

IRISH TERRIER CLUB OF AMERICA

BULLETIN - NOVEMBER 1972

The judge for our Specialty at the State Armory in New York February 11 1973 will be Anne Rogers (Mrs. James E.) Clark. Mrs. Clark for years was a leading handler before she turned to judging.

Gregor Hetzel, the ITCA Show Committee Chairman for the February Specialty, has named his Committee, which is now hard at work:

Trophies: Robert C. Peters
Patricia Peters

Advertising: Nancy L. Hetzel

Publicity: Joyce A. Wilson

Stewards: Maurice Blackwelder
Francis X. Kennedy

Hospitality:

Barbara Blackwelder
Elizabeth Clark
Mary Gately
Marie Johnson
Gary Johnson
June Kennedy

General: Officers of the ITCA

As we have mentioned previously, this Specialty will honor the late Rudy Jensen of Chicago, for years one of our leading breeders and exhibitors. It is planned that a special Rudolph Jensen Memorial Trophy be presented to Best of Breed at this show. (Not to be confused with the memorial trophy, mentioned in the September 1972 Bulletin, that a group of Rudy's friends plan to present at the Specialty Shows of the Irish Terrier Club of Chicago to honor his memory. John Best is accepting contributions for this.)

You will be hearing from the Advertising committee member about details for advertising in the Specialty catalogue.

Entries for the Specialty close on January 24, 1973. Entries should be sent to the Moss-Bow Dog Show Organization, Inc., P.O. Box 20205, Greensboro, N.C. 27420.

Be sure to plan to attend the annual ITCA meeting, again to be held at the Armory shortly after the Irish Terrier judging -- exact time not yet known. Following the Club meeting, the Board of Governors will convene for its regular meeting.

The Westminster K.C. show, as usual, will follow on Monday and Tuesday. Irish Terriers will be judged on Monday. ITCA member, Dr. David Doane, will judge Irish Terriers at Westminster.

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We asked our Fall Specialty judge, Joan Elliott, if she would write a brief comment on her entry at the show. Here it is:

"It was an honor and a privilege to judge the specialty October 8th. That the show was in memory of Mrs. Hall made the day even more overwhelming. In my opinion, the turnout and the quality of the entry were a fitting tribute to the immeasurable contribution she made to the breed during her lifetime.

"A critique of such a fine entry must necessarily gloss over, in retrospect, the high degree of quality of the individual entrants, and produce, instead, generalities. I was looking for certain specific things, such as: long body, good top line, reachy neck, proper tail set, refinement and elegance combined with substance, a long chiseled head with correct ear size and carriage, and a typical Irish eye and expression. This package had to be wrapped with the proper coat, be the proper size, and be expressed by way of an extroverted, fiery Irish temperament. The details of shoulders, hindquarters, and general soundness round out the picture, and it was often these important details that were the determining factor in the final class placements.

"Good coats, Irish temperament, correct size, and overall goodish type were the order of the day, by and large. Faulty hindquarters, poor ear carriage, and broadish cheeky heads were enough in evidence to cause concern. Here and there a tail had been docked a shade too short, which throws the general picture of balance out of whack. Some necks were not reachy enough, and emerged from straight-shouldered fronts, which also gave an out-of-balance appearance. The veterans were a wonderfully fit lot, proving again that a sound dog doesn't go to seed with age. The winner of this class was an especially good dog. The open classes and the specials class were an education in quality, condition, and Irish temperament. The growling and carrying-on in the crowded final class were enough to warm a terrier breeder's heart! My final choice is a very typical Irish Terrier, of correct size, beautifully headed, who moves soundly, and who, on October 8th, was all zip and sparkle. The Best of Opposite bitch is very like him, having the elegant neck that is so essential to the breed. She is nice size also, being feminine but, at the same time, substantial. I discovered later that my finalists are young, but they certainly showed like seasoned troupers and were mixing-it-up right to the end.

I found much to make the future of our breed seem very bright, and I thank the Irish Terrier Club of America for giving me the opportunity to judge this outstanding entry."

We thank Mrs. Elliott for her lucid comments.

While on the subject of the recent Fall Specialty, John Marvin, who was chairman of the show for the Montgomery County K.C., asked whether the Irish Terrier Club liked the 2:30 p.m. hour for our judging. If any of you have a preference for, or aversion to, this time of day for judging, please let me know so that we can give Mr. Marvin an answer.

Some of you no doubt were among those who, upon arrival at the Specialty grounds, found that the catalogues were sold out. Mr. Marvin said that he planned to order a larger number of catalogues next year. He also said that beginning next year, all Premium Lists for the Montgomery County K.C. show will be mailed first class, at the expense of the MCKC, in an effort to speed up delivery.

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Mrs. Sue Griffiths, whose late Ch. Greenbriar Fiddler is Irish Terriers' only U.D.T. obedience degree holder, reports that her Ch. Gloccomara Redrick O'Farin has now finished both his U.S. and Canadian CDX titles. For his American title, he placed 4th twice, once was winner of a tie run-off, and once placed 3d. "We are now beginning work on Utility, but have quite a way to go before he'll be ready to show for that title!"

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John Best wrote that his Ahtram Blaze (call name Jerry) died in October of old age, at 16½ years. Ahtram Blaze appears in many current pedigrees for he sired 11 champions, to date. Helen Best said it beautifully, for all of us who have had aging dogs: "Losing Jerry -- and all the others -- is surely a deep sadness. Still I wouldn't want Jerry to have to struggle through the cold weather. Bless his loving, strong, Irish heart. What fun we had".

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Some quotes from other columnists:

"...A typical gait in any breed of dog must be as free and facile as possible, must cover as much ground with the least effort possible, must add as little shock as possible to the feet, the legs, the shoulders, the hips and the back..." (Dr. E. S. Montgomery in Popular Dogs, Fox Terrier column, Sept. '72).

"...one of the prime axioms in the game: that the best dog in the ring is not the dog with the fewest faults, but the dog with the greatest virtues!" (Lois J. Hall in Popular Dogs, Irish Wolfhound column, Sept. '72).

"... In my league, it's poor sportsmanship to tell a judge his choice was a poor one, if the dog put down belongs to the exhibitor doing the grumbling. The best creed is not to crow over wins, or growl over losses, and always congratulate the handler of the dog which won..." (Catherine Davis Gauss in Popular Dogs, Pappillon column, Sept. '72).

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IRISH TERRIER CLUB OF AMERICA
GEORGE KIDD, Acting Secretary
15401 Seneca Road
Germantown, Md. 20767