

CRUFTS 2018

Sunday 11th March 2018

I would like to thank the Crufts Committee for this prestigious appointment and their hospitality also my stewards for their efficiency throughout what was a long day.

A super entry in both numbers and quality which led to most classes being well filled, making for some close decisions and difficult choices which were made on the day and as I saw them before me, as in this size entry there was little time for second chances it was a case of only seeing each dog as it performed in that 2 mins of allotted time, with a few things coming into play that aren't usually a major factor when not in such tight competition and these sort of numbers even down to the lower placings, with performance, overall body condition, muscle tone, fluidity of movement, even tail carriage on the day.

A few things I have commented on before and I did still have a few concerns. While I am of the opinion a head is an important part as this without doubt gives you the essence of type and without type you don't have a breed. I'm not a total head fanatic but I did again find in some of the younger dog classes some heads that were slightly off beat and lacking in the finer essentials that will help develop them into the finished article.

Balance continues to be a problem and for me is one of the more important aspects of the breed and can be quite difficult to get right, often overlooked in the quest for differing interpretations of correctness or whatever seems to be the fad or fashion of the moment, one that I am particularly known for not liking is the fashion of the overlong bodyshape which often is accompanied with a long loin, both of these then give an overly long flat topline which lacks in the curves and athleticism required for bursts of speed required in a Pointer. This to me also gives a generic picture and whether in the larger framed dogs or the ones smaller in stature, it may produce an impressive picture on the stack, an over extended flashy side gait but is not correct for this breed.

Some that looked good on the stack had all the necessary angles but didn't quite hold it together on the move and on the hard surface today this was even more evident. I was also surprised to come across a few suspect mouths at this level of competition.

That said I was more than pleased with my winners and placings beyond in more than a few classes. I thought my bitch line up quite exceptional and would be more than happy with any of them in my kennel.

My BCC and BOB, Miss H BLACKBURN-BENNETT - SH CH KANIX CHILLI what can I say about this beautiful bitch. I have previously awarded her a CC & BOB. She came back as a veteran in superb form putting on a faultless performance to take. not only another CC and BOB, but the Gundog Group and ultimately Reserve Best In Show. She is elegant, athletic, she oozes quality and type in her head, body shape and movement, which was light footed effortless and true, her foot fall was perfect with the correct amount of reach and drive giving her effortless ground coverage that was an absolute pleasure to watch, she showed both me and the rest of the world she could and was fully capable of keeping it up all day, which she did totally doing the breed proud in the big ring late in the day in a superb line up for the final.

I have since been told she will now retire at the top a pleasure to have been part of her journey, one sad thing for those that have not seen or experienced this bitch in the flesh, they will miss an important lesson in this breed.

My DCC - MRS D & MISS J O'NEILL - SH CH CHESTERHOPE THRILL OF TCHASE (IMP NZ) an impressive young O/W of the same mould as my BCC and I thought they made a lovely pair, although I think he has more to come he is an athletic, agile and a free easy mover, possessing a most appealing well worked head, well placed ear, good shoulders, balanced front and rear angles giving him the correct overall make and shape, carrying the right amount of body condition which enabled him to move with a free easy going gait and style.

RBCC - MR J & MR P M EVANS & PAVEY - SH CH JONEVA MRS BRIDGES JW. A well shaped B/W bitch again with all the correct body proportions and appealing bodyshape, she is balanced, well bodied and coupled, she had a lovely head and appealing eye, good earset and shown in great form today moving out with great style to take the RCC in a super entry.

RDCC - MRS J M HARRISON - SH CH MILLPOINT HEAT WAVE JW SHCM. A mature B/W with balance and proportions that I was looking for and consider correct for this breed, he possesses a lovely well moulded head, good ear, set and leathers, he was well bodied and angled correctly both ends again moving out well.

BPIB - MISS A, MRS A & MR B SIDDLE & CROCKER - WILCHRIMANE PIROUETTE. I have to say my all 4 of my puppy class winners will change places, as all will be more than able to take similar awards and I will go as far as to say all 4 will go on and have bright futures, This bitch had it all on the day, presented in great form with a lovely head and eye, she is of a super shape, already with some fill in her front and possesses a lovely front assembly, a free and easy mover if a touch over enthusiastic which could be forgiven on a puppy of this age, stood and moving as a puppy should she filled the eye today.

VETERAN DOG - Entries 12, Absentees 1

1st MRS J M HARRISON - SH CH MILLPOINT TOP HAT N'TAILS JW SHCM, well known B/W of good make and shape lovely head and eye, carrying his years well moving off soundly with style.

