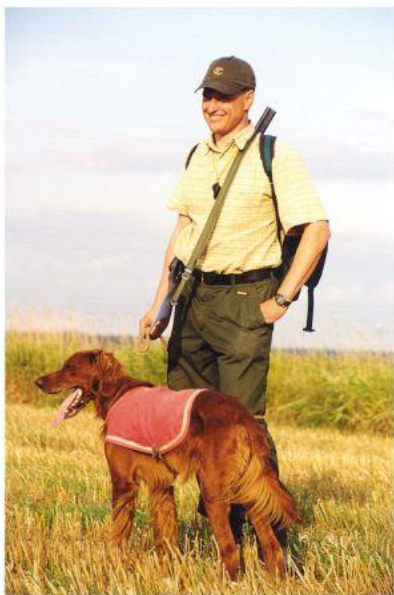


Tarinoita takavuosilta

Teksti: B. Vuorela

Kanakoirakerhon täytti 100 vuotta 2001 -maaottelu käytiin Kauhavan maastoissa

Kaikenlaista löytyy, kun eksyy selaamaan omien arkistojensa aarteita. Tällä kertaa vastaan tupsahti Irlannin vuosikirjassa julkaistu artikkeli KKK-HHS ry:n 100-vuotisjuhlasta. Tuntuu että niitä vietettiin ihan vasta, mutta onhan tässä välillä ehditty juhlia jo 110 toimintavuottakin. Jälkimmäistä juhlaa viettiin tosin paljon matalammalla profiililla. Satavuotisjuhlahulinat kestivät lähes viikon päivät ja niissä oli mitä suurimmassa määrin kansainvälinen meininki.

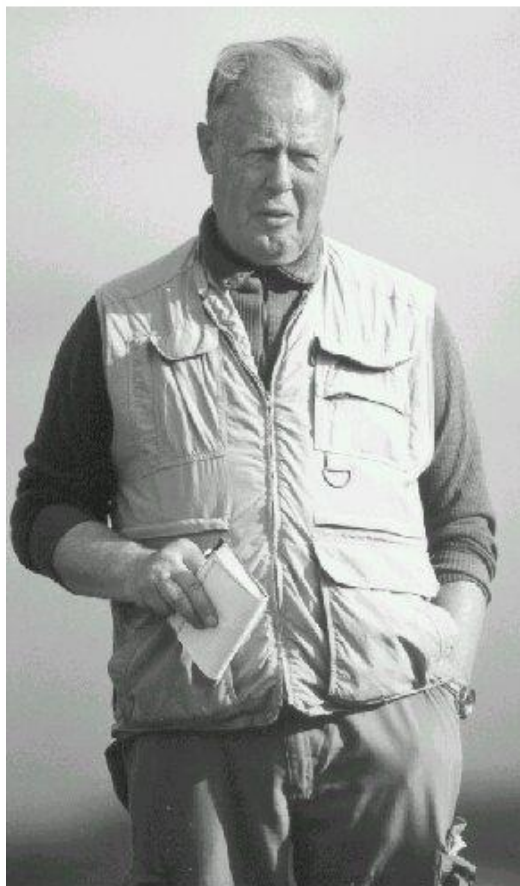


Harri ja Irwin maaottelussa. Kuva: Sandy Peterka

Päädyin 100-vuotisjuhlien järjestelyihin mukaan jälkikäteen ajateltuna vähän turhankin monessa roolissa ja kisojen jälkeen piti tovi puhallella. Maaottelu käytiin gordoninsettereiden ja punaisten irlaninsettereiden osalta Kauhavalla, kotimaastoissani. Toimin siis maasto-oppaana sekä päivän päätteeksi järjestetyn iltatilaisuuden seremoniamestarina. Harri ja Irwin olivat mukana maajoukkuekokoonpanossa.

Kotijoukkue on perinteisesti vahvoilla maaottelussa, järjestettiinpä se sitten missä päin maailmaa tahansa. Niin nytkin – Suomi vei voiton ja keulilla loistivat sisarukset Heili ja Irwin. Tuomarina toimi Arne Thorn Ruotsista.

The Scandinavian Century



The oldest hunting club in Scandinavia is Finland's **Kanakoirakerho-Hönshundsektionen ry**, fortunately otherwise known as the KKK-HHS! Established in 1901 at the break of the 20th century, a hundred years later and hot on the heels of the new millennium, it was time to plan the centenary.

At the end of September for the main event, competitors, judges, Kennel Club representatives, enthusiasts of all ages and journalists flocked to the little town of Lapua 300 kilometers north of Helsinki. They came from all over Scandinavia, from lower Europe, America, Ireland and the South Pacific. The conversation was lively in the fields, restaurants and bars as setters and Pointers of all colours bounded up and down the stairs, in and out of lifts, to the park and back and into the rooms. It was clear to see that hunting dogs hold pride of place in the lives of these avid outdoors people of the farmlands, forests and mountains.

The art, craft, science, sport and ethics of hunting that inspired the inception of this antique organisation still tops the agenda today. Every aspect of the culture is addressed via a system of breeding committees implementing policy in all things from gun safety, breed standards and gene pool planning, to fixing puppy value and blocking pet-market profiteering. It was a golden jubilee where the past is still the future.

