

THE DOG STAR

ANDREW BRACE continues his monthly series of profiles of outstanding dogs which have distinguished themselves in the British showing.

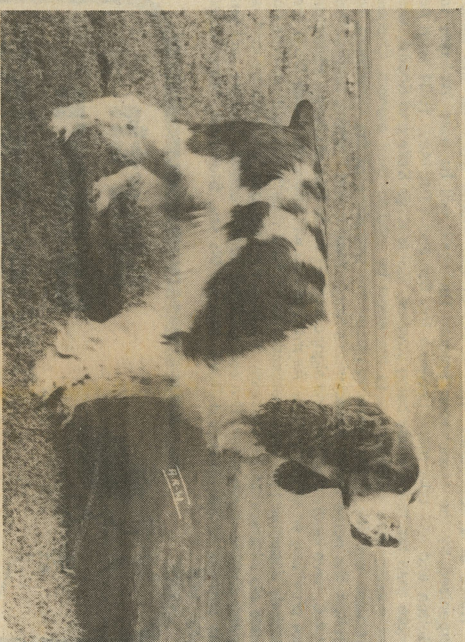
The English Springer Spaniel

SH-CH. HAWKHILL CONNAUGHT

Every cloud, or so the saying goes, has a silver lining. Well for Mrs Judith Hancock and Mr Jimmy Cudworth, the cloud of Mrs Hancock's spell of ill health early in 1964 certainly resulted in a silver lining which has proved to be hallmarked time and time again . . .

Shortly before Crufts that year Mrs Hancock realised that she would not be well enough to get to the show where she had entered her exciting Young English Springer puppy, Slayleigh. Paula and in desperation telephoned Jimmy Cudworth, a good friend, and asked if he would like to take Paula along and handle her for Mrs Hancock. He agreed, took Paula along to the show and returned home with the bitch's first CC and also Best of Breed.

Exciting puppy though Paula may have been, it is interesting to hear that this bitch had been sold as a pet, proved to be unwanted by her new owners and was sold on to Mrs Hancock for the princely sum of seven guineas which, even in 1963 was hardly a small fortune! With Crufts over and Paula's future looking rather rosy Mrs Hancock asked Jimmy Cudworth if he would care to handle Paula at future shows. Obviously he was keen to do so and had faith in her chances from the start being a connoisseur of Gundogs of many years standing, but if Jimmy was to handle her, he also wanted to own her! There began one



A statueque study of Connaught taken by specialist photographer Anne Roslin-Williams.

Bobbie James. At Cardiff another Group from Bert Thomas and Reserve Best under Bert Essam.

As I write these articles it occurs to me that so many of the great judges who have honoured dogs like Connaught are no longer with us and our sport must be the poorer for their passing. So many colourful characters and all as ready to give advice as a smile. I fear we will never see their like again and wonder how the gaps left by them will be filled.

RUNNER-UP

Cliff Brown gave Con the Group at Paternborough where Mrs Nagle made him Runner Up to the Best in Show and at Leicester Keith Hart added another Group. Mrs Jay James gave him the Group at the LKA that year and here he went on to Best in Show under the USA Judge Miss Mary Jane Ellis, partner with Mrs Nagle in some of the Sulhamstead Irish Wolfhounds. Twice Con was Reserve in the Group, once under Joe Braddon as the previous year and once under Al Collins.

Twelve Best of Breed rosettes came Connaught's way in 1973 and he won the Gundog Group at Bath under Owen Grinley, at Birmingham National under Leslie Page, at Chester under Joe Braddon, at Darlington under Bert Thomas and he went Best in Show at the National Gundog under Jimmy James. Bobbie James, who had given him his first Best in Show at a general Championship show, repeated the award at Chester. Bert Thomas made him Best at Darlington, his first Best in Show appointment, and Arthur Westlake gave him the Supreme award at Bath. He came Reserve in the Group at Windsor under the Swedish Judge Mrs Carin Lindhe at Plington under George Leatt, at



The late Bert Thomas made Connaught Best in Show at Darlington, his first Best in Show appointment at this level. He later gave him the Group at Bath when Con retired having won his 50th CC and had gone through to Best in Show. Reserve here was Ann Winter's Group winning Pom, Ch Wynwights Mild Winter Boy.

George Couzens he went through to take the Group and Best in Show under Owen Grinley. Twice he came out in 1976, and again twice he was Best of Breed, finishing up with Reserve in the Group at Leeds under Valerie Foss. At seven years of age, Connaught was still capable of taking the limelight!

