

East of England Championship Show Saturday 7th July 2012

I was honoured to be asked by the committee to give my first set of tickets in our beautiful breed. They must be congratulated on ensuring that the show still went ahead after the previous day's deluge. It was a shame that we were on the carpet which is a challenge to most handlers. On the whole the dogs coped incredibly well with the constant tannoy messages and the noise from other breeds, who by necessity, had ended up close to the ring, only one exhibit seemed troubled.

Firstly I would like to thank the exhibitor's for their superb entry and for making the journey to the show, despite the weather warnings and taking the risk of possible cancellation, you are a hardy lot! Thanks also my stewards for always ensuring that my next class was in place prior to completion of my critiques and their efficiency throughout the day.

I was pleased with the overall quality especially in the two Open classes and J&Y bitch. I feel that construction is continuing to improve, with still a little work to do on length & return of upper arm. I did however find a few level, or verging on level, bites and one verging on undershot which had an effect on awards. Some would argue that as the breed is not required to pick up game the only need for a scissor bite is to assist a whelping bitch to sever the umbilical cord, but it is the only thing where the standard calls for perfection, and should not be ignored just because it cannot be seen from the ring side. I found a few a little long in coat, but the dogs seem to be confused this year on whether they should be in winter or summer coat. There is no finer sight than a well muscled pointer with a short hard coat and tight skin. Finally I think that we have to be careful not to start gilding the lily. I detected a slight trend towards exaggeration whether it be over angulated hind quarters, excessive dish in head or just over presentation, more is sometimes less, the only way is not Essex.

MINOR PUPPY DOG (5)

1st Siddle & Oddie's Wilchrimane Igoyougo. Smart outlined b/w with promising head properties, lovely in eye, expression and nostrils, correct ear and set, good lay of shoulder, short hard coat, nice low set hocks good turn of stifle, neat tail moved out well, holding a strong topline. Not as strong in build as the PD winner but thought he had the edge in head neck & coat.

2nd Anderson Rowell's Daledancer Silver Fame. Strongly built o/w with good forechest, deep brisket well ribbed body short coupled via a strong loin, good tail and set and strong on the move, just could not match the head and outline of the winner at this stage.

3rd Adams & Grime's Ansona Peter Pan

PUPPY DOG (7)

1st Martin's Sunhouse Anything Goes. Well developed b/w strong in body, balanced head and angulation, oval foot, slight slope to pastern, low set hocks good width across 1st & 2nd thigh, well co-ordinated movement.

2nd Collins' Sobranya Affirmation. Lighter in build than the winner and took a while to settle. Built on flowing lines, which he held on the move. Good head & ear set lengthy neck, super foot & pastern, good front & rear angles, needs to develop in muzzle and body, but has plenty of time on his side.

3rd Westaway's Sobranya Perception

JUNIOR DOG (12,2)

1st Harrison's Millpoint Heat Wave. Smart true moving b/w with a lot to like, lovely head and eye, thin leathers, correct length of foreface good forequarters and bone, compact well cushioned feet, good expanse of 1st & 2nd thigh driving through a well laid pelvis with a correct shaped tail.

2nd O'Driscoll's Gartarry Moonlight Flit to Fowington. Clean outlined o/w, nice dished head, kind expression, moist fleshy nose, gentle turn of lip, correct in ear and set, good length of neck, moderately angulated with nicely arched toes. Not the fore action of the winner but preferred his shorter tail.

3rd Hopper's Crookrise the Medler at Owlspoint JW

YEARLING DOG (10,1)

1st Evans & Pavey's Joneva Diamond in the Rough JW. O/w, with an imposing ring presence, that will not allow him to be ignored. Super head with good foreface well set on a muscular neck flowing into equally good forequarters. Deep well ribbed back body. Superb front action and although not quite as pleasing going away has a low set hock and muscular quarters that enable him to get round the ring with ease.

2nd Best's Shadsett Keep on Believin for Bestina. Opposite to the winner in that this b/w dog does his best to be ignored, hope he gives his handler an easier time as he matures.

Essentially quite a pleasing dog throughout, well angled fore and rear quarters and moves true with both reach and drive, a shade rounded over the croup but he has a good body shape, lengthy neck and a super head, eye and expression with correct length of foreface.

3rd Welch's Moulou Minstrel

GRADUATE DOG (7)

1st Mason's Freebreeze Figaro. Quality o/w of lovely type, flows through from the wide nostrils of his well carried head, which is developing nicely, to his neat tail, just wish he would carry it little better on the move as he has a lovely flowing gait and would just complete the picture. Otherwise a very pleasing dog who should mature on into a fine specimen.

