

Peter Hall

After several years of keeping GSD's & Border Collies I acquired an Irish Setter or should I say he acquired me. It was 1981 and after a year of being persuaded to show him by a friend in English Setters, I did. He enjoyed his shows but the judges preferred the others, most of the time. I had seen a bitch shown locally and liked what I saw, albeit with a novice eye. This bitch was mated to a dog I had seen at Crufts that I also liked. Ironically I had seen his sire at the same show and took photo's of both him and his son independently not realising the connection. Well the litter was advertised and I purchased my first proper Irish Setter in 1983, Reddins Harvey. The showing bug had bitten me as I was everywhere showing him.

Several years later I found myself collecting a young bitch from June Coates, bred by Biddy Evens, Goldings Osprey. She was nearly two but I had liked her since a six month old puppy. She was mated to Skymist Moody Blue and Harreds Poacher was bred and kept. He won well for me as a youngster picking up a few RCC's and a CC, but had a few lean showing years leading up to his seventh birthday due to personal commitments. However, thinking life would be more relaxed showing him in veteran classes, off I went to enjoy. Not to be. He picked up a second CC in the January and was fortunate to be made up at Crufts that year. The rest of the year was then just fun.

A bitch was purchased from the Barleydale Kennels, Polyantha, she went from strength to strength and picked up her first CC at Crufts and was made up the following August. An obvious choice of stud dog presented itself to me in the guise of Poacher, who was getting on in years and so H.Ghillie was born. Shortly after this I moved to Ireland where I now live with my Irish Setters and Irish Sport Horses.

I have been a Committee Member of the Irish Setter Association, England since 1995. I was a former Treasurer up until my move to Ireland and remain still dedicated to Serve the Breed through my duties with the ISAE despite my threats to stand down every time my plane is delayed coming back from a Committee meeting.