

belief that you have to have this, to produce consistent quality.

**VF: The two Moorquest champions, Meant To Be and Mugwump, gave you a sire, Sailor Boy, whom you bred into your fledgling lines, and a bitch Ch Stanroph Steal A Glance. You qualified these two for their full title but not all your show champions – any reasons?**

AW: I have bred full champions, here at home and many others in different parts of the world. The main reason I do not have them currently is that my husband was the 'working' side to the partnership, and his main enjoyment with the dogs was taking them out on shoots. Since his untimely death, I have not carried this on but may well do so in the future, as I always bear this in mind when contemplating a mating. I do like to keep the intelligence in my breeding and 'not just a pretty face', so to speak!

**VF: How many years have you been top breeder? Is this one of your proudest achievements? You have proved you could carry your lines on and now you have a strong bitch line that you can mate into other lines and then leave them. Was this always your intention?**

AW: I have been top breeder in the country on 11 occasions, not an easy feat in this day and age when there is such strong competition. I am immensely proud of these awards and they give me a sense of fulfilment in what I am doing.

As I have said, I have a strong bitch line which I find I can mate into other lines and then back into my own lines. This gives me a tremendous sense of achievement and makes all the years of hard work well worthwhile. This was always my intention from the start – just to do my own thing, which I always have, and to try to achieve what I intend to do.

**VF: Sh Ch Stanroph Shogun, bred by you, and owned with Freda Garget as a UK titleholder, spent some time in Australia and then came back. Why did you do it?**

AW: I have strong links with Australia and many breeders there have my lines in their pedigrees. This started off, first and foremost, as a result of my connection with Ann Smith of the Goldfleece affix and because of this friendship, things progressed.

Firstly Aus Ch Stanroph School Boy went out for a stay of two years after he won the CC and BOB at Crufts at the tender of 19 months. Sh Ch Stanroph Soldier Boy won veteran dog and the RCC at the same show.

This, for Scholar, was unfortunately his downfall in the UK. He was top puppy in breed the year before his Crufts win, gaining a RCC at nine months along the way, but after this thrilling win at Crufts, so young, I could not progress with him here. I found it impossible to do well with him in the ring. So Ann suggested that he went to her to enable the breeders in Australia to have the benefit of his breeding lines. After a lot of soul searching Dave and I agreed.

The result was tremendous;



**From top: Sh Ch Stanroph Sierra Solitaire (Ch Ritzliyn Cockney Robin ex Stanroph Silent Tears).**

**Sh Ch Stanroph So Be It (Ch Stanroph Sailor Boy ex Sh Ch Stanroph Sierra Solitaire).**

photo Kipps

**Sh Ch Stanroph Soldier Boy (Ch Paudell Easter Plantagenet at Kerrien ex Stanroph Silent Tears).**

photo Kipps

**Ch/Aus Ch Stanroph Shogun (Sh Ch Amirene Pacifique ex Stanroph Shere Fantasy).**

**Below: Sh Ch Stanroph Spring Fantasy (Sansue Castalian ex Stanroph Shere Fantasy), the youngest Golden bitch to gain a UK title.**

photo Kipps



he became a champion in just four months and passed on his many attributes to many lines there. When it was time for him to return, Ann approached me to ask if Shogun could go over for a while, so once again a very hard decision was made and Gunna went over for just 12 months. He also produced very well, gaining his Australian title along the way.

**VF: Do you find that when dogs you have sent to Europe get used at stud, you can bring progeny back?**

AW: I also have strong links with Europe and this enables me to breed back into my older lines with my present-day dogs, which is great, as many of these lines are no longer available here and it broadens the gene pool.

**VF: You tended to use outside stud dogs on occasion, maybe because you liked their appearance and temperament? Then the progeny you made up you mated back into your own lines. Among the dogs you used were the two Moorquest champions, Ch Sansue Castalian, Pamgavin Nautical Sun (a Sailor Boy son), Ch Ritzliyn Cockney Robin, Sh Ch Amirene Pacifique, Ch Paudell Easter Plantagenet at Kerrien, Sh Ch Chilzer Casey Jones, Sh Ch Steval Mickey Finn at Ivycrest, Sh Ch Elswood The Highlander, Shazeldon Love In The Soul, Sh Ch Stanroph Endelwood Nicolas, Sh Ch Goldenquest Ambassador and Ch Tasvane Charles Henry. The Stanroph UK male titleholders Sailor Boy, Squadron Leader and So It Had to Be, you mated back into your bitch line when you felt you should.**

I find that, on occasions, I have to 'go out' and use different lines that are not directly related to my lines, some not at all, others very loosely connected. As I have a very strong bitch line, I find I can do this and still keep my own type.

When choosing an outside male, I am looking for just a little something that I feel can improve on the linebred bitch in question. It can be to soften the head, to improve the coat, to shorten the body or other small points, but I always take a close look at the bitch before deciding which outcross to go for.

A breeder always has to know the faults in their dogs, to be able to try to improve on what they have. It's no good at all being kennel-blind, it does not get you anywhere.

I know I have done some matings which many people can never understand but I always have my reasons and know the strengths in my bitches to enable me to do this and still keep my own type!

A great deal has been said in recent years about dogs being too deep in the body and too short in the leg – for me it is all about balance. A dog can be smaller, short coupled, deep through the heart but as long as everything is in proportion and balanced then it complies with the Standard. Likewise a dog can appear longer cast and have a longer neck, taller legs but the whole picture has to be one of balance – that