

## **ALL TIME FAVOURITES**

By Geoff Duffield

Having been around rough collies since the mid-70s I have been gifted to see some beautiful specimens, especially as around that time there were some magnificent kennels in existence whose type could always be recognised in the ring.

Yes, I know there is only one type (The Breed Standard) but I'm sure you know what I mean.

The breed has changed quite dramatically from the 70s as coat has been developed by various blood lines and the specimens being shown look magnificent. And it must be pointed out that ours is not the only breed where enthusiasts have encouraged more coat.

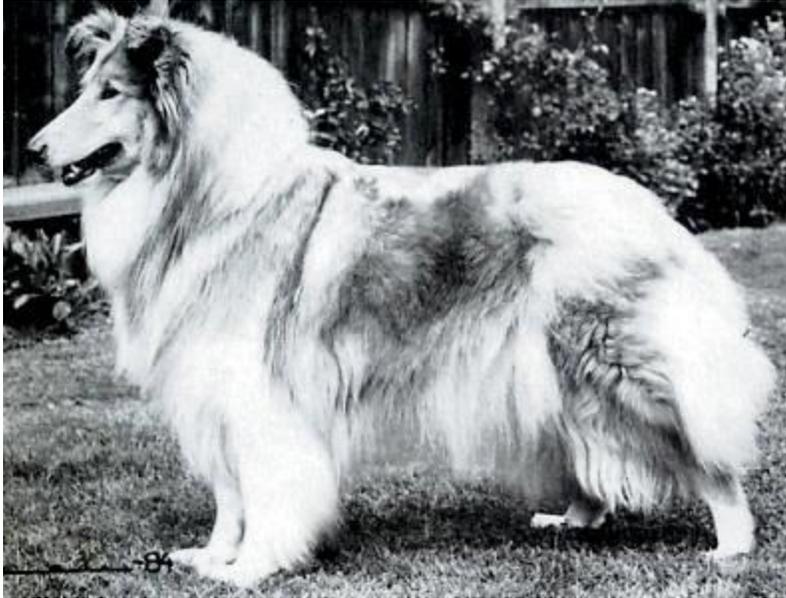
Coat is only cosmetic, but when it is of the correct harsh texture and groomed to fit the body, the collie is certainly an eye-catcher.

I suppose the first of the heavier coated types were the Brettonparks, Arranbrooks, Aberthornes, Sangreats etc where if you walked through Yorkshire, champions were jumping out of every window.

Thelma and Gordon Duncan bred some gorgeous collies, Ch. Brettonpark Whatzizname, (Woolley), passed his huge coat to most of the ladies who visited the kennel.

Shirley Toothill had perhaps the largest coated dog around in Ch Arranbrook Mr Chips of Aberhill, always looking magnificent, and cocky with it, who perhaps was my first real hero. Indeed, I used him on one of my bitches which produced my first champion, Ch Angelfield Petite Etoile JW. She, too, had a glamorous wardrobe, obviously too much for some as one judge remarked that she would have given her the CC had she carried less coat. She had to be content with the RCC. I replied that if she had too much coat, I could live with that.

Further south, Lisa & Peter Burtenshaw were breeding a string of quality stock, many of whom went on to their title, and one of my favourites was Ch Pelido Angel Fingers, though Ch Pelido Double Fantasy was quite outstanding. I made him BOB on my first CC appointment at London Collie where I judged bitches.



My BCC was the lovely s/w **Arranbrook Song of Gold at Brilyn** (later Ch) of Brian & Sue Hawkins, but I was happy to agree on the dog. Lisa proudly boasts that she has bred champions in all three colours and both sexes.

Jack & Sandra Wigglesworth, too, sent out a string of sable champions, Ch Sandiacre SecondHand

Rose, who whelped Ch Sandiacre Shake Hands. Perhaps the kennel was most noted, though, for Sandiacre Softly Softly who is behind so many of today's lines. He was magnificent. Ch Sandiacre String of Pearls, too, sent out a string of winners from the whelping box. She was delightful.

Another famous Yorkshire kennel was that of Audrey Chatfield who boasted a long list of Dunsinane champions and CC winners.

Jimmy Tate and Joyce Skilbeck made up Ch Kreba Contemplation, a fabulous bitch who whelped the influential and magnificent Ch Aberthorne Arrester, another who stamped his mark on the breed.

And from Huddersfield, in West Yorkshire rose another kennel who were to have such an influence on the breed, Mike & Bernice Harris's Mybern collies who clearly stamped their mark.

From Kath and Alan Jeffries, the fabulous Ch Jefsfire Clean Sweep was a magnificent tri who could move for England. Outstanding.

