

MIRROR IMAGE

Jackie Lorrimer judged Irish Setter bitches at Crufts this year (2020) which must have brought back memories of her own two Crufts Best In Show wins with Supreme Sh. Ch. Danaway Debonair in 1993 and Supreme Sh. Ch. Caspian Intrepid in 1999. Her path to these successes began as an interest in working gundogs and her husband, John's, interest in shooting.

Through trips to agricultural shows Jackie learnt of Mrs. Rhodes, Fearnley Irish Setters, but unfortunately she had no puppies available at the time, but the Lorrimer's tracked down a bitch pup of Fearnley breeding named Emberock Bolero whom they trained as a gundog. The lure of exhibiting dogs in the showring led to Bolero being entered in a few local exemption shows, but Jackie soon realised she was not of show quality. So their second Irish Setter arrived as a promising show puppy from Mrs. Lennox of Brackenfield Irish Setters and Jackie's apprenticeship in the showring began in earnest with the male Brackenfield Harvey winning some class firsts at Championship show level.

The next purchase was a bitch from Mrs. Gardner, Carnbargus Evening Star, who also won classes at Championship Shows, although neither she nor Harvey won either a Reserve or Challenge Certificate. Bitten by the show bug, another bitch joined the family, named Carnbargus Sheer Silk, who did some winning in the ring and produced a litter from Carnbargus Star Enterprise born on 27th Feb 1985 which gave Jackie her first Junior Warrant winner in Oakcase Wild Silk.

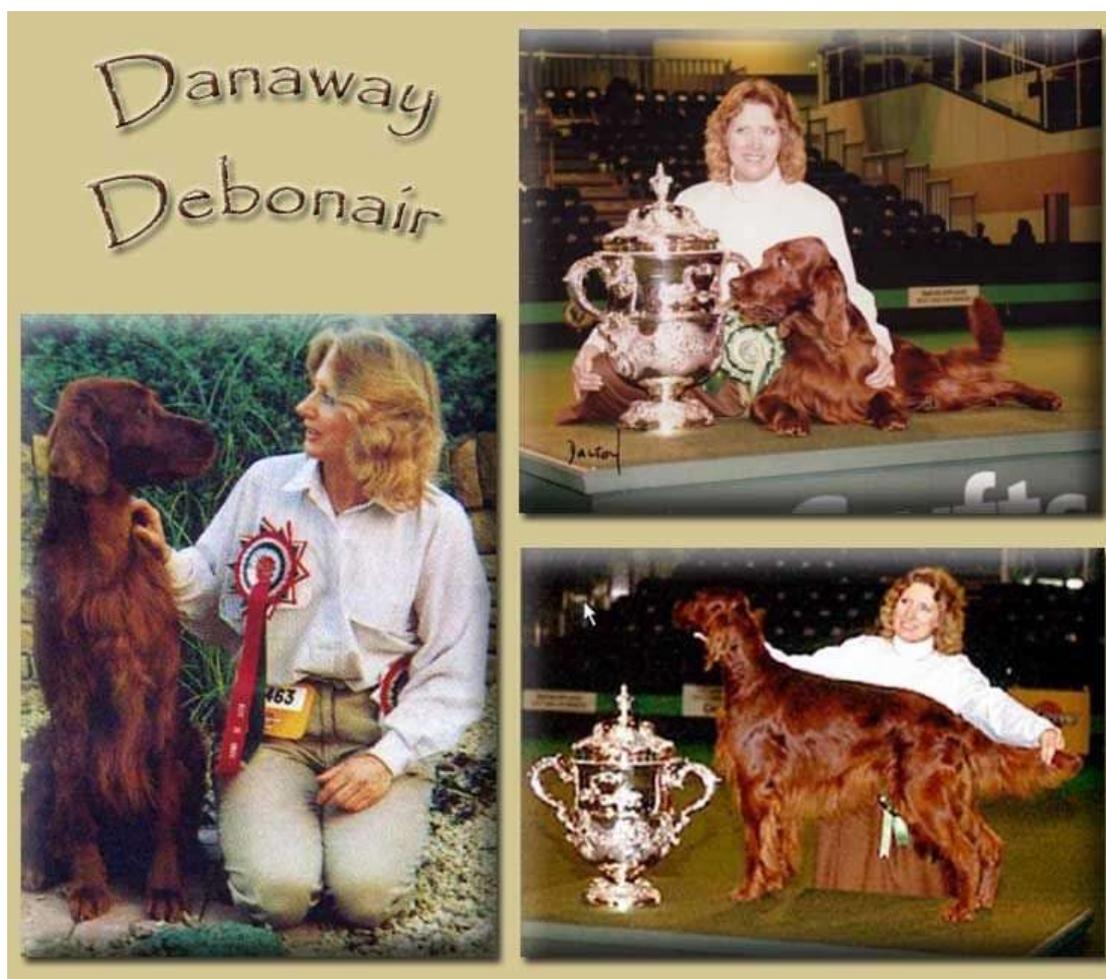
At the beginning of 1987 Jackie was smitten by a friend's male with a great temperament who was bred along totally different lines from the stock she had previously owned. She approached his breeders Brian and Mary Gurney for one of their Danaway pups. The Gurney's Sh. Ch. Disco Dancer of Danaway was due to produce a litter by the prepotent sire Sh. Ch. Kerryfair Night Fever. Jackie did not have first choice of the pups as several prospective owners had prior bookings. Born on 27th Feb 1987 she viewed the litter when they were around seven weeks old and a dog pup particularly caught her eye, fortunately none of those with prior choice wanted him and Jackie was able to take Danaway Debonair home calling him DD.

