

When we brought Harlequin to Crufts, the publicity he got was way beyond our wildest dreams. We made many friends on that day, who are still friends now, so we have so much to be thankful for.

Many of the photos are old, but I hope you will have enjoyed them and have a better understanding of this lovely breed. We have also shown you some photos of the same dog and how they developed with age. We have said that the breed needs time to mature and will give many years of pleasure.

This has brought back many memories for me, but sadly our circle is getting smaller, So live for the day and make every second count.

Ann G.

THE LOVE OF THE BREED GOES ON



*Mary Knox with puppies - Meudon Elegance and Meudon Touch of Class
(Gameshot x Knockdowney Lovely Lass of Meudon)*

We gifted both these puppies to **Mary Knox**, as it was getting impossible for us to sell puppies. We were not working them, as we were unable to do both in the showing and in the field. Alan and I agreed that they would help better to promote the breed in England.

As I have said before, Mary and Jim Knox became very good friends with one interest - the love of the breed, and to promote them where and when possible.

In this year alone we have lost some very good friends which we have known for many years, but for me the loss of my very good friend Mary Knox has hit me very hard indeed. Our friendship was always special which held strong with more ups and downs and I could possibly say. Mary possibly knew me better than I knew myself...

Mary and Jim kept the flag flying under the Coolfin Prefix and bred many outstanding dogs, including **Coolfin Commanchie**, who was the first International Champion in the breed. Over the years we have shared love, laughter, sadness when we lost our son Ken and then when Alan left us...

Mary has never wavered from the IRWS type she liked, and continued to breed some excellent puppies. Mary Knox, as well as **John Blackwell**, came to Ireland on a number of occasions, when we were in need of support, when the Irish Club was in the process of being recognised. It was because a number of members wanted the dogs referred to as "White and Red", that we had such a delay in forming our club.

It was my pleasure to return the favour when the English Club applied for affiliation, and over the years many friendships were made. But as we say good by to the dogs that have been

instrumental in the success of a breed that was almost extinct, we now also say good bye to friends whom we have known and lost... I would just like to say - Thank you for the memories!

My own journey with this lovely breed has had many pitfalls, but also very many highlights. We have made many friends, shared sadness and very good times... Looking back at many of the photos, I feel sadness for those who are no longer with us.

My involvement in the breed came to an end when my son Ken was diagnosed with Motor Neurone disease and we had to take a different path in life. Then losing Alan, who has been with me for just over 50 years, and with Sharon has shown and shared in the breed successes.

I now live on Zakynthos, an Island off Greece, with dogs Eire and Mollie, and cats The Lady, Megan and Rambo, all rescues.

Mary Sherratt

It is my opinion that although there were attempts to revive the breed in the 1940's, they were not successful and the IRWS remained in the hands of a very few enthusiasts. It was only when the Gormley's exhibited an IRWS at Crufts in the last 1970's, and so many of us Irish Setter people became involved. The Webbs and the Shannonlee Kennel being the most well-known, it was only then that they became popular and some may say too quickly, and that's what caused the problems in Ireland. It was without any doubt that the Meudon Kennel exhibiting at Crufts that put the breed on the map.

Mary Knox

Doing a great job Ann, sharing all your info and collectable photos of the Breed, from the early days of the current revival of our beautiful Breed.

Grace Ward Carrick

I like many others have enjoyed your information about the various Red and White setter kennels etc., so thank you Ann. History is never absolute, we can only look back at what was recorded in the early days of the breed, however that is not to say other things did not happen, it's just we don't have any written records.

Penny Mitchell

Ann, the photos and the posts you have shared are invaluable to the history of our wonderful dogs. I am delighted with them all.

Michael Lamp

It's very important that we all remember and appreciate the struggles these early breeders went through to bring our breed back. We owe them a huge Thank You for all their hard work and dedication!

Judy Baumgartner

Ann Gormley, you're the expert in my eyes. Thank you for all you have done. I feel if it wasn't for your family, I wouldn't have the beautiful dogs I have.

Harvey Hazen

The results of your hard work and others is truly appreciated. All of us who have this breed now I think would agree that our pleasure of having dogs would be hugely diminished without them and they I'm sure agree. Thank you.

Teresa Wagner

Thank you for your work in bringing back the breed. So many years later people all over the world are thankful for what you and the others accomplished.



Linda, Ann, Alan and Sharon Gormley

Some of you might remember my parents. They've had Red Setters since 1970 and Red and Whites since 1977. They also were Show Manager and Secretary of Swords Dog Show. My first time in the ring I was only 4 years old, so I was only a nipper when I met some of you all too. So, thought while I'm at it, I might post a picture to show you what the Greek life is doing to my parents. This was taken last year (2011), at their 40th Anniversary.

Sharon Gormley

Louisa Nally

I shall never forget them. They introduced me to the Red and White setters, Harlequin, Sheriff and your lovely bitch name escapes me right now...This all led to my first Portrait of a real live Red and White Setter! Thank you, Ann and Alan, for finding the true meaning of my ART. Love and miss you all.

Marion Finney

I with Anne & Alan were part of the organizing team of Swords open show, the first official Club event. What a super turnout it was and a steep learning curve to us all. Remember you all very fondly and think of you every time I pass your old house.

Sharon Gormley

Is this Tim & Marion Finney? I remember you all well. Yes, Swords was one of the best. From what I remember, you were all like one big family. I remember all the months of work that you all put in to make it that way. Great weather, great show ground and a fabulous show...



*Harlequin of Knockalla and Meudon Count Regent. Louisa Nally
(This photo was on the cover of the Shooting Times magazine)*

I feel the articles and photos need to be shared, before they are lost, and those who can add to the breed history should be able to do so.

I want to thank Jana (who's dog Aislingcudo is Seamus Mor made her fall in love with this breed), for putting this all together and also for her friendship. She has helped me collect my memories, which I was posting bit by bit on Facebook before. I added much more to what was originally posted, including some of your comments. I hope we can now share it all with you.



Harlequin of Knockalla. Louisa Nally

Whatever road we have taken with our dogs, it has always been with the best intentions, and that never changes. We have had great times over the years, with very many stories to tell, and making many special friends, but like everything else there is an end. I miss my dogs and I miss Alan so very much. But we must walk the path that we have chosen...

Love,

Ann Gormley

