

Pointer Club of Scotland Championship Show Sunday 2nd October 2011.

I would like to thank the Officers and Committee for inviting me to judge at their 30th Anniversary Show.

I was looking for Pointers that not only pleased when stacked – exhibiting the graceful curves called for in the standard; but also had the correct construction that enabled them to move with a smooth, ground covering action; maintaining their top lines and to complete the picture hopefully carrying their tails level with their backs. Therefore it was necessary that they had the correct sloping shoulders and well turned stifle which on the move produces the forward reach and driving hind action so necessary in a gundog that was developed to work.

I found the Puppies were quite outstanding and provided they continue to mature along the promised lines the breed has quite a few future stars in the making. Some of the bitch classes were stunning and there was a real depth of quality right down the line.

On the down side I did have quite a few very narrow heads, which produce a very untypical expression. Temperaments were excellent and after a long summer of out-door shows virtually every dog adapted to the confines and mats and an indoor venue. As one would expect of a “show” dog the presentation was first class – clean coats and trimmed nails.

I had a thoroughly enjoyable day with what was a very high quality entry.

VETERAN DOG (3, 0)

1st Wilson's Bonnygate Imperial Choice ShCM: a very well balanced B&W dog he has a lovely head and expression finished with small neat ears, what a pity he went lame in the challenge as until then he moved very well.

2nd Isherwood's Sh Ch Symitry Russian Roulette: a very happy rangier O&W, long sloping shoulders & a good bend of stifle – he was enjoying his day out so much he just never settled on the move – just preferred the expression & movement of one.

3rd Mason's Aurichalcum The Renegade

MINOR PUPPY DOG (7, 0)

1st O'Driscolls Gartarry Moonlite Flite to Fowington: a cracking puppy – so very mature on the move with lovely reach and drive & he was carrying his tail level, short coupled with the neatest of feet and slightly sloping pasterns, just at the right stage of maturity for his age.

2nd Smith's Fydal Ace: a smart B&W puppy not as mature as the first and was looser on the move, however all the correct elements of construction are there and he just needs time.

3rd Mitchell's Gartarry Moonshine over Staxyll

PUPPY DOG (6, 0)

1st Mason's Freebreeze Figaro: just beat the second on his overall maturity on the day, has a lovely head and expression and driving action when moved at the correct speed. He really is a series of graceful curves and once he has that extra muscular finish which only comes with age I am sure he will be in the top honours. What a pity a change of handler totally unsettled him in the challenge for best puppy. Best Puppy Dog.

2nd O'Driscoll's Gartarry Moonlite Flite to Fowington

3rd Radcliffe & Eldridges Sniperay Whisky Mac

JUNIOR DOG (5, 1)

1st Barker's Flinthill Chocolate Thyme: L&W with a lovely masculine head, soft expression and wide nostrils. Excellent depth of chest and spring of rib; he has the correct balance from sloping shoulders matched by a good bend of stifle. In the challenge he really shone – stood as if he owned the hall and went up a notch on the move really driving with such positive movement - head up and his tail never stopped lashing straight off his back. Res CC

2nd Ross & Grent's Beagmhor Wilfred Babbage: built on a slightly larger mould than the first but again had a lovely head, good feet and pasterns and a neat tail which he used – just lacking the overall finish of one which one would expect at just over 12 months.

3rd Mackay's Keepersfield Star Gazer

YEARLING DOG (2, 0)

1st Sutton's Whinbarrow Persian War: a young dog with a lot of potential just needs to mature as he was very loose on the move, lovely eye and expression

2nd Best's Shadesett Keep on Believin for Bestina: another young dog B&W who needs time to mature and settle on the move, not the front reach & drive of one, good head with the correct expression.

MAIDEN DOG (7, 1)

1st Mason's Freebreeze Figaro

2nd Radcliffe & Eldridge's Sniperay Whisky Mac: stacked this is a beautifully balanced L&W puppy, on the day he was lacking the maturity of the winner but has a good bend of stifle and a neat tail, would just prefer a tighter eye.

3rd MacManus' Luneville Harvest Moon

NOVICE DOG (6, 1)

1st Mason's Freebreeze Figaro

2nd Radcliffe & Eldridge's Sniperay Whisky Mac

3rd Mackay's Keepersfield Star Gazer

GRADUATE DOG (3, 1)

1st Gordon & Silence's Hawkfield Creating a Rumpus at Tomlow: rangy O&W today he just never settled on the move, good length of neck and a lovely expression with good dark eye.

2nd Anderson-Rowell's Stormy Lenny at Daledancer: B&W who was moving well, lovely head but would prefer a smaller ear, good bend of stifle and neat well cushioned feet.

POST GRADUATE DOG (12, 3)

1st Robertshaw & Edmondson's Crookrise Forest: O&W with lovely length of neck excellent head and expression, good topline and tail carriage, on the move would like a little more forward reach and drive.

