

Gundog Society Of Wales Championship Dog Show

Wednesday 16th October 2024

I was thrilled to be invited to judge Pointers at this prestigious show, and I was amazed and honoured to have such a wonderful entry of 138 making 179 entries! The Southern Pointer Club were running their show parallel to the GSOW, and generally the organisation of the two shows ran very well.

I think that there are a few points which could be improved if this is going to take place again. The judging of my dogs went smoothly, but I felt inclined to wait for the bitches in the next ring before I started my own bitch entry. I think my poor hard working stewards had taken a lunch break (quite understandably), so a quick sandwich later, I couldn't really get going again, having decided to press on regardless. With such big bitch classes, there was a need to be thorough, and the consequence was that my lovely BOB didn't make it to the BIS ring. The weather was so appalling that they obviously had to plough on with the finals. My other finalists were Ok. I think another time, judging for GSOW will have to carry on with no real break, if numbers were as big as this again. The gangway between the rings was so crowded and made it difficult for stewards to communicate and search for absentees. I tried so hard to ensure we didn't miss people out!!!

I can't thank my stewards enough. They were so helpful and thorough and kept the ring going very well. It was certainly an amazing entry, and there was so much quality. I did find some beautiful, correct Pointer heads, but there were some narrow skulls, and some with very little stop or work in their heads, making for a plain, flat expression. There were some exceptionally well made Pointers with excellent conformation, but some lacked balance, particularly front angulation, and this affected movement. Some feet are rather cat like and lacking in padding; needed for running on rough terrain. All the exhibits had good mouths and clean teeth and were presented very well. Some exhibitors still think they are in a race, which detracts from movement and doesn't impress. I could happily have taken several Pointers home with me.!!!

MINOR PUPPY DOG (4)

1st Swannell's Sharnphilly Black Abbott at Eveandabeck. Really lovely outline on these 2 litter brothers. Number one is B/W, and at nearly 7 months is just right for age. A very sound, well developed puppy; good forequarters and balanced rear angulation. His head was masculine and shows real promise. He moved true and steadily for his age.

2nd Mair, Mair and McCready's Sharnphilly Coppernob at Glenauld. Lemon and white and again very promising. Really lovely topline when standing, again moving well. Head medium breadth and in proportion to length of foreface. I'm sure these two could change places.

3rd Millett's Laveto Remember When

PUPPY DOG (2) Difficult to separate these two. Each puppy had a lot to like but were quite different.

1st Wilcox's Harvestlade Fire And Ice through Merynjen. A well grown puppy for 11 months with a really beautiful head and expression. Lots of work in the head and good proportions in skull. He has a super outline with balanced angles front and rear, well sprung ribs and good depth of brisket. He moved soundly and shows a lot of promise. Best puppy dog.

2nd O'Neill's Tenshilling ShBoom. Another lovely puppy with more compact body features and correct topline. He too has a most appealing head and moved with verve and drive. Just preferred front movement of no. 1 today but I was splitting hairs over them generally.

JUNIOR DOG (8) This was an excellent class with several good dogs going cardless.

1st Westaway's and Eldridge's Bradgate Yours Truly. Liver/white. As soon as this dog entered the ring, he caught my eye. He has quite a large frame which is still developing, but just right for age. He has a really 'traditional' and correct Pointer head which really appealed to me, just enough dished appearance, balanced planes and such gentle expression. He moved out with drive and purpose on correct padded, oval feet. Just loved him and could see his potential. Awarded him the CC. although a youngster. Well deserved.

2nd Hoffman's Teisgol Patronus with Camairo. B/w This young dog's movement was outstanding and won him his place. He has a pleasing head, but I hope it develops more in width of skull as he matures. A lovely youngster.

3rd Siddle's Wilchrimane Silent Bounty

YEARLING DOG (9) Another excellent class.

1st Tibbs' Raigmore Keep The Faith JW. Pulled out all the stops in this class to win on superb, sound movement. This dog is full of quality and style, excellent topline and balanced angulation. He has a truly masculine head with slight dished appearance, soft lip and stood on good feet. Really could do a day's work!! In super fit condition. Res CC.

2nd Bush's Piasharn Rocka Rolla. Another young dog that caught my eye with his very good balance and topline, and smooth, correct movement. He has a short, neat tail to finish. Liked his masculine head and kind eye.

