

IRISH WOLFHOUND CLUB RALLY AND FUN DAY JUNE 2017

Companion Dog Show – Pedigree Classes

I was delighted to be invited to judge the pedigree classes at the annual club rally. This was my first judging appointment, and I approached it with some trepidation, largely because I haven't attended the club rally before and didn't quite know what to expect, in particular whether there would be many breeds other than wolfhounds appearing in the ring.

The day was extremely hot and sunny with humans and hounds alike trying to stay in the shade as much as possible. Once I got started I felt quite comfortable in the ring and enjoyed meeting all the entrants. Most of the dogs present were not regular show-goers, but all were clearly much cherished family members. Several were rescue dogs with sad stories, some were rather nervous as a result, but all allowed me to go over them and made a good attempt at moving round the ring despite the heat. I was relieved to find the non-wolfhounds were all easily identifiable breeds!

My BIS was Fergus, a two year old wolfhound dog who presented a good outline standing, with a masculine head and balanced angulation front and rear. His movement was easy and active despite the heat, and although not the largest male present he has plenty of time to mature and fill out. Best puppy was Lia, a delightful young wolfhound girl who at just six months was enjoying her first day out at a show. She had a beautiful head and expression, a body all in proportion at the moment, and managed to control those puppy legs to move very well round the ring. She appeared in almost every class and her tail never stopped wagging!

I was touched by hearing the backgrounds of many of the dogs present, and the hardship and cruel treatment some had endured. It says a lot for the temperament of dogs in general and our breed in particular that they have responded so well to the loving care lavished on them by their rescue owners. These dogs may not have received a red rosette on the day but I felt they were the real winners present.

I am grateful to Linda and Sylvia, my stewards, for keeping things running smoothly, and to the committee for the invitation. I thoroughly enjoyed my day.

Judith Wilkes.