



SPRINGER SPANIEL



Sh Ch Dalati Sioni
photo Hartley

gone into a sharp decline over the last two decades, there are very few creditable specimens of the breed nowadays.

Doreen Gately (Russell Hill WSS)

1. Sh Ch Dalati Sioni, owned and bred by the Hunton-Morgans. He was a dog of classic type and proportions, combining all the qualities of strength without coarseness.

His prepotency as a sire is legendary, he consistently produced show champions to outcross bitches as shown in my kennel, where he sired five champions in two litters.

2. Difficult to comment on a dog one has not seen in the flesh. With the aid of photographs and in conversation with people who knew him, I greatly admired Sh Ch Dalati Cymro of Fannaritz, who for me encapsulated spaniel type, compact with substance and lovely balance. He was used extensively at stud and I have judged and admired several of his progeny.

3. While English and Welsh are genetically Springer Spaniels there the similarity ends — they are two totally different breeds.

Apart from the obvious colour, the Welsh is smaller and lighter built, coat texture is finer and more silky and has a wonderful self-clean factor.

However, the greatest difference is in character. The Welsh by nature is a highly intelligent but sensitive animal; his main priority is to be with people and he can be very vocal if left alone too long. With patience and understanding he is a devoted companion, but not for the faint hearted who want instant control.

4. Docking will have a serious impact on all the spaniel breeders as working dogs will suffer ongoing tail injuries while working dense cover.

Having judged many dogs abroad with full tails, cosmetically I do not have a problem with a correctly carried tail. However, at home and abroad, breeders will have to address seriously the problem of high tail sets causing a full tail to be carried over the back, spoiling the whole balance and outline of the dog.

5. The English Springer fraternity has a huge problem trying to produce dual-purpose dogs. The divergence in type between the working English and the show dogs seems to me insurmountable.

The former is a small fine boned, lightly coated dog, hyperactive and bred for the sole purpose of working with no regard for construction. This has greatly reduced the English Springer gene pool in introducing working lines to complement show stock.

Conversely, the hard core of dual-purpose Welsh are without exception from show stock. There is no difference in size or type and this has been closely monitored and protected over many years with breeders using only the best from both disciplines.

6. As in all breeds certain aspects of Welsh Springers have improved during my time with the breed. Most noticeably it has been the improvement in the front assembly; short upper arms were then the norm as was lack of hind angulation. These conditions still exist, but not to the same extent.

We could all learn about correct spaniel type from dogs long gone. To describe overlong refined dogs with exaggerated neck length as the 'modern Welsh Springer' is a great injustice to those who promoted the breed at its inception and to breeders who are trying to maintain type.

John & Joy Hartley (Weslave WSS)

1. *Joy*: I feel in all fairness I must name two, Ch Dalati Del — we were fortunate enough to see her shortly before she died. Although I was new to the breed at the time, even as an old lady she made the hair stand up on the back of my neck. She was so balanced, with the most beautiful head and expression, so typical of the breed which in my opinion she still influences today.

Of the dogs I have judged I would say Del's great-granddaughter Sh Ch Dalati Sarhan who had the lovely balance, excellent movement and teamed with quality without any exaggeration.

John: I must answer this question in two parts. It would be difficult to separate Ch Dalati Del and Sh Ch Dalati Sarhan. I saw Del only as an old lady when her show career was over but she still had such

quality.

I had the pleasure of judging Sarhan and she was reserve in the group that day. She had beautiful balance and conformation and was difficult to fault when on form. Until Leeds this year she would have been my choice when I had the pleasure of giving Sh Ch Fennel Maverick his third CC and he went on to win the group.

To me this young dog has everything that I look for in the breed: balance, good construction all round with no exaggeration and his movement is so sound, true and effortless. He takes me back to the late '70s and '80s when there were some really outstanding Welsh Springer males and therefore Maverick would be my choice.

2. Ch Longmynd Calon Fach and Ch Longmynd Megan — the two Welsh Springers in the famous Maud Earl painting. We would like to have seen if they looked as good in the flesh as they do in the painting and to be able to compare them with the dogs of today.

To be greedy we would also like to have seen Sh Ch Deri Darrell of Linkhill and Ffreesia of Hearts, the foundation bitch of



Sh Ch Dalati Rhihan — a great favourite among breed specialists

the Hunton-Morgans' Dalati dynasty.

3. A difficult one to answer apart from the obvious differences in the Standards. Obviously the English Springer is a bigger, heavier spaniel with a different head and ear shape and movement.

