

**Tributes  
for our  
Late President  
Mrs Marie McFarlane**



**Marie with Am Ch Chadwick Miss Money Penny.**



Cinderlace Primrose at Merryoth

‘Words will never be vibrant and strong enough to begin to shine a light on her essence.’

‘Quite simply, Marie shared with us all such beauty and incredible strength. She embodied drive and tenacity, passion for people and dogs alike, and above all else she shared a sincere kindness and wit, which tickled all of us lucky to have shared paths together, with her. She is now at peace to be with her beloved Jim and Shona.’

**Toni D’Allesandro - family friend.**

# A Tribute to my Mum - Marie McFarlane



Mum was born in Kelso in March 1930 an only child for Jonny and Madge Brunton who owned a shoe shop on Bridge Street.

Mum attended Kelso High School where sport and art were probably her chosen subjects. She was undefeated in the 110 yards in 6 years, she also competed in high jump and played hockey for the first team and in her 6<sup>th</sup> year she was the dux of art.

When Mum left school she continued her sporting prowess playing for the Caledonian Hockey Team a Scottish representative ladies team where she was the only girl from the Borders and the youngest player when they competed in a tournament in Amsterdam. She also represented the south of Scotland at badminton.

The other passion in Mum's life growing up were animals, she had a horse called Red Herod she often took part in the ride outs or gymkhanas as part of Kelso Civic week and was proud when her cousin Jock Hume was named Kelso Laddie in 1953. Mum was one of the 84 horses that year that did the full day Yetholm Ride where they cross the border into England and check the boundaries.



Once married Mum gave up her job as a Bank Clerk at the Bank of Scotland in Kelso to become a housewife and mother to four children - Shona, Ewan, Callum and myself, Kirstie. Mum and Dad had a ready-made doggy family as one of their wedding presents was a yellow Labrador they got from the racing driver Jim Clarke.

When Mum had all her Children she was at a dinner Party at the home of the late Rainy Brown in the early 1970's where he had some dogs called Cavalier King Charles Spaniels and this is where Mum's passion for the breed started. Rainy recommended visiting the Late Berry Robinson of Buckny affix. Mum and Jim went to visit and to look at a puppy and they bought a Black and Tan bitch called Buckny Toute Seule. While there Jim admired a 16 month old Blenheim bitch, Buckny Concerto and they came back down the road with a ready-made Cavalier family for the total cost of £70!

The showing came shortly afterwards where she attended her first show with instant success of a 5th at Scottish Kennel Club and from then on she was hooked. This was the start of an absorbing hobby that was the beginning of many lasting friendships. Mum didn't force the dogs and showing on the family but was delighted that Shona and then I shared in the hobby.



Mum started breeding and showing under the Cotterlee affix and the picture above is Cotterlee Snowfall who was from the first litter and by Ch. Kershope Sandonpark Icebreaker out of Buckny Concerto. Max did fairly well in the show ring and was Best in Show at the Scottish Cavalier Open Show in the mid 70's. Shona started showing with Mum under the Merryoth Affix which transferred to myself when Shona was tragically killed in a car accident in 1980.



Mum served for many years on the Scottish Cavalier Committee eventually becoming Vice Chairman and Chairman in 1990. In 1999 she was nominated as the President of the Scottish Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club, a position that was still held till her passing.



Marie (Chairman) with Judges Diana Maclaine and Norma Inglis with Ken Shearmon and Ch Mosstown Cilla Black at Border Union in 1994.

Being a Kelso girl she naturally got involved in the Border Union Dog show first being on the Committee in the late 1970's and then in the early 90's she became Vice Chairman of the society taking over as Chairman in 1994 till 2004 and from then until now she remained as a Vice President. In the last few years she hasn't been able to take as active a part as she used to. However her passion and pride for this show shone through if you ever spoke to Mum about it and the reputation it has as the exhibitor friendly show.

Mum first awarded CC's in Cavaliers at Darlington in 1986 and attracted an entry of 351 and went on to award CC's a total of 11 times, including the Scottish Cavalier Ruby Anniversary show in 1999 alongside the great Susan Burgess. The last time she awarded CC's was Dogs at Border Union in 2005. She also judged 3 times for the Cavalier Club of America, Sweden and Ireland.



