

Mrs Ada Lenora Bishop 1916 - 2006

In October 2006, the Club's much loved and respected president, Mrs Ada L Bishop passed away in her 91st year. The two tributes to her on this page are taken from the Club magazine *The Smooth Look* (2006). The first is by Mrs Bishop's son, Ken Bishop, and the second is by her late friend, the Club's former patron and staunch supporter, Mr Peter Fishwick.

To celebrate the life of our late President, Mrs Ada L Bishop, the club decided to honour her memory in a way of which we knew she would have supported. It was decided to establish the Ada Bishop Foundation, an initiative which will support and fund specific activities to improve the health of the Smooth Collie and/or promote it to the general public and to show judges.

The Ada Bishop Foundation

Aims and Objectives

- To promote an appreciation and knowledge of the Smooth Collie.
- To further understanding of the diseases, defects, injuries, and other ailments that afflict dogs in general & Smooth Collies in particular.
- To support medical and other research on health problems, genetics, breeding and history.
- To publish and distribute educational materials
- To operate a judges training programme
- To provide opportunities for Smooth Collie owners to keep in touch

Health Matters

Although the Smooth Collie is a healthy breed, as the premier breed club we are not complacent about this and are seeking to be proactive in helping breeders to understand the health issues that are connected with the breed and offer financial support to enable them to undertake the tests recommended by veterinarians and by The Kennel Club.

There are a limited number of reimbursements available each year for owners having their dogs DNA tested. For current status please [contact us](#) and you will be required to provide proof of payment and be prepared to share results with Club.

The Club has developed a set of web pages devoted to those health problems that have been associated with the breed. The information on the web pages has been taken from the East Anglian Collie Association's web pages and we are grateful to them for allowing us to reproduce them here.

The information has been written for breeders but there are also sheets written especially with the pet owner in mind.

Promoting the Breed

Many of us with Smooth Collies have been asked whilst out and about with our dogs "What breed is that?" or "What's it crossed with?!" Because there are so few Smooth Collies around the breed is virtually unknown to the general public (see our vulnerability page). To overcome this, one of the Club's prime objectives is to promote the breed and it does this through this website, at events such as Discover Dogs at Crufts in March, at Earls Court in November and at other events such as vulnerable breed parades at agricultural shows and so on.

We also consider it very important to promote our breed within the dog showing fraternity and one way of doing this is through our Judges' Education programme. The Ada Bishop Foundation finances our Judges' Education Programme. This not only seeks to promote our own Smooth Collie judges but also educate judges of other breeds so that Smooth Collies gets the recognition they deserve at all levels of dog show. Show goers may not realise that the choice of all-rounder at the annual Smooth Collie of the Year event is also designed to provide up and coming and top all rounders with an opportunity to examine the country's top Smooth Collies.

Funding the Ada Bishop Foundation

The activities of the Ada Bishop Foundation are funded through the sales of calendars, mugs, special edition plates and the large range of other items that you can find at our club sales stand at shows. By buying items from us at shows or at other times, you are actively helping us to promote the breed and ensure it has a long and healthy future.



This photo shows Mrs Ada L Bishop second from the right pictured at the Club's

anniversary celebrations.

Ada Lenora Bishop - by Ken Bishop

"She celebrated her 90th birthday on 4th September here at home in her typically modest style. Surrounded by birthday cards, balloons, her closest friends, though not all of them, and small glasses of champagne.

Sadly, unknown to all of us, this was to be a very happy climax to a long, happy and at times, difficult life. Nevertheless the great majority of all her years were spent doing the thing she enjoyed the most that is being with her beloved animals. She was never in my lifetime away from the contact or presence of dogs, even though in later years we did not have any of our own.

Three weeks before her accident and with much excitement, she managed to lock us out of the house when her first carer friend came with her two daughters on their three horses. In spite of being locked out of the house, it was a beautifully warm day and she was thrilled to be with them in the garden.

