

## *Meranne - Our Story*

Both Merv and I had owned dogs before we ever got together, Merv owned a Basenji and a Pekinese, and myself a Pembroke Corgi, although I had learnt to walk with the help of a Springer Spaniel, so dogs had always figured in our lives.

It was around the early seventies after the loss of our Corgi due to a virus, and Lassie being on the television that we decided to buy a Rough Collie which was duly given the more upper class name of *Lady*. Lady came from one of those kennels that sell all breeds, but was, I thought at the time, the most wonderful thing since sliced bread.

A few years later our good friend Mary Glover bought a Sheltie and started to show. I went along with her to a show at Harrogate to see what happened and got the showing bug. I realised looking at the Rough Collies that were being exhibited that Lady was not quite good enough for the show ring and decided to have a litter from her. We were introduced to Phil and Linda Rodford of the well-known kennel Skellvale and duly mated Lady to Ch. Shane of Skellvale.

The arriving of our first litter was very exciting and we awaited with bated breath the arrival of these tiny bundles. Lady settled down to be a good mother although to begin with we thought she must have been mated by another dog as these puppies looked nothing like the so-called parents, being much shorter faced and heavy eared. This was explained away by the Rodfords who told us it was quite normal. Around 8 weeks Phil and Hilda came and advised us which puppies were worth showing. We decided to keep two, a dog and a bitch. The bitch we named *Lisa* and the dog Rhemus, he was later to be sold as the bitch turned out the better of the two. I could not wait for Lisa's first show to come around having trained weekly at the local ring craft.

Our first show was at Ripon & District Canine Society, which was the town we lived in at the time, I duly prepared my Lisa as I had been shown and off we went with bated breath. Lisa became 4th in her class and I was ecstatic, and hooked.

When Lisa was around 2 years old we mated her to Audrey Chatfield's Ch. Drum Major of Dunsinane and kept a dog from the litter which we had quite a bit of fun with at Open Show level. Then we decided to try a Championship show so duly went along to the Yorkshire Collie Club where Audrey Chatfield was judging. We felt surely she would think our dog *Toby* was the greatest, sadly no, we were unplaced but not going to give up. We decided that we needed to get a better quality bitch in and at the time I decided to ring Gordon and Thelma Duncan of the Brettonpark Kennel, to see if they had anything we could buy. Fortunately for us they had a bitch '*Brettonpark Whoops a Daisy*' which we could have on breeding terms. We would be allowed to show her but only at Open show level as they did not think she was correct for Championship Shows due to being a little short in head for the length of her body. Daisy, as she was called, came home with us and we had much fun at the open shows with her.



When Daisy was old enough the Duncan's asked for her to be taken to be mated to Ch. Aberthorne Arrester which we duly did. Daisy had her puppies and at 8 weeks Thelma and Gordon came to take their pick which were the terms we had arranged. They chose a bitch which was named Brettonpark Country Fair, who later became a Champion at just over 1 year. A few years later we mated Whoops a Daisy to Ch. Mybern's Minstrel and retained two bitches which were named **Meranne Mon Amie** and Meranne My Girl Josephine. Meranne Mon Amie (Amy) was exported to Holland and was one of the foundation bitches for Martin & Tonnie den Otter of the Cleveland Hills Kennel, along with some Aberthorne stock. The first time she was shown was at the Amsterdam Winner where she gained her Youth Champion Certificate. Amy produced many winning offspring over her lifetime.

**Meranne My Girl Josephine** was shown by us and although she was a beautiful bitch who willingly showed her head off outside the ring she was a complete headache in it. Every time a judge looked at her she would turn her bum to them and look the other way, she was placed at Championship shows but could have done better if she had been more obliging. Josephine was a good mother and had three good litters with winning stock. Amongst one of them being **Hayzee Fantayzee** (Sophie) who won her first puppy class at Paignton Championship Show out of a class of 50 and went on to get Best Puppy and Reserve CC under Derek Smith of the Clickham kennel. Sophie also won Best Puppy under May Young of the Ugony prefix at Blackpool Championship Show and went on to win Reserve Best Puppy in Show under the late Pru Green. Sophie was always such a character and left a void when she was no longer with us, her sire was Ch. Kidlaine Khan.



**Meranne Hayzee Fantayzee**

We have bought stock in and had puppies from bitches on terms from several kennels, to name a few without being boring;

Tanryn, our first tri-colour came from Ian Entwistle, and was mated to Aberthorne Arrester. A sable dog which was kept was exported to Holland, his name was **Meranne Rough & Tumble**. Named after one of the few horses I have ever backed in the Grand National that that won, he did well and was top stud dog in Holland at the time.