2nd Marsh's Sharnphilly Redshank at Ratchda: more masculine dog than the first, today he was just not settled either standing or moving which spoilt his top line. He has a lovely lay of shoulder and good bend of stifle and I feel would shine more in a large outside ring where he could really get into his stride, and relax when standing.

3rd Barker's Flinthill Monty Don

LIMIT DOG (10, 1)

1st Tibbs' Raigmore Dusk Till Dawn JW: a B&W who is lovely to go over – good depth of chest with plenty of heart room balanced standing and on the move, good length of neck lovely expression, correct tail.

2nd Naden's Wychwood Love over Gold: a larger dog who had the best movement in the class; long sloping shoulders and a good turn of stifle. Lovely head and expression.

3rd Westron's Aurighalcum Lord Beckett of Castlepoint

OPEN DOG (9, 0)

1st O'Driscoll's Sh Ch Fowington Five Bob Note JW: had to pull out all the stops to win this strong class which he did with style. On the move he covers the ground so smoothly and effortlessly completing the picture with a tail carried straight off his back and head held high – a true aristocrat. He was shown in beautiful condition, well muscled with a well sprung rib and good depth of chest, Superb shoulders and a lovely length of neck. There is nothing exaggerated in this correctly sized dog, a true honest dog of quality, maturity & finish. In the challenge he continued to power round the ring so I had no hesitation in awarding him the CC & BIS.

2nd O'Neil's Hurwyn Some Might Say JW: very close to the first in this class and pushed him every inch of the way; he has the best of fronts with sloping shoulders, lengthy slightly sloping pasterns and oval well cushioned feet. Lovely head with well defined stop; thought he was going to be in the top honours but in the challenge he dropped a gear and just lost that extra drive and sparkle which was necessary when faced with such strong opposition.

3rd Gorrigan & Henry's Andronja Painted Black of Querdon JW ShCM

SPECIAL BEGINNERS DOG (3, 2)

1st Wilson's Prosperity Lookin Good:, nice headed L&W who is just approaching maturity, well turned stifle and correct tail. The handler needs to practice to really get the most from the dog standing and on the move.

VETERAN BITCH (3, 0)

1st Turnbull's Juennerfly Angelica at Beridew: a lovely balanced bitch who is a series of graceful curves, the best mover in the class; neat oval feet and correct tail which she used on the move. At 8 years old she was shown in lovely condition to take Best Veteran.

2nd Young's Aurichalcum Two to Tango: out of a larger mould than one; today she was not as balanced and positive on the move. Another who was shown in lovely condition, who has the correct front and a good turn of stifle.

3rd MacManus' Crookrise Arran at Luneville

FIELD TRIAL BITCH (3, 1)

1st O'Driscoll's Mountain Ranger Girl: Quite a fine almost solid black bitch, as one would expect she was shown in lovely hard condition not only did her coat have the desired for sheen it actually shone. She has a lovely head and forequarters and the correct tail set. She decided showing was definitely to be enjoyed and put her head up and drove round the ring lashing her tail. Best Field Trial

2nd Langford's Papermill Black Dahlia: A slightly longer cast bitch who on the day did not settle on the move. She has a lovely head with the correct ears set fairly high. Sloping pasterns and good turn of stifle, today just not the sparkle and movement of one.

MINOR PUPPY BITCH (8, 0)

1st Smith's Fydal Ava: headed a class of really super minor puppies where the first five were outstanding and any of the eight could easily change places on another day and with a little more maturity.

She is definitely an aristocrat with a balanced body already displaying the required graceful curves and was very mature on the move with a super driving hind action and correctly carried tail. Her head is lovely, although there is still a lot of work to come, her eyes are kindly and bright and add the finishing touch to a correct Pointer head. At the end of a long day she was still driving round the ring so I was delighted to make her Best Puppy.

2nd Andrews & Ledger's Sunnyside up at Ledgands: Was probably the most mature bitch in the class and standing she certainly looked the part, not quite the head of the first, but has long sloping shoulders and a good turn of stifle. She moved quite well in this class but was unable to replicate this movement in later classes and had to pay the price.

3rd Martin's Gartarry Moon Light in Sunhouse.

PUPPY BITCH (8, 2)

1st Tibbs' Raigmore Dusky Moon: 10 month old L&W bitch who has really matured, good length of neck and correctly carried tail. She was moving very smoothly and maintaining her topline. Feet just need to tighten to complete the picture.

2nd MacManus' Luneville Strawberry Moon: lovely headed lemon & white, long clean neck, good depth of chest and spring of rib; lost out on front movement to the winner as she did not have the same reach.

3rd Radcliffe's Sniperay Star Turn

JUNIOR BITCH (6, 0)

1st Isherwood's Pipeaway Satin Fire with Symitry: O&W bitch who has lots of potential but is still very immature. Lovely expression but her head still needs to break to complete the picture. She has a good shoulder and well turned stifle and just needs the extra finish of a little more muscle development. Moved very positively.