2nd MS S FOWLER - SH CH ROYAL VELVET, L/W of a slightly bigger mould than one shown in great form and condition, pleasing in head and overall bodyshape again in good shape and form thought the winner had the edge in movement today.

3rd MISS A J BELL - CROOKRISE THE MEDLAR AT OWLSPOINT JW SHCM, O/W of good shape not the front assembly of the 2 above but in good shape for his age and showed himself and moved well.

4th MR J & MRS S A ROBERTS - KANIX DANTE'S INFERNO

MINOR PUPPY DOG - Entries: 1, Absentees 0

1st MISS W J GORDON - HAWKFIELD AUDACITY (AI) lovely O/W although standing alone could more than hold his own in company, his head was of good shape and well moulded and there is still more to come, good front assembly, pasterns balanced angles both ends, he has all the essentials to finish well, stacked he looked a picture and his movement although playful was free and easy and correct for his age.

PUPPY DOG - Entries: 9, Absentees 0

1st & BPD MRS S R PHILO - FYDAL CAPRIO AT SALMONMIST, another promising pup that holds great appeal for his overall type, a lovely make and shape, good headpiece which is both balanced and appealing, well ribbed, bodied and coupled, again moving as you would expect from a puppy but it was correct ground covering, scopey and light footed, will watch his career with interest.

2nd MRS S LANGFORD - FYDAL CORTESE OF PAPERMILL, my notes say very similar to one in all respects, lovely through the neck and shoulder, upper arm, legs, bone and pasterns, well balanced all through just needs to settle, I see he is litter brother to my winner,

3rd MISS C & MRS S HAZELTINE & WELCH - DREAM FOR HOOKWOOD, well schooled B/W with pleasing head properties, good neck into well laid shoulders and front assembly, stood and moved well for his age, just a shade longer caste than the 2 above.

4th MRS M GERRARD - CARMANDINE COUNT ON ME

JUNIOR DOG - Entries: 13, Absentees 0

1st MISS H BLACKBURN-BENNETT - KANIX OBI AT STARGANG, An O/W with a lovely head that is just starting to break, he is of a most appealing make and shape with all the essentials to finish well, being masculine, well bodied and athletic at the same time, his movement was ground covering and again light footed and effortless.

2nd MRS H MCCUDDEN - FORTHBOURNE FIFTH GEAR, O/W dog built on a slightly larger frame than the winner but not too big or heavy, nice front assembly ribbing and depth, his angles are balanced both ends not quite as good off his rear end as the winner at the moment.

3rd MISS M SAUNDERS - PLYNNIES PRINCE OF THIEVES, B/W with a pleasing head which still has plenty of time to break, liked his overall make and shape, well angled and balanced just needs to settle.

4th MRS C RAZZELL - THE ARTFUL ARCHER OF HOOKWOOD

YEARLING DOG - Entries: 15, Absentees 1

1st & DCC MRS D & MISS J O'NEILL - SH CH CHESTERHOPE THRILL TCHASE (IMP NZ)

2nd MR & MRS J TIBBS - RAIGMORE BEEKEEPER, not quite the head development of one at the moment but still a nice head with lots to like, again athletic, balanced all through with good neck, shoulder, ribbing couplings and with free and easy movement which was light footed free and easy.

3rd MRS R M C & MISS R MARTIN - SUNHOUSE CHIPS AHOY, O/W a shade heavier in type than previous two, masculine well moulded headpiece, good neck and shoulder, well boned with good feet and pasterns moved with an easy ground covering stride.

4th MRS J BEST - BESTINA BALBENACH

POST GRADUATE DOG - Entries: 16, Absentees 1

1st MRS L ADAMS - MILLPOINT SIMPLY SMASHING JW. A B/W that holds great appeal on the stack he has nice head that is still breaking, good ear and set, lovely neck into well laid shoulders and front assembly, well bodied, coupled and of the correct make and shape, a free and active mover and moved out with style.

2nd MR M & MRS J LATHWELL - TINCHITAMBA A WAITING GAME another B/W that has appeal for his overall make and shape, similar remarks apply with lots to like, just not quite as settled on the move as 1 today but still with plenty of style and purpose about him.

3rd MR P R & MRS D E STILGOE - ENZO DEL ALMOJON THROUGH TEISGOL (IMP ESP) young O/W that although not quite the verve of the 2 above, he has a lovely well worked head and eye, everything fits together well giving a most appealing picture on the stack and lots to like when he did settle into his movement.

4th MISS G HALL - GARTARRY YOU SHOOK ME.

