

Irish Wolfhound Championship show 25/3/16

I am not quite sure where to start with this preamble, when I won the ballot for this prestigious show I was truly thrilled. To judge the breed championship show is an honour indeed.

I am so glad I had this golden opportunity a nice entry of quality hounds some absentees but that is inevitable. I found some excellent representatives of the breed. No narrow under jaws or lower canines protruding into the roof of the mouth, a few hounds could may be in harder condition, and I would that 99% of the dogs were handled well and sympathetically, but I so hate to see dogs strung up not just on the move but on the stack, kindness goes a long way. I had a truly memorable day, and this was facilitated by the officers and committee of this great club, they were without exception helpful, kind, polite and generous of spirit. My stewards Alan Lefley and Linda Ward were helpful, and efficient.

MPD 3(1)

1st Appleyard Bonaforte's Justice what a beautiful puppy to start the day, 8 month old cream shown in superb condition, kind head and melting expression, well made front, good lay of shoulder, excellent feet good topline and super hindquarters, well let down hocks, moved out really well for his age A promising baby BPD

2nd Allitt Madigan the Magnificent of Jascarah 7 month old grey brindle, pleasing head good reach of neck, deep chest, reasonable hindquarters, needs more time to settle on the move, kindly handled

PD 0

JD 5(1)

Interesting class of differing type

1st Das Purkayastha Ravensbeeck Romanus Among Neckrebagh Well presented hound, handsome head and kind expression, good front, strong straight bone, deep chest, nice width all through stifle. Well let down hocks, good jacket, moved out with a steady gait

2nd Macaulay Gartlove Gaelenlogan lovely head and dark eye, good front assembly, well arched neck into correct lay of shoulder, well off for bone, muscled rear, carrying a little extra weight today, moved out well, a quality hound.

3rd Sumner Dukesarum Attacus, a very different type, tall and rangy black, pleasing head, well off for bone, correct topline, well muscled throughout, at this time still very raw very much a work in progress, he moves out with a ground covering stride. Shall watch with interest how he matures.

YD 8(4)

1st Tebbutt Caredig Barbarian this well made hound headed up a really nice class of youngsters, kind in head and expression, he presents a lovely clean outline, he has good bone and feet, correct width throughout, well held topline, good hindquarters, well muscled, and he moved out soundly.

2nd Ashby's Ashgroave Burleigh Bowdey attractive youngster, most pleasing in head, dark eye, balanced front and rear, excellent tuck up, super coat, good tail set and carriage. Strong dog on the move, needs to settle a little more, but liked him a great deal.

3rd Bogart Mascotts Conquistidor much to like about this dark brindle, handsome head, well arched neck, deep chest and well ribbed back, good muscle tone throughout, good bend of stifle, shown in excellent condition, movement not quite as positive as 1 and 2

ND1 (1)

PGD 6(1)

1st Du Rose Bonaforte's Earl Grey I have admired this dog from the ring side and he does not disappoint under the hand. Super type, love his head, darkest of eyes, good reach of neck, correct lay of shoulder. Well ribbed back good in top and underline, covers the ground with ease.

Sumner Cufodhla Glen of the downs at Dukesarum 2 year old red wheaten, lovely expression and head, strong bone, well placed shoulders, good arch over loin, strong muscular hindquarters, sound and powerful on the move

3rd Severn Kumar Gaelmarque Melton Say, well made hound shown in good jacket and condition. Correct top and underline, kind expression, would prefer more length of neck, deep in body, and well muscled, sound mover

MLD 7(2)

1st Poole and Sheppard Conmeryl Marksman with Goldswift, well made hound of good type, an honest Wolfhound nothing overdone, kind expression strong arched neck into good front assembly, well filled forechest, good strong topline which he holds on the move. Masculine rear, well let down hocks, excellent coat and moved with a powerful stride

2nd Sumner Dukesarum Winston red brindle, lovely head and dark eyes, correct sloping shoulder placement, good width all through, deep brisket, muscular hindquarters, which he used well on the move, preferred the overall balance of winner

3rd Wilkes Strickenoak Clanrickarde ShCM Kind in head and expression, nicely arched neck, good depth of chest, well ribbed back, correct bend of stifle, not moving as freely as I have seen him before.

