

Irish Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of Ireland

THE WHEATEN NEWS



Newsletter
November 2016

Secretary's Corner



Hello Everyone.

Hard to believe we're publishing our 6th Newsletter. Thank you to Debbie and Eileen for their continued hard work and for compiling this great publication. I know many of you, especially overseas members, look forward to catching up with what is going on in Ireland; we are busy as usual. We had another walk in the rain with several Wheatens sporting very fashionable rain coats but despite the rain we had great fun and chat and had all the Wheatens off the lead galloping through the parklands of Marley.

On the day of the AGM we also ran our second grooming work shop which was a great success with a lovely relaxed atmosphere with Nicky and Anne keeping everyone stocked up with tea and biscuits. There was plenty of chat and advice and catching up with old friends and meeting new puppies and welcoming new members! We have continued to grow our Facebook family which is hovering around 820 Members and I really enjoy reading the interaction and seeing the advice offered and would also like to thank everyone for the lovely photos that they post.

We sold out of the Christmas cards in record time. There was huge demand for them thank you so much to Eileen Collins-Kennedy's son-in-law Robert who continues to provide the Club with unique artwork. Huge Thank You also to all the people who helped sell cards in their own countries, you know who you are and your efforts are much appreciated. I also ordered more of the Native Irish Dogs book, more information on the back cover of this Newsletter.

May I take this opportunity to wish all our members and their families a Happy Christmas and look forward to Celebrating 2017 with you which is our 80th year as being a recognized breed with the Irish Kennel Club.

Jennifer Kealy
Honorary Secretary

Editor's Notes

Winter has certainly arrived very quickly with recent frosts gales etc. Our Autumn was beautiful this year and as our weather was milder with less

wind, the trees retained their leaves for much longer resulting in some stunning colours.

Of course my hedgehogs reappeared including 3 small juveniles that Clodo tried to bring into house! I gave them shelter in my greenhouse and as they weighed approx 300 grams each, I knew they would not survive a Winter outside especially if the temperatures dropped below freezing for a longer period of time. So I am feeding them every night and it is costing a small fortune! Mostly dog food, crushed dog kibble, hard boiled eggs etc. My 6 years old granddaughter came to see them one night. A great adventure with torch etc. She stood looking at them and was amazed. "Oh they are so cute! Please can we bring them inside?" Answer was of course not. But then she asked if she could bring them in for a cuddle in bed? I explained that the prickles would hurt and that they were wild animals but that still did not deter her! "But Grannie we could give them a little SHAVE and then they would not hurt!" Enough said! So another year is coming to a close. Well done to those exhibitors who made up new champions and also to those who just enjoyed the shows and events held by the Club throughout the year. Time now to take things easier, curl up by the fire and relax. I always think the Winter months a good time to get to know your Wheatens more as everyone spends less time outside.

May I take this opportunity to wish all our readers and Members a very Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for 2017.

Eileen, Editor.



The 3 babies

Annual General Meeting

At the Annual General Meeting of the Irish Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of Ireland held at the Quaker Hall, Rathfarnham, Co Dublin on Sunday 4th September, the following committee members were voted in.

Patrons: Hannah Ryan, Anne White and Anna Butler

President: Christy Butler

Vice President: Michael Brady & Jay Rutherford

Chairperson: Susan Kealy

Vice Chairperson: Nicky White

Secretary: Jennifer Kealy

Treasurer: Eileen Collins-Kennedy

Committee Members:

Eithne Brady

Deborah Evans-Barry

Bernadette Moynihan

Fergus O'Sullivan

Tomas Rosengrave

Evelyn Rutherford

Jay Rutherford

IKC Representative:

Eileen Collins-Kennedy

Auditor:

Nicky White

*"The only creatures
that are evolved
enough to convey
pure love are dogs
and infants."
Johnny Depp*

Grooming Workshop

After the AGM a Grooming Workshop was held with many of the Committee members on hand to help and assist people with the care of their Wheatens

This write-up from Lesley Porter:

Following the Club's AGM a grooming workshop was held. This was an opportunity to see, first hand, what goes in to turning out a well groomed wheaten.