MID LIMIT DOG - Entries: 16, Absentees 2

1st MRS L, MR A, MRS J & MRS J JAMIESON, MACARA & BLACKBURN-BENNETT KANIX NEWS FLASH AT GLENFINNAN. An upstanding L/W that gives a most imposing picture on the stack, well moulded headpiece, super neck into lovely front assembly, body and overall bodyshape. He moves out with great style and purpose just a tad over enthusiastic and didn't settle into his job in the final run off.

2nd MR & MRS J TIBBS - FYDAL BEESWING AT RAIGMORE. A balanced O/W with lots to like but not in the form of the winner today, he has a well moulded head, I liked his overall make and shape, he covered his ground well just not quite settled in front action coming back towards me.

3rd MR J & MRS C KIRBY - PIPEAWAY MASTER DESIGN JW. Lovely headed O/W stacked he didn't quite lend himself to his handler but he is of a good make and shape, balanced angles both ends, his movement was free and active he just needs to settle into it.

4th MRS A TURNBULL - BONNYGATE MARQUIS O'THE GLEN AT BERIDEW

LIMIT DOG - Entries: 17, Absentees 3

1st MRS CJ O'NEILL - TENSILLING HOME ALONE JW. A medium sized O/W with a most appealing head and expression, good bone, pasterns and feet, stood over and covered his ground well with a free and easy stride.

2nd MRS M GERRARD - HOOKWOOD SHOWPIECE AT CARMANDINE. Well made O/W with a nice headpiece, good front assembly not quite the upper arm of winner, his body was well shaped and coupled and he moved out well.

3rd MRS B, MRS S & MISS M CRITCHLEY, LONDON & HEATON - SHADYBROOK J HOOVER AT WHIPSPAN (IMP USA). Lovely headed O/W that holds great appeal in both his head and body shape, he is well made and coupled with balanced angles, just needs to fill a bit in his front and settle on the move.

4th MRS J & MRS M A LUKE & HINTON - FLEURFIELD JACK DANIELS

OPEN DOG - Entries: 20, Absentees 3

1st & RDCC MRS J M HARRISON - SH CH MILLPOINT HEAT WAVE JW SHCM

2nd MRS D W & MISS J E O'NEILL - NZ GR CH CHESTERHOPE PLAY IT AGAIN [ATC AV00840NZL], a well handled and presented B/W with a good head, eye, ear and set, good neck into a well made front assembly, bone feet and pasterns, on the stack he gives off an imposing picture and was moved out with great style, a tad shorter on the leg and not quite the overall balance and bodyshape of the winner for me.

3rd MISS C & MR G HAZELTINE & UPTON - SH CH HOOKWOOD BY GEORGE JW SHCM. O/W that I have done well previously and has matured well, liked his overall size make and shape good body proportions, good ribbing and depth, moved out soundly, not quite the verve or the head qualities of the 2 above.

4th MRS K S WILBERG - SH CH KANIX FREDRIK

FIELD TRIAL DOG - Entries: 1, Absentees 1

WORKING GUNDOG DOG - Entries: 3, Absentees 1

1st MRS B OLSSON - INT SH CH KING WOODWELIKE SCANDIAC [ATC AS01028SVK], nicely made medium sized B/W lovely head, eye and ear, his overall bodyshape was both well balanced and appealing and he moved out well.

2nd MRS E SODERLING - ICE CRYSTAL OF SZEDRESI [ATC AT00417HUN] nice B/W not quite the head of the winner, good overall in front, bodyshape, depth, well coupled and balanced angles both ends, moved ok.

GOOD CITIZEN DOG SCHEME DOG - Entries: 12, Absentees 0

1st MR P R & MRS D E STILGOE - ENZO DEL ALMOJON THROUGH TEISGOL (IMP ESP)

2nd MISS M SAUNDERS - PHLYNNIES PRINCE OF THIEVES

3rd MS K TREGASKIS - MOENFAIR SPICEWOOD SUMMER, I liked the overall make and shape of this B/W, he has a lovely head which is well shaped and moulded, he is balanced with good angles both front and rear, just wish he would relax into his movement.

4th MR J & MRS S A ROBERTS - KANIX DANTE'S INFERNO

VETERAN BITCH - Entries: 18, Absentees 2

1st BCC BOB, Gundog Group 1 & RBIS, MISS H BLACKBURN-BENNETT - SH CH KANIX CHILLI

2nd MRS R MASON - SH CH FREEBREEZE AS YOU LIKE IT SHCM, a Lemon/White another that holds great appeal in type in her head, overall bodyshape and her true Pointer outlook, she was shown in lovely form, though not quite the purpose of the winner on the move who was in such great form today.

