

Profile

Mrs. Joan Tyrrell

Dunamaise Irish Wolfhounds

Joan and Jim Tyrrell live in County Laois in the shadow of the ancient Fort of Dunamaise, seat of Rory O'Moore, King of Leinster. In 1955 they were given their first Irish Wolfhound, Brenda of Ballygran, by Mrs. Ruth Harper (Ballygran Irish Wolfhounds). Both families, the Tyrrells and the Harpers, were very much involved in the horse world. Joan's eight children all took a very active part in show jumping and national hunt amateur riding. It was Joan, rather than her husband Jim, a veterinary surgeon, who went on to become breeder of Dunamaise Irish Wolfhounds.



Brenda of Ballygran with her last litter. Showing US Ch. Gort of Dunamaise and his litter mates.

In 1957 Joan bred Brenda (parents; Ch. Molony of Ballykelly x Gail of Boroughbury) to Ch. Brannigan of Ballykelly - the puppies arrived on St. Patrick Day! This litter produced Ch. Diarmuid of Dunamaise who was owned and shown by

Miss Sheelagh Seale (Ballykelly). Diarmuid in turn sired Int (Irish & U.K.) Ch. Ballykelly O'Flynn. O'Flynn, owned and shown by Miss Susanne Hudson (Brabyns) was a typical, large and very sound bitch. Susanne says that O'Flynn was excellent at coursing. It was to commemorate O'Flynn that the Brabyns Height and Soundness Bitch trophy was donated to our Club. Ch. Diarmuid of Dunamaise also sired Ch. Ballykelly Ni Rooney and Killykeen Breiffne. Breiffne went to the U.S. and became one of the foundation lines of Mrs. Dorothy Woodbury's Eagle Nest Kennel. Diarmuid's litter sister, Deirdre of Dunamaise, went to Dr. May (Ballytobin). Deirdre, bred to Joe of Ballytobin, produced Judy of Ballytobin.



Ch. Diarmuid of Dunamaise.

Next time Brenda was bred to Fergus of Ballykelly producing Eileen of Dunamaisie who became one of the foundation bitches of Mrs. Tierney's Termon Irish Wolfhounds. Eileen was dam of Aileen and Annaleigh of Termon, by Dornford Bit of Silver.

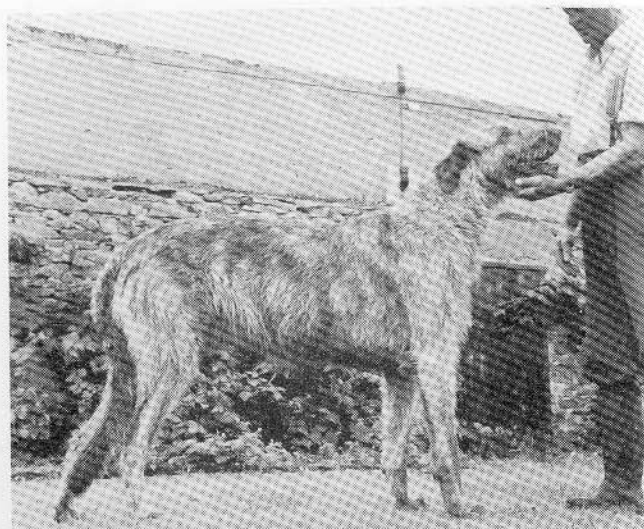


Eileen of Dunamaisie.

Later Brenda was bred to Ch. Sulhamstead Sedlestan Rebel, producing a lovely bitch, Feorling Of Dunamaisie, who became the foundation bitch of Mrs. Haughey's well known St. Doulaghs line. Feorling, whose sire was Int. Ch McGilligan of Ballykelly, was dam of Joan's second bitch, Deirdre of Bulford, born in the early 1960s. Tony Killykeen-Doyle had Feorling's litter sister, Fanoge of Dunamaisie. Tony says that Fanoge was a very large and beautiful bitch whose line went to England and the U.S.A. Brenda's last litter, by Dornford Bit of Silver produced U.S. Ch. Gort of Dunamaisie who did well in America.

