

CRITIQUE - NATIONAL GUNDOG ASSOCIATION

Judge: Mr B Thurm

Staying on the showground for 4 days prior to the show, I watched the National Gundog 'boys', going to work, setting up, working together as a team, all marshalled so efficiently by Mr Chris Bexon, the Association Secretary. They all deserve a medal, particularly as the heat was excessive and must have sapped their strength. It was a great pleasure and honour to judge GSPs at this prestigious show and I thank all those involved. It was hot too, on the day of the show and I was amazed that the vast majority of dogs and handlers coped really well. My appreciation to all those who entered, giving me a most enjoyable day. Finally, my grateful thanks to my two stewards, who kept the ring running smoothly, with their calm efficiency.

Veteran Dog (1). **1 Smith & Reardon's Sh Ch Winterwell Fowl Play. *BVD & BVIB***. This youthful veteran, is a great ambassador for our breed, presented in fabulous muscular condition and with the soundest of movement both fore and aft. Standing on the best of legs and feet and with an excellent head, so well proportioned. Appealing in outline and totally at one with his handler, he pulled out all the stops to take Best Veteran in Breed and pushed hard for the RDCC.

Minor Puppy Dog (4). **1 Angus' Keigame Hvitserk of Sparkenhoe. *BPD***. Appealing youngster, looking just right at 8 months. Complimentary angles fore and aft allowed him to cover the ground freely and soundly. Most lovely head, of true breed type, with gentle expression. Neck flowing well into topline. Correct coat, well boned and with good pasterns. Tight, well arched feet. In fine condition and nicely handled. **2 Taylor-Morris' Pelenrise All Guns Blazing**. At 6½ months, looking a real baby, though a neat package. Short backed. Correctly angled hindquarters allowed for soundness in the rear. Would prefer more forehand angulation, which may come as he develops. Pleasing in head. Well-handled and presented. **3 John & Jones' Keigame Magnus**.

Puppy Dog (2). **1 Angus' Keigame Hvitserk of Sparkenhoe. 2 Graham's Winterwell Tubby Tompkin from Nyliram**. A nicely boned youngster, presented in fine bloom with a good coat and well handled. Scored in topline, second thigh and with an appealing head. Unsettled on the move today.

Junior Dog (1). **1 Dymond's Quintana Diamond Dust at Friarsbelle**. An upstanding and flashy youngster, with good bone and feet. Muscular, slightly arched neck. A correct topline and tailset. Well set ears with good carriage. Strength in nicely angulated hindquarters. Presented in glorious condition and handled to great advantage.

Graduate Dog (4). **1 Harvey's Valger Snow Patrol at Imaniz**. Have admired this youngster from the ringside and he did not disappoint on closer examination. Fills my eye as a true representative of our breed, possessing a beautiful, classic head with sufficient strength and an intelligent eye. Excellent reach of neck into correct topline and complimentary angles fore and aft. Well boned, with good feet and pasterns. Correct, coarse coat. Moved on a free and easy stride, just as his conformation predicts. Good depth and spring to ribs. Sympathetically handled and in fine bloom. Delighted to award him the ***RDCC*** and in this form, he should hit the top spot soon. **2 Rusk's Booton Provence**. Solid liver, with a great coat. Such a lovely head and expression, correct proportions of skull and foreface evident. Slightly arched neck into a good topline. Masculine appearance and so well handled. Moved soundly but feeling the heat. **3 Wetton & Morriss' Kavacanne Bolt From The Blue**.

Post Graduate Dog (2). **1 Marsh's Kilnrae Berliner**. At twenty months, developing along the right lines and looking balanced today. Well up to height. Looked as if he could work all day. A nicely proportioned head with strength in muzzle. In hard condition, with muscular neck of good length leading to good topline and tailset. Handled to advantage and covered the ground easily. **2 Shepherd's Orchidstar Full Speed Ahead**. At not much over two years, this lad needs time to body up and generally develop, looking very immature today and perhaps could carry a tad more weight to advantage. He possesses a kind head and eye, is well boned with correct topline and tailset, carried well on the move.

