

Year of Induction – 2004

CATEGORY: Prominent Person



Jack in Centre

MR. Jack Stephen Pontin

Jack was an all-round man of Victoria Australia and has been described in a 1985 magazine article written by a fellow Pointer enthusiast as THE pointer man.

Jack loved Pointers best but he owned and exhibited Smooth Fox Terriers, Cocker Spaniels, Labrador Retriever, Pointers, Irish Setters and Weimaraners during the course of some 48 years until his death in 1993. He also judged conformation shows, field trials and retrieving trials for over 40 years. He was the only person in Australia for many years with an All Breeds Championship Show licence plus licences to judge all Gundog Field and Retriever Trials at Championship Level.

Jack bred champion Pointer under the Marnissa prefix and bred and owned many Dual Champions (8) and Field Trial Champions (6) over his lifetime.

Throughout the whole period Jack was also very actively and successfully involved with breeding, trialling and showing his Labradors, with club and Kennel Control Council administration and with judging show and trials. He judged many Pointer & Setter Championships.

Club Official:

He was a member of the committee of the K.C.C. (Vic) from 1973 to 1986 and briefly an elected committee member of the Victorian Canine Association.

Committee member for many years, of the RAFT sub-committee and its Chairman from 1975 until 1986.

Vice-President of the original Retriever Club of Victoria, a foundation member and second President of the Labrador Retriever Club of Victoria. Patron of the English Springer Spaniel Club of Victoria and a President of the Irish Setter Club of Victoria. He also served as President, committee member or Patron of the Victorian Poultry & Kennel Club, Sunshine Kennel Club and Kilmore Kennel Club.

Jack was appointed a Life Member of the K.C.C. in 1983 and also held a Life Membership of the Victorian Poultry and Kennel Club.

He was first appointed as a steward for the Royal Melbourne Show in 1973, a position which he held for many years.

Judging and judge's education:

He judged conformation shows, field trials and retriever trials for over 30 years. For many years he was the only person in Australia with an All Breeds Championship Show licence plus licences to judge all Gundog Field and Retrieving Trials at Championship level. He passed his first confirmation judging test (for Gundogs) in 1957 and was appointed an All Breeds conformation judge in 1967. He was first listed for officiating at Pointer & Setter and Spaniel & Retriever Field Trials and Water Tests in 1955.

Amongst his many judging appointments at trials were the KCC Pointer & Setter Championships in 1964, 1970, 1976 and 1991. The KCC Utility Gundog C/Ship stake in 1978, The SACA Utility F.T. C/Ship on 30.06.1984, the CCC Utility FT C/Ship on 02.08.1986, the Weimaraner Club Inaugural Utility F.T. on 07.06.1980, the ACT C/Ship Non-Slip Retrieving Trial on 20.09.1980 and co-judging the National Non-Slip Retrieving Trial Championship held in Victoria in 1984

Jack gave many talks and lectures on gundog trialling and trial judging in several states, including Pointer & Setter, Spaniel & Retriever Trials. He served as an organiser of the Aspiring judges scheme for Field & Retrieving Trials as well as being on the judges su-committee for conformation judges and taking an active part as a group leader and in giving breed and anatomy lectures.

Jack was heavily involved in the development and/or revision of rules for all the Gundog trialling activities, including attendance at national conference interstate on these matters.

As Owner and Breeder:

Jack's prefix was MARNISSA and he either bred or owned the following Dual Champions:

- Blackfield Firefly (Imp UK)
- Blackfield Garry (Imp UK0)
- Marnissa Mogul
- Marnissa Moira
- Marnissa Morag
- Marnissa Marsden
- Fearn Rowda (Imp UK)
- Marnissa Macey

Field Trial Champions:

Pointers: Craigaise King, Marnissa Mulatto, Marnissa Marylyn, Marnissa Maxine, Marnissa Melva, Marnissa Mardi

Labrador Retriever: Arden Goldilocks, Marnissa Marcus, Marnissa Venus, Marnissa Tangerine, Holly of Nicmar (Imp UK),

Irish Setter: Tim of Karam (Imp UK)

Field Trial results were many. The following list of his record of dogs either owned and trialled or bred by Jack in the K,C.C. Championship Stakes illustrates the most notable among them:

Pointers & Setters:

1952 & 1953 - Winner Craigaise King; 1962, 1963, - Runner Up Blackfield Firefly; 1965 – Blackfield Garry

1967- Winner Marnissa Moira; 1968, 1969, 1970 – Winner Marnissa Mogul; 1971. 1973, 1975 Marnissa Marsden, 1972, 1974 Marnissa Marylyn' 1977 Winner Marnissa Maxine; 1983.1984.1985 – Winner Marnissa Macey

Spaniels & Retriever:

1951 Winner Arden Goldilocks; 1958 & 1959 Marnissa Venus; 1983 – Winner Holly of Nicmar (Imp UK)

Diplomas of Merit were gained by the following dogs:

Pointers: Craigaise King in 1952 & 1953

Labradors: Marnissa Venus in the 1958 S & R. Field Trial Championship; Marnisssa Satinette in the 1961 S & R. Field Trial Championship.

Certificates of Merit were gained by the following

Labradors: Arden Goldilocks in 1952; Marnissa Satin twice in 1953; Marnisssa Tangerine in 1960.

At least 28 of Jack's dogs of various breeds gained their Qualifying Certificates at trials.

Over the years Jack imported many dogs to improve the various breeds including:

Pointers: Blackfield Garry, Blackfield Firely, Fearn Rowda

Labrador Retrievers: Sandylands Mac; Holly of Nicmar

Irish Setter: Tim of Karam

He also introduced the first Weimaraner into Victoria, "Passau Silver Wraith, a CC winner at the Melbourne Royal in 1959 & 1960 and Adelaide Royal in 1960 & 1961.

Jack's contribution to the development of retrieving and field trials is obvious by the record of the number of dogs he trialled and bred and his contribution to the sport in all fields of trialling. He also added to the breed genetic pool with the introduction of his imported stock.

His contribution to the Field & Retrieving fraternity is well known and his legacy lives on in the Pointer & Setter breeds.