Experienced groomers were on hand to demonstrate and share their knowledge. The event was very well attended with a variety of wheatens from young pups to the more mature, show dogs and pets.

All were welcome! It was a great opportunity to "talk wheaten" and share anecdotes about our beloved dogs.



Photo from the very wet Wheaten Walk

Microchipping

In Ireland from March 31st 2016 it is compulsory for all dogs to be microchipped. As responsible dog owners there are 3 things you need to know about the new legislation.

1. Your dog must be microchipped and registered on a Government approved database such as "FIDO" by March 31st 2016.
2. You must have a certificate from a Government approved database such as "FIDO" to prove that your dog is microchipped and registered on the database.
3. You must keep your contact details up to date. Any changes of ownership or of contact address/ phone number must be notified to the database.

If you are buying, selling or transferring ownership there are 3 more things you need to know about the new Law.

1. From September 1st 2015 all puppies must be microchipped and registered with a Government approved database such as "FIDO" by the time they reach 12 weeks of age or before they are moved from their place of birth.
2. It is illegal to buy or take ownership of a puppy that is not microchipped and registered and does not have a certificate to prove this.
3. You must inform the Government approved database when you buy, sell, take ownership or transfer ownership of a dog.

If your dog is already microchipped you still need to make sure your details are correctly stored on a Government approved database and have a certificate to prove this. You can go to www.chipcheck.ie and check online to see if your dog's microchip is fully compliant.

The above has been brought to my attention during a recent experience. A little lost "Westie" found his way onto my property when my gardeners were working. He was a real cutie and obviously much loved. His collar

did not have any identification details, just a little bell! I took him in as he was afraid and hungry. I fed him and gave him a quick examination to ensure he looked healthy before introducing him to my own dogs. I estimated his age to be approximately 9 months - 18 months. My greenhouse was warm and I set him up inside with a little bed and water. Later that day and evening, I drove around my neighbourhood searching for his owner or someone who may know of him. But nobody recognised him. He was happy and secure with me and so the following day I renewed my search for his home. Late afternoon having had no luck, I took him to my local veterinary practice to see if he was microchipped and indeed he was but sadly not registered. However the receptionist/veterinary nurse had an idea. She took his photograph and put it on the website of the veterinary practice and their "Facebook" page. I gave my contact details and I took him home. Early the next morning, I received a call from the veterinary practice to say that a message had been left about him. The owner had been searching and found his photograph. So I was able to reunite him with his owner. A very happy ending. I advised the owner to make sure his details were on the database as if he ever got lost again she could be contacted immediately.



Those of us with dogs previously microchipped but perhaps not registered correctly need to do so. It is something so quick and easy to do, taking only a little time, but something we delay meaning to do it later. Later may be too late for some owners/dogs so please check NOW and make sure if your dog goes missing, you will have a happy ending.

Overseas News

Hobel High Class Baby, Sallie, at the wonderful age of 9 years old became a Norwegian and Swedish Champion in June 2016. Sallie is owned and loved by Kristina and Tobbe Josefsson in Sweden and is a daughter of Multi CH Kellynack Chynora Avec Hobel and Multi CH Villa Rosas Jill Na Lausitz. This is great news as Sallie has waited a long time for those final points to become a Champion.

I think this proves that Wheatens do get better with age and it is never too late regardless of age to make up a Champion.



Sallie handled by Tobbe

Another new Champion is Keen, kennel name Hobel The Sundance (Sire: IR Ch Briankeen J.O. Jun & Vet Ch / Dam: Hobel Honky Tonk Angel Jun Ch) in Russia. Keen, in 2016, became a Russian and RKF Champion at under 15 months. Keen is owned by Maria Antonova and this is her second dog from Deborah Evans-Barry.



Maria with Keen

Going Hunting

Every year a special show is held for all the 9 Irish Native Breeds. These are as follows; Irish Terrier, Red Setter, Red and White Setter, Irish Water Spaniel, Irish Wolfhound, Kerry Blue, Glen of Imaal, Kerry Beagle and Irish Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier. This is usually a lovely show highlighting our beautiful native breeds. A true showcase and a great opportunity to see all the breeds together.