LD 8(3)

1st PinkneysHydebeck Imperial Ruler JW Loved this boy, beautifully presented as always from this kennel, masculine head, excellent arch of neck into strongly made front construction, excellent tuck up, crisp coat, good bone and feet, well developed hindquarters and second thigh, shown in hard condition, easy and active on the move pleased to award him the DCC and subsequently BIS and the movement cup

2nd Porter Pitlochry's Quaros for Lindall Imp NLD really liked this type hound, kind head and expression, dark eye, arched neck into good lay of shoulder, deep brisket, sound and well made hindquarters, he moved out with good length of stride, a quality hound

3rd Severn Kumar Gaelmarque Drap du Berry, such a beautiful hound, a head of quality and that ethereal look, super coat, and condition, balanced forehand, muscular rear, good bone and feet, and yet on the move does not do himself justice, he is very sound but lacking enthusiasm, nevertheless a hound of great quality.

OD 7(2)Super class

1st Holder and Howe Ch Mascotts Crackerjack ShCM Another lovely quality hound, masculine, strong, when standing presents a series of curves , typical gazehound expression, strong neck excellent fill of forechest , well off for bone, muscular hindquarters, well developed second thigh, good feet shown in excellent condition. Difficult decision in the challenge but on the last run round I preferred the going away action of Imperial Ruler, but nevertheless he is a sound honest moving hound, and well deserving of the res cc and res BIS

2nd Surrell and Coleman Bokra Amnesty different in type, but what a well made athletic hound

Pleasing head, very well constructed all through, arched neck, correct top line, and tail set, deep chest and good width in forehand, well ribbed back, strong straight forelegs, shown in great condition, very fit for function. Good coat texture, great length of stride with an easy gait.

3rd Tebbutt Ch Caredig Caredog another hound of quality, such a kind face, and in his expression you can see he so loves his owner, in fact this owner has such empathy with all his hounds, a joy to see. Strong , muscular neck, good fill of forechest and lay of shoulder, good tail set and carriage, plenty of width through rear, and great muscle tone throughout, has good extension and a powerful mover, three very good examples of the breed.

Veteran Dog 1

Warwick Cairnstorm First Edition, an old favourite of mine, and so thrilled to see him back in the ring, at 9 and half he is in good condition, lovely head, I like his overall balance, well made forechest, deep brisket, , well ribbed back, good tail , he has an easy stride and very sound. I so hated making a decision between him and the veteran bitch winner. What I would say is that both winners should be justly proud to have their veterans in great condition, and maybe in future the veteran classes could be age split. Consider though how wonderful this is to even contemplate this action in the Irish Wolfhound

Veteran Bitch 9(3)

This was for me by far the hardest class of the day, and I would have preferred not to have placed any just given out a well deserved rosette to them all. Well done to all of you and for doing me the honour of seeing these wonderful veteran hounds, but the rules are to judge as in any other class.

1st Tebbutt Ch Caredig Delilah 7 year old in just fabulous condition, beautiful for type, kind head and melting expression, good arched neck, into correct shoulder placement, well filled forechest, nice width to her hindquarters, powerful movement, her overall fit for function condition won her the class and Best Veteran in show, she like First Edition good examples of the breed, but nearly three years in age makes such difference, each have great qualities and I congratulate their owners.

2nd Holder and Howe Mascotts Nellwyns Miss Ella, remember her as a puppy where do the years go, still a lovely hound, so pretty and feminine, of good type and quality, good in top and underline, shown in great condition, correct angulation front and rear, Steady even gait.

