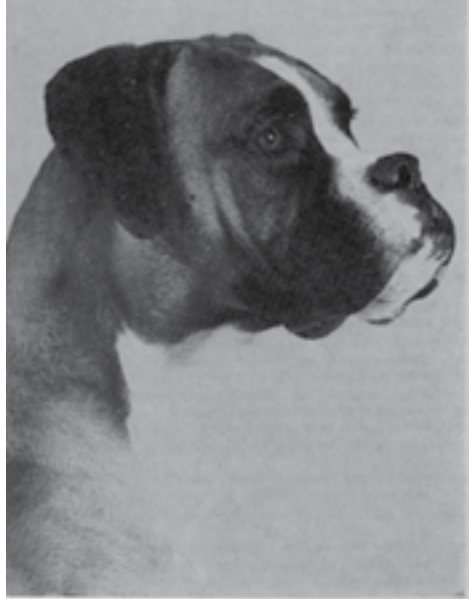


The Hall of Fame ...

Ch. Newlaithe Ariadne



by Robert McDougal

The years spanning the late '60s to the early '70's are generally considered to be something of a *belle époque* for the Boxer in Britain. Competition was extremely fierce – high profile males such as Ch. Wardrobes Huntersmoon, Ch. Rayfos Rainmaker, Ch. Witherford Cool Mango, Ch. Marbelton Desperate Dan, Ch. Seacrest Drummage of Mindenwood, Ch. Yooneek Presentation and father and son Int. Ch. Seefeld Picasso and Int. Ch. Seefeld Art Master dominated the dog classes and regularly featured in Big Ring competition. Real fire-horses, all of them! On the distaff side a bevy of beautiful Boxer bitches graced the rings – Ch. Wardrobes Clair de Lune, Ch. Hajema Easter Sonnet, Ch. Felcign Saffron Velvet of Skelder, Ch. Glenauld Gossip, Ch. Melvich's Melissa, Ch. Hazefield Beatnik, Ch. Faerdom Truly Scrumptious, Ch. Starmark Sweet Someday and of course... Ch. Newlaithe Ariadne.

The following is based on an original article first published in the Winter 1987 BBC Newsletter.

Destined

Almost five decades ago, a keen young Northern Breeder, Christine Beardsell mated her Newlaithe Maisu Teddy Girl to the then untitled Hazefield Barrister, owned by Hazel Izett. Maisu, who was a well bred daughter of Avonbard Othello, was the true foundation bitch of the Newlaithe kennel. On 10th December 1968 Ariadne arrived into the world. From the beginning she was destined for stardom. Early critiques from her numerous wins in the Puppy Classes praised her beauty - "Classical female style, everything in balance.", "A real star girl.", "Quite outstanding."

Reigning Queen

The young Ariadne won well taking the CC whilst still a puppy, at the London & Home Counties 1969 show, over the reigning queen, the classically beautiful Ch. Wardrobes Clair de Lune. The judge was the renowned Italian authority, Professor Mario Mariotti, one of the founding fathers of the breed in Italy. At Richmond, then the last show of the season, Mrs. Lynn Llewellyn-Davies awarded

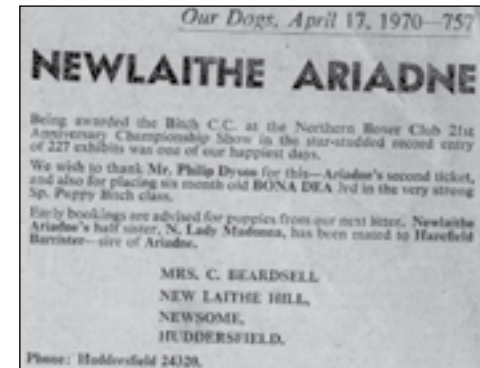
Ariadne first in Junior and wrote "A sparkling red & white with tremendous ring presence, very pretty head, dark eyes, lovely expression, well padded muzzle, round firm crested neck which she uses. All this with good shoulders, superb outline and movement makes her quite outstanding".