As part of this show there is an added extra with a cup for reward. Aimed mostly for participation by the Terriers. It is usually quite a comedy with dogs getting excited and an opportunity to demonstrate their natural hunting instincts.

Bales of straw are arranged to form a narrow tunnel and a lure of a dead rabbit is dragged through. On turn, each competing dog is released and tries to catch the prey. There is a lot of enjoyment and fun for both spectators and dogs.

My old girl, Cara, was far too clever. Having watched the routine several times, on her turn she ran straight around the bales to the end bypassing the tunnel! Of course she was disqualified but she loved it. There was also the year when a clever Glen of Imaal caught the rabbit and would not let go of his catch and so the competition ended abruptly! In a recent year a clever Wheaten won the cup. This was Parkalissene Orfhlaith, owned and bred by Bernadette Moynihan, see below with judge Mr James Byrne.



Wordoku

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Wordoku is played over a 9x9 grid, divided to 3x3 sub-grids called ‘regions’:

The object of this Wordoku is to fill the other empty cells with “HOLMENOCKS” letters (1 letter only in each cell) according to the following guidelines:

HOLMENOCKS

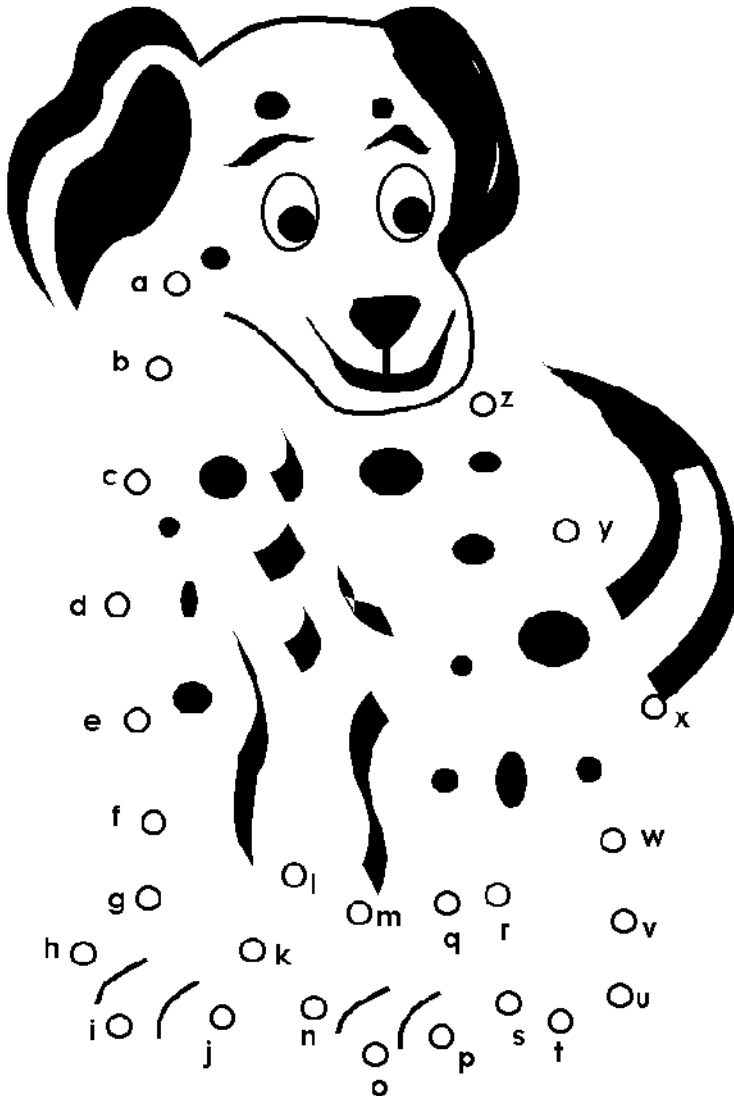
- Letter can only appear once in each row
- Letter can only appear once in each column
- Letter can only appear once in each region

