

WEST OF ENGLAND LADIES KENNEL SOCIETY

CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW

Saturday 26th April 2014

I would like to thank the Officers and Committee for inviting me to Judge, also for cataloguing an excellent classification. Many thanks to my two Stewards, who ensured the ring was run smoothly and it was all done with humour.

I was absolutely blown away with the size of my entry; and the icing on the cake was that there was quality throughout; in particular I felt that the bitch classes were exceptional.

It goes without saying that in classes of 18 and 20 some of the dogs I would normally place highly left the ring cardless; and in Limit bitch 7 first prize cards would have been more fitting than just 5 places. To have 17 in minor puppy bitch was a heart breaker as some really were very immature babies & so many had lots of promise – however their day will come.

It is never easy to judge a breed that has been bred to gallop, and to only see them trot, with this firmly in mind I was not looking for the flashy trotter; but for dogs that had the reach and drive that would enable them to smoothly change up a gear. It was lovely that the weather allowed me to judge the dogs outside and I was aware that when we had to move inside due to the rain the concrete was more unforgiving on movement in the bitches.

What must remain utmost in our minds however is - that although few are now required to work; I feel what WJ Rasbridge wrote over 80 years ago holds so true today – “to ignore function is to abandon the only firm basis for assessing conformation”.

With this in mind I make no apology for moving the dogs as much as I did, as I wanted to see that driving smooth action which would cover any ground with ease. I was looking for an “Aristocrat” with the first line of the standard summing it up perfectly – symmetrical & a series of graceful curves and to top that off; they had to shout Pointer - with eyes that have the bright and kindly expression that can only belong to a Pointer.

For the first time I found some level bites: and one or two who were rather short in the foreface. I was however concerned that a number of bitches as well as dogs were carrying their tails high (and no, this was not just the cocky young male syndrome) – aesthetically this spoils the lovely lines of the breed where we are looking for that level lashing tail.

I think without exception all the dogs were beautifully presented.

VETERAN DOG (3,0)

1st Wilsons Bonnygate Imperial Choice ShCM b/w headed a lovely class of veterans and what a super class with which to start the day. At 10 ½ he had not a grey hair on his head, a beautifully balanced dog short coupled and with a classic head and he still drove round the ring.

2nd Nadens Wychwood Love over Gold o/w from a slightly larger mould than one but still balanced the best of shoulders and a neat lashing tail just lost to one as he was carrying a little extra weight, again another that could really move.

3 Wilcox Sh Ch Pipeaway Zonic Tonic for Merynjen.

MINOR PUPPY DOG (9,2)

1st Hazeltine's Hookwood By George o/w very mature dog who really out moved his very immature classmates, good bend of stifle which produced the driving hind action. Would like to see more work in his head with a deeper lip as he matures. Excellent neck & shoulders and was handled to perfection **BPD**.

2nd Howes Millpoint Babe Magnet b/w really lost out on maturity to one at this stage being slightly longer cast he was looser on the move, however he has all the essentials to mature along the correct lines.

3rd Scott & Legg's Narsad Will Turner.

PUPPY DOG (6,0)

1st McGilp's Kanix Irving at Forthbourne a lovely well balanced o/w at just the right stage of maturity liked his head & length of neck well balanced fore and aft, quite loose on the move but this will come with maturity.

2nd Stilgoe's Teisgol I Am The One and Only b/w more mature than one with good head plenty of depth and balanced through, neat tail he used on the move.

3rd Perkin's Kanix Joker of Brent.

JUNIOR DOG (8,0)

1st Theobald, Phillips & Westaway's Penwest Pallation headed a class that was difficult as these young boys were all at very different stages of maturity and while some were lovely stacked they then fell apart on the move. This b/w is short coupled compact and very mature on the move; today he was not as happy stacked. Excellent length of neck and a good front with sloping shoulders.

2nd Adams & Elrington's Ansona Albert Einstein JW A longer cast dog who looked lovely stacked with excellent turn of stifle however today he was much looser on the move and had to pay the price.

