

# CRUFTS

## Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2025

I felt it was a great honour to be asked to judge at this show, because it is the most prestigious show going. My thanks to the Crufts committee for giving me this experience. I last judged Pointer dogs at the Southern Pointer Clubs' Anniversary show a few years ago. At that appointment I was totally disappointed in the quality and movement on the day, the majority of dogs I went over. I wanted to make a stance there and withhold prize cards in several classes. However, I let myself be influenced by the Show Manager. I did express my opinion to exhibitors in that class how disappointed I was and mentioned my thoughts in my critique. I did know that it was a small representation of the breed because there was a big general Championship show being held up North the same weekend.

I was therefore looking forward to this appointment because it was Crufts and it only comes around once in a lifetime to judge a breed there. I found myself questioning how with such poor movement, lack of quality and type and poor movement some of the dogs had qualified. This unfortunately was not just confined to the Dogs. Many looked really nice standing, so what changed when they started to move, there were many examples of high stepping front action, pinning in of the front pasterns and totally lacking any forward low reaching front action. Hind action varied from being so close behind they were nearly rubbing together, to crossing over of the hind legs, lacking in muscular development, no driving action from the hock. There was also a variance in head carriages and topline on the move. I didn't think this was because of bad handling. In some classes feet were noticed to lack any length of foot with very short toes, almost on their tiptoes when standing. There was a lack of oval bone and oval feet with well arched toes. I observed also some had a problem with their upper arm mostly affecting one side. I was surprised to see how fast exhibitors felt they had to run with their exhibits, this caused them to overstep their front legs, back feet going either side of the front foot, this affects the topline. They should have a smooth action, covering the ground, and be free of any hackney action and driving from the hocks.

On the day my impression is a little grim based on the entry here today. I'm of course not including my winners. There was evidence of loss of type with some awful movement fore and aft that has now become commonplace and allowed to be normalised by judges constantly placing these animals. As judges we are the gatekeepers to the quality, type and soundness of movement. So when it came to Limit Dog, I felt so strongly, and disappointed in what I saw, that I came to the decision to withhold first and second places. I think in hindsight I should not have awarded any cards in this class. I did explain to the exhibitors the reasons for my actions. Breeders, owners, handlers, know, or should know how their animals are moving. I cannot understand anyone telling me they do not know how their dogs are moving. Surely they must know? I would never have taken any dog in the ring that couldn't hold its own on the move. This is, and has always been my favourite Gundog breed, because of their make, shape, flowing lines, graceful curves and typical front reaching and driving from the hock. I hope that people listen and act before this beautiful breed has been ruined.

I have to thank my two stewards, Ian and Bill, who kept me going and listened to me. I really did value your support and hard work on the day. I apologise for being a little late arriving at the ring, I was told the evening before that I wasn't due in the ring until 8.30am, although I did say it was 8am. I think I kept to time and fully concentrated on all the dogs entered.

**VETERAN DOG** (Ents 11, Abs 2)

1<sup>st</sup> Tenshilling Blowin Smoke (Bowen-Brooks). B/W nice type and size, good head, well defined stop. good length of foreface. Long neck set into well laid shoulders, good depth and length of rib, short coupled, good tail set. Well turned stifles with low hocks. Moved well. forward reaching and driving from the hock.

2<sup>nd</sup> Fydal Caprio at Salmonmist JW ShCM OSW ShCEX VW (Philo). Quality O/W nice head, good length of neck set into well placed shoulders, good body. deep brisket, well ribbed, stifles well turned, hocks set low with good hind driving action.

3<sup>rd</sup> Harvestslade Cullinan (Preece & Gilding).

**PUPPY DOG** (Ents 9, Abs 0)

1<sup>st</sup> Stocksfell Soloflight (Wilkinson). O/W Nice young dog who won this class on his type and movement. Good neck with well laid shoulders, good front, legs and feet, brisket let down for age. Good expanse of ribs, and tail set, stifles turned and hocks low set which he drove from.

2<sup>nd</sup> Teisgol Sweet William (Stilgoe & Fox). Another O/W. Nice head and neck, good depth and rib, preferred the balance and movement of the winner.

3<sup>rd</sup> Ferndel Stop And Stare at Forthbourne (Mcgilp).

**JUNIOR DOG** (Ents 12, Abs 1)

1<sup>st</sup> Teisgol Sweet William (Stilgoe & Fox). O/W 2nd in PD, won this class as he had the best movement in this class.

2<sup>nd</sup> Tenshilling Shboom (O'Neill). I thought this young dog was so nice. I liked his head, neck, shoulders, legs and feet. Good depth, well ribbed, short coupled, stifles turned and hocks set low. I just preferred the movement of the winner.

3<sup>rd</sup> Harvestslade Fire And Ice through Merynjen JW (Wilcox).

**YEARLING DOG** (Ents 9, Abs 1)

1<sup>st</sup> Alozia Zealandia for Ratchda JW (Marsh). L/W nice quality young dog, I really liked his head, good length of foreface, well defined stop, good neck set into well laid shoulders. Brisket let down, good tuck up, well ribbed, short coupled with well set tail. Stifles turned and hocks set low. Movement won him this class.

2<sup>nd</sup> Keepersfield Hope And Glory (Cooper & Pearson).

3<sup>rd</sup> Piasharn Rocka Rolla (Bush).

**POST GRADUATE DOG** (Ents 23, Abs 1)

1<sup>st</sup> Heartbury Matador JW (Norbury & Ganney). O/W Really liked his type, nice head with good balance from his nose to occiput, well defined stop. Long clean neck with well placed shoulders, deep brisket and good ribbing extending well back, stifles well turned with hocks set low, moved well.

