BLACKPOOL CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW Saturday 22nd June 2019

Thank you to the committee and officials for their kind invitation to judge pointers, a breed I have owned since 1957; and to the exhibitors for the compliment of such a lovely entry with very few absentees. This show has such special memories for me and it was lovely to see old friends and new faces, lovely dogs and the sunshine too, a perfect day.

Some classes were very mixed for type and quality, but the minor puppy, puppy and junior in both sexes were a joy, which bodes well for the future; the limit and open classes were equally as good.

Movement on the whole was good, head carriage varied and tails in a lot of cases are far to long, this I forgave in a couple of exhibits as the rest of the dog was just too good to disregard; the tail carriage on a lot of exhibits was just too high and in some cases carried well over the back. This is not acceptable in a Pointer and I am sure that some dogs have forgotten how to use their tails on the move, very few lashing tails today. Another point of note was the number of exhibits that had thick coats and skin. This does not give the look or the feel of quality. A Pointer should have a close fine coat with a decided sheen to it. This was sadly lacking in a number exhibits today.

Angulation is another topic in question - too much or too little. I think the key here is balance. Too steep in shoulder with a short upper arm and the dog lacks enough angulation for forward reach; too little behind and they will not have enough drive from their hindquarters; too much angulation with too long a second thigh along with long hocks and the dog will lack strength to drive forward; so a balanced angle both front and rear is the aim, to give reach in front and drive behind maintaining a smooth even stride. On the plus side I was very pleased with my final line up both in males and females. It was good to find dogs with the type, quality and the balance I was looking for.

MINOR PUPPY DOG (1, 0)

1st Mr S J Layton's Joneva Born To Thrill. Super young dog built on classic lines, lovely head with good back scull and raised occiput, nice eye in both shape and colour, neat fine ears correctly set, long slightly arched neck, clean and well placed shoulder. Correct oval bone, nice length of pastern, correct fine coat and lovely head carriage. Presents a lovely profile with clean and curvy lines, moved soundly with style and reach using his tail. One certainly to watch out for. Best Puppy Dog and Best Puppy in breed.

PUPPY DOG (4, 0)

1st Miss A Oddie's Sharnphilly Boondoggle. Another quality youngster who has the same sire as the m/p winner. Lovely head and eye with soft gentle expression. Long arched neck, good depth of rib carried well back strength over loin, fine coat in excellent condition, nicely developed in quarters with good expanse of second thigh, correct oval bone neat feet, lovely shape in profile, moved soundly using his tail. Both the winner of this class and M/puppy I feel sure are destined for the top drawer.

2nd Mrs F E Barker's Ragus Lets Get Moving at Flinthill. Lovely head with kind eye and soft well developed lip, good length of neck, nice depth of rib, not quite the turn of stifle or width of thigh as winner, but moved soundly on a free stride.

3rd Mrs A Lowe's Lowsmoor Crazy For You

JUNIOR DOG (12, 2)

1st Mrs B Wilkinson's Stocksfell Humdinger. Another good young dog by the same sire as the m/p and puppy winners. Liked his type and overall construction, lovely head with some nice moulding beneath the eye which is of a good shape and colour, mature well developed body and strength in quarters, moved soundly on an even stride, would not like to see him grow on any more.

2nd Mrs A J Wybergh's Stocksfell Chase The Ace. Litter brother to winner and similar remarks apply, nice head and sound moving, not quite the finish of his sibling.

3rd Miss E N Stables' Darling Dolly.

GRADUATE DOG (6, 0)

1st Mrs S M Langford's Fydal Cortese of Papermill. Loved this dog for his type and overall quality, lovely balance to his head with kind eye and gentle expression, neat fine ears, correct bone, feet and pasterns, well muscled quarters, balanced in outline with correct fine tight skin, a little proud of his tail on the move but moved soundly with a good head carriage.

2nd Mr N J and Mrs K M Macmanus' Luneville Divas Diamond. Another o/w of good type, lovely head and neck, correct bone, good in rib, well muscled, moved freely with a good carriage, again another a little proud of his tail.

3rd Mrs J Best's Bestina Balbenach

POST GRADUATE DOG (8, 1)

1st Mr D S and Mr A D Tobin and Moss' Davigdor Corn Master. Lots to like about this male, who has a lovely head and eye, arched neck well placed shoulders, good depth of chest and ribs carried well back, good expanse of thigh, but it was his overall carriage on the move that spoilt his chances of a higher award. 2nd Ms T and Ms J Watkins and Davies' Ansona Aladdin. Lovely head with plenty of work beneath the eye, nice shapely outline, good front with correct bone, moved soundly.

