

# THE 7<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL BORZOI CONFERENCE IN AUSTRALIA

by Jean Clare

TWENTY YEARS AGO, one man had a dream. That man was Arvid Anderson of Sweden and his dream was that Borzoi enthusiasts from all over the world could meet to discuss the breed. He hoped that these discussions might eventually result in an International Standard for the Borzoi, as he was convinced that despite the differences in written standards the breed itself was much the same all over the world.

Arvid's dream started to come true in Sweden in 1981, when the first International Borzoi Conference was held. All those attending were amazed at the similarities of their views on the ideal Borzoi and more progress was made towards an International Standard than anyone had envisaged. The other unexpected development was that everyone enjoyed the Conference so much that they voted to have another two years later. From that the International Borzoi Council was born and conferences are now held every three years. In 2001 the Conference will return to its birthplace at the special request of the Swedes, to celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Swedish Borzoi-Ringen. The ninth Conference is already scheduled for Williamsburg, Virginia, U.S.A. in 2004.

This year saw the seventh Conference, held for the first time in Australia. My husband Alan and I had always longed to visit that part of the world, so the dogsitters were duly installed and we were off! The idea of such a long flight was rather off-putting, so we spent a few days in Hong Kong en route. A wonderfully vibrant exciting place as I had been led to believe, with so much to see, but so crowded I would hate to live there. Then it was on to Sydney, where we were met by Colleen Roberts, accompanied by Sue Searle from the U.K. and driven out to the Conference venue at Castle Hill. This was a beautiful area well outside the city and close to the showground. After catching up on some sleep we settled in and had a dip in the pool, then it was time for dinner. We had just ordered when I heard a Canadian accent behind me and was delighted to see Pat and Bruce Ingram, organisers of the previous Conference in Calgary. We soon changed tables to sit together and before long were joined by Don and Alma Braybrook, just arrived from the U.K. Mealtimes are always a most important part of the Conferences, as food apart they provide a wonderful chance for everyone to mingle and chat.

By next day most of the delegates had arrived and it was good to meet up with old friends. A number of the visitors had judging appointments while in Australia, and now it was the turn of Liz Whitehead (Tazeb, U.K.) to judge at the Borzoi Club of NSW Ch. Show. Very reluctantly I forced myself to stay away so that all the dogs would be new to me for my own judging appointment the following day. A trip to a local shopping mall was some compensation, especially when we realised how favourably the prices compared with England, so we made quite a few purchases despite the fact that our luggage was already well over weight. Our prayers for good weather were answered with a perfect spring day for the I. B.C. show held in conjunction with the Hound Club of N.S.W. Houndfeste. I was particularly glad of this as the previous day had been uncomfortably hot, so I arrived at the showground complete with a hat, which luckily was superfluous. The day started with children in Russian costume



**Puppy Dog**  
**Clovelly Another Rebel \*09/10/97**

Zefina Virginian Reel x Ch. Clovelly Winsome Wanda  
B/O: Clovelly Kennels

Arbee kennels whose vehicle broke down en route from a previous show. This was my first experience of judging Baby Puppy classes, but in the event there was only one of each sex present, littermates from the Clovelly kennels. The dog **Clovelly Cardinal Sin** was absolutely gorgeous, beautifully constructed and wellgrown with excellent bone. He was impeccably behaved for such a baby and went on to Best Baby Puppy in Show under Robin Searle (Francehill/Surlson, U.K.) He was so like his famous sire who won the dog CC, he certainly looks set to follow in papa's paw prints.

The only Minor Puppy Dog was absent and the Clovelly kennels won both Puppy Dog and Junior Dog. The puppy **Clovelly Another Rebel** was a very stylish brindle of lovely type while the junior **Navaglen Honcho** was an elegant white, an excellent mover with very good angulation. Intermediate Dog went to **Ch. Langston Mahauira**, a sound lemon & white with good shoulder and upper arm. The six dogs present in Australian Bred Dog caused me quite a headache and the nod finally went to **Zefna Depardieu**, a son of Eng. Ch. Sholwood Sonnet and how the type came through. He was a very elegant showy brindle who moved extremely well.

Open Dog was an excellent class with 10 present, all but one a champion, the oldest a veteran of 10 and still in fine bloom. One dog stood out, commanding attention as soon as he entered the ring, and that was **Gd. Ch. Clovelly Wim N Vigour**. This tort/white was a real stallion hound, beautifully constructed with excellent substance, great ring presence and sound movement. He took the CC with ease, the reserve going to the b/w **Ch. Podarn The Phantom**, second in Open.