3rd Isherwood's Wilchrimane Let's Be Frank.

NOVICE DOG (4)

1st O'Neill's Tenshilling ShBoom.

2nd Hoffman's Teisgol Patronus with Cameiro.

3rd Wardle's Sunhouse All Blacks.

POST GRADUATE DOG (10, 1ab)

1st Matthews' Sonham Raising The Game JW. Heavily marked b/w with a most beautiful head. There is so much work in it and just the right amount of dished appearance. Loved his style and type generally. I see his sire was one of my favourites and has produced such quality offspring. He is so balanced in outline and moves soundly and with elegance. A strong contender for the CC.

2nd Heaton's Freebreeze On Location at Brackenstyle. B/w Quite a big chap but elegant and full of quality. Really liked his stylish head and although he needs to fill his frame still, he is a lovely dog. Excellent sloping pasterns and sound movement.

3rd Collins' Collholme Balthaser.

LIMIT DOG (12, 3ab) Really splitting hairs in this quality class.

1st Hill's Kanix Sourdough with Calaquendi JW BE JR CH. O/W Strong boned dog, and with quite a large frame, but he was totally balanced and has excellent conformation. He also possesses a very masculine and stylish head. He moved with strength and drive.

2nd Adams' Carofel Wings Of Hope JW WW23 Swiss JCH. O/W Another lovely dog, lighter in frame and very well put together. Excellent neck and shoulders, good turn of stifle, masculine head with soft expression and moved out very well.

3rd Guy's Cumbrian Night King at Carofel.

OPEN DOG (10) It certainly was an honour to judge this class with so many champions and top winners all deserving of a red card. The entry was quite overwhelming, and I make no apology for saying I could have placed anyone in the first spot. The first three were outstanding.

1st Bond's Sh Ch Joneva Just My Style. Won on his excellent conformation and stylish movement. His forequarters are so correct and balanced with super turn of stifle. Liked his true, masculine expression. A dog that certainly lives up to his name.

2nd Oddie's Sh Ch Sharnphilly Boondoggle. What an honour to judge this beautiful dog! He is so balanced and poised with his truly masculine head so full of work and with a kindly expression. Just a lovely dog all through, and no surprise that he has won so much.

3rd Oddie's Chesterhope One way Ticket.

VETERAN DOG (3) All 3 beautiful veterans and in excellent condition.

1st O'Neill's Sh Ch Tenshilling Home Alone. This dog seems ageless and still wins me over with his charm and charisma. Correct outline with a series of curves true to Pointer type. He has a melting expression yet retains his masculinity.

2nd Philo's Fydal Caprio at Salmonist JW Sh CM OSW Sh CEx. A very glamorous o/w dog with an exquisite head. Loved his character Very well balanced throughout and moved well.

3rd Bowen-Brooks' Tenshilling Blowin' Smoke.

SPECIAL BEGINNERS DOG OR BITCH (11, 2abs) This class held us up somewhat as we had to wait for bitches to join the class. I had already judged the dogs, of course.

1st Bowen Brooks' Tenshilling Here I go Again. B/w Really came into his own in this class. He is a very smart dog with so much to like. He is balanced all through and presents a picture of a quality Pointer. He moved out smoothly and soundly. True Pointer head.

2nd Bush's Piasharn Rocka Rolla.

3rd Klaiber's Sharnphilly Gingerbread.

MINOR PUPPY BITCH (5)

1st Oddie, Dyer and Erskine's Sharnphilly Elsie Mo to Riwood. What a truly gorgeous little bitch, which I'm sure will get to the real top. She is just right for 6 months and oozes quality throughout, from her sweet, feminine head to her excellent forequarters and well angled stifle and short tail. She is a delight. Would love to have taken her home. BPB and BP Well done.

2nd Wilkinson's Ferndel Sapphire Mist over Stocksfell b/w Another delightful puppy, again with the loveliest of heads. Super topline and conformation just right for age. Very promising.

3rd Gates' Sharnphilly Dizzy Blonde at Linosa.

PUPPY BITCH (6)

1st Oddie's Riwood Tick Tick Boom to Sharnphilly. Beautiful outline on this puppy, which appealed greatly. Fine shoulders, long elegant neck and good balance in front, with just enough stifle to produce sound movement for age. Very pretty head Challenged her kennel mate hard for BPB.

