

IRISH WOLFHOUND CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW 2009

May I take this opportunity to express my thanks to the membership of the club for giving me one of the best entries at this prestigious event. It was certainly a day I will remember for the rest of my life.

The venue must be the best on the show circuit and my congratulations go to the Kennel Club for their foresight in providing splendid facilities both inside and outside the building. When shows run smoothly and efficiently, little thought is given to their organization. I must commend all who had any input into the administration of the event, both prior to and on the day of the show.

Personal thanks go to my stewards and the show manager for their sterling work on show day. For the most part, I believe that the venue was kept clean by exhibitors and treated with the respect it deserved. Finally, the catering was excellent and all concerned in food production were resplendent in their "whites". Well done.

The dogs on the whole were typical examples of the breed. Big, upstanding and looking as if they could hunt as well as their ancestors. My top winners were of excellent quality and would be hard to beat, here in the UK or abroad. I do, however, have some concerns and top of the list are dentition faults, namely misplaced teeth, even reverse scissor bites . . . breeders need to bear this in mind for future generations. Movement was acceptable in most cases, however, many moved close behind and lacked drive and extension. A major disappointment to me was the poor fitness levels of a large number of exhibits and the lack of the associated muscle.

Minor Puppy Dog

- 1 Goodson's MORALACH GOLD SOVEREIGN 8 months old. Super young wheaten dog, with correct pigmentation. Ears a little large, long neck fitting nicely into well laid scapula, level topline, well angulated hindquarters, moved with reach and drive.
- 2 Evans-Jones & Halsall's VALHERU KAIOKHAYHAM 8 months old. Grey brindle dog of good substance. Balanced head, dark eye, a little upright in pastern, deep chest, level topline, adequate turn of stifle, carrying a little weight, moved correctly.
- 3 Marston & Clutton's MORALACH OLYMPIC HERO AT DRAGONSBROOK

Puppy Dog

- 1 Goodall's DRIFTCOT BILLY ELLIOT 11 months old. Dog that excels in breed type. Lovely head, dark eye, correct rose ears, strong neck, well constructed front assembly, level topline. Strong loin, well set croup, balanced angulation at the rear, best mover in class, a worthy winner.
- 2 Dolling's CHAROBIE CHARMING CHARLIE 11 months old. A youngster with potential. Correct bite, super head, dark eye and rose ears. Long, strong neck, adequate depth to brisket, correct length of loin, a little narrow through thigh and not quite the angulation all through of the winner.
- 3 Sumner's DUKESARUM TITUS

Junior Dog

- 1 Macaulay's STRICKEN OAK EARL MARISCHAL FROM GARTLOVE 20 months. Typical hound, almost black, a little short on the leg but balanced all through. Correct head, super furnishings, correct shoulder placement, good length to upper arm, correct topline, adequate rear angulation. Best mover in this class.
- 2 Bradley's CAREDIG EMMETT 14 months. A tall youngster with plenty of promise. Pleasing head, correct bite rose ears. Long, strong neck, a little straight in front and shallow in brisket, but this will come with maturity. Level topline, good turn of stifle, move soundly.
- 3 Treadwell's CAREDIG ECHO

Yearling Dog

- 1 Barnes's HAZIANNE TOTAL ECLIPSE 2 year old. Another typical hound, again a little short on the leg, but exudes quality, Lovely head, correct bite, strong neck, well laid shoulder, correct length to upper arm, level topline, super hindquarters, well muscled and moved with drive and style.
- 2 Dawson's PLEASEAC CAMEMBERT BY SHALICO 2 year old. Super dog of great substance. Pleasing head, strong neck, deep chest and balanced angulation front and rear. Correct topline, moved well.
- 3 Morris & Trethowan's BRAEWISAN CONAN

Novice Dog

- 1 Bradley's CAREDIG EMMETT (see Junior Dog)
- 2 Riley & Thomas's BALLYPHELAN MALACHI 22 months. Pleasing dog, good balanced head, ears could be better, a little short in neck compared to winner. Good substance and bone, correct length of loin, well laid croup, super turn of stifle and moved well.
- 3 Guntrip's AINSEA THE LANCER

Post Graduate Dog

- 1 Sumner's STONEYBROOK FOINAVEN GERONIMO OF DUKE SARUM 3¼ year old. Typical dog, log legs, pleasing head, super expression, correct bite. Long neck leading into super shoulders. Long upper arm and scapula, very muscular all through, correct topline with arch over loin, super hindquarters, moved well although a little close behind.
- 2 Neal's FIAGAI GHOST STEPS AT CAHMEGA 3 year old. Heavier all through than winner but still a lovely type. Strong masculine head sadly spoilt by big ears. Balanced angulation front and rear. Sound mover but quite lethargic.
- 3 Currie's KILREIN CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