... introducing the Man of the Century!

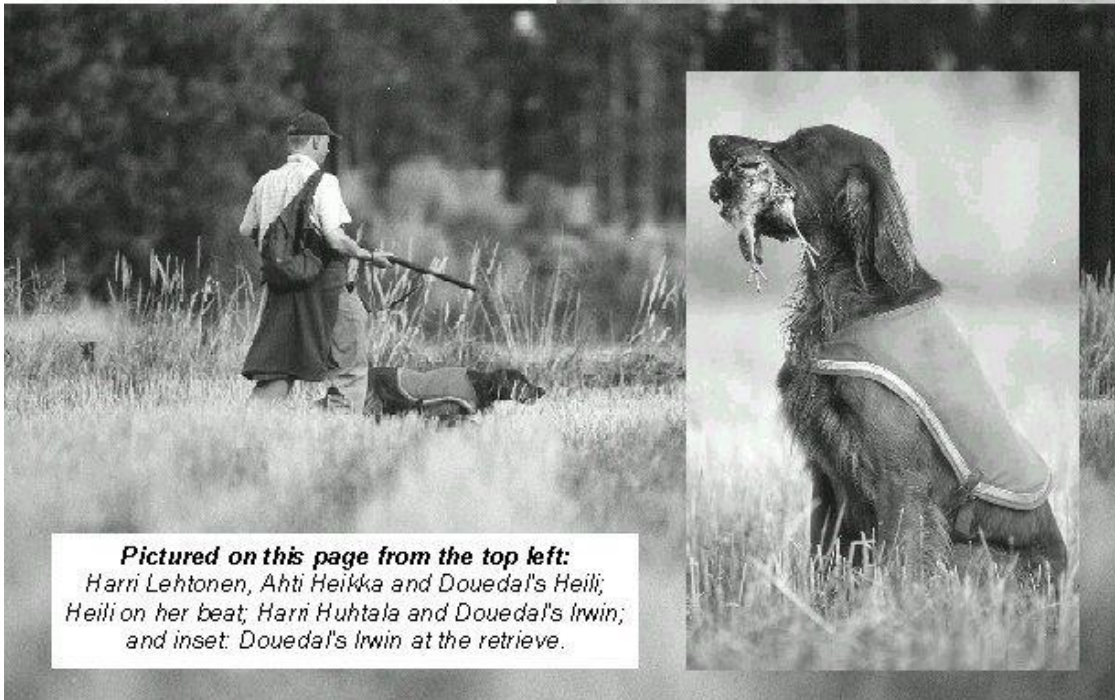
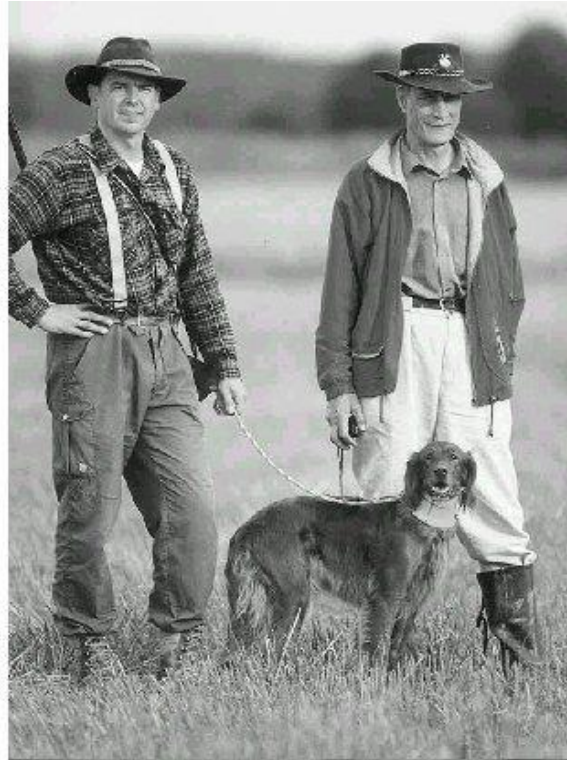
Arne Thorn was the ideal choice of judge for the International "Match of the Century" between Irish and Gordon setters. An athlete of national notoriety and military training, he has packed anybody else's century into a good half-century of his own. There isn't much Arne hasn't done in Scandinavian trialling and hunting with pointing dogs! He began with German Shorthair Pointers, scoring his first win in 1959, then in 1963 he won the Swedish Championship. By 1967 Arne was looking for a bigger challenge, so he bought a Pointer! For many years he bred, trained and handled numerous champions and award winners in both of these breeds. His best Pointer so far has been *Lilvallens Stringo* that won 3 Swedish Championships consecutively in 1985, 1986 and 1987 ~ a record that has so far never been equalled. Stringo was a Field Trial Champion plus a Show Champion and won some 12 winner classes during his trialling career. Arne has also won Swedish Derby (for dogs under 2 years of age) with Pointers. Today, his Pointer *Pålmalms Ventosson* became a Swedish Show Champion at 2.5 years of age and a competitor in the winners class. Arne has also cut a high profile in the setters over the years with his Gordon setter *Vinstamarkens Lilla Fröken Mattson* plus a string of good English setters. His best English setter was a bitch called *Modesty* who became a Field Trial and Show Champion, and produced 3 memorable litters under the Thorn's *Thodos* prefix.

