



# LINKING THE PAST TO THE PRESENT

By Clare Robinson-Cox (HAMASON)

PART 2

*In the first part of this article, published in the June 2016 edition of The Stafford Knot, I explained how I am linked back over 80 years of our breed through my father – Harry Robinson – and one of the Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club’s founder members – Gerald Dudley. That article focused mainly on Gerald and some of my memories of him and also shared some of the memorabilia that was passed on to my father when Gerald passed away.*

*The following article, or Part 2, is an “interview” with my father about his time in the breed, the dogs he, along with my mother – Maureen – have owned and bred, and his thoughts upon our Breed today.*

My introduction to Staffords was at a very early age. I was raised by my grandparents and my uncle had kept a Staffordshire Bull Terrier from as far back as I can remember, the first of which was a mahogany brindle dog, top size, with a head like a dustbin lid, full of spirit and a fearless dog that caused a few problems whenever he managed to get out of the garden!! Our own first Stafford was a white bitch with a black patch over one eye, registered Patchy Lass, this was in 1968. She was the

daughter of Champion Game Flash and was given to us by my uncle.

I started to go around the local shows in 1970 and saw a young red dog that I admired very much. He was doing some winning and later gained his title Champion Rockmere Rip-It-Up. I decided to try to get a puppy bred on similar lines but could find nothing available. Then, in January 1972, I found out that Gerald Dudley was going to mate his Champion bitch, Sanville Red Rhapsody to Champion

Rockmere Rip-It-Up. From this mating we acquired a red bitch, the first Stafford that I took into the ring, later to become our first Champion Red Rapture of Hamason and our foundation bitch. She won the first time out and gained her Junior Warrant with over 50 points and was awarded 3 C.C.’s and 4 Reserve C.C.’s.



This is a photograph of Patchy Lass with our daughter, Clare.



Champion Red Rapture of Hamason JW – “Smokey”.



Early in 1973 we bought a brindle bitch pup, a daughter of Rockmere Red Dan, himself a winner at open and championship shows. Dan was a half brother to Champion Rockmere Rip-It-Up as they were out of the same Dam – Rockmere Vernport Shina. When this bitch, registered Dark Demon Lass of Hamason, was 18 months old in 1974, we mated her to Sanville Red Ranger, sire of Rockmere Rip-It-Up. There were 3 pups in this litter, a brindle bitch, a brindle dog and a red dog, which we kept. This dog went on to become our first home-bred Champion Hamason Red Rambler, gaining his title when he was just 2 years old, winning 1 Reserve C.C. and 4 C.C.'s. We retired him after he gained his 4th C.C.

We mated him in 1975, his first mating, to our Champion bitch Red Rapture of Hamason and she produced four pups by him. I gave my uncle a dog pup – Hamason Red Rajah. He was never shown himself but produced several top class winners including Champion Red Prince of Hamason, The Red Avenger and Steeleye Sting. We also kept a red bitch from this litter and she turned out to be our second home bred Champion Hamason Red Radiance, a top class show bitch, very rarely out of the cards. She was not shown until she was 13 months old but in the cards the first time out and a Champion by the time she was just over two years old.



Champion Hamason Red Rambler – “Simba”

Out of 8 times in Open Bitch she won 3 C.C.'s and 4 Reserve C.C.'s and was never shown again after gaining her title.

The first mating for Champion



Champion Hamason Red Radiance – “Biddy”

Hamason Red Radiance was to a brindle and white dog Champion Sundow Swashbuckler and a brindle bitch pup went out to Canada, later to become Canadian Champion Hamason Sure

Surprise. This bitch was responsible for several Canadian winners including Champions.