Mid Limit Dog

- 1 Malley's AINSEA PHOENIX NIGHTS 2 year old. Super young dog, lovely head, dark eye, rose ears and long, strong neck which fitted into correctly constructed front. Deep chest, long back. Correct proportion of rib to loin. Well angulated rear, which he used on the move.
- 2 Peiler's KNOCKNAREA BACCHUS 3¼ year old. Strong dog, pleasing head, correct bite, long muscular neck into adequate front assembly. Deep brisket, level topline, good width through thigh and hocks, did not have the movement of the winner, but a quality exhibit.
- 3 Gregory's KILLOUGHERY THE MAVERICK

Limit Dog

- 1 Amoo's BOKRA WALLACE TO SADE 2¼ year old. A fine, upstanding, dog, super head and a long strong neck. This dog is balanced all through with no exaggeration. Well constructed in front and rear, deep chest plenty of width all through. Strong topline. I would like a thicker tail with more of a covering of hair. Shown to perfection. Moved soundly with purpose around the ring.
- 2 Painter's DRIFTCOT VOLANTE 4½ year old. A close fought contest, I loved this dog for his breed type as well as his super head and fabulous coat. Correct angulation and length of scapula and upper arm. Good topline, correctly coupled, well laid croup, well angulated rear, moved well.
- 3 McConnell's HYDEBECK MENALOUS

Open Dog

- 1 Tebbutt's CAREDIG GALILEO 2½ year old. This class gave me once again a difficult decision, however, my winner was a super dog of good type, Lovely head, correct bite, well made front assembly and spring of pastern, correct topline, a little steep in croup for me, but coupled with his balance it enabled him to move well. He was in super hard condition, as I would expect.

2 Holder & Howe's LUX/FR CH MASCOTTS MANTOVANI 3¼ year old. Lovely dog, which really challenged the class winner. Gorgeous head, long neck and super front. Level topline, balanced rear angulation, which enable him to move with ease and grave around the ring.

3 Pinkney's CH HYDEBECK CURRANT TYME

Veteran Dog

1 Holder & Howe's NELLWYNS MR MIDNIGHT 7½ year old. Dog still a worthy show dog, although unsteady on his feet sometimes. Lovely typical example of the breed, masculine head, good front assembly, level topline, super turn of stifle. A little short on the leg. Moved with enthusiasm.

2 Biggs's GOLDSWIFT ICE WIZARD FROM GRIFEMY 7 year old. Wheaten dog who did not look his age. Correct pigmentation, deep brisket, balanced all through, correct topline, moved well.

3 Gilbert's ANSTYARNA MOR BROC

Minor Puppy Bitch

1 Goodson's MORALACH GOLDEN GRACE 8 months old. Feminine wheaten bitch, attractive head, hopefully will grow into her ears, long neck, well angulated in front, straight sting bone, level topline, adequate angulation in rear, moved with ease around the ring.

2 Barnbrook & Smith-King's BRIBIBA'S HIGHLAND MIST 7 months old. Super young lady enjoying her day out, lovely head, dark eye, feminine expression, correct bite, deep chest with associated width, long neck into adequate shoulder placement, correct topline, balanced hindquarters. Moved well.

3 Evans-Jones & Halsall's VALHERU DERWEN DDU

Puppy Bitch

1 Goodall's DRIFTCOT WICKED 11 months old. Quality bitch, combining strength and race. Pleasing outline, well balanced head, ears a little large, long neck into good front with well placed upper arm, deep chest, correct topline, good turn of stifle, best mover in the class.

2 Morris's WINDSPRAY FIRESTORM TO AMARACH 10 months old. Another lovely bitch, on the same lines as winner. Correct head and bite, rose ears, great strength to neck, fitting well into super front assembly, correct topline, adequate angulation at stifle, not quite the substance of winner, moved with grad and elegance.

3 Sumner's DUKESARUM TARA

Junior Bitch

1 Forret Close's BRACHAN LOCK DEE OVER TAPSALTEERIE 14 months old. Caught my eye when she entered the ring, she exuded quality and type. Excellent head, correct bite, beautiful ear carriage, super lay of shoulder coupled with strong straight bone in front, deep chest, correct underline, well angulated at stifle, moved with drive and style.

2 Bennett's FINNEAGLE OONAGH 14 months. Closely challenged for the top spot. Typical head, but not as tall as the winner, but full of quality, well angulated in front with complimentary angulation in the rear, correct topline, moved well.