**Ch Devon Lass of Homerbrent  
at Ricksbury**

Mum bred one champion -  
Ch. Devon Lass of Homerbrent at  
Ricksbury who was made up in  
1985 and won 4 CC's and 7 RCC's  
and was owned by Brian Rix and  
Kevan Berry. Devon Lass and her  
mum Rhum Lass were the last  
daughter and mother combination  
to win the CC and Res CC at the  
same show, Southern Counties in  
1985 under Brian Mitchell.

Mum had multiple Reserve CC  
winners across the years -  
including Merryoth Moonstone  
(who was bred by Shona),  
Cotterlee Canna Lass, Homerbrent  
Rhum Lass. She also had great  
success with Cotterlee Crème De  
La Crème (Katie) and Capercaillie  
who were sired by Ch. Homaranne  
Caption, Katie was Best in Show at  
Scottish Cavalier Open show three  
times.



**Merryoth Moonstone**

Mum stopped breeding Cavaliers in 2007 but has taken  
great pride in my dogs and judging career. Mum liked  
nothing more to be in the presence of a Cavalier and  
they gave her great comfort laterally with her best  
friend being one of my current dogs Jonesie.

Mum introduced me to a hobby where I have met and  
made some  
lifelong friends and allowed me to travel places I  
never thought I would.  
She was my inspiration, my guiding light and above all  
my best friend,  
dog shows are never going to be the same.  
**Kirstie McMurray**



**Cotterlee Canna Lass**

# Tributes

## From Show Friends



### **Cotterlee Creme De La Creme**

We are so very sad to lose an old friend. I first met Marie in the early 1970s when I started showing my first Cavalier Pamojill Tarawa of Costara. Marie was such a force of energy, for many years the face of the Club, always at every meeting, helping and supporting Club activities, and always with a smile on her face and a twinkle in her eye. (My husband) Charlie and Jim could be found sharing a wink and a chat at the events closer to home, I think they enjoyed sharing anecdotes about the dogs (or their dog-mad wives)! Marie had a lovely kennel of well-bred, beautiful dogs, as well as being a gracious and fair Judge. She gave a lot to our breed for which we must all be grateful. Happily Kirstie is successfully continuing her breeding and judging, a wonderful legacy.

Liz and I wish all the family well, rest in peace, Marie.

With fond memories.  
**Margaret and Liz Workman**



My first recollection of Marie McFarlane was at a dog show in the Assembly Rooms Edinburgh, rather a posh place to hold a dog show I thought. We wondered who the lady was sitting on the stage with a Cavalier on her knee. We had no idea at the time how influential this lady would become in the Scottish Cavalier Club and beyond.

She had a lovely smile and a sunny disposition, never had a bad word to say about anybody, and always encouraged novices in the breed.

She was a great supporter of the Scottish Cavalier Club Rescue Service and was a Rescue area Liaison Officer for the Borders area for many years passing on names and advising owners who had problems with their dogs.

Whenever I met Marie the first thing she asked about was my health followed by what's the latest from the Rescue (she wanted to know all the details).

Marie McFarlane was a gentle kind Lady and she will be missed by everyone who had the good fortune to meet her.

**Dave Smith.**



I first met Marie in 1974 when she joined the Club and I was introduced to her by Margaret Lyndesay Smith. Coincidentally, this was Rainy Brown's second year as Chairman, Lindsay Gow's fourth year as Year Book Editor and my second year as a Committee Member.

From then until the last time we spoke I counted Marie as a Cavalier friend who was always cheerful, who was always happy to chat knowledgeably about anything related to our lovely breed and never once did I hear her make a critical comment about either any exhibitor or exhibit.

It was a family affair for Marie in the 70s with husband Jim, daughters Shona and Kirstie and son Callum all Members of the Club. This changed dramatically in 1980 when Shona tragically died after a car crash and the Club Members who knew her mourned with Marie and family. She bore this loss with her natural dignity and continued with her hobby enthusiastically.