2nd Barrs Gordon's Panoply Gold Vision. O/w, with the kindest of expressions. Well balanced skull with good stop and correct length of foreface. Heavier in type than the winner and not quite as good in upper arm but liked his straight front and easy flowing action.

3rd Silgoe & Oliver's Teisgol Go Your Own Way JW

POST GRADUATE DOG (8,2)

1st Theobald's Tycarreg Strangely Familyr JW. Stylish b/w dog with a pleasing head and bright intelligent eye, well set on ears, with thin leathers, would just prefer a little more length of foreface. Good body with a nice spring of rib, well let down brisket, oval foot with slight slope to pastern, balanced angles, short rear pastern. Carried a strong topline on the move.

2nd Barrs Gordon's Panoply Gold Vision

3rd Martin's Sunhouse Believe It Or Not JW ShCM

LIMIT DOG (5,2)

1st Adams' Ansona Simple Simon JW Sh CM. Another b/w with some style about him. Built on lighter lines he has a lovely dark expressive eye, good stop and well proportioned skull, but would just prefer a little more width through the muzzle and nostril. Long neck, shapely body and reasonably well angulated fore & aft, good tail & set, carries himself well on the move with a light action and good footfall.

2nd Harrison's Millpoint Top Hat N Tails JW. Quality b/w with a good outline and challenged the winner hard. Pleasing head with pronounced occiput, good stop, correct length of foreface and excellent expression correct in ear & set. Well laid shoulders and good turn of stifle. He has a little more substance than the winner but not quite the action.

3rd Huxley's Saregresi Fame of Gold at Woodfleet (Imp Hun)

OPEN DOG (13,1)

1st & DCC Hinton's Sh Ch Fleurfields Flambeau. Well built yet highly refined o/w balanced head with slight dish presenting his nostrils at the best angle for the collection of air borne scent but has an eye the colour of a hedgerow hazel which although not incorrect, and in tune with his coat colour, would benefit from being a shade darker, lengthy crested neck, allowing him to carry his head into the wind. Excellent oval bone correct in pastern, well padded close knit feet. Deep Body short coupled via a muscular and slightly arched loin to a correctly angulated pelvis allowing good width across his well muscled thighs, low set hock and just the right amount of turn of stifle to provide propulsion without the loss of strength and stability.

2nd & RDCC Rose & Robinson's Sh Ch/NZ Ch Robwyn Dreams are Free at Ridanflight (Imp NZ). Another worthy champion this o/w was powerful on the move with good front extension and drive from the rear. Super head, eye and nostril, well set ear. Similarly constructed to my winner but is stronger in forechest and a shade deeper in brisket, just preferred the overall cleaner lines and loin of my winner.

3rd Blackburn Bennett's Sh Ch Kiswahili Martin at Kanix.

MINOR PUPPY BITCH (7,3)

1st Sillince's Tomlow I Hope You Dance. Elegant & very feminine b/w bitch who has a well balanced head with a slight dish, dark eye and bright expression, good length of neck and shapely body she is well angulated front & rear with a good length and return of upper arm. Still a baby on the move but has a pleasing structure and just needs to develop in body and muscle to hold it all together.

2nd Stilgoe's Persei's Ace of Hearts Through Teisgol. o/w less balanced in outline but a little more co-ordinated on the move. Well shaped head, straight front, deep well ribbed body short coupled, neat tail used on the move.

3rd Radcliffe's Sniperay Sacred Lily

PUPPY BITCH (11)

1st & BPIB Siddle's Wilchrimane Maggie-Mae. This liver/w was as pretty as a picture, super curves throughout. Beautiful feminine head good depth of muzzle, bright kind expression, well set on her lengthy neck which already is developing a crest, well set ears, thin leathers, strong body with fore chest, good oval bone, neat tail, good angles front and rear and nice top line maintained on the move.

2nd Collins' Sobranya Attribution. Another typey bitch b/w with a super eye and expression, shapely well ribbed body & deep brisket close knit well padded feet, has balance front & rear with a good length of pelvis, well set on neat tail, just needs to tighten and mature on.

3rd Martin's Sunhouse I Am What I Am.

JUNIOR BITCH (14,1)

1st Hinton's Pippalee Georgia by Fleurfield. I see that this lemon bitch is the daughter of my ticket winner and shares some of the same attributes, clean lines, excels in foot & pastern, strong well ribbed back body with a lovely underline, nice head & expression, well laid pelvis, good tail & set, sound mover.

