

Dog World

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At Sotheby's sale of important jewels on Wednesday June 30, a number of diamond-set dog brooches will be auctioned. They include a sapphire and diamond Scottish Terrier brooch, c1930 (estimate £700-900); a ruby and diamond German Shepherd brooch, c1930 (£1,000-1,200) and an enamel, ruby and diamond French Bulldog brooch, c1890 (£1,000-1,200). Details: 0171 293 5000. photo courtesy Sotheby's



At France's principal dog show, Longchamp, BIS was Mrs Grassart's German Shorthaired Pointer, Lord de Champreval — the gold medal was presented by 'Miss World Cup 1998'. With them are Camille Michel (right), president of the French Kennel Club, and Daniel Mouries of Pedigree. Results page 3. photo Class

CHALLENGE TO QUARANTINE LAWS — judgement is reserved

JUDGEMENT has been reserved in the High Court judicial review challenging Britain's anti-rabies rules. The hearing ended on Monday and DOG WORLD understands that a decision may be announced at the end of this week.

The Swedish owner of a cat is claiming that the rules violate European Union law. Matt Geiden, the owner of 16-year-old His Imperial Highness Tigee, alleged that the six-month quarantine rules are unlawful because they unnecessarily restrict free movement within the European Union.

Mr. Geiden and the Quarantine Abolition Fighting Fund (QUAFF) claim that application of the quarantine rules is wholly disproportionate to the legitimate aim of protecting public health by excluding rabies from Britain.

An alternative and equally effective system exists which is less onerous and less restrictive of movement, they believe.

They say that although the Government is committed to replacing quarantine rules by certificated vaccination for European Union countries by

April 2001, the delay is too long and the courts should declare the rules in breach of European law.

Mr Geiden, a mergers consultant who travels on business between Stockholm, Brussels and London, was refused permission in 1997 to bring his former farm cat, Tigee, into Britain without him going into quarantine for six months.

This persuaded Mr Geiden to team up with QUAFF to bring the legal challenge.

Opening the judicial review before Mr Justice Owen last week, Adam Lewis said that Agriculture Minister Nick Brown probably felt 'hard done by' that the judicial review was going ahead, despite the fact that he has stated that the present quarantine rules would be replaced with pet passports from April 2001.

But what the Minister proposed had come too late, Mr Lewis said, because Britain was now in breach of European Union law and had

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The versatile Bearded Collie



Bearded Collies make beautiful show dogs but their working instinct should never be forgotten. Here is Lynn Dumbrell's Sunbree Such Delight, bred by Barbara Iremonger, doing her duty. The breed in its various aspects is featured in this week's DOG WORLD.

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(See also page 48)



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BEARDED COLLIE FEATURE

THOSE WERE THE DAYS

WHEN ASKED to write a piece on characters of the breed, I instantly warmed to the subject. In fact, every time I consider the breed's characters I smile. Over the years of my having Beardedies, since being a small child when I started out, to now, in my comparative dotage (doesn't crumbliness set in when one has crippled oneself over a grooming table for a few years?), I have met and admired many people and dogs and all of those were characters in one way or another. Each and every one, whether or not they made me frown at the time (especially those of the superior and winning canine variety), they seem to have developed the gift, over time, of making me smile now. It is, I suppose, the warmth of recognition and a feeling of the facets they have all added in shaping my personal history of the breed.

Personal standpoint

As soon as one begins to reminisce with others about days gone by one starts to realise that they may remember the same people and dogs but in a different way, which is personal to them. So this article is, I am afraid, written from a personal standpoint. I hope, though, my reminiscing will jog your memory and make you smile about the people and dogs mentioned, too.

For the purposes of this article I have limited myself to those dogs which are sadly no longer with us and those people

BRYONY TRAFFORD looks at the great characters, human and canine, in the Bearded Collie breed over the years

who are no longer active in Beardedies or who have sadly died. Fortunately there are plenty of characters in the breed who are still among us and long may they continue to add to the diversity and richness of our lives in dogs.

