

IRISH WOLFHOUND CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW 2007

I was delighted and honoured to have been invited to judge at the prestigious Club Championship Show, with a big entry of 202 from 164 dogs.

I was a little disappointed at the large numbers of untypical broad heads with wide set light eyes, many hounds also lacked easy flowing movement.

I was, however, please with my final line up in both sexes and thrilled with my eventual Best in Show winner at his first show in the UK. Well done!

Puppy Dog

1 Treadwell's CAREDIG GALAHAD 7 months, grey, less mature than 2 but preferred his overall angulation and sound easy movement. Nicely constructed throughout, well bodied and correct length and depth. Excellent drive and style. Just pipped for BPIS buy the more mature bitch puppy.

2 Finney's GULLIAGH ARTULLY Taller, shorter coupled hound than above, at first I thought my winner but not quite the drive and soundness of Galahad. Lovely head and eye, nice pup to go over, just needs to grow into his legs. I liked his type and substance.

3 Warwick's CAIRSTORM FIRST EDITION

Junior Dog

1 Holder & Howe's MASCOTTS MANTOVANI 16 months, dark grey. Lovely elegant head, dark eye, pleasing expression. Well balanced overall with correct topline, good depth and length, would like a little more angulation in front but will mature and fill out. Excellent movement and handling.

2 Thomas & Riley's BALLYPHELAN MALLACHI 16 months, red brindle, masculine head, less mature than 1 and not quite the style but moved soundly front and rear, needs to body up.

3 Farmery's MADIAMOY BASHFUL BADGER OF FALAWAY

Special Yearling Dog

Slightly disappointing class overall, some bad mouths and unsound movement.

1 Simpson's AMARACH MELAUGHLIN 22 months, handsome dark grey hound with a lovely head and eye. Looks well both standing and moving, correct overall balance with correct topline. Well bodied with good length of ribbing, co-ordinating front and hind angulation. Sound mover, pleased to award him the Type Cup.

2 Exeter's CLEASEAC COLONEL CLIVE CURTIS 20 months brindle, less mature than 1 , not the topline and overall balance of winner, but moved soundly front and rear and with style.

3 Macaulay's GARTLOVE GRAFFITI

Novice Dog

1 Wilson's HYDEBECK LISTER LEEMAN AT DRAGONMOOR 17 months junior dog who has excellent substance and size, nicely balanced head, good expression, has good length of back with correct topline. Would like more front angulation but he made the best of himself, and out-moved his class mates, well handled.

2 Paterson's SOLSTRAND VANNA VARG 2 year wheaten, not the body, weight or topline of winner, but a well constructed hound, who, at his first show made a very good effort. Nice head and dark eye with kind expression.

3 Brightmore's CLHANNWORTHY BLAXLEY

Post Graduate Dog

This was a better quality class and a pleasure to judge.

1 Timmins's CORNOVI CATO My winner as he entered the class and he did not disappoint. At nearly 3 years he is mature, has great style and presence. I liked his sound movement and he was very well handled, pressing hard for the reserve CC amongst top competition.

2 McConnell's HYDEBECK MENELAUS Anther well balanced hound but a heavier style than above, well bodied with good depth, excellent mover.

3 Finney's GULLIAGH ALBUS

Mid Limit Dog

1 Barnbrook & Smith-King's SANTIR PRIDE OF SCOTLAND AT BRIBIBA Tall masculine throughout, mature at nearly 3 years old. Good head and expression, good length of neck and well made front and hindquarters, well bodied and well ribbed back. Moves with style and soundly, just preferred side movement and drive to 2nd placed hound.

2 Peek's MILKWOOD'S MY GUY Well balanced overall, different style to the winner, has won well with his littermates as a youngster and is still maturing. Not quite settled on the move today.

Limit Dog

1 Pain's CONCHOBAR FANCYFREE TO RAVENSBEECH Very impressive young hound who has all the essentials. At only 2½ years old he is already mature and has great size and substance with elegance, which is such a hard combination to get just right in a big breed. He covers the ground soundly with great drive, I felt he won the dog CC and BOB easily, pleased to give him his first CC at his first show in UK and I know he will win any, many more. Congratulations.

2 Lloyd-Jones's RYNCHANON ONE WILD KNIGHT AT NIGHTWING 3 years old black, pleased to see him so mature, he has really come into his own, best I have seen him and very unlucky to meet winner today, well handled.

3 Neal's CAHMEGA MAHLOO

Open Dog

1 Macaulay's CH GARTLOVE GALENKELSO An old favourite of mine. I have awarded both him and his father CCs and he still holds his own at 6½ years old. He is a great dog and is a credit to his owners, but today had to stand down to the younger dog's exuberance and style.

2 Pinkney's CH HYDEBECK CURRANT THYME Another top dog who I have always admired, at 4 years has reached maturity. Tall cream, lovely head and dark eye, excellent black ears, so rare in this colour, good length of neck with correct front and hind angulation. Has correct depth, length and topline. Moves soundly, although a little sluggish today, but a very worth champion.

3 Goodall & Painter's DRIFTCOT OTTAWA

Veteran Dog

1 McDonald-Ulliott's HIBECK CHARLES 9 years red brindle who was in great for today, moved soundly. He has great style and is in grad condition for his age. Really seemed to enjoy his day, well handled.

