

National Gundog – 7th August 2016
Judge: Mrs Mandy Romeo-Dieste

Thank you to the National Gundog Association for the honour of judging this prestigious show. Thank you also to the exhibitors for such a lovely entry, both numerically and in quality. I was conscious of keeping the dogs out in the heat for too long as our ring had no shade at all but most of them coped with it well.

I have a couple of general observations from the day. I am not a mouth fanatic, but bites need to be watched as a few were level. Last time I judged I felt rear movement needed to improve and this remains the same. Some dogs were strung up on the move which changes the outline, bringing their head up in the air instead of being at a more natural level.

Having said all that, I found some very typical dogs and in some classes I was spoilt for choice, particularly in both the Post Graduate classes, where some dogs I liked had to go cardless. Overall size was good, mostly dogs of a medium size. Trimming was kept to a minimum. Most were turned out in a natural style with very few having been stripped out to excess.

I must mention the Veteran classes which were full of so many dogs who belied their age. They are a credit to their owners. Proof that Flatcoats are the true Peter Pan of the dog world. There were also some very promising puppies which bodes well for the future. I was very pleased with both my lines up, making the final decisions for the CC's a hard job.

Veteran Dog (10)

1st Holland's Ch Calzeat Causa Commotion at Flatcharm (Imp)

Such a happy showman, with a super attitude. Lovely one piece head and kind eye. Good bone and tight feet. He has matured through the body and has a short loin. His well muscled rear enabled him to move on a good stride with drive. In lovely coat and hard condition.

2nd Waskaas' NuCh/CIE/SeCh/HrCh Almanza Such A Good Life POLW-12 VV-15

I really liked this dogs head and gentle expression. Lovely shoulders and good front angulation. He was deep in rib but was longer in the loin than my winner. Level topline and lovely rear. He moved steadily and covered the ground well.

3rd Osborne-Brown's Cassiopi Phynns Tribute By Perrymel ShCM

Minor Puppy Dog (12,2abs)

1st Chipperfield & Higginbottom's Islstrom All Of A Storm at Howlingale

Almost 7 mths old, this young man was a lovely size and at just the right stage of development for his age. Typical head with neat ears. His shoulders were well laid with good length and return of upper arm. Deep chest and short loin with lovely bone and the tightest of feet. His moderately turned stifle gave him a balanced outline. He was a little naughty on the move at first, but once he got it together he moved well.

2nd Laird's Islstrom Black Grouse of Daicheil

Litter brother to 1 and similar remarks apply, with very little to separate them. I preferred the head on my winner today. Well angulated front and rear giving a balanced outline. He moved well on lovely tight feet but was feeling the heat.

3rd Ardino's Funstuff Feel The Force

Puppy Dog (9,2abs)

1st Chipperfield & Higginbottom's Islstrom All Of A Storm at Howlingale

2nd Laird's Islstrom Black Grouse of Daicheil

3rd Ardino's Funstuff Feel The Force

Junior Dog (5)

1st Whittaker's Up To The Stars Black Brianta To Jetstarski JW (Imp CZE)

Two mature dogs headed this class. This dog has a lovely moulded head and dark eye. He has a good length of neck which flows in to his well laid shoulders. He has lovely length and return of upper arm, deep rib and correct pronounced brisket. He has a well turned stifle and good width to his second thigh. He covered the ground well on the move, with his tail just above the level of his back.

2nd Pingree's Castlerock Burning Love To Heatheridge JW

A balanced dog with a lovely outline. Stronger in head than my winner. Good length and depth to his chest with a short loin. His rear is moderately angulated with a well developed thigh. Moved on an even stride.

3rd Chipperfield & Higginbottom's Wistaston The Black Diamond at Howlingale

Yearling Dog (6)

1st Pingree's Castlerock Burning Love To Heatheridge JW

2nd Lutner's Beautyfield's Glenury Royal at Telurn (Imp DEU)

Liver dog. A size larger than my winner but is still balanced. Good head with a dark eye. Adequate length of upper arm and deep chest. He is short in the loin with well developed rear. He has a level topline which he maintained on the move.

