

THE ENGLISH SHETLAND SHEEPDOG CLUB CH SHOW

14 October 2017 - Dogs

What a lovely show this was with some excellent dogs to go over in a super venue, excellent organisation, the perfect stewards in Peter Gough & Jim Martin and a lively and appreciative ringside. Overall my impression is that size is more stable than it was at one time, presentation is now of a very high standard and the top examples could hold their own with the best of the past.

On the down side I found fore assemblies left much to be desired, several are too fine in bone (especially for a male), a few lacked moulding and roundness in muzzle but my biggest regret is that side action in too many is now so short stepping, with no reach and drive so the lithe, active and light footed stride was very much evidenced by its absence. My co-judge Miss June Rutherford and I were in complete agreement that the BIS winner should be the dog Aaron's LAFITTE DE MOORSTILE CHEZ SHEL RIDGE JW, with Res BIS & best Veteran in Show to the lovely bitch Miles' CH MILESEND MILKSHAKE and BPIS to the tricolour dog Durant's NERAKLEE STARBLAZE.

MPD(7) 1st Robinson's Lavika Lush Life a good start to the day with this very shapely bright golden sable dog. I liked his eyes and neat ears, needs to fill out in foreface, good neck, bit steep in upper arm but acquits himself well in side action. He has a fair spring of rib, back is level and he has a nice bend of stifle. Shade close going away but his style and showmanship won the day. Hope he does not grow on too much 2nd Eaves' Kyleburn Romulus just 6 months this tri charmer and still very much the baby. Pleasing head, well shaped dark eyes, neat well carried ears and shown in excellent bloom. Clearly needs lots of time to fill out his frame but the basics are there, he has a lovely croup and his side action was proficient. 3rd Attwood's Terrywood Scotch Measure

PD(5) 1st & BPIS Durant's Neraklee Starblaze what a shapely tricolour this well constructed youngster is. On the stack his shape just flows from ear tip to his hocks. Level back over a decent spring and depth of rib with excellent hind angulation. Just needs to fill out in forechest as he stands and moves a trifle too narrowly in front. I liked his head shape, good stop, flat skull, lovely eyes and well set and carried neat ears. His smooth, balanced side action won the day. He was a deserved BPIS 2nd Bird & Caden's Molson Mr Blue Sky b/m whose colour at present has quite a rusty tinge to it and hopefully it might clear as he changes to his adult coat. Nice make and shape, well balanced head and an excellent muzzle finish. Just about enough neck Another which could be tighter in front action but again his smooth, even stepping profile action appealed. Not quite the eye and expression of Starblaze. 3rd Hardy's Sandwick Stagelight

JD(6) 1st & Res CC Bray's Lianbray Lothario JW I liked so much about this handsome headed sable which was superb in coat presentation which, added to his faultless showmanship, aided his cause a lot. He is a lovely size, clean, one piece wedge head with neat ears, lovely dark almond shaped eyes and a nicely arched & correctly carried neck which all helped his cause. Well laid shoulders,

good rib depth, level back and that smoothly rounded croup line leading to amply angulated hindquarters. He could be a little wider in forechest but his even balanced and positive profile action delighted me enough to award him the RCC. I believe his 3rd such award and I feel sure, given time, that he will attain the upper house. 2nd S. Stagelight 3rd Robinson's Sheltysham Nut Box in Alnmac

YD(4) 1st CC & BOB Aaron's Lafitte De Moorstile Chez Shelridge JW this bright golden sable has the Wow factor in spades and made an immediate impact on me the second he entered the ring. He has an air, that certain look of being something special and his glorious colouring is the icing on the cake and adds a real touch of glamour. I liked everything about him, he is shapely, a lovely size, well weighted bone, a super head and expression arched neck, sweeping croup line, was spotless in coat and presentation and he is such a natural showman with ears never seeming to be other than attentive. Sound on the move I am told this was his 3rd CC and in this form I'm sure there must be others to follow. 2nd Bywater's Tachnamadra He's Got The Look this tri has a delightful head, clean cheeked, moderate stop, flat skull and well shaped, dark eyes. A little unsettled in one ear at present. He is nicely constructed, has a decent length of neck, ample width in upper thigh and is so firm in hock. Spotless in coat but hard to really assess his action as he had his nose almost pressed to the ground most of the time he was supposed to be moving. Maybe his best friends are Bloodhounds! 3rd C. Nut Box in A.