Limit Dog (6,1). **1 Sielski's Orchidstar Bolts of Speed**. Here is a fine example of a GSP, with so many breed attributes. Presented in fine muscular condition and handled immaculately. An eye catching outline and so very well constructed, also with good topline and tailset. When viewed from behind his hocks and rear pasterns are spot on and he stands on excellent legs and feet. An appealing masculine head with attractive expression and dark eye. So well bodied. Moved soundly and with style. His best is yet to come with more maturity. **2 Tierney's Ceilloch The Show Must Go On**. A close decision, as here is another quality GSP I really like. No mistaking this lad for anything other than a male, though without a hint of coarseness. A glorious head and delightful soft expression. Super conformation throughout allows for a true, ground covering stride, showing real drive and purpose. A great depth of body and spring of rib. Correct coarse coat, so well presented and so sympathetically shown. **3 Peebles & Hammond's Seasham The Groover**.

Open Dog (4). **1 Mann's Sh Ch Elfrindew Endrick to Valger. *DCC, BOB & Gp Shortlist***. It is no secret that I have long admired this top quality male. Oozes breed type from any angle and catches the eye immediately. In the peak of condition and shown to perfection to illustrate his many virtues, he is outstanding in head, with correct proportions of skull/muzzle and excellent depth to flews, giving that so desirable noble expression, all enhanced with his dark eye. He epitomises the breed standard, being short backed, standing over plenty of ground and with the correct assembly fore and aft to allow him that powerful, effortless profile gait, with great forward extension and real drive from behind, also maintaining his outline and correct tail carriage, on the move. A pleasure to award him the DCC and BOB and to see him take a Group shortlist later in the day, under Sharon Pinkerton. **2 Smith & Reardon's Winterwell Maida Stone**. Shown in beautiful bloom, a quality solid liver with correct coat and handled to full advantage. Head so balanced in profile and with lovely expression. Has a super reach of clean neck, into well laid-back shoulders. Masculine with sufficient bone and standing on correct legs and feet. Good depth to well sprung ribs. Excellent strength in nicely muscled quarters and second thigh. Moved soundly and with style. **3 Cook & Lamb's Brooke Will It Do It through Millcook**.

Veteran Bitch (2,1). **1 Mervyn's Ir Sh Ch, Lux Ch & Int Sh Ch Tomanipoint Schumacher CW 17/18 CJW 15 Jun Ch**. An impressive bitch, carrying her years so lightly and amidst strong competition put on a great show to take the ***RBCC***. Combines femininity with substance and possesses a most appealing head. Super body properties and stands over plenty of ground. Scored in movement, as a result of complimentary angles, with a free and sound stride, covering the ground with such ease. Correct pasterns, well boned and a good tail set. In hard condition and so well handled.

Minor Puppy Bitch (3). **1 Pearson's Winterwell Lulu Moppet to Ladyhawke**. A super, quality pup, one neat package. Correct coat of good texture and in superb condition. Loved her outline, short backed and balanced. Superb bone and good pasterns fore and aft. Great angles. All topped off with a lovely head and sound, ground covering movement. At one with her expert handler. Must have a bright future ahead. **2 Staley's Jomeel Olivia's Choice**. Another real baby, with much to commend. Very well balanced and proportioned for one so young and well-conditioned. A most pleasing head and expression. Correct topline and tailset. Moved well and although a tad unsettled today, her handler gained the best from her. **3 Bunker's Winterwell Little Itch**.

Puppy Bitch (2). **1 Rutherford's Dappledele Aurelia Rose. *BP***. A most promising quality youngster, appealing immediately for her outline, type, construction and most beautiful head and expression. Superb forehand with super layback of shoulder and upper arm angulation. Reachy neck, flowing into topline and tailset, where she excelled. Carried herself well on the move, maintaining her outline throughout and effortlessly eating up the ground. In gleaming condition and handled so well. A pleasure to award her ***BPIB***. Another who must have a bright future ahead. **2 Staley's Jomeel Olivia's Choice**.

Junior Bitch (4). **1 Cox's Cushatlaw Athena JW**. At 14 months, a lovely bitch, maturing along the right lines. Such a delightful head and expression. Super in outline and with excellent spring and depth to ribs. Well boned with neat feet. Clean neck into a correct topline. Strength in well angulated hindquarters. Feeling the heat today although she moved well enough to exhibit a sound stride. Well-handled and presented in super bloom. **2 Davies' Faircastle Electra**. A lovely head, showing correct proportions of skull and muzzle and with a dark eye. Could carry more weight to advantage, which would balance the picture. Her movement was sound and free, as a result of a good forehand and corresponding rear. Coat in first class condition. **3 Nixon's Quintana Lunar Eclipse**.

