

SCOTTISH KENNEL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW

Sunday 25th August 2019

Firstly, I would like to thank the SKC for inviting me to judge for them again at this lovely show. My thanks also go to the Pointer people for entrusting me to judge their lovely dogs.

For the last 14 years my life has centred around this aristocratic breed and together with Joanne Blackburn-Bennett we have made up 15 UK Champions. It's been an exciting journey, which has given us great pleasure. I am thankful for having got to know this, one of the world's most beautiful of breeds, which has never failed to thrill me with its graceful curves and alert appearance. The Pointer needs to be a picture of alertness with an appearance of strength, endurance and speed. He also needs to be strong and agile. To me the head is of utmost importance because as in most breeds, it's a very important part of the type. It's also what you see when your friend is relaxing on the sofa in front of your T.V. We want a bright and kind expression and a skull of medium breadth. The foreface follows from a slightly pronounced stop and should have good width a strong under jaw. The muzzle being somewhat concave is giving a slight dish faced appearance. We do, however, not want it too pronounced as to look like the European "Griffon" head, which is incorrect for our breed.

I am pleased to say that a good number of the dogs shown under me at SKC pleased me and all my winners were of high quality. I did, however, find a few whose heads didn't please me and some of the dogs were too low on their legs and were over angulated behind. The latter is a fault which is creeping into our breed and no way can these dogs be said to have the correct outline. Most of the dogs were sound and moved quite well though a few had a slight hackney action.

Grp2, BOB & BCC - Sh Ch Ridanflight Ruby Tuesday At Forthbourne (Mr P Mcgilp)

RBC - Darkridge Witchy Woman (Mr I & Mrs J Metcalf)

BVIS, VGrp1, BVIB & DCC - Sh Ch Joneva Diamond In The Rough JW (Mr J & Mr P M Evans & Pavey)

RDCC - Sh Ch Chesterhope Thrill Of T'Chase (Imp Nz) (Mrs D & Miss J O'Neill)

BPGp1 & BPIB - Joneva Born To Thrill (Mr S J Layton)

BSBIB - Sniperay Ambrosia (Mr A & Miss E Large & Pressley)

PUPPY DOG

1st - Joneva Born To Thrill (Mr S J Layton), promising puppy of excellent type. Nice head and beautiful outline which he carries well on the move. He is well angulated and moves very well. This dog will go a long way if he develops in the right direction, but he will need time. It was lovely to see him winning the puppy group. BP

JUNIOR DOG

1st - Ragus Lets Get Moving At Flinthill (Mrs F E Barker). This is an upstanding youngster which is short coupled and of excellent type. He has a nice head, good neck and shoulder and he is correctly angulated. Moved well.

2nd - Sharnphilly Boondoggle (Miss Oddie), stylish dog of good type. Well developed in body for age, but he is too over angulated behind. I would also have liked to see him a bit higher on his legs. Quite a nice head, but a bit heavy in skull. Good neck and front. Moved well.

3rd Lundgarth Finch (Mrs S E Booth)

POST GRADUATE DOG

1st - Harvestslade Cullinan (Mrs D & Mr N Preece & Gilding). I have admired this dog from ringside at numerous occasions and he did not disappoint. He is of excellent type and he has the right outline. He is well angulated both ends and has a stylish neck. He moves with drive and determination. I considered him for the RCC, but I would have preferred to see him a stronger condition.

2nd - Sniperay Lord Lambourne Via Tzaziki (Mrs P Smith), this dog pushed the winner all the way. Because I was taken by his alertness and strength. He had one of the best heads on the day and I liked his front and neck. I would, however, have liked to see him with more pronounced curves so I preferred the topline and the tail set on Cullinan. That is why Lord Lambourne lost out to Harvestslade Cullinan.

3rd - Flinthill Sunny Spell (Mrs M A & Mrs F Wilkinson & Barker)

LIMIT FDOG

1st - Hawkfield Audacity JW (Ai) (Miss W J Gordon), a strong dog of excellent type. He has a great head and a long muscular and slightly arched neck. He is perfectly angulated both ends. He carried his topline superbly on the move and he drove around the ring as if it was no tomorrow. I liked him a lot and the only thing which stopped him from going further was that I would have preferred to see him slightly higher on his legs.

2nd - Fydal Caprio At Salmonmist Jw Shcm (Mrs S R Philo), top class dog of excellent type. Quite a nice head, good neck and shoulders. He is well angulated behind and he drives well around the ring. He does, however, fall a bit too much over the croup and his tail carriage is a bit high.

3rd - Fleurfield Steals The Dream ShCM (Mr G & Mrs D M Mackay)

OPEN DOG

1st - Sh Ch Chesterhope Thrill Of T'Chase (Imp Nz) (Mrs D & Miss J O'Neill). Here was the UK's top winning Pointer. Most of the dictionary's superlatives have already been used to describe this dog over the last two years, so I see no need to repeating those. This is of course a first-class Pointer even if I am not that keen on his head. I find that his eyes are too small and close together, which spoils his expression. I would also have liked to see him with a longer and stronger foreface. His outline is first class and he moved well even if he could have been more alert.

