

English Shetland Sheepdog Club Championship Show on June 9th, 2024.

BITCHES: Many thanks to the committee for the invitation to judge at the 110th anniversary show and bigger thanks to all those who entered and gave me such a lovely entry.

My two capable stewards, Sheila and Lynis kept things rolling along especially as the majority of people went indoors and they had to be chased at times to not miss their classes. I decided to stay outside even though it was windy as shelties look so much better outside on green grass.

It was lovely to have some well filled classes and good to see that presentation was so much better than the last time I judged. Lack of underjaw was much less prevalent and although there was the occasional missing tooth, this too was less of an issue I felt.

I was pleased with my line up and my Co-judge and I agreed on all the joint decisions. To those who thought I don't like tris, no they aren't my personal favourites to own but I hope I judge the dog not the colour. (except blues of course where colour plays a part)

VETERAN: 13-5abs

1st: Hirst's Sundark Simply A Star, VW. An almost 11 year old tri girl just beginning to lose her facial colour but then she is entitled to, but otherwise in good coat and condition. Head still handles well, well placed & shaped eye, ears used to advantage. Arched neck, level topline, construction good fore and aft. Long well-set tail. Had several different handlers when being moved but coped well and covered the ground with ease. Shows well and presents an overall balance picture. Best Veteran and later BVIS.

2nd: Gamble's Balidorn Solitude at Solyric JW. 91/2-year-old s/w, another in super coat and condition and well presented. Lovely head, dark expressive eye, ears well placed. Stands on well boned legs & neat feet, moved with enthusiasm and was enjoying her day out.

3rd: Pearson's Edglonian Starlet.

MINOR PUPPY: 12-2abs

1st: Mayhew's Sandwick Saffron Gold, 61/2-month g/s/w who instantly took my eye on first look around the ring. A real baby, just as she should be at this age but for me had that touch of star quality. Full of feminine charm and ring presence. Lovely to handle on the table. Her head is so balanced, eye dark, almond shaped and obliquely placed, ears are ideally placed and she knew how to use them, all combined to give her the desired sheltie expression. Her sound construction fore and aft enabled her to move so well for a baby still learning her trade. She stood on well boned legs and neat oval feet. Tail well set and carried correctly. Has a super temperament and showed herself off to advantage. Suffice to say I loved her and hope she continues along the same lines. Gave her sire the CC the last time I judged so no wonder I liked her. BP Bitch and BPIS.

2nd: Hateley's Mohnesee Lullaby Ice, almost 9-month glamorous b/m who appeals for her elegant outline. Head is balanced, just needing to fill a little in foreface, nice eye and neat ears for a blue. Well-made front with good shoulder & upper arm, straight front, with good bone for size. Well arched neck, level topline, long well set and carried tail. Moved efficiently and showed well. In good coat which was well presented.

3rd: Miles' Milesend Blue Dolly.

PUPPY: 7:1abs

1st: Lambert's Blenmerrow Lullaby, 111/2 month s/w, feminine girl with lots to like. Classic head to handle, clean well moulded with no exaggerations, would just prefer a slightly more almond shaped eye. Ears well placed. Ample reach of neck, level topline, nice sweep over the loin, construction was very good enabling her to move with fluidity and drive. Well fitting coat that allowed her outline to be seen to advantage and was well handled. A quality puppy but just preferred the expression of the minor pup.

2nd: Mohnesee Lullaby Ice

3rd: Sorockyj's Shazbec Maid of Honour at Sheltisha

JUNIOR: 11-4abs

1st: Norris' Sabema Mayfly at Ferngrove, 12 1/2 month shapely s/w, as to be expected at this age has a lot of maturing to do but the essentials are all there. Head, although a nice wedge shape still has to finish and fill but am sure it will. Eye is well placed with a hint of naughtiness shining through. Ears are neat, well placed and used, Good reach of neck. Shoulder and upper arm angles are good, straight front, nice bone for size. Long well set tail. In fair coat for her age. Moved as construction indicated she would with easy ground covering strides, responded well to handler.

2nd: Kamber's Achor's Surprise Creme Caramelle, liked this aptly named rich s/w for her super construction and appealing head and expression. Ample reach of neck and level topline, well let down hocks which helped power her around the ring. Unfortunately, was let down by her poor presentation. A shame as I liked her a lot.

3rd: Thornley's Felthorn Good Time Girl

YEARLING: 11-1abs This was a strong class

1st: Mitchell's Valdosta Goddess JW. Have admired this quality s/w since puppyhood so was pleased to be able to judge her in the flesh. Ultra feminine well balanced girl in super coat, beautifully presented. Gorgeous head to handle with dark almond shaped eye, neat well placed and used ears all combining to give a true sheltie expression. Well laid-back shoulder, good upper arm, straight front, rear angulation good, well let down hocks enabling her to move with a lithe easy action. Calmly handled to bring out the best in her. Will always take the eye for her showmanship and presence.