Of course, I am not so long in the tooth that I remember Mrs Willison, whom we all revere as the lady who revived the breed. Not being able to talk of her first hand I have, nevertheless, formed an opinion of a remarkable woman; she must have been so to have succeeded so resoundingly in her quest to bring Beardedies out of near obscurity up to championship status in so short a time.

I feel there can be no better description of Mrs Willison than that by Lynne Sharpe, in David Hyde's *British Bearded Collie Champions 1959-1991*: "With her Oxford Bags, non-nonsense haircut and authoritative manner, Mrs Willison was a rather awe-inspiring figure, but she was always ready to help anyone with a gen-



Ch Bravo of Bothkennar.

uine interest in the breed..."

It makes you think, doesn't it? Dog breeding was so different in the 'war time' era, by which I mean the '30-'50s. Big kennels with kennel hands who cared for and exhibited the dogs. These set-ups are all but obsolete nowadays, establishments which spawned so many of our great all-round judges. In the earlier days of showing Beardedies we still had so many of them with us and they did the majority of the judging — Frank Warner-Hill, Stanley Dangerfield, Tom Purvis, George Leatt, Margaret Osborne, Bill Siggers (see how I have forgiven him, now, for falling onto Mignonette as he went over her in the group ring, in a way I never could when he was alive), Joe Braddon, Walter Bradshaw, Bill Foster, Violet Yates, Lily Turner, Rene Parsons, Judy de Casembroot, Joe Cartledge, Pru Green, Herbert Essam, Harry Glover...

Exalted names

All those, to me, exalted names and more, which I was proud to have signed on CCs and whom I felt totally unworthy of talking to at the time. These were the people who provided an outside, balanced view on the dogs, which often differed so much from the breed judges who frequently looked for heads, eyes and expression and a precise number of finger spaces to length of loin, which never hampered the all-rounder in the same way.

What a loss our breed suffered, and many others too, I'm sure, with the premature death of Bobby James — a truly remarkable and professional judge, who could remember all the dogs he had

judged as well as, but with more impartial clarity than, their owners.

Another remarkable woman, who shaped the history of the breed, was Miss Mary Partridge of the Wishanger Beardedies. Miss Partridge (I can't bring myself, even now, to be so familiar as to use her first name) was reputed to possess great presence; a lady of character if ever there was one. I saw her at a show and was in great awe ever after.

The first experience I had of a Beardedie kennel was to visit Jenny and Ken Osborne's Osmarts. I haven't been there for years, but I will remember that first trip. Waterfalls came down the 'road' to meet us. "Let me out," I screamed at my father — I couldn't see how a car could take a hairpin bend up a vertical cliff. However, I found it could, he drove up while I walked. What an adventure and much worse, I am sure, when you are ten years old; my father showed no emotion except for white knuckles and a bit of a tremor.

The first Beardedie I saw there was Ch Osmart Bonnie Blue Braid. We were the same height, face to face, when his illustrious feet were on my shoulders. His sweet face still comes straight in front of me if I close my eyes. His skull so broad



Ch Tamevalley Easter Song at Potterdale, handled by Janet Lewis, wins a group under Jean Lanning. photo Garwood

and flat (where DID flat skulls disappear to?), his head so perfectly proportioned and his expression so calm and gentle. I am still so proud that he was so kind to me, a mere child and him a noble legend.

I wanted so much to see Ch Bravo of Bothkennar — he was cover dog of the only book on the breed at the time, Mrs Willison's, his head so well proportioned and his expression so bright and enquiring. Jenny let him out and thereafter my feelings for him were somewhat dampened. Bravo did not accord me with any of the attentions of his son, Braid — he shot a brief, disparaging look at me and tore away to chase rabbits or some such painful pursuit (I don't know what it was but it didn't free him up to return while I was there). Bravo struck me as altogether a smaller and less significant character than his son. Nevertheless, I cried bitterly when he died.

