

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM CH SHOW 2008 Sunday 31st August 2008

In proportion, things have gone full circle from when I first started showing in that sacrifices have to be made to follow our hobby. Discounting entries, travel costs are now a major item to be considered & very often must be the deciding factor. In these difficult circumstances I am more than grateful to exhibitors giving me an entry of 152 from 145, especially since I fully realise that some of those exhibits were of a distinctly complementary nature.

As ever I attempted to judge to type, size, movement & tail carriage but of course several compromises had to be made when set against overall quality & conformation. With there only being the two puppy classes some of the youngsters were giving too much away to figure in the awards.

However, there were several of promise so I would say to their owners not to be too dismayed. You will see that I have cross referenced inter-relationships between all class winners & runners-up. I hope this will be of interest in particular to breeders & also illustrate how few gene pools our stock descends from.

Veteran Dog (3,1a)

1 Flint's Sh Ch Casilex Bucks Fizz, 8½ years b/w by one of the most pre-potent the sires the breed has ever seen. Still retains his aristocratic bearing & elegance. Perhaps carrying a couple of pounds more than he used to but still puts all in;
2 McManus' Crookrise Maverick, 11½ years l/w put down in his usual hard condition & mobbing with all his old verve.

Puppy Dog (10,2)

1 Anthony's Jilony Just Amazin', 8½ months heavily marked b/w sharing the same sire as winner of JB, well defined head on a nicely arched neck, good quarters in all presenting a very acceptable outline, took a few strides to settle but then moved OK;
2 Wilkinson & O'Neil's Hurwyn Some Might Say, 9 months b/w of quality showing more maturity than 1, but not quite so collected in movement;
3 Wilkinson's Hurwyn Harris Tweed.

Junior Dog (14,1)

1 O'Driscoll's Fowington Five Bob Note, 17 months early maturing b/w of a lovely size & proportion, finely worked head & excels in pasterns, hocks & tail carriage, really cuts the daisies in front & shows you his hind feet on the move, careful handling in the next 6½ months will make him a force to be reckoned with. RCC;
2 O'Gorman's Parkpoint Rye 'N' Dry, b/w, very similar to 1 in outline but just that little bit heavier built. Good mover;
3 Jones' Dappleline Euphoria with Dottymix.

Graduate Dog (15)

1 Ingram's Hawkfield Black Tie, b/w, litter brother to winner of limit, has a classical head & smooth flowing symmetrical lines in proportion to his handy size although I feel he has a lot yet to come & will reach his full potential in another 18 months or so. Put down in hard condition, is active & alert & goes like a bomb, gave me a real buzz to go over him & if he has the work in him, could make it in both show & trials;
2 Goode's Gempoint Dark 'N' Sharp at Handsway, heavier type of b/w, nice head & well balanced, moved with some purpose;
3 Siddle's Wilchrimane Obe Gold.

Post Graduate Dog (14,1)

1 Beesley's Birchleith Barbican Beau, b/w, by 2nd in open, beautifully worked head with smooth flowing lines throughout, ideally sized & in workmanlike condition he moved with purpose for his temporary handler;

2 Wood's Stockend Winchester, l/w, litter brother to 2nd in limit, nicely proportioned dog who really drives from the hocks while retaining that desired low front action, thought that 1 just pipped him in quality of head;

3 Curran's Hurwyn Jack Snipe.

Limit Dog (10,2)

1 Gordon's Hawkfield Dapper In Black, 2½ year old b/w who is a much earlier maturer than his litter brother, winner of grad. A quality dog from head to tail, well boned but not overdone, puts his all in when asked to move;

2 Wood's Stockend Lewis, b/w, litter brother to 2nd in PG. A quality dog from head to tail, well boned but not overdone, puts all in when asked to move; 2 Wood's Stockend Lewis, b/w, litter brother to 2nd in PG, upright & workmanlike, cast in the same mould but with a slightly better head;

3 Swift's Hampsbeck Chaos.

Open Dog (10,2)

1 Martin's Jilony Believe in Sunhouse, 5 years blanket marked b/w, half brother to 2nd in JB & winner of LB, classically bred from an extension of that pre-potent line I mentioned earlier. A flashy mover who really lashed his tail, he simply oozes quality, if asked to describe his outstanding strengths in three words, I would say conformation, conformation, conformation. CC;

2 Wilson's Bonnygate Imperial Choice, 5 years b/w, sire of PG winner, well known campaigner & full of Pointer qualities. As I have said of him before, he just needs that one break;

3 Tuite's Porschet Midnight Shadow.

Veteran Bitch (3) Three extremely sprightly ladies who failed to get the reception they warranted, shame on you spectators.