DD notched up his Junior Warrant in fine style with a few Best Puppy awards along the way. By 1989 Debonair was a Junior but at WELKS Championship Show she entered him in the Post Graduate class under Penny Jeffries, sister of the late Janice Roberts of Cornevon Irish Setters. Debonair won the class and the Challenge Certificate and Penny and Eve Gardener awarded him Best of Breed. By the end of 1989 DD had achieved his Championship title with double CC tickets (six) and two Best in Shows – the first at the Setter and Pointer Club and the second at North West England Irish Setter Club Show.

In 1993 the Crufts judge for Irish Setter dogs was DD's breeder, Mary Gurney and Jackie found herself conflicted about whether she should enter the show, but as DD was now five and had won 27 CCs and a clutch of Groups she felt

justified in exhibiting. He won the CC and with co-judge, Jill Holley's agreement was awarded Best of Breed. Judge for the Group was Ian Hampton, a judge Jackie had never shown under previously. Deafening applause greeted Debonair's Group win. With just half an hour before the judging of Crufts Best in Show, Jackie hardly had time to think.

The final Best In Show judge of the day was the late Tom Horner. As Jackie said " I was concerned that I followed Tom Horner's requests to the letter as I did not want to let DD down. I was less worried that he would fail me and I was very aware he had already had a long gruelling day. I could not have blamed him if he had flagged. I considered we were rank outsiders to win, which is, I imagine how all Group winners feel, and even as Mr Horner shook my hand I could not believe we had won."



Jackie Lorrimer with Sh. Ch. Danaway Debonair, Crufts BIS winner in 1993

In the aftermath of DD's triumph, Jackie found herself coping with the inanities of instant TV interviews and the traditional appearance on the Blue Peter TV programme the next day, which prompted a dash home to Yorkshire and back to London. The Lorrimers were inundated by the Press, which continued for the next couple of weeks and there were many requests for public appearances at all manner of events. But Jackie decided to restrict

these to local appearances that fitted in with her full time job and family commitments. She always tried to emphasise the point that dogs were good for people.



