

CRITIQUE - MIDLAND COUNTIES CANINE ASSOCIATION

Judge: Mr C Bexon

Sporting exhibitors and fit sporting Gundogs are a heady combination for any judge. I thoroughly enjoyed judging this breed, where the quality across the board was by and large high, not always the case when judging some breeds. 74 dogs making 99 entries. From the outset I tried to find medium sized Gundogs, built like middle weight hunters and as a pre requisite I was looking for vibrancy of GSP character, active, with good muscle tone and correct construction, which offered the best opportunity of delivering stylish, strong movement. The nobility called for in the standard being a bonus. I was not looking for English Pointers. I was disappointed with a few which looked lovely for type when stood, but disappointed when moving, in what can only be described as a kind of 'trit trot, tippy toe' action, a departure from what I think is called for. Temperament and mouths were good, there was some light eyes, acceptable to a certain degree in youngsters and one or two softish coats. Refreshingly, all but a small handful were completely new to me. Performance on the day was critical in my decision making process. I was, of course, delighted for the Best of Breed, going Group 2 in a very strong Group. Congratulations.

Minor Puppy Dog (2). **1 Thurm's Bryburn Bacchus.** Eight months of age, excellent youngster of good type, with a good outline. He has good work in head with a nice dark brown eye, of correct size, shape and placement, correct high ear set and with a strong muzzle of desired length. I liked his good reach of neck, decent shoulders, correct width of chest and straight forelegs with good angle to pasterns and tight feet, he has quite a deep chest and is short coupled. I liked his good hind angulation which I preferred over 2 and shown with a pleasing texture to coat. He moved really well, Best puppy. Sure he will grow out of his bit of a tendency to lean back on himself. **2 Woolley's Fayemm Get Ready For Duns.** A solid built attractively marked puppy, of good size and proportions, but shows a little bit of uneven growth pattern at the moment, a trifle higher at the back end and a little uneven in topline, unfortunately his handler has a tendency to stand him slightly like a rocking horse, so please try and get those front legs well under him! I liked the shape of his balanced head, masculine and with a strong muzzle, with a moderate stop. Not quite the eye colour or shape of first yet, but will darken I am sure. He has a good reach of neck, strong topline, short strong back, good spring to ribs and decent short loin, good hind angulation with moderate rear pasterns. He moves well in front, but a bit narrow behind, compared to one. He is presented in very good condition. He will be useful as he matures.

Puppy Dog (2,1). **1 Sielski's Orchidstar Wotsit.** Stood alone, but another really nice youngster, attractively marked and smart in outline, square shaped. Liked his head, moderately broad and slightly rounded skull, with a good eye shape and colour, moderate stop, good ear set. He has a clean throat and good length of neck, strong topline held well on the move and good tail set. I liked his good body shape, he has short couplings and pleasing bone with excellent feet, good hind angulation with medium length of rear pasterns. Crabbed a little bit on the move, but has good carriage and is developing good muscle tone. Must have a bright future.

Junior Dog (3). **1 Delaney's Redmires Ticket To The Stars.** Neat, ultra short coupled, masculine looking dog with a very clean outline, gentle slope to topline, good ribs and an underline which will continue to develop. He has good conformation fore and aft, with well muscled hindquarters. His head is quite well balanced but lacks a tad in refinement for me, but which will continue to develop. I liked his dark eye of correct shape, size and placement. He has an excellent length of neck, decent shoulders and with enough width of chest, going down to straight bone with excellent tight feet. He has decent hindquarters and is developing the requisite musculature. On the move he is spirited with drive and looks the part. Liked the coarse texture of his coat. **2 Hopkins' Seasham Don't Stop Me Now.** Different type to one, but another first rate youngster, preferred his head over winner, but perhaps not quite as masculine and a bit pretty for me, but definitely noble and refined in appearance. He has a moderate stop and good work on and around his skull, his dark eye is pleasing and he has good shape and length to muzzle. He has a really good length of neck, but I preferred the topline, shorter back and couplings of one. He has straight forelegs with good substance and correct angle to front pasterns. I preferred his hind angulation over first and he has perpendicular hocks, when viewed from the rear, which presents strength. He is beautifully presented in tip-top condition and another really good mover. **3 Thomas' Brainscroft Tahiti.**

Post Graduate Dog (5,1). **1 Rose's Kavacanne Morgan It Seems JW.** Another quality medium sized dog, masculine of good type and basic square shape. He has a pleasing outline, with a very good head, has very good balance to skull and muzzle and with a good expression, correct set of ears, good length of neck. He has a short back, good body shape, with strong loin, good forechest and good underline and elbows tucked in well. He does have excellent muscle tone but I would want more hind angulation to complete the picture. He is shown in decent coat and is in generally fine fettle. He moved well today, but I thought he lacked a bit of attitude on the move. **2 Coghlan's Soellis Manly Stanley.** Taller male, fractionally on the large side for me, certainly looks balanced and probably the most mature in this class. He does have an attractive outline, everything blends well, with good substance, he has a fair shape to his head. He has a good neck and lay of shoulders, with good upper arm angulation. He has deep ribs, straight forelegs and excellent round feet, well up on toes. He covers the ground well with drive and looks impressive. **3 Burford's Kavacanne Morgan You Know.**

