

The UK Rough Collie – 40 Years Ago – (1981) by Alan Staniland

Time changes everything – so they say, so being asked to provide an article, I was in a dither as what to do, especially as I have not been actively breeding or showing rough collies now for several years.

Being relatively unaware of today's UK rough collie landscape I thought it might be of some interest to know what it was like – say 40 years ago – back to 1981

The breed was well represented by shows and numbers in the show ring back then with at least 14 separate (regional) collie clubs covering England, N. Ireland, Scotland & Wales. In addition – in 1981 there was a further 28 all breed championship shows with CCs on offer for the Breed.

Fees were certainly different way back then. Club membership was £1 – single (£1.50 joint); KC puppy registrations were £5 per named puppy and Ch. show entries were around £5 for the first entry (lower at the Club shows) – today the current Crufts first entry cost is £31!

Competition in the show ring at both open and Champ. show level was high both in numbers and quality, with so many worldwide known successful kennels still actively breeding and competing.

From around the UK we had top quality exhibits from such kennels as (Scotland) – Narragansette and Fellview (from the UK - NE) – Danvis, Arcot, Erjon, Rubec, Rixown, Camanna and Claredawn. (from Yorkshire) – Aberthorne, Aberhill, Sandiacre, Brettonpark, Mybern, Sangreat, Arranbrook, Lynaire, and Dunsinane. (from Lancs – Karava, Seafire and Kezmar) – From the Midlands) – Abbestone, Firestone, Corydon, Geoffdon, Jefsfire, Lynway, Damerall, Bririch, Brilyn and Bhysslacre.

(London & South) – Tameila, Pelido, Sylvercroft, Ugony, Rickwood, Glenmist, Antoc and Anglefield. (Wales) – Emryks, Glenbowdene and Maydill & Cregagh from N.Ireland.

All breed Open shows at this time were drawing in entries of rough collies in excess of 12 per class and a higher number competed at the Club open shows

It would be interesting to see how many of these kennels are as active or are still active, 40 years on.

Just some of the top stud dogs 40 years ago would be father and sons Ch. Aberthorne Arrester, Ch. Myberns Minstrel & Ch. Arranbrook Mr Chips of Aberhill and Ch. Geoffdon Lawmaker.



ARRESTER



MINSTREL



CHIPS

Stud fees were in general, kept within the reach of everyone thus reducing the need for keeping one's own stud dog. This way allowed all to have affordable access to the best. I do recall stud fees of around £40 – the sale price then of a well-bred rough collie puppy.

The Crufts Winners of 40 years ago were:

Mrs M Tweddle with Arcot Anna Jane – Bitch CC, & featured here

Mrs S Wigglesworth with **CH Sandiacre Silence Is Golden** – Dog CC & BOB



The judge was Mr P. Rodford

Despite the time lapse and various inevitable changes, I suppose some things never change – I am sure these following sentiments from 1981 will still prevail 40 years on-

“WHAT A “TAIL” –

“I’ve been robbed, it’s a carve up, pathetic”
said the man in the large trilby hat.
“I’ve never seen judging quite like it.
or a Collie which looked much like that”

“It’s head’s like a pail and its tail’s like a sail,
It shouldn’t be in a show ring.
The look on its face well, that’s a disgrace
And he gave a CC to ‘the thing’ “

The judge turned towards the commotion,
And glared at the man with 'the voice'
"I've heard what you said and its made me see red.
I'm afraid that you leave me no choice"

He raised his 'white stick' to the Heavens
and charged at the man and his dog
but his wheelchair got stuck in a large pile of muck
as a dog lead got wrapped round a 'cog'

The man with 'the voice' made an exit,
and to this day has never since been seen.
The Judge of the day, he's stopped judging they say.
So alls well that ends well it seems.

If you think that this story's outrageous,
just ponder and look all around.
For at every show - 40 years on
There are those we all know
Who behave just like that, I'll be bound.

Author: Anon

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Tashadon Hot Chocolate b. 1981
(later a Sp.& Int Ch)



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