

NORTHERN SUPPLEMENT

THE TEESVIEW GUNDODGS

Profile of Mrs Ellen Dobson by Frank Kane

LAST AUGUST, Bourne-mouth ch show was shaken with the news that a car carrying exhibitors to the show had careened off the M1 and plummeted down an embankment.

The car had as a passenger Mrs Ellen Dobson of the Teesview Springers and her daughter Mrs Margaret Jamieson. Both were injured, Margaret so severely that she is still in hospital today after a second operation on her spine.

Her mother, despite suffering from severe cuts and bruising, after a few days of recovery in bed, managed to fulfil a judging engagement the following week, her legs thickly bandaged and still far from well. That is proof of the indomitable spirit of Mrs Ellen Dobson, a true stalwart of the dog world.

Ellen was brought up amongst dogs; her father kept Aisatians, Labradors and Smooth Collies, but it was with her marriage in 1938 to her late husband George, a gamekeeper, that her attention turned to gundogs and to English Springer Spaniels in particular.

Their dogs were gundogs in the true sense of the word: although George had a good idea for a quality dog, working attributes were more important. It was Ellen who made the first ventures in the show ring and despite the hardships of war kept her Springers throughout the duration thanks to a plentiful supply of rabbits and hare on the estate.

Ellen's first showing success came with the bitch **Wycliffe Rose, By Chastleton Wing** from Mrs Nellie Howard's famous kennel. Her next successes came in the early fifties with the dog **Bass Rock, Boxer of Bramhope**.

Runt

In the mid fifties Ellen brought, for the princely sum of £6, a daughter of **Sh Ch Studley Brave Buccaneer**. She was the runt of a litter bred by Mr George Scott ex **Tyneview Serena**. She was registered as **Tyneview Margaret** and she grew on and developed beyond Ellen's expectations and enjoyed a spectacular puppy career.

However she had to wait five years before she gained her first CC at Chester. She gained her second within a week at Three Counties, ran for and achieved her qualifier, and at the SKC won her third CC to become the first of a long line of Springer champions for the Teesview kennels.

Proof of Ellen's belief that a good Springer is a slow maturer and a good laster was **Margaret's** best win. At nine years of age she won best bitch at Dumfries under the late Dr Stephen Young having taken her ninth CC under Bert Thomas.

Despite **Margaret's** excellent record as a show dog and working dog (she was regularly shot over), even more important was her contribution as a brood bitch in that she produced the dog who put the Teesview Springers very firmly on the map: **Ch Teesview Titus**, winner of 12 CCs, twice BOB at Crufts, an excellent worker and an influential sire. He produced 13 Springers who achieved their titles in this country and at least eight more who became champions overseas.

Prepotent

Among his get are Mr and Mrs Shepherd's **Ch Cliffhill Julius** and **Juliet**, **Sh Ch Whadhill Alicia**, **Sh Ch Teesview Twister**, **Ch Teesview Tarmac**, **Sh Ch Coorigill Starshine**, **Ch Berwyn Suzette**, **Sh Ch Rebecca of Knightward**, **Sh Ch Mastermind of Mordax**, **Sh Ch Cleavehill Brigadier**, **Sh Ch Whitmoor Lady Diane** and the litter mates **Ch Pericles** and **Sh Ch Teesview Pandora of Truelindale**.

Like his dam, Titus did not win his first CC until he was four years old,

but he went on winning and working for many years — as one of the photographs shows. His litter sister **Stokely Teesview Telstar** also gained her title for Mrs Hannah.

Not only was **Ch Titus** a prepotent sire himself, but his children have gone on to be influential in many of the kennels in the breed. In the home kennel **Titus'** son **Ch Teesview Tarmac** won seven CCs and sired among other winners, the lovely bitch **Sh Ch Teesview Tarama**.



Photo: Free Press
The late Mr George Dobson winning the gamekeepers spaniel class at Crufts in the fifties with Whintonhill Print.

One of her daughters, **Teesview Talk of the Town**, was considered by George Dobson as one of his best ever workers, and that was one reason why she never attained her title. The other reason was that **Talk of the Town** was a contemporary of the new arrival at Teesview, **Teesview Pandora of Truelindale**.

Ellen travelled to Sunderland one night to see a **Titus** litter: ex Miss Madge Alder's **Morg of Truelindale**. She chose a dog. Calling to collect the puppy several weeks later, she no longer liked it so much and took a fancy to the smallest bitch in the litter, a puppy that had barely survived.