Limit Dog (11). For me, one and two could change places any day of the week. **1 Adams' Barleyarch Ariat JW ShCM.** Superb male, with lots of style and GSP type. He has a super outline and everything just blends together. Loved his masculine head with moderate stop, pleasing eye colour and strong muzzle, framed well with ears of the correct size and shape, clean in throat, good length to neck, into super shoulders, strong chest, and excellent forelegs, his topline, tailset and underline are correct with a enough tuck up to aid swift movement. He has good spring of rib and short couplings. He has strong well angulated hindquarters with good second thigh and strong rear pasterns. He has a harsh coat and was an excellent mover with attitude. Don't know his history but I know he has a bright future. **2 Whiting's Ranger Two Rodale JW ShCM.** First class male, slightly taller than one, but all quality, oozes breed type, excellent construction without exaggeration. He has a very good outline, a superb headpiece with work and moderate stop, strong muzzle, with a super expression, the epitome of nobility in his look. He has a good reach of neck, strong and shaped well, decent topline and correct tailset, good body shape, excellent bone and feet. Shown in good coat and condition, Single tracked and moved with drive, a powerful male who seemed a bit of a handful, with a mind of his own on the day. **3 Smith & Reardon's Winterwell Fowl Play.**

Open Dog (10, 2). What a fantastic class, so many quality males of superb breed type, good construction and sound movement, definitely spoilt for choice. **1 Harris' Sh Ch & Am GCh Vjk-Myst Goeslikethewind Of Barleyarch (Imp USA).** Just a little over three years of age. He is an eye-catching male, clearly different in type from the majority, but I believe he fits well into the standard of the breed. Smart, medium sized male, clearly masculine, with a clean outline, of correct proportions. It doesn't matter from which angle you look at him he always stands correctly. I thought he had a very good head and expression, it was a balanced head with plenty of work, barely perceptible stop and good head plains, he has a strong complementary muzzle, he has a good ear shape and set. I liked his strong reachy neck, into good shoulders, he has a gentle slope to topline without a break, held well on the move, deep ribs and a strong loin, enough forechest, best of forelegs, straight with a good angle to front pasterns and tight compact toes. He has very nice hindquarters, good angle to stifle and good second thigh, strong medium length of rear pasterns, which help deliver text book style rear movement. His front movement has forward reach. In the final analysis I thought he was a picture of strength and vitality, using his tail to advantage, displaying good temperament and wearing a good jacket of the correct texture. **CC and Best of Breed.** In the Group he represented the breed in a truly positive manner. **2 Drysdale's Ch Barleyarch Farthing At Drysika JW. ShCM.** Really liked this six year old male, epitome of type in this country, mature and well muscled. I thought he was a good size of excellent proportions, balanced, with his superb head, classic shape and features, good neck and shoulders, deep chest, best of bone and feet, good ribs, just preferred the topline of one. He has a strong loin, good hindquarters, excellent texture to coat. Moved well, good head and tail carriage, moves with style. He is everything that is positive about the breed. **Res CC. 3 Ellis' Sh Ch Indijazz Originale At Soellis.**

Minor Puppy Bitch (5). **1 Harris' Barleyarch Playtime (AI).** Lovely youngster out of the top drawer. She has more maturity than those in the class which can be a distinct advantage, also substance within a feminine frame. I liked her head shape, good head plains with slightly discernible stop, strong muzzle. She has a good reach of neck, good shoulders, gentle slope to topline and solid body shape, best of correct bone and good feet, nicely developed ribs, ultra short loin, good angle to croup and tailset, with pleasing hind angulation, coat in good condition, her hindquarters are developing good muscle tone. Very puppyish on the move, not quite at one with her handler who stepped in at the last moment. Bit of a no brainer to say 'She has a bright future'. **2 Lockett's Fayemm Remember Me.** Another first class young bitch, although slightly taller build than one. She has very good height to length ratios, although a little uneven at the moment in growth patterns compared to one. She has so many desirable breed attributes, with that beautiful head, good shape to skull, lovely dark eye, moderate stop and good length of muzzle. A strong neck, good shoulders, decent rib cage and strong loin, excellent hindquarters with good rear pasterns, delivering a purposeful gait, she also is developing a good coat. An exciting prospect in the making. **3 Jones' Barleyarch Fairplay.**

Puppy Bitch (4) **1 Rose & Gaffney's Kavacanne Vixen.** Very balanced youngster, but still a baby, slightly lighter in frame than second, but with good conformation fore and aft. She has a typical outline and with nothing to hide you can appreciate her qualities. I liked her feminine head with moderate stop, good size of ear, strong, good reach of neck, slightly arched, into good shoulders, with a gentle slope to topline, deep chest, straight forelegs, she is short coupled, with slightly more hind angulation than second and she moved so well, shown in great condition. **2 Harris' Barleyarch Playtime (AI).** **3 Pearce's Fleetapple Winter Jasmine.**