Incited adulation

Ch Edenborough Blue Bracken, 'Percy', what a dog. He incited adulation, admiration and a heavy dose of jealousy in many. It is interesting, isn't it, that there is a sliding scale in the ratio of criticism a dog may expect to receive related to its persistence of winning. Percy even inspired poetry, to that end. He was nothing if not a 'one off' and his exceptional crested neck and his outstanding shoulders were an inspiration.

Percy had a unique profile and a stunning personality — he came to shows to win and he was not leaving the ring until he had achieved that purpose, in fact he rarely had to. Stock still, nose in the air (fancy me having to share this ring with riff raff, he seemed to say), Percy stood with his devoted breeder/owner Miss Shirley Holmes behind him, for as long as it took for the judge to realise he had to

● CONTINUED ON PAGE 52

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BEARDED COLLIE FEATURE

THE BEARDIE LOOK

THE BEARDIE is probably one of the few natural breeds, requiring no trimming, shaping or stripping — they are the original shaggy dog!

Over the years presentation has changed from a shaggy dog to a sleek unruffled hair-dresser's delight complete with a centre parting and smoothed-down coat, trimmed feet and a sculptured shape. Sadly at times these dogs win and so the trend continues for over-presentation of this shaggy dog.

Preparation for the ring starts long before the show. The quality of the coat depends on many factors, nutrition being one, and more important is exercise. A well muscled and toned Beardedie not only feels good on the inside but looks good on the outside.

After a walk I always go through the coat and take out any twigs, grass seeds etc, especially checking between the toes. If the feet are dirty, give them a rinse off in a bucket of water or hose them off; leaving dirt between the toes can lead to nail bed infections and generally discolour the coat.

Use a preparation which kills fleas, not one that causes them to stop reproducing over a matter of time. Many Beardedies have an allergic reaction to flea bites and you could lose a year's coat growth from the scratching to get rid of them.

If your dogs have a patio they use or concrete runs, make sure these are regularly washed down, as urine not only stains but also burns the coat; also with male dogs, wash them down regularly underneath or you could end up with a sticky breaking-off mess.

DAVID HYDE describes the desired coat for the breed and how to achieve a well-groomed effect for the show ring

I always bath the whites of the Beardedies the night before a show and, if necessary, give an all over bath a good week before to allow the coat to get back to normal. Never use baby shampoo — there is a misguided notion that as it is gentle enough for a baby it will be gentle enough for a Beardedie. This could not be further from the truth. Use a good quality dog shampoo.

Once the dog is shampooed, I always give a vigorous towel dry and then put the dog onto a grooming table and lay it on its side. If you start this procedure from a puppy the dog will come to enjoy this time with you and if the grooming is a regular feature in your week (as it should be) there will be no matts to have to get out!

Once your Beardedie is laid down on its side give a spray over with a good quality grooming spray and then brush the coat up and then back again and in each direction — this will get the air through the coat and aid in

the drying of it. If you leave a coat to dry naturally you will end up with a real 'shaggy' dog.

Once the coat has been brushed each way and is feeling dry you can start line brushing — starting from the muzzle down or the backside up, take small sections and brush up and then down again. Any matts you come across need to be thoroughly brushed and then teased apart with the end of a wide-tooth comb; this must be done very carefully if you want to avoid losing a large chunk of hair. Usually with care you can tease apart a matt with hardly any hair loss at all. Only use a wide-tooth comb; if you use a close-spaced comb you could tear out too much undercoat, especially on the legs.

Once you have been through from top to tail, start again but brushing the sections vertically, parting from the spine downwards, and do the same again brushing forward and then back — this way you will not have missed any of the coat. In the same way work up and down the legs. Once finished, stand your dog up and allow him to have a shake — the natural parting will then fall in; never put in a parting yourself with the tip of a comb.