3rd Du Rose Hermine Von Der Siller Quelle Bei Heliodor (imp Deu) 10 year old wheaten bitch , most appealing head and expression, good depth and balance, excellent coat, loved her for type not as steady on the move as first two but as with all the bitches in this class a great credit to their owners. A humbling experience

MPB 1

Pinkneys Hydebeck Ruler of the Stars, what a pretty baby, who likes to rule her mum , just seven months, full of character and quality, sweet head and expression, well arched neck, excellent forechest, strong bone , correct topline and tail set, well made hindquarters, lovely length of stride, a very promising baby with a great future.BPB and BPIS

PB 6 (1)

1st Bradley Glengail Gwendolyn upstanding puppy of eleven months, feminine head, good reachy neck, deep brisket and good fill of forechest, strong topline, well let down hocks, great muscle tone, moved out well.

2nd Treadwell Glengail Ggeraldine at Floydian litter sister to above and similar comments apply, feminine, well made excellent condition, good bone and feet, kindest of expressions lots of promise very little to choose between them, today one just a tad more positive on the move, sure they will exchange places many times

3rd Gilbert Anstyarna Betty Boo another promising baby, liked her type, feminine in head and expression, good reach of neck, strongly made, and well balanced, good coat, just needs to settle on the move, but a good example of the breed.

JB A good class 10(1)

1st Macaulay Gartlove Ghleann Bronagh much to like about this 15 month old girl, prettiest of heads , arched neck into well laid shoulders, , deep in chest and good width all through, strong hindquarters which she used to advantage, well let down hocks, and good tail carriage. Sound and free on the move, super jacket completes the picture

2nd Sumner Dukesarum Scout, a different type, more rangy but a very appealing black, kind expression, shown in excellent condition, good bone and feet, muscular and really moves out covering the ground

3rd Tebbutt Brachan Dolig Wen Caredig very pretty well made bitch, much to like, well constructed front, good topline, well muscled rear, well off for bone, another good moving hound

YB 6(1)

1st Ashby Ashgroave Burleigh Oakley took my eye as she came in the ring, beautiful wheaten of excellent type, kindest of heads, dark eyes, nicely rosed ears, long and muscular neck, good lay of shoulder, strong straight forelegs balanced by powerful hindquarters, shown in great condition her young handler showed off her strong rhythmic hind action to advantage pleased to award her Res CC

2nd Bridges Katy Perry Roan Inish, a promising youngster, with most appealing head and expression, super type, good width in forechest, reachy neck, well held ears, strong topline, and well ribbed back, good hindquarters, she has great length of stride .

3rd Crampthorn Yelxba Victoria well constructed hound feminine head, she is very well made, beautifully balanced all through, strong and muscular, shown in excellent condition, can see her doing the job she was bred to do, moves out at a steady pace.

NB 7 (4)

1st Macleod Brachan Eira really nice houndy bitch of pleasing type, shown in great condition and well handled , sweet expression, good ear set, arched neck and good lay of shoulder, nice depth of body , and well ribbed back, well let down hocks, and she moved with purpose and drive in this class

2nd Bligh Bonaforte's Enchanted at Ravencrag , an enchanting pretty wheaten bitch, pleasing outline, good reach of neck into well held topline, good width through stifle, strong hindquarters, , moved out with a steady gait

3rd Bradley Glengail Gwendolyn

PGB 6(2)

1st Sheppard Conmerly Miss Scarlett for Goldswift, well constructed dark brindle with kind head and pleasing expression, arched neck into well held topline, strong straight forelegs, deep brisket , good flare of pelvis, well ribbed back, nice tuck up, a quality bitch who certainly can move very fit for purpose

2nd Sumners Ballyphelan Rosy Ryan dark bitch in good coat, head of correct proportions, strong arched neck , stands a little wide in front, good topline, correct ribbing, shown in hard muscular condition, handled with kindness , moved well in profile but moving wide coming towards me

3rd Bligh Bonaforte's Enchanted at Ravencrag

MLB 9(4) Head scratching class for differing type, some good bitches and I loved the VHC in this class Harropine Sensibility, but she absolutely threw her chances by not co-operating with her gentle handler on the move.

