

Norwegian Elkhound Notes March 2nd 2025

This year marks 128 years since the first Elkhounds were shown at Crufts when the winner was Northern Light and 122 years since the British Elkhound Society was formed. I haven't been able to ascertain the entry the first time Elkhounds were shown at Crufts; it must have been very small because serious importation of the breed and the development of the breed standard didn't begin until many years later. However, this year there are 44 dogs, including one from Norway, making 49 entries for the judge elect, Treena Maun. Best of luck to everyone and safe journeys.

Last week, the Kennel Club once again offered a meal and tour of the archives to anyone interested in a specific breed and last week a group of Elkhound aficionados had a wonderful day there. They did this last year when several members went and last week, Treena Maun had coordinated another visit. I hope more will go if they do it again next year. You don't have to be a Club member, just interested in the breed. I know it's far from cheap for some to get down to London for the day and difficult midweek, but it really is a lovely event as Elaine Simms kindly explains below. Thank you Elaine.

Of the KC visit and meal, Elaine wrote:

"I'd wanted to go for so long but never had the opportunity, it didn't disappoint, from the minute we walked in the staff were so friendly & helpful, we started with a tour around the gallery, then we were taken to the photo archives where the lady had been busy looking up breed photo's, nothing really old but maybe going back 30/40 years, saw many familiar faces & dogs, followed by a look around the library where the staff had sourced records to find early information on the breed in the show ring, everyone was so thorough in getting us to see what records they had of our breed, can't fault them, but I'm sure they'd be really interested to acquire more. The meal was just perfect including drinks, so I felt it was really good value, I hope more people will go next time & enjoy the day as much as we all did."

The KC will be holding an Art exhibition later in the year and have asked if they may borrow the Patiala Trophy from the Club along with its history. It was donated by the Maharajah of Patiala in 1936 when dogs had become much more popular in the Punjab and several Indian Kennel Clubs were started. The Maharaja not only had dogs but also a large private zoo. One of our long standing members, Lady Wade Gery, wrote "Our ambassador, then the former viceroy of India, Lord Irwin and his wife, Lady Irwin took 5 elkhounds to Delhi in about 1930. She was the co founder of one of the 2 British elkhound clubs." (The British Elkhound Society). She judged the breed at LKA in 1928 and donated the Dorothy Irwin Challenge Cup for BOB there. Their home estate was Garrowby in East Yorkshire where Lady Irwin bred Garrowby Haakon. Presumably this is how the Maharaja became acquainted with the breed. He ran huge kennels, mostly gundogs and hunting dogs, many lovely GSDs and even held very formal weddings for his dogs. His affix was MALWA. In 1927 he bought an Elkhound bitch called Skoda from Mrs MacLellan in the UK.

Lady Wade Gery continued “I discovered quite a lot about Elkhounds in India when Robert and I lived in Delhi 1982 -1987 (he was the High Commissioner there) I also had a Elkhound in Spain as well as another in Delhi.”

Just two Open Show results this week. At Cheltenham and District, Neil Cuss won BOB with Norvin Orkla with Ch Bowerhinton Bassanio taking Res BOB and today, Karen Gold wrote “Lovely day out at East of Scotland Premier Open Show. Marco won NSC Hound then in a cracking group of 18 dogs he made the first cut & then the final 6. Thanks to our judge, Richard Morrison” Well done flying the flag for Elkhounds.

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