Good luck and enjoy

Wordoku created by Katia Gobi

Junior Corner

I would love to hear stories about your Wheatens, pictures of your Wheatens, jokes, poems etc in fact anything you can tell us. So get your crayons, paints and pens and send me something to include in our next issue. You can email them to eilocollins@hotmail.com



My First Dog Show

On November 19th, 2016 I entered my baby puppy bitch, Lexi in our first dog show. I was very nervous and didn't know what exactly to do until Deborah Evans-Barry showed me. I went into the ring, feeling hesitant. I walked up to the judge and she smiled kindly. She checked my puppy's body shape then told me to walk in a square and then up and down. I stumbled a small bit. I won first place for best baby puppy bitch in breed. I got a rosette and a book about Irish breeds. I was asked if I would go in Junior Handler class and I won with Deborah's dog Kris. He is a gorgeous dog and very well behaved. With him I won best junior handler which got me another rosette, dog food and a bag of chocolates. Next, I competed against other puppies many which were older so therefore they had more experience and training. I felt extremely chastened and I ended up coming third which felt like coming first and winning an Oscar all in one. I helped Deborah pack up, and drove home with my Mom. I would advise showing your dog to anyone out there. I loved my first show and can't describe how thankful I am to Deborah!

By: Isabelle Birkett age 10



Colour me in



For Children and Adults: How many words of 2 or more letters can you make from WHEATEN using only each letter once? We found more than 50!!

Views From Breeders Around The World

This issue – Katia Gobi – The Soft Irish Gentlewheaten, France

1. What first attracted you to ISCWT?

When I started to look for a dog, I lived in the city and I thought that a medium size breed would suit better my environment. I bought different dog magazines looking for a long haired breed and one day I saw the photo of a dog that really caught my eyes for its look. I had never heard of this breed, the breed name was complicated “Irish Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier” and I decided to give a phone call to the breeder to get more information. What the breeder told me on the phone seemed to match my requirements and on top of it I was very pleased to learn they didn’t shed. A few days later, I drove to his kennels to see his dogs. A few dogs were in the yard and they instantly run to greet me... On my first meeting with the breed, I experienced right away the “Wheaten greetings”. One more thing I didn’t expect but I really enjoyed. This dog was Ardymon Andy, imported from Ireland and bred by Art and Dympna O’Neill. There was a litter out of him and I fell for a male puppy “Irwing”. And then that’s how it has all started....



CH Ardymon Andy



This was my first Wheaten, Ch. Irwing de la Brionnerie whose sire was Ch. Ardymon Andy

How many years have you been involved with the breed?

I have been involved in the breed since 1994.

Are Wheatens your original breed?

Yes, they are and they definitely are the perfect dogs for me. Beside the fact they are dogs you can easily take for long walks off leash in the fields and in the wood, I love their happy temperament, their unconditional loving nature and their loyalty. But what really makes them special is their smartness. After all these years, I am still amazed to experience that they have more than one funny idea a day... life with Wheatens is never boring. They definitely cheer people up and that's great!

2. In your opinion which is the best wheaten owned or bred by you?

3. Other than those you have been personally involved with, which two or three Wheatens would you describe as the best ones you have seen and why?

4. What kennel within or outside of the breed has impressed you and why?

How many times I heard breeders saying "Oh! it is so difficult to make a choice". Indeed it is. When we work our combinations, we should get more than one good puppy in the litter to match our expectations... or we missed something... It is often easier to select the one we like the less than the one we like the best. For that reason I won't name one of my dogs (owned or bred) as it would not do justice to the others, including those who went to pet homes and didn't have a chance to be shown. Ribbons and titles don't make a good dog, they only make a happy owner. Too many dogs have titles when they should not and too many pets would deserve to have titles when they don't... That's reality.

For the same reasons, I won't promote dogs and kennels. Yes, I have seen beautiful Wheatens bred by other breeders. And fortunately, there is much more than one good breeder and a few good dogs. So I don't think it is my duty to put in the light one kennel and a couple of dogs to the detriment of others. First it would not be an easy thing to do and second it would end by being unkind maybe partial and unfair. When I got involved in Wheatens, I learnt about the breed type problem. All these years later, it is still there. I would say even worse than before as we have more and more mixed lines breedings. But through years, I have met some wonderful

people, genuinely dedicated to the breed, working hard and doing their best to preserve the breed and the Irish lines. All these people have bred beautiful specimens from their breeding programs and each kennel has produced more than one “excellent” dog. All these people deserve respect and recognition. I would take advantage of this interview to tell them all: Thank You!