Marie was known best for her super Particolours but she also had some lovely Wholecolours including Cotterlee Cognac, a particularly beautiful rich chestnut coloured Ruby who passed on his colour to our Ch Linvid Red Rose, his maternal granddaughter.

Marie also hosted Club Summer Parties at Kames East Mains, was an enthusiastic Committee Member, Vice Chairman to both Rainy Brown and myself in the mid 1980's, became Chairman in 1989 when I was proud to be her Vice Chairman, was the Borders Liaison Officer for the Club Rescue Service in the 90s and was appointed as President of the Club in 1999.

Marie, who was the complete gentlewoman will be sorely missed by all who knew her but would rather want us to rejoice in her achievements.

**George Donaldson**



Marie was so proud of being President of the Club. Her commitment was such that she continued to attend and support the Club's shows and events even when not in good health.

She will be greatly missed by everyone at the Club, especially those newcomers who have benefitted from the encouragement she gave.

On a personal level I was grateful for the support Marie gave me when I was Chairperson. I knew I could go to her with anything that I was unsure of and she was always extremely helpful and reassuring.

Marie was always full of fun and happy to help those around her. She was quick witted and kept us all laughing. Once when asked by a friend some years ago if she would like to book her funeral, her reply was, "yes, but I can't give you a date."

At shows, when looking for Marie, most people knew she could be found at the door with a group who shared a similar interest.

I know I won't forget Marie, even more so, about 20 years ago I was given a little plant from her which I still have, as I water it daily I will always be reminded of Marie.

**Gladys Baillie**



I first met Marie when we were both showing in the 70's. An early memory was with her young family, and 2 lovely homebred Blenheim dogs - Cotterlee Snowfall and Cotterlee Snowline who both did a fair bit of winning. A good friend of Betty Robinson (Buckny), Marie had a little foray into Whole Colours but I think Particolours were the real favourites and over the years she bred many typical, happy, healthy winning dogs. Very soon Marie became involved in the Scottish Cavalier Club and she and Jim hosted happy Summer Parties at their farm in the Borders where everyone was made very welcome. For many years Marie was an important Member of the Committee and later an excellent Chairman, calm, fair and focussed. Just the right sort of person to welcome new people at Club events, to come up with good ideas and occasionally to smooth over troubled waters at meetings!

Marie was a lovely warm person, cheerful, friendly, reliable. Although she went through some very tough times personally she had the ability to rise above her own difficulties and walk in other peoples' shoes. Like many people I will remember Marie with a smile on her face and a twinkle in her eye. I will miss the friendly ringside chats, the cheery wave across the ring and her lovely sense of humour. The Club shows just won't be the same without her. She will leave a big gap but one which will be filled with happy memories.

**Lindsay Gow - Lyncraeg**



It was with great sadness that I heard of the passing of good friend and fellow exhibitor Marie McFarlane. When we started to show cavaliers back in 1973, one of the first shows we attended was SCKCSC members show at Alva. It was at Alva where we first became acquainted with a young Mum, Marie McFarlane, who like us was new to dog showing.

Marie and daughter Shona began showing two half brothers to our dog, which automatically drew us together; these dogs were Cotterlee Snowline & Cotterlee Snowfall, which they had considerable success with. Although rivals in the show ring Marie always had a cheery word and a welcoming smile for us, and this never changed in all the years we knew her. We have watched each other's families grow, seen the grandchildren arrive, and spent many happy times in each other's company. Days at shows, visiting Marie and Jim's family homes, always so welcoming and how could we forget those wonderful fun days at the Summer Parties held in their garden at Kelso.

Marie was such an integral part of the Scottish Club for us, she must have been so proud to watch Kirstie follow in her footsteps, thankfully we will now still have that connection. We feel privileged to have known Marie and Jim and been able to share many happy times together. To Ewan, Callum, Kirstie and families we send our heartfelt sympathy and hope they can draw comfort knowing that they are together again with Shona.