3rd Smith's Lypal Hanky Panky

YEARLING DOG (7,1)

1st Siddle's Calderside If Only At Wilchrimane o/w headed a class of young males who are just coming to full maturity and on the move one or two were very full of themselves. The first two were very similar in type, today I felt the winner had the better balance and rear drive. Lovely depth of chest correct neat oval feet lovely long arched neck.

2nd Edmondson & Robertshaw's Crookrise Dom this young dog is really maturing nicely and many of the previous remarks apply on the day I thought he had a better head and I loved his expression.

3rd Abbott's Millpoint Dare to Dream for Mirasol

POST GRADUATE DOG (20,2) What an absolutely cracking class the 5 placed had to 'work their socks off' in such fabulous competition and I could have done with a handful of firsts; 1 and 2 could have changed places at any time and I am sure they will in the future.

1st & **RCC** Watkins & Davies' Hurwyn Law N Order b/w an aristocratic Pointer from nose to the tip of his tail – holds his topline on the move with his head held high, short coupled with lovely depth of rib and long sloping shoulders thought today he just had that extra finish & maturity over 2 although he was not as tidy in front movement.

2nd Westron's Tenshilling Makin Whoopee at Aurichalcum o/w who was so close to the winner - lovely head on a muscular arched neck good spring of rib shown in hard muscular condition had the reach and drive on the move and the correct tail carriage.

3rd Mason's Freebreeze Figaro JW ShCM.

LIMIT DOG (18,1)

1st Harrison's Millpoint Heat Wave JW b/w lovely head with nothing overdone, but with the with correct lip and medium ears he had the darkest of eyes with bright kindly expression. Excellent muscular hind quarters with well turned stifle which was balanced by a lovely sloping long shoulder. A really powerful dog on the move who never put a foot wrong held his head high and lashed his tail from start to finish delighted to award him **CC**.

2nd Stokes' Hawfield Mischief Maker for Guanabara JW ShCM another b/w and very similar to one, today he was just not as powerful on the move but held his topline and had the correct tail, best of heads and a melting expression lovely depth of chest and correct spring of rib. In the final challenge what a pity you both had a long run to get to the ring as by then you had both lost that sparkle.

3rd Dodds' Raigmore Light up the Sky for Lyncarda.

OPEN DOG (8,0)

1st O'Neill's Hurwyn Some Might Say JW b/w dog who was shown in lovely condition. Well turned stifles and muscular quarters another powerful mover who kept his topline and smoothly covered the ground. Lovely long neck coming cleanly from correctly sloping shoulders. Another excellent head. He had the graceful curves and lissom appearance I was seeking. Thought he was going to be among my top winners then in the challenge he went absolutely flat which was such a pity.

2nd Marsh's Sharnphilly Redshank for Ratchda b/w beautifully balanced and powerful well sprung ribs, muscular arched loin and neat tail. Had great reach & drive on the move.

3rd Tibbs' Raigmore Dusk Till Dawn JW CJW 09

GOOD CITIZEN DOG SCHEME DOG (3,0)

1st Anderson Rowell's Daledancer Silver Fame o/w a lot to like about this young dog who still has a way to go to reach maturity, great depth of brisket, excellent length of slightly sloping pastern with oval bone, short coupled with muscular hindquarters had the required reach and drive on the move shown in hard muscular condition.

2nd Tregaskis' Moenfair Choirboy b/w lovely head and expression still young and he also has a way to go to maturity. Lovely medium tail and good turn of stifle.

3rd Brown's Teisgol Carioca

VETERAN BITCH (3,0)

1st Naden's Wychwood Midsomer Dream o/w an old favourite still moving out well, with drive, with long sloping shoulder and a good length of neck. Felt she just had a better bend of stifle and driving action on the day to take the class and continued to push the youngsters in the challenge.

2nd Cardiff's Prosperity My Fair Lady ShCM another lovely bitch who was in fantastic condition for her ten & half years and many of the previous remarks apply, lovely head with typical expression just felt on the day she did not have the balance and tail of one.

3rd Stangroom's Janeryls Desert Flower at Lappakia.

MINOR PUPPY BITCH (17,1)

1st Dyke's Raigmore Starlet at Briartortae b/w at 7 months exactly the size and maturity I would expect beautifully balanced fore and aft which gave her a lovely driving action; neat tail, she still needs the work in her head that only maturity can bring a promising young bitch I was delighted to make her **BP**.

