



JOE MALLEN BISCUIT TIN

by Helen Reaney

This is the story of a biscuit tin that caused a frenzy around the world when it was placed on E-Bay.

The story begins with a man named Martin who goes to house clearance sales and buys papers, badges

and documents. Martin bought this tin from auction for £10.00 around two and half years ago and had been sitting in his storage unit.

A few months ago, he placed the tin on E-bay with a sample of the contents on show, the price £99.00, a woman in Australia put the advert on the Social Media page Staffordshire Bull Terrier Debates and Topics. The post went into meltdown with Stafford enthusiasts going onto e-bay to bid for the tin at one point it got to £350 but then Martin did a bit of research because of the frenzy of offers to buy the tin, he found the SBT Heritage Centre site and contacted the Chairman Paul Baker and after much discussion he offered to donate the tin to the Heritage Centre.

Clare Robinson Cox and I went to her fathers home to meet up with Paul Baker.

He arrived with the tin and inside is a treasure trove of history. Harry Robinson, Clare's father, was a boy back in the day so a lot of the documents inside made complete sense to him. He told us many a tale as many of the names on the pedigrees and photos were known to him as boy.

The tin belonged to Joe Mallen and it included his birth certificate which was dated 7/7/1896 in Rowley Regis. Also in the tin were pedigrees showing the beginning of lines that have through the generations made what we see today in the Stafford.





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Included in the tin was the pedigree of Crossguns Johnson who won Best of Breed at Crufts in 1936. He never made champion as two weeks later he was killed. This dog did sire litters contrary to what was believed. Another notable dog of the day was Fearless Joe who started the "J" line.

Also included was his litter brother Brindle Mick started the "M" line and sired over 300 litters but probably the most famous dog whose pedigree was inside was CH Gentleman Jim who was bred by Joe Dunn and sold to Joe Mallen.

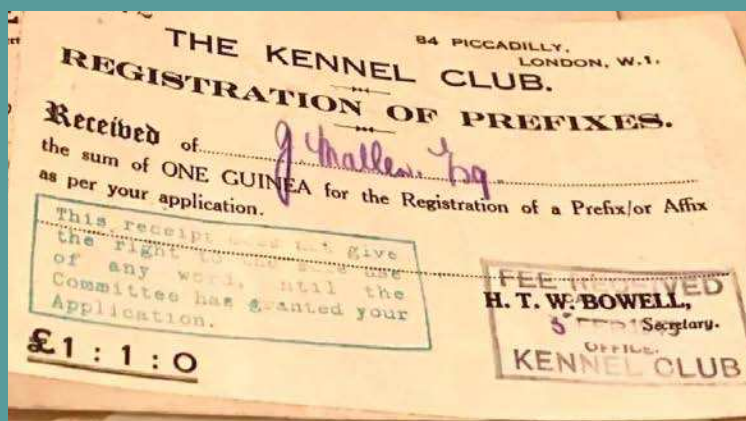
An affix certificate shows, contrary to what many thought, the Crossguns prefix registered with the kennel club in February 1935. In some cases the affix had Old Crossguns on some pedigrees.

Something that did surprise me was a Challenge Certificate which was dated 1955 and was signed by judge Austin Hollingsworth which is my maiden name. Looking back through the family tree it seems this man is a distant cousin to my late father. This is something that I never knew as my father was from Nottingham but family members left the area to live and work in the Black Country.

So many pedigrees, reserve CC's, registrations and much more were discovered inside making this tin very valuable. It will be on show at the Heritage Centre. A special event is being held at the Heritage Centre on June 4th to showcase this historic find. The address is Albert Street High Bullen Wednesbury WS10 7EZ, and Stafford folk are invited to attend. The Heritage Centre will be producing a booklet about this find and at some point, the option to buy copies of the booklet and items will be available so WATCH THIS SPACE

Please visit the website

www.thestaffordshirebullterrier.co.uk





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WEST OF ENGLAND
LADIES KENNEL SOCIETY

Championship Show. Date 23 APR 1955

Breed STAFF. FULTERNERS Sex DOG

Kennel Club Challenge Certificate

I am clearly of opinion that
Major in command of Wychbury
(Name of Exhibitor)
 owned by Mr. G. A. Dudley
(Name of Owner)
 is of such outstanding merit as to be worthy of the title of
 Champion.

(Signed)

Austin Sellingsworth (Judge)





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