

## **Interview:**

### **Tony Groenendijk & Arie Dijkhuizen StripPoker Whippets & Italian greyhounds**

<http://stripduke.blogspot.com/>

**Question 1: How many years have you been in Whippets?**

Answer: We are both in whippets for 14 years now.

**Question 2. What breed(s) did you have prior to Whippets?**

Answer: Arie: Bearded Collies and Chinese crested

Tony: Borzoi and Chinese Cresteds

**Question 3. What made you decide to get a Whippet?**

Answer: Years ago when we showed our Chinese crested and standard poodle for a friend and Mr. Tim Teillers from the Samoem kennel showed at that time some beautiful whippets and their elegance and beauty made us decide we wanted to have a whippet from his breeding.

**Question 4. Who was your first Whippet?**

Answer: Our first whippet was Samoem Showtime "Dana" bred by the late Mr. Teillers. Her mother was a whippet we liked very very much her name was Samoems Sudden Glory a World champion and multiple group winner. Dana's sire was Samoems Stroker Ace son of one of our all time favorite whippets BIS Ch. Samoem Sign O' the Times.

**Question 5. Was she a show dog and did she finish?**



Samoems Showtime our foundation bitch  
(Samoems Stroker Ace x Ch. Samoems Sudden Glory)  
Br: Tim F. Teillers



**Tony Groenendijk  
and Sobers Millionaire at StripPoker JW**

Answer. Dana was a quality whippet with some very typical whippet characteristics. A super top and underline but she was a bit heavy in head and her front movement was not what we like to see. Her temperament was amazing and she gave us two beautiful litters. We showed her only a few times so we did not finish her.

**Question 6. Do you think handlers help or hurt the breed?**

Answer. In Holland we do not see a lot of professional handlers showing dogs. You see some of the juniors who are now showing dogs for others so maybe the first generation of junior handlers is born. I have

nothing against handlers as long as they have respect for the dogs. I hate it when I see people come to a show with 20 dogs in crates and the only time they get some attention is when they take them in the ring. But I do know some handlers who are fantastic with their dogs and make them look fantastic in and out of the ring.

In Holland presentation in some breeds could be much and much better and I think it would be nice if they could see how some of the american dogs are groomed and presented. After all it is a show and then you want your dog to look at his best.

**Question 7. Do you feel you made any improvements with your breeding program?**

Answer. Yes we sure did. Our dogs are all great movers and heads are also much better then the puppies from our first litter(s) but we did keep the beautiful typical whippet top and underline from our foundation bitch Dana. We can not live with dogs who can't move and I am very proud to say that the bitch from our B litter (StripPoker's By Design) was a super sound mover and she passed that on to her children. (our dogs all go back to her and our foundation bitch Dana).

**Question 9. Did you have any Whippets that you felt made outstanding contributions?**

Answer: A male from our first litter "Kenzo" Ch. StripPoker's Arrogance (Ch. Bohem American Gigolo x Samoem Showtime) is a dog we never forget. We choose him as out keeper at 2 weeks of age at that time more luck then wisdom but he turned out into a beautiful dog who became a Dutch champion and number one whippet in Holland in 2005. This dog was not only beautiful but his temperament was one of the best ever. I think your first litter and your first champion will always be very special.

Then we have "Amber" Ch. StripPoker's Dramaqueen (Ch. Woodbrooks Idols Eye x StripPoker's By Design) a real glamour girl from day one she showed like a super star she won several times Puppy Best In Show and finished very easy. It was so much fun to show this little glamour girl.



**Ch. StripPoker's Arrogance # 1 Whippet Holland '05**  
(Ch. Bohem American Gigolo x Samoems ShowTime)



**StripPoker's By Design**



**Ch. StripPoker's Drama Queen**  
(Ch. Woodbrooks Idols Eye x StripPoker's By Design)

And then our current star "James" (NL & US Ch. Woodbrooks Ask Me How I Feel W'10'11) we did not breed this boy but we imported him from Finland. His sire is from the US (Ch. Fanfares Special Export) and his dam is bred in Italy (Ch. Sobers Florianne). From the day he came into our lives we knew this was something special. He started with an all breed Puppy Best in Show in Holland. Then he stayed in the US for some time and was shown by his friend Tad Brooks and during his stay in the US he lived with his co-owner Charlotte Lee. James finished at 14 months with a BOB and BIG II and sired 3 litters before he came back to Holland. And to date 6 of them are champions already and others are major pointed.



**NL & USA Ch. Woodbrooks Ask Me How I Feel**  
W'10'11 #1 Whippet Holland '10  
#1 Whippet male Holland '11  
(Ch. Fanfares Special Export x Ch. Sobers Florianne)

In Holland he also finished very easy with several group wins and placements and is the sire of some pretty babies who will be in the ring soon. For 2012 James will visit the UK for some months and let's see how the British whippet fanciers will welcome our handsome boy.

And last but not least I want to write something about our new boy from Italy "Spencer" (Sobers Millionaire at StripPoker). His sire is multi Ch. Barnesmore Galileo and his dam is Ch. Sportingfields Primrose at Sobers (her sister is the fabulous Tawny). When Spencer's breeder Bitte Ahrens-Primavera told me she was going to make this fantastic combination we wanted a puppy from her M litter. And Spencer is now only 12 months old we really think he is one of the best we ever owned. His movement is to die for and his lines are so smooth. He was shown only a couple of times but won BIS baby BIS puppy and was best of breed at his first show with a group III and at our biggest show in Holland, the Amsterdam Winner show he won the title Junior Winner and res. cac under respected judge Mr. Magnus Hagstedt (Spencer was reserve behind our James who won the CAC and BOB). Although we think Spencer is our best we can not show him under every judge. He is not the smallest whippet and some (Dutch) judges make a BIG problem when it comes to size.



