

CRITIQUE - NATIONAL GUNDOG ASSOCIATION

Judge: Mrs F V Thurm

My thanks to National Gundog for excellent hospitality & the honour of judging at their prestigious show, to all those present for allowing me the pleasure of assessing their dogs & to my stewards Wendy Pickup & Carolyn Bates, whose unobtrusive efficiency kept the ring running smoothly. Numerically, a disappointing entry. However, the proportion of top notch exhibits, particularly in bitches more than made up for this fact. This coupled with a good deal of humour around the ring & great sportsmanship too, with applause after each class, made for a truly memorable & enjoyable day. I was thrilled with my main awards winners & the icing on the cake was seeing my BOB shortlisted in the BIS competition & BP achieve the top spot of BPIS, both judged by Frank Kane. One point I think needs mentioning is that I have to admit to being surprised at the amount of tartar on some teeth, including in some of the younger exhibits.

Veteran Dog (0). No Entries

Minor Puppy Dog (2). **1 Sielski's Orchidstar Wotsit**, eye-catching youngster, well balanced with good legs & feet. Excellent reach of neck & shoulder layback. Pleasing head with good depth to muzzle. Short backed. Just needing to develop in hindquarters. Reasonable movement & coat. So well handled & presented; **2 Rusk's Quindrew Baron Brimstone at Booton**, lacking in confidence here & as a result, difficult to assess. Masculine, with a decent head. Reasonable angulation. Not happy on the move today.

Puppy Dog (3). **1 Hopkins' Seasham Don't Stop Me Now**, & indeed there was no stopping him, not only winning **BP** but also **BPIS**. Congratulations. Such a smart lad, carrying the stamp of his breeding. In beautiful condition, short backed, well ribbed, carrying just the right amount of weight & with the most fantastic coat & reachy neck. Such balance, is stylish & eye catching. Lovely in head & expression. His angulation allowed for a free & easy stride. Superbly presented & handled; **2 Langdell's Brainscroft Secret Agent**, complimentary angles on this youngster, produced an effortless stride. Super reach of neck & a lovely appealing expression, with dark eye. Masculine & well boned, with good feet. Expertly presented & handled; **3 Rusk's Quindrew Baron Brimstone at Booton**.

Junior Dog (1). **1 Thomas' Brainscroft Tahiti**, alone but a worthy winner. Superb profile movement, as a result of good angulation fore & aft. In hard condition. Gorgeous head & expression. Good development in rib for a youngster. Just a shade unsettled in forehand movement when viewed in front. Sound as a pound in the rear. Strong topline, maintained throughout. Handled & presented to advantage.

Novice Dog (0). No Entries

Graduate Dog (1) Absent.

Post Graduate Dog (4,1). **1 Rose's Kavacanne Morgan It Seems**, masculine & nicely boned with a decent coat. Well ribbed & short backed. The same sire as winner of JD & another to have a most appealing head & eye. Good reach of neck. Strength in loin & presented in terrific muscular condition & with gleaming coat. As always, expertly handled. Moved on an even stride; **2 Rose & Hunt's Kavacanne Gale Force Wind**, short coupled & standing over plenty of ground. Lovely head in profile, just a little 'cheeky' when viewed in front. So well handled & sound & positive on the move; **3 Proudfoot's Keigame Dante**.

Limit Dog (8,1). A difficult class, with varying types & differing movement, with some being very unsettled. **1 Mann's Valger Quorum**, stood out here & no denying his quality. Bears the stamp of his breeding & is balanced through & through. Strength in well arched neck into correct topline. Short backed & mature in depth & spring to ribs. Nicely carried tail & moved to cover the ground well in profile. Good shape & depth to muzzle. Expertly presented & handled, as always from this kennel; **2 Hawksby's Benbooe Beguiling at Delahawk**, hands on assessment needed to appreciate his virtues. Upstanding dog of substance, scoring in movement, where he covers the ground freely as a result of sound fore & aft angulation. Excellent ribbing. In fine coat & condition & handled to advantage; **3 Staley's Keigame Chilli Bean at Jomeel**.