3rd MR N BARFORD - KISWAHILI YOU LIVE IN ME FOR PROTANTO JW. One I have judged before, an O/W bitch that in my opinion should have gained her title, she has a lovely head, neck and front assembly her bodyshape is correct and she covered her ground well, unlucky to meet the 2 above her, both of whom were on the top of their form today.

4th MR N J & MRS K M MACMANUS - LUNEVILLE STRAWBERRY MOON

MINOR PUPPY BITCH - Entries: 4, Absentees 0

1st MISS W J GORDON - HAWKFIELD AUDACIOUS (AI), litter sister to MPD winner and holds the same appeal, she has the most appealing head and expression with everything else to like, on the stack I loved her everything fitted and flowed into place, still very much a baby in her movement which although playful was light footed elegant and on times purposeful, showing glimpses of what will come which was more than sufficient for me on the day.

2nd MRS A D MATTHEWS - MEDOGOLD TARTINI. A B/W with a lovely head and neck into good front assembly and balanced angles both ends, she was well bodied just a shade longer caste than the winner and not quite as positive in her movement as yet.

3rd MRS L, MR P & MRS D FOX, STILGOE & STILGOE - ALCAZAR BEWILDERED OF DAPPLELINE. A B/W that was a real baby of the class, with a nice head that still needs to break, she was of a nice make and shape and moved ok for such a baby

4th MRS B CRITCHLEY - ADELE ARTEGERD IS WELCOMED TO WHIPSPAN (IMP CZ) NAF TAF

PUPPY BITCH - Entries: 6, Absentees 0

1st & BPIB, MISS A, MRS A & MR B SIDDLE & CROCKER - WILCHRIMANE PIROUETTE.

2nd MS L, MS P & MS M RAYNER, SPINKS & PRINGLE - GARTARRY HIGH SOCIETY AT SPINRAY, B/W with a lovely head, eye, ear, nice neck into well placed shoulders, good body properties which appealed again in overall make and shape, she moved out well.

3rd MS M MCDUGALL - WYNDHEAD VILLAGE GOSSIP, nice headed lemon/White not quite the front development of the 2 above as yet, good bone feet and patterns, nicely made and moulded all through and moved with style and purpose

4th MISS C J STOKES - HAWKFIELD CASTASPELL OVER GUANABARA

JUNIOR BITCH - Entries: 13, Absentees 0

1st MISS A, MRS A & MR B SIDDLE & CROCKER - SH CH WILCHRIMANE FRANKEL (AI). A mature O/W with a good headpiece, she is well bodied and well made all through, already possessing great depth and form that is quite imposing on the stack with her great body form, muscle tone and condition, she moved out with purpose not often seen in one so young and I pulled her into my final four in the final run off for the ticket.

2nd MR & MRS J TIBBS - SHARNPHILLY ESCADA AT RAIGMORE, A quality B/W that again holds great appeal with lots to like, lovely head, elegant through her neck and shoulder well bodied and shaped, her movement was true and light-footed, not the maturity of one today but never the less a lovely bitch.

3rd MR R J & MRS C S PERKINS - BRENT HOTHOUSE FLOWER, an O/W, above remarks apply, again with the correct make and shape that appeals to me greatly, just not quite giving her all in the final run off for this strong class, she completes a trio of beautiful bitches to be critiqued of all five I placed in this super class.

4th MR N J & MRS K M MACMANUS - LUNEVILLE SOLITAIRE

YEARLING BITCH - Entries: 13, Absentees 1

1st MRS R M C & MISS R MARTIN - SUNHOUSE CHEERIO. An O/W that is so well balanced all through, she possesses a most appealing head and eye, she is well made her front, ribbing, depth and topline are all correct and she moved out well.

2nd MISS K PILATUS - WEIMPOINT NANI LEILANI JWW'17 [ATC AU03152HRV] B/W that holds appeal for her lovely head and correct body shape, light footed movement and moved out well, she was shown in lovely bloom, not quite the maturity in body and the fill of front as the winner at the moment but a lovely elegant young bitch.

3rd MR & MRS J BLACKBURN-BENNETT - KANIX NAUGHTY NANCY, this B/W bitch appealed to me greatly on the stack, so very well made, I loved her head and overall make and shape, she has quality and refinement, not quite putting her mind on her job today.

4th MRS J L ANTHONY - JILONY OLA

POST GRADUATE BITCH - Entries: 20, Absentees 1

1st MISS H BLACKBURN-BENNETT - KANIX ORIENT AT STARGANG. Beautiful O/W bitch with everything to like, a well moulded and appealing headpiece, long neck well placed shoulders, ribbing, depth, couplings, which makes a shapely and overall appealing bitch, she moved out with true style and purpose.