Then Arne's popular wife **Britt-Marie** brought Irish red setters into his life! They have become Arne's biggest challenge of all and he has won several first prizes in field trials with his favourites. To date Thodos kennel has bred 6 Champions, and still counting! Arne became a Show Judge in 1963 and a Field Trial Judge in 1980. He served on the Swedish Pointer Club board between from 1973 to 1998 when he was made a lifetime Member of Honour. In 1989 he joined the Swedish Irish Setter Club board and in 1996 became the club's President. He is also a member of the Swedish Kennel Club Field Trial Judges Committee, the Committee of Field Trial Rules, and the Show Judges committee representing hunting breeds. It was a pleasure and honour to walk with Arne in action in Finland!

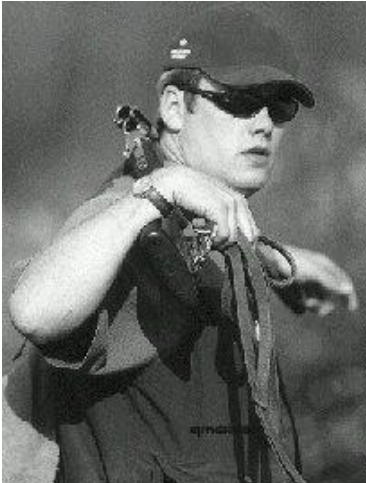
Bear in mind that these were shooting trials where the fallen game is retrieved and the eligibility of every dog to enter is primarily achieved by a merit for breed identity and standard conformation in the show ring. Thus, we're proud to report that as usual ... Irish reds dominated the prizes!

On the first day at the International Match Gordon setters came from all Scandinavian regions. The Danish reds sent their apologies as the dates clashed with their own major breed trials. Reds from Sweden and Finland carried the Irish flag to victory in the form of **Harri Lehtonen's** winner *Douedal's Heili* and **Harri Huhtala's** runner-up *Douedal's Irwin* - full siblings bred by **Ahti Heikka**. There were shamrocks in the moonshine that evening as enthusiasts recounted the global lineage of the winning dogs. Their combination of blood from Finland, Sweden, Denmark and America, and further back ~ Ireland and Russia, underlined the main topic of conversation in the red camp: the advantages of keeping the gene pool broad and diverse!

The following day's International Winners Class results: 1st place: Thomas' Pointer Surjämtens Fighter (Norway), 2nd place: Lähdekorpi's English setter Arctos AC Silva (Finland), 3rd place: **Markku Hakuli's** Irish setter *International Show Champion Wingbeat Bailey* (Finland), 4th place: Svensson's Pointer Black Luckys Gu'n (Sweden) and 5th place: **Harri Lehtonen's** Irish setter *Douedal's Heili* (Finland).

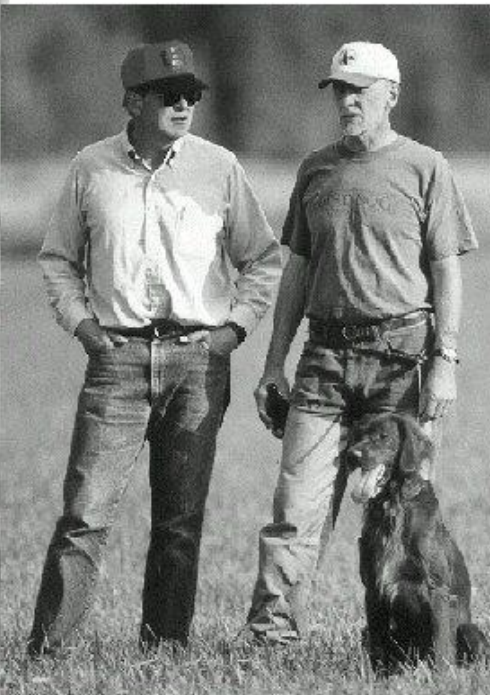


Pictured on this page from the top left:
Harri Lehtonen, Ahti Heikka and Douedal's Heili;
Heili on her beat, Harri Huhtala and Douedal's Irwin;
and inset: Douedal's Irwin at the retrieve.



Pictured from the top left:

Markku Hakuli from Lapland contemplates the brace in competition; KKK-HHS Vice President and chairman of the Irish setter breeding committee Tapio Ranta explains the day's plan with judge Arne Thorn and editor of the Finnish Hunting Magazine Klaus Ekman (Fowler's Irish setter prefix); Irish setter International Show Champion Wingbeat Bailey points then retrieves his game to secure a 3rd placing; **and below:** National Red Setter Field Trial Club heavyweights from the American Field! Dr Roger Boser and Allen Fazenbaker were pleased to hear Arne Thorn describe the American registration anomaly as "illogical".



Text and pictures: Sandy Peter'ka with Katarina Shapiro and Markku Hakuli.