

# Views From Breeders Around The World

This issue – Eithne Brady – Macfinn, Ireland

**1. What first attracted you to ISCW? How many years have you been involved with the breed? Are Wheatens your original breed?**

I always loved and had terriers, including a Wheaten as a child. The Wheatens have a lovely temperament; don't shed, so a great dog to live with in a home environment.

We got Holmenocks Hoffberg (Doughal), bred by Maureen Holmes in 1992 and Holmenocks Hacada (Susie) the following year, the ancestors of all our Wheatens today. I had the breed as a child and seriously since 1992. They are the only breed that I am interested in.



## 2. In your opinion which is the best wheaten owned or bred by you?

I can't name just one out of many; Doughal was wonderful, he became Irish Champion Holmenocks Hoffberg in 1996, winning at the Club show three years in succession, 1994, 1995 & 1996.



*Irish Champion  
Holmenocks Hoffberg  
handled by Tony Killykeen-  
Doyle*

The other is Macfinn Macken known as Macken, who has never become a champion himself but who has sired many champions not only here in Ireland but abroad as well, in countries such as Finland, Sweden (also a Danish Champion) and Russia. Macken lives in harmony with his son, grandson and great, great grandson.



*Macfinn Macken  
Age 11 years*

All our subsequent dogs were wonderful Wheatens who never became champions as I was not actively showing them. We now have Macfinn Magneto, Erik (Doughal's g.g.grandson), a young dog who is starting out on his show career. He already has his Junior Champion title, 4 Best of Breeds and a Group 1 placing at an All Breed Champion Show which he won at just 16 months of age.



*Macfinn Magneto*

**3. Other than those you have been personally involved with, which two or three Wheatens would you describe as the best ones you have seen and why?**

Killykeen Sandy Man, bred by Anthony Killykeen-Doyle, for his size and coat and colour and also Holmenocks Hetargo, Doughal's mother, who in many ways reminds me of Macfinn Kally Keen today.

Not least is CH & GB CH Feararo Niallan Naomhan, Nevan, owned by Richard Dalton and who was Crufts Best of Breed winner under Zena Thorn-Andrews. Another that caught my eye was Brayson Briony, excellent

type, construction and movement, crowned by a beautiful coat of correct texture, she was owned by Tempe Pearson.



*CH & GB CH Feanaro Niallan Naomhan*

**4. What kennel within or outside of the breed has impressed you and why?**

Holmenocks and Killykeen kennels for selecting and evolving the Wheaten we have in our homes and the show rings today.

**5. If you could incorporate just one dog from the past, into your breeding programme, who would it be and why?**

Killykeen Sandy Man, lovely size and temperament, the quality and colour of his coat had to be seen to be appreciated.

**6. Who has been your greatest mentor in the breed?**

Maureen Holmes who we had the privilege to know from when we got Holmenocks Hoffberg, until her death in 1996 and Tony Killykeen-Doyle who kept us going in the right direction until his passing in January 2011. Both are greatly missed for their input into the Breed.



*One of the last photos of Maureen Holmes and in her lap one of the pups from her last litter she ever bred. This photo was taken approximately a month before she passed on*

**7. Since you began in Wheatens have you seen many changes within the breed? If yes please explain.**

Yes, in Ireland changes are mostly for the better, there is greater appreciation of the Breed and the Irish type of coat and temperament.

**8. Do you believe the quality has improved or declined since you first became involved?**

In Ireland, I believe quality and construction have improved as well as coat quality which is also much better. Ring training and presentation are very much improved with the Breed in contention for top Group honours.

**9. What in your opinion is the greatest hurdle that is now facing the breed?**

Maintaining the health and stamina of the Breed, while at the same time remembering the origins, purpose and its working ability.

**10. What needs to be done to protect the breed into the future?**

Making them more appreciated in their native country and to extend this influence worldwide. I appreciate that there are now many breeders throughout the world who are trying to maintain the original Irish Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier in the way that was very dear to Maureen and know that they struggle for recognition. Continuous education of all our native breeds is imperative.



*Macfinn Magic Maker as a pup and Holmenocks Hoffberg*