

BIRMINGHAM NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP DOG SHOW

Friday 9th May 2025

Thank you to the Birmingham National for the invitation, and to all the exhibitors who brought their dogs. It was a pleasure to go over them. I've been involved with Pointers since the early 1970s and have been breeding them since 1983. My judging approach has always been to look at the dog as a whole - I'm not one to go picking out faults for the sake of it. I'm looking for type, balance, and how well the dog fits the standard overall, with correct movement and soundness always in mind.

That said, I don't feel the breed is in a particularly strong place at the moment. On the whole, the dogs were quite mixed in quality. I saw a number with upright shoulders and short upper arms, which affects the reach and freedom of movement we should expect from a Pointer. There was also quite a bit of short-stepping in front movement, and poor tracking both coming and going.

One thing I noticed more than usual was upright or weak pasterns and incorrect foot shape. These are important details that impact the dog's ability to move and hold up over time, and I'd urge breeders to keep an eye on them.

The bitches were better overall. More consistent in type, with a few great examples that ticked the right boxes for shape, movement, and femininity. The Open Bitch class was a particularly good one to judge, with some excellent dogs in the lineup. There's work to be done, but I've no doubt the quality is still there in the breed - and with care in breeding and a focus on the fundamentals, I'm confident we can get back on track.

SPECIAL BEGINNERS DOG

1st Hand, Sheedy & Siddle's Wilchrimane Pretzel. Well-grown young man, nice balanced head and expression, well-handled, a little more weight would be of advantage. Nice type.

2nd Moule & Tate's Codnorhawk Scott Andrew. He is also a well-grown young man, well put together, a little loose on the move today.

3rd Pratt's Hawkfield Wickham.

MINOR PUPPY DOG

1st Booth's Lundgarth Fly The Flag. Balanced orange and white, nice head and eye and expression, sound on the move. Good bone and shape, right amount of body. Well-handled.

2nd Batchelor's Wilchrimane Bat's All. Nice type, good rib and size, correctly shaped bone, very happy young man.

3rd Siddle, Siddle & Mazzeo's Wilchrimane Cereal Killer.

PUPPY DOG

1st Pearson's Ladyhawke Desert Orchid. Nearly 12 months old and not one I expected to go all the way – but he did. Balanced head with work already showing. Good front with correct depth and width of chest for age. Strong through the body with well-angled quarters, used to full effect on the move. Covered the ground with ease and maintained his outline. Pleased to award him the CC and Best Puppy.

2nd Hand, Sheedy & Siddle's Wilchrimane Pretzel.

3rd Wilkinson's Stocksfell Soloflight.

JUNIOR DOG

1st Swannell's Sharnphilly Black Abbott. Nice type of boy. Balanced, good size, moved out well with purpose and drive, nice eye and expression.

2nd Baker & Swan's Mattiboo Million Love Songs. Another nice dog, a little rangier at the moment than the winner.

3rd Millett's Laveto Remember When.

POST GRADUATE DOG - This was a nice class.

1st Martin & Martin's Sunhouse I'll Be Black (AI). Well-balanced black and white young man, nice size, nothing overdone. Flows through to give a good pleasing picture on the move. Well-presented and handled.

2nd Marsh's Alozia Zealandia for Ratchda JW. Liked this young man. Covers the ground well on the move, keeping his shape. Not quite as mature as the winner.

3rd Rose's De Las Navazuelas Stormcloud at Ridanflight (Imp ESP).

LIMIT DOG

1st Hill, Hill & Hill's Kanix Sourdough with Calaquendi JW. Liked this boy a lot. Loved his head and eye with a kind expression. He was well ribbed back with good angulations and good tail set. Sound mover and went with purpose and drive. Just a little overloaded over the shoulder today.

2nd Ganney, Norbury & Adams' Fisherbloom Hey Didle Didle at Heartbury. Nice type, in first class order, never seen him look better. Just threw himself about in front today.

3rd Webb's Tenshilling Jimmy Mack JW.

OPEN DOG

1st Adams' Carofel Wings Of Hope JW Swiss JCh. Beautiful head, totally balanced, with kind expression and quality eye. Good size, moved with drive and purpose. RCC.

2nd Philo's Sh Ch Tenshilling It's My Party for Salmonmist JW. Worthy champion at his best, carrying right amount of the body in firm condition. Good size and forehand, carried his tail a little high today.

3rd Martin & Martin's Sunhouse You're Nicked.

VETERAN DOG - Two lovely boys.