Ariadne winning her first CC as a Puppy at the London & Home Counties B.C. The judge was Prof. Mario Mariotti

Love letter

In April 1970 the Northern Boxer Club celebrated its 21st Championship Show and the honour of judging this spectacular event fell to its president Mr. Philip Dyson. Ariadne won a strong Junior Class and was awarded her second Challenge Certificate with Melvich's Melissa taking another RCC from the Puppy Class. Best in Show from an entry of 343 was Int. Ch. Seefeld Picasso with cousin Ariadne standing as a very worthy consort! Mr. Dyson's critique was a veritable love-letter "Junior brought in the lovely Newlaithe Ariadne, I saw this one as a baby puppy at our annual rally and predicted a bright future for her, so far she seems to be fulfilling my forecast. I have not seen her since then but what I see now I do admire, she owns a clean dry skull, excellent muzzle and



good stop, a dark eye and well placed ears, a shade more neck would improve, body, legs, feet and quarters, a good set on and perfect topline complete a picture of a grand bitch. In movement never put a foot wrong, in outline and general confirmation she reminds me very much of the great Fiona".

Horses for courses

At WELKS Ariadne came head to head in the Junior Class with her younger rival, the ever present Melissa, under Pat Withers! Melissa was enjoying a highly successful, high profile campaign and won the class, CC and BOB. Ariadne stood second in a class of 21 and Mrs. Withers wrote "Smart sleek and showy red & white, good neck, deep brisket and short back, lean clean head though a trifle shallow all

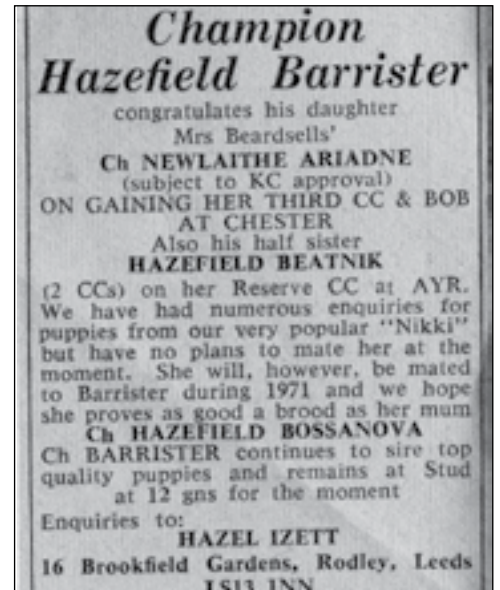


Ch. Newlaithe Ariadne
photographed by the famous Diane Pearce

through. Could be better angulated at both ends. Really lovely show temperament, always alert and does all her handler asks of her". Horses for courses springs to mind.

Upper house

Ariadne's sire Ch. Hazefield Barrister gained his crown at Leeds under Evelyn Auger and a few weeks later at Chester, Ch. Newlaithe Ariadne followed her father into the upper house when Nan Hullock awarded her the CC and BOB over Janice Mair's Ch. Delapoe Pied Piper and the young Marbelton Music Box was Reserve to her. Mrs. Hullock wrote "I judged this one



last year as a puppy and made her Best in Show. Very elegant, clean outline, close-coated red and white, pretty feminine head. Really screwed together and consequently moved well and gaily." At Peterborough Peggy Haslam placed Ariadne second in Open to her CC winner, Ch. Wardrobes Clair de Lune but she lost the RCC to Ackendene Royal Ascot – another member of that incredible group that included Ch. Faerdorn Truly Scrumptious, Ch. Hazefield Beatnik and Devonaire Fleur de Lis who, like Ariadne, all won first tickets from their Puppy Classes in 1969!

Flamboyant

Dorrie Mallam, doyenne of the North East, judged at Dumfries and although Ariadne took Open she conceded the CC to local girl Ch. Melvich's Melissa and the RCC to Starmark Sweet Someday and was rewarded with the following critique "A beautiful bitch, all feminine, good headed bitch with good mouth and long lovely neck, beautiful shaped body and well boned legs and feet, strong hindquarters, in beautiful immaculate condition, not a loose hair in her beautiful tight short coat, a very worthy Champion". Leicester saw the flamboyant Felicia Price ring centre. Many years

Ch. Newlaithe Ariadne
(subject to Kennel Club approval)

What an exciting career this young lady has had: Junior Warrant holder, Best Puppy, Best in Show, Best of Breed, etc. Ariadne thanks:
Prof. Mariotti, C.C. L. & H. Counties Boxer Club, Mr. Philip Dyson, C.C. Northern B.C. Mrs. Nan Hallock, C.C. and B.O.B. Chester Ch.

Hot news for new exhibitors! Just arrived—6 dogs, 2 bitches, all flashy. Sire: Ch. Hazefield Barrister out of Ariadne's half-sister (dam of our winning Picasso puppy, N. Bons Dea, who had two 1sts at Chester). This is the nearest mating possible to a repeat of Ariadne.