**Pauline Sidgwick - Paulian**

### **Marie.....a lifelong friend.**

We first met Marie and the McFarlane clan when we started showing Cavaliers in Scotland in the early 70s. Kirsty was still in her pram and it was Mum and older sister Shona who came to the local shows in Scotland and we struck up a friendship with all the family through our love of Cavaliers. We were all wet behind the ears as far as showing dogs was concerned but happy days were spent learning our craft and simply enjoying the pleasure that Cavalier get togethers can bring. Summer Parties at Betty "Buckny" Robinson's at Ballinluig and at Marie and Jim's at Kames near Coldstream and at Vi Armstrong's in Ayrshire bring back many golden memories. You would be hard pushed to find a more warm, straightforward and sincere person than Marie McFarlane and Gordon and I were proud to call her a friend. Even when we moved South of the Border it was always a pleasure to catch up with Marie at Border Union and the Scottish Cavalier shows and SKC. She was always the same and her cheery smile and twinkle made the day brighter. "The Scottish dog show scene, especially Border Union and the Scottish Cavalier Club owe a lot to Marie for her dedication and hard work over the years as Chairman and President of these societies. A respected breeder/exhibitor and a judge with integrity. Marie loved her family and when daughter Shona was tragically killed in a motor accident she bore that tremendous loss so bravely as she did when husband Jim died in 2017 and every other adversity she faced. Her positive attitude was admirable and we loved her for it. It felt good to be around Marie even when you were feeling low. She was a pick me up.

Gordon and I will feel her absence deeply but we have so many things to remember and smile about.

To Kirsty, Ewan and Callum.....we share your loss. Your mum was one in a million.

**Norma and Gordon Inglis. Craigowl Cavaliers**



We were sorry to hear of the death of Marie McFarlane. We came to know Marie when we were involved with the Border Union Show at Kelso and she was a Member of the Dog Section Committee. She eventually became its Chairman on the death of Margaret Lyndesay Smith in 1994, and she held that position until 2004. Since then she has been an Honorary Vice President of the Society.

Marie had a number of difficult problems during the course of her life but always seemed to manage to come through them with optimism. As Chairman of the Border Union Show at Kelso, she carried out her duties really well and was always kind and welcoming to everyone involved.

I am sure that all who knew her will want to pass on their sympathies to Kirstie, Callum and the rest of the family at what must be a sad time for them.

**Ronnie Irving**

Brian and I first became aware of Marie in the late seventies. It would have been at one of the Scottish Cavalier Club Shows; Marie and another great lady Betty Robinson (Buckny Cavaliers) were in conversation. They made us both feel at home at once. Marie at that time was showing a Cavalier by Ch Kershope Sandonpark Icebreaker and a Buckny bitch. We were showing our foundation bitch Crisdig Saucy Sue. The judge was another wonderful lady, Jane Bowdler. Marie had very similar views on the breed as Brian and I. She would spend literally hours talking about cavaliers with us. In paying tribute to her many will say what a kind generous lady she was and it's true. Over the years that we had the good fortune to know her, we never once saw her with anything but a warm generous smile on her face, even if at times her heart was broken due to personal tragedies. She was very fortunate to have a daughter that had the same passion for the breed as she did and they do say 'that the apple never falls far from the tree'. Marie must have been bursting with pride when Kirstie told her she was going to be judging the breed at Crufts in 2020, something she was very proud of. I would like to think that she will be smiling down on her on her special day. I can honestly say it has been an absolute privilege to have been a friend of this very special person for over forty years. We would both like to extend our deepest sympathies to the family.

**Brian Rix and Kevan Berry - Ricksbury**



I have known Marie for many years, we quite often had lunch together at the Scottish `club Championship Show. She smiled a lot and always had time to chat to anyone no matter who they were.

We all respected Marie and enjoyed a visit to her home near Kelso for the Summer Party on Occasion.

Her husband, Jim, a farm manager was a delightful man and I think they were very compatible and had a very long and happy marriage with four lovely children. Marie was bereft when daughter Shona was killed in a car accident but bravely came to some shows as a spectator where her friends were quick to offer support and condolence.

Marie enjoyed great success showing and breeding her Cavaliers and was always much respected and well supported as a judge on the many occasions she awarded CCs.

Condolences to Kirstie and David and to Ewan and Callum; there is no one like your Mum.

**Ken Town**



I first met Marie 45 years ago when I bought my first Cavalier. She was always there with advice and support when we worked together on the Cavalier Club. I spent many happy times at dog shows and parties at the farm, she will be sorely missed.