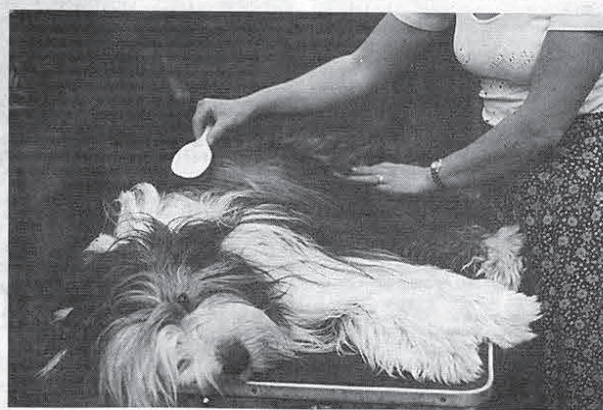
The teeth should be checked on each grooming and cleaned if necessary as should the ears. If the nails are not sufficient worn down, trim the tips off on a weekly basis. You can now work some chalk into the whites on the coat, especially the muzzle, but this must be groomed out before you show your Beardedie.

Once at the show you will need to groom your dog through again but, remember, do not use anything that will leave a deposit on the coat or your BOB could end up being coat tested and disqualified.

Your dog should now be looking ready to compete in any competition, but after a quick blast across the fields afterwards he will be back to that shaggy dog you started with!



Grooming should start from a young age.



This dog is lying on a grooming table while his owner is line brushing him.

THE QUESTION

● CONTINUED FROM PAGE 51

dogs 21-22 inches, bitches 20-21 inches) but because of their shorter length of bones, they do not have the desired suppleness, smooth, long-reaching, ground-covering, effortless movement that is correct for the breed.

Wide forehead movement seems to be creeping into the breed, in this country and also abroad, which I feel is caused by incorrect shape of ribcage in conjunction with short upper arm and shoulder blades.

Another fault that is occurring is imbalance of movement due to upright shoulder placement combined with a more angulated rear end; the result is a movement which lacks forward reach, but has lots of rear drive and bounce — very flashy and eye-catching, but NOT correct.

Beardedies of incorrect construction do not have economy of movement and would be curled up in the barn asleep, by coffee break, exhausted and unable to complete a day's work.

It perturbs me that often timid dogs are placed above a far better specimen of correct temperament, purely because of low tail carriage. Our Standard states "tail never carried over back" — unfortunately this gets misinterpreted as not to be lifted above the topline, which in fact is perfectly acceptable.

Many dogs are having their wonderful character suppressed, in order to keep tail carriage low. The Beardedie should be lively, self-confident, extrovert, showing no signs of aggression or nervousness, and

cannot be expected to move freely and be of an outgoing nature with his tail clamped on his hocks.

Many Beardedies of correct temperament do have a natural low tail carriage, but tails carried in an upward swirl should not be penalised.

We need also to watch eye colour, density of pigment and strength of underjaw — but not to the detriment of basic shape, movement and, above all, that outgoing Beardedie nature which endeared us to this wonderful breed in the first place — let's see more wagging tails, spirit and sparkle in the ring.

Thankfully there are many lovely typical Beardedies in our show rings — let's keep it that way.

JENNY OSBORNE
Osmart

Having been involved with the breed since 1963, I have seen them become numerically stronger, handling and presentation have improved and we have climbed from the obscurity of a minority breed to the accolade of BIS at Crufts.

I was attracted to the breed by its sound workmanlike appearance and happy outgoing temperament. Now I feel too much emphasis is being placed on coat and markings, and that in many cases Beardedies are being turned into 'chocolate box dogs'.

We still have some breeders who are trying to maintain breed type, but over the years we have lost some of the things which to me signified the Beardedie: medium length harsh straight coats, medium size dark eyes, an enquiring expression, and effortless movement, all of which are clearly defined in our Standard.

My wish for the twenty-first century is that breeders will combine true breed type with a touch of glamour — then we'll have the perfect Beardedie. □

British Bearded Collie CHAMPIONS 1992-1997

Compiled by: David Hyde (NATTERJACK)
Foreword: Mike & Janet Lewis (POTTERDALE)

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BEARDED COLLIE FEATURE

SUZANNE MOORHOUSE
Willowmead

I feel very sad. I was looking through the book of champions recently and, on comparing the dogs of the '50s and '60s to the present day champions, you could almost say they were a different breed.

