

GUNDOG SOCIETY OF WALES CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW

Wednesday 14th October 2015

I should like to thank the committee for inviting me to judge Pointers at this prestigious show. I must confess to having a weak spot for Wales as many of my best friends live there.

Thanks are due also to the exhibitors for the confidence they showed in my ability to judge their dogs on their merits, regardless of ownership & breeding. It was nice to see the competitors congratulate each other in the ring & I thought that we managed to make the day a family event. For most of us, the dog game is a hobby; but it does need to be fun. If not, what is the point of it? I know I disappointed many & only pleased a few, unfortunately that's all part of the game as there can only be one winner in each class. The Pointer with its aristocratic look, graceful curves & a strong but lithesome appearance is to me one of the world's most beautiful dogs. I fell in love with this breed when I saw Multi Ch Chesterhope Let's Be Serious enter the group at New Zealand's National in 2005. He later won BIS & came home with me & changed my life.

A Pointer needs to have an alert appearance of strength. He needs to impress & I don't like to see any weakness in his temperament. I also want to see an elegant well proportion head. The muzzle should be somewhat concave which gives the head a slightly dish-faced appearance. I do of course know that a Pointer can work with a coarse head, but a well chiselled head with a bright & kind expression is an important part of the type. That is what you see when your friend is laying on your lap in front of the television.

I found that most of the dogs which came under me were generally sound, but a few, especially among the bitches, were low on their legs. They were therefore lacking sufficient height & presence. Some of them moved like trains around the ring, but for me priorities are type, proportions & outline. Temperaments were good, with a couple of exceptions, but not many had the appearance of a thoroughbred. The breed has a problem with the front action which often is hackneyed instead of forward reaching. The heads on the males were a little disappointing since quite a few were hound like & some were too coarse. The heads on the bitches I found in general were much better.

I am happy to say that most of my winners were excellent & I was very proud of my unbeaten bitch line-up. I found at least half a dozen bitches which I easily could have given a CC to!

MINOR PUPPY DOG

1st Edmondson & Robertshaw's Crookrise Blackthorn, promising puppy with a good head. He has a nice outline & he moved well from the side, but he needs to strengthen up behind;

2nd Barker's Flinthill Pimpernel, it is a lot to like about this puppy. He has a good head & he is well constructed. He does, however, need ring training & he is too weak behind;

3rd Wilcox's Objet D'art Du Morcaro at Merynjen.

PUPPY DOG

1st Harrison's Millpoint Formula One, biggish dog of good type. He is very well developed for his age. He has an excellent head & a great outline even if he is on the long side. Moves very well. BPD.

JUNIOR DOG

1st Ruell's Rafthouse Reload at Stonewardine, another lovely dog who is on the big side. He has a good head with the correct profile. He is well angulated & he moves well when he wants to, but he needs to settle down;

2nd Wall's Meadowpoint Spirit Of Fire, it was a lot to like about this dog & it was a close decision between him and the winner. Spirit Of Fire's elegant head was all for me & he had a soft expression which I liked. He was, however, a bit straight in front & he lost out to Reload who had a better front extension;

3rd Tregaskis' Moenfair Spicewood Summer.

YEARLING DOG

1st Wall's Meadowpoint Spirit Of Fire;

2nd Tregaskis' Moenfair Spicewood Summer, stylish dog with a good outline. He is a bit heavy in skull, but he has the right head profile. Well constructed, moves very well;

3rd Wilcox's Wilchrime Bold Move for Merynjen.

NOVICE DOG

1st Harrison's Millpoint Formula One;

2nd Wall's Meadowpoint Spirit Of Fire.

POST GRADUATE DOG

1st Goode's Millpoint Yeah Baby Yeah, I liked his type. He had a good front, neck & head. He could be better angulated behind & move with more drive;

2nd Petherick's Hawkfield All At Sea, nicely headed dog with style, but a bit low on his legs. He could be better angulated in front & he is too hackney on the move.

LIMIT DOG

1st Abbott's Millpoint Dare To Dream for Mirasol, this was another excellent Millpoint dog of high class. He is biggish, but he carries himself well & he is in the right mould. I liked his head very much; it was well sizzled & had the right profile & stop even if it was a bit on the heavy side. Body wise the dog was close to perfect, but his slightly high tail set & carriage made him a bit square over the croup. He was a strong contender for the RCC, but in the end Flambeau won the contest;

2nd Adams' Ansona Albert Einstein, this is a very attractive dog with an excellent head. He is very well constructed & he moves with passion & presence. I love everything about this dog, but maybe I would like him a fraction more masculine;

3rd Hazeltine & Upton's Hookwood By George.

OPEN DOG

1st Harrison's Sh Ch Millpoint Heat Wave, after having judged the open dog class it was no doubt in my mind about where the CC would go. Heat Wave had the curves & the outline I was looking for & a nice head. He is well constructed & he drives nicely around the ring. He carries himself very well & is an excellent representative for his breed. CC;

2nd Martin's Sunhouse Anything Goes, this is a powerful dog, which gave a good picture standing. He has a nice head, but I would have liked him with a bit more neck. Except for that he is well constructed & he drives well around the ring;

3rd Welch's Ir Sh Ch Moolou Minstrel at Hookwood.

VETERAN DOG

1st Hinton's Sh Ch Fleurfields Flambeau, this dog has always been a favourite of mine & I remember me giving him BOB as a youngster at a major open show in Scotland. He has gone a long way since then & it was great to see this distinguished old gentleman shown under me in such fabulous condition. This dog is a great ambassador for our breed & he has the stature of a great champion. He was competing with Dare To Dream for the RCC & he won on his smooth movement & excellent tail carriage. RCC;

2nd Gordon's Hawkfield Lets Go Crackers, this is an old favourite of mine & I was pleased to see him in such great form. He has got a nice head & he is well constructed. He moved soundly, but looked a bit stiff so that is why I placed him second.