Junior Bitch (5). **1 Trow's Winterwell Inca Trail.** I just love this bitch, one of my favourite youngsters at the moment, she seems quite mature in this company today. She is quite outstanding in my mind for type, size and shape, plus GSP attitude, She has a lovely feminine head with a touch of class, moderate stop, good ears, liked her correct expression, excellent neck and shoulders and upper arm, with forechest and with a good depth of chest, close elbows, good straight front with plenty of substance and decent feet. She has a good spring of ribs, strong loin, On the move she moves with drive and reach, shown in good coat. Exciting prospect! **2 Burford's Pingarypoint Eye Candy.** A feminine bitch built on a slightly taller and lighter frame and perhaps a little squarer in overall look. She has a typical outline built for speed, good topline, angle of croup, tailset and undercarriage. She has a very pleasing head but thought one was better in expression, she has a good length of neck, slightly arched, best of bone and feet, with good body shape. On the move she lacked a bit of the outgoing freedom of one. **3 Pearce's Fleetapple Winter Jasmin.**

Post Graduate Bitch (11,1). **1 Ellis' Soellis Dirty Gertie.** I liked the type of this bitch, elegance with strength, lovely skull shape, slightly rounded, broad, with a moderate stop, good shape to muzzle, ear set above the level of eyes, her expression was good, of correct size, shape and colour, She has a lengthy neck, strong into good shoulders, with a medium length firm back, good tail set, liked her mature body shape, with decent spring of ribs, strong loin, She has a good second thigh and rugged hindquarters, producing excellent movement with reach and drive. **2 Ellerker & Hunton's Mischief Maker Brecon At Deaconsmiley.** Certainly more compact, shorter in body and more square in basic shape than one, but she just lacked a bit of neck and lost out a little in upper arm angulation compared to one. She has a good body shape, short couplings. Strong hindquarters with good second thigh and straight forelegs. She has a feminine head and was shown in a relatively coarse jacket. I appreciated she had good musculature and moved well. **3 Hudson-Smith & Smith's Teverlarni Tapuenuku.**

Limit Bitch (13,3) Several first rate females in this strong class, presents a positive future. One and two difficult to separate. **1 Elrington's Barleyarch Beetle At Tequesta JW.** The most lovely bitch from any angle, quite outstanding for size and shape, no awkward angles everything just blends together. She has the most lovely head and ancillary properties, with a dark brown eye and soft intelligent expression, moderately long neck with slight arch, good lay of shoulders but with excellent muscle tone on and around shoulders and chest, she has a gentle slope to topline, with a very slight lower tail set. Good width of chest without being too wide, strong medium length of back and short loin, moderate tuck up. From above she has a very good shape to body. Straight forelegs, good pasterns and feet. She has a slightly better bend of stifle than second and is very well muscled with good perpendicular rear pasterns. Shown in tip top condition she was always going to be in contention. She covered the ground well with good reach and drive. **Res CC. 2 Roden's High High Jingle Bells At Keigame (Imp Mlt).** Wow, another stunning bitch, with superb head, correct breadth of skull and slightly rounded, long muzzle with good strength and depth, flew neat and unexaggerated, pleasing expression, good ear leathers, clean throat, strong shapely neck, good lay of shoulders, thought the winner fractionally better in upper arm angulation. She has a strong topline, good underline with reasonable tuck up and medium length of loin, she has just over moderate rear angulation with good width of second thigh and strong short rear pasterns. An excellent mover in tip top condition. The differences are minute and nit picking. Wish they were both mine. **3 Hammond, Cooke, Mould & Bird's Seasham Indian Sunset Over Koolwaters.**

Open Bitch (7) A really strong class, full of good examples of superior breed type, excellent construction and good movers. I was so very pleased with my final three. **1 Thurm's Sh Ch Valger Odette.** A classic shape to this super bitch, built on good clean lines, without being exaggerated anywhere. She has superior breed type, lovely profile outline, excellent head, slightly rounded and broad with lovely sized eye, well shaped and the clearest dark brown, giving an intelligent expression, strong length of muzzle and well set ears, she has a good reach of neck, excellent forequarters, firm topline, held well on the move, tail set on, good shape to ribs and deep chest, ultra short loin, straight forelegs, good hind angulation, moderately short rear pasterns, providing a real driving force on the move, she moved so well and even in such a medium size ring she was able to move up a gear, whilst still maintaining correct footfalls, reach and drive, leaving everything standing. Delighted to award her the **CC and BOS.** **2 Trow's Sh Ch Winterwell Tootsie Roll JW ShCM.** Stunning bitch with beautiful outline, when standing, although she tends to lean back into herself, super type, gorgeous head and expression, lovely ear shape and set, strong thick neck, good lay of shoulders, good infill in chest, has a good shape to ribs, strong medium length of loin, good width of second thigh, looking down over body shape you see a number of graceful curves, on the move she has good movement but just fractionally closer when going away than my winner. **3 Lockett's Winterwell Bobbie Dazzler Of Fayemm JW.**