

IN MEMORIAM

Miss Sheelagh Seale — Patron 1987 — 1992
(Ballykelly Irish Wolfhounds 1930's — 1990's)



Pictured with Miss Sheelagh Seale are from left to right: Boroughbury Adeelagh of Ballykelly 9/62; Ch. Ballykelly Molly Mulligan 3/68; Ballykelly O'Pratie 11/68; Ch. Holmehill Torridan 12/63.

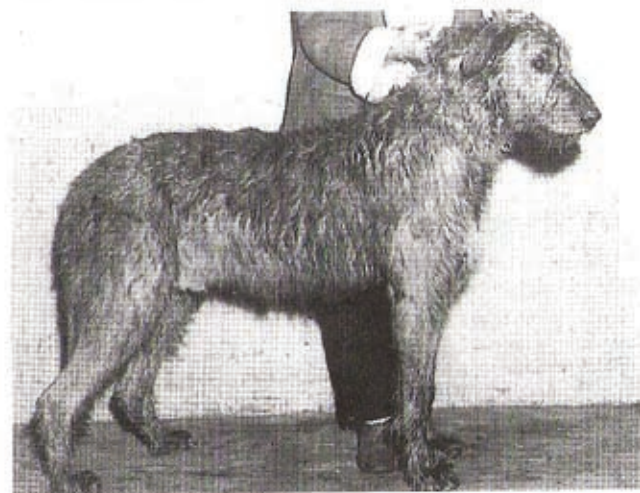
Miss Sheelagh Seale passed away on 9th February 1992 following a short illness. Sheelagh had been living with Mrs. Elizabeth Pyke in England for the past six months — since her Doctor felt that she could no longer live on her own. Mrs. Pyke said that Sheelagh enjoyed her stay in England where she considered the "Elpyk" hounds as her own. Irish Wolfhound people were delighted to see Sheelagh at Crufts this year and many enjoyed a friendly chat with her, reliving old times and hounds past.

Miss Seale was born in Ireland but spent most of her early life in England and in India. She went to school in England and later in Switzerland. Sheelagh's association with the breed dates back to 1934 when she got her first hound, a rescue. From then onwards her love of the breed and her involvement with it dominated her life — often at the

expense of her own well-being.

Sheelagh's first Irish Wolfhound bitch, Telta was from Miss Gardner of Coolafin Kennels. Some of her other early hounds were; Furious of Grevel, Silvagh Tim of Ballykelly, Chulainn Clonfert, Chulainn Columbus, Killanny of Ouborough and Iona of Raikeshill.

During the war years, 1939-45, while living in England, Sheelagh kept ten Wolfhounds looking after them at night as the days were spent doing wartime work on a farm. Understandably she bred few litters there. Sheelagh came back to live in Ireland after the war and one of the hounds she brought with her was Artel Ballykelly Sandy (Clonboy of Ouborough x Artel Felclarion). Sandy, having won his title in Ireland and England became her first international champion. Sheelagh's first bitch to gain her title was Ch. Boroughbury Casino of Spean.



IR/UK Ch. McGilligan of Ballykelly

It would be impossible to find the true total of Ballykellys who won their titles all over the world. I have over 50 Ballykelly champions listed and am sure that there are many more. This list includes 30 US Champions and 14 Irish Champions, three of which became both Irish and UK Champions, Sandy, plus McGilligan of Ballykelly and Miss Hudson's Ballykelly O'Flynn. McGilligan, born 1957, by Ch Molony of Ballykelly out of Ch An Tostal of Ballykelly, had a great influence on Irish Wolfhounds in Ireland and is behind almost all present day Irish lines.



Miss Seale gets an affectionate, if overpowering, welcome home from Ch. Diarmuid of Dunmaise.

Like all conscientious breeders Sheelagh bought in new blood when needed and many of these hounds also became champions, Ch Diarmuid of Dunmaise, Ch Holmehill Torridan and more recently Ballykelly Errislannan Liam (1973).

Int (Irish/Nordic) Ch Ballykelly Reamonn, 1970, (Ch Holmehill Torridan x Ch Ballykelly Molly Mulligan) having won Best in Show at Sporting Breeds and Reserve BIS at Irish Breeds while still a yearling, continued his successful career in Norway.



Irish/Nordic Ch. Ballykelly Reamonn

Reamonn's son, Ch Ballykelly Errislannan Liam, out of Ballinteer Cara, carried on the success of the Ballykellys in Ireland. Liam's lovely daughter Ballykelly Banshee became a US champion. Liam's best known son is Irish/UK Ch Nutstown King, well known at home and abroad. King's son, Sheelagh's much loved Mou (Ballykelly To Agouri Mou) was with Sheelagh right up to the time she left for England.



US. Ch. Ballykelly Banshee 9/70

Sheelagh bred very few litters over the past ten years or so. The last few Ballykelly litters were born and reared by John and Kathleen Kelly for Sheelagh. The last litter of two produced Count of Ballykelly who is now a New Zealand Champion and his litter sister, Countess of Ballykelly is still being cared for at Kelly's. Her dam, Ballykelly Dhu came to join her at Kelly's when Sheelagh was no longer able to look after her.

I would like to acknowledge the debt of gratitude the Club owes not only to the Kellys and to Sheelagh's many friends at home and abroad, but to her neighbours and very special friends, Maeve and Johnny Scott, without whose help and daily visits Sheelagh would not have been able to live at home with her beloved Irish Wolfhounds for as long as she did.

A true lover of the breed, a legend of our time, Sheelagh Seale kept her line going through thick and thin. The true success of her breeding is not only seen in the honour lists around the world but more especially in the success of the many other lines based on her stock. My own first bitch was Ch Ballykelly Sile of Carrokeel and my first male, Ch Ballykelly Dalkey. Most Irish lines carry Ballykelly to a greater or lesser extent. Sheelagh lives on in our memories her hounds live on in our lines, I hope that her spirit of graciousness and good sportsmanship continues to live on in our Club.

Ar Dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

Elizabeth C. Murphy



Irish / UK Ch. Artel Ballykelly Sandy



Ch. Holmehill Torridan