

BLACKPOOL CHAMPIONSHIP DOG SHOW

Saturday 24th June 2023

Thank you to my very capable steward and to all exhibitors for making this such an enjoyable day.

The breed has changed since I last judged before COVID. The predominant colour now appears to be orange and while I know colour is only a part of the picture that makes a Pointer, I feel we are in danger of losing beautiful liver and lemon colours and the deep, rich orange shade that add such beauty to the breed.

Today, I found a number of dogs that seemed heavy, particularly in the shoulders and lacking the elegance and strength so characteristic of the breed. Quite a few carried their tails high, spoiling the outline on the move. However, teeth and temperament seemed good in all exhibits and I was spoilt for choice in the upper bitch classes in particular. Congratulations to the owner and handler of my best of breed for winning fourth place in the well-filled gundog group.

MINOR PUPPY DOG (7,0)

Movement difficult to assess in this class as it was quite breezy and understandably, some of these young pups were unsettled and excited on their day out.

1st Gerrard & Bell's Carmandine Oh C'mon Then. O/w, 7 months, well balanced for his age, moved steadily enjoying himself. Pleasing head and expression, lovely reach of neck, well-set shoulders, strong hindquarters. Very promising.

2nd Gordon's Hawkfield Witch Doctor. Blanket-marked liver/w 7 months, smaller and more compact than 1 and not as mature but liked his overall shape. Good spring of rib, well balanced head. Striking pup.

3rd Heaton's Freebreeze On Location at Brackenstyle.

PUPPY DOG (5,1a)

1st Whithams' Sedgekirk Ever Been Had. Upstanding o/w 9 months. Beautiful head and type and he moved steadily with drive, good tail action and head held high. Still to grow into himself but lots to like. Just preferred bitch's overall construction in BP challenge. BPD.

2nd Matthews and Adam's Carofel Wings Of Hope. Just preferred head of 1 but this 11 month o/w is very well constructed and mature for age. Moved with good ground-covering action, well handled.

3rd Adderley's Freebreeze Fellini.

JUNIOR DOG (5,1a)

1st Blake's Vadkartya's Snipe. B/w, just 12 months b/w, immature but liked his elegance and he moved well. Appealing well-chiselled head, pleasing reach of neck, good shoulders. Will be interested to see how he grows up.

2nd Webb's Ten Shilling Jimmy Mack. Preferred length of 1 but this 16-month o/w moved out with easy stride driving from well-made hindquarters and is balanced all through.

3rd Mennen & Sweeney's Joneva Just Imagine.

YEARLING DOG (8,1a)

1st Morrison's Raigmore Greatest Day. B/w who moved with style and good reach. Balanced head with kindly expression, good top line and size, well sprung ribs and neat tail.

2nd Stilgoes' Glenariff Mojito over Teisgol. Smart b/w, slightly longer than one but similar shape and clean lines, correct hindquarters with well let down hocks and sweep of stifle.

3rd Trueman's Bradleypoint Floki.

GRADUATE DOG (6,1a)

1st Collins' Collholme Balthasar. Mature o/w, flowed round the ring with easy stride. Beautiful head, with skull and muzzle perfectly balanced, soft expression. Good bone, shown in lovely condition.

2nd Baker's Mattiboo Bohemian Rhapsody. Lemon/w, moved concisely round ring, rangier than 1 and still to grow up, liked his length of neck and shoulders.

3rd Bush's Piasharn Garrick.

POST GRADUATE DOG (3,0)

1st Mennen & Sweeney's Lundgarth Wild Yarrow. Nothing exaggerated about this b/w boy, a sound honest pointer, with handsome head, pleasing top line and outline. Moved with style to take the class.

2nd Walkling & Siddles' Wilchrimane Kinsphere with Kiswahili. O/w shorter coupled than 1 and front construction not as good, neat tail which he used on the move, firm topline, muscular neck.

3rd O'Driscoll's Fowington Hurricane Fly.

LIMIT DOG (7,2a)

Interesting class with different types.

1st Westaway's Teisgol Keep On Going via Penwest. Lemon/w who could not be faulted against the breed standard, moved strongly with reach and drive from strong hindquarters, gentle expression and kind eyes. Still young, just under two years, and should have a bright future. Just preferred bitch's sparkle in best of breed challenge. DCC

2nd Charlish & Brigden's Braithwaite Love In The Air. Liver/w disappointed this dog wasn't available to challenge for RCC. Old fashioned type with gorgeous head and expression, powered round the ring, using his neat bee sting tail combining elegance and strength.

3rd O'Neill's Tenshilling Biscuits.

OPEN DOG (6,1w/d)

1st Philo's Fydal Caprio at Salmonmist. Perfectly balanced and elegant o/w who covered the ground with ease and enthusiasm. Beautiful head and flowing lines with strong topline and deep chest, good tuck up and well-angulated hindquarters. RCC

2nd Henshaw & Goodchild's Sharnphilly Vice Versa with Peteshe. Preferred movement of 1 but love this b/w dog on the stack. He is moderate size with enough spring of rib, sloping pasterns, attractive head and well muscled.