3rd Mrs M Gerrard's Carmandine Count On Me

LIMIT DOG (12, 0)

1st Mrs S R Philo's Fydalcaprio at Salmonmist JW SHCM. Medium size o/w male full of breed type and quality, correct coat, good front, correct oval bone, neat feet with sloping pastern, nice length of neck, good depth of ribs carried well back, strength over loin, moved soundly with a good head carriage and tail action Pleased to award him R.CC.

2nd Mrs L, Mr A and Mrs J and Mr J Jamieson, Macara and Blackburn-Bennett's Kanix News Flash at Glenfinnan. Another stylish dog, liver and white who has a lovely head and eye, good front and lay of shoulder, deep in rib and well developed quarters, moved soundly on a good stride, just not quite the style or carriage of the first placed dog.

3rd Miss W J Gordon's Hawkfield Audacity (AI)

OPEN DOG (8, 0)

1st Mrs D and Miss J O'Neill's SH CH Chesterhope Thrill Of TChase (IMP NZ). What a stunning o/w, came into the ring like he owned it and he certainly did. Gorgeous head and expression, soft wide nostrils, kind eye of correct shape and colour, lots of work to his head, medium scull, soft thin leathers, well rounded lip, arched neck into sloping shoulders, correct front assembly with sloping pastern and arched toes, deep in brisket with nicely sprung ribs carried well back, strength over his loin, good expanse of second thigh, hocks well let down, moved soundly on a light free stride covering the ground and using his tail, correct coat. All in all one of those dogs that has such ring presence he makes you notice him and by judging the quality of his progeny who won most of the young classes he is certainly putting his stamp on the breed, so very pleased to award him the CC and B.O.B.

2nd Mr J and Mrs P Tibbs Fydal Beeswing at Raigmore. Super fit medium size o/w, shown in well muscled condition as are all the dogs from this kennel. He has a gorgeous head with wide open nostril, lots of work beneath the eye which is of a correct shape and colour, soft well turned lip, neat thin leathers, slightly arched neck, correct coat, good front legs and feet, sloping pastern, strength in quarters and a lovely carriage on the move, would just like a little more depth and body to complete the picture. 3rd Miss C and Mr G Hazelton and Upton's SH CH Hookwood By George JW SHCM

VETERAN DOG (4, 0)

1st Mr J and Mrs S A Roberts' Kanix Dante's Inferno. Lovely o/w Good head, eye shape, nice length of neck into sloping shoulder, deep in chest, ribs carried well back, moved soundly on an even stride. 2nd Ms T and Ms J Watkins and Davies' SH CH Hurwyn Law N Order JW. A typy blk/white, a most worthy SH CH, balanced head with kind eye of a good shape, good length of neck into well placed shoulders, deep in chest, good ribs and strength over loin, moved well with a free and easy stride. 2rd Mrs S Welch's SH CH (IP SH CH Moeley Minstril at Hoekwood

3rd Mrs S Welch's SH CH/IR SH CH Moolou Minstril at Hookwood.

MINOR PUPPY BITCH (6, 0)

1st Mrs R Mason's Morgan Van Freebreeze (IMP NLD). My notes say wow, what a lovely young bitch, full of breed type and quality, she has a beautiful head, soft wide nostril, nice eye both in shape and colour, good length of neck into well placed shoulders, nicely developed in body for one so young. Such a pretty feminine bitch who I completely fell for, to be hyper critical would like a shorter tail, but her overall quality and breed type won the day, so very pleased to award her the R.CC and look forward to watching her future.

2nd Miss G Hall's Gartarry A Million Dreams. By the same sire as winner and I was nitpicking between the two, again a lovely feminine head with sweet expression, nice length of neck, good front, pasterns and feet, she has a lovely shape when stacked and moved soundly on a free and easy stride. 3rd Mr J and Mrs P Tibbs' Raigmore Worth The Wait

PUPPY BITCH (9, 0)

1st Mrs S Batchelor's Sharnphilly Carte Blanche to Kielderpoint. Shapely black and white, pretty head with nice eye and soft expression, nice length of neck, clean over shoulders, presents a shapely outline when stacked, nicely made quarters and moved soundly using her tail. Also by the same sire as first and second in mp/bitch.

2nd Mrs A Lowe's Lowsmoor Half A Sixpence. Nicely made o/w sweet head and soft gentle expression, neat in ear, lovely balance to her, moved soundly with nice carriage.