In time, Joan bred Deirdre of Bulford to Jan of Ballygran producing the "I" litter. Innis of Dunamaisie, a lovely male owned by Sheelagh Seale, sired Ballykelly Tanaise-na-gael of Brabyns, who was owned by Susanne Hudson and became part of the Brabyns line. Deirdre bred again to Jan of Ballygran produced Maeve of Dunamaisie. Maeve was owned by Dr. May and was dam of Brid of Ballytobin, one of the foundation bitches of Mrs. Saunder's Erindale line. U.S. Ch.

Iona of Dunamaisie who went to Mrs Maureen Fox in America was dam of the renowned U.S. Ch. Danny Boy of Roreen.



Nial of Dunamaisie.

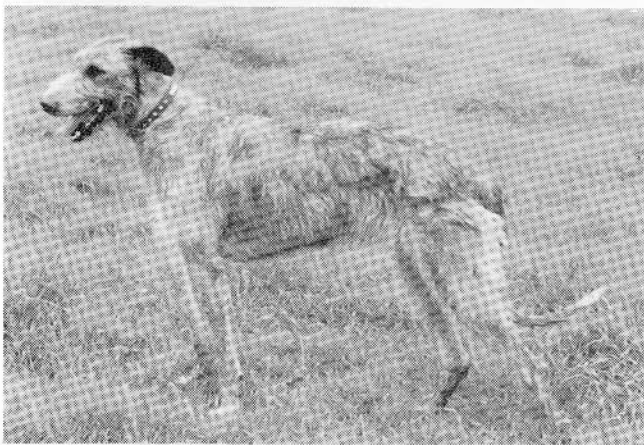
A repeat of this breeding produced the well known "n" litter, Nora, Nenagh and Nial of Dunamaisie. Nora became the foundation bitch of Mrs. Powell's Toomevara line. Nenagh sired Tony Killykeen-Doyle's Killykeen Kathleen whose line lives on in the Killykeens.

My own Carrokeel line owes much to Nial of Dunamaisie Nial, owned by Mrs. Harper (Ballygran), was sire of Ch. Carrokeel Cara who won the Brabyn's Height and Soundness Bitch trophy up to and including the year she died. It is interesting to note that this trophy having being presented to commemorate a daughter of Ch. Diarmuid of Dunamaisie was won for the first four years by a daughter of Nial of Dunamaisie - illustrating the continued type, size and soundness of the Dunamaisie line.

Nial also sired five U.S. champions; Carrokeel Gallic, Meagan, Molony, Shani and Paces Simon of Carrokeel. He also sired Canadian Ch. Blossomhill Brady bred by Nicholas O'Connor.

In 1971 Mrs. Tyrrell got her third bitch, Ballinteer Blossom (Ch. Cu-cuhlann Mor x Doon of Lynwood), who was bred by

Mr. C. L. Brooks. The last Dunamaise litter was bred in 1974 when Blossom was bred to Ch. Boroughbury Justice, producing Canadian Ch. Shannon of Dunamaise.



Ballinteer Blossom.



Mrs. Harper's handler and his daughter with Tana and Sheelagh of Ballygran. Mr. Pim with Cloghran of Ballygran and Joan Tyrrell with Brenda of Ballygran..

Increasing commitments to a very active teenage family left Joan little time to continue her interest in Irish Wolfhounds. Although she no longer has an Irish Wolfhound herself, Joan's married daughter, Mary, hopes to continue the Dunamaise line. Mary, whose married name is Fingleton, lives right at the Fort of Dunamaise. We all look forward to seeing the Dunamaise line active again.

In twenty years Joan only bred about ten litters. The effectiveness with which the Dunamaise Irish Wolfhounds have been used by other Irish breeders is a testimony to the strength and quality of the Dunamaise line. It may have been in part due to the family's involvement with horses (people who show and ride horses are keenly aware of the importance of soundness of wind and limb), and in part to the influence of her veterinary surgeon husband, Jim, but certainly the strength of the Dunamaise line was Joan's belief in soundness. Beauty was never allowed take precedence over soundness and vitality.

IRISH WOLFHOUND PEDIGREES

1859 - 1906

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