

Judges' Biographies

Chris Amoo

I have two passions in my life, my music & my dogs. I have been very fortunate to have reached the pinnacle in both. In music,(a number 1 hit record.) In dogs, (best in show at Crufts.) My love affair with show dogs spans 38 yrs We acquired our first Irish Wolfhound in 1989 from the Drakesleat kennel who became a Group winning champion. From the same kennel came our foundation bitch Ch Drakesleat Adyr who is behind everything at our Sade kennel. Over the years we have bred / owned many Champion Group winning dogs, most notably, Ch Caredig Kava to Sade. (Top Wolfhound multi group BIS winner) Chs. Bokra Wallace of Sade Crufts CC winner & Ch Bokra Anarchy to Sade (top Wolfhound 14 & 15) Crufts BOB 2016. Ch Sade Jynxx Crufts CC winner.& Ch Seplecur Berthia multiple group & CC winner. I have been honored to have judged the breed in several countries around the world. America. Finland. Sweden. Ireland. Belgium. Czech Rep. Italy & France. I have Judged extensively in the UK and was honored to judge the IWC Ch show in 2011. Last year I judged Irish Wolfhounds at the EIWC held in Germany & I am invited to judge the breed at the World Show this year. I am also scheduled to judge at Crufts for the second time in 2018 this time for Irish Wolfhounds. I am honored to be on the ballot to judge this wonderful show.

Pauric Hand

Killykeen Irish Wolfhounds

When I was ten years old, I saw my first Irish Wolfhound. I remember thinking what an amazing sight it was and how impressed I was with its sheer size. One day I thought, I'm going to own an Irish Wolfhound! Little did I realize then just how much I would end up being involved in breeding, raising and showing Irish Wolfhounds. My next encounter came in 1986 when I met Tony Killykeen- Doyle of "Killykeen" Irish Wolfhounds and we became life partners. From that point onwards, I immersed myself in trying to learn all I could about the breed. I feel very privileged to have had Tony and his expert knowledge base as my teacher and mentor!

We tried to remain faithful to the old bloodlines in our breeding program with a determination to breed to the old ideals of correct type and soundness. We had much success with breeding/showing "Killykeen" hounds and have produced many breed and lure coursing champions both in Ireland and abroad. In more recent times I have not been very active in breeding or exhibiting due to work commitments but have loved sharing the last 31 years of my life with my beloved Irish Wolfhounds

In addition to judging Irish Wolfhounds, I am also licensed to judge Borzoi, Deerhounds, Afghan Hounds and Irish Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers. I have judged extensively in Ireland, United Kingdom, Holland, Belgium and Luxembourg, including many Irish Wolfhound specialties. Most recently in the US, I judged the 2016 "IWAGS" Specialty in Pennsylvania.

Steve LeVan

Lismore Irish Wolfhounds

An avid courser, our first Irish Wolfhound Tess joined the family in 1974 and we were hooked. At the 1977 IWCA National, I was fortunate to sit next to Mrs. Nagle and Ms. Mary Jane Ellis where Sulhamstead Minstrel stole my lunch. The *sandwich incident* led to mentorships that brought clarity and depth to my knowledge of Irish Wolfhound type. Lissa of Killybracken was the dam of Lismore's first litter. During 43 years in the breed, Lismore has whelped 13 litters. I showed primarily at Specialties until 1990. I have been an IWCA member since 1978, served on the board and was show treasurer for the 1990 & 1991 Specialties. I am a member of an all-breed club and a founding member of IWAMS. An early Lismore success: a pup from our first litter was Reserve Winners Bitch at the 1982 New England Specialty. I have attended 27 IWCA Nationals exhibiting at 20 with class placements at 19 including Select Bitch in 2014 and Award of Merit, American Bred Bitch and Best in Sweepstakes in 2016. Our Roxie Hart won two BOBs, one BOS, one Select Bitch and two Award of Merits at seven specialties in a row. I judged the IWCA Sweepstakes in 2008, Delaware Valley's supported Bryn Mawr entry and the Puget Sound Club's Specialty in 2015. I take pride in being a life-long learner – I have a long list of wolfhound mentors, but I am not finished yet as I continue to learn about our breed.

John Lewington

Greycroft Irish Wolfhounds, Australia

My love and fascination of Irish Wolfhounds began when I was 6 years old. We bought our first Irish Wolfhound in 1975.

We have bred many champions over the years including Grand and Supreme Champions, also the 2016 All Breeds Top Dog Australia was Supreme Ch Greycroft In Like Flynn (Errol).

