

LEEDS CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW

Friday 21st July 2017

I apologise for the late submission of this critique owing to a family bereavement.

I would like to thank exhibitors for entering under me, especially on a Friday as travelling is never easy. Also, I thank the society for inviting me to judge and my two friendly and efficient stewards who kept the ring running smoothly.

I was thrilled with the quality and quantity of the entry before me. I was looking for a pointer that fitted the standard by being symmetrical and balanced; a series of graceful curves with an alert, aristocratic appearance. We had an enormous ring so the dogs had the opportunity to show their paces which was a real bonus. I was looking for smooth movement covering plenty of ground. There is a tendency for some exhibitors to run their dogs too fast which can make movement appear erratic and lead to exhibits' movement being hard to assess. However, on the whole, movement was pleasing with some making full and advantageous use of the space available.

Tails remain an issue on the move for some with a number of exhibits that were pleasing on the stack paying the price in quality classes as they carried their tails far too high. Mouths were good bar a couple and temperament was good apart from one that grumbled at me and was penalised accordingly.

One thing that stood out was how well muscled the majority of the exhibits were. This gives the dogs a lissom, supple feel when going over them and on the move gives the appearance of strength without coarseness. This was pleasing to see.

Thank you for the gracious way my decisions were accepted and the clapping for the winners which was lovely to hear.

MINOR PUPPY DOG (7 entered, 2 absent)

A difficult class to judge with babies at different stages of development.

1st Bell & Maddox's Luneville Dazzling Diamond at Owlspoint, o/w 6 mths, very much a baby but impressed so much on the move; the most together in the class. Head developing well, well set ears; balanced angulation fore and rear; short coupled. Tail nice length and shape but I would prefer a lower tail carriage on the move.

2nd Gerrard & Galloway's Sharnphilly Santorelli with Carmandine b/w 7 mths; attractive baby who shows great promise; striking head, well angulated rear; loose in front on the move and a little erratic, as you could expect with a baby, but has all the essential to do well.

3rd McManus's Luneville Divas Diamond

PUPPY DOG (3 entered, 1 absent)

1st Tibbs' Raigmore Beekeeper, o/w 11 mths, a stylish young lad with aristocratic lines; balanced head with dark eyes and soft expression; well laid back shoulders with a short coupled body; lengthy neck. Stifles well angulated with well let down hocks. Moved well with drive and reach. BPD, BPIB and Puppy Group 2 – congratulations!

2nd Booth's Lundgarth Teal, o/w 11 mths, another attractive young dog of good type; nice head that still needs to break a little more; short coupled body with balanced proportions. Moved well.

JUNIOR DOG (5 entered, 0 absent)

1st O'Neill & O'Neill's Chesterhope Thrill of T Chase (Imp), o/w 16 mths; very balanced young dog who flows from tip of nose to end of tail. He is mature for his age. Well laid back shoulders and slope to pasterns that is sadly lacking in many exhibits today. Reachy neck and well-developed head with a kind expression. Tail set well and carried level on the move. Moved with reach and drive using his well-muscled rear; in tip top condition – pleased to award him RCC

2nd Nelis & Mason's Freebreeze Let's Do It, b/w 15mths, rangy young boy who appeals greatly in head, overall balance and breed type. He is well angled front and rear; well laid back shoulder; tail set on well. Came into his own one the move, when settled, covering the ground well. He needs time to mature on but is definitely one to watch for the future.

3rd Kelly's Kelval Kato

YEARLING DOG (2 entered, 0 absent)

1st Cumming's Kanix McCrea of Sevenhills Jun Ch (ai), o/w 20mths, heavier boned strong dog; masculine head, prominent forechest; short coupled with strong loin. Good depth of chest. Moved well on the go round but slightly wide in front coming towards me.

2nd Astbury's Millpoint Simply in Step with Dorbury, b/w 13mths, attractive head, reachy neck; taller than 1 and will take more time to mature; moved ok but is still quite loose – still a young dog with time on his side.

POST GRADUATE DOG (6 entered, 1 absent)

1st Stilgoe's Enzo Del Almojon through Teisgol, o/w 2yrs, well made boy with balanced angulation front and rear; he has good breed type showing elegance and strength. Moved well covering the ground; gentle slope to pastern; good depth of body. He is an appealing dog that should do well.