The second mating for Champion



Canadian Champion Hamason Sure Surprise

Hamason Red Radiance was to red dog Champion Brocliffe Benjamin. From this mating we kept a red bitch, Hamason Red Rosita. She was a fine specimen and a winner at Open and Championship shows, however, she was a nasty tempered bitch in the ring and always proved to be a bit of a handful, spoiling her chances of perhaps winning higher awards, so I retired her



Hamason Red Rosita – “Sheena”

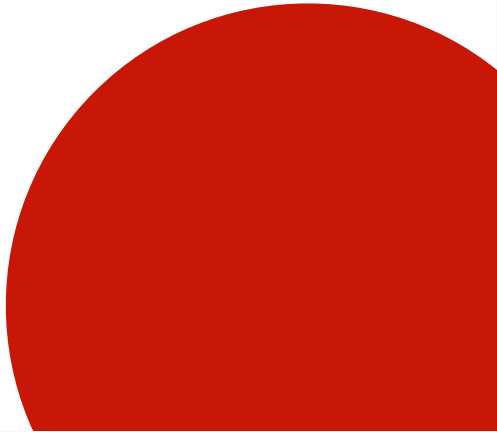
We mated Hamason Red Rosita back to her Grandsire, Champion Hamason Red Rambler and from this mating we kept a red dog, who later became our 4th Champion Hamason Red Reknown. He won 3 C.C.'s and 1 Reserve C.C. and was rarely out of the cards at Championship shows throughout 1984, 1985 & 1986.

We sent the litter brother to Champion Hamason Red Reknown to Belgium where he too gained his title Belgium Champion Hamason Red Rebellion.

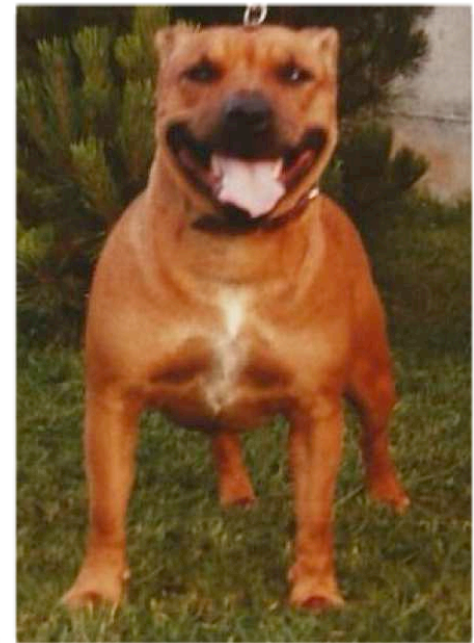
We had already exported a red bitch pup in 1980 to the same family in Belgium, Mr & Mrs D'Hayer. This bitch was by Champion Red Prince of Hamason out of Hamason Red Tina. She also gained her title in Belgium Champion Red Ruby of Hamason.



Champion Hamason Red Reknown – “Benjy”



Belgium Champion Hamason Red Rebellion – “Rebel”



Belgium Champion Red Ruby of Hamason – “Ruby”



Hamason Red Royal – “Sam”

We had kept the litter sister to this bitch, Red Rhapsody of Hamason. She was a beautiful bitch who gained 1 Reserve C.C. but was tragically killed in an accident before she was 2 years old.

In 1988 we mated Champion Hamason Red Reknown to a brindle pied bitch we had, Joban Pied Wonder. This bitch was from a half-brother/half-sister mating by Hamason Red Rajah and though never shown, she was a strong bitch, full of breed type and quality. From this litter we kept a red dog, Hamason Red Royal, initially the smallest in the litter of 8 but matured to be a strong, top size dog. He did well in the show ring, but unfortunately, due to my own ill-health, he was not shown for very long.

From 1990 to 1996, I did not venture into the show ring due to my health problems but in 1996, we acquired a red bitch, Red Rosina of Hamason, by Boxer's Red Delight out of Lady Melford, both of whom were line-bred back to the Hamason line. She was to be our last bitch and though shown lightly, was never in the best condition as she suffered from phantom pregnancies at every season.

Since 2007, when we lost Red Rosina of Hamason, we had not had any dogs and though we still had an interest in the breed, it was not until November 2010, when I was invited to judge the prestigious Stafford of the Year competition, organised and held annually by the Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club, that we again came into direct contact with the breed again.