Her dogs, Collies in particular were her life. Her knowledge of them was such that she could remember pedigrees from maybe 70 years ago, dates of shows and whose dogs had won at any particular show.

In connection with Smooth Collies, the one who she was closest to was Roy, Champion Laund Lawson. I did not know him, because he died broken hearted when I was born. He must, like so many other animals and people, have absolutely adored her.

The next Smooth Collie was Bobbie, Champion Laund Lanary. I knew him in 1940 and 1941. He was sold to Mrs Beth Pleydell-Bouverie in the late 1930s. During this time with the Pleydell-Bouveries, he was, I believe, bitten by an adder. He recovered but was a changed personality and would not settle. Ultimately he returned to Laund and was reunited with Ada; she could do anything with him and he would do anything for her. Nobody else could handle him. He went to Scarisbrick with us in 1941 where he sadly died and was buried.

Laund Peterblue Zoe came to us from Kay Alexander and Elizabeth Dundas Mouat in the 1960s and Ada made her into a Champion. Zoe was a character and loved people, but apart from her rough coated tricolour mentor Bobbie (Laund Lawca) she hated other dogs. We both loved her dearly and she is the only dog who is buried here.

Ada's judging career is well documented and I would like to finish by saying that whatever she did was with total honesty and pride. I am proud to have had her as my mum and miss her dearly."

A Tribute to our late President Mrs Ada Bishop from the patron of the SCCGB, Peter Fishwick

"An era has sadly come to an end which has lasted for ninety years, and which

belonged almost exclusively to Ada Bishop.

Ada was a good counsellor, advisor, helpmate and above all a cherished friend to all of us. The legacy which Ada has left to the Collie world, both nationally and internationally is unparalleled in the annals of the breed.

From childhood she lived with dogs for her playmates. Whilst her primary interest has always been with Collies, both Rough and Smooth, she was also interested in Labradors, Great Danes, Pointers, Border Terriers and Shelties.

She judged her first show whilst still little more than a schoolgirl, in 1935 at the age of nineteen, and her last show as Best in Show judge at the British Collie Club's championship show at Coventry in 1992, where she made the Smooth Collie Sharidon Silver Phantom at Foxearth, Best in Show.

She judged her last Rough Collies at the East of England Championship Show at Peterborough in 1990, and her last Smooth Collies at the Lancashire and Cheshire Championship Show in 1988.

Ada, along with her father, had a natural eye for quality and conformation, to the standards of whatever breed in which she was involved. She judged extensively at all levels, at open and championship shows, nationally and internationally, around the world in Great Britain (including Crufts on more than one occasion), the Netherlands, in Scandinavia and Switzerland, in Austria, Germany, Australia and New Zealand, and in the United States of America.

She wrote a book entitled All About the Collie which was so popular that it was updated and released in a second edition. She wrote it for a very limited fee, because her interest in the breed and its inspiration to others was more important to her than that of image or monetary gain. With her father she bred numerous champion Collies, both Rough and Smooth.

In her own right she bred champion Rough collies, including one Rough Collie dog who qualified as a champion at one year and one day of age, which may well be a record. She owned and qualified a Champion Smooth Collie bitch in the 1960's and 1970's.

She was for some years secretary of the British Collie Club, and later it's President,

From their formation, she was a member of both the Lancashire and Cheshire Collie Club and the Smooth Collie Club of Great Britain, of which she became President, and remained so until the present time.

All along the path of her long life she has left indelible marks of knowledge, help, guidance and teaching. Many people in the Collie world and indeed in the entire world of dogs, its followers and fanciers, owe her so much. Many like myself, when just beginning with their first Collie, have received the encouragement, help and guidance that has set so many on their way to great achievements.

Her memory of people, pedigrees, shows and results was astonishingly great. She remembered the great leaders of the breeds, their parentage and progeny.

We her friends, many of us lifelong, all the world over, were brought together on the day of Ada's funeral to celebrate the memory of this most remarkable lady.

One of the greatest ladies of the collie world, a legend which will never be forgotten, and which we are unlikely to ever see again."