3rd Ardino's Dakotaspirit Into The Wild WH15

Novice Dog (6,2abs)

1st Chipperfield & Higginbottom's Islstrom All Of A Storm at Howlingale

2nd Dalziel-Scott & Scott's Buckleyhill Finava Destiny For Branchalwood (AI)

4th in a lovely Puppy class. He is quite rangy at the moment and will take time to come together. I really liked his head and expression, he is nicely angulated at the front with a level topline and short loin. He was very happy on the move with a very waggy tail which made rear movement difficult to assess.

3rd Buckely's Buckleyhill Finava Legacy (AI)

Graduate Dog (2)

1st Fox's Black Mica's Likes It Hot at Blacktoft JW (Imp SWE)

A size larger than I prefer and still needing time to mature, but a good dog in the making. Beautifully moulded head and naughty expression. He has well laid shoulders and good topline. His chest is deep enough and has a correct length of loin. In good coat and hard condition. Moved steadily with drive

2nd Harris' Highlander Z Mokre Hory at Siancala (Imp CZ) Similar in size to my winner, his head is stronger but still typical. He is balanced with a deep chest and good loin. Moved well on good bone and feet.

Post Graduate Dog (15,3abs) This was a lovely class. Thank you.

1st Creasy & Gale's Willowswind Orions Stars

This boy caught my eye on my first look round and on going over him he didn't disappoint. Lovely moulded head with a gentle expression. He was so well balanced with his super front and pronounced brisket, depth of chest, short loin and moderately angulated rear. His back end is well developed with good width of thigh, short hocks and correct tail set. He went with reach and drive, holding his level topline. In lovely coat and condition, I was very pleased to award him the RCC.

2nd Jones' Blacktoft American Smooth at Braemist JW

A hard choice between these two lovely boys, coat being the deciding factor. He has a very naughty expression in his lovely dark eyes. He has good length and return in his upper arm and shows maturity through his body. His rear is well angulated and his tail is set correctly. He moved well covering plenty of ground.

3rd Enticknap's Bochilbarley Ballabriggs With Tessera

Limit Dog (10,2abs)

1st Blain's Rotherfield First Request JW

I was pleased to see this boy has filled his early potential, having given him BP last time I judged him. A handsome boy with a dark eye and neat ears. He has a lovely front with a pronounced brisket. He is starting to mature in body and is short in the loin. Good oval bone and tight feet. He moved with reach and drive from his short hocks and muscled quarters. In lovely coat. Considered for the RCC.

2nd Reading's Sastrugi Beautiful Sunrise at Sabarka

This is a workmanlike dog who has such a smiley expression. Very well balanced from all angles, deep in chest and correct through the loin. He had a level topline which he held on the move. In hard condition.

3rd Orme's Elmstock Thyme To Dream

Open Dog (6,1abs)

1st Fox's ShCh Steelriver Blazin Hot at Blacktoft JW

At 6 years old this boy is fully mature and looked so well on the day. I loved his head, so typical with a gentle expression. Excellent shoulders giving a good length of neck. Nicely angulated front with correct pronounced brisket. He has good depth to his chest and a nice short loin. His rear is moderately angulated with short hocks and a well developed thigh. He has good bone and super feet. When moving he did so freely and with purpose. He was in good coat and hard condition. It was my pleasure to award him the CC & BOB and I was delighted he was shortlisted in BIS.

2nd Laird's ShCh Branchalwood Tamdhu of Daicheil JW ShCM

A size smaller than my winner and stronger built with a full coat. He has super bone and tight feet, good depth of chest and a well developed rear. His topline is level and he held it on the move. I would just like to see him a bit more animated. Still, a very worthy Champion.

