

CRITIQUE – BORDER UNION AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

Judge: Mrs S J Harris

Many thanks to the Committee for my invitation; this has to be one of my favourite shows when the weather is kind, and thanks to the exhibitors for the great entry.

I would like to share my general observations of where we are now in comparison to where we were some 30 years ago. Back then we had a number of key breeders that put much greater emphasis on type, and head properties and it would be very unusual to have a successful dog that didn't fit the copy book type, that is not to say we didn't have a variation in colouring, but the type that lies beneath was more uniform; namely, a medium sized dog, with well boned limbs, moderate angulations, set in a square frame with an unfussy workmanlike gait. The head properties were considered very important and an excellent head, and by that I mean better than the usual good head, was truly recognised and admired and rewarded; however a head that did not fulfil the basics was seldom seriously campaigned as it would be unlikely to meet with much success. Sadly, time has moved on, handling has improved immeasurably however our breed has not, today, the good heads are in the minority, the exceptional heads are as rare as hens' teeth though not yet extinct instead we have a high number of short deep muzzles with a noticeable stop, ravines between the eyebrows that run unto the back skull and almost apple shaped back skulls, all of which get praised in print from various judges. Our moderate workmanlike GSPs are being over taken by over angulated, over long dogs that are gaited at a flying trot instead of the smooth no fuss daisy cutting action that is necessary for the work they were bred to do. That said, I have not unduly faulted any of the above and have judged each dog on its qualities first and marked down directly in proportion to each fault. I hope everyone takes my critique in the spirit it is written, I could have easily written the same bland critique that I read over and over, but if some-one doesn't grasp this nettle soon, our breed will have lost the very best qualities that make our dogs typical GSPs and they will be resigned to becoming homogenised HPRs of no fixed type.

Puppy Dog (4). **1 Sielski's Orchidstar Willy Nilly.** Very well presented liver and white who although rangy at this stage was very together holding his outline both stacked and, on the move, he was very coordinated moving true both ways. A little plain in head with pale eyes that will darken with age, good tight coat, short-coupled, balanced moderate angles, strong topline and correct tailset with good tail carriage. Needs more depth all through but I am sure time will take care of that. **2 Mann's Valger Ragnar.** Stylish young liver and white dog of lovely type, very raw at the moment, prefer his head to the winner, again a little pale in eye colour but well set eyes and lovely expression. Clearly changing coat so a touch longer and thicker at the moment. His outline is very typical, clean shoulders, well angulated fore and aft which allowed him a very reachy open side gait, but still a bit untidy coming and going which will settle in time when all his nuts and bolts tighten. **3 Murray's Winterwell Whakapapa with Worlewood.**

Junior Dog (2,1). **1 Coe's Goosepoint Waddington at Abbanash.** Stood alone, liver and white dog similar in a lot of respects to puppy winner, still appears to be a little rangy but getting there, a touch square in head, good ear set, clean neck and shoulders, correct coat, short coupled, good depth through brisket but needs to fill over loin. Good topline and tailset. On the move I suspect he was moved a little fast as he had a tendency to over reach and crab, but when moved slower showed a more coordinated action.

Novice Dog (3,2). **1 Coe's Goosepoint Waddington at Abbanash.**

Post Graduate Dog (0). No Entries.

Limit Dog (9). **1 Knowles & Glen's Wilholme Had A Lovely Time with Bessalone.** Feel this dog's colouring works against him, on first glance he appears much bigger and heavier than the darker dogs, but he isn't, he is up to size but not over. Balanced head with long muzzle, clean skull, eyes need to fully darken, well set crested neck running into excellent shoulders, deep strong body, good tailset, well angulated quarters with excellent second thigh. His movement was true both ways, with a powerful long side gait which won him the class and ultimately the **RDCC**. **2 Sielski's Orchidstar Bonds Of Speed JW.** Attractive dog shown to advantage, good head with dark eyes, moderate angles, clean neck and shoulders, deep through brisket and strong loin, correct topline, tight coat, moved true both ways, but just lacked the rear propulsion of the winner. **3 Braine's Grenetrest Canterbury Bell JW.**

Open Dog (10,1). **1 Mervyn's Ir Sh Ch, Lux Ch & Int Sh Ch Tomanipoint Celtic Knight AN CH 15-18 CW 15.** Smart mature dog up to size but in proportion and not coarse in anyway. Would prefer a longer cleaner head piece, good eye colour, correct ear set. Long clean shoulders blades and excellent upper arm, gun barrel front, great depth through brisket and strong over loin, handler could make him look a touch over angulated in rear occasionally on the stack but strong width of second thigh, super tailset and carriage. Strong reachy side gait, moving true both ways. It was his "all of a piece" look that drew me to him and his power on the move. This was his 3rd **DCC**, many congratulations. **2 Hinchliff's Ch Goosepoint Gloster Grebe (AI) JW.** Well presented attractive young male, again top size, would prefer longer head proportions with slightly less stop. Correct ear set, beautiful clean neck and long clean shoulder blades. Great forechest, very deep through brisket, strong topline and correct tailset. Good coat. A little long and fine through loin but he is still only a youngster, very angular rear quarters. Holds himself very well on the move showing energy and drive. **3 Brown & Burns' Sh Ch Magregor Threesacrowd At Pothouse JW ShCM.**

Veteran Dog (2,1). **1 Rusk's Marann's Spring Mist Over Booton.** Passed his best now, but such a beautiful head and dark eye, now this is what heads used to be! Long strong muzzle, wide nostrils, gentle rise over his nasal bone gentlest of slopes between the eyes, no exaggeration over his eye brows, oval dark rich coloured eyes and high set ears. Good neck, legs and feet, angular shoulders, strong bone, balanced angles fore and aft, may be a touch long in body, correct tailset, not quite so fluid on the move due to his age, would have liked to have judged him in his prime.

