

Allenie – from the beginning

It was back in 1976 when Anthony was 5 years old that it was decided that a dog should join the family and a Labrador fitted the bill. Shortly afterward Heidi, **Allenie of Kentucky** joined us. She was sired by Landyke Laird so had some good blood behind her. She was brought purely as a pet but needed some obedience so Geoff went off to the local training school where the instructor encouraged him to put Heidi in to the show ring. The bug quickly bit! Heidi however had other ideas and wasn't that keen on the show ring.

Heidi's name and our affix Allenie came about not through adding letters to our surname as is often thought but after a ship called "The Allenie" that had mesmerized Geoff when he was a young boy because of the Allen connection. Originally we had hoped for a different affix but the Kennel Club didn't like it and Allenie has been our affix for over 30 years.

The Eighties

In search of a dog to show we went looking for a puppy and came across a litter by Sh Ch Stajantors Honest John who we admired greatly. In this litter was a young pale puppy that stood on tiptoe and screamed 'look at me' so we purchased him and what a lucky buy for us novices he was. That young pup became **Sh. Ch. Squire Harvey of Allenie**. Harvey won his first CC at the Yellow Labrador Club from junior in September 1981, completing his title at Birmingham National the next spring, and that day going on to win the Gundog group. Undoubtedly the greatest accolade was him winning Best of Breed at Crufts in 1985 and then reaching the final eight in the group.



Harvey was a superb showman, in his book *The Show Labrador* Richard Edwards described him such; *"Harvey was even more stylish than his famous father, he really did present the ultimate profile, clean headed on a long neck with a superb body of the trimmest lines, he was a free mover and a fine showman."* He competed at top level throughout the eighties including Sh Ch Receiver of Cranspire, Ch Warringah's Fair and Square, Ch Poolstead Preferential all of whom regularly changed places, for us some of the best days of the Labrador.

Other good dogs followed including **Lucky Strike of Allenie JW** and **Miss Jessica of Allenie** and her son **Allenies Challenger**.

The need though was for a good sound bitch from which we could establish our own line, so in the mid eighties we went on a search to find one. Eventually settling on **Genisval Charade at Allenie JW**; she was closely bred being by Recievers dam, Pollys Pride of Genisval to Nz Ch Carpenny Chateau Cranspire who himself was a son of Receiver. She acquitted herself well in the show ring winning her Junior Warrant with ease and collected a RCC along the way, in our opinion Charade was unlucky not to win more but she did not fit the fashion of the day. Confident we had a good foundation bitch we bred two litters from her.



Genisval Charade of Allenie JW RCC

It was in the late eighties that disaster struck, Charade was diagnosed as having GPRA. We had been building our kennel around this bitch's blood lines and we now had to face the fact that we could not breed on. It was heartbreaking to have to rehome her lovely young children. It was a case of putting all your eggs in one basket and it was a severe blow, we could have easily given up and we were all very gloomy about the situation.

The Nineties - A new beginning

After the shock and the disappointment passed, we formulated a plan of action. We had a ray of hope, a litter of puppies by Lucky Strike ex Miss Jessica's (her last litter), and we retained a puppy **Allenies Hope** (as in we hope she doesn't have PRA!) We also needed fresh blood in to the kennel and looked round for a bitch that we liked. We saw Ch Fabraken Hello Sunshine and Anne Taylor very kindly let us have a puppy bitch called **Fabraken Justin Step with Allenie**. It is from Harvey and these two bitches our lines are founded on today.



Left: A very young **Allenies Hope**
Right: **Hope's Daughter Allenies Royal Romance JW RCC**

Hope acquitted herself in the show ring but it was as a brood bitch that she is important. In two matings to Rocheby dogs she produced two equally important dogs for the kennel. Firstly to Sh Ch Royal Oak she produced **Allenies Royal Romance JW** who was a flag bearer, despite winning consistently at the highest level across the decade never obtained her title and this in our opinion was a great injustice.

Hope also produced **Allenies Prince of Thieves** to Poolstead Pretentious at Rocheby. For us Prince of Thieves was a good sire, sadly dying at a very young age. To Justin Step's daughter Prince of Thieves produced **Allenies Stolen Moment** a fabulous bitch in the show ring winning her way through the classes and collecting a CC along the way. He also sired **Carromers Imogen of Allenie**. We also acquired a Harvey granddaughter at this time in **Sujavia Madonna of Allenie** who was Anthony's first Labrador and did him proud with a RCC to her credit before dying at a very young age.



