

# A Passion for Pedigrees

Tracing pedigrees for a hobby sounds rather odd, but it all started very innocently. The trouble is, the more you find out, the more you want to know and it ends up almost taking over your life!

Most of us start in German Shepherds with a pet, which we show and/or work and our enthusiasm for this breed leads to a change in lifestyle, but in my case fate played a cruel card and things became more serious. My first German Shepherd Dog was epileptic—Lynette of Blinkbonny, born 15.5.1966—and I set out to ensure I did not suffer the heartbreak a second time. So far, so good!

In the 1960's, there were rumours of dogs having "fits", but nobody wanted to discuss the problem openly. In situations like this, it is the pet owners who suffer, as it is often their one and only dog which is affected, whereas breeders with fitting stock just put the "problem" dogs down and carry on with the rest. The thing that brought me up short was that I had bred from her (before her condition manifested itself) and I was appalled to think that she could have passed it on to her offspring. I realised then the harm novices do in all innocence and resolved to start again with a line hopefully clear of epilepsy and my "passion for pedigrees" began.

In trying to find out why my bitch was epileptic, it was difficult to find anyone who would give me a straight answer. I quickly found out it was going to be down to me to collect what information I could and make an intelligent guess. In all fairness, the whispers were getting louder and a few honest breeders admitted to having one or more fitting animals. At the time, the German Shepherd Dog League was supporting research into the problem and by listening carefully to the remarks made at various seminars and meetings, I built up a picture of the dogs I didn't want in the pedigree of my next shepherd. I can tell you that there were a few lively exchanges between the audience and speakers and also between members of the audience, who blamed each other for their misfortune in producing fitters. The truth was, we were all stumbling about looking for factual information and apart from the well known Hendrawen's Quadrille of Eveley, born 28.9.1964, there were other sources, as many pedigrees of fitters I have collected over the years, including my own bitch, did not carry him. The tragedy is that a lot of the popular winners of the 1960's and 1970's were also carrying epilepsy. Continually breeding to these lines means the problem has not gone away.

The difficulty for me initially, was that I had no access to official records, so I set about obtaining the information I needed by slowly building up a G.S.D. library. I learned at an early stage, that, as fascinating as old books and magazines are, they cannot always be relied upon for accuracy.

It has taken a long time and much expense to get to the stage where I have almost all the German Zuchtbucher and Körbucher from the beginning and Kennel Club Breed Records Supplements going back to 1940, which in practical terms takes in the perceived "problems" we are still living with today. Whenever I consider using a stud dog, I will take his pedigree back far enough to ensure he does not carry any known sources of Haemophilia or Epilepsy. The stud card is unlikely to go back far enough these days.

### Hendrawen's Quadrille of Eveley

Dog	Born 28th September, 1964	Bred by Mrs. May E. Tidbold.
Hendrawen's Vondaun	Ch. Ludwig of Charavigne	U.S.A. Ch. & Canadian G.V. Cent zu den fünf Giebeln
		Hella of Charavigne
	Vondaun Ice Queen of Eveley	Indian Ch. Jonathan of Eveley
		Enchantress of Eveley
Quebec Vanity of Eveley	Ch. Sparky of Aronbel	Ch. Allegro of Seacroft
		Yasmin of Aronbel
		Ch. Invader of Eveley
		Ch. Cefne of Eveley
	Hernandos Duenna of Eveley	Ch. Invader of Eveley
		Ch. Cefne of Eveley
		Ch. Invader of Eveley
		Ch. Cefne of Eveley

### Lynette of Blinkbonny

Bitch	Born 15th May, 1966	Bred by Miss M. Sheila Scott
Ludwig of Blinkbonny	Ch. Ludwig of Charavigne	U.S.A. Ch. & Canadian G.V. Cent zu den fünf Giebeln
		Hella of Charavigne
	Miranda of Maidenburg	Ch. Asoka Cherusker
		Bella of Charavigne
Ludlindy of Blinkbonny	Ch. Ludwig of Charavigne	U.S.A. Ch. & Canadian G.V. Cent zu den fünf Giebeln
		Hella of Charavigne
	Estella of Robertly	Ch. Sparky of Aronbel
		Yasmin of Aronbel
		Ch. Invader of Eveley
		Ch. Cefne of Eveley
	Ch. Sparky of Aronbel	Ch. Allegro of Seacroft
		Yasmin of Aronbel

My initial quest for the answer to my first bitch's epilepsy has led down all sorts of byways and unearthed some fascinating facts and widened my interest to include other probably inherited diseases. I have even completed five generation pedigrees for all British Champions (821 so far, as at 5.6.1999) and all German Siegers, Siegerins and V.A.s. No, television does not figure much in my life and they are all done on an old manual typewriter! It is an excellent record and now cuts down the time for tracing individual pedigrees, as once back to one of the above, it is plain sailing.