I am a licensed All Breeds Judge and have judged Irish Wolfhounds in many countries, including Specialties in the USA, Australia, New Zealand and Canada. I have also judged Irish Wolfhounds at all breed Championship Shows in many other parts of the world, one of which was the American National in Philadelphia where I was honoured to judge the Terrier group that was broadcast throughout America after the Macey Day Parade.

I am a founder member of The Irish Wolfhound Club of South Australia Inc and have been Secretary for 22 years.

I have given many lectures to trainee judges in SA and other States of Australia on judging Irish Wolfhounds covering all aspects of breed type and soundness. I enjoy giving back some of the knowledge that I have gained from over 30 years of judging.

I am never happier than when judging my own breed. Nothing gives me greater pleasure than to walk into a ring full of beautiful Irish Wolfhounds. As you can tell, I am passionate about our breed and would be very honoured if chosen to judge the Irish Wolfhound Club of America's National Specialty.

Lynn Simon

Enamored with Irish Wolfhounds since the age of nine, my first hound came from Keystone Kennels in 1976, followed by three from Meadowbrook and Killybracken. I visited the UK in 1979, visiting the kennels of Sulhamstead, Brabyns, Solstrand, Outhwaite, Eaglescrag, Bokra, Petasmeade, Edeyrn, Witchesbroom and Seplecur. Gordon Crane, Mrs. Nagle, and Joel Samaha were my mentors. My foundation stock was carefully chosen from Meadowbrook, Sulhamstead, Witchesbroom and Seplecur. My first litter was born in 1981.

I co-founded two kennels: Stoneybrook, which, from 1976 to 2001 had 31 champions in several countries; and Rockhart, with 14. My hounds have won three IWCA national specialties, two IWCC national specialties, and many regional specialties in both countries, and 16 Best of Breeds at Locust Grove shows. I have exported/imported dogs to the UK, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, and Sweden. My hounds, owned by Shelley Hood, have been top IW in ASFA and LGRA multiple years. At one time, I had seven specialty winning hounds in my kennel with three living here currently.

Since 1992, I have judged specialties in Canada, including the national specialty, and in the UK, Denmark, Sweden and Ireland, plus regional specialties in the U.S. I will judge the national specialties in Norway and Sweden in 2018.

I am a 40-year member of the IWCA, an IWCC member, and Northstar. I cofounded the Midwest Irish Wolfhound Association, which sponsored matches for 17 years, including conformation, coursing and educational events. I am an IWCA judge's mentor and presenter.

My hounds are known for their type, soundness of temperament/gait, and strength.

Jamie Souza Bartlett

My mother received her first Irish Wolfhound from my late grandmother nearly 40 years ago when I was 2, and I have been in love with the breed ever since. The first time I entered the show ring with an IW was at the NCIBC specialty in 1984, and I have been actively involved with the breeding and handling of our Limerick Irish Wolfhounds from that time. My mother and I have campaigned our dogs to Number One in 12 of the last 24 years, and we were honored to be named as the 2013 AKC Hound Group Breeder of the Year, an accomplishment of which we are especially proud. In 43 years, we have produced only 16 litters and as breeders we have always challenged ourselves to produce the highest quality dogs in a limited number of breedings. More recently, I have changed my focus to judging. Approved for a handful of hounds, this has allowed me to maintain my love for the sport of dogs while giving me the time to focus on my young family and career. I have been honored to judge Irish Wolfhounds at regional specialties as well as abroad in Australia and with future assignments in Italy and the UK. The greatest honor bestowed upon any breeder judge is that of judging your breed's National Specialty. I thank you for considering me for the privilege and if chosen, I would hold this assignment in the absolute highest regard.

Knut Olav Wille

kennel O'Marksbay, Norway

I became the proud owner of my first Irish Wolfhound as a 16 years old in 1979. Before the age of twenty, I had already three Irish Wolfhounds, and I have through the years been true to this breed only. I had my first litter in 1991. In 2004 my partner Øivind Berg Larsen joined me as a co-owner of kennel O'Marksbay. I have always had several dogs, and today we have nine dogs living with us.

My own breeding has not been for quantity. In all of my litters the intention has been to keep a puppy for future breeding. With the exception of 2016 where we had three litters, we have had approximately one litter each year.

In 2005 I became the first Norwegian breeder-judge. So far I have judged in Finland, Denmark, Estonia, the Czech Republic, France, Belgium, Germany, Ireland, England and in 2017 at Potomac Valley and at the IAWWC-specialty at Lompoc. In 2018 I am invited to judge at the FIWC (formerly the EIWC) in France.

I have very much enjoyed visiting your National Specialties in Pennsylvania in 2001, Texas in 2007, California in 2010, New York in 2011 and North Carolina in 2013. The commitment to the breed that I have experienced at these events have truly been impressive.