A Bearded should be, essentially, a medium dog; in fact the first Standard quoted 'medium' in some of its statements, eg neck of medium length. Now the byword seems to be exaggeration in all things, eg the longer the neck the better. I have usually found the over-long neck, which has lost the crest that a Bearded should have, results in a ewe neck which is much weaker.

Another popular over-exaggeration is the flashy throwing up of the front legs and extended kick back behind. The dog has to throw up his front feet because there is nowhere for his back feet to go when he brings them forward from the kick back. With all this hard work no dog moving this way could ever stay for half a day's work, never mind a full day.

Beardies should glide over the ground with minimum effort, smooth and supple, looking as if their feet do not contact with the ground at all.

Another thing so obvious with today's dogs is the very excessive coat which again is a must in the show ring. Beardies should not carry a huge coat. This would impede him in his work, not to mention taking his poor owner hours to groom every week, something I am sure no shepherd would entertain. A weatherproof, double jacket with plenty of daylight under the body is what is called for in the present day Standard, not these curtains of excessive coat.

Another exaggeration I am seeing a lot these days is the short legs that are becoming far too common. A Bearded's proportions are supposed to be 5:4, but some dogs are more like 6:4 or even longer. 5:4 is only just longer than square, something I feel could be observed more closely.

'Medium' applies to everything pertaining to the dog — if the head is too large, it is like a Bobtail head; too narrow and you lose the typical broad, flat skull; bone too heavy and the dog is cloddy; too light and he is too fragile; loin too long and it is weak etc.

We must never forget that a Bearded is still supposed to be a working dog capable of to do, extremely well.

**MIKE & JANET
LEWIS**
Potterdale

Our biggest concern for the future is opinionated individuals trying to influence others on the Standard. This type of behaviour goes beyond normal criticism, which we all make, and could eventually damage the equilibrium and cause acrimonious splits — and it's always the same people!

We think the breed is very sound at the moment considering the numerical size. Hereditary defects are not significant; Beardies are still a natural breed with close ties to the original pair. Several different types are evident — this was the case when we started 26 years ago, and still is today; this can only be healthy, not detrimental, to breeding. Size seems quite uniform and tends to ebb and flow based on influential dogs at the time.

One of the most important characteristics of the Bearded Collie is the supple, smooth, long-reaching movement that gave it success as a sheep dog and enabled it to develop as a breed. Sadly this powerful, ground-covering action is seen less and less frequently as some enthusiasts are giving preference to a more collected and controlled gait, often to conceal poor tail carriage.

The Bearded's work as a sheep dog demanded fluent energy-conserving movement which allowed it to cover vast acreages, and to work for prolonged periods. Such movement is dependent on construction and balance, with correct unexaggerated angulation of fore and hindquarters. Well laid shoulders allow extension and balance to enable the propulsion and length of stride that comes mainly from the rear. Strong, pushy hocks are vital as the power of the hindquarters is dependent on the dog's ability completely to extend the rear legs from their angulated position, showing a clean pair of pads.

A balanced dog will be well muscled and the movement will appear as the Standard says, covering the ground with minimum effort but long-reaching, and the topline will remain level and be maintained at a fast gait. A dog with poor balance and angulation will lack drive. Our biggest worry is that Beardies are drifting towards the obvious common faults of poor fronts, sickle hocks and exaggerated rear angulation. Such dogs will compensate by failing to extend or drive, crabbing, or other incorrect gaits.

THE QUESTION

DOG WORLD asked a number of Bearded Collie experts the following question:

How do you feel about the direction in which breeders are currently taking the breed?

Here are their answers:

JACKY JAMES
Charncroft

I would like to think that breeders are taking the breed in the right direction, but feel we must stop and remember the origins of the breed. A Bearded should be a steady reliable dog, not exaggerated in any way, and capable of doing a day's work, if required.

When I had my first Bearded, 36 years ago, the type was not as uniform as today and presentation and handling left a lot to be desired. Things have now changed and we have a much more uniform type of dog which is an improvement. Presentation and handling has changed for the better, but we now sometimes over-glamorise and trim the breed, tending to forget that this is a working dog which should not have excess coat or be trimmed or sculptured in any way.

