



## Obituary in 1997 Club Year Book

### **EVELYN SMITH - "MACAMBER" 1913 – 1996**

*"Sadly we report the death of Evelyn Smith on the 17<sup>th</sup> June 1996. Evelyn was Secretary of the Northumberland and Durham Labrador Retriever Club for over 40 years and had shown, worked, judged and bred Labradors for over 60 years with the 'Macamber' prefix.*

*She was an active member for over 58 years and attended the first ever Northumberland and Durham Show in 1938. She was Secretary at the first Championship Show in 1946. Evelyn enjoyed the working side and attended trials, working tests and cub training classes each year and spent many of her younger days 'picking up' at Milton, Wynyard and other Northern shoots.*

*A large number of friends gathered for a service at Newcastle Crematorium where because she was an atheist, a Humanistic Service was conducted. Friends took this opportunity to pay tribute to Evelyn and the words were very moving. She was obviously very well respected and admired by many people – not all from the Dog World"*

**EVELYN'S GIFT**  
**(1997 Club Year Book)**

*"At last year's AGM (1996) our long serving Secretary retired from office. It was decided to present her with a gift from the club as recognition of her years of service.*

*Many members contributed generously and we bought a Border Fine Arts model of a black Labrador which was to be presented to Evelyn with a cheque for the remaining money, at our June 1996 Open show.*

*Sadly this was not to be. Evelyn fractured her hip and was in hospital at the time of the Show and had also suffered a stroke following surgery on her hip.*

*Even more sadly, she died in hospital on June 17<sup>th</sup> 1996.*

*The model of the Labrador has been presented as a Memorial prize for the October show and the remaining money has bought a memorial trophy for one of the working events.*

*I felt that everyone should know how their contribution to Evelyn's retirement gift had been spent and hope you all approve.*

*The Northumberland and Durham was Evelyn's "baby" and her life's work for so very many years. The Club has lost a very loyal member and sincere friend."*

*Sincerely, Eleanor Robinson.*

As a result of these details being documented and research being done after all these years; it is obvious the ORIGINAL working award mentioned is missing.

It is believed that the working award was a direct copy of the Border Fine Arts Black Labrador Show trophy and was witnessed being awarded at a working event at Ford many years ago. However, there is no documentation as to where this was last presented and despite trying; we have been unable to track it down.

Strangely; a solid silver cup dedicated to one of her other 'babies' (her dogs), we believe; has been uncovered and it has therefore been decided this should be used as the Macamber Trophy for the working side in memory of a lady who was a very important part of the Club's history for so many years.

This silver cup has been cleaned up and given a new mahogany base for engraving and awarded to a Novice Test Winner from 2014. The initial recipient was

**Mrs Maureen Scott for her Novice win at Wemmergill Estate 2014 with Abberwick Tiger Lily.**

If anyone has knowledge of the working border fine arts  
Black Labrador originally bequeathed in Evelyn's memory,  
we would love to hear from you.

Irene Davison  
Hon. Secretary 2014