2nd MR I & MRS J METCALF - DARKRIDGE BUSY BEIN FAB'U LUS. A slightly stronger O/W, liked her well worked head, good neck and she was balanced, lovely to go over with plenty to like and similar remarks to one apply, just not quite as settled on the move today.

3rd MRS A M & MR C HEWITT - DROVEBOROUGH'S MISS MARPLE. A L/W another beautiful bitch which again appeals for over all make and shape, she is well headed, bodied, balanced and coupled, with good bone legs feet and pasterns and sound on the out and back

4th MRS M GERRARD - CARMANDINE CALL MY BUFF

MID LIMIT BITCH - Entries: 18, Absentees 7

1st MRS J COBDEN - HAWKFIELD BRONZE FOR ALOZIA SHCM, A L/W that is very well made with a lovely head, eye, ear, good neck and shoulders, her angles are balanced and correct both ends and she is well bodied and coupled, she moved out well in this class just not giving enthusiasm needed in the line up in an incredibly strong bitch challenge.

2nd MR & MRS J BLACKBURN-BENNETT - KANIX KESTREL, my BPIB the last time I judged a lovely bitch that I still admire elegant, athletic, curvy and of the quality and refinement I look for in a bitch, she possesses a beautiful head, stacked she is difficult to get passed she flows from one body part to another, just not at one with her handler today which showed in her movement.

3rd MRS A SMITH - FYDAL BEDAZZLE, A Lemon/White another shapely bitch with a lot of type and quality about her, she has a lovely headpiece, not quite the angles of the 2 above but still a lovely bitch and she moved soundly covering her ground adequately.

4th MR K W & MRS S A O'CONNOR & ENGLISH - CROOKRISE PLACE YOUR BETS AT KARLEJAY

LIMIT BITCH - Entries: 12, Absentees 3

1st MISS V NORBURY - MEDOGOLD MILKSHAKE AT HEARTBURY JW. I don't recall seeing this smart B/W before, again she has a lovely refined head showing quality and type, I liked her bodyshape she is of the frame that appeals both on the stack and in her movement, which was effortless and ground covering, I pulled her into the final 4 for the run off for the CC

2nd MR I & MRS J METCALF - DARKRIDGE WITCHY WOMAN. O/W appealed for her overall make and shape, just a shade heavier than one but in no way coarse or too heavy, like her sister in the previous class just a tad excited when moving spoiling the overall picture on the day.

3rd MRS C & MISS F WHELDON & EARL - CAITHPOINT HERE AND NOW. An O/W with a beautiful head, neck and front assembly, well ribbed and balanced angles both ends, just preferred the overall shape given to me by the 2 above

4th MRS M A HINTON - FLEURFIELD DANCES ON A DREAM JW

OPEN BITCH - Entries: 12, Absentees 1

1st & RBCC, MR J & MR P M EVANS & PAVEY - SH CH JONEVA MRS BRIDGES JW

2nd MRS J M HARRISON - MILLPOINT HOPES N'DREAMS JW. A lovely headed O/W another with a super front assembly, good ribbing, strong well muscled rear quarters, she covered her ground well, just preferred the overall shape of the winner

3rd MRS K & MR S BOND - JONEVA ASTEREA JW. B/W a litter sister to the winner and similar remarks apply, well headed, bodied coupled, again like a few others today not quite as settled on the move as the 2 above, which had to play a major part in my decisions in such close competition.

4th MS D ELRINGTON - SH CH ANSONA CINDERELLA JW

FIELD TRIAL BITCH - Entries: 1, Absentees 0

1st MRS S J ANDERSON ROWELL - LITTLE OWL SCANDIACA FOR DALEDANCER (IMP SLOV) nicely made B/W built on a smaller frame, nice make and shape and moved out and back ok.

WORK GUNDOG BITCH - Entries: 1, Absentees 1

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GOOD CITIZEN DOG SCHEME BITCH - Entries: 10, Absentees 0

1st MRS J M BLOWERS - FYDAL BLOWN AWAY TO DEADAWAY, A neat well made Lemon/White that is built on a smaller frame, she possesses a head and bodyshape that holds plenty of breed type, is well ribbed and coupled and moved out well in this class.

2nd MRS M L NELIS - FREEBREEZE EASY VIRTUE. Nicely made B/W good neck, well bodied and coupled, moved out well

3rd MS K TREGASKIS - MOENFAIR TINPENNY TOD TAILS. B/W VHC in Mid Limit, she is of good overall make and shape, nice head, neck and shoulder, good depth and moved well

4th MRS S J ANDERSON ROWELL - WYNDHEAD METTE MARIT SHCM

STEVE ROSE - Judge