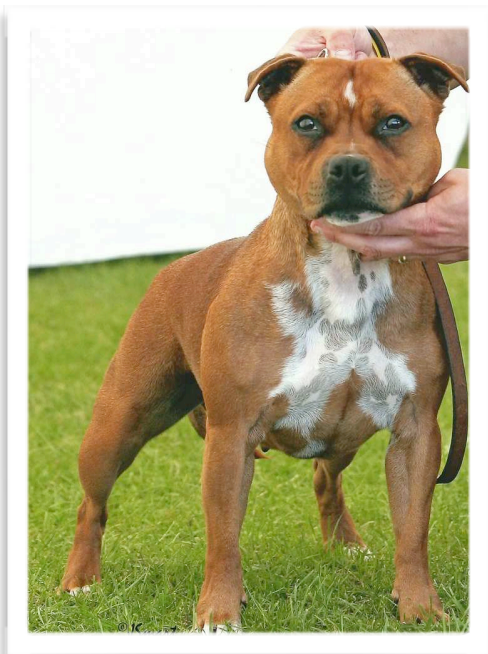


Red Rosina of Hamason – “Molly”



As many of you may now be aware, it was at that show that a chance meeting with an old friend, Jeff Ford, led to our daughter and son-in-law acquiring their first Stafford, Jefmor Fire and Ice of Hamason. Our interest in the breed and the show scene was re-ignited and, along with Clare and Spencer, we started to become regulars at shows around the country again. Spencer handled this red and white bitch with some success, gaining her Kennel Club Stud Book Number in May 2015.

Spencer is currently handling her granddaughter, Studstaff Sugar and Spice of Hamason who has had a fantastic start to her show career, very rarely out of the cards and gaining her Junior Warrant in July 2016.



Jefmor Fire And Ice Of Hamason –  
“Tess”



Studstaff Sugar And Spice Of Hamason  
– “Rosie-Mae”.

Though we don't travel to shows as regularly as we did a couple of years ago, we do still enjoy our days amongst Stafford folk and looking at the winning dogs of the day. Reflecting upon my time in the breed, and the knowledge I gained from the pioneers of the breed I knew well, such as Gerald Dudley, I still believe that today we have too much variation in type with too much emphasis put on an animal with a bold head and too little consideration is paid to the conformation. There is also a noticeable difference in strength and bone of the animals today, particularly amongst bitches. This lack of bone and body, coupled with the large heads and sometimes over-zealous search for a dog that is “fit” rather than a dog that is “fit for purpose”, could possibly lead to more serious health issues and problems whelping, similar to those we now see in other breeds. Back in the 1970's I remember being told by Nap Cairns, Clare Lee's father, “these dogs are not bred to chase rabbits and they should not look like they are built for that purpose” – a pearl of wisdom that should be noted and observed by quite a few of today's enthusiast.



I also see a lot of animals with poor back ends resulting in an almost crippling type of movement. Many a dog looks good when standing, and an expert handler can ensure that faults such as poor toplines and gay tails are hidden – both faults I am sorry to say, appear to be on the rise in the ring at the moment. The topline and tail are actually the spine of the animal – if the spine is not correct then neither its conformation nor movement can be first class. But when such an animal is on the move, these faults become apparent and most keen ringsiders can soon spot this without having to be too much of an authority on the breed.

Some animals reach higher placings than they deserve, put there by people who pay too much attention to the wrong end of the lead, but once again, the ringsiders are not so easily fooled. Such people only mislead themselves and gradually bring harm to the breed that they profess to love.

To those who feel fainthearted and disillusioned at what you sometimes see, press on, if your dog is worthy he will get noticed and come out on top.

I see a lot of new faces coming into the breed, which is to be encouraged to ensure the succession of the Stafford. However, a word of caution as some of these people want to get too far much too quickly and I think a bit more patience coupled with a great deal more knowledge would serve both themselves and the breed to advantage.

As we have recently celebrated 80 years of KC recognition of the breed, spare a thought for the stalwarts of the breed who, in the mid 1930's, pioneered and fought for the recognition of the Stafford we know and is still one of the most popular Terriers today and long may it continue.

*I hope you have enjoyed this article and what was for me, and my Dad, a nostalgic trip down memory lane.*