Open Dog (9,3). **1 Ellis' Indijazz Originale at Soellis**, this lad catches the eye, he is nothing other than a top quality, well balanced & proportioned GSP, full of type & with the classic make & shape I was looking for. Gave him 3rd last time & today, caught my eye as soon as he entered the ring, maturity having enhanced his virtues further. Possesses the most gorgeous head, with soft expression & dark eye. Muscular & so well constructed, complimentary angles giving him that free flowing, effortless stride, so important for the breed. Good depth & spring to rib. Such super feet & bone & a great coat. Handled & presented to full advantage. Delighted to award him the **CC**, his second; **2 Malin's Sh Ch Heathermark Irish at Benrae**, another quality boy to catch my eye. In absolutely gleaming condition. A dog of substance & style. He is so well muscled & constructed throughout, his complimentary angles, giving him a powerful & free stride. Such a super head with strength & also a kind expression. Great legs & feet. He pushed the winner hard. Just carrying a fraction too much weight today. Great rapport with his handler. **RCC**; **3 Cooke & Hammond's Seasham Jumpin Jack Flash**.

Good Citizen Dog (3). **1 Staley's Keigame Chilli Bean at Jomeel**, a good typy GSP, also gaining third in Limit. Short backed, with strong topline. Mature & balanced in body properties. Masculine in head, though just a trifle 'cheeky'. Movement was sound fore & aft. Well handled & also moved in expert fashion by his young handler; **2 Brown's Pitwit Biddable Sapphire**, a nice type with a pleasing head & expression. A youngster & needs time to mature. Would prefer more angulation front & rear. Movement unsettled today; **3 Prior's Booton Imperial**.

Veteran Bitch (4,1). **1 Rose, Morris & Evans' Sh Ch Toff Act To Follow**, looked a picture, hard to think she is almost 8 years. Ultra feminine. Her conformation gave her the edge in movement, where her great angulation produced reach & drive, with topline & tail carriage held correctly. Great ribbing. Delightful head & expression. Shown in first class condition & handled to advantage. **BV**; **2 Cotton's Winterwell Miss Tified**, another carrying her years lightly. At over 9 years, exhibiting free, positive movement. Feminine head with correct proportions. In fine condition & sympathetically handled; **3 Gardiner's Kilnrae Barley Sugar**, looking really well at almost 10 years. Just lost out to the younger bitches today.

Minor Puppy Dog (1). **1 Rose & Gaffney's Kavacanne Vixen**, such a promising youngster, with the soundest of movement, as a result of her excellent angulation front & rear. Slight arch to her reachy neck, flowing into great topline. The straightest of front legs, into the neatest of feet. Sweet head & expression. Showing like a pro, handled to advantage & in superb condition. **BPB**.

Puppy Bitch (4). **1 Rose & Gaffney's Kavacanne Vixen**; **2 Pudney's Pitwit Winter Glow**, another pleasing pup, so well balanced, with super legs & feet & a feminine head & eye. Short appearance. Today, carrying too much weight, which affected her both standing & moving. At one with her handler; **3 Joy's Pitwit The Best Surprise at Mannlicher**, another promising youngster who was just not playing ball on the move today, I learnt later that she had been needing to urinate.

Junior Bitch (1) Absent.

Novice Bitch (3) **1 Rose & Gaffney's Kavacanne Vixen**; **2 Pudney's Pitwit Winter Glow**; **3 Joy's Pitwit The Best Surprise at Mannlicher**.

Graduate Bitch (5). **1 Thomas' Brainscroft Saffron**, older full sister to winner of JD, & like him, scored in her most delightful head & expression. Possesses the straightest of front legs & correct feet. So balanced & excelled in movement, exhibiting soundness with free & easy strides. Correct coat. Her young handler tries so hard, a little more experience will ensure she is exhibited to full advantage; **2 Sielski's Orchidstar Xtra O'live**, another lovely bitch with such an appealing outline. Short backed & standing over plenty of ground. Super angles & great second thigh. Standing on good legs & feet. Lovely head in profile but just preferred the ultra femininity of the winner's. Not quite so steady in movement today; **3 Hudson-Smith & Smith's Teverlarni Tapuaenuku**.