2nd Brooksmith's Medogold Kiss N'Tell I/w another beautifully balanced bitch long neck & neat tail which she lashed on the move very close to one.

3rd Barker's Flinthill Sunshine Suzy.

PUPPY BITCH (8,2)

1st Welch's Oxfordacres Trinity had the maturity in movement which just clinched the class, b/w who used her tail on the move she also had the correct long slightly sloping pasterns good head.

2nd Brooksmith's Medogold Kiss N'Tell.

3rd Baker & Baker-Roullier's Desfrisa Diva La Viva.

JUNIOR BITCH (9,1)

1st Smith's Lypal Once Upon A Time JW Pretty o/w lovely head that is maturing along the right lines again she excelled on the move with the correct smooth driving action and medium tail carried correctly.

2nd Fleetwood's Tyremy Southseaspice b/w slightly heavier bitch had a lovely head & she certainly drove from the rear.

3rd Wilkinson's Hurwyn Rock on Ruby.

YEARLING BITCH (13,3)

1st Isherwood's Symitry Tickled Pink o/w from a finer mould ultra-feminine bitch with a classic head on her long neck the driving action you would expect from this construction, just needs to mature to finish the picture.

2nd Tibbs' Somerled Classic Romance at Raigmore o/w correctly named girl as she is absolutely classic not quite the head of one but a super mover; today that extra few pounds would have just completed the picture.

3rd Rankine's Tenshilling Rumour Has It Fyldefair JW ShCM.

POST GRADUATE BITCH (17,6)

1st Smith's Fydal Ava the ultimate showgirl her tail never stopped wagging, absolutely delightful o/w bitch, short coupled, symmetrical and alert. Lovely smooth action on the move and she is a series of very graceful curves. Took this class with ease and in the challenge pushed every inch of the way I had no hesitation in awarding her **RCC**.

2nd Wilkinson's Hurwyn Black Caviar another beautiful bitch a series of graceful curves excellent shoulders balanced by a good turn of stifle, just felt she was not moving as I am sure she can to challenge the first.

3rd MacManus' Luneville Strawberry Moon.

LIMIT BITCH (18,4)

1st Lathwell's Teisgol Its Your Chance for Tinchitamba the star of the day, a b/w who is short coupled with a lovely spring of rib and who just shouted Pointer – well built, symmetrical and a series of graceful curves. I loved her head and she had the softest of expression and a well developed lip. On the move she had the drive and reach, maintaining her top line and finished with a tail that was carried level & lashing **CC & BOB**.

2nd Rankine's Tenshilling Rags to Riches at Fylefair JW Sh CM another feminine o/w who is a series of graceful curves excellent muscular arched neck lovely spring of rib with excellent depth. A mature bitch with a lovely head and the correct expression just lost out to one on the move.

3rd Rose's Ridanflight Rhonwen.

OPEN BITCH (15,5)

1st Dyer's Sh Ch Sharnphilly Juici Cuture JW l/w coming to full maturity in lovely condition, a longer cast bitch, softest of expression, excellent shoulder & depth of chest, pushed my eventual top winners every inch of the way a worthy Show Champion.

2nd O'Neill's Tenshilling Do it Again JW, o/w beautifully balanced mature bitch who has a lovely smooth driving gait and correct tail not quite the head of one & today the overall picture was spoilt as she was just carrying a couple of extra pounds.

3rd Siddle's Sh Ch Wilchrimane Ice Crystal.

GOOD CITIZEN DOG SCHEME BITCH (5,2)

1st Anderson Rowell's Wyndhead Mette Marit ShCM was placed 4th in the fantastic limit class, an ultra-feminine short coupled o/w in beautiful condition with the best of coats, really powered round the ring balanced fore and aft and with the correct medium tail.

2nd Blower's Bonnygate Karriage Queen of Deadway ShCM (AI) b/w shown in lovely condition and well muscled, there is nothing over done with this girl a really genuine Pointer, lovely depth and spring rib, excellent reach on the move but just not the drive of one today.

3rd Strangroom's Pipeaway Laura Louisa at Lappakia

Joan Huxley - Judge.