L to R Jackie Lorrimer with sire Sh.Ch.Danaway Debonair (DD)
 John Ellerton with DDs son Sh. Ch. Caspians Intrepid (JJ)
 Sue Oakley with JJs dam Sh. Ch. Caspians Night Music

PEDIGREE

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|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| SH CH DANAWAY DEBONAIR | Sh Ch KERRYFAIR NIGHT FEVER | Sh Ch Sowerhill Sahib | Sh Ch Wendover Jeeves |
| | | Cornevon Spring Melody | Sh Ch Sowerhill Sarah |
| | Sh Ch DISCO DANCER OF DANAWAY | Sh Ch Wendover Colas | Wynjill Country Woodland |
| | | Westerhuy's Dutch Spirit | Cornevon Tamarind |
| SH CH CASPIANS INTREPID | Sh Ch KERRYFAIR NIGHT FEVER | Sh Ch Sowerhill Sahib | Sh Ch Wendover Gentleman |
| | | Cornevon Spring Melody | Wendover Scarlet Girl of Kerrydene |
| SH CH CASPIANS NIGHT MUSIC | WENDOVER CASSIDY | Wendover Raffles | Sh Ch Cornevon Lovebird |
| | | Coppertop Wendy of Wendover | Sh Ch Cornevon Westerhuy's Cloggy |
| | | | Sh Ch Wendover Jeeves |
| | | | Sh Ch Sowerhill Sarah |
| | | Wynjill Country Woodland | |
| | | Cornevon Tamarind | |
| | | Sh Ch Kerryfair Night Fever | |
| | | Sh Ch Wendover Maid Marion | |
| | | Wendover Washington of Caspians | |
| | | Caspians Snowdrop | |

In the meantime DD was mated to his half sister Sh. Ch. Caspians Night Music owned and bred by Mike and Sue Oakley who had made her Championship at two and a half and won 14 Challenge Certificates between litters. The pups were born on 17th April 1993 and Jackie and John visited them at six weeks. After much observation and videoing, they made their choice. At eight weeks, off Caspians Intrepid went to Yorkshire with them.



At five months Caspians Intrepid

Intrepid, called JJ was in the ring at six months and starting winning from the start. It was clear at once that he had all the best qualities of his parents – wonderful outline, beautiful head and expression, strong true movement and, above all, that superb temperament which sustained him through 67 Challenge Certificates – the breed record, Group wins and, Best in Shows in five years - the cherry on the top being his 1999 Crufts win under judge Liz Cartledge.



(Left) Crufts BIS judge Liz Cartledge with Jackie Lorrimer and 1999 Crufts Supreme Champion Sh. Ch. Caspians Intrepid

Hundreds of people visited DD and JJ on the bench and their tails never stopped wagging. Temperament was of overriding importance as the dogs were family pets first that happened to compete at shows. They shared everything except their food bowls for nearly seven years in perfect harmony.

Jackie emphasised that she was far from a 'professional' dog person. She did not have kennels or a grooming business, nor was she a professional handler and had never been active in dogs outside the comparatively small world of Irish Setters. She saw herself as a perfectly normal exhibitor who had two quite extraordinary dogs "It was the dogs that did it" she is quoted as saying, "especially DD.- Nobody knew us. He won because he was so good. JJ won because he was outstanding." However, it is evident that Jackie had an exceptional bond with both dogs and they with her.



From left to right:

Caspians Intrepid

Born: 17.4.1993

Junior Warrant, 4 Res. CCs.

Breeders: Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Oakley
ex Sh.Ch. Caspians Night Music

Both owned by: Mrs. J. Lottimer

and his sire:

**Show Champion
Danaway Debonair**

Born: 27.2.1987

Breeders: Mr. and Mrs. B. Gurney
(Sh.Ch. Kerryfair Night Fever
ex Sh.Ch. Disco Dancer of Danaway)

40 CCs, 11 Res. CCs.
Best in Show Cruft's 1993

CC Record Holder
ISBC Top Dog 1992, 1993

So what lessons are to be learnt ? Firstly, as W.J. Rasbridge commented on breeding policy "Put the best to the best and hope for the best." No one can win consistently in top competition without a first rate dog. Secondly establish a close rapport with your dog and thirdly concentrate on your breed

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Bibliography:

Crufts '94 Official Souvenir Guide - John Richardson's article
Dashing Debonair

Dog World Crufts Supplement 2000 – Mike Oakley's article
When lightning struck twice

Calendar photo and some photos from Pinterest

Ed. Note: Both Jackie Lorrimer's Crufts winners were influential in South Africa through the importation of Debonair's son Wynjill Dark 'n Daring of Danoak bred by Mrs. Holley and the importation of semen for AI from Intrepid.