**Sobers Millionaire at StripPoker**  
JW'11 Best in show baby & puppy winner  
(Ch. Barnesmore Galileo x  
Ch. Sportingfields Primrose at Sobers)

As a breeder I think it is very sad to see dog being placed back only because of 2 or 3 cm. more and dog with serious faults in construction and missing typical whippet features (but with correct size) win the CAC. So for use as breeders size and color will NEVER be an issue when we choose a sire for our girls. Why is a centimeter more a bigger fault than a bad topline, cow hocks or poor movement???

**Question 10. Which dog did you breed that you feel was your best Whippet?**

Answer: For show qualities and movement we say Ch. StripPoker's DramaQueen but for us StripPoker's By Design Lux. Jr. Ch. (Ch. Zootsuits Lonely Hearts x Samoems Showtime) was the most correct. She was 100% whippet with perfect size and silhouette and she was so smooth and balanced. Nothing exaggerated and always looking nice no need to stack her. I still don't understand why she never finished her title. She also gave us some very beautiful litters.



**StripPoker's By Design Lux. Jr. Ch.**  
(Ch. Zootsuits Lonely Hearts x Samoems ShowTime)

**Question 11. Is there any dog or bitch, not owned or bred by you that you feel is an outstanding representative of the breed? Who? Why?**

Answer: Oops how many names do you want? There are lots of dogs and bitches I feel are outstanding some I only know from pictures and others I have seen "live". But from dogs I have seen "live" **Tawny is one of the whippets who is close to perfection** she has everything I want to see in a whippet... Balance is the word and a super mover. When I saw her at the show in California I could not keep my eyes of her. The other one is girl from the past and that is the one who made us decide we wanted a whippet: BIS Ch. Samoems Sign O' the Times.



**Multi Ch. Samoem Sign O' The Times**  
(Samoem Sir Lancelot x Morshor Plumcreek Jasmine)

**Question 16. What about breed quality improvements in the last 10-15 years? Any breed qualities we have lost in the last 10-15 years?**

Answer: I think we see a lot of nice whippets these days... some people always say that we had better dogs in the past I am not really sure about that and some are a bit nostalgic I think. I agree when some say that there are whippets these days who are losing the typical S curves and don't have a correct topline something I think is so typical for a whippet. I also see some dogs with weak hocks and dogs who are very strong developed in front and have weak hindquarters with no well developed 2nd tigh. And the discussion about size will never stop and of course we want to see a whippet with correct size BUT when we still see dogs with the faults mentioned above I think it is more important to improve that than to penalize bigger dogs who have some very excellent features we can use.

I also forget to mention that every now and then I see some dogs who can have more length of leg. A very big fault in sighthounds. Also I see some short and thick necks with wrong placement which also spoils the silhouette.

**Question 17. Have you been involved in racing, lure coursing or obedience other than showing with your Whippets?**

Answer: No we are not. We love to exercise our whippets but we do that with walks in the park, on the beach and bike rides. We do have some owners with a StripPoker dog who do racing, coursing or obedience and they do it with great results.

**Question 18. What are the highlights of your show career?**

Answer: There are several highlights but the big wins under sighthound specialist are always nice. And meeting new people and making new friends (from all over the world) is something very special too. I would like to say that we like to win (of course) but after years of showing it is getting less important. We now know so much more about the breed then when we first started and we know best what is good and what needs improvement in our dogs. Without sounding arrogant I think a judge can not change my opinion about how I think about our own dogs. Years ago when I was not so sure about myself they could change my opinion.

**Answer: Question 19. What is your opinion on the difference between breeder judges verses all rounders?**

There are good ones and bad ones in both categories. First of all I think a judge (and breeder) needs a good eye for dogs. You can learn a lot from books & internet but you must have a good eye first. In every breed you can see there are groups (something I really hate) and if you don't belong to a certain group it can happen that when you show under a breeder/judge from one of the groups you can never win, only because you are not a "group" member. Sad but true. So that can be a reason why it is better to show under an all rounder.

**Question 20. What features of the Whippet are most important to you?**

Soundness, balance, movement, S curves, topline, temperament and health.

**Question 21. Where do you think Whippets will be 10 years from now?**

I think they still will be beautiful and I hope healthy. With all the health tests these days it is much easier to see if there are any problems in a dog (or line) so I hope lots of breeders will test and share the results so we can continue breeding happy and healthy dogs.



**StripPoker's It's All About Me**  
(StripPoker's Guestlist Only x Ch. StripPoker's DramaQueen)

**Question 22. Is there something you would like to say?**

Yes first of all thank you for asking me to do an interview for your fabulous site. And second is I really hope that people learn to look at the dog(s) first and not at the name of his breeder, owner, country of origin or his color. Still many people can not say anything about a dog before knowing the extra info which in my opinion is not needed to see if a dog is nice or not. When you base your breeding or judging on names and popularity of the owner/breeder I don't think you are doing it right and is not good for our beautiful breed. The same for breeding on color. When you choose a lovely pet then you can choose a favorite color but when you want to be a breeder or judge color is the last thing to worry about.



**Arie Dijkhuizen** with one of the StripPoker Italian greyhounds.



**StripPoker's Keep Talking About Me**  
(Ch. Woodbrooks Ask Me How I Feel  
x StripPoker's It's All About Me)



**Sobers Millionaire at StripPoker**



Pictured is our hope for the future our import Norway  
**Oscarberg Da Bomb at StripPoker**  
(Ch. Fanfares Too Cool to Care x Ch. Oscarberg Superplay)  
she is like most of our dogs a combination of american and european bloodlines.