Left: **Sujavia Madonna at Allenies RCC**
Right: **Allenies Stolen Moment 1CC**

The naughties

Returning to the successful mating's of the past we again looked to Marion and David Hopkinson's Rocheby dogs and we took our two remaining bitches, Imogen and Stolen Moment. Imogen being mated to Old Smokey and Stolen Moment to Sh Ch Whisky Mac and it is from these two mating that we got **Alleines Jezzabel JW**, and the littermates **Allenies MacCallum JW and MacHattie JW**. All became CC winners for the kennel.

From Callum and Hattie came some of our best dogs. Callum sired the top winning **Sh Ch Allenies Maverick JW**, winner of 14CC's and a gundog group. Ricky retired after winning the DCC at Crufts 2011. Hattie produced the beautiful **Sh Ch Allenies Ophelia**, who gained her title in August 2011. Both are still with us enjoying their retirements.



Left: Sh Ch Allenies Maverick
Right: Sh Ch Allenies Ophelia



Mandursan

In 2005 we sold a puppy to Allen and Christine Guildford, **Allenies on the Move**. Shortly afterwards Allen injured his knee and asked Anthony to help him with showing Mollie, and the beginning of the Allenie - Mandursan partnership began. Allen and Christine had another bitch **Harrop Canasta at Mandursan** who Anthony also agreed to handle. Both On the Move and Canasta became CC winners and were unlucky not to gain titles but they were competing at the same time as Jezzabel and Ophelia. Canasta's legacy was in producing the beautiful **Mandursan Aprodite of Allenie JW** who is one of our hopes for the future.



Mandursan Aprodite of Allenie JW

The Salty Dog

In 2009 we were looking for an outcross stud dog and our thoughts turned to a dog we had seen in America – **Am and Can Ch Salty Dog of Tampa Bay**. Anthony first saw this super chap when he topped the breed at the prestigious Westminster show in 2007, and Geoff and Jean when they judged in America in 2008, both awarding him BOB at back to back specialties. So we brought some frozen semen in from him and tried it on 3 bitches, all the matings were unsuccessful.

Then in September 2010 Anthony judged a specialty show in America and awarded BIS to the lovely Salty's Surfer Girl of Tampa Bay, a daughter of Salty. At this show, for the first time, he met Linda Hess – Surfer and Salty's owner. By now Salty had retired from the show ring after a successful career and was on field training. Linda was keen for a puppy from one of our bitches. Linda proposed sending Salty to the UK to see if we could make it work. Also suggesting that I may show him a little as she would love to watch him at Crufts.

So in June 2011, just over eight months later after he had completed his hunting qualification, he arrived in the UK. After just eight weeks he won his first CC, completing his title at the end of September. In 2012 his career took off and to date he has won 23CC's; he is top Labrador 2012 and has 3 Gundog Groups and BOB and Group 2 at Crufts in his achievements. And yes Linda was there to watch him!



Sh Ch, Am and Can Ch Salty Dog of Tampa Bay

Salty is royally line bred to Sh Ch Receiver of Cranspire and resembles him so much. He has now mated our girls and this will hopefully take our breeding programme back to where we were in the late eighties. Salt retires at the end of 2012 and will return to Linda in Florida, where he will do what he loves most hunting duck and rabbits. 2012 has been a great adventure for us all! We are all looking forward to next year as the Salty babies take to the show ring.

And an English Springer...

In addition to the Labradors Anthony has also had a love of English Springers, he owned his first dog aged just eight. Due to University studies and work commitments he was unable to keep breeding them. When he met his partner Richard in 2004, they decided it was time for another springer to enter the Allenie Kennel and after much searching **Sh Ch Trimere Talking Point of Allenie** became part of our show team. He has gone on to achieve fantastic success including winning 23CC's, 10 group placings and BOB at Crufts in 2009 and 2010.



Left: Richard with Sh Ch Trimere Talking Point of Allenie

Right: Anthony with his first homebred springer Allenie Communard

In conclusion

We have never had a large kennel and we are proud that most of the dog mentioned here have won well at championship level with many champions and others collecting CC and RCC. We strive to produce dogs of a type that have good temperaments and we find pleasing to the eye and are fairly comfortable with the type we have developed. We are of course always looking to the future and the next generation.

This journey through the last 37 years and has not been a smooth ride, there have been bitter disappointments and a number of occasions when we could have hung up our show leads. However the strength we have is that we are a family, and on the occasions that resolve has waned, one of us will usually be there to pick up the pieces, dust us down, and carry on. We all agree that our combined love of Labradors is one of the key strength that we have as a family.

We are really looking forward to judging the Labrador Club of Finland; it will be the first time we have all judged together and we thank the committee for the invitation.

Geoff, Jean and Anthony Allen