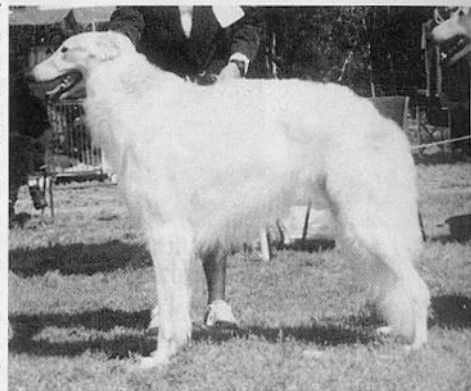
The Baby Puppy bitch, **Clovelly Crystal Cameo** was gorgeous, a feminine version of her brother. These two are certainly going to trouble the best, I longed to take one or preferably both home with me. Minor Puppy Bitch went to **Garsova Shabrante**, a shapely wellbalanced r/w with good angulation fore and aft. In Puppy Bitch the winner was **Navaglen Feel Me Up**, a tall correctly angulated w/bl with a feminine head who moved well. Junior Bitch was an easy win for **Russkimir Silverfrost**, a pretty sable/wh who was better balanced than her opponents. Clovelly kennels scored again in Intermediate Bitch with **Clovelly Your Yvette**, an elegant lemon/wh with lovely shoulders, quarters

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**Intermediate Dog**  
**Ch. Langston Mahauira \* 23/10/95**  
Ch. Podarn Magil Flute x Podarn Valeska  
B: Olivier O: Wadner, J.

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**Australian Bred Dog**  
**Zefna Depardieu\*19/12/95**  
Zefna Crimses O Passion x Ch. Sholwood Sonnet  
B/O: J. Curk

distributing cardboard eggs filled with sweets, accompanied by a very realistic Rasputin. There was an opening ceremony at which the judges were introduced and then it was on to the serious business of the day. We had a huge ring with a nice shady corner for the dogs to wait their turn to be seen and I was grateful for the services of a most efficient steward, Barry Coleman, judge of sweepstakes the previous day. There was an excellent entry of 80 although as usual there were some absentees, among them the well-known

and topline. Australian Bred Bitch was won by **Ch. Podarn Madame Butterfly**, a wellbalanced wh/red with a good head whose movement clinched her place.

A lunch break was welcome before tackling Open Bitch, the best class of the day with 12 lovely ladies present. A hard decision here with the quality more even than in the males, and eventually the nod went to **Ch. Podarn Hello Dolly**. This wh/r was beautifully constructed and totally balanced, she did

not put a foot wrong on the move all day which clinched her place, followed by the CC and BOB. The reserve CC went to the second in Open, **Ch. Mistraka Jane Eyre**, an eye-catching white, again very well made but not quite the head or movement of the first.



#### Open Dog

**CC GD Ch. Clovelly Vim N Vigour \* 19/09/93**  
Ch. Arbee Nikolenka x Ch. Broughclay Brite Lyts  
B/O: Clovelly Kennels

been made as a gift for the judge!

Then followed the Property classes, new to me, Best Headed, Best Gaited, Best Coated, Sire & Progeny, Dam & Progeny and Best exhibitor bred owned & handled. This was all quite casual with some exhibits pre-entered and some entering at the time, and I was just required to pick a first, with no prize given. It was a pity that only one progeny group appeared in each sex, otherwise these classes were quite well-filled and gave me a new dimension to judge.

It was now time for Robin Searle to judge BIS and I was delighted to see the Borzoi short-listed. Robin then went on to choose a winner from each category, thus giving Best Junior In Show, etc. Once this was finished, it was back to the hotel to study the catalogue and a beautiful document it was too, ringbound A4 with many adverts and photographs. I was pleased to discover that my BOB, reserve dog CC winner and the winner of Australian bred bitch were in fact littermates, out of a Sirhan dam. I consider this kennel to be one of the very best in the world so the type had obviously come through.

Overall I found the dogs were of similar quality to those in England or other countries where I have experience of the breed. Most excelled in side gait, those that did not cover the ground well were definitely in the minority. Chests were excellent too, with the majority having really good depth plus spring of rib and good forechests.

It was then time to dress up for the pre-Conference cocktail party, where a good time was had by all, then next day the Conference started in earnest. About 60 delegates registered, an excellent turnout; most were from Australia and



#### Baby Puppy Bitch

**Clovelly Crystal Cameo \* 30/04/98**

Ch. Clovelly Vim N Vigour x Ch. Clovelly Winsome Wanda  
B/O: Clovelly Kennels

It was then time for the dog and bitch winners of each class to compete against each other to see who went forward to the Best in Show ring. The winner of each category was rewarded with a beautiful replica of a Faberge egg, 11 inches high, which opened to reveal a pink satin lining and a little gold Borzoi standing on a mirror. On admiring these trophies I was thrilled to be told that an extra one had

new book on the breed. There were also copies of breed standards from different countries.