1st Braine Solstrand Celtic Flame for Hollyhenge what a lovely girl, she has such sound movement, I like her for type, the most feminine of heads, correctly made front , strong forelegs and good feet, deep chest , strong over the loin , muscular rear, with good width through the stife, a very good Wolfhound

2nd Sumner Dukesarum Gypsy , different in type , not the head of one but she presents with an excellent outline, well arched neck, good shoulder placement, correct underline and tuck up, and on the move has real reach and drive.

3rd Sumner Killochery Braela of Ballyphelan, feminine head, good shoulder and well made forehand, good depth of brisket, muscled hindquarters, well angulated, not moving as well as first two a tad unco-ordinated at times.

LB 6(2)

1st Catlow Mascotts Cassis Laoiseach a most feminine bitch love her head and expression, nicely balanced through the forehand, good in topline, well off for bone into good feet, good muscle tone and correct rear angulation. Shown in excellent coat and condition, she has substance and quality moved with an easy effortless stride.

2nd Porter Geal Cailin for Lindall (IKC) Appealing head and dark eye, arched neck, into good shoulders and top line, correct tail set and carriage, nice length and width all through, and moving out very well

3rd Redfern Rainster Alice, a very pleasing hound, super outline, feminine and kind expression, super muscle tone throughout, good forechest, and good sweep of stifle, not as settled today as first two but much to like.

OB 8(3)

A lovely class

1st Sumner Ch Dukesarum Tegan, what a lovely girl, beautiful head, arched neck and muscular neck, strong topline, deep chest, nice ribbing, strong in rear with correct width through stifle and good second thigh, well let down hocks, well set on tail, and how she could move and this combined with her type and soundness won her the class and BCC

2nd Pinkney Ch Hydebeck Imperial Dream JW an impressive Champion with so much to like about her, strong athletic bitch, pleasing head, well muscled, shown in hard tip top condition, well balanced angulation, correct top and underline, moved with great reach and drive

3rd Tebbutt Ch Caredig Cariad kindest of heads and dark eye, good reach of neck, deep in brisket, excellent topline, well balanced all through, good coat and condition, moved well, completed a trio of top class hounds

Dave Malley Memorial Beginners Stakes for Dogs

1st Bee Mascotts Conquistador

2nd Bees Nellwyns Mr Ozymandias much to like about this hound, lovely expression, shown in excellent condition strong arched neck, shoulder placement not as good as winner deep chest, strong bone, he moves well but I wish he would lower his tail it does spoil the overall picture, and today preferred the elegance of Conquistador, but two well loved and well presented hounds.

Jean Malley Memorial Beginners stakes for bitches

5 (2)

1st Treadwell Glengail Ggeraldine at Floydian

2nd Bligh Bonaforte's Enchanted

3rd Keeling Ballyphelan Flamenco at Tormorewolf a pretty bitch, giving lots away in this class, nicely made all through, pretty head, and showing herself off well for her handler

Brace 7 (4) I was most impressed with how well all these dogs moved with their handler but winners were spot on.

1st Tebbutts Well matched and moved in unison

2nd Ashby's Brace

3rd Macleod Brace

Team 1

Tebbutts team, what can I say amazing!!!!

Best Head and Eyes and Expression

Many hounds came back for this class, and for me heads are important, this is after all a beauty competition if you can combine beauty with grace and sound movement perfect...After looking at all these beautiful hounds for me the winner of this class had to be Poole and Sheppard Harropine

Sensibility, sadly in her class she did not co-operate, but standing still, looking into her eyes you can almost drown in that oh so faraway gaze, this ethereal look is something I cannot define, it has to be seen, I hope she can get her act together and for her overall construction and type she will challenge the best.

Best Conformation and Movement Hydebeck Imperial Ruler JW

Best Novice Brachan Eira

Type cup dog Caredig Barbarian

Type cup bitch Ashgroave Burleigh Oakley

Best limit Hydebeck Imperial Ruler JW

Tallest dog Mascotts Conquistador

Sue Wilkinson (Judge) 31/03/16