Puppy Bitch (7,2). **1 Drysdale's Drysike Foxtrot.** Lovely headed youngster with long muzzle and correct skull shape, eyes still darkening but a sweet expression, well set ears, clean though neck and shoulders, tight elbows, strong straight front legs, enough depth through brisket, strong through loin, harsh coat. Moderate rear angulation with strong second thigh. Middle piece needs to tighten a touch, but she is only a youngster, long reachy free flowing movement. **BP.** **2 Sielski's Orchidstar Okey Dokey.** Finer all through than winner, again very well presented from this handler, would prefer longer muzzle, eyes yet to darken, well set ears, tight and compact body, great topline and tailset, good coat, moderate angles, very well coordinated on the move. **3 Cox's Cushatlaw Serendipity.**

Junior Bitch (7). **1 Waddell's Magregor Wiff Waff.** Good head and dark eye, well set ears, strong arched neck, high withers, straight strong front legs, deep through brisket, great coat, tight firm body with short loin, a little steep in coup with strong well angulated rear quarters, powerful free striding movement, just carried her tail a bit too proudly today. **2 Mann's Elfindrew Lacey To Valger.** Smart girl. Longer cast and quite different in style to winner. Super long lean head with oval shaped eyes, eye colour good but still darkening, well set ears. Clean well laid shoulders, lovely topline and good tailset. Good depth all through, a touch long between stifle and hock but good width of second thigh, super in profile movement showing a lovely long reachy stride but needs to tidy coming and going. **3 Tudor's Torranpoint Tenille.**

Novice Bitch (6,1). **1 Waddell's Magregor Wiff Waff.** **2 Drysdale's Drysika Foxtrot.** **3 Cox's Cushatlaw Serendipity.**

Post Graduate Bitch (8,1). **1 Burford's Pingarypoint Legolicious JW.** Extremely well presented bitch that didn't put a foot wrong. Would prefer more length of muzzle and less rounded eye, though eye colour good, well set ears. Well placed shoulders and good forechest, which enabled her topline to flow nicely down to her well set tail. Deep enough through brisket, strong loin, good coat, well angulated strong rear quarters. Really strode out on the move. **2 Glen & Knowles' Wilholme Agnes Brown at Bessalone.** Bigger than winner, liked her for bone. Super long lean head, with good eye shape and gentle expression, correct ear set, long clean shoulder blades, tight elbows, good upper arm, deep through her brisket and loin, Strong moderately angulated hindquarters. Not co operating fully on the stack to show her at her best but moved out showing an effortless powerful gait. **3 Nixon's Quintana Cloudberry.**

Limit Bitch (10,3). **1 Rutherford's Cushatlaw Charisma of Dappledele.** Beautiful and typy. Gorgeous clean cut head, long muzzle, dark eyes with soft expression, well set clean shoulders and deep brisket, flowing topline through to a perfect set on tail, Moderate angulation fore and aft. Smooth effortless mover. Considered her for the top awards but she stood a little "flat backed" in challenge which made her look long in middle piece. **2 Gatcliffe's Allezweck Evita.** Completely different in type and much more compact and squarer than the winner. Her colouring can be quite distracting but underneath she is a very well made and typical GSP. Good head with dark eye and sweet expression, well set ears, moderate length of neck, powerful shoulders, deep chest and short loin, good topline, moderate rear angulation, low set hocks, light footed gait moving true both ways. **3 Milligan's Isara Kurzhaar All Spice.**

Open Bitch (8). **1 Izard's Sh Ch Yocketts Cordiale JW.** Very smart young bitch of excellent type, whose handler got the very best out of her today. Not yet at her best, Head a little square for my taste, but has sufficient length and depth of muzzle, eyes yet to fully darken, good ear set, moderate length of neck, good shoulder placement with enough forechest, good depth through brisket, little light over her loin, but nothing maturity wont sort, excellent topline, moderately angulated rear quarters, lovely tailset in gleaming coat. Her movement was foot perfect today and her "all of a piece look" couldn't be overlooked. **BCC & BOB.** **2 Drew's Sh Ch Cushatlaw Illustrious JW.** Finer than the winner, Well presented mature bitch. Very good conformation all through, which translated into a very accurate movement, little if anything to fault, just wish there was just a bit more of her all over, but a worthy title holder. **3 Burford's Pingarypoint Hot Topic.**

Veteran Bitch (4,1). **1 Thurm's Sh Ch Valger Odette.** Not big in stature, but plenty of bone for her size. Balanced head with lovely expression under those greying eyebrows, a touch broad in beam, the most typical of outlines with a perfect topline and tailset, good coat, her hindquarters are textbook. Could have watched this girl power around the ring all day. **RBCC** and **Best Veteran**, always wished she had been mine. **2 Tait's Benboee Bordeaux JW.** Giving away a few years but still has the most beautiful head, with an excellent foreface, large wide nostrils followed by a slight Roman nose, running into a gentle slope between the eyes finished off by a clean back skull. Super well angulated shoulders, her middle piece is a bit longer than ideal but holds a good topline and correct tailset, topped off with a sound rear end, moved soundly just couldn't match the winner's performance. **3 Nixon's Quintana Hollie Berry.**