

Becky Box (Secretary)

I was born to parents already showing Irish Setters under the 'Blackborough' affix and first handled a dog at an exemption show at the age of four. Throughout my childhood dogs, and more importantly Irish Setters, were my hobby – I was a keen junior handler and won the Kennel Club Junior Organisation's 'junior of the year' award in 1985 for a project on the breed. I wrote the 'junior' column in Our Dogs for many years and have judged junior handling at all levels, including at the ISCS's championship show in late 1980's and the Irish Junior Handler of the Year finals in Dublin in 1994.

Through all this my real love has remained the Irish Setter breed. During my early teens my parents entrusted Blackborough Jade to me and we had much fun at open and championship shows. I dreamed of owning a "Fearnley" and having saved up purchased Fearnley Beatrice in 1990, she became the first 'Fernstart'. She was followed by Fearnley Firemelody in 1994 and things have developed from there, Firemelody being the great grandmother of my current youngster, Fernstart Lovesong.

Whilst devoting a large amount of time to my dogs and life within the world of dogs I have also had to develop a career in the real world to fund my hobby! I am a chartered member of the Institute of Personnel and Development and have an Executive Diploma in Management. I currently manage the HR and payroll team for my local district Council.

I have been active participant on committees since my mid teens and have been a member of the general committee for the Irish Setter Association, England, since 2000. I was appointed Honorary Treasurer of the ISAE in March 2003 and went on to become Honorary Secretary in March 2005 – a position I consider a great honour given the significant role the Association has played, and continues to play, in the breed.

I completed my first breed judging appointment on my 17th birthday and was honoured to award CC's for the first time in 2010.

In the spare time that remains between dogs and work, my partner Nick and I are trying to renovate our house. We are avid football fans (Liverpool and England) and I am known to enjoy a spot of shopping!