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Ariadne and friend — from the Newlaithe advert in the 1971 Northern B.C. Ch. Show catalogue

earlier Felicia piloted her Ch. Felcign Fiona to the top spot at this show. Ariadne topped a star studded Open Bitch class – Ch. Truly Scrumptious was second and Ch. Clair de Lune stood third! Felicia, in her own style, waxed lyrical "Ch. Newlaithe Ariadne, my CC bitch, a sparkling diamond set amongst a cluster of gems in my best class, the open bitch, a feminine bitch, perfectly balanced, beautiful head with keen expression, good in all departments and quite outstanding, showing all the way, lovely in profile, movement and posed. How lucky her young novice owner (as she then was) is to have bred such a beauty so early in her doggy career." For BOB Felicia chose Ch. Witherford Cool Mango and in her critique the naughty Felicia remarked "talented pygmies in males were never for me!" Ariadne made selective appearances in the latter part of the 1970 show season, winning first in Open at London & Home Counties under Pat Heath, who commented "Very smart, close coated red who never lets up showing. Not a big bitch but well within the Standard, clean cut outline, very good topline and excellent tail set. Most attractive head with good pigmentation and dark expressive eyes, good mouth". Ariadne's aunt, Ch. Hazefield Beatnik, came through from

the Open Fawn Class to take Best in Show. At the LKA under Connie Wiley Ariadne stood third in Open behind Ch. Marbelton Music Box (who gained her title on the day) and Ch. Hazefield Beatnik. At Birmingham National under renowned Dutch authority Mr. Peter Zimmerman top spot went to Ch. Wardrobes Clair de Lune followed by Ch. Marbelton Music Box and then Ariadne. The final show at that time was Richmond and this was judged by Wilson Wiley who placed Ariadne second to Beatnik in Open with Truly Scrumptious standing third. But the best was yet to come!

On a roll

1971 saw Ariadne entered at Crufts – but did she go? After all the judge was Pat Withers! The Midland Boxer Club had invited Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Wurmser from America to judge their Championship Show. Ariadne won Open Bitch over Ackendene Royal Ascot and Ch. Melvich's Melissa and was awarded the CC by Mr. Wurmser. BIS went to young 'Fred' - Seefeld Artmaster who had won his first CC on the day. The Northern Boxer Club saw 'exiled' specialist Peter Baynes return from America. A sweet victory followed for Ariadne on home ground, winning her sixth

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"Very elegant, clean outline, close-coated red and white"

CC and BIS over the great Picasso. Bath was another 'joyous' occasion when Ariadne won the CC and BOB under Joy Malcolm. Ariadne was on a roll – at Birmingham National Anton Renders from Holland gave her the Open class over Ch. Operastar Magic Flute and Ch. Wardrobes Moonflower. Ariadne won the CC and BOB over Ch. Seefeld Artmaster who gained his title on the day - having won all three of his qualifying tickets opposite Ariadne.

Long wait

Ariadne's next appearance was at Leeds under Monica Norrington where she won her 9th CC. In the Open class Ch. Hazefield Beatnik and Ch. Starmark Sweet Someday stood behind her. Mrs. Norrington wrote "... stood up to the cold conditions and what must have been a very long wait on the benches, however she came out to take the top bitch award. Most attractive red and white with excellent head, elegant and truly feminine, looks at you with true Boxer expression, good shaped eyes and muzzle, well defined turn up, strong short back. A well known Champion and deservedly so."

Three Counties 1971 under Lynn Llewellyn-Davies - who had thought so highly of Ariadne as a junior at Richmond - brought forth her finest hour. The Open class was a replay of →

Leeds with Beatnik and Sweet Someday standing behind her. She won the CC over the limit winner Brenray's Venetian Lace and then triumphed over Cherryburton Tiger Pete for Best of Breed. Her style and showmanship caught the eye of the flamboyant Herbert Essam who awarded her the Working Group and RBIS All Breeds.

Controversial

Ariadne won her 11th and final CC at Paignton 1971 under Stafford Somerfield who, due to the pressures and confines of running a national newspaper, had put his Boxer interests on hold and made a comeback to the judging ring after an absence of almost 13 years – his previous appointment being W.E.L.K.S. 1957! And Stafford – being Stafford - made some controversial and heartfelt decisions! Ariadne went lame in the challenge. Stafford stuck by his guns and more or less declared that even on three legs she was the best bitch there!