MINOR PUPPY BITCH

1st Edmondson & Robertshaw's Crookrise Larch, stylish bitch with an excellent outline. She showed like an experienced campaigner though she was only 6 months. She has an excellent outline & a good head. She has a lot of growing to do so if she develop the right way she could grow into a very nice bitch;

2nd Eldridge's Bradgate Takes The Lead, it is a lot to like about this bitch & I was very close to giving her the class, but every time I tried to do so the handler had her standing wrong. This bitch has lovely curves even if she is slightly long in loin. She does, however, have that extra bit of substance which I thought was missing in the winner. Both bitches moved very well;

3rd Preece & Drake's Opal Du Morcaro.

PUPPY BITCH

1st McGilp's Ridanflight Ruby Tuesday at Forthbourne, now & then you see a youngster which really makes you feel good & Ruby was one of those. She has got everything it takes to go all the way to the top & I am sure she one day will be able to write Sh Ch in front of her name. She stood like a statue & moved with drive & determination. I was delighted to see her being placed fourth in the puppy group. BP;

2nd Drake & Preece's Clamerkin Bohemian Queen, this was a stylish bitch with a good head. She is well constructed & she moves very well. It is a lot to like about this bitch, but she is a bit long in loin which made me place her second;

3rd Goode's Medogold Bonny Ivy.

JUNIOR BITCH

1st Lowe's Lowsmoor Shiralee, this bitch was all for me. She had the curves & the lines I like. She had a good head & she was well constructed. She gave an excellent picture standing & she moved with drive. Looking at this bitch warmed my heart because she was top class;

2nd Hinton's Fleurfield Dances On A Dream, another excellent bitch with a lot of virtues. She has a nice head & I loved her neck & presence. She was correctly angulated both ends & she was impressive on the move. She pushed hard for the top spot, but she lost out because I thought she was more long cast than the winner;

3rd Best's Sunhouse Show Stopper at Bestina.

YEARLING BITCH

1st Gordon's Hawkfield Pride N Prejudice, we don't see solid blacks very often, but here we had one. She has lovely lines & a good head. She is well constructed & she moves with drive. I would have liked a bit more of her & she could have had stronger bones, but the colour might of course have played me a trick;

2nd Dunn's Meadowpoint Spirit Of Love, this is a typical bitch with a good head. She has a good front, but she falls of a bit over the croup. She moves very well;

3rd Bedson & Earl's Caithpoint Hear'say.

NOVICE BITCH

1st Lowe's Lowsmoor Shiralee;

2nd Cooper & Hinton's Carmandine Cover Girl by Fleurfield, this was another attractive bitch which pleased my eye. I would like her to look a bit happier standing, but she blossoms when she starts moving. I can now see that she is the litter sister of my RCC winner & she is of the same type, but she hasn't quite got Crumble's style;

3rd Eldridge's Bradgate Takes The Lead.

POST GRADUATE BITCH

1st Guy & Hinton's Carmandine Cookie Crumble by Fleurfield, I have always admired this bitch from ringside & when I went over her I couldn't understand why she hasn't done better. She has wonderful smooth lines, she is upstanding & she moves freely. She has a lovely head & her construction is close to perfection. She swept around the ring with excellent drive. What more do you want? I think this bitch is very unlucky if she doesn't get made up. Good luck! RCC;

2nd Brooksmith & Adams' Medogold Kiss N'Tell, I thought Post Graduate Bitch was the best class of the day & here was another cracker. She has a great outline & she is very well constructed. She is the litter sister to my limit winner & she is in the same mould, but she isn't quite as refined. She pushed hard for the top spot, but I preferred Crumble's head;

3rd PREECE & Gilding's Harvestslade Diamond Dream.

LIMIT BITCH

1st Stuckey's Medogold Coralie of Pendan, I have followed this bitch with great interest since she came out as a puppy. She has done extremely well & having gone over her I felt the same as so many of my colleagues. This bitch is first class & it is only a question of time before she gets made up. I liked Coralie's head & expression & she is correctly angulated both ends, not too much & not too little. Quite a few is over angulated behind these days. It was a joy to see her move;

2nd Drake's Ansona Queen Of Hearts at Clamerkin, this bitch is similar to the winner in type. She has a lovely head & a good front, but she falls off a bit over the croup. It was a lot to like about this bitch which move with drive a determination;

3rd Simmons' Freebreeze Acadia with Galema.

OPEN BITCH

1st Dyer's Sh Ch Sharnphilly Juici Cuture, I guess it was no big surprise that this top winning bitch got the top spot. I gave her BIS at Southern Counties & at GSOW she showed the same form & determination to win as she did then. After my preamble it should be easy to understand why I like this bitch so much. She has curves & strength, she has elegance & grace. She simply has what it takes to reach the top. When she moves she carries herself like a parading horse. I was delighted to see Valerie Foss make her best in show. Who better to enforce my opinion of Juici that the UK's gundog guru! CC, BOB & BIS;

2nd Martin's Shadesett Serendipity at Sunhouse, I liked this bitch very much. She has strength & she has curves. She has a good head, lovely neck & outline standing. She drives around the ring with passion, but I thought she could have carried her topline better;

3rd Stangroom's Pipeaway Laura Louisa at Lappakia.

VETERAN BITCH

1st Stangroom's Meadowgold Wannabeposh at Honeywood, grandmother in excellent form. She is on the big side, but moves well.

SIGURD WILBERG - Judge