Special Beginners Bitch (3). **1 Barker's Barkersdream Who Dares Wins**. Upstanding bitch shown in fantastic muscular condition and well handled. Lengthy neck into correct topline. Standing on good legs and feet and with well angulated quarters. A feminine head and pleasing expression with good ear placement. An excellent coat. Used the ring well, to exhibit a sound stride **2 Davies' Faircastle Electra. 3 Yarwood's Rhosynglas Bootes**.

Novice Bitch (3). **1 Jackman's Navigareamor Spring Tide**. A black & white with a long, lean head of correct proportions and with a pleasing dark eye. Scored in movement, covering the ground really well as a result of complimentary angles. In fit, hard condition with a good coat. Handled and presented to advantage. **2 Nixon's Quintana Lunar Eclipse**. Catches the eye as being a sound, typical GSP. Ultra-feminine head with a sweet expression. Clean in neck and with strong topline. Excels in pasterns fore and aft and with well-developed hindquarters. Presented in super coat and condition and quietly handled. **3 Yarwood's Rhosynglas Bootes**.

Graduate Bitch (4). **1 Trow's Fayemm Treacle Tart with Winterwell (AI)**. A quality bitch who today gave her expert handler a hard time. When standing correctly, she presents a lovely outline. She has a classic head, good reach of neck, well angulated forehand, firm topline. Scores in body properties, with ample spring of rib and has a great second thigh. Moved with purpose and soundly. In fine coat and condition. **2 Read's Keigame Signe**. Another quality GSP with many attributes, just needing time to fill her frame. She has all the essentials in conformation and a most delightful head and expression. A tad erratic on the move today but did enough to secure her place. In lovely condition and sympathetically handled. **3 Tierney's Ceilloch Juniper**.

Post Graduate Bitch (6,1). **1 Barker's Valger Rapunzel at Barkersdream**. Have watched this bitch from afar and found her most pleasing here. My notes say 'smart' and that she is. Another to give her handler a hard time. Carries the stamp of her breeding and presents a typical, eye catching outline, being short backed with complimentary angles and a good reach of neck. A lovely, balanced head and appealing expression. In excellent bloom and moved well. **2 Trow & Jowsey's Winterwell Stoney Trail**. Have previously liked this quality bitch and she appealed immediately again today; maturity having enhanced her further. Combines strength with femininity and is sound in conformation. Well boned with super, straight front legs. Deep chested and with a short back. Most pleasing in head. Great coat and condition. Handled to full advantage to show off her many virtues. **3 Brown & Filby's Winterwell Thatlido for Desjiem**.

Limit Bitch (5). **1 Staley's Jomeel Now I'm Here**. Have recently done her well. Immediately catches the eye as she is GSP through and through, so full of breed type, with the most attractive outline. I loved her head, sweep of neck in to her super topline and tailset. Looks as if she could work all day. Sound conformation allows her to propel herself round the ring. Expertly presented and handled. **2 Ellis' Soellis Fancy Nancy**. A very typy GSP, with a super clean neck, flowing well into topline. Pleasing in angulation in front, with super upper arm and layback of shoulder and corresponding rear, giving a balanced appearance. Short backed and with great body properties. A coat of good texture and moved with reach and drive. Presented and handled expertly. **3 Lockett's Fayemm Forever Together**.

Open Bitch (11,3). **1 Rutherford's Sh Ch Cushatlaw Charisma of Dappledele**. A top quality GSP that I have long admired. Totally balanced and utterly feminine, with an air of elegance and refinement. Possesses a most delightful head and soft expression, with desirable dark eye. Her forehand is textbook, with superb upper arm angulation and layback of shoulder. This combined with her strength in quarters, of correct angulation, allows her that desirable effortless stride and while she was feeling the heat today, she did more than enough to exhibit her long, free gait. Slightly arched sweep of neck into correct topline and tailset, held on the move. Fully mature and with super body properties. So beautifully handled and in superb coat and condition it was a pleasure to award her the ***BCC***. Dam of my BP. **2 Mann's Sh Ch Elfrindew Lacey to Valger JW**. Another classic GSP, combining strength with femininity. A gorgeous head and expression, such well-proportioned ratios of skull and foreface. Mature with great depth and spring to ribs. Powered around the ring, looking as if she could complete a full day's work, carrying her topline and tailset correctly. Handled to perfection and in great bloom. **3 Mervyn's Tomanipoint Annie's Mazurka**.

Good Citizen Bitch (1). **1 Barker's Barkersdream Who Dares Wins**.