

ENGLISH SPRINGER SPANIEL FORUM

JUDITH HANCOCK
Hawkhill



Ch Mompasson Remember Me.
photo Dalton

1 The answer is hard to come by as there have been many very good English Springers over the last 45 years and I could name a dozen outstanding ones. However, **Ch Mompasson Remember Me** must be one of the best for her wonderful quality, beautiful head and eye and all-round abilities.

Sh Ch Hawkhill Connaught was my best. He excelled in showmanship, movement and all-round Springer type, combining it with quality and a great personality.

2 Type has changed considerably through the years, drawing the show and field trial dogs further and further apart. They are almost two different breeds and I doubt this will ever change. The show dogs are getting progressively bigger and the field trial ones smaller. I think too much emphasis is put on coat, feathering and glamour in the show ring, and the field trial dogs should have more substance and better construction.

The breed's future can only be secure if breeders are prepared to be critical of their own dogs, use judgement in making their bitches and continue to read the Standard and remember the English Springer is a working breed and should always look as if it can work.

3 The head and eye denote character and, combined with their strong bones and bodies, powerful quarters and unique movement, make them the most eye-catching of all the spaniel breeds.

THE QUESTIONS

DOG WORLD asked a number of English Springer Spaniel experts the following questions:

- 1 Which English Springer Spaniel not owned or bred by you do you consider the closest to the Standard, and why? Which one of your own dogs has been nearest to your ideal, and why?
- 2 How has type changed during the years you have known the breed? Have the show and field trial dogs drawn apart irrevocably? How do you see the breed's future?
- 3 What for you are the principal points which impart breed type to an English Springer and make it distinct from the other spaniel varieties?

Here are their answers:

JEAN TAYLOR Cleavelhill

1 The ESS type that I have tried to breed to is the Teesview type. **Ch Teesview Titus** was a true Northern type, full of quality and very true to the Standard. I have tried very hard to breed this type into my blacks to give them a base, as blacks were almost a lost cause. To a certain extent I have succeeded as I have a lookalike in my kennel now, and a young bitch like **Sh Ch Teesview Pandora of Trueldale**.

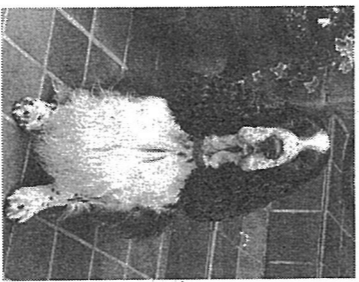
Having said that, **Sh Ch Hawkhill Connaught** is perhaps my favourite. He fits the Standard perfectly. His type and solidarity helped me to breed substance into my blacks along with nice tight feet, all of which the Standard calls for.

Of all the bitches I have owned and bred throughout the years and made up too, **Sh Ch Corn Dolly**, **Sh Ch Talkin' Tarr**, **Selkirk Grace** and **Sh Ch Ginger Perkin Bewitched**, my latest champion, is my

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forward, and I hope that others, who are as deep into it as I am, will help all newcomers — teach them breed type and quality above all, that elusive thing that you see and cannot touch: a thoughtful breeding programme; and good sportsmanship.

There are good kennels and affixes from one end of the country to the other, all showing and breeding. Surely this bodes well for the breed.

3 The ESS is 'Springer' by name and nature. They are busy, interested, eager to please with head up, eyes aglow and tail wagging from morning to night. They run, they jump (and how they jump) up and down like a jack-in-the-box and can reach at least five feet from a standstill.

They are the raciest on the leg of the British and spaniels — can hunt in cover all day and never tire. They also have a 'pacing gait' all of their own — I do not find it elegant, but it is all Springer and so natural. These points are what makes the ESS totally different from other spaniel varieties.

OLGA & IAN HAMPTON Larkstoke

1 Some time ago we were asked for a personal opinion as to which English Springer we considered to be the closest to the Standard. The years go by and many dogs come and go but we feel that we do



Ir Sh Ch FEORLIG A DREAM LIVES ON

Photo Carol Ann Johnson

2 CCS, 6 res CCS

FEORLIG GORGEOUS HUSSY 2 res CCS

Sincerely thank all judges for their memorable wins

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7 CCS, 10 res CCS, Springer Special top dog 1991

Sh Ch WADESON SHOESTRING
10 CCS, 10 res CCS, JW, 1 res group

Sh Ch WADESON JULIET BRAVO
3 CCS, 6 res CCS, JW

Sh Ch WADESON MISS MARPLE
32 CCS, 22 res CCS, JW, 2 groups, 2 res groups, res BIS WELKS,
Dog World top ESS 1991 & 93, Springer Special overall winner 1991,
92 & 93

Sh Ch WADESON THE EQUALIZER
6 CCS, 3 res CCS, JW, Springer Special top dog puppy 1987 &
top dog 1991

Sh Ch WADESON JESSICA FLETCHER
8 CCS, 2 res CCS, JW

**Sh Ch DRAKESPUR DIFFERENT STROKES
AT WADESON**
6 CCS, 5 res CCS, JW, Springer Special top puppy 1992

Sh Ch WADESON INSPECTOR WEXFORD
9 CCS, 3 res CCS, JW, Springer Special top puppy 1996, winner: Seven
Seas pick of litter competition, winner Watco Inter club charity super
match, Midland Counties group 4, Crufts group 3, overall winner
champion stakes Southern Counties, East of England group 2,
best in show Leeds and still under 2 years old

Sh Ch WADESON STEP TO STARDOM AT SERICUM
We also congratulate Dawn Swales and
12 CCS, 18 res CCS, top ESS 1996

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the judges who have thought so highly of our dogs over the years

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Sh Ch WADESON INSPECTOR WEXFORD after BIS at Leeds

not need to change our earlier opinion. We still feel that **Sh Ch Shayleigh Paulina** is our choice. She had great overall quality and excelled in outline and movement. In head she was typical of the breed.

With regard to our own breeding, the nearest to our ideal was **Ch Larkstoke Parmigan**. This was a b/w/t of correct size and essentially a bitch. She had a well chiselled head, good body and excellent quarters; very good tail carriage and a wonderful temperament. She proved an extremely good worker and was much sought after to work at local shoots.

Her dam was **Higham Tidy**, bred by Miss C M Francis who genuinely trailed her dogs and was so well thought of by the working community. When mated to the field trial dog **Higham Ted**, Parmigan produced **Larkstoke Willywicket** who was a truly dual-purpose dog.

2 Breed type has changed considerably, heads lack correct stop and chiselling in skull. Ears are too low set and eye rims often slack. Bone is often too coarse especially in the hocks. Tailset is often too high and so lacks the lively action while the short dock makes it impossible for the tail to be used as an indicator when at work.



Sh Ch Shayleigh Paulina.
photo Froshin-Williams

A big heavy dog is slow and clumsy at work and we do feel that the breed now needs a reduction in size and more refinement. In the show ring there is excessive use of trimming scissors and other exaggerations in presentation. This does not present the breed in its true form. We do not see the show and field trial dogs coming closer together in type. The rift is now too great to be bridged. We suggest that this is mainly due to show people breeding exaggerated points into their dogs without any consideration of working qualities and also because the owners of working dogs have concentrated on working ability without regard to appearance.

3 One of the principal points which makes the English Springer distinct from the other spaniel breeds is its movement; it tends to pace when moving slowly. It is proportionately higher on the leg and shorter in the back while the well chiselled skull and dark hazel eye give an overall attractive and balanced animal. In the field, its versatility puts it in a class of its own.

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