Over the next three days we heard some very interesting lectures on genetics, dentistry and homeopathy. Dr. Richard Meen (Kishniga, Canada) spoke on breeding and selecting Borzoi, Robin Searle gave the all-rounder's perspective on the breed and Moya Joslin (Bohdan) gave a talk on the Borzoi in New Zealand. We also saw a coursing video and one of Jim Sillers (Seabury, USA) speaking on breed history; sadly he could not be with us in person due to the unfortunate clash in dates with the English Borzoi Club Ch. Show, where he was judging. It was regrettable that there was no time for discussion, particularly of the International Standard, hopefully this can be remedied in 2001.

Elections for the IBC officers and committee were also held and Barbara Binder (del Viento, USA) and Angela San Paolo (Foxcroft, USA) gave us an update on the work of the health committee. For some years they have been running a survey on causes of death in Borzois, from which some interesting statistics have emerged. This is an on-going project so anyone who is willing to supply data on their hounds should request a questionnaire. There was also some discussion on liver shunt, not yet recorded in Borzois but becoming a problem in some other large sighthound breeds. Forewarned is forearmed and collating information on an international basis must be the best way of preventing such problems from becoming established in the breed.

All too soon proceedings were at an end and it was time for the Conference dinner and auction. This was a most enjoyable occasion and an extra thoughtful little touch was that each guest was given a Borzoi head in the form of a brooch for the ladies and a stud for the gentlemen, inscribed "Till we meet again". After the meal the auction began in earnest, with Rasputin reappearing to assist the auctioneer. There were some lovely items for sale, including two Russian bronzes donated by Anne Marie Thomassen (von Freesenhausen, Sweden). The final item was another Faberge egg; these had actually been handmade by Christina Rafton and this one was also a music box. It was finally bought by Robyn and Albie Davidson of the Clovelly kennels as a companion for the four they won at the show! A good sum of money was raised for the IBC and in all it was a most memorable evening.

Next morning came the sad part when we all had to say goodbye after such a short reunion, with many promises to meet in Sweden. Many of the foreign visitors went off to visit kennels and enjoy yet more Australian hospitality. I had promised Alan a dogfree holiday after the Conference so we went off to see the sights of Sydney and then spend a few days in



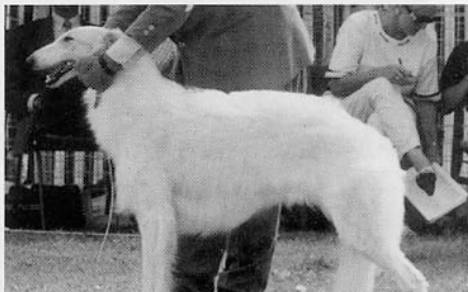
#### Junior Bitch

**Russkimir Silverfrost \* 22/06/97**

Ch. Russkimir Yeltzin x Ch. Russkimir Xamantha  
B/O: Davis, M.L.

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B/O: Clovenly Kennels

New Zealand but the UK, USA and Canada were also well represented, plus there was one delegate from South Africa and one from Sweden. It is always disappointing that the rest of Europe is seldom represented, I hope that will all change in 2001. A notable absentee was Lillemor Leifors of the Leicros kennel in Sweden. She has been present at every Conference until this one, but sadly her plans to attend fell through at the last minute, so I am now the only person fortunate enough to have attended them all.

It has become a tradition that each delegate receives a commemorative Conference folder and on this occasion they were particularly attractive, featuring a beautiful drawing of two Borzois by Deidre Hunt with the Conference logo "Under the Southern Cross". Another of this artist's drawings appeared on the Conference sweatshirt, this time three Borzois running plus the same logo. Inside the folders were texts of some of the lectures plus a transcript of a dialogue between Robin Hernandez and Richard Meen and a brief illustrated history of Borzois in England by Dr. Desiree Scott, adapted from her

then spend a few days in Port Douglas to visit the Great Barrier Reef and the rainforest. After that it was home via Singapore and a rapturous welcome from the dogs. My precious egg survived its trip halfway round the world wrapped in a towel in my handbag; we even took it to Raffles with us in Singapore! It is now proudly on display as a memento of a wonderful trip.

I hope everyone reading this has made a firm resolve to be with us in Arlanda, Sweden during the last week in July 2001, to make the eighth Conference the best ever!

Jean Clare, Kennel Ryazan/GB



**Open Bitch**

**RCC Ch. Mistraka Jane Eyre \* 04/09/96**

Ch. Podam The Mikardo x LeiCro's Zilver Lining of Mistraka

B/O: Eveny & Ikin