2nd Ross & Grent's Beagmhor Myrtle Bagot: B&W bitch who is built on a larger mould than the first. Shown in lovely condition with long sloping shoulders and a long clean neck, however she did everything to throw the class away, as she was not happy on the move which is a pity as she has a lovely smooth driving action when she did get into her stride.

3rd Udale's Dowbiggins Coco Pop

YEARLING BITCH (1, 0)

1st Barraclough's Whinbarrow Brave Inca: it is always a pity when there is only one in the class but this L&W deserved her first place and really caught my eye in the challenge. The best of fronts good depth and spring of rib; she really excelled on the move with driving smooth action and a correct lashing tail.

MAIDEN BITCH (7, 2)

1st Edmondson & Robertshaw's Crookrise Trinity: lemon & white 9 month bitch. Still very much a puppy but lots of potential, lovely head and expression and good front with long slightly sloping pasterns, and a well laid shoulder. Was moving really smoothly, with a level topline and correct tail set. Just lost out in the next class, as the first had that little extra finish and maturity on the day; however she is one I will watch with interest as she matures as all the essentials are here.

2nd Isherwood's Pipeaway Satin Fire with Symitry

3rd McManus' Luneville Strawberry Moon

NOVICE BITCH (9, 4)

1st Tibbs' Raigmore Dusky Moon

2nd Edmondson & Robertshaw's Crookrise Trinity

3rd McManus' Luneville Strawberry Moon

GRADUATE BITCH (3, 1)

1st Young's Gundioy Argentine Tango: an athletic bitch with good driving action. Clean lengthy neck and good shoulders. Bright kindly eye giving the correct expression.

2nd Wilson's Bonnygate Lady Annie: just lacking the maturity of the first in body and on the move. She has a lovely head but I would like a slightly longer neck to complete the picture. She has really nice oval feet with arched toes and the correct length & set of tail.

POST GRADUATE BITCH (14, 6)

1st Fairbairn & Madigan's Misperros Jumanji of Carmelfair: headed a really close class of lovely bitches an O&W bitch who was quite stunning – a series of graceful curves, lovely depth of chest and spring of rib and a smooth driving action, on the day she was carrying a couple of pounds of extra weight which made her slightly stuffer on the move in the challenge and consequently prevented her from being in the top honours.

2nd O'Driscoll's Fowington Caracas: very close to one. A B&W bitch who presented a lovely picture, standing and on the move. Driving action plenty of reach and lashing tail. Short coupled with muscular hindquarters and well turned stifle. Lovely head of medium width with a well defined good stop.

3rd Barker's Flinthill Daisy Chain

Limit Bitch (14, 1)

1st Wilkinson's Flinthill Forget Me Not JW: A B&W bitch, who from the tip of her nose to the tip of her tail she just flowed, was symmetrical, well built and a lovely series of graceful curves. She has excellent depth of chest and long sloping shoulders. Loved her feminine head which was of medium breadth, has a good stop and such kind eyes. On the move she never put a foot wrong and has lovely reach and drive and has the correct head carriage which gives the aristocratic appearance. I had no hesitation in awarding her the CC and she pushed the dog every inch of the way in the final challenge which was a hair splitting decision – Res BIS.

2nd Hall's Gartarry Chiff Chaff: a racier O&W who also has a lovely head and expression, long clean neck and a good sloping shoulder and well turned stifle, whilst moving well did not have the same drive as the first today.

3rd Naden's Wychwood Midsummer Dream

OPEN BITCH (8, 1)

1st Tibbs' Sh Ch / IR Sh Ch Raigmore Let it Shine JW: headed another good class of quality bitches and it was a very close decision between the first two. Lovely neat short coupled bitch with good spring of rib and well laid shoulders. She has a lovely head and on the move never put a foot wrong. She continued to move with such smooth fluidity in the challenge coupled with that extra finish gained with maturity, secured her the Res CC.

2nd O'Driscoll's Fowington Six in the City JW: another bitch who I loved has a super head with the kindest of expressions she has the best of fronts, lovely muscular hindquarters with a well turned stifle. Really driving on the move, on the day just preferred the tail carriage of the first.

3rd Gordon's Hawkfield Sea Siren

SPECIAL BEGINNERS BITCH (3, 0)

1st Sielski's Branclo I'm Coming In: this B&W is still very much a baby who needs time to mature and to settle, she is well balanced with a good front and correct tail and when she got into her stride moved well.

2nd Ward's Adventures of Isabel: another young bitch who again needs time to mature, good shoulders and spring of rib, just not settled on the move.

3rd Wards' Kiswahilli Timely Nu Edition

BRACE (5, 2)

1st Edmonson & Robertshaw's - a lovely brace of beautifully matched orange & whites, who moved in absolute unison, even their markings were similar.

2nd Barker's brace of L&W's did not have the uniformity of size or movement of the first.

3rd Ross & Grent's

JOAN HUXLEY - judge