3 Barnbrook & Smith-King's BRIBIBA EBONY MOON

Yearling Bitch

1 Johnson's NELLWYNS MS ELIZA DOOLITTLE. 2 years old. Quality bitch from this kennel and although young, has plenty of promise for the future. Beautiful feminine head, enhanced by a dark eye, rose ear, correct bite. Strong, long neck, well placed shoulder, lovely depth and substance all through, balanced rear angulation. Would like a little more length of leg, but moved with drive and enthusiasm. A worthy winner.

2 Harpwood's KILFENORA SPIRIT OF THE SEA AT FINLOREN 18 months old. Super quality exhibit. A head to die for, so feminine with wonderful furnishings. Long neck leading into correct front

assembly, good lay and length to upper arm, deep brisket, correct length of loin. Would benefit from a little more turn of stifle, moved well.

3 Trethowan's BRAEWISAN AIBREAUN

Novice Bitch

1 Lees' HUNACRES KOSETTE AVEC MONARAWN 21 months old. Quality bitch, a truly typical example of the breed. Correct head, long strong neck fitting into well placed shoulders, level topline, well angulated rear, correct width through thigh, best mover in class.

2 Harpwood's KILFENORA SPIRIT OF THE SEA AT FINLOREN (see Yearling Bitch)

3 Bennett's FINNEAGLE MAURA

Post Graduate Bitch

1 Holder & Howe's MASCOTTS MY LOLA 2 years old. A truly lovely exhibit, very feminine of the correct substance and quality, Superb head, lovely dark eye and rose ears. Long strong neck that fits into a well made front assembly. Straight forelegs, deep chest, belly well drawn up, lovely hindquarters, so sound on the move. I had no doubt she was my winner.

2 Sumner's BALLYPHELAN JENNI JONES 2½ years old. Bitch from this well known kennel, super head, long strong neck. Good width all through, correct topline, a little short coupled for me, balanced angulation fore and aft, moved well.

3 Harmer's BALLANROO ORCADIA

Mid Limit Bitch

1 Malley's AINSEA GYPSY 2 years old. Another one that caught my eye as soon as she entered the ring. Lovely quality, pleasing head and strong neck, well angulated in front, deep chest, good length to body, strong loin, well set croup, balanced angulation at the rear, moved soundly but a little close behind.

2 Tebbutt's CAREDIG GRACE 2½ year old. Lady with a lovely profile, strong head, not quite so feminine as the winner, strong neck flowing into a well made front, muscular shoulders, great breadth to chest, correct topline and underline, strong hindquarters, moved well, a closely fought contest.

3 Surrell & Coleman's BOKRA VALENCIA

Limit Bitch

1 Surrell & Coleman's BOKRA WINDCHYME 2½ year old. This bitch filled my eye from the time she came into the ring with her presence and quality. Her grace and super conformation said it all. It was, however, still a close fought battle for first place. Typical head, strong neck with adequate length, textbook front coupled with superb substance all through. Long back with correctly proportioned rib to loin. Super hindquarters, correct angle to croup, presented in fabulous condition. As expected, moved just as she should around the ring illustrating great size and commanding appearance.

2 Tebbutt's CUALAINN PSYCHE CAREDIG 3½ year old. Pressed hard for the top spot in this class. Correct proportions to her head, scissor bite, strong neck well made in front, good depth and breadth all through. Correct topline, well angulated at the rear. Another who moved so well, she oozes power as she goes around the ring showing commanding appearance without losing her femininity. Pressed hard for the reserve CC.

3 Macaulay's GARTLOVE GENEVA

Open Bitch

1 Amoo's CH SADE JYNNX 4½ year old. Typical bitch, Lovely quality. Pleasing head, correct bite, dark eye, rose ear, well laid shoulder, coupled with straight bone. Deep chest, correct topline, well balanced angulation at the rear, super mover.

2 Tebbutt's CH SEPLECTUR CASS CAREDIG Almost 5 years old. Quality exhibit, a little short on the leg, but quality all through from her head, strong neck and super front to her well made hindquarters. She is curves in abundance, such grad couple with the ability and fitness to move well.

3 Goodson's MADIAMOY BABY BOLLINGER AT MORALACH

Veteran Bitch

1 Morris's AMARACH AGNEIS 7 year old. Lovely mature girl, who does not seem to have lost her favour, typical head, excellent neck, correct angulation in front with the right length of scapula and upper arm, kept her topline on the move. Balanced rear angulation which enabled her to move well for her age.

2 Sumner's BALLYPHELAN MOON CLOUD 7½ year old. Lady who retained her quality despite her age. Good in front and rear, lost her topline on the move, but what an example of health and soundness for her age.

3 Sheppard's GOLDSWIFT SNOW LEOPARD

Peter Pask