Jean and Colin Lawson (Rickwood) bred some outstanding collies, annexing champions in all three colours in both sexes.



Rene Cousins knew the ropes too and loved her **Ch Bhyllsacre Querida Mia** who I gave BOB as a minor puppy at a big Agricultural show. Ultra- feminine, fabulous eye & expression, full of ring presence and a most positive mover. One of my favourites.

But if we can skip a few decades to the near modern era, where no kennel enjoyed

as much success during a concentrated period as that of Alison Grainger's Samhavens. Alison was successful in Samoyeds, hence her affix, before enjoying remarkable winning streak with her roughs. She is now hitting the headlines with her St Bernards, owned in partnership with Tan Nagrecha.



Indeed, it was one of Alison's bitches, **Ch Samhaven Toast**, who I awarded the CC to at Crufts where I had the pleasure of an entry of 167. Toast is one of my all-time favourites. A s/w, she was not only correct to go over, she had a terrific well-groomed coat, had bags of ring presence and excellent temperament, and what a mover. She had gone BOB at Crufts the previous two years. I gave her dam Ch Samhaven Coral the CC at Darlington.

So influenced by the Samhavens, I persuaded Alison to sell me a bitch puppy who became Ch Samhaven Champers for Angelfield JW and when mated to Jurgen Glockner's Multi/German Ch Rydeen Blaze of Glory, she produced Ch Angelfield Veuve Clicquot and Ch Angelfield Heaven Can Wait JW, who like their mother gained top spots at the British Collie of the Year contest. Well worth the visit to Magdeburg.

Mitch was a magnificent s/w who I put up in Germany, really stood his ground, wonderful head, eye & expression, beautiful shape and took the fancy of several other UK judges as well.

But sables aren't my only colour. Me and Gwen Beaden (Myriehewe) have made up collies in all three colours. I well remember when I first started judging that someone remarked that it's no good entering under Geoff unless you've got a sable. Well, I have awarded CCs to quite a few merles and tris. Indeed, one of the merles was Sue and Dave Randall's Ch Ladnar Kingfisher JW who I awarded the CC to at Three Counties, but he did have to bend the knee to a s/w, Ch Treeview Love to Trenley for BOB who went on to win the pastoral group. She was femininity personified.

Results went even better when I judged the Scottish Breeds championship show where I awarded the double to the Samhavens, DCC to Samhaven Just In Time and the BCC to Samhaven Wired for Sound, the dog going BIS. And for the icing on the cake, Alison won BP with a b/m who went RPBIS! In my critique, I wrote that Justin 'had an eye & expression to die for'. And movement too.

I also gave the double to Brian Hawkins and Odile Foy at Bath (s/w again!) whose Beldones kennel continue to produce some outstanding stock.



I broke the mould at Windsor where my CC winners were a tri and a blue! It was another outstanding tri dog in Vanessa Cronk's **Ch Chelborn Kiss n'Tell**, fabulous body & coat, dreamy eye and expression, stood just like the champion he was to become at his next show.



But he had to stand in the shadow of a lady, Val & John Geddes' b/m, **Ch Black Gary La Dame Chere at Ingledene**, a magnificent specimen turned out in the best of order and such an impressive mover, as proved in the big ring where she was awarded G3.

The Amalie/Lynmead partnership of Anne Hollywood and Cas Waterhouse have also made their presence felt in their partnership. Both were very successful in their own right but have put their brains together to go the extra mile with some eye-catching stock. They are responsible for numerous winners both here and on the Continent where exhibitors have come to use their dogs.

Apart from some outstanding UK collies I have seen, judged or competed against, I have had the good fortune to judge abroad in 25 countries where, if they know you are in the breed, will bring out all their good stuff.

Among one of the successful Russian breeders is Svetlana Novislavskays whose Denfris-Fridens kennel is a regular feature in top honours, notably Int Ch, Multi Ch Fridens Kingfisher, and I have awarded a CACIB to one of her bitches, the b/m of Ales Vsetecko, Multi Ch/CzCh Fridens Snowwhite from the Czech Republic, handled as usual by daughter Iva. This was at the Hungary International and she also won the Res CACIB at Kortrijk in Belgium behind the fabulous UK Ch Tiganlea Tinkerbelle at Revdicki who was B.O.B.

Olga Buldakova is another Russian breeder who turns out some excellent collies from her Monsolana kennels and a few have been exported to the UK.

At the Ukraine National in Kiev, from a very good quality entry, a most fabulous tri dog, Ch Flaming Black Jack du Chemin des Randonnes took top spot, faultlessly presented

in full bloom and looking a picture from every angle. I was so impressed that I later placed her 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Group 1.

