

**IRISH WOLFHOUND CLUB OPEN SHOW**  
**2 November 2013**

A privilege and a honour to be able to judge one's own breed show. I has a most enjoyable and memorable day, many thanks to the officers and committee for the wonderful hospitality. Special thanks to my hard-working stewards who kept me in order and, of course, to the very sporting exhibitors - who entrusted me with this honour. There were some lovely dogs to go over, but I feel the breed is losing those lovely forechests, height and crispness of coat (more attention would improve the overall picture). Mouths on the whole were good. Temperaments excellent. The puppy classes were outstanding, and hopefully bode well for the future. It was heart-warming to see so many newcomers and I wish them well for the future.

**MPD (9)** What a stunning class. 1 Poole and Sheppard's Conmeryl Marksman with Goldswift. Promising puppy of 7 months. Dark eye and neat ears. Strong neck into a good lay of shoulder, chest yet to fill out. Good length of ribbing and adequate rear angulation. 2 Severn-Kumar's Gaelmarque Melton Say. Well grown puppy of 9 months. Beautiful head with a lovely expression, dark eyes and neat ears. Strong neck, not quite the front of the winner but a deep ribcage. Strong topline and second thigh. Good bend of stifle, a difficult decision between these two. 3 Poole's Conmeryl Manifesto. Another 7 month old puppy and litter brother to the winner. A very raw baby but has a lot to offer. Lovely head and expression, front yet to settle. Adequate rear angulation, moved well. A very interesting class.

**PD (3)** 1 Watson's Rivenhound Guy Fawkes. BOS, BP and Res BPIS. Lovely puppy, pleasing head with dark eye and lovely ears. Strong neck and good shoulders. Deep chest and correct topline which he kept on the move. Lovely bend of stifle. 2 Gregory's Killoughhery the Baron. Pleasing head with a dark eye and neat ears. Strong neck leading to reasonable shoulders. Adequate topline and tuck up, would prefer more bend of stifle. 3 Lewin's Bonaforte's Dandy. Another raw puppy, needs time and help with coat. Lovely expression, dark eye and neat ears. Reasonable front and topline, hindquarters will strengthen with age.

**JD (2)** 1 Dunkley's Finneagle Esperidion. Brindle dog, cheeky expression and a dark eye and neat ears. Good length of neck, reasonable shoulders, upper arm needs tightening up. Strong feet and hindquarters, needs to body up and drop into himself. Moved freely. 2 Bogart's Nellwyns Mr Ozymandias. Large and well grown dog, masculine head with a dark eye and well set ears. Strong neck, reasonably set shoulders, rather long in loin. Good width over quarters.

**YD (2)** 1 Vaudin's Fearghas Really Irish in Torteval (Imp Cze). Large and strong dog, masculine head and a dark eye. Well arched neck into well laid shoulders, excellent topline which he kept on the move. Well balanced, strong hindquarters. 2 Dunkley's Finneagle Esperidion.

**Sp Beginners D (2)** 1 Severn-Kumar's Gaelmarque Melton Say.

**ND (4)** 1 Severn-Kumar's Gaelmarque Drap de Berry. This dog has everything going for him. Beautiful head and expression, dark eye and neat ears. Strong neck into well placed shoulders, deep chest and correct topline. Well angulated and strong hindquarters, a stunning picture when stacked. Unfortunately giving his handler a hard time on the move, which let him down. 2 Dunkley's Finneagle Esperidion. 3 Brown and Sheppard's Draugfara Taren. Kind expression and a dark eye. Strong neck, rather upright in shoulder. Topline fair, hindquarters need to strengthen.

**PGD (8)** 1 Sumner's Ballyphelan Black Adder. Super dog, everything going for him. Beautiful head and expression and neat ears. Strong and muscular neck leading into excellent shoulder placement. Strong forearm and feet, deep chest and a lovely topline. Muscular hindquarters and hocks well let down. Moved with drive. BD and BIS. 2 Harmer's Ravensbeech Fabian at Ballanroo. Another well-made dog, full of presence and strong features. Neck muscular and well arched, correct shoulder placement, lovely topline. Would prefer more bend of stifle but very sound on the move. 3 Dawson's Shalico Rolling Stone.

**LD (5)** 1 Stirling's Clanlily Baron of the Glen. Beautiful masculine head, strong neck leading into well laid shoulders. Excellent tuck up and topline which he keeps on the move. Harsh coat but

needs more attention to complete the picture. Strong hindquarters, well let down hocks and very sound. Res BD. 2 Jones' Madiamoy Gentle Saxon of Castellblyth. Tall dog of generous proportions. Masculine head, strong neck and well laid shoulders. Good harsh coat, would have liked stronger rear angulation. 3 Dawson's Shanimarle Cherokee at Graefyn. Another tall dog of generous proportions. Fair neck, rather narrow in front but underline and topline reasonable. Well angulated rear assembly.