1 Skinner & Wilson's Sh Ch Bonnygate Gunns 'N' Roses, 8 years b/w without a grey hair anywhere, still remains the balance that took her to her title & can only be proud of her achievements;

2 Smith's Hookwood What A Liberty, b/w, of a slightly heavier build than 1 & showing a few signs of her seniority;

3 Blowers' Sharnphilly Wilma at Deadaway.

Puppy Bitch (13,2)

1 Westron's Aurichalcum Oh Mon Dieu, o/w of 12 months, well up to size & very mature for her age, she conforms to the Standard in all departments presenting a picture of complete feminine balance, as expected she moves with a very assured stride, her lashing tail evidencing her ring presence. BP;

2 Mason's Freebreeze As You Like It, 9½ months o/w who was up against it here, although giving away those crucial 2½ months, I saw qualities in her so very similar to 1. If she matures in proportion to her present size & still retains her excellent attributes, she will do herself pride;

3 Tibbs' Raigmore Let It Shine.

Junior Bitch (10)

- 1 Smith's Hawkfield Lets Cause Trouble, barely 12 months b/w sharing the same sire as winner of PD. A young lady who looks the part, full of promise showing a nice symmetrical outline & moves quite precisely retaining her topline at all times;
- 2 Crawte's Bestina Black Opal at Leascliffe, b/w sharing the same sire as DCC & winner of LB. Nice bitch of correct size & showing those much desired clean cut line, excels in head, pasterns, stifles & hocks. Movement not quite as consistent as 1;
- 3 Spinks & Rayner's Spinray Miss Saigon.

Graduate Bitch (14,2)

- 1 Barker's Flinthill Jenny Wren, b/w coming nicely to maturity, utterly feminine but without the slightest sign of any weakness, she is the epitome of the Standard, sound in every department & without any exaggerations she has sort of expression that makes you immediately realise that she & her handler are in complete empathy. Maintains her form on the move with a reaching stride, lashing tail & an aristocratic, outgoing carriage. CC & BOB;
- 2 Deans' Ridanflight Rotorua, o/w having the same sire as winners of PD & JB. Head will never be her fortune but in every other respect she has a definite promise, lovely outline with sound quarters, strong body, well turned hocks & sloping pasterns, strides out freely & true;
- 3 Tobin's Davigidor Patience.

Post Graduate Bitch (18,1)

- 1 Lowe's Lowsmoor Echo Falls, mature b/w who I put up when she was younger, not a flashy bitch by any measure but of an ideal size with everything in proportion & nothing overdone, has that aristocratic air about her & moves with an elegance of her very own;
- 2 Anthony's Jilony Loco-Motion, b/w having to give way to the maturity of 1. The usual excellent head that comes out of this kennel & a reliable mover;
- 3 Tibbs' Raigmore Quest.

Limit Bitch (14,2)

- 1 Crawte's Leasecliffe Lariana, b/w by the same sire as DCC & 2nd in JB. A very refined & elegantly mature bitch whose day will surely come before too long, good conformation with an excellent topline which is retained when moving;
- 2 Guy & Walker's Teisgel Phoenix at Carofel, well known b/w, quite similar to 1 in outline. An active & reliable mover but carrying a little more weight than usual;
- 3 MacManus' Crookrise Arran by Luneville.

Open Bitch (12,3)

- 1 Westaway's Sh Ch Penwest Paza, o/w, put down in full field trial condition & moving in corresponding fashion with a ground eating stride, lovely size, elegantly balanced with smooth flowing line that belie her underlying strength. RCC;
- 2 Hambling's Shanandi Tobasco with Chaseover, blanket marked b/w who was on her best behaviour. Has really grown on since I last judged her & now covers her ground both standing & moving, presents some super lines & excels in pasterns, stifles & hocks;
- 3 Martin's Sunhouse Ice Dancer.

Judge - MICHAEL BLAKE (Blakeshay)