2 Broughton's FEARNHEAD ATLAS AT MONTISACRE 8 years. Not the substance and style of the winner but does not look his age and made the best of himself when moving. Excellent condition.

Puppy Bitch

A good class with some promising youngsters.

1 Sheppard's CAIRSTORM FABLE OF GOLDSWIFT Tall cream, very mature at 8 months, very pretty head and dark eye. I liked her overall conformation and has good ring presence. Sound mover with drive and good reach which was lacking in some of the youngsters today. Well handled.

2 Finney's GULLIAGH CORRIG Another very promising puppy who I really liked, but needed to settle on the move today. Less mature than the winner, I liked her excellent type and balance, more angulation front and rear than the winner but slower maturing.

3 Ashby's ASHGROAVE ORLANDO

Junior Bitch

1 McCall's MCLIGHT'S CHERRY Very impressive read, 14 months, lovely, balanced, feminine head, dark eye, correct ears, good size and substance, a very houndy bitch who has very good stride and side movement, hind movement very sound just needs to tighten in front which will come with maturity. Well bodied with good depth and length.

2 Neal's FAIGAI MITEXA AT CAHMEGA Nicely constructed youngster who moved soundly front and rear, good overall balance and well handled. I just preferred the head and expression of winner today.

3 Crittlen's REGAL CHARM OVER KALERIGG

Special Yearling Bitch

A very mixed class, a lot of disappointing heads with light eyes and quite a few unsound movers but pleased with my final choices, first three all very good quality hounds.

1 Macaulay's GARTLOVE GARTRALLIE Lovely black, 22 months. I admired her at the previous year winning Best Puppy at this sow and I was not disappointed. She won this class easily, I like her excellent overall balance and type. Feminine head, dark eye, correct expression, nicely angulated, moved well.

2 Biggs's GRIFEMY ETERNAL MAGIC 22 months brindle, different style to winner, very good quality bitch who also needs to mature, but I am sure will have a great future, well handled. Unlucky to meet winner.

3 McMillan's BALLALYNS WHAT IF

Novice Bitch

1 Critiens' REGAL CHARM OVER KALERIGG Very pretty head and expression, black, only 1 months and very immature. Previously placed 3rd in Junior, but won this class easily. Very nicely made throughout and out moved her class mates.

2 Goodson's MADIAMOY BABY BOLLINGER AT MORALACH Very glamorous 2 year old wheaten, sound front and rear movement but rather unsettle today which spoilt her chances.

3 Broughton's MONTISACRE ADAGIO

Post Graduate Bitch

1 Peek's MILKWOOD'S ME MYSELF I At just 3 years is a mature grey who had good overall balance, feminine head, dark eye, good expression. Front and hind angulation co-ordinate good depth and ribbing. Sound easy move, would like a little less weight which for me spoils the topline when moving.

2 Braine's HOLLYHENGE MRS MINX Very well named hound, today she was a real minx! A bit of a handful for her handler who did a sterling job. Two years very good quality bitch who has excellent breed type. I slightly preferred her to the winner but she let herself down today on the move. Needs to mature.

3 Parsons' MILKWOOD'S GOOD GOLLY MISS MOLLY

Mid Limit Bitch

A good class to judge of quality bitches, difficult to separate.

1 Timmins's CORNOVI COMFORT 3½ years grey brindle, not a glamorous bitch but has great qualities. Excellent overall conformation and balance, feminine with good size and substance, very sound mover, has drive and moves with ease, keeping her topline when moving. Pleased to award her second CC. Excellent handler who really gets the best out of her.

2 Cole's CULKEERAN SIGH 2½ years, just preferred head of winner but has very good type with excellent movement. Slightly less mature than above but not disgraced in this good company. Very good outline.

3 Macaulay's GARTLOVE GHLEANNDARVEL

Open Bitch

1 McDonald-Ulliott's FLORIPEDS DEL MANGIALUPI FROM HIBECK An old favourite of mine, who is feminine throughout, lovely head and eye, correct expression, good length of neck with well angulated front and rear quarters, well bodied with good depth, correct ribbing and length of loin. Did not make the best of herself when moving but won the class on type.

2 Pinkney's HYDEBECK VICTORIA PLUM Another quality bitch, she moved soundly and with style, excellent overall balance and substance, just preferred front angulation of winner.

3 Sumner's BALLYPHELAN LIQUORICE

Veteran Bitch

1 Holder & Howe's CH SOLSTRAND ROWENA Marvellous old lady who still looks in great trim. Top quality bitch that is now 8 years old, still moves with style and soundness and keeps her topline when moving. Won this class with ease. Lovely to see her again still holding her own.

2 Box's BALLYPHELAN BRIDGET AT BOSCALEANB Tall bitch nearly 8 years old, not the quality of the winner but has a well balanced head and good expression. In great condition for age, out-moved by above.

3 Harmer's BOKRA OPIUM OF BALLANROO

Team

1 Finney's Excellent team of six elegant and typy hounds, very well handled, all moving easily around a large ring, even the youngsters. Well done.

Jenny Dove