2nd: Weller's Evad Halloween Spice JW, quality s/w who is a half sister to 1st but is a slightly different type being a little taller on the leg. Again, a well moulded wedge shaped head and well placed dark eye but not quite the sweetness of expression of 1st. Construction very good both fore and aft, stands on well boned straight front. Arched neck and level topline. Moved soundly with drive. Stood and showed off her virtues to advantage.

3rd: Stafford's Rannerdale Queen of Majic

NOVICE: 15-2abs

1st: Sabema Mayfly at Ferngrove.

2nd: Bray's Molson Modern Millie, 8 month g/s/w was res. in the strong minor pup class, full of potential, this young girl has lots to like. Nice head and expression, ample reach of neck, well made all through, good length of tail, super temperament, Well handled and presented.

3rd: Achor's Surprise Creme Caramelle.

TYRO: 3- 1abs

1st: Sorockyj's Shazbec Maid of Honour at Sheltisha. Beautifully coloured and well broken b/m who was presented in pristine condition and was well handled. Well constructed and moved soundly. For me was very mature for her age and just wasn't as feminine as those in front of her in her previous classes but still a lovely girl.

2nd: Rule's Bleatarn Chantilly Lace, s/s/w whose construction was spot on, everything where it should be and this showed in her sound movement, good bone for her size, level topline and well set tail. head handled well but not the sweetness of expression that I prefer.

GRADUATE: 15-2abs

1st: Hateley's Mohnesee Maebelle JW, Quality s/w who I last judged as a raw 6 month pup and my how she has changed. Always had the potential and is now maturing into an attractive adult. Appeals for her elegant outline, which this kennel always seems to achieve. Has an impressive reach of neck which supports a classic head, dark well placed eye, sweet feminine expression. Front angulation is good and is complimented with well-muscled rear construction. Covered the ground with free easy movement. Showed so well and was in lovely coat and condition.

2nd: Evad Halloween Spice

3rd: Barrowclough's Shadowess Ginger Biscuit

POSTGRADUATE :8-1abs

1st: Goodwin's Rannerdale HoneyBee at Highbrook, Pretty s/w who I've judged before when she was lacking coat but today was in good coat and condition. Clean well moulded head, dark eye neat ears all combining to give the required feminine expression. Adequate reach of

neck, level topline well set and carried tail. Nice round bone, straight front, moved with purpose and was well handled with the minimum of fuss.

2nd: Revill's Mosardi Forget Me Not, Ultra feminine b/m of super colour and well broken coat. Another with a well balanced head, so clean to handle, well placed eye, neat ears for a blue. Arched neck, level topline and nice sweep over the loins well set tail which was carried correctly, Moved well with reach in front and drive behind. Obviously loves her mum and is eager to please where showing is concerned.

3rd: Fenton's Shanmie Canary Blue.

MID LIMIT: 5-1abs

1st: Rosslyn's Balidorn Golden Amber, another I have judged before. Bright g/s/w who really took my eye today. In super coat & condition and beautifully presented. Head is so lovely to handle, clean, well moulded and everything where it should be. Dark obliquely set eye, Ears neat and well placed and used to advantage. Good upper arm and lay back of shoulder, straight front, round bone and neat feet. Ample reach of neck which she knew how to use. Level topline, nice sweep over the loins, well set and carried tail. Moved with a lithe easy action, Well handled to bring out the very best in her. Seriously considered her in the challenge. Every time I glanced round the ring she was showing her socks off and asking to be looked at. It very nearly worked!!!

2nd: French's Lavika Soul of Gold for Lindfern, Pretty s/w who had turned up in her summer wardrobe, but she had nothing to hide and her pleasing outline was there for all to see. Feminine head and expression, well placed neat ears, level topline. Good construction fore and aft which showed in her sound economical movement.

3rd: Straw's Dukeson Laced With Magic

LIMIT: 15-5abs

1st: Morrison's Ketim Future Edition, s/s/w I have always admired. Balanced head, dark well placed almond eye, neat well placed ears. Adequate neck, well laid back shoulder and good upper arm, straight front, nice round bone. neat feet, good spring of rib. Hocks well let down enabling her to move with drive. Although this lady shows she doesn't put a lot into it and sometimes sinks into herself. Still a quality sheltie who will always appeal for her soundness.