1st O'Neill's Sh Ch Tenshilling Home Alone JW ShCM VW. Handsome young man, carrying his years really well. Lovely body, balanced, moved out with purpose. Credit to his owner.

2nd Preece & Gilding's Harvestslade Cullinan. Another nice chap, moving well and free.

SPECIAL BEGINNERS BITCH

1st Klaiber's Hawkfield Scandalous. I like this young lady a lot. Flowed through from head to tail. Balanced head, kindest of eye and expression. Good body, well ribbed and let down hocks. Good tail set, moves out well to win the Special Beginner group on the day.

2nd Moule's Codnorhawk Daisy Dingdong. Heavier liver and white girl, beautifully balanced head and eye, good shape, nice bone and rib.

3rd Dunn's Millpoint Heart and Soul at Casdellda.

MINOR PUPPY BITCH - Two nice babies.

1st Kennedy's Droveborough Black Magic. Love this 6-month-old baby. Everything right for age. Good body and rib, well let down hocks. How naughty she was. Went with drive and purpose. Tail well set and used on the move. Could have taken her home.

2nd Radcliffe's Sniperay Secret Affair. Another nice baby, built on lighter lines. A lot of good points, not quite as mature as winner.

3rd Barham's Droveborough Witchy Woman.

PUPPY BITCH

1st Matthews' Sonham Just A Pretty Belle (AI). Another nice, balanced young lady with flowing lines, 10-months-old liver and white. Beautiful head and eye, good body shape. Ribs well back, correct angulations, and well let-down. Very together on the move. I liked her.

2nd Fox & Stilgoe's Teisgol Rose Champion. Balanced girl, different type to winner, lots to like about her. Carrying right amount of weight, not quite as tidy in front movement as winner.

3rd Matthews' Sonham Just Good Friends (AI).

JUNIOR BITCH

1st Gates' Sharnphilly Dizzy Blonde at Linosa. Mature orange and white looking well. Deep body, good spring of rib. Correct bone shape. First-class head, well proportioned. Handled well.

2nd Wilkinson's Ferndel Sapphire Mist over Stocksfell. Love this black and white, not as happy as 1 today. Built on flowing lines. Good type, head and expression. Feel they will change places as time goes on.

3rd Matthews' Sonham Just A Pretty Belle (AI).

POST GRADUATE BITCH

1st Guy's Carofel If I Had Wings JW. Not a big girl but very balanced. Flows through nicely. Pretty balanced head, good shoulders and rib. Correct hocks. Moved out with purpose and drive today, lashing her tail in good spirit.

2nd Roberts' Kananaskis Black Bryony. Like this lady, built on nice lines. Never seen her look better. Nice eye, right amount of body. Coat in good order and carrying herself well on the move. Handler did very well with her, winner just had a bit more sparkle.

3rd Dunn's Meadowpoint Hocus Pocus JW.

LIMIT BITCH

1st Wilkinson's Stocksfell Shockwave. 4-year-old black and white with lovely balance. Looking very polished today and of good size and type. Correct head, well ribbed, strong back, and excellent bent of stifle. Very stylish and together on the move with excellent drive. Close up.

2nd Stilgoe & Oliver's Teisgol Heaven Sent JW. Another nice black and white who flows well. Good size. Balanced head and clean neck. Good body. Just prefer the let down on the winner.

3rd Moss' Davigdor Poppies.

OPEN BITCH - This was a lovely class.

1st Hinton, Luke & Leman's Sh Ch Fleurfield Black Caviar. Just my type. Black and white lady, totally balanced, best of heads, eye and expression. Good neck into correct laid shoulders, not a big girl. Good rib. Well let-down hocks. Coat correct. Moved out with precision and drive. CC and BOB.

2nd Siddle, Siddle & Medeiros' Sh Ch Wilchrime Frankly Darlin. Feminine orange and white, mature girl. Worthy champion. Head and expression are very good. At her best. When it came to the challenge, the winner seemed more precise on the move. RCC.

3rd Gerrard, Bell & Galloway's Sh Ch Chesterhope C'mon Over to Carmandine (Imp NZL).

VETERAN BITCH - A lovely class of ladies.

1st Lowe's Lowsmoor Shiralee JW. Very well balanced, good bone and body. Still moving well, back and front. 10 1/2 years old. Best Veteran.

2nd Rayner, Spinks & Pringle's Gartarry High Society at Spinray JW. Another black and white lady, not quite as old as the winner. Again, a very good shape. Free and easy on the move. 8 1/2 years old.

JOHN EVANS - Judge