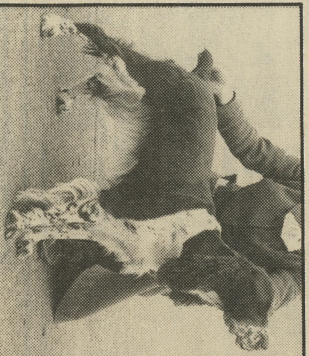


Photo: Cooke
Tyneview Margaret winning her first CC at Chester in 1960. Number 13? Lucky for some! It was to be the first of many CCs for the Teesview kennels.

Both pups travelled back to Teesview. The dog was to become a German champion, and the bitch, **Sh Ch Teesview Pandora of Truelindale**. She won her first CC under Joe Braddon as a youngster and went on winning for many years, notching up 35 CCs under 35 different judges, a record for a bitch which still stands in the breed.

A contemporary of the legendary **Sh Ch Hawkhill Connaught**, they often did the double together, and on one occasion **Pandora** beat him for BOB, one of the very few Springers ever to defeat him. She was twice BOB at Crufts and interspersed her winning show career with the production of four litters, one of them containing **Sh Ch Teesview Top Notch** who in turn sired the liver, white and tan **Sh Ch Teesview Transcontinental**, the sire of **Ch Translara of Teesview** owned and made up by Ellen's daughter, Mrs Margaret Jamieson, and the latest Teesview champion.

Although **Talk of the Town** was never campaigned to her title, she did take a back seat to **Pandora**, she did make a very strong contribution to the breed through one of her daughters, **Teesview Telma**. Ellen showed her as a puppy to win her class at Manchester ch show where she was spotted by Judith Hancock and Jimmy Cudworth who took a strong liking to this **Connaught** daughter and bought her from Mrs Dobson.

Gundogs

Unfortunately **Telma** took a strong dislike to the show ring and stayed at Hawkhill as a brood, in which role she was very successful, producing several champions, who have themselves made their marks on the breed.

Among **Telma's** progeny are Mr Friel's dog **Sh Ch Hawkhill Hi-Line**, the sire of the prolific winning bitch **Sh Ch Windydale Whimsie Ways of Calverdale**. Mated to **Sh Ch Hawkhill Finlandia**, **Telma** produced **Sh Ch Hawkhill Hazy Idea**, a first champion for the Billows of the Robli affix: **Sh Ch Hawkhill Hi-Society of Lawwood**, an inmate of Mrs Satterthwaite's famous Labrador kennel, who in turn produced **Sh Ch Grattonbury Genghis Khan** who won the gundog group at Crufts in recent years, another daughter **Hawkhill Riding Low** came to Teesview and gained her title also; a full sister, **Hawkhill Teasmaid** produced another champion in **Hawkhill Take a Chance**.

So, despite her dislike of the show ring, **Teesview Telma** has had quite an impact on it. She is still alive today and enjoying well earned retirement as a family pet.

Mrs Dobson's address is given simply as "Teesview Gundogs", and the word gundogs means precisely that. Since their foundation as workers for husband George, the Teesview dogs have always been used for their original purpose. They are regularly shot over. Until recently Ellen herself was a keen gun, but now the Springers are worked mostly by son Antony and son-in-law Bob Jamieson.

A special highlight of Ellen's canine calendar are the Gamekeepers' classes at Crufts and the Teesview gundogs hold an enviable record there and not just the English Springers. One of the kennels' early Golden Retrievers, **Lass of the Hills** was successful in these classes and in more recent years many of the bench champions have won the spaniel classes. **Ch Margaret, Titus** and **Tarmac** have all been successful. This year saw Ellen winning the spaniel class with her daughter's **Teesview Thatcher**.

Prospects

After more than 40 years of activity in the breed is Ellen not tired of it? Not a bit of it: the kennel has several young prospects for the coming season which Ellen is looking forward to campaigning. An inexhaustible exhibitor, Ellen is seen at nearly every show including Belfast, one of her favourites, and attends many local open shows.

She has shown other breeds: Labradors which worked for husband George were good specimens of the breed, and Ellen did enjoy some success with them. She has also exhibited Welsh Springers, Cocker, Beagles and takes in interest in her daughter's Min Longhaired Dachshunds.

As a gundog judge she is in demand both at home and overseas. She awards CCs in Springers, Cocker, Cumber and Irish Water Spaniels. In 1988 she judges BIS at the National Gundog ch show, her first ch group appointment and a most deserved honour for decades of loyalty to and experience in the gundog breeds. ■



Mrs Ellen Dobson with (left) Teesview Tracey and (right) her sire Sh Ch Teesview Top Notch.



Ch Teesview Titus at 12 years old, exhibiting the dual-purpose role of the Teesview dogs.



Photo: Roslin-Williams
Sh Ch Teesview Pandora of Truelindale, the CC record-holding bitch.



A Teesview group — left to right, Timber, Talk of the Town, Tarmac, Tarama and Titus.