CRITIQUE – DARLINGTON DOG SHOW SOCIETY Judge: Mrs J K Millard

My thanks to Darlington Championship Show committee for the invitation to judge GSP, this was my second time judging this breed at this level. I had a lovely morning with some super quality dogs. Thanks also the sole steward who was of great assistance and good humoured. There was a lovely atmosphere ringside with plenty of support and applause for the winners. Heads were very mixed, with some very broad skulls, some narrow muzzles, and a lack of stop (I appreciate that the standard states 'never possessing a definite stop'). Movement was on the whole good as was height, bites and feet.

Veteran Dog (1). 1 Bennett & Slimak's Sh Ch Barleyarch Firefly. Lovely all male exhibit in super hard condition, well off for rib and length of neck, nice deep chest and good rear angulation moved well and cleanly just lacking a little enthusiasm, which cost him higher honours.

Minor Puppy Dog (1). 1 Harvey's Valger Snow Patrol at Imaniz. Appealing male lovely type nice outline short back really excels on the move with a long easy stride and clean coming and going but not quite showing himself off to full advantage on the stack but that will come in time.

Puppy Dog (3). 1 Wetton & Morris' Kavacanne Bolt From The Blue. Upstanding male, short in back, nice amount of bone well bent stifles with hocks well let down masculine in head won the class on the long free easy movement, looked like he could go all day. 2 Brown & Brown's Montalba Mister Teatime. Slightly different to one but really excels in body with super rib, nice length of upper arm and correct topline. I just felt first covered the ground a touch better. 3 Mann's Sparkenhoe Kith And Kin.

Junior Dog (5). 1 Sielski Orchidstar Bolts Of Speed. Eye-catching gent in hard order, really fills the 'medium sized' criteria, nice length neck and appealing head and expression with correct stop short, well off for rib moved well and showed like he wanted win. 2 Morris-Garget's Winterwell Eeh By Gum with Garvin. Longer male but not in correct scores in topline, good rear angulation, would like a little more depth of chest to fulfil an otherwise pleasing picture, gave a good account on the move. 3 Milligan's Greyelf Taelaros.

Post Graduate Dog (6). 1 Brown & Burns' Magregor Pop The Dom over Pothouse. Lovely male, like his medium size in terms of bone, body and height, really scores in chest and short back, super rib and in such hard condition, didn't let himself down on the move and was a worthy winner. 2 Collins & Collins' Barleyarch Hoopla at Forestpoint. Slightly longer than one, really scores in depth of chest, super tight feet, and short level back, preferred the stifle on one but could easily swap places. 3 Pocock's Fayemm Sea The Stars.

Limit Dog (6,2). 1 Smith & Reardon's Winterwell Maida Stone. All male, medium size, super forechest and lovely topline, very balanced fore and rear, moved very well and put on a super show, nice tight feet and shown in first class order. 2 Coe's Goosepoint Waddington at Abbanash (AI) JW. Really pleasing chap, moved around the ring with easy covering plenty of ground would just prefer a little more enthusiasm which cost him the class today, moderate throughout but correct nonetheless Pushed first all the way. 3 Goff & Dale's Seasham Live Wire at Shoshoni.

Open Dog (4). **1 Mann's Valger Ragnar JW**. Lovely male, just oozed quality, and class, moderate but nice size and well off for bone, super upper arm into well laid back shoulders, lovely depth of chest and correct topline, well bent stifles and put on a great show and couldn't be denied the class or the *DCC*, his second I believe. **2 Hinchliff's Ch Goosepoint Gloster Grebe (AI) JW**. Rangier male but correct all the same, so much to like, has a real workmanlike presence, upstanding super neck and really scores in chest, hard condition and showed like he owned the place, a really eye-catching male. *RDCC*. **3 Harris' Sh Ch Barleyarch Pringle**.

Veteran Bitch (2). 1 Knowles & Glen's Sh Ch & Ir Sh Ch Wilholme Sharp N Smart at Bessalone. Super sound bitch who really scores going around, lovely topline and well off for rear angulation, melting head and expression *BV*. 2 Cox's Sh Ch Cushatlaw Irresistable JW ShCM. A super quality bitch who pushed first all the way, just lacked a little umph on the move today, but scores in ribs and a well-made fore, pleasing size, good coat.

Minor Puppy Bitch (5). 1 Mann's Valger Symphony. Super quality pup balanced not overdone and gave a really good account of herself, very feminine and moved well, headed a great class. 2 Read's Keigame Signe. Similar type to one but a little longer, lovely neck into well-made shoulder, nice tight feet and lovely topline, just needs to be a little more enthusiastic for the complete picture. 3 Barker's Barkersdream Who Dares Wins.

Puppy Bitch (7,2). **1 Waddell Magregor Glitter Muff.** Super quality bitch, a little more mature than second, but they made quite a picture, super chest and depth, compact and feminine well bent stifles, pleasing head and expression, nice tight feet and moved so well and clean coming and going, *BP* and *RBCC*. **2 Mann's Valger Symphony. 3 Read's Keigame Signe**.

Junior Bitch (3,1). 1 Ellis' Soellis Fancy Nancy. Moderate bitch of lovely size and shape, very feminine but workmanlike at the same time, super length of neck, lovely depth of chest. Shown to full advantage. 2 Filby & Brown's Winterwell ThatIldo for Desjiem. Different type who doesn't always stand herself to full advantage, but much to like, lovely bone and a good shape, moved very soundly.

Post Graduate Bitch (15,1). A super quality class. **1 Thurm's Dappledele First Date at Bryburn**. Lovely bitch, classic outline, nice bone, a good size, looks like she could go all day, well off for angles to the fore and rear and moved around the ring with ease, headed a super class and I'm sure has a bright future. **2 Hinchliff's Goosepoint Gambler**. Pushed one all the way, just preferred the topline of first, super depth and forechest, not the flashiest but appealing all the same, nice feet and good pasterns.

Limit Bitch (11,2). 1 Delaney's Archerpoint Sea The Stars at Redmires. Lovely balanced bitch, won on super arm and shoulder construction, lovely depth of chest and good topline, well bent stifles, put on a good show. 2 Hammond & Hammond's Seasham I Love To Boogie. Lovely eye-catching bitch, long neck and moved superbly, a little longer than one but not in any way incorrect, these two could change places. 3 Cox's Cushatlaw Serendipity JW.

Open Bitch (10,1). **1 Squire's Sh Ch Taftazini Honour Wynna**. First class quality bitch in super condition, lovely typical outline, so balanced, oozed type, great topline, nice tight feet and moves so well, couldn't be denied in a super quality class, she put on a great show. **BCC. 2 Waddell's Sh Ch Magregor Wiff Waff**. Another one from the top drawer, pushed her all the way, lovely dark colour and good coat, scores in depth of chest and forehead, nice size, and correct bone, unlucky to meet first in such hard condition. **3 Hammond's Seasham Love Bug JW**.