

Champion Bob Bowdler

By Steve Bentley

On our wall at Canigou is an Arthur Wardle sketch in charcoal of CHAMPION BOB BOWDLER, a famous blue roan Cocker born at the start of the twentieth century.



CH BOB BOWDLER c1906

Tricia told me that he was behind the pedigree of almost every Cocker around today, including of course SH CH CANIGOU CAMBRAI (Albert). Using the pedigrees in Peggy Grayson's book *A History of the Cocker Spaniel*, (from which I have quoted a couple of passages) I set out to see where Bob Bowdler lay in Albert's pedigree.

Bob Bowdler was bred by Mr Robert De Courcy Peele, who kept the Bowdler kennels at Ashford Bowdler in south Shropshire, and whelped in September 1901. His sire was the blue roan CH BEN BOWDLER and his dam the black and tan JUDY BOWDLER. Although to modern eyes he looks very old-fashioned he was described at the time as "a beautiful light blue in colour, with probably the best head and ears seen on a Cocker for many years. He weighs twenty-three and a half pounds and is absolutely straight in front, has a perfectly balanced body and is as active and as merry as a Cocker can be". He was very successful in the ring, winning 14 CCs at a time when there were probably fewer shows and they were harder to get to.

Using Peggy's pedigrees I have traced a couple of lines back from Albert to Bob Bowdler. One runs 24 generations through SH CH QUETTADENE EMBLEM and the other runs 23 generations through PEELERS PERSONATION and CH SOLINDA OF TRAQUAIR. Both lines include well-known stud dogs and brood bitches and go back though the famous red sire WOODCOCK RINGLEADER, whelped in August 1930.

I'm sure many other lines could be traced from Albert to Bob Bowdler, if you had the pedigrees and the patience! A 24 generation pedigree is impossible, of course. Each dog has two parents so the number of forebears doubles with each generation and a 24 generation pedigree would have an incredible 16,777,216 entries in the right-hand column, most of them duplicates. The two lines of descent are below. Each dog is the offspring of the dog below it:

Line 1	Line 2
<p>SH CH CANIGOU CAMBRAI (D) b 13.9.92 CRANKWOOD MISS HAPPY (B) SH CH CANIGOU MR HAPPY (D) SH CH QUETTADENE EMBLEM (D) SH CH SORBROOK CHRISTMAS KNIGHT (D) WILLOWSIDE BUFFALO BILL (D) SORBROOK BOOMERANG (D) SH CH LOCHDENE SORBROOK SUNDOWNER(D) SUNGLINT OF SORBROOK (D) b 28.11.68 QUETTADENE BERNADETTE (B) SH CH GLENCORA BLACK ACE (D) SIXSHOT THE BLACK COCKATOO (D) SIXSHOT WILLY WAGTAIL (D) b 9.1.43 SIXSHOT BLACK SWAN (D) TREETOPS TERRIFIC (D) TREETOPS TALKIE (D) WOODCOCK RINGLEADER (D) b Aug 1930 SUNFLOWER OF LIGHTWATER (B) PIMPERNEL OF LIGHTWATER (B) DYRONS SUNSTAR (D) b 19.6.19 DYRONS MUSTARD (B) DURBAN DINA (B) WHEILDON PRIMULA (B) CH DIXON BOWDLER (D) CH BOB BOWDLER (D) b Jan 1901 (24 generations)</p>	<p>SH CH CANIGOU CAMBRAI (D) b 13.9.92 CRANKWOOD MISS HAPPY (B) SH CH CANIGOU MR HAPPY (D) CANIGOU ISABELLA CORAL (B) SH CH CANIGOU MARY ISABELLA (B) CANIGOU CHRISTINE MARY (B) CANIGOU CHRISTINE (B) PEELERS PERSONATION (B) b 1968 ELDWYTHE ENFO (B) ELDWYTHE EAST LYNNE (B) CH SOLINDA OF TRAQUAIR (B) CH BROOMLEAF BONNY LAD OF SHILLWATER (D) CAROLONE OF SHILLWATER (B) BOUQUET OF SHILLWATER (B) RIVOLI DESERT KING (D) WOODCOCK RINGLEADER (D) b Aug 1930 SUNFLOWER OF LIGHTWATER (B) PIMPERNEL OF LIGHTWATER (B) DYRONS SUNSTAR (D) b 19.6.19 DYRONS MUSTARD (B) DURBAN DINA (B) WHEILDON PRIMULA (B) CH DIXON BOWDLER (D) CH BOB BOWDLER (D) b Jan 1901 (23 generations)</p>

I'm grateful to Carol West who provided me with a five generation pedigree for Bob Bowdler (reproduced below). At the right hand side lies CH OBO, bred by Mr James Farrow and whelped in 1879. Obo is said by historians of the breed to have been the foundation of Cockers. His vital statistics are given as "a height of 10 inches and a length from nose to set on of tail of 27 inches". That description makes Bob Bowdler, whelped only 22 years later, look quite modern in comparison and gives some idea of the progress made by Mr De Courcy Peele and others in establishing and improving the breed around the turn of the 20th century.

Pedigree Certificate of

Sex =

CH BOB BOWDLER

Date of birth =

Colour =

Breeder/owner :

Kennel Club registration no. / stud book no. : **885.9**

SIRE	DAM	SIRE	DAM	SIRE	DAM	SIRE	DAM
						SIRE	DAM
CH BEN BOWDLER	BRAESIDE BUSTLE	VICEROY	COQUETTE	TOOTS	31485	BEVERLEY DON	20604
						FAN (DAM OF RIVINGTON MERRYLEGS)	
299E	COLWYN BEE	BRAESIDE BIZZ	RIVINGTON BLUECOAT	MYRTLE (OWN)		RIVINGTON SIGNAL	BORN 1879
						FRIVOITY	
JUDY BOWDLER	BRAESIDE BOB	WELFORD DUKE	RIVINGTON BLOSSOM	TOOTS		CH OBO	
						LEMON ROAN	
	PHYLLIS BOWDLER	BRUTON DON	MILLSTONE DUCHES	SHOTTIE (OWN)		TYNESIDE FANCY	24832 W/R
						ROSE BOWDLER	
	BLACK (1896)	30.8.1894 BLACK	94-219A	BESS BOWDLER	40700	LITTLE PRINCE	BL/WHITE
						FRIVOITY	
						TOOTS	
						COQUETTE	
						RIO	
						MYRTLE (OWN)	
						RIO	
						BEAUTY III	LIVER/WHITE/TAN 29142
						RIVINGTON JACK	
						RIVINGTON MERRYLEGS	
						RIO	
						BEAUTY III	L/WT 29142
						TOOTS	
						SHOTTIE (OWN)	
						BEVERLEY DON	
						FAN (DAM OF RIVINGTON MERRYLEGS)	
						BEVERLEY DON	
						FAN	
						LITTLE SMUT	20619
						DOTTIE	18234
						CH OBO	
						JENNY OBO	18491
						TIM OBO	29134
						BATCHCOTT ROSE	JASPER BELLE

The above pedigree has been researched by Carol West and lies behind THE SHEIGRA COCKER SPANIELS.