Post Graduate Bitch (5). **1 Schoneville's Balvenie Bella**, the more I looked at her the more this quality girl appealed. Eye-catching, with her classic, balanced outline, topline & great angulation fore & aft. Standing on good legs & feet & moving so well. Feminine with appealing head of correct proportions. Super in depth & spring of ribs. Such a sheen on her harsh jacket. Handled & presented to full advantage; **2 Hopkins' Seasham Dancing Queen**, another quality exhibit presenting a pleasing picture of balance & style. Short coupled with mature body properties. Super legs & feet. Feminine head & eye, muscular neck. Carried herself well on the move. Great coat & condition; **3 Tudor's Torranpoint Peppercorn**.

Limit Bitch (4). What a class, my heart both lifted & sank at the same time, such a class of wonderful, top quality bitches, all I have admired from the ringside & now a chance for hands on assessment. Such minor differences separated them. The class finally went to **1 Hayes' Valger Quartz in Elfindrew**, pulled out all the stops in this hotly contested class. Have watched her progress with interest. This bitch combines substance with femininity & represents the Standard so well. Another who is so typical of her breeding. Excellent rear quarters which she uses to great effect, powering around the ring, forehand angulation matching the rear to give her such scope. Super head, bone & feet. A close contender for the RCC, just losing her topline occasionally on the move. In great coat & condition & expertly handled; **2 Cox's Cushatlaw Irresistable**, hot on the heels of 1 & each time I see her she looks better. The most gorgeous head & eye on this quality girl. Still needing time to complete the picture. Scores in her fabulous movement, reach of neck, excellent angles & great topline. Presented & handled to great advantage; **3 Tierney's Keigame Hustle**, a bitch with a stunning outline & ticking so many boxes. Today, she threw away her chance of higher awards as she was just not moving as I know she can.

Open Bitch (10,3). Another top notch class. **1 Mann's Valger Phoebe**, had to be on top form to win this class & she most definitely was. A cracking bitch from any angle, so difficult to fault. I awarded her BP & RCC last time I judged her three years ago & how she has fulfilled her early promise. Top quality throughout & just oozes breed type, the classic stamp of a GSP. Possesses the most glorious head & melting expression, contributing to her noble appearance. Has ultra balance & ultra femininity. As always, perfectly handled & presented. Stunning on the move, where she carried her tail correctly, gliding effortlessly with fantastic reach & drive, not even a wasp sting, whilst in the ring, putting her off the job in hand. Absolutely thrilled to award her the **CC**, her third, & thus, subject to KC confirmation, her Sh Ch title. Well done on BIS shortlist; **2 Drew's Sh Ch Cushatlaw Illustrious**, glorious youngster, with her title. Litter sister of 2nd in Limit & so similar in profile. Again, exhibits superb movement, maintaining topline & tailset as she effortlessly eats up the ground. Great depth & spring to ribs & short backed appearance. Feminine throughout. Like her sister, strong, correct pasterns, front & rear. Presented in fine condition & great rapport with handler. **RCC**; **3 Rose's Kavacanne Blowin A Gale**, another beautiful bitch.

Good Citizen Bitch (3). **1 Whitehouse's Kazanpaul Crème De La Crème**, a sound, honest bitch, of lovely type. Mature & so well balanced. Beautiful feminine head, sound positive movement, excellent thighs & standing on good legs & feet. Coat OK. Presented in tip-top condition & well handled; **2 Hopkins' Seasham Dressed For Success**, attractive outline & pleasing head & expression. Complimentary angles. Well ribbed & mature appearance. Another to cover the ground well; **3 Gardiner's Malmelsa Flirty Fleuri**.