

Olive Stones - 19.11.1918 - 18.4.2014

On 18 April, Good Friday, the breed lost another of its stalwarts, when Olive Stones passed away at the grand age of 95. Olive, along with her late husband Stan, was the owner/breeder of the world renowned Stanolly Bedlingtons, and was a founder member of the Midland Bedlington Terrier Club, which celebrates its 50th Anniversary this year, an event which would have made Olive very proud.

Olive first registered the Stanolly kennel name in 1962, and it can be found in the pedigrees of many top winning dogs. The first to carry the affix was Stanolly Sapphire, who went on to become the Stones' first champion. Since then, many others have followed that path, with the most famous being the blue dog Ch Stanolly Scooby Doo, who won 28 CCs, 10 Groups and 4 BIS at general Championship Shows, Southern Counties in 1971 and 1972, Richmond in 1972 and Leicester in 1973, after his RBIS the previous year. Scooby was also an influential sire in the 1970s. She also sold dogs abroad, where they proved successful and influential for many overseas kennels. Olive also had an interest in whippets and Australian Terriers.

A championship judge respected by all, Olive first awarded CCs at Leicester in 1968, and judged the breed at Crufts in 1974. She served as the Secretary of the Midland Bedlington Terrier Club for some 25 years, and as its President following her retirement from that office. Fearless and often outspoken, Olive was loved and respected throughout the breed, and always showed kindness to new exhibitors, offering advice and thoughtful comments, and criticisms when she felt they were justified. She was not always forgiving of judges, however, and, after judging was over, if she thought they had got something wrong, she would let them know, in no uncertain terms, emphasised with a wagging comb. She held strong opinions on what the Bedlington should be like, and by the early 1980s, she felt that the breed was becoming too small and fine. I recall her saying, when someone criticised a bitch for being, in their opinion, too big, that "there's too many little 'uns now. A decent rabbit would stand up and punch 'em on the snout".

The funeral was held on Wednesday 30 April, but anyone wishing to make a donation in Olive's memory may do so, with donations to go to the Douglas Macmillan Hospice, Barlaston Road, Stoke on Trent, ST3 3NZ. Olive may be gone, and we shall not see her like again, but she will be long remembered, and our thoughts and sympathies go to her son, Tony, and daughter Angie, and her five grandchildren.