ND(4) 1st L. Love Life 2nd Hill's Molson Moon River well coated tri, lovely size, good bone, well balanced head, eyes not quite almond enough for me and he had that "worried" look as though not too happy with his surroundings. At present he is narrow in forechest and his pasterns could be firmer. Side action smooth, even stepping and good hock use. 3rd S. Stagelight

TD(5) 1st Foster-Parish's Milesend Blue Raider at Lowick I felt that in this class he had the most appeal for his balanced shape, good wither height, pleasing head with well defined stop, nicely rounded muzzle, ears a shade heavy for me but his expression is good. He is blessed with good angulation both ends and moved out well as they circled the ring. 2nd Laversuch's Pacarane Polar Stormtime an engaging little chap but he lacks strength in foreface However, he possesses a beautiful eye for size, shape and colour and it aids his expression. Shapely in stance he moved out with a brisk, positive stride and was spotless in coat. 3rd Varnom's Milesend Morning Time

GD(9) 1st Pattinson's Kyleburn Everlasting Dream excellent wither height, lovely one piece head with a flat skull, very good eyes for size, shape and colour, nicely ribbed and bodied and comes into his own in side action which is smooth striding and ground covering. In fairly good coat, his handler got the best out of him on the move. 2nd Edwards' Castlerose Spiritmaster at first glance I felt he could win this class as he was in pristine coat, is a lovely size, never lets up showing, very good head with a flat skull, excellent eyes and neat ears. Perhaps a little more neck would aid the overall picture, but his back is level, the croup so well moulded and he has good upper thigh width. I felt he did not do himself justice

on the go around as he was stepping short with little hock use which held him back. 3rd French's Lirren Tri Wishing

PGD(9) 1st Stow & Withers' Stanydale Shot In The Dark JW so much to admire in this handsome headed tri. I liked his size, he is so shapely on the stack using his good neck to advantage, level back, well moulded croup and he was in such good bloom. Clean one piece head, moderate stop, neat ears and such a lovely expression. He is sound enough but just lacked length of stride in profile which told against him later. 2nd Pierce's Philhope Buzzword much to like in this sable dog. For a start he is a super mover, lithe, light footed, excellent hock use and holds his shape. He has lovely eyes, neat ears and his expression should appeal to the purists. He is well ribbed and muscled but regrettably not in the best of coats which did not help his cause. 3rd K. Everlasting Dream

MLD(5) 1st Forster-Cooper's Sheltysham Burnished Gold this sable is a lovely type and whilst not in the best of show coats, he had to win this class on his sheer breed type. One piece head, so balanced, lovely stop, well rounded foreface and a decent chin. His eyes and neat ears combine to give that elusive "sheltie" look which is not always easy to attain. I liked his size, weight of bone and he is quite sound in action. 2nd Matthews' Esterbon's Classic Illusion this b/w was shown in super body and coat and has an appealing head, eyes and expression. The skull is flat, the eyes so expressive and the ears neat. Enough neck, good spring of rib and well boned. Just a little short coupled for me and whilst true fore and aft, his action was a bit lacking in reach and drive. 3rd Whitchurch's Sheltisha Light My Fire at Emmaview

LD(12) The hardest decision of the day as these two sables matched each other in so many ways that I found them difficult to split. They are of similar make, shape, size and each was presented in lovely coat and body condition. Both could be that tad firmer in front action and side on they were both light footed with good balance, head carriage and showing good hock use. Finally I gave the nod to the winner as I just preferred his expression but they will swap places often, I'm sure. 1st Fransham's Jontygray Gilt Edged for Franmead JW 2nd Haensel's Sherkarl Uptown Funk JW 3rd Roberts' Malaroc Mystery Writer JW

OD(10) 1st Bastiano & John's Ch Hawk Blue Eyes Des Romains De Mayerling at Auberswell ShCM a beautifully coloured and coated blue merle, real silvery blue with correct splashes of black on his profuse jacket. He has a very good head, ears are well carried, pleasing eyes and expression, excellent reach of neck, correct ribbing and that flowing, eye catching outline. One of the best movers of the day, so effective and light striding with good hock use. Close up in my consideration for the CC but I just preferred the size of those I put over him. 2nd Van Hoorebeke-D'hondt's Multi Ch Napoleone Di Bonaparte Van 't Nevelse this was one of my problem dogs of the day as this richly shaded sable has so much to like. Beautifully headed, clean cheeked, well rounded foreface, neat little ears and well shaped, dark and very expressive eyes. He is a lovely wither height, has such a good ribcage, supple loins, well rounded croup to a good tail set and leading to lovely hindquarters. Did not match the lightness nor drive in

stride of the winner which was the deciding factor. But he is a dog of quality. 3rd Miles' Lavika Time Will Tell at Milesend