2nd Edmondson & Robertshaw's Crookrise Agathis. Strongly built bitch, solid black head with gorgeous dark expressive eyes, wide nostrils & thin leathers. Well angulated quarters deep brisket, good forechest, well sprung ribcage, short coupled, well muscled with purposeful movement.

3rd Barford & Booth Kiswahili You Live In Me For Protanto

YEARLING BITCH (12,1)

1st & RBCC MacManus's Luneville Strawberry Moon. Stunning lemon bitch who oozes type, lovely outline strong elegant body loved her head, soft open nostrils, good depth in the flew, well set ears, lengthy muscular neck super set on of head, good lay back of shoulder beautiful body shape short coupled good expanse of 1st & 2nd thigh, moderately angulated quarters, short rear pasterns, good feet. Close contest for the RCCC with 2nd in Open, who obviously had the edge on maturity and thought her a shade better in upper arm, but kept getting drawn back to her purity of type and could not see it go unrewarded on the day.

2nd Edmondson & Robertshaw's Crookrise Trinity. Another lemon bitch of good type built on slightly stronger lines & gave her handler a bit of a hard time today, but when she did get it together moved out with power, good head, correct shaped ears, excellent nostrils, muscular body and quarters.

3rd Perkins' Luneville Honey Moon at Brent

GRADUATE BITCH (5)

1st Wilson's Bonnygate Lady Annie. Energetic, compact a very alert o/w with a purposeful gait, typical in head with lovely expressive eyes, soft open nostril and nicely turned lip, correct in ear & set, well laid shoulder muscular body short coupled nice over the croup and correct in tail and set. Well angulated rear quarters with good development of 1st & 2nd thigh.

2nd Cooper's Keepersfield Mama Mia b/w more scopier than the winner, liked her head, bright kind eye, good length & depth to muzzle and well turned flew. Nice flow from back of skull to tail set which she held on the move. Good body shape and short coupled, just preferred the rear assembly of the winner.

3rd Skinner's Tycarreg Sassy Fontaine at Juennerfly

POST GRADUATE BITCH (9)

1st Coone's Bonnygate Lady Whisper of Valleypoint. Litter sister to graduate winner and similar remarks apply balanced skull with correct amount of stop, bright kind eye, good ears and set, muscular neck, well laid shoulder, deep compact body, well let down stifle and in hard condition, good tail and set which she carried well on the move to win the class.

2nd Barfield & Booth's Kanix Calypso by Kiswahili. o/w bitch standing over more ground than the winner she has clean lines with a good head and kind expression, well set ears and lengthy neck, well angulated quarters but not showing to her best potential here today.

3rd Lewis's Ridanflight Rodzynka

LIMIT BITCH (14,1)

1st Anderson Rowell's Wyndhead Mette Marit Sh CM. Feminine o/w, not the largest but is of good type, lovely head with dark round expressive eyes, nice well padded oval foot, good depth of brisket, well ribbed back body, short strong loin, correct tail & set. Balanced front & rear she moved with a steady even gait carrying her tail well on the move.

2nd Blackburn Bennett's Kanix Chilli. Stylish o/w bitch lovely elegant neck, well laid shoulders and shapely body Sweeping turn of stifle and low set hocks. Good ground covering action on the move, just preferred the head, expression and overall footprint of the winner.

3rd Barker's Flinthill Daisychain

OPEN BITCH (13,1) A stunning class with quality throughout.

1st BCC & BOB Siddle's Wilchrimane Ice Maiden. Top drawer o/w bitch, who has yet to gain her crown, but cannot be too far away based on her form here Today. When posed naturally she filled my eye and took my breath away. Feminine and balanced from all angles and on the move, she has the blend of type, construction and style that I was so hoping to find. I just loved her and was so thrilled to see her take second place in the group. She has a beautiful feminine head with gentle chiselling under her dark expressive eyes, open nostril and nice turn of flew. Straight front lengthy pasterns with slight slope, compact oval foot. Driving action on the move, together with reach in front, holding a strong topline with good tail and head carriage.

2nd Wilkinson's Sh Ch Flinthill Forget Me Not JW. Excellent unexaggerated b/w bitch who has a lovely light foot fall and covers her ground so effortlessly. Every inch a champion being balanced in her angles and body shape, correctly coupled with a correct set on of tail, pleasing in head and expression with correctly set and shaped ears. Unlucky to meet the winner in such sparkling form and was such a close call for RBCC, wish I could have had two.

3rd Elrington & Green & Cannon's Sh Ch Ansona Lucy Lockett

Mr E E Whitham - judge