Having lived only with Welsh Springers we would say they were more reserved and have a steadier, more laid-back approach to life but having spoken to friends who have English Springers, they would say



2. An early dog, who produced many significant winners in the breed who also bred on, was a male named simply Dry Toast. I have a Beswick model in my living room, bought for me by my son, of this dog and he definitely looks a true, real Springer in every way. I would have loved to see him in the flesh.

3. I really love both breeds, and have owned both over a long time. As regards character I would say that a Welsh tends to be slightly more highly strung and sensitive as well as being highly intelligent. The English will tend to do everything to please its master even when it may suffer itself.

In looks, the English is the largest land Spaniel; the head type differs from the Welsh which is more refined and has slightly different planes with smaller ears. The overall balance differs too with the Welsh being lower to the ground and slightly longer in body.

4. I am a great advocate of docking and see nothing whatsoever wrong with it. From the working aspect, I feel it is a necessary to dock for the dog's wellbeing and having seen the damage that can be done to an undocked tail in the shooting field I am convinced of this opinion.

If docking is banned, it will definitely be more difficult to breed an acceptable tail carriage. Having said all this, I have seen many admirable specimens of the breed shown undocked in Scandinavian countries, so it is certainly not impossible.

5. Over the years both my late husband and I have worked our Springers, indeed several have gained their full champion status.

First and foremost I think it is the keenness of the people who own the breed which determines the fact that seemingly more Welsh are dual-purpose these days than English Springers.

Without a doubt, the type of the working

English Springer is quite different to that of the show Springer, while there is less of a difference between working and showing Welsh. In the Welsh Springer breed there is a small band of people who are keen to promote the dual-purpose nature of the breed which is a good thing.

6. It is hardly surprising that the breed has changed since I began in English Springers as it is such a long time ago! However, I do feel that there are still English Springers of the correct type in the ring, but overall the type has altered and many are too big and rangy.

Attention should be paid to eye colour and less attention to lots of coat which some newer exhibitors may think is beautiful.

June Froggatt (Leonie ESS)

1. Sh Ch Hawkhill Connaught because of his combination of excellent conformation, superb quality and delightful temperament. He also had a great influence on the breed as a stud dog.

2. Dry Toast. From his paintings and ceramic models he appears to be good enough to compete and win today.

3. Never having owned a Welsh Springer I do not think I am qualified to pass an opinion.

4. Lovers of the breed would still have an ESS even if it had a long tail. It should be easy enough to breed an acceptable tail carriage but not easy to prevent the inevitable problems of tail damage, particularly in the working dog.

5. The only way to keep the breed dual-purpose would be for the working breeders to take into consideration conformation and soundness as well as the ability to work.

6. In my opinion the English Springer has

WESLAVE



photo John Hartley

SH CH FERREDEL CAMBO ON WESLAVE

(Kazval Watermark for Weslave ex Sh Ch Fennel Cecilia)

Bitch CC - Belfast 2003, Mrs Ferialh Somerfield

Bitch CC and BOB - GBAS 2003, Mrs Pat Rhodes

Bitch CC - Birmingham National 2004, Mr F Whyte

Res Bitch CC - Blackpool 2003, Mr Tom Graham

Poppy has always been very special to us as she was from Joe's (K Watermark on Weslave) last litter before his untimely death in July 2000. Although she has taken longer to mature than her litter brother and sister Sh Ch Fennel Copywrite and Sh Ch Fennel Carass she has fulfilled the promise she showed as a youngster and has become our fifth Welsh Springer show champion.

We would like to thank everyone who has thought so highly of Poppy and especially John for letting us have her in the first place and the Back-up Team for all your help and support.

Poppy is at present 'testing' at home looking after her delightful puppies by Arkview Hot Toddy at Dalville.

Poppy is much loved and treasured by
JOY and JOHN HARTLEY

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CEPEN



photo John Hartley

SH CH

CEPEN COUNTRY CLASSIC

16 CCs and 7 RCCs

Group 1 - Blackpool '04

Group 3 - SWKA '04

Group 3 - Paignton '02

Champion stakes winner (day) - WELKS

and Paignton '04

BOB - Crufts '03

BCC (crowning) - Crufts '02

At the half way stage 'Summer' is the top English Springer Spaniel having won 6 CCs, 3 BOBs, group 1 and group 3.

Not forgetting our latest edition

Cepen Celtic Dawn

Puppy bitch and best puppy winner at ch shows

shortlisted in the puppy group at Bourne mouth

KARL and NIKKI PAYNE

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