VD(9) What a class of real golden oldies, each immaculate in body, coat, attitude and that willing to please air!! 1st Mackie's Ch Shebaville Secret Mission this immaculately presented dog never put a foot wrong. Loved his size, well laid shoulder, such good angulation aft, well muscled thighs, the tightest of feet and still a light footed action as he drifts around the ring. Has kept his quality head, showed himself off so eagerly and just could not be ignored. 2nd Paterson's Lorainian Kaeto Star a huge coated 9 years old sable which is an enormous credit to his owner. Not a hair out of place, every tooth in his head and all sparkling white! Has retained that beautiful headpiece with such a winning expression. His forelegs remain absolutely straight and firm at the elbow, tight feet, so well ribbed and that smooth, clean flowing outline all add to his appeal. Can still show some of the youngster how to use hindquarters! 3rd Aaron's Ch Mistmere Blackthorn at Shelridge JW

Sp.Open (S/W) 1st Bastiani & John's Fait Moi Rever Jocker Des Romains De Mayerling at Auberswell what's in a name indeed!! Very richly hued shaded sable of lovely make and shape. Full coated, excellent neck and backline, well weighted bone and sound to and fro. His head is a little too deep a stop for me but he is blessed with such lovely eyes and neat ears so his expression has charm. Sound in action but not the best of showmen being a little reluctant to use his ears much. Not quite the strength in hock of the winner and not quite so outgoing as a showman. 2nd Haensel's Lorainian Mr Bojagles at Sherkarl JW ShCM nicely headed golden s/w, pleasing head, very neat ears and well shaped eyes which all add to his appeal. He is well ribbed, has a lovely reach in neck and his croup line is good. Spotless in coat presentation and a willing showman. Just lacked the rear drive of the winner as they circled the ring together. 3rd Pierce's Ch Philphope Star Struck

Sp.Open (Tri) 1st Stock's Ch Chemist Black Wizard what a handsome headed tri this is and as always from this handler, flawless in presentation. He has a lovely headpiece, definitely all male but an expression of much quality due to his lovely eyes and neat ears. He is well proportioned in body, lean and fit to go over and out-moved the opposition. 2nd Fisher's Fearnach Don't Stop Me Now at Colroy IKC another very handsome dog and again in excellent coat and presentation of the first order. I liked his head, thought the winner had that fraction more reach in neck and the slightly more moulded croup line which gave the overall picture more appeal. He does everything to please his handler and moved briskly around the ring. 3rd Jordan's Gylmar Dreamaker

SP(B/M) (2) 1st Edward's Castlerose Spiritmaster no doubting his sex, good flat skull of nice length, ears could be a little higher set, well shaped eyes, lovely reach of neck good spring and depth of rib, in super coat and a co-operative showman. Moved around the ring well but he was another which just seemed to stop short in hock action. 2nd Main's Seavall Blakeney smaller chap of beautiful colour and once settled to stand, he present a very appealing outline as he uses that good neck to advantage. Not the head of Spiritmaster as he lacks muzzle

roundness and his ears a trifle heavy for me. And this one can fidget when expected to stand and show!! But in super condition.

Breeders D(2/1) 1st Winfield's Ch Oakcroft Star Force JW this s/w has an air of quality even although I would like him a tad smaller at the withers. He has a really good one piece head. lovely soft expression, neat ears, just about enough neck to enhance his outline, well bent stifles and shown in superb coat condition. Quite sound both ways but another just a little short in length of stride for me.

Sp Op. Working D (3/1) 1st S. Burnished Gold 2nd Graham's Shadoway Game of Chance possess such a lovely headpiece, moderate stop, flat skull, well set and carried ears and really good eyes and expression. I liked his size and substance and he was shown in excellent bloom. Not quite the firmness in backline of the winner and he was another which I felt could have used his hocks to better effect.

Albert Wight (Judge)