Stafford's critique in full ...

"It was a pleasure to me to drive 200 miles to Paignton. The countryside was beautiful. It was also a well arranged show, and Arthur Westlake, the chairman of it, is my idea of a good and friendly dog man. His hospitality was generous and he twice visited my ring in the hot sun to enquire if all was going well. I was all right apart from hay fever which gave me good reason to remember this visit to my native Devon. But the exhibitors didn't seem particularly happy. One said I had been the only judge to throw her dog out with the rubbish and that she was surprised I hadn't sent a cripple into the group ring to represent the breed. Which shows once again that you can't please all the people all the time. Just some of them would have been acceptable.

Perhaps I've stayed away from the breed too long. Twelve years is quite a spell. Clearly I haven't kept pace with the new ideas about sportsmanship and fun. It's a much harder, tougher scene than it used to be. I understand modern pressures, I think, but I regret that so much good humour and tolerance have been lost, and to win has become more important. It is the custom to thank one's steward and I do so with pleasure because Mr. Clay, like me, is one of the old brigade. He was most kind. I also liked the dogs. Unlike the owners, only one

showed its teeth. I'm sorry the exhibitors had to pay, but the show management needs the money. They will be relieved to know it wasn't for the judge.

So what is my impression of the breed after so long an interval? As I thought it would be. Far more good average ones than there used to be, and it's easier now to get an impressive line-up of unbeaten dogs and bitches. There are about the same number of outstanding ones. What the breed lacks in my opinion (and everything in the report is only my opinion) is nobility. I speak generally. This is just a word and we do not all get the same meaning from words. By nobility I mean grace and style, proud bearing and spirit. The heat, humidity and long journey are excuses, but the judge can only speak as he sees the dogs in the ring on the day. A Boxer must be able to stand up by itself and look impressive; more like a sergeant-major on parade than a shuffling queue at an employment exchange (and there's no dishonour of joining one of those, I've done it). But you don't feel so good. When you've got your best uniform on and spent some time on spit and polish you feel different (I've done that too). You don't crawl across a parade ground.

As the worst handler in the world, I appreciate good handling. And that doesn't mean picking a Boxer up by the chest and putting it gently down as though its legs were made of spun glass. I was happy to let the exhibitors show their dogs as they thought best, but nothing beats the appearance of an alert dog on a loose lead. Mrs. Malcolm did it splendidly. In some cases the dogs looked as though they were apologising for their owners. Those who like stringing up their dogs should study those who know how to do it. On a hot day you can make a good head look like a fair-sized football and some achieved this beyond their wildest dreams.

My certificate winning dog and Best of Breed came from an excellent limit class of 12. I think Yooneek Presentation is a splendid male Boxer with the substance and elegance the Standard demands...

And now to Ariadne... "To decide the bitch certificate presented a nice problem. Could I forgive the faulty movement of Ch. Newlaithe Ariadne? I decided I could because of her →



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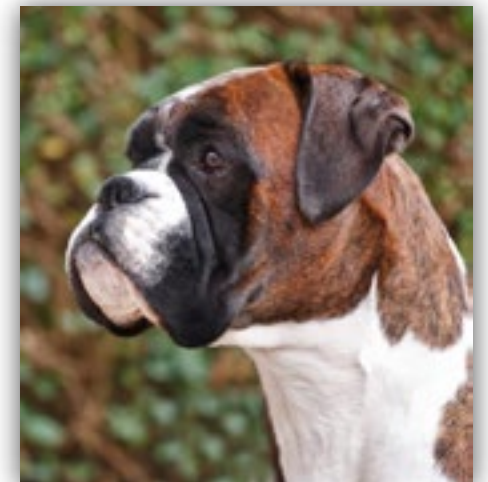
Newlaithe Dooglebug JW

**Magical Trick from Newlaithe
ICC 3RCCs x
Newlaithe Redesigned**

CH Sezflo Pure Faith by Newlaithe

**CH Newlaithe On Target JW ShCM x
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**Owned by Paul Hyde
Campaigned as always by Newlaithe**



outstanding quality and type, and type to me must come first. To those who can't go along with this I invite to ponder on the thought that a mongrel can move soundly and often does. But there were no mongrels here. There were other bitches of quality who were also sound, but none to me had the style and head of Ariadne. Both the Ackendene bitches I thought splendid and maybe I was wrong in a hard judgement. My wife, thought so, and I mind what she thinks. An experienced dog man I discussed it with afterwards thought it odd that I should be in doubt. But as I told him I've had to make many decisions in a reasonably long life in tough company. Not all were right. I voted for Ariadne when I put it to myself like this: which one would you like to take home if Mosta and Kipper wouldn't mind. It was her. To me she was beauty with a blemish and so few, if any, are perfect. It was some comfort to me after the sting of another exhibitor's tongue to look up the records and find that ten others, including good judges like Philip Dyson, had put her through..."