2nd: Bray's Dandlewood Kiss'N Tell at Lianbray Attractive s/w who is sitting on 2 CCs and am sure she will easily get her 3rd. For me at the moment she just needs a little more maturity to be at her best. Has all the essentials, head handles well, nice eye and expression, good ear placement, lovely reach of neck, stands on good legs and feet. Moved well and was well handled and presented.

3rd: Lambert's Blenmerrow Daisychain

OPEN: 4

1st: Hateley's Lizmark Lullaby Moon over Mohnesee, quality, elegantly shaped b/m . Instantly takes the eye for her balanced outline which she knows how to show off. You can see that everything is where it should be. On the table she is good to go over, head is clean, eye well shaped and correctly placed, ears neat and well placed. Construction is text book which showed in her super easy movement, Tail long and well set and carried correctly In super coat and condition, well presented and schooled to perfection. Also considered in CC challenge but just preferred the expression of the winners.

2nd: Stafford's Rannerdale Abracadabra, quality s/w, another I have previously judged and was much more settled today. Presented In beautiful coat and condition. Perhaps half a size bigger than 1st and deeper in body. Head and expression is so typical of this kennel and makes you smile when you handle it. Arched neck which proudly supports her head. Level topline, tail well set and carried, Construction spot on both in front and in rear which is evident in her sound movement. Stands on well boned legs and feet. Well handled as always.

3rd: Pearsons Edglonian Slack Alice.

SPECIAL OPEN S/W :4

1st: Hayden's Mohnesee's Maid Marion at Valmay, Mature rich s/w, another I judged when out of coat but today in full bloom, well presented. Nice head to handle, clean well moulded wedge. Eye well placed and dark in colour. Ears well placed and well used. Well made all through with good bone. Straight front and neat feet. Well muscled quarters. Moved with drive.

2nd: Ferris's Willowtarn Time To Party at Ferrimere, at 11 years of age this s/w was in fantastic coat and condition, in fact probably had a bit too much coat as it obscured her outline. Still retains her sweet head and expression, good construction enabled her to move out with drive from rear and reach in front. Well handled and she enjoyed showing for her mum.

3rd: Kamber's Achor's Surprise Cover Girl

SPECIAL OPEN TRI/BLACK&TAN/BLACK&WHITE: 8- 4ab

1st: Stafford's Ch. Rannerdale Queen of the Dark. Judged this gorgeous girl when she was a junior, liked her then and liked her even more today. She has matured into the perfect picture of what we all strive for. She exudes sheltie charm and dares you not to admire her. Her head for me is near perfection. A blunt well moulded wedge, cheeks are smooth and well moulded muzzle is well rounded and no short underjaw here. Eye is dark, obliquely placed and almond shaped. Stop is correct, slight and well placed, skull is flat. Ears well placed and used all combining to give the true sheltie expression. Her well arched neck is carried proudly. Shoulders are well laid back and upper arm angle compliments this. Stands on well boned legs and neat well-padded feet. Chest is deep, ribs are well sprung, has a level topline. Well set tail carried correctly. Well muscled hindquarters and neat well let down hocks. Moved soundly with drive behind and reach in front. Was presented in pristine condition, every hair glistened. Pleased to award her the CC and later was Res BIS .

2nd: Withers' Neraklee Naomi at Stanydale yet another girl I've judged before, feminine girl who is good to handle. Head is clean and well moulded, eye well placed, ears well set and used to advantage. Nice reach of neck, level topline, well muscled hindquarters, well let down hocks, front construction is good all enabling her movement to be sound and true.

3rd: Hirst's Sundark Symphony in Suede.

SPECIAL OPEN BLUE MERLE: 4-2abs

1st: Perkins' Pepperhill Jive Talking at Calambray. Beautifully coloured and well broken. Sweet head and expression. Well handled. In good coat well presented. Moved a little erratically.

2nd: Robinson's Dinmore Making Waves at Lavika. Smaller girl who is well made and has a nice outline. In good coat but didn't really want to co-operate on the move. Lovely colour.

BREEDERS:6-2abs

1st: Stafford's Rannerdale Queen of the Nite. Well whatever mould this kennel is using I'd like to borrow it. This 17 month quality tri is a full sister to CC winner and they are like two peas in a pod. Look closely and front markings are slightly different but other than that they are clones of each other. It is a bit of a cop out to say all the same comments of her sister apply to this gorgeous girl, but they do. At the moment this young lady just lacks the maturity of her sister and to be honest I think she could finish better than her as she just has a little more length of leg. I was very tempted in the challenge to give her the CC but just a little unsettled at times but she was still well handled to win the Res CC Anyone who wants to see type judging should look at these two girls. Again, she was presented to perfection but not quite the fullness of coat of her sister,

2nd: Sundark Simply a Star

3rd: Blenmerrow Daisychain.

Judge: L.J. Roberts