

A Spool of Black Thread (*Thanks to Pernice Press*)



Like a spool of black thread, Buccleuch bloodlines thread their way through successive generations in early Labrador history.

Three years after FTCh Flapper's victory at the KC Stake at Horstead, Captain Archibald Butter's FTCh Peter of Faskally entered trials.

After a remarkable start he went on to win, at Fakenham, the 1911 IGL Championship, whose field was composed entirely of Labradors for the first time.

Bred by Mr George Watson in 1908, Peter was sired by Waterdale Gamester and whelped by Birkhill Juliet, and carried much Buccleuch blood on both sides of his pedigree. And with 32 of his progeny winning or being placed in stakes, his stud work was a major force in extending an already formative influence.

His influence on the breed was matched by the talents of his handler. Archie Butter was the first person to use hand and whistle signals to control his dog in a field trial, methods adapted from shepherds in his native Border country who worked their collies. Although this method of 'dog-breaking' created controversy in his day and would not become widely used until many years later, it is now recognised as a great innovation that enabled dogs to bring in dead and wounded birds more quickly and minimally disturb live game.