I was attracted to the breed by the temperament and intelligence, and a Bearded should be steady and reliable, sometimes very bouncy, but never nervous, as some tend to be nowadays. Movement is quite impressive nowadays, but not always correct. The dog should cover the ground with the minimum of effort with a good long-reaching stride, without pacing in front or over-exaggerated hind movement.

Recognise any faults that you may have in your breeding bitch and choose a stud dog carefully. The trend is to use the latest fashionable stud dog, who might not ALWAYS be the right one for your bitch.

must concentrate on soundness and temperament and breed only from dogs who have been hip scored.

We have many dedicated breeders who care about the future of the breed and endeavour to breed a dog that not only fits the Standard and wins in the ring but will give its owner many years of fun and companionship.

PAT JONES
Wellknowe

Now no longer a working dog, standing still, a line of sparkling clean Beardies of assorted colours, draped in flowing coats, is easy on the eye, but most of these dogs look far better standing still, as, when they move, they fall apart. Wrong construction and

unfitness are very prevalent.

In today's judging rings, with the big entries that befit a popular breed, many judges, who are not able to understand, or at worst don't want to understand, correct construction and movement, and/or have lack of space and time, judge mainly on the standing animal.

Some of these dogs, of course, are handled into a shape which will appeal. These dogs, having been placed, become 'show winners' and thus a whole lot of the dogs shown today are not of show quality, if the correct Standard is to be adhered to in its entirety.

BUT — these Beardies have either been bred and retained, or recommended as 'show prospects' by an assortment of 'breeders'. These range from the very novice to the very experienced whose reasoning for breeding more 'would-be' show dogs takes in the vast quantities of animals, but a low percentage of quality, correct ones.

Like so many breeds today, the Bearded is split into three groups. Sadly, two of these are very far removed from the original dog which was sound in mind and body, medium size, longish, sensible, an easy balanced mover, with a close fitting coat which showed plenty of daylight below the dog. He could turn his hand to almost any task — willingly — and has through time led the blind, assisted the less able bodied, been a PAT dog, an agility, obedience or working trial dog, as well as his original role as a sheep/cattle dog. Although some do still do these tasks, his main role today is to live as a family pet, and to be a show dog.

One camp endeavours to stay with the original blueprint and thus have a sound, jobs 'of work which appeals to both owner and dog. These dogs do have correct breed type and movement.

A soft-coated, unsound, exaggerated, excitable dog with mouth problems, brought about by incorrect, narrow heads, is not for me. Neither is the very thin dog, who is made that way because thinness is mistaken for 'lean active dog'.

Good Beardies ARE to be found, both here and abroad, and helpful information from experienced breeders is always available. This is a British breed and, believe me, British is still best.

BRENDA WHITE
Moonhill

It is very important for breeders and judges alike to understand the origins and



"This Bearded shows correct long-reaching, free-flowing movement, an ideal topline and perfectly acceptable tail carriage", says Brenda White.

characteristics of the breed and the fact that certain conformation, temperament, movement, coat etc gave them the ability to work

sheep and cattle, which is why the breed was established in the first place.

Breeders and judges alike must study and understand the Standard, which was laid down by established enthusiasts of our beloved breed in conjunction with the Kennel Club. Understand and work to its guidelines or the shape, characteristics, movement and temperament will continue to change, to the detriment of our breed. Don't lose sight of the fact that we are merely 'minders' of the breed for the future generations.

I am very concerned that many Beardies winning in the show ring today are too short in back and also short in leg. They look square and move with short, snappy, bouncy strides. Often they are in heavy coat which is immaculately presented and generally they have a full white collar and low tail carriage and stand like a statue. One looks into their eyes for that "soft affectionate expression" only to be greeted with a blank lifeless stare!

A Bearded should be a lean, active dog. He is strongly made, but does not look too heavy. Beardies are not short-legged and therefore one can see plenty of daylight under the body. They are longer than they are tall (measured from point of chest to point of buttock).