RETIRED

At rising eight years of age, Connaught made one appearance in 1977 and this proved to be his last show, but he certainly retired in style. Bath was the show, Maizie Salter judged the Breed and put Connaught through. Bert Thomas gave him the Group and finally Bill Stiggers gave him the top spot and although technically a Veteran I remember how this great dog just seemed to pushine anything else that day.

In seven years in the ring, albeit appearing all too seldom in the latter half of his career Connaught had won 50 CCs. On 46 of those occasions he had also taken Best of Breed, and I am sure that there are few dogs in the pages of history who can claim to have won the Double with not only their daughters, but with their dam. Such is Connaught's claim, and it was at Leicester in '71 that he took the CC and BOB with his dam, Paula, taking the Bitch ticket. Subsequently daughters of Con's were to play opposite him in this very role on numerous occasions. His 50 CCs created an unrivalled Breed Record as



Connaught taking Best in Show at one of the Scottish Kennel Club Championship shows under Owen Grinley. Reserve Best was a multiple Group winner himself, Polly Fielden's Pyrenean, Ch Briarghvyll Falstaffi.

the nearest Challenger won 35. In addition to those CCs were 6 Reserve CCs, and his score of Group wins numbered no fewer than 17, with a further 9 Reserve placings.

CC could well stand for Consistent Connaught, as he won 7 Best in Show awards at All Breed Championship Shows and 7 at Breed Club Championships too. Three times he came Reserve at general events.

Having looked at a show career which might be the envy of any exhibitor, we will now study the success which Con achieved as a stud dog, which would be the equivalent to any serious Breeder. Connaught started to sire the goods from his early days, and still his progeny completely dominate the ring. As recently as Manchester this year Connaught sired both the Group winner and the winner of the Veteran Stakes — no mean achievement! Ironically, Manchester is the Hawkhill's local show and yet it is one of the few shows at which he never won a CCI! At the last count, and believe me it's changing constantly, Connaught had sired no less than 21 Show Champions in the UK with 8 further CC winners chasing their overseas.

Before I go into more detail as far as Connaught's children are concerned, I feel that it should be pointed out that this was no 'one off' dog in fairness to Dougal and Paula his parents. Connaught was one of six Show Champions who were

Through children who didn't win their titles (yes . . . there were so!) Connaught is a grand sire of Sh Ch Hawkhill High Line, Sh Ch Hawkhill Happy Idea, Sh Ch Hawkhill High Society, Sh Ch Hawkhill Riding Low and Ch Tamaritz Tess.

On three occasions Connaught has been the sire of both CC winners and both Reserve CC winners at our Championship shows.

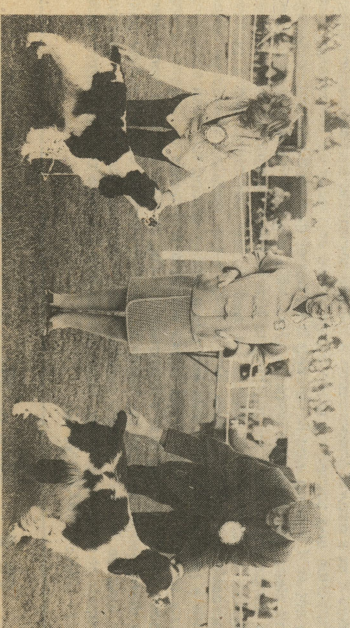
When being shown himself he won the double with a daughter of his on eight occasions, the honours being shared by Sh Chs Humble Duty, Rag Apple, Meadow Miri, and Grecian Girl.

He also battled it out for Best of Breed on two occasions with his sisters, Dobby Daydream and St. Paula Girl, so here we have a dog who did the double with his dam once, with his sisters twice and with his daughters eight times! That certainly brings a new meaning to the phrase 'generation gap!' At the time of writing Con's sons and daughters and that number is certain to grow considerably.

Sh Ch Hawkhill Connaught was whelped by his co-breeder Judith Hancock at Castlegate Farm and at nine months of age went to join the other half of the partnership, Jimmy Cudworth, at his Rockdale home where he has remained as a devoted housepet ever since.

Only the other evening as I spoke to Jimmy on the telephone and discussed this article Connaught was at Jimmy's side, with his head on his master's knee. I noticed that at Manchester the Hancock/Cudworth partnership had entered a young bitch by Connaught called Hawkhill One in a Million. If ever a puppy had been named after its sire, surely this must be it. ANDREW H. BRACE.

Three Counties 1971 and the first show where Connaught was exhibited as a Show Champion. He won his fourth CC and BOB under Mrs Mary Scott whose last appointment this was as sadly she died shortly afterwards.



of the most successful partnerships of recent years and from that day to this the Hawkhill kennel has never looked back.