2nd Preece and Gilding's Harvestlade Star Ruby. Another lovely quality puppy with a very feminine head and super topline. Has all the essentials for age and must have a bright future.

3rd Perrins' Evaluna For Your Eyes Only at Mistin.

JUNIOR BITCH (9)

1st Adams' Joneva Just One Wish. O/W Eye catching bitch. Won on her excellent conformation and movement. Super topline and balance throughout, good depth of brisket. She has a very pretty head to compliment this, with lovely eyes.

2nd Gordon's Hawkfield Happy Times. Such a beautiful, refined head on this bitch. Just loved her feminine, slightly dished appearance, lovely nose and soft lip. She too is very graceful and well made, with neat sound movement.

3rd Edmondson and Robertshaw's Crookrise Sunbeam.

YEARLING BITCH (9) Two litter sisters 1st and 2nd. Litter sisters to my res. CC winner, so what a lovely litter!!

1st Tibbs' Raigmore Faith In The Future. B/w Stylish bitch with correct outline and good, sound driving movement. She is a neat bitch and with good, correct oval bone. Her head and expression are very feminine.

2nd Crowhurst's Raigmore Faith Restored. Another lovely bitch with all the same attributes. Very pretty expression and head with correct planes, and good conformation leading to sound movement.

3rd Boulton's Codnorhawk Starlight on Moreoldglen.

NOVICE BITCH (6, 1ab)

1st Cobden's Alozia Zantini. L/W Pretty girl with balanced outline. She is just right for her young age and developing nicely. She moved out steadily .

2nd Perren's Evaluna For your Eyes Only at Mistin. 3rd in puppy and could have won this class if she had moved better, but she was not as steady as the winner. She has a stunning outline, and excellent confirmation. Her head is pretty too. When settled she should do well.

3rd Flint's Narcissus Pipit by Casilex.

POST GRADUATE BITCH (17, 1 ab) The next 2 classes needed another set of cards. So many lovely bitches went cardless.

1st Cardiff's Freebreeze Pixar at Prosperity. This lovely bitch pulled out all the stops to catch my eye. She is ultra-feminine and has a melting expression and just the right amount of stop, giving correct Pointer expression. She has a lovely outline, moved steadily and soundly.

2nd Earl, Wheldon and Jones' Flinthill Some Like It Hot at Caithpoint. B/W bitch of real quality. Another one that pulled out all the stops in this amazing class. Especially good topline, excellent bone and balanced conformation. She flowed round the ring, showing off her very pretty head.

3rd O'Neill's Tenshilling To Sir With Love

LIMIT BITCH (17) This class had so many quality bitches it was hard to separate them. The first 3 were outstanding.

1st Macara and Blackburn Bennett's Kanix Sooty at Stargang. Bitch of great quality in every department, from her feminine head to her long neck, super shoulders, well sprung ribs, and powerful yet balanced stifles. This is what I would like to take home. Res.CC

2nd Earl, Wheldon and Jones' Hawkfield Frivolous for Caithpoint. Another stunning bitch who just oozed quality ant style. She has such sound flowing movement. Very nice indeed.

3rd Wilkinson's Stockwell Shockwave.

OPEN BITCH (10)

1st Siddle Siddle and Madeiros' Sh Ch Wilchrimane Frankly Darlin. This was just the complete package in every respect. She is such a beautiful Pointer. It was an honour to judge her and give her the CC and BOB. I am so sorry you missed the group. Lessons to be learned for next year!!

2nd Webb's Sh Ch Tenshilling The Wanderer. Another glorious bitch in every respect. She has a head which is amazingly feminine, and she is so well made throughout. Pushed hard for top honours.

3rd Matthews' Sonham Chasing Rainbows.

VETERAN BITCH (10) Some lovely bitches in this class.

1st Guy's Carofel On Silent Wings JW. This is a sweet, feminine b/w girl with good all round conformation. In very good condition and moved freely and soundly.

2nd Isherwood's Symitry Iced Ginger. O/w One of the prettiest heads of the day. She does not look 9 and has kept her youthful, sound movement.

3rd Rayner, Spinks and Pringle's Gartarry High Society at Spinray JW.

JANET DRAKE - judge