

Mrs Ros Gardiner (Ellwood)

Elmsmere Kennels UK.

Firstly, I would like to thank The Officers and Committee of The Swedish Welsh Corgi Club for inviting me to judge Cardigan Corgis at Euro Corgi 2026 it is indeed a great honour and Privilege for me.

I am looking forward to meeting you all and your wonderful Corgis, it is always such an honour to judge a breed which I have loved and been involved in for over fifty years.

I started my time with both breeds of Corgis when I left school in 1975 and got myself a job in a show and Boarding kennels, little did I know where this path would eventually take me!!!

I worked for the World Famous Beckrow & Willowglen Kennels of Sandra Tonkyn and Her Mother Joy Tonkyn, they had both Cardigans and Pembroke's and Irish Setters, both were International Championship Judges and bred many Champions between them. Sadly, Sandra passed away far too young and was and still is a great loss to the Corgi World.

I was extremely fortunate to work with and learn so much from my time working for them and travelling to many shows but also learning so much about both breeds, Sandra taught me all about how to groom and handle and more importantly the history of both breeds and understanding pedigrees and bloodlines.

I was also very lucky as at that time we had so many great breeders in the UK, so I was so lucky to be able to meet them and learn so much from these amazing people sadly so many are no longer with us which is a great loss to both breeds.

I eventually left the kennels as I wanted to go into the Armed Forces, I Joined the Army in 1979, I served with the Royal Army Veterinary Corp, but I kept my interest in the Show World.

Once I left the Army I first started showing Labradors as I had always loved the breed having been given a Labrador puppy by my Parents for my 7th Birthday. I had a great love for the Chocolates but I also bred blacks and yellows. I was very proud to have bred the top ranking Labrador in Brazil in the eighties, and I also bred Champions in other Countries including South Africa, I sadly lost the last Labrador in January of this Year, it is very strange at home now without any.

I owned my first Cardigan in 1985 and she was a tri colour and was a litter Sister to the famous UK / AM Ch Beckrow Blue Cedar and I also owned a Blue Merle who was one of his Sons both did well in the ring.

I got my first Brindle dog from the Salvenik kennel from me dear friend Teresa Maddox who is a World Famous Breeder of both Cardigans and Pembroke's, he went on to be my first Champion, this was CH Salvenik Snurge of Elmsmere he was mostly Kentwood, Antoc , Joseter and Salvenilk bloodlines.

I have gone on to breed and own multiple Champions in both Cardigan and Pembroke's both UK and Overseas, it always gives me great pleasure to see other kennels win with dogs I have bred, and I am always delighted to help and support new people starting out.

I have been blessed to have had the opportunity to work with top kennels over the years and this has given me the chance to bring in some great bloodlines to help improve my kennel from New Zealand, Russia, America, Finland and Poland.

We have made breed history. I brought in a beautiful young dog from the Rodwell kennel of Bridget Smeeton from New Zealand, CH Rodwell Making Waves for Elmsmere, he went on to gain his UK title and produce Champions here in the UK and overseas. He was the first Cardigan from New Zealand to become a UK Champion.

We also imported a puppy from the famous Mistycor kennel, CH Mistycor Avantury of Special Target at Elmsmere (Imp Rus) she became the first Cardigan from Russia to become a UK Champion.

My other special import came from Finland, CH Beryllus You Look Like a Star at Elmsmere (imp Fin) , this super girl went on to be top Cardigan bitch for two years running and in her first litter produced 4 Champions, sadly Rosa passed away a week after our beautiful Labrador in Jan 2025. We hope her young Daughter will continue our lines as we hope to have one more litter at Elmsmere early in 2026.

My all time heart dog was my World famous CH Salvenik Secret Agent of Elmsmere ShCM .Penfold was a total superstar and was a big winner in the UK , he won multiple CC's he was top puppy in the breed, he was top Cardigan in the UK for 3 consecutive Years, and was Best of Breed at Crufts in 2007 and was the sire of Champions in the UK and overseas, he was a very special dog!!!

I have also had UK and overseas Champions in Pembroke's and again made breed history as I bred the first Male Pembroke with a tail in the UK to win a CC and go on to be the first Pembroke male with a tail to gain their title, this was after the docking ban came into force in the UK.

I have been Secretary of the Eastern section of the Welsh Corgi League and served on the committee of the Eastern Counties Welsh Corgi Club. I am currently serving as Committee member of the Eastern Sub section after I was invited back after previously being secretary and I also serve on the CWCA committee.

My first judging appointment was in 1986 and I have now had the pleasure of judging all over the World, including Australia, America, Russia twice and several Countries throughout Europe, (I am one of a very small number of UK Judges who have had the honour to judge Cardigans in America).

I also judge Bis, Groups and most breeds at open show level in the UK.

I am also thrilled to have received a letter from our Royal Kennel club inviting me to judge Cardigan Corgis at Crufts in 2027 it will be the pinnacle of my judging career and a real honour.

I can't believe that when I started out at the age of 16 as a young Kennel maid with a great passion for dogs where my path would lead me!!! I will always be eternally grateful to Sandra and Joy for helping me take that first step and to all the great breeders and friends along the way who have helped and supported me achieve so much with my dogs over the past 50 years, I have never bred a lot of litters but most have always contained Champions and also many have given much joy and pleasure as loving, healthy and happy family companions which is the most important thing to me.

I am so looking forward to Judging in Sweden as it will be my first time coming to a Country I have long wanted to visit.

Ros Gardiner. (Elmsmere Kennels UK)