Paulina was campaigned to win no less than 26 CCs and was acclaimed by people who know as a truly great bitch and an outstanding specimen of her breed. Though not closely line-bred she was a daughter of Sh Ch Whaddon Chase Drake and Quaker Girl of Stubham and went back to the famous Bramhope dogs of yesteryear. When the time came to mate her, Paula was taken to Ernest and June Froggett's famous Best in Show winner, Ch Moorcliff Dougal of Truelindale, himself winner of 20 CCs and a great dog of his time. From that litter, born on July 11th 1969 came a dog puppy, Hawkhill Connaught, who was to prove one of, if not the greatest, Gundogs of the seventies — and who was to better his achievements in the show ring only by those of a sire of unquestionable merit.

Dougal was the son of two Champions and his sire, Sh Ch Douglas of Freetwood was by Ch Alexander of Stubham so Connaught was a grandson of two half-brothers who were sons of Alexander. His grand dams were also closely line-bred though not on identical lines, but Con's pedigree consists of generations of excellent stock, proving that breeding will out. But before we look at the influence he had as a sire, let us study what can only be termed a phenomenal career in the show ring.

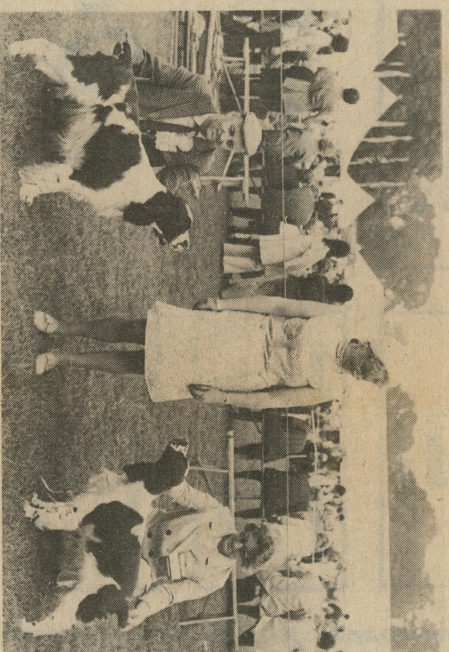
Towards the end of 1970 when Con was barely out of Puppy classes Birmingham National held their last

pleasure from Con's wins as did his proud owners.

HONoured

As a fit Yeating, Connaught made the world of Springers and Gundogs in general sit up and take notice well and truly in 1971. His second ticket came at Bath under Mrs Sherwood and also Best of Breed, and then his third ticket came from Mrs Muirhead at Leeds, though he was beaten for Best of Breed that day. Further tickets and with them Best of Breed, almost as a matter of form, were won at another twelve shows that year, and at Plington Ernest Froggett who had campaigned Con's sire, Dougal, so obviously knew the Breed inside out gave him his first Group. At Cardiff Lily Turnergave him a second Group and Joe Cartledge made it three, almost in a row, at Southern Counties. In addition Con went on to the Reserve spot under both Joe Braddon and Stanley Dargenfield.

1972 started off with a bang, as Con took the Breed at Crufts just as his mother had done some years previously and his father too. Fourteen shows were graded by Connaught's presence that year, when he won the CC and Best of Breed. His first Group of the year was won at Three Counties under non other than Gwen Broadley, herself owner and breeder of so many celebrated Gundogs in her Sandylands kennel. That day Connaught finished up Reserve Best in Show under the late Jimmy Allen. Plington saw him take his second Group of 1972 and here he went on to win the top spot under



Windsor Championship Show and not an unusual sight with Connaught taking Best of Breed and a daughter of his the Bitch ticket. The bitch is Sh. Ch. Hawkhill Humble Duty owned and handled by Dodo Hutton Morgans, and the judge is Breed Specialist Mrs Jean Taylor who bred three Cleavehill Show Champions in one litter having used Con at stud.

PEDIGREE OF SH CH HAWKHILL CONNAUGHT

PARENTS		GREAT GRAND-PARENTS	
SIRE	Sh Ch Douglas of Freetwood	GREAT GRAND-PARENTS	GREAT GRAND-PARENTS
	Ch Moorcliff Dougal of Truelindale	GREAT GRAND-PARENTS	GREAT GRAND-PARENTS
DAM	Sh Ch Whaddon Chase Drake	GREAT GRAND-PARENTS	GREAT GRAND-PARENTS
	Sh Ch Slayleigh Paula	GREAT GRAND-PARENTS	GREAT GRAND-PARENTS
	Quaker Girl of Stubham	GREAT GRAND-PARENTS	GREAT GRAND-PARENTS

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