I had a lovely entry at Kilkenny in the Emerald Isle where both Green Star awards were of particular top quality. BOB was the stunning s/w bitch, Ir Ch Durham Mistaken Identity at Donohill, and top dog was the tri of Karen McDevitt's, Ir/Eng Ch Caronlea Lukin Black, Jun Ch, also full of appeal.



Hungary is another country where there are some really top-notch collies. One of the most beautiful collies I have ever had the pleasure to judge, as a young bitch was that of Eniko Balogh's, **Ch. Angies Angels Eleanor**. I was so taken with her that I asked Eniko for a puppy bitch out of her when she next had

a litter, but it was not to be. Mother Nature had other ideas.

I was also unfortunate to miss out with a puppy from Bernadett Csokona Peresne (Stonehaven Pride) who breeds such lovely stock. Bernadett enjoyed huge success with Ch Scottlyme Midas Touch who always produced the goods. Shame on me, I forget that lovely bitch's name. There is yet another quality kennel in Hungary, that of Elena & Janos Balasoviits (Nyitramenti), notable for Hungarian Club winner Ch Coco Chanel and my favourite, Ch Eusebio (yes, a tricolour!)



When I Judged the Italian Collie Club, I was favoured with Manu Licini's homebred merle, Int Ch Keyline Marilyn Monroe, faultlessly presented and looking a picture on the move. Outstanding and one of my favourite bitches. In the Czech Republic I received a super entry at their Collie Club where Katarina Schmiesterova was awarded the DCC with **Ch Damien Black Amnis Rhei**, most striking tri faultlessly

presented while BOB went to the s/w bitch of Ch Miroslav **Petrik's Ch Coca Cola Amnis Rhei**, dreamy expression, ultra- feminine and positive mover.

At the Esposizione Internazionale del Cavanese in Italy, my dog CACIB winner & BOB was the UK import Ch Samhaven Temptation Ladnar, beautifully coloured b/m owned by Maria Garabelli who also won the bitch CACIB with Wild Sea Blu Di Cambiano.

At the Finnish Collie Speciality, my BOB & BIS was Mari & Jyrki Inkilainen's Ingledene Welcome Back, a blue bred by Val & John Geddes out of Ch Black Gary La Dame at Ingledene, my Windsor BOB, so I had to like him!

On a return visit to judge the Finnish championship show, it was another UK import that took BOB, Ch Ladnar Kissmaster, a beautiful tri dog owned by Majo Hautaviita.

At the German Collie Club show in Bavaria, my BIS was Lorraine & Michael Fernandez' s/w Ch Eternal Flame of Dirty Booties, an ultra- feminine bitch who won her title on the day. Outstanding.



On a return trip to Germany, Lorraine & Michael Werth created a little bit of collie history at the Internationale Rassehunde at Kassell where, from an entry of 61, my CACIB winner and BOB, **Ch Paper Moon vom Haus Rosenpracht** became the first of our breed for 40 years to win Group 1 (our Pastoral group). She is a stunning s/w, faultlessly presented, beautiful eye and expression and faultless on the move. She would hold her own in the UK, as would most of those reported on.

It was a good show for me because the previous day, my BOB Border Collie also won the group.



A few years back it was at Magdeburg that I first came across Jurgen Glockner's then Dj **Ch Rydeen Blaze of Glory** who took the CAC but was outdone by the glorious DtCh.VDH&Club, Esgm Wild Angel vom Cavalcanti, immaculately presented s/w bitch who won BOB and later caught the BIS judge's eye when awarded top spot, a repeat performance from two years ago after Jimmy Tait put her up.

At the Russian National, my BOB rough went BIS, but neither me nor Barry Makepeace (Lynaire), who was also judging, received a marked catalogue. All I can say is that it was a s/w bitch and stunning.



A few years earlier in Russia I judged the Moscow Collie Club speciality where, yet again my CAC & BOB winner was from the UK, the Phil Amos bred **Ch Elsamos Star Traveller**, owned by Oxana Cheb and later to return to the UK where he gained his English title. A magnificent example of the breed who so fits the Standard with his 'passive dignity'.

In New Zealand, my DCC & BOB was Cherry Simons' homebred Ch Avonia Hunters Moon, quality, a workmanlike 4-year old of great appeal.

Well, as you can see, I have had the privilege of being invited to judge in all these beautiful places, and the pleasure of getting my hands on some real quality exhibits. I love a sweet eye and expression, but the collies also have to move well for me as they are a working dog. And I can proudly say that all my ticket winners were, in my opinion, great representatives.

In the UK, I first awarded CCs in 1984, and now 14 sets in total, so I feel I have certainly had the pleasure of handling the absolute cream.

GEOFF DUFFIELD

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