3rd Miss W J Gordon's Hawkfield Flibbertigibert

JUNIOR BITCH (7, 1)

1st Miss A R Oddie's Sharnphilly Hello Dolly

2nd Mrs B Wilkinson's Stocksfell Seldom Seen. Two beautiful o/w girls both have a lovely quality about them, both are nicely balanced with feminine heads, soft gentle eye, long clean necks, good depth of rib, lovely shape both standing and on the move, good head carriage and both used their tails, I am sure these two will change places many times, but today I just preferred the front movement of winner. 3rd Mrs S Batchelor's Sharphilly Carte Blanche to Kielderpoint

GRADUATE BITCH (11, 1)

1st Mr and Mrs J Blackburn-Bennett's Kanix Petunia at Stargang. This bitch has both substance and elegance, lovely head with lots of work beneath the eye, wide nostril and nicely turned lip, clean over shoulders with deep ribs and strength over loin, good expanse of second thigh, moved with a good head carriage and stride using her tail.

2nd Ms L, Ms P and Ms M Rayner, Spinks and Pringle's Gartarry High Society At Spinray JW. Pretty blk/w of a finer type than first, but has a lovely balance and quality, lovely head and eye, clean lines and moved soundly with drive on a free stride.

3rd Mrs C Guy's Carofel On Silent Wings

POST GRADUATE BITCH (12, 1)

1st Miss P Westaway's Ridanflight Raisen. Lovely blk/w of good type, built on a bigger frame than second, but still elegant and of a good shape, nice head and eye, correct coat, well muscled, moved soundly with drive, reach and a good carriage using her tail.

2nd Mr R J and Mrs C S Perkins' Brent Hothouse Flower. Classy girl, who has breed type and quality, lovely head and eye, neat in ear, correct coat, well muscled, moved on a free and easy stride, just preferred front and shoulders of 1st.

3rd Mr I and Mrs J Metcalf's Darkridge Busy Bein Fab'u Lus

LIMIT BITCH (14, 3)

Miss H Blackburn-Bennett's Kanix Orient at Stargang. Very elegant and stylish o/w, full of breed type, balanced angles both front and rear, not over done in anyway. Her head is lovely with lots of work beneath the eye, which is of a good shape and colour, wide open nostril, long clean neck, well placed shoulders, good depth and spring of ribs carried well back,, strong in loin and hindquarters, with good expanse of second thigh, hocks well let down and she used this to advantage with a driving action covering her ground with ease, using her tail and a lovely head carriage, correct coat and shown in lovely condition, made her presence felt in the ring, so very pleased to award her the CC and R.B.O.B

2nd Mrs A M and Mr C Hewitt's Droveborough Miss Marple. Lovely liver/w who is of good breed type, lovely head and expression, neat in ear, good over neck and shoulders, deep chest with plenty of heart room strength in quarters, moved with drive on a good length of stride using her tail, just unlucky to meet 1st on such good form.

3rd Mrs G O'Driscoll's Fowington Risque.

OPEN BITCH (6, 2)

1st Mr and Mrs J Blackburn-Bennett's SH CH Kanix Kestrel. A most beautiful headed blk/w, of medium size, full of breed type and quality, her head is exquisite with eyes of a lovely shape and colour, her expression just melts you, lovely moulding beneath the eye, nice turn of lip, neat well placed ears, correct coat, good in rib and quarters, moved on a free and easy stride, with a lovely head carriage using her tail, very close for a top award.

2nd Mrs M Mackay's SH CH Frederica Fanfare at Woodglade. Lovely quality liver/w who has a lovely head and sweet expression, best of fronts, correct oval bone with sloping pasterns and neat feet, long clean neck, sloping shoulders and good length of upper arm, good depth of ribs carried well back, strong over loin, correct angles back and front, presented a lovely outline when standing, just preferred the more free going movement of first.

3rd Mrs S Welch's Oxfordacres Trinity by Hookwood JW SHCM

VETERAN BITCH (5, 1)

1st Mr N J and Mrs K M Macmanus' Luneville Strawberry Moon. Lovely girl who exudes breed type and quality, the sweetest head and expression, correct coat, well muscled, moving on a free and easy stride. Shown in beautiful condition, so very pleased to award her best veteran in breed.

2nd Mrs S E Booth's Crookrise Wren. Another lovely girl who has lots to like about her, full of breed type with a lovely head and eye, correct coat, correct oval bone, moved soundly using her tail.

GRAHAM INGHAM - judge