One or two judges have recently passed comment that Beardies in many instances are too long in back. I have to say that in my 25 years' association with the breed, only once have I met a dog that I felt needed an extra pair of legs in the middle!

Not only do the smaller Beardies make the correct size ones look large (ideal height:

● CONTINUED ON PAGE 50

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Ch POTTERDALE PROPHET

Photo Dalton

JANET and MIKE LEWIS Telephone 01636 815085

BEARDED COLLIE FEATURE

Those were the days

● CONTINUED FROM PAGE 48

win. True, Percy was not so keen on the active side of dog showing, especially latterly, but he didn't need to be — he knew he was king and why exert himself to prove it?

As I watched Percy winning his way to Top Bearded again in 1974, little did I think that it would be my own dog who would take over from him the following year. What a thing — when **Mignonette of Willowmead at Orora** won her first CC and BOB at Manchester she was still eligible for novice, having been hardly shown before her first litter. She was only entered in open as I had, in error, entered her in the wrong class number (Cardigan Corgi minor puppy dog, in fact) so she was transferred, as was the custom, by the secretary. My knees shook violently, so that my legs juddered as I ran. What a shock it was to us all, ringside and competitors in open included, when we two unknowns won the class, the CC and BOB. By the end of the year people were saying that we were being put up because we were 'faces'. Such is dog showing.

What about 'Winston', Mike and Janet Lewis' **Ch Pepperland Lyric John at Potterdale**, that truly magnificent mahogany gent. Can you remember him? If you ever saw him, you certainly will.



Bryony Trafford handles Ch Orora's Frank to a group win.

photo Hartley

To start with he went to shows and was an unruly youngster, then, suddenly, at 16 months and amid a colour change, he started to win and win. He never really stopped winning, in fact, maturing all the time into an ultra dark, sleek, all male, magnificent dog.

Although he was beautifully made, I think the most stunning thing to me about Winston was his incredible, coarse, gleaming, hanging coat. So this is dog showing — after years of winning, I, too, groaned when I saw Winston coming into a show, and yet I'd give anything to see him, just like that, again. What a sport — I suppose they are all the same — I can't think the Olympic competitors were too thrilled when Daley Thompson or Linford Christie turned up at events without a hint of lameness.

Inclined to mutiny

Then there were 'Heidi' and 'Tally', **Ch Blumberg Hadriana of Potterdale** and **Ch Tamevalley Easter Song at Potterdale**. Although, I think, Tally was definitely the superior Beardedie (sorry, Janet), Hadriana was perhaps more of a character, being so inclined to mutiny on the lead, although it never really affected her performance in the ring.

Latterly things have become so much more serious that I wonder if many of the



Ch Osmart Bonnie Blue Braid.



Brenda White and Ch Potterdale Classic of Moonhill pose with the BIS cup at Crufts 1989.

photo Dalton

more recent dogs get to show such character — for us all to enjoy, I mean. For instance, who would want to go into the show ring now with Basil? **Ch Orora's Blue Basil?** Such a swine at shows, he knew how to do the showing thing but he treated the whole experience as a six-year-old boy might treat a party in a fairground, with unlimited spending money in his pocket, and he was so big that I just had to go along for the ride. I mean, what other dog could come away with a group report of ... "would have been in with more than a chance of his owner had been able to control him on a lead"!

Scapa, I haven't mentioned her, although she pre-dates these — our only obedience champion, owned and trained by Jeni Wiggins, talented ladies indeed. And 'Cassie', Brenda White's **Ch Potterdale Classic of Moonhill**, our only



Ob Ch Scapa goes over the jumps!

Crufts BIS winner and truly deserving of that accolade. Cassie was unique from such an early age, I can remember a truly electric feeling on first seeing her, she had star quality oozing out of her. Cassie was a sweet and gentle girl and it was largely her character which took her to the very top.

Another dog with great personality was 'Stanley', **Ch Willowmead Star Attraction**, owned by Willie and Sue O'Brien. Stanley was one of those dogs who are so aptly named, be commanded attention with his gentle demeanour and lovely proportions.

