



Surrey Constabulary History

An in depth history of policing in Surrey

23 February 2016

www.surrey-constabulary.com

Editor Robert Bartlett

938@938.me.uk

The Anna of Avondale Trophy

Stan Wood MBE

One time Inspector Surrey Constabulary in charge of the Dog Section and the South East District Police Dog Training School

February 2016



Inspector Stan Wood Surrey Constabulary



The Anna of Avondale

The late Constable Neville Cast won this superb trophy at least twice in the 1980's. This has prompted me to offer my experience of this delightful trophy, which has been competed for annually by the Surrey dog handlers since about 1970.

Lady Simpson who was the wife of the then chief constable of Surrey, Sir Joseph Simpson, gave this trophy to the Dog Section in the early 1950s. In those days national and regional police dog trials had not been thought of. This trophy was awarded annually to the Surrey handler who had obtained the best annual marks in Kennel Club working trials. Surrey of course with the encouragement of the Simpsons excelled in these competitions. From about 1956 with the promotion of Sir Joseph to Assistant Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, the Anna of Avondale was left out of competition and stood in the dog section handler's room for approximately ten years. It stood on the shelf throughout the tenure of Lt Col Rutherford virtually as a memento of days gone by.

In 1968 Sir Peter Matthews took office as Chief Constable. He of course was 'dog mad' and many strides were made nationally and in Surrey in particular. Around 1970, Sir Peter had found Anna still on the shelf and after an audit had shown that the 'Anna' trophy was worth at least £400. Sir Peter was responsible for introducing the annual Surrey Police Dog Competition and 'Anna' was removed from the shelf and awarded to the winner each year. Thus the competition was named the Anna of Avondale Trophy Competition. From the introduction of this competition huge crowds attended the event each year.

Returning to Sir Joseph and Lady Simpson, they were huge supporters of police dogs and Lady Simpson had her own Labradors with the kennel prefix of Foxhanger. This was the name of their home near Charterhouse, Godalming. She competed in Kennel Club Dog Trials.

My last memory of Lady Simpson was at a small dog competition held on Hankley Common around 1965. As a member of The Surrey Dog Training Society she had challenged the Surrey police dogs to a tracking competition. We took up the challenge and after a full days

work the police dogs were victorious. My parting memory was Lady Simpson as she drove away saying “ Well done lads, you beat the arse off us. What a lady and what excellent police dogs generally and in particular Surrey dogs.



Nev Cast winner of Anna of Avondale 1982 Believed Lady Matthews