2nd Edmondson & Robertshaw's Crookrise Blackthorn, b/w 2yrs, another nice young boy; lovely head; not quite as well angulated in front as 1; lengthy neck; tail of nice length and shape. He moved with some style covering the ground well.

3rd Brigden's Braithwaite Go Man Go

LIMIT DOG (12 entered, 2 absent)

What a class! I liked **all** of the dogs in this class and places were hard fought. It was hard to judge as I was nit-picking – all were worthy of a place. Tail carriage was an issue – those with flagged tails lose their shape on the move and in a class of this quality they had to pay the price.

1st Rayner, Spinks & Pringle's Freebreeze Over The Top at Spinray. l/w 3yrs, a favourite of mine; for me he is all pointer; 'symmetrical and well-built all over, general outline a series of graceful curves'. Beautiful head and expression; well angulated front and rear; on the move he is a delight, covering the ground smoothly, driving from the rear. He has a super tail that he carries on a level with his back. Considered for higher honours.

2nd Marsh's Ratchda Rock Thrush, l/w 2yrs, a different type to 1st but similar remarks apply. Super head with plenty of work; lengthy neck into well laid back shoulders; gentle slope to pastern. Very balanced and of true pointer type; his correct construction leads to him being an impressive, sound mover covering the large ring with ease.

3rd Mason's Freebreeze Figaro

OPEN DOG (4 entered, 0 absent)

Such a nice class to judge. Again there was depth of quality so decisions were hard.

1st Theobald, Phillips & Westaway's Penwest Pallaton JW ShCM, b/w 4yrs, another favourite of mine who I awarded the RCC to last time I judged. My opinion has not changed and today this boy was just spot on! Attractive, masculine head; a balanced and symmetrical dog who is well ribbed and short-coupled; lengthy neck into well laid back shoulders; well turned stifles; tail of correct shape, length and carriage, On the move this dog is textbook – light on his feet and effortless; powerful but smooth – just what I was looking for. I was delighted to award him is first CC and BOB.

2nd Cummings' Ir Sh Ch Kanix Kroner at Sevenhills Ir J Ch AnCh15, b/w 3yrs, a dog that I have admired from ringside; he is a striking dog with a super head; balanced but a little longer than 1; good angulation front and rear. On the move he is eye-catching but he does tend to rush, which affects his movement coming and going. I preferred the front movement of my winner.

3rd Timothy's Anniezu Magic Moments

VETERAN DOG (2 entered, 0 absent)

1st O'Neill's Ch Hurwyn Some Might Say JW, b/w 9 yrs, another boy that have judged and liked before; he belies his age; lovely head with kind expression; balanced angulation front and rear; a very worthy Champion who moved very well too.

2nd Huxley's Saregresi Fame of Gold at Woodfleet (Imp), o/w 8yrs, another lovely veteran who exudes pointer type; well-muscled with an ever-wagging tail! Typy head, moved ok.

MINOR PUPPY BITCH (5 entered, 0 absent)

1st Anthony's Jilony Ola, b/w 7mths, elegant, feminine baby; nice head coming along well; well laid back shoulder with good length of neck; balanced angulation. On the move she impressed, covering the ground well; she is loose still as I would expect from a minor puppy. Would like a better shaped tail but it was carried well.

2nd Tibbs' Sharnphilly Escada at Raigmore, b/w 6mths, another lovely baby; nice head and front construction; close up to 1; she moved well but was a little erratic at times.

3rd Edmondson & Robertshaw's Luneville Diamond Dancer

PUPPY BITCH (2 entered, 1 absent)

1st Anthony's Jilony Ola

JUNIOR BITCH (7 entered, 3 absent)

1st Westaway's Ridanflight Raisen, b/w 17mths, upstanding stylish youngster who is a lovely shape; definitely a series of graceful curves. Pleasing head; correct shoulders with slight slope to pastern; good forechest. She moved with style and is very sound. I see she is by my DCC winner and similar comments apply. One for the future.

2nd Callander's Kelval Kuga of Shambellie, b/w 15mths, a smaller youngster with many good attributes; lovely head and balanced construction; her movement makes her stand out in any company – covering the ground smoothly and with ease.