What of characters of the human variety? Some spring instantly to my mind, as if they are still with us — Ken Osborne, a big bear of a man who commanded respect with his balanced, fair outlook on dogs; Jenny's Mum too, Mrs Osmart senior, who never said much, but tirelessly worked on in the background in her pinny and was always ready with a cuppa or an orange juice on the go. I find I don't even know Jenny's Mum's name — she was always known as Jenny's Mum and so she was, of course.

Margaret Logan, a little bird-like lady who was always there watching the judging with an eagle eye and a twinkling expression. Mrs Logan was always able to raise a smile, even when she wasn't feeling too well, and was a definite bright spot on a grey show day.

Forceful lady

Angela Hutchinson, a forceful lady with strong opinions, was just starting to make her mark on the breed when illness intervened and her young children suffered a tragic loss of their mother at so young an age.

Another devastating loss to the breed was Olga Douglas, the lady behind the Chiscaro Beardedies and a true lady she was. Olga was always pleasant, kindly and thinking of rescue Beardedies, even so near to her tragic death from a really horrific illness, Olga remains in our minds as a pretty, pleasant woman who was the driving force in the choice of the sires, and the puppies to be kept.

Mrs Trudi Wheeler, of the Cannamoor Beardedies, who produced her first champion in 1963 and went on judging in the breed until 1994. She was very sure of her opinion on the breed and was a truly indomitable lady.

In writing this article I found I couldn't think of more recent Beardedie characters. I have already said that I suspect that things



Mike Lewis with Ch Pepperland Lyric John at Potterdale.

photo Garwood

are so much more serious nowadays that the overt Beardedie character is somewhat dampened in the show ring, but we used to involve ourselves more with the dogs outside the ring than seems to be the case now.

I think a huge loss to Beardedie showing has been the camaraderie around the benches. Beardedies belonging to others were accessible to us all. Of course there were down sides to this — reports of coat trimming and the memorable report of many ACP tablets being given by an unknown person to Percy at a show, for instance. But we seemed to all have a part share of the famous dogs when they were on their benches. Now they are more or less swallowed up by their tables and covered cages.

I still can't get accustomed to this practice. Maybe it's more satisfactory to those who utilise this mode of showing but, to the spectators, it is a huge loss. No more can one know where to find either an exhibit or exhibitor and I feel that the dogs' characters are less accessible to the mass audience because of it.

Also, the Beardedie character is so foreign to being kept in a cage for any length of time that I wonder if a different temperament altogether is perhaps more suited to this type of life, at shows, than the one I remember from my youth.

Alterations in characteristics can be made so quickly in dogs, with generations passing by so rapidly, it makes you think, doesn't it?

Don't get me wrong — I use cages sometimes too, and I know they can be very useful — but I persist in calling them cages, not crates; that way I can remember exactly what they are.

So that's my trip down memory lane. Of course you'll be saying "but she hasn't mentioned so and so", and I'm sorry if your favourite isn't there, but some of mine aren't either, I just mentioned the characters which came first to my mind because, well, really, I think that is what characters should do.



Ch Willowmead Star Attraction.

photo Garwood

Do you have any views on the opinions expressed by our writers in this feature?

If so, why not contact DOG WORLD's Bearded Collie correspondent:

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149 Winter Road
Southsea
Hampshire PO4 8DR
phone 01705 815145

BEARDED COLLIES

16" x 20" mounted limited edition print by Stuart Mallard

Stuart is well known as a judge, breeder and exhibitor and is now becoming increasingly more well known as a professional artist. He trained at West Sussex College of Art and Craft before taking up a career in advertising and commercial art, and worked for a number of agencies both here and abroad including Saatchi & Saatchi, where he started as a freelance artist and ended up as general manager.

Stuart has exhibited his work at several events and also held solo exhibitions. He has a keen interest in a variety of subjects, life drawing, seascapes, local landscape and of course dogs! He also works in a variety of mediums from pen and ink, water-colour, acrylic, pencil, pastel, gouache and oils.

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