Now, I think that some Dutch people by working together and not competing against each others have achieved a real great job with their new breed club. For each country where it is authorized to have more than one breed club (unfortunately not permitted in France), I think the Dutch Club is an example to follow. Well done guys!





Louise Borst with Teague

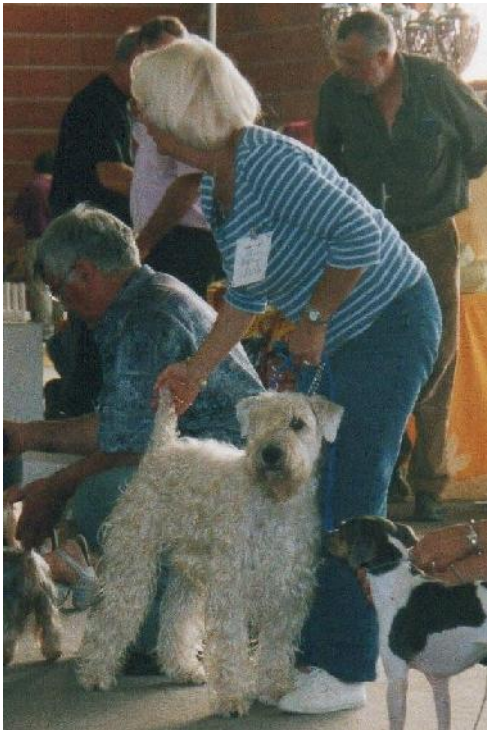
In 2005, Anne Holohan came to my home to pick up her puppy co-owned with Jolijne Ubbink. While she was there Louise Borst and Rob Hubner came to visit me and to see the litter I had at that time out of Irwing de la Brionnerie and Briankeen Pollyanna. Louise told me it was years she didn't see "old type" puppies. I took it as a very nice compliment and I still value it very much.

We had a pleasant time altogether and it took half a day to decide which one among the six males would be for Anne and Jolijne. Finally Green Ribbon "Teague" was selected



Above aka "Teague The Soft Irish Wheaten" (4 weeks old)

Actually as the standard of the breed was not change, we should not be talking about “old type” nor “working type” as we do... Today’s type should be the type of the old days as well as dogs able to work by conformation. Due to their working activity, working Wheatens have a selection partly based on hunting skills. Still the conformation has to be there or they could not hunt. I don’t think it is right to assume that a working line is less worthy. To be able to hunt a Wheaten needs to have the conformation it was made for which is described in the breed standard. Now for obvious reasons, a working dog will be more muscular than a couch potato one. Usually the coat is matted or shaved and there isn’t a nice trimming to soften the general appearance. This certainly does not make working Wheatens ready for the ring. But how would they look if pets or prepared for dog shows? And how a show dog would look if kept into kennels as a hunting dog? I am very much looking for keeping my puppies and Wheatens in the original type, this is my goal and I am not looking for personal preferences to make any change. I am glad my nowadays puppies are not looking different from Irwing, the foundation dog of my lines.



Tinker The Soft Irish Gentlewheaten, winning her title at the Breed Championship show



Nowadays puppies – 4 weeks old on the left and 9 weeks old below



Shannon The Soft
Irish Gentlewheaten
Taking CAC –
CACIB - BOB



Left, Teague with Jolijne Ubbink, taking BOB (9 months old)

My own Wheatens do both, they compete in the show ring and they work on boars. Every day they are off leash in the fields and they hunt by themselves. I am not a hunter myself, I have never trained them but I participate to working trials (dogs work but we don't shoot animals). They naturally have the instinct, the brave temperament and the strength to do it. It is important to keep in mind Wheatens are first of all hunting terrier dogs when breeding. No matter if they win ribbons in the ring, they are before everything, terriers, which means hunting dogs. I am not against dog shows, we need them and I show my dogs but I am well aware and conscious that if they were to choose, they would go for the fields and not for the ring...