3rd Barker's Flinthill Orange Princess

YEARLING BITCH (3 entered, 0 absent)

1st Elrington's Ansona Cinderella JW, b/w 20mths, another striking young girl who commands your attention; prettiest of heads – very feminine and plenty of work; kind expression. Balanced angulation and lovely tail set. On the move she is just lovely – light on her feet, powerful yet effortless. I really liked her and considered her for top honours.

2nd Huxley's Woodfleet Wild is the Wind, b/w 19mths, another attractive youngster who impressed for her sound, correct movement although she was a little erratic. She is one that does not make as much of herself on the stack but she is well made with a good front, nice tail and true pointer type. She is young yet and I feel she should have a bright future.

3rd Hewitt's Droveborough Miss Marple

POST GRADUATE BITCH (12 entered, 0 absent)

What a super quality class with some difficult decisions.

1st Blowers' Fydal Blown Away at Deadaway, o/w 2yrs, one that I have admired from ringside and she certainly did not disappoint! She is all pointer from the tip of her nose to the end of her tail – unexaggerated and full of breed type. Feminine head; long slightly arch clean neck; excellent from construction with slight slope to pastern; well-turned stifles with low hocks. She has a good body that has some maturing yet to come. On the move this excellent construction comes to the fore – moved on a loose lead, effortlessly covering the ground, carrying her tail level off her back and lashing it as she went. Lovely – RCC and will watch her future with interest. I see that her dam is one that I awarded a CC to last time I judged and this girl is, in my opinion, even better!

2nd Liens' Kanix Lotus, o/w 2yrs, another new one to me who I liked immensely; was unlucky to meet 1 in such top form and she pushed her close. Slightly bigger stamp than 1 but equally nice; lovely head; elegant neck into well-angulated front; well angulated rear; maybe a little long in loin but she has yet to fully mature. Her movement was good but she was moved a little too fast which made her look rushed. Another destined for top honours I am sure.

3rd O'Neill's Fydfair Sky Full of Stars over Tenshilling

LIMIT BITCH (9 entered, 2 absent)

1st Bond's Joneva Asterea JW, b/w 2yrs, this girl impressed me greatly for her type, carriage and style; she has a beautiful head, long, clean neck and excellent shoulders. Her body is strong but she is still feminine, tidy underline; good rear angulation. On the move she comes into her own moving smoothly and with drive from behind. Another young bitch with a bright future. I was spilit for choice when it came to awarding top honours but on another day it could easily have been hers.

2nd Barker's Flinthill Sunshine Suzy, o/w 3yrs, another super girl who appealed greatly for her type and elegance; different in type to 1; nice head; well angulated front with short-coupled body; series of graceful curves. On the move she was very impressive covering the ground well and with some style.

3rd Evans & Pavey's Joneva Mrs Bridges JW

OPEN BITCH (4 entered, 0 absent)

1st McManus' Luneville Strawberry Moon, 1em/w 6yrs, typy girl who was on good form today. Head has plenty of work, lovely eye colour and expression; well ribbed and short-coupled; slight slope to pastern; good shoulders; on the move she covered the ground well. Considered for top honours.

2nd Pearson's Houssemayne Rowen, 1em/w 6yrs, another typy girl who is similar to 1 in many ways; she moved very well but I preferred the front construction of 1.

3rd Turton's Tanglebrook Magrilen

VETERAN BITCH (3 entered, 0 absent)

1st Mason's Freebreeze As You Like It ShCM, 9yrs, I have admired this bitch for many years but this is the first time I have got to judge her; she excels in so many areas and for me she epitomises the general appearance in the breed standard: 'symmetrical and well-built all over, general outline a series of graceful curves. A strong but lissom appearance.' Classic head with dish-faced appearance; well-set ears; long neck into well laid back shoulders. Balanced throughout with correct angulation fore and aft. On the move she was a delight to watch – light on her feet, head held high on a loose lead; driving from behind and reaching in front; her tail lashing from side to side and carried level. Delighted to award her the CC, her 2nd I believe – I congratulate you on breeding such a lovely pointer and on having her looking so fit and well at 9 years of age.

2nd Anderson-Rowell's Wyndhead Mette Marit ShCM, o/w 9yrs, a real favourite of mine who is similar in many ways to 1 but there is less of her; beautiful head and expression; balanced and full of type; moved well and was unlucky to meet 1 on her 'perfect day'. She is a credit to you.

3rd Booth's Galema Iona

CAROLINE WALKING - Judge