2nd - Sh Ch Fleurfield Jack Daniels (Mrs J & Mrs M A Luke & Hinton) another champion of high class. He has a nice head, but I preferred to outline of the winner. Jack Daniels is well constructed, but I preferred the croup and front movement of Thrill Of T'Chase

3rd - Gartarry You Shook Me (G Hall)

VETERAN DOG

1st - Sh Ch Joneva Diamond In The Rough JW (Mr J & Mr P M Evans & Pavey) he was the king of the SKC 2019. Some Pointers are like good wine, they get better by age and Diamond In The Rough is one of those. I have never seen this dog looking so good. He has improved in front from his younger days and his head has developed into a classic piece. He had style and presence and he motored around the ring as a youngster. I was pleased to give him the CC, which I understand was his 20th and delighted to see that he ended up as the BIS winning veteran.

2nd - Can Gr/USA Gr/Aust Ch Fugelere Sirocco At Tukeglen (Miss H Mccready) grandfather of excellent type. Good neck and front but falls off too much over the croup. Moves very well.

SPECIAL BEGINNERS DOG

1st - Forthbourne Fifth Gear (Mrs H Mccudden), dog of good type, but would have liked to see him with more substance. Good head moves quite well.

2nd - Lundgarth Teal (Mrs S E Booth), similar to the winner in type, but prefer the fifth gear one on the move

3rd - Moenfair Sanguineum Luna (Ms K Tregaskis)

GOOD CITIZEN DOG SCHEME DOG

1st - Fleurfield Steals The Dream ShCM (Mr G & Mrs D M Mackay), nice dog of very good type with good substance moved very well.

2nd - Fydal Cortese of Papermill (Mrs S Langford), dog of good type with quite a nice head. He could be better angulated in front except for that, good body. Moved well.

3rd - Moenfair Sanguineum Luna (Ms K Tregaskis)

PUPPY BITCH

1st - Chesterhope C'mon Over To Carmandine (Imp NzI) (Mrs M Gerrard), promising bitch of very good type. Nice head, good neck and topline. Moved well. I hope she will get a bit more height on her legs as she grows and mature.

2nd - Morgan Van Freebreeze (Imp NL) (Mrs R Mason), bitch of very good type, well-constructed, but preferred the topline and tail set on the first

3rd - Gartarry Sweet Dreams (L Hall)

JUNIOR BITCH

1st - Hawkfield Flibbertigibert (Miss W J Gordon), bitch of excellent type. Nice head and neck. Well developed in body. Moved very well around the ring with a perfect topline.

2nd - Sharnphilly Serendipity (Mrs S, Mr & Mrs M & S, Mr B Dyer, Oddie & Coles), bitch of good type, but a bit low on her legs and over angulated behind. Good head but it's a bit refined. Stands and moves well.

Preferred the topline of the winner on the move

3rd - Sharnphilly Quintesensual (Miss A E Scales),

POST GRADUATE BITCH

1st - Alcazar Affair With Amore By Fleurfield (Mrs M & Mrs M Hinton & Jones), I did like this excellent bitch, she has a beautiful head and is well angulated both ends. She has an arched neck and her well sprung ribs are carried well back. She moves and stands with pride and elegance. She pushed hard for the RCC, but in the end it went to Darkridge Witchy Woman because I thought she was a bit more alert. Close decision.

2nd - Harvestslade Lesedi La Rona (Mrs D J & Mr N Preece & Gilding), this bitch is very close to the winner in type and quality. She is upstanding with an excellent outline, but preferred head on first one.

3rd - Hawkfield Audacious (Ai) JW (Ms T, Mrs A & Ms W Watkins, Phillips & Gordon)

LIMIT BITCH

1st - Sharnphilly Escada At Raigmore Jw (Mr J & Mrs P Tibbs), I have always liked this bitch when I have seen her from ringside because her type and outline is all for me. She has a very nice head and she is well constructed, she moved well around, but she could have been better coming towards me. I could however, have lived with that, but I would have like to see her showing off her positive attributes more pronounced.

2nd - Freebreeze Easy Virtue (Mrs M L Nelis), here is another first-class bitch with a nice head. She is well developed in body and she moved well. I did, however, prefer the topline of Escada on the move.

3rd - Sonstraal Only An Illusion JW ShCM (Mrs G, Miss S & Miss E Fewster, Rossiter & Mitchell)

OPEN BITCH

1st - Sh Ch Ridanflight Ruby Tuesday At Forthbourne (Mr P Mcgilp) I was impressed by this bitch when I gave her Best Puppy at GSOW in 2015 and this is what I wrote about her then:

“now and then you see a youngster which really makes you feel good and Ruby was one of those. She has got everything it takes to go all the way to the top and I am sure she one day will be able to write Sh Ch in front of her name. She stood like a statue and moved with drive and determination.”

I was proven right because yesterday I gave her CC no 13 & BOB and later in the day Valerie Foss, the queen of Gundogs, placed her second in a strong group, that says which says it all, so a huge congratulation goes to Ruby Tuesday!

2nd - Darkridge Witchy Woman (Mr I & Mrs J Metcalf), I loved this bitch which pushed Ruby hard. Witchy woman is a high-class lady and for me she ticked all the boxes. She is well built aristocrat and her general outline consisted of a series of graceful curves. She was alert and moved with strong hind action covering a lot of ground. In the end she had to give in to Ruby Tuesday, which I thought was shorter coupled.

3rd - Sh Ch Desfrisa Flirtini JW ShCM (Ms T R & Miss I C Baker & Baker-Roullier)

SPECIAL BEGINNERS BITCH

1st - Sniperay Ambrosia (Mr A & Miss E Large & Pressley) nice bitch with quite a nice head. Well developed in body but falls off a bit over the croup. Moved well.