The biggest waste of time is the Kennel Club B.R.S. from the early 1960's back, as there are no reference numbers and it is just a painstaking slog through twelve months a year. Some dogs were not even registered until they were bred from, so the parents of a litter could literally be anywhere.

All sorts of friendships have been forged with people I have never met, but who also have a keen interest in knowing as much as possible about the dogs they are breeding. Some do not even speak English and my knowledge of German, French, Spanish and Italian is basic, but it is no barrier to communication and adds to the fun and sense of achievement when another gap is filled. I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has been kind enough to reply to my request for information and to Isobel Donking and Marjorie Langham for all their help along the way.

Unfortunately, even official registration records are not error free, but whereas the S.V.'s mistakes and omissions are few and far between, the same cannot be said of the Kennel Club. Their computer is obviously not good enough for the job it is required to do and a classic example is the fact that they have accepted three (yes, THREE!) Bedwins Hexe's within ten years! This is why it is essential to start with the animal's name, date of birth and breeder when starting to trace a pedigree and not with the pedigree itself, as this is another source of error. The generations can then be done from one registration number to another or one reference number to another, instead of trusting the names in front of you. I am not familiar with computers or the Internet, but I have been sent information from it and there are some glaring mistakes, so even that must be viewed with suspicion.

The thing which is absolutely vital for any of the above to count, is the accuracy of the registration details, i.e. sure knowledge of who was mated to whom—but that is another story!



Lynette of Blinkbonny  
Epileptic

2/67

Sex: Bitch  
Dark Black and Tan

b. 15.5.1966. PTS April, 1971. Breeder: Miss M S Scott

	GRAND-PARENTS	G G-PARENTS	G G G-PARENTS	G G G G-PARENTS
Ludwig of Blinkbonny	SIRE <b>CHAMPION</b> Ludwig of Charavigne  Ep.P.	SIRE USA CH & Can. GD Victor Cent zu den Fünf Giebeln 921008  DAM Hella of Charavigne	SIRE Casar von der Malmannshede 862862	Hein vom Richterbach 700070
			DAM Ora von Scharmbeck 879490	Donka vom Muschelsteich 763570
			SIRE <b>CHAMPION</b> Avon Prince of Alumvale	Arry vom Bockhomer Hof 763452
			DAM <b>CHAMPION</b>  Anna Karenina Vitalis	Hexe von Scharmbeck 830482
	DAM Miranda of Maidenburg  12/63	SIRE <b>CHAMPION</b> Asoka Cherusker Ep.P.  DAM Bella of Charavigne	SIRE <b>CHAMPION</b> Crusader of Evesyde	CH. Arno of Saba
			DAM Vikkas Aida av Hvitsand	Briarville Crystal of Trystlynn
			SIRE Aureole of Coolree	CH. Danko vom Menkenmoor of Hardwick 620257
			DAM Cilla of Charavigne	Freda of Oxhey
			SIRE <b>CHAMPION</b> Allegro of Seacroft Ep.P.	CH. Quince of Southaven
			DAM Yasmin of Aronbel	Janine of Jonquest
			SIRE <b>CHAMPION</b> Lodo of Bucklebury	CH. Avon Prince of Alumvale
			DAM Fashion of Saba	Vikkas Tara av Hvitsand
				CH. Avon Prince of Alumvale
				Gitana Reina of Coolree
Ludlindy of Blinkbonny	SIRE <b>CHAMPION</b> Ludwig of Charavigne  Ep.P.	SIRE USA CH & Can. GD Victor Cent zu den Fünf Giebeln 921008  DAM Hella of Charavigne	SIRE Casar von der Malmannshede 862862	CH. Cito von der Meerwacht 830505
			DAM Ora von Scharmbeck 879490	CH. Anna Karenina Vitalis
			SIRE <b>CHAMPION</b> Avon Prince of Alumvale	Hein vom Richterbach 700070
			DAM <b>CHAMPION</b>  Anna Karenina Vitalis	Donka vom Muschelsteich 763570
	DAM Estella of Robertly  6/64	SIRE <b>CHAMPION</b> Sparky of Aronbel  DAM Janet of Saba	SIRE <b>CHAMPION</b> Allegro of Seacroft Ep.P.	Arry vom Bockhomer Hof 763452
			DAM Yasmin of Aronbel	Hexe von Scharmbeck 830482
			SIRE <b>CHAMPION</b> Lodo of Bucklebury	CH. Arno of Saba
			DAM Fashion of Saba	Briarville Crystal of Trystlynn
				CH. Danko vom Menkenmoor of Hardwick 620257
				Freda of Oxhey
				CH. Yobel of Aronbel
				CH. Halina of Eveley
				CH. Avon Prince of Alumvale
				Kerry Dancer of Aronbel
				CH. Danko vom Menkenmoor of Hardwick 620257
				Ilse Secretainerie
				CH. Danko vom Menkenmoor of Hardwick 620257
				Alvis of Saba