



Hans Lehtinen Finland

All rounder

Mr. Lehtinen's judging career started from The Dachshund Club's judging test in the 16th of April, 1953. Hasse had not attended the preliminary course before the test - he just went to the test, judged the dogs, wrote the critiques and passed. After the successful test he of course had to study all the things that the other pupils had read. He was sixteen at the time.

Those days Finland had two central kennel organizations. They asked the FCI what to do with young Hasse, and the FCI answered that judges should be full grown. So after that Hasse had to work as judging aspirant until he reached 18 years of age. He used the time by studying more breeds.

Mr Lehtinen has a calendar that covers 10 years. He doesn't have very many blank weekends in his book. He is booked for Montgomery in the U.S., the European Winner Show, The Bundessieger Show. Twice he has been chosen the Judge of The Year in Finland, but he is also popular elsewhere. He is the only Finn who has judged group finals at Crufts. He has also been invited as a member of the Kennel Club. After this year he has been to Sydney Royal for 8 times.

Many times Hasse has been the pathfinder to foreign countries and opened door for other Finnish judges. He has been able to show that even little Finland can educate fine judges. He has judged in 44 countries and during his fifty years in dog sport he has gained a lot of friends all over the world. There are not very many hobbies besides sports and politics that can take one abroad as much, as he puts it.

Hans Lehtinen has bred Cocker Spaniels and Black Schnauzers, first Cocker Spaniel litter was born in 1950. Lehtinen was interested in Norwich Terriers already in the 1960's when the breed was introduced to Finland. Through kennel "Rivale" he has influenced to the breeding of Norwiches. Lehtinen has been vice chairman and member of the board of the Finnish Toy Dog Association, Chairman of the Spaniel Club of Southern Finland and has acted in many different commissions of the Finnish Kennel Club.