**OD (5)** 1 Dawson's Conmeyrl Detroit by Shalico. Not the tallest but a very handsome dog with a lovely head and expression. Strength of neck and well laid shoulders and upper arm. Underline and topline well defined. Good bend of stifle, strong and well put together. 2 McMillan's Ballalyns Shakey. ShCM. Have always admired this dog and have judged him before. He has a beautiful head and expression, strong neck and shoulder placement. Lovely topline, strong hindquarters and well let down hocks. Very sound and well handled. It was a hard choice between 1 and 2. Would prefer more height with both. 3 Treadwell's Hibeck Hugo Boss at Floydian. Masculine head and neck of good proportions. Well laid shoulders and upper arm. Reasonable topline but tends to fall away at croup, which spoils his overall picture.

**Vet B(5)** Two lovely veterans - a credit to their owners. 1 Holder and Howe's Mascotts Mica. Well boned and tall bitch, nearly 8 years old, greying with age and a heavy coat. She has a lovely head, strong neck and forechest. Excellent front and topline, very sound on the move. BVIS. 2 Griffin's Clanlily Star Attraction. Another beauty, when she looked at me my heart melted! Correct front of lovely proportions, moved very soundly. Just lost out on topline, but what a star at 9 and a half years old. Lives up to her name!

**MPB (2)** 1 Wilkinson's Conmeyrl Merriment over Hunacres. One I could have taken home. Feminine head, dark eye and neat ears. Reach of neck into well laid shoulders, good length of ribbing. Strong hindquarters, moved steadily. One to watch. 2 Severn-Kumar's Gaelmarque Arrasane Brie. Cream bitch, looked stunning when stacked, although slightly long cast was of good proportions. Super head and expression. Strong neck, correct front assembly. Giving her handler a hard time on the move so was difficult to assess. 3 Jones' Conmeyrl Morticia Draugfara. Litter sister to the winner. Another pleasing puppy, pleasing head, neck and front assembly accurate. As yet to drop into herself, will come with age. Coat needs attention.

**PB (5)** 1 Sumner's Killoughery Braela of Ballyphelan. Grey brindle, correct head and ears. Lovely furnishings. Strong neck into well set shoulders, lovely topline and underline. 2 Watson's Rivenhound Catherine Wheel. Pleasing bitch, eyes could be a shade darker. Good reach of neck and front assembly. Well bodied up for age. Lovely tight feet, moved slightly close behind. 3 Cambell-Woodford's Rivenhound Bonfire. Litter sister to 2. Pleasant head with a dark eye. Fair lay of shoulder, correct topline. Will hopefully strengthen behind as moved close on the move.

**YB (2)** 1 Timmins' Cornovi Karisma. Pleasing bitch with lots to offer, lovely length of neck and front assembly. Strong bone and feet. Lovely length of loin, strong hindquarters. Moved with drive.

**NB (3)** 1 Wilkinson's Conmeyrl Merriment over Hunacres. 2 Severn-Kumar's Gaelmarque Arrasane Brie.

**PGB (11)** A very strong class, many dogs going cardless. 1 Redfern's Rainster Amber. Lovely houndy bitch, super head and neck. Strong upper arm and shoulder, well defined tuck up and correct topline. Strong hindquarters with well let down hocks. Moved with drive. Res BB. 2 Sumner's Ballyphelan Black Cap. Another sound bitch, lovely head and furnishings. Strong neck and adequate shoulder placement, tuck up and topline. Curvy hindquarters, would prefer more height. A little unsettled on the move. 3 CramphornYelxba Mera. This bitch had a wonderful head and expression, with lovey dark eyes and neat ears. Well laid shoulders and upper arm. Kept topline on the move, would have liked more rear angulation but still has time on her side.

**LB (4)** 1 Donaldson's Rainster Rosa at Kircarswell. Loved everything about this bitch. She is elegant, houndy and feminine, everything is in proportion. Wonderful head with excellent eyes and ears. Well laid shoulders, strong and well angulated hindquarters. Well-presented and handled. BB, BOS and Res BIS. 2 Stirling's Clanlily Sky of Diamonds. Another of excellent type. Heavier in bone and not quite the femininity of the winner, but well put together. Excellent front assembly, not so

strong in rear action as the winner, but overall a pleasing picture. 3 Stayte's Doolalleys Magic Lace at Carwenwy. Tall bitch of substance. Adequate front assembly, strong feet and well bodied up. Moved soundly.

**OB (6)** 1 McMillan's Ballalyns the Easy Way. Lovely head and expression, dark eye and neat ears. Strong neck, well placed shoulders. Would prefer more length to upper arm, well ribbed back. Strong hindquarters, hocks well let down. Very well balanced and moved with drive. 2 *No name given* Pleasing bitch and a lot to like about her. Kind expression, strong neck and forehead. Ribbing and topline adequate. Not quite the balance of the winner, lost out on movement.

*Mavis Wild*