And so ended a run of seven consecutive CCs at the Championship shows Ariadne attended. The remainder of 1971 saw Ariadne continually placed in the top three in open bitch culminating with the RCC to Ch. Clair de Lune at the LKA under Jean Heath. She was top Boxer Bitch in 1971 with 7 CCs and 1 RCC as Ch. Marbelton Desperate Dan pipped her on RCCs for Top Boxer.

Younger girls

Peggy Haslam judged the Breed at Crufts 1972 and Ariadne, after taking a strong Open bitch class, lost out in the challenge to the younger girls Coperscope Wynbok Sophia and Gremlin Mere Magic who came through from the lower classes. A few selective appearances brought further placings in open but Ariadne now retired from mainstream showing.

Dealt lightly

In 1976 Ariadne came out of retirement and made a welcome return to the ring in the veteran classes. Her critiques were as glowing as any she had received in her younger days. Here is a selection.

Midland Boxer Club, 1976 Wilson Wiley - "now at 7 years and looking in fine form with her neat, clear outline, great bitch who won best veteran in

show". With great fortitude an ailing Jean Heath judged her last show, London & Home Counties 1976 - legend has it with a glass of champagne to help her through the day - Ariadne won veteran and was in the final few in the challenge and received the following critique "this r/w must be one of the prettiest great grandmothers in the breed, has kept her clean balanced head and firm shapely body lines. Still has the ability to charm judge and ringside. Her lasting quality is a credit to her breeder". Valerie Garratt chose Ariadne as best veteran at the Mancunian Boxer Club in 1977 and remarked "very beautiful old lady who still retains her youth very well, super condition and a credit to her owners". Angela Kennett commented "Another beauty in really good form" after judging Ariadne at the Northern Boxer Club.

First in veteran followed at the 'British' under Bobby James, one of the leading all-rounders of the day, who wrote "Ch. Newlaithe Ariadne, rising 9 and where did the years go, as I remember this one as a very lovely young champion bitch, time has dealt lightly with her. Head and expression still as good as ever, in lovely form with hardly a trace of any middle-aged spread but still a first class specimen of Boxer femininity". Ariadne repeated this win at the 'British' in 1978 under Connie Wiley - "Beardsell's Ch. Newlaithe Ariadne nearly 10 years of age, lovely red and white and a great favourite of mine looking wonderful for her age. Brought back so many happy memories, carrying her years lightly with her lovely shining coat".

As Felicia Price said... "How lucky her young owner was to have bred such a beauty".

10th

Forty five years on from Ariadne - The last Champion made up in 2013 was Ch. Sezfflo Pure Faith by Newlaithe, handled by Christine's daughter Vikki. She is the 10th Champion to carry the Newlaithe affix. There have also been Newlaithe Champions in Hong Kong, Malta, South Africa and more recently in the USA and Australia, the most famous being Australian Supreme Champion Targeted By Newlaithe, Top Boxer in Australia for 2013 and litter brother to Ch. Pure Faith.

On a personal level I was introduced to Christine and Patrick through our friend, the famous Vet, Mary Moodie one of the founder members of the SBC. In the old days you were allowed to take dogs out of the show as long as you had your hand stamped. It was the SKC 1971 - I had skipped school - Janice Mair was judging. I offered to take Ariadne for a walk. We left the show ground - the Old Waverley Market, bang in the centre of Edinburgh. We wandered through Princes Street Gardens, past the Floral Clock and stood on the bridge beneath the Castle as the Flying Scotsman train passed under. Ariadne took it all in her stride. Temperament steady as a rock. A great beauty I am proud to have called my friend. I loved her.



Ch Newlaithe Newlaithe On Target
sire of the littermates below

From an article originally published in the
South Western Boxer Club's Blue Book
BOXER 2014



Littermates Australian Supreme Ch. Targeted By Newlaithe (pictured winning at the Royal Melbourne Show - photo by Pedini Photography) and Ch. Sezfflo Pure Faith By Newlaithe winning the Bitch CC at Crufts 2014