**Terry Bickerton**

It was with great sadness that I learnt of the passing of Marie McFarlane, a wonderful friend and mentor for over 40 years. That friendship began when I bought my first Tricolour from Marie in 1977 as a companion for an 18 month Blenheim bitch that I had already been showing for 12 months. Marie invited me to go to her home, in Coldstream, to see her litter and I am sure to decide also if I was suitable to become the new owner of one of her puppies. Needless to say, in the summer of 1977, Cotterlee Cherie, came to live with my husband and I.

Over the years our friendship blossomed and grew not only with Marie but also Jim, Ewan, Kirstie and Callum. I spent many times with Marie, at Kames East Main, the farm where Marie lived with the family and then at Cotterlee when they moved to Kelso, more especially when one of us had puppies. Many an afternoon has been spent with Marie when she shared her knowledge of the breed with me, discussing which stud dogs may be best to improve what I had and which pup I would run on.

Each year, the week before Christmas I would go up to her house, and spend time with Marie and Callum, usually playing a board game of Callum's choice. I remember one year when I took puppies with me that Callum, who loved to win, suggested that if he won I could leave one of the puppies.

When I began judging Marie gave me the best advice that anyone could give - remember to always judge the dogs - friends will still be friends after you have judged if they are true friends. I remember how proud she was when she and Kirstie judged the dogs and bitches at a Championship show together. One of the proudest moments of her judging career.

My final memory of Marie was when I visited her just before Christmas in the nursing home. She was just finishing lunch when I arrived. One of her carers told her that she had a visitor and she came out of the dining room, with that beautiful smile on her face. Although at first she couldn't remember my name she said to me "you have come a long way to see me, you live near Newcastle don't you". We talked about her friend Betty Caver who was in the same nursing home and how they were going to enjoy being together.

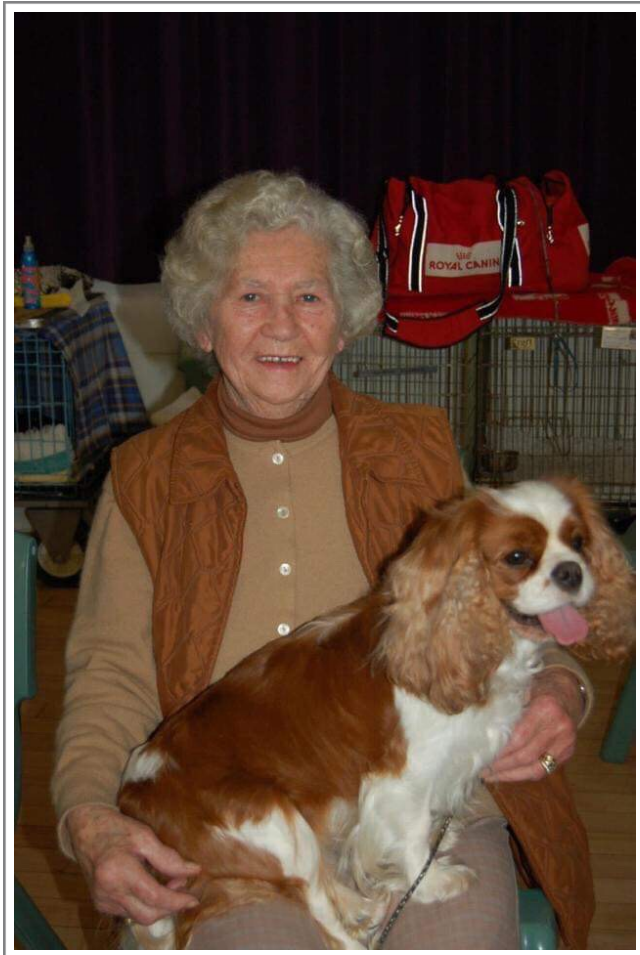
Marie was one very special lady that I would have travelled a million miles to see. Rest in Peace, Marie.

**Lorraine Gillhespy**



Photo courtesy of Lorraine Gillhespy





President Marie McFarlane  
'The Lady with the lovely smile.'