A bitch which was on terms to the late Mr McSeveney of the Fortisat Kennel produced a lovely litter by Mybern's Minstrel and we had a dog from the litter called Fortisat Farrad at Meranne, he did well for us then was exported to France. Another that springs to mind is **Meranne Arbis Ameretto** who was bred by Mr Smith of the Arbis kennel in Scotland. The sire and dam being of our breeding, she was shown quite successfully as a youngster and then was exported to Mr And Mrs Bosch in Holland where she was made up.

There was a time when we were looking for a tri dog to bring into our kennel and we had heard that Mr. & Mrs Walton of the Yorvik kennel had a litter with tri's so we went to look at the litter. Getting there we saw the litter and at the same time noticed a litter with sables and I could not take my eyes of this shaded sable male. I asked John if he was for sale and he said yes they were keeping a different pup. So I said to Merv I want that dog and he said why? Anyway to keep a long story short the dog came home with us. John asked what we would like to name him and I said as it was by pure chance that we saw him then that would be a good name so **Yorvik Pure Chance** it was. Chez as he was named did us well in the show ring although as an adult he was hard work when bitches were around as his mind was more on sex than showing. He gained a few Reserve CC's and CC's and was exported to Holland to the Kiméwopark Kennel of Mr & Mrs ten Hove where he more than proved his worth as a stud dog.



**Yorvik Pure Chance at Meranne**



One of our most memorable puppies we purchased was from Mr & Mrs Tipper of the Tiganlea Kennel. He was a tri named **Tiganlea Man About Town** (Clinton, named after you know who and his kennel mate from the Glenzara kennel was called Monica, this should tell you something) Clinton was shown with reasonable succes as a youngster and then exported to the kennel of Mr and Mrs Bosch, he was entered at the World Show the first week he was there and won the CACIB under breed specialist Mrs J. Sykes.



**Tiganlea Man About Town with Meranne**

One of our other well-known bitches was **Meranne Ballycrackers** who was always good in the show ring and could never understand if she was not placed first. She would look at the dog in front with utter disgust. Perno as she was called gained two Reserve CC's and two CC's. Unfortunately, she never made the 3rd due to failing health but she will always be a Champion in our eyes.



**Meranne Ballycrackers**

On one occasion a tri-colour which we had bred was returned to us. Her name was **Meranne Moonlight Shadow** and we agreed to let the

previous owner have a bitch puppy when she had a litter. Unfortunately for us there was only one bitch, but an agreement is an agreement. The puppy (Sammy) went to her new home, her sire was Mr Mischief at Pekim who had Aberhill breeding in the pedigree. Due to unforeseen circumstances and unbeknown to us the puppy was advised for sale. Carol and Mike Morgan of the Baiodora affix had been told that there was quite a nice puppy for sale and bought her. Sammy had not been registered by us with a kennel name as these were the terms for getting our bitch back. Therefore the name of this winning bitch did not mean anything at the time. We entered Perno for the SKC Championship Show, where Mike was judging and he gave us the Reserve CC and asked if we were the breeders of **Ch. Sweet Samantha's Golden Girl at Baiodora**.

A few years later and we came by a Lhasa Apso, a breed at the time we had never heard of, this happened as a friend had bought one and her husband did not get on with it and she asked if I would swap a collie puppy for the Lhasa. Having inspected the dog I thought it was quite nice and agreed. In due course I decided to have a litter and start to show Lhasa's. I kept a black and gold bitch which was very inaptnly named by Merv as 'Guinness' as the gold head on top of a black body somehow reminded him of the well-known Irish drink.

I took Guinness along with Merv to her first show at the North of England Lhasa Apso Show, which was the first show the club had been granted. Being the novice in the breed that I was, I entered her for four classes. I duly went in my first class which had some 10 or 12 exhibits in and tried to copy everyone else as I had been used to free stand a collie and not to getting down on my knees and stacking. I was placed 2nd and was over the moon. On leaving the class I was shuffled outside by some willing hands and shown how to do it properly.

I went in my other three classes and became 1st gaining three lovely engraved glasses for my efforts, I still have them to this day. Several litters and dogs later I still have my Lhasa and have had quite a good success rate, was also top winning veteran for three years running (the dog not me).

Three years ago I was asked to hold a Griffon Bruxellois, smooth red, at a show and was smitten, I ordered a puppy and we named her Ruby as it was the year of our Ruby Wedding Anniversary. Ruby has always been placed at shows and qualified for Crufts at her first show, although to be honest there is not the same competition. Merv has now banned me from holding another breed when I go to shows, but that's another story.

*To everyone we have failed to mention and to all our old dogs not mentioned, as there are too many and this would be more like a book than an article, we have not forgotten you.*