To hunt is a natural instinct for a dog, a terrier, a Wheaten. To play the "show off" in a ring is not. It is secondary and all Wheatens should have the conformation to be able to work.

5. If you could incorporate just one dog from the past, into your breeding programme, who would it be and why?

Difficult to really judge dogs from the past as I didn't get a chance to see them so I will trust Maureen Holmes and choose Silver Leader. Her words: "*Silver Leader was an outstanding specimen and excelled in conformation. Had he been exhibited extensively, he could quite easily have made his title*". A good example that excellent dogs are not always in the ring.

6. Who has been your greatest mentor in the breed?

When I started to get involved in the breed I was lucky to meet with most of the Irish breeders and some Wheaten owners. Meeting them at shows or visiting them at home which allowed me to ask them many questions, to see their dogs, to share their experience and to benefit from their knowledge and advices. I would take advantage of this interview to thank all of them starting with the late ones, Dympna O'Neill (Ardymon),



Visiting Dympna O'Neill
(Ardymon)

Anthony Doyle (Killykeen), Walter Ladd (Corrlough) and of course, Joe O'Brien (Briankeen).



Visiting Wally Ladd (Corrlough), with Tony Doyle (Killykeen)



Also people that were involved in the breed at a time, Eamon Taafe (Enrale), Nick Hammond (Hamkel), Mary O'Caroll (Maroc),



Visiting Mary O'Caroll (Maroc)



Bernie and Declan Kelly (Gildieven),



Visiting the Kellys (Gildieven)



Hannah and Dan Ryan (Newgrange). And the current breeders involved in the breed for many many years, Helen Hubbock (Newkdara), Anna, Chris and Elaine Butler (Ballysax), Susan Kealy (Kealdale). All these people I have known them for many years.

I hope you enjoy looking at a few photos of the old good days... visiting breeders and meeting them at shows.





But I had a very special relationship with Joe O'Brien. Joe was always extremely kind to me and I have great memories of my vacation time in Waterford with him and Catherine Keane. Joe and I were very close, calling each other every Sunday. He was in a way my "Irish" grand-father. He definitely was the person that encouraged me to breed and he got me started. When I met him, he was already an old man retired from the ring and about to retire from breeding. But he was very much concerned about the future of the breed and he was willing to pass on his passion to someone. He had nephews owning Wheatens bred by him but they were busy with family and they didn't have the time to dedicate to continue to show and to breed after him. I could never forget the day he called me and he said "I have a little girl for you. Her name is Pollyanna". I was speechless by surprise and taken by emotion. Since the first day Joe always took the time to answer my questions and he taught me a lot. No doubt he was my greatest mentor in the breed. I have fond memories of my time with him and Catherine and I miss them very much.



Me with Joe O'Brien



Catherine
Keane -
(Briankeen)

- 7. Since you began in Wheatens have you seen many changes within the breed? If yes please explain.**
- 8. Do you believe the quality has improved or declined since you first became involved?**

Since I began in Wheatens, the number of Irish lines breeders has slightly increased. This has helped the quantity of true to type specimens. Now I would not say that among these lines the quality has improved. The quality was already there and most breeders have kept it. It is an erroneous

belief to think there is always something to improve. This is how we end with exaggeration.

On the other hand, the number of mixed lines breeders has bloomed. Out of these combinations, there are Irish coated specimens but difficult to see it as an improvement for the breed.

What I can see is that there are more and more "Irish coated" dogs with a lack of bones, short backs, long neck, thin heads and high ear sets (not level with skull). More and more breeders are gluing the puppies' ears folding the ears higher than skull level, certainly not the best way to get a correct earset... It is obvious to me that some breeders are breeding for the "Kerry / Fox" look, probably more showy to their eyes ... Unless Ireland decides to change the breed standard for a blond kerry (I hope not), to my opinion, lines apart, the quality has not improved and the breed is going in the wrong direction.