3rd Jamieson, Macara & Blackburn-Bennett's Kanix Peri Peri with Glenfinnan.

VETERAN DOG (4,2a)

1st O'Neill's Sh Ch Tenshilling Home Alone. O/w 8 years typical of this kennel, good head and kind expression, strong top line, moved like a youngster, in great condition.

2nd Critchley, London & Heaton's Shadybrook J Hoover at Whipspan (imp USA). Liked the head and elegance of this 8-year-old who is also in excellent condition and a credit to his owner.

MINOR PUPPY BITCH (2,1)

1st Nellis' Freebreeze Special Effects. Loved this o/w eight month pup's type and style - clean outline, series of graceful curves, moved well enough for her age. Sweet expression and pretty head, and she should grow into an elegant bitch. BPB & BP.

JUNIOR BITCH (7,2)

1st Eames' Vadkartya's Lapwing. B/w 12 months lovely shape and mature for age. Best mover in class when settled. Neat ears, soft lip and balanced head. Won over her brother for BJ.

2nd Dolmans' Grangerayana Golden Wonder. O/w 17 months moved well when settled, liked her typey head, reach of neck, deep chest, good spring of rib and neat tail.

3rd Blake's Vadkartya's Pipit.

YEARLING BITCH (5,0)

1st Eames' Vadkartya's Lapwing.

2nd O'Neill's Tenshilling To Sir With Love. O/w with clean, flowing outline, neat feet and pasterns and handled well. Just preferred front of 1.

3rd Oddie's Sharnphilly Sugarplum.

GRADUATE BITCH (10,1)

Disappointing number of high tails here; some bitches that looked good stacked disappointed on the move.

1st Booth's Lundgarth Everest. O/w strode out well, used her tail and looked a picture going round the ring. Stacked, she is a series of gentle curves.

2nd Collins' Collholme Angelique. O/w similar in shape and outline to 1, just a bit longer and taller. Correct topline which she held on the move, but just preferred hindquarters of 1.

3rd Rayner, Spinks & Pringle's Spinray Songbird.

POST GRADUATE BITCH (4,1)

Three good bitches.

1st Booth's Sharnphilly Ginger Fizz at Lundgarth. Loved this o/w bitch with her dark pigment and markings. Good tuck up and shapely hindquarters. Pretty head, with well-defined stop, lighter boned than many here today and athletic. On another day, could get top honours.

2nd Wilkinson's Stocksfell Shockwave. B/w reminds me of bitches from the past. Attractive, refined head, well placed shoulders, deep chested and well let down hocks.

3rd Udale's Dowbiggins Goldie.

LIMIT BITCH (9,1)

Excellent class - needed more cards here.

1st Radcliffe's Sniperay Edge Of Glory. O/w bitch who caught my eye as soon as she came into the ring and did not disappoint on the move. At one with her handler, she didn't put a paw wrong and moved round the ring like a champion, which I am sure she will be one day. Moderate size, so balanced all through, a series of graceful curves, nothing exaggerated. Soft eye and melting expression. Beautiful bitch. BCC BOB and G4 in strong gundog group.

2nd Blowers' Fowington Lar Ti Dar at Deadaway. O/w just preferred head of 1 but this is a quality bitch and she moved out with effortless, fluid stride, scenting the air and using her tail. Similar shape to 1 with plenty of heart room and strong hindquarters.

3rd Dunn's Caithpoint Kora at Meadowpoint.

OPEN BITCH (7,1)

Good class of top rate bitches.

1st Gerrard & Bell Sh Ch Chesterhope C'Mon Over to Carmandine (Imp NZL). O/w loved this bitch's elegance combined with strength and not too large, balanced all through. Enjoying her run round the ring, keeping her handler on her toes! Worthy champion but had to give way to the younger bitch today for top honours. RCC.

2nd Tibbs' Raigmore Worth the Wait. O/w love this bitch's type and elegance but not quite the condition of one. Delightful head and expression, compact and well-muscled. Her day will come.

3rd Perkins' Sh Ch Brent Cheap Thrills.

VETERAN BITCH (3,0)

Three lovely ladies.

1st Sh Ch Droveborough's Miss Marple. Liver / white, a favourite of mine who seems to improve the older she gets and went round the ring like a youngster although nearly eight years. Close up for RCC but just not quite the construction and sparkle of the younger bitches. A worthy show champion. BV.

2nd Nelis' Freebreeze Easy Virtue. B/w 7 year old, another easy moving bitch. Liked her type, and body shape and in great condition, unlucky to meet 1.

3rd Mason's Freebreeze Curtain Call.

FLO BARKER - judge