3rd Douglas' ShCh Greenbayhill Black Tuxedo

Good Citizen Dogs Scheme Dog (4,1abs)

1st Bowen's Candiliz Black Admiral For Clandrift JW ShCM

A substantial dog with a kind expression. He has a lovely front with good angulation to his upper arm. He is mature through the body and has a good tail set. Moved well.

2nd Whittaker's Whittaker's Up To The Stars Black Brianta To Jetstarski JW (Imp CZE)

3rd Perry's Casanjay Demetrius

Veteran Bitch (9,1abs)

1st Bellamy's Rainsgift Fleur-De-Lis For Woodfinch

At 10 years old this girl still shows like a youngster. She has a super front which is matched by her strong rear. Quality bone and tight feet. In great coat and hard condition. Her movement was effortless, wagging her tail as she went. Very pleased to make her BVIB.

2nd Sullivan's Lakemere She's My Kinda Girl at Wyrebeck

This lady was a shade smaller all round than my winner. Her front is well angulated and she has good length in body from her rib. She moved but is looking a little matronly which is all that separated these lovely girls.

3rd Hancock's Castlerock Could It Be Magic For Garregwen

Minor Puppy Bitch (5,1abs)

1st Ashcroft's Gunoak Solar Wind

Like the MPD, this girl was at just the right stage for her 8mths. I liked her head and sweet expression. She is deep enough in the chest with a good length of loin and has lovely bone and tight feet. She moved with confidence, her rear movement winning her the class.

2nd Ross' Islstrom Onora

Another pretty baby who will need a little time to come together. She has lovely bone and super tight feet as always from this kennel. She already has balance through her chest and loin, she is well angulated at the rear. Her movement needs to settle, but this will come with maturity.

3rd Hart's Ghilgrange Midnight Kiss

Puppy Bitch (10,3abs)

1st Williams' Wistaston Another Love

A very balanced puppy with lots to like. She has a beautifully moulded head and a dark eye. She has a well laid should which leads to her good return of upper arm. She is balanced in body with a correct length of loin. Her rear is well muscled and has good width of second thigh. She moved so well to take BPB

2nd Stevenson's Steelriver Sunkissed

A little up on her legs at the moment, she has a good reach of neck and good shoulder placement. Super feet, level topline and a nicely turned stifle. Her tail is correctly set which she carries well on the move.

3rd Best's Yonsaff Isadorable

Junior Bitch (13,2abs)

1st Bellamy's Woodfinch Hydra JW

Shown on a loose lead she creates a typical outline. Her well laid shoulder flows into a level topline and correct tailset. She is so well balanced with her pronounced brisket, length of rib and short loin. On the move she covers the ground with ease. She was short on coat on the day, but in hard condition. I considered her for the RCC.

2nd Kulczycka's Seaheart Bronte

Another lovely girl with great potential, she looks like a live wire. She is also very balanced, with good depth to her chest and pronounced brisket. She has good length of rib but preferred the winners length of loin. She has a well developed rear which showed in her movement. In lovely coat and condition.

3rd Lutner's Telurn Better Believe It

Yearling Bitch (8,2abs) Many of this class were out of coat.

1st Lewis's Draketor Sea Gypsy Among Fairwinds

An attractive head and adequate length of neck. She has a nice length of rib and a deep chest. Her rear quarters are moderately turned and she has a well developed 2nd thigh. She moved nicely around the ring.

2nd Branscombe's Torinmill Gaelic Aurora

This girl was very out of coat, making her look up on her legs. I liked her length of head and kind expression. Her shoulders are well placed and she has good length in her rib. She is moderately angulated at the rear. She was handled to advantage to get the best from her on the move.

3rd Collins' Annbecks Isla May at Steeplehouse

Novice Bitch (2,1abs)

1st Montandon's Trapestone Bohemian Girl

A racy bitch who was unfortunately out of coat. She has a pretty head with a dark eye. She has enough bone for her size with tight feet. Her angulation is balanced both ends and she moves well creating a nice profile. Giving her handler a hard time with her enthusiasm.

