

Peter Hall

After several years of keeping GSD's, Border Collies and a horse I acquired an Irish Setter or should I say he acquired me. It was 1981 and after a year of being persuaded to show him by a friend in English Setters, I did. He enjoyed his shows but the judges preferred the others, most of the time. I had seen a bitch shown locally and liked what I saw, albeit with a novice eye. This bitch was mated to a dog I had seen at Crufts that I also liked. Ironically I had seen his sire at the same show and took photos of both him and his son independently not realising the connection. Well the litter was advertised and I purchased my first proper Irish Setter in 1983, Reddins Harvey. The showing bug had bitten me as I was everywhere showing him.

Several years later I found myself collecting a young bitch from the late June Coates, bred by the late Biddy Evens, Goldings Osprey. She was nearly two but I had liked her since she was a six month old puppy. She was mated to Skymist Moody Blue and Harreds Poacher was bred and kept. He won well for me as a youngster picking up a few RCC's and a CC, but had a few lean showing years leading up to his seventh birthday due to personal commitments. However, thinking life would be more relaxed showing him in the veteran classes, off I went to enjoy; not to be, he picked up a second CC in the January and was fortunate to be made up at Crufts that year. The rest of the year was then just fun where he collected two more CC's and a few more RCC's.

A bitch was purchased from the Barleydale Kennels, Polyantha bred by the late Sheilagh Vant, she went from strength to strength and picked up her first CC at Crufts and was made up the August of the same year. An obvious choice of stud dog presented itself to me in the guise of H. Poacher, who was getting on in years and so H. Ghillie was born. Shortly after this I moved to Ireland where I lived with my Irish Setters and Irish Sport Horses for seven years. December 23rd 2008 I moved back to Kent and caught up with all the UK showing fraternity as if I had never been away.

I have been a Committee Member of the Irish Setter Association, England since 1995 having been a member since 1984. I was the former Hon. Treasurer up until my move to Ireland and remained dedicated to Serve the Breed through my duties with the ISAE despite my threats to stand down every time my plane was delayed going to and fro from Ireland and the UK attending Committee meetings and ISAE events. At the 2013 AGM I was proposed and seconded to stand as Chairman for the ISAE and was honoured to accept this prestigious position with some trepidation. I have always believed in the ISAE and all it stands for despite some tough, as well all the good times and listening to the odd cynic who feels things should be better. Well yes things can always be better and that can only happen if we, that is the members as well as your Committee all start singing from the same hymn sheet. All I ask is that you support and give gratitude to your hard working Committee, who give up both their own funds and time with every effort to give you a good service and to Serve the Breed.