On the right an example of a correct earset



9. What in your opinion is the greatest hurdle that is now facing the breed?

It may be that there is no plan to save the breed yet or at least not a finalized one. It has been decades that we have been discussing the problem and we are still running in a circle. To increase the number of memberships does not help if these people don't breed pure Irish. Like in everything, quality must be first to quantity.

We can repeat again and again the same things “judges should disqualify untypical specimens”, “breeders should conform to the breed standard”, “people must read the essence of the breed” etc... but sadly it has never led anywhere and this is not enough to protect the breed in the future.

10. What needs to be done to protect the breed into the future?

Only official recognition of the kennels that breed pure Irish to the exclusion of others could help. Unfortunately, not all countries are open to have more than one breed club like it is the case in The Netherlands. But Ireland could possibly give recognition to breeders inside and outside Ireland by giving them for example a special “status”. Those people could be “breeders accredited by the ISCWT club of Ireland” according to their bloodlines.

Ireland could also have “authorized representatives” in foreign countries again selected on their breeding policy and their taking part on the preservation of the breed. The purpose would not be to give a life term position. These representatives would not be there to voice their own opinion and to take action of their own without the Club's permission but to represent the Club's guidelines, to officially display the right information in their country. It would not be automatically a life term position but subject to yearly renewal by the Club and breeders could be dismissed by the committee at any time if breaking the agreement between the two parties or for inappropriate behaviour.

I think this could be a start.



Hannah and Sean Ryan (Newgrange) visiting me – with Sean’s puppy dog “T’Celt The Soft Irish Gentlewheaten” (on the left) - T’Celt fully grown with Sean winning CAC – CACIB – BOB at 10 years of age under judge Ronal Menaker.



Memories of Maureen Holmes



Senan (Macfinn Scott Summers) at Maureen's grave in Ballapousta, Ardee, Co. Louth (photos Rosaleen Fleming)

We have been asking people who remember Maureen to share their thoughts and memories.

Yvonne Cannon-Ladd

To be honest I've not got a lot other than to say every time I met her as a child she was encouraging to me despite the conflict between my father and Maureen although later on in life they weren't at logger heads. But her passion and constant reiteration of preserving the correct type will always stick with me. It was the one thing they all agreed on.

Eithne Brady

Even in her late 80's and early 90's Maureen would come to the shows with her scissors in hand. Although dogs might have been trimmed, Maureen had to do the finishing touches. No grooming table, the dog on the ground and yet in 5 minutes she could create a stunning transformation.

Eileen Collins-Kennedy

In the early 90's, and in my naiveté, I showed a heavy coat under Maureen not realising how formidable she could be. I was awarded 2nd and was delighted.

Quiz Time – Guess The Breeds by Kaare Hegrum

Answers in the next Newsletter



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26.



27.

FINALLY

**MERRY Christmas and a Happy New Year
From All Of The Committee and Officers
Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi Mhaise Duif**



Photos on front cover courtesy of Maria Antonova and Lesley Porter, their copyright is acknowledged

Answer to number of words in Wheaten:

Ah, An, Ant, Anew, Ante, At, Ate, Awe, Eat, Eaten, Ethane, Ha, Hat, Hate, Haw, Heat, He, Hen, Hew, Neat, Neath, Nee, Net, New, Newt, Ta, Tan, Tea, Tee, Teen, Ten, Than, Thane, Thaw, The, Thee, Then, Twee, Wan, Wane, Want, Wean, We, Wee, Wen, Went, Wet, What, Wheat, When, Whet

The stunning book Native Irish Dogs is now available again. This book was first produced in 2015 but we have been able to obtain some more copies. The book covers all the Native Breeds of Ireland, which of course, includes our beautiful breed. The photos of the Wheatens are from various Club members, Committee, show goers and breeders.

The cost of the book is €20 plus postage. If you are interested please email as there are limited numbers available

wheatclubofireland@gmail.com

Tail Ends



Club's Web Site: www.iscwtclubireland.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/558587157604743/>

Secretary: Jennifer Kealy – wheatclubofireland@gmail.com

Application forms for Club Membership, National and Overseas, are available from the web site or contact Hon Sec Jennifer Kealy at above.

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