Graduate Bitch (4,2abs)

1st Well's Candiliz Pink Lady JW

A size larger than I prefer but she is balanced with a nicely moulded head and a kind eye. Her front is well angulated with a good brisket and deep chest and is mature through the body.

She moved steadily.

2nd Kind's Bochilbarley Midnight Sky

Lovely sized girl, with a very pretty one piece head. Underneath her full coat I found she was moderately angulated at both ends, with good depth of body. She moved well but would benefit from a little less weight.

Post Graduate Bitch (16,2abs)

1st Griffiths' Castlerock Cosmic Hattie

I have watched this lady from the ringside and was pleased to have the chance to go over her. She has a lovely one piece head with a kind dark eye. She has super shoulders and great length and angulation to her upper arm. She has a deep chest and tight elbows. Her length of body comes from her rib and she is short in the loin. Handled to perfection on a loose lead. Delighted to award her the RCC.

2nd Jones' Seaheart Anneliese By Benvellyn

Such a classical head on this girl, with a kind dark eye. Under a big coat she is nicely made with super front angulation. She has depth to her chest and a correct loin. Her rear is well developed with good width of thigh. She moves well but can give her handler a hard time.

3rd Hedges' Blacktoft Quickstep of Satinbaze

Limit Bitch (8,3abs)

1st Fox's Blacktoft Burlesque JW

Such an honest, no nonsense bitch with no frills. She has a typical outline and is very feminine. I loved her classical head and kind dark eye. Her neck flows into her well laid shoulders. She has excellent length and return of upper arm with the required pronounced brisket. Her body shows maturity with tight elbows, a deep chest, gradual spring of rib and correct length of loin. She is moderately angulated at the rear with good width of thigh. Her level topline was maintained on the move and her tail never stopped wagging. I had no hesitation in awarding her the CC, her second. In the challenge for BOB I preferred the dogs front movement.

2nd Dalziel-Scott & Scott's Branchalwood Strathwyvis (AI)

Another quality bitch from this kennel. She has a very typical outline with such balance. Her upper arm is well angulated, with a deep chest and correct length of rib. She has a good width of thigh and is well muscled. She was in full coat with furnishings to finish the picture. Her movement was a little erratic in the heat, but I saw enough.

3rd Barnett's Pajanbeck Welcum To My World at Annbecks

Open Bitch (7,3abs)

1st Lunter's ShCh Beautyfield's Flashdance at Telurn JW (IMP DEU)

Well grown with a good head and expression. She has well laid shoulders but would like a little more length to her upper arm. She has a pronounced brisket and tight elbows. She has good length of rib. Her stifle is well angulated with well developed thigh. In full coat, she moves well on an even stride.

2nd Skjelbred's Torpedos It's A Magic Morning

Racier than the winner, I liked her head and kind expression. Her upper arm has good length and she had enough bone for her size with tight feet. Her topline was level which continued to her correctly set tail. Her rear was strong and well muscled. When moving she was at one with her handler.

3rd Jensen & Breivik's Kalexas Carrera

Good Citizens Dog Scheme Bitch (6)

1st Colson's Eskwinds Driving Miss Daisy To Windyhollows

Such a lovely size, with an attractive head and dark eye. Her upper arm is of good length and return, giving a pronounced brisket. She is deep in the body and was well ribbed back. Her rear is strong with good width of thigh. She moved well, but would benefit from less weight.

2nd Goulette's Annbecks Brenna at Bobbinmill

4th in Junior, this balanced young lady was in good coat. She has a pretty head and is well ribbed with a good turn of stifle. She was a little uncooperative in this class, possibly due to the heat.

3rd Murray's Rusticus Tea Rose At Gayplume

Mandy Romeo-Dieste