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunhouse Black Is Back at Salmonmist JW (ai) (Philo). B/W another nice dog who is built slightly stronger than the winner. Plainer in head than 1, nice neck, shoulders, legs and feet. Brisket well let down to elbow, good tuck up, well ribbed, short coupled, good hindquarters, moved well.

3<sup>rd</sup> Freebreeze On Location at Brackenstyle (Heaton).

**MID LIMIT DOG** (Ents 16, Abs 0)

1<sup>st</sup> Dondaig Wooden Heart (Allen). Well made B/W, good head with nice length of muzzle, lips well cured, lovely length of neck set into fine sloping shoulders, good front, legs and feet. Brisket let down to elbow, well sprung ribs, stifles turned with well developed first and second thigh, hocks set low, won this class on his movement.

2<sup>nd</sup> De Las Navazuelas Stormcloud at Ridanflight (Imp ESP) (Rose) Balanced B/W finer build than the winner, however has flowing lines, nice head, good neck, shoulders, legs and feet, brisket down to elbow, short coupled, stifles turned, hocks low set, not as strong on the move as the winner.

3<sup>rd</sup> Dappleline Chance for Anniezu (Weaver).

**LIMIT DOG** (Ents 14, Abs 2) This was the most disappointing class of the day for type, quality and most of all their movement. After much thought I came to the decision to withhold 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>.

3<sup>rd</sup> Clamerkin Jubilee Fly Past for Corotine (Hazeltine & Razzell & Drake & Welch).

**OPEN DOG** (Ents 13, Abs 1)

1<sup>st</sup> Sh Ch Tenshilling It's My Party for Salmonmist JW OSW ShCEx (Philo). O/W has quality and type. balanced head, long neck set into well laid shoulders, brisket well let down, good front, legs and feet. Short coupled with good tail set, stifles turned, hocks set low, moved well. Pleased to award him the DCC.

2<sup>nd</sup> Sh Ch Sharnphilly Boondoggle JW (Oddie). Quality B/W, shorter in muzzle than the winner, nice shaped dog, good neck, shoulders and feet, good depth of brisket, with strong rib cage, good turn of stifle and his hocks set low. RDCC.

3<sup>rd</sup> Sh Ch Teisgol Love Is In The Air (Oliver & Stilgoe).

**SPECIAL WORKING GUNDOG DOG** (Ents 2, Abs 1)

1<sup>st</sup> Ch Sharnphilly Vice Versa with Peteshe Sgwc (Henshaw & Goodchild). Nice type B/W, nice neck, shoulders, legs and feet, brisket let down to elbows, stifles turned, well muscled first and second thigh, hocks set low.

**GOOD CITIZEN DOG SCHEME DOG** (Ents 8, Abs 0)

1<sup>st</sup> Joneva Just Imagine JW (Sweeney). Nice O/W good head well balanced, long neck set into well laid shoulders, good front, legs and feet. Deep brisket with good expanse of rib, stifled turned and hocks low. Moved well.

2<sup>nd</sup> Meadowpoint Spirit of Fire (Wall). Smaller than the winner, preferred the overall type, make and shape of the winner.

3<sup>rd</sup> Bradleypoint Floki (Trueman).

**VETERAN BITCH** (Ents 18, Abs 3)

1<sup>st</sup> Int/Multi Ch/Mlt Grch Chesterhope Lady Lagertha Ww20 Rsc20 Jnr Ch (Busuttill). O/W of quality and type, really liked her make and shape, good head balance. Nice kind round eye, ears set correctly. Nice length of neck set into well placed shoulders. Good front, legs and feet, good depth of brisket, well ribbed, short coupled, tail set correctly. Stifles turned, well muscled, hocks low, moved well. Best Veteran.

2<sup>nd</sup> Sh Ch/Am Ch Bookstor Fabello Kinky Boots (Imp USA) (Hazeltine & Razzell). Another nice O/W longer cast than the winner, nice hind quarters.

3<sup>rd</sup> Sh Ch Brent Hothouse Flower (Perkins).

**PUPPY BITCH** (Ents 8, Abs 0)

1<sup>st</sup> Ferndel Sapphire Mist over Stocksfell (Wilkinson). B/W all quality, lovely head, well balanced, with good length of foreface. Fine curved lips and round, bright eyes. Well defined stop, long neck, good shoulder placement, good front, legs and feet, brisket down to elbow. Well ribbed and short coupled. Nice turn of stifle with hocks low set, moved well. Best Puppy.

2<sup>nd</sup> Sharnphilly Dizzy Blonde at Linosa (Gates). O/w another one of quality, good head, well defined, long neck, good shoulders, well ribbed, brisket let down, nice hindquarters, good tail set. Preferred the feet and hind movement of the winner.

3<sup>rd</sup> Teisgol Rose Champion (Stilgoe & Stilgoe & Fox).

**JUNIOR BITCH** (Ents 15, Abs 2)

1<sup>st</sup> Berseydale Full House Jnr Ch (Busuttill). B/W quality throughout. Very similar in build to her mother. Lovely head that is well balanced, good length of muzzle, fine curved lips, well defined stop. Good neck that is set into well placed shoulders, good legs and feet. Brisket well let down, good expanse of rib, good tail set, well turned stifles, hocks well set, moved well fore and aft.

2<sup>nd</sup> Riowood Tick Tick Boom to Sharnphilly (Oddie). Another quality B/W with good head, length of neck and shoulder placement, brisket deep. Well ribbed, short coupled, good tail set, well turned stifles and low set hocks. Winner was slightly more positive on the move.

3<sup>rd</sup> Droveborough's Hells Bells (Kennedy).

**YEARLING BITCH** (Ents 19, Abs2)

1<sup>st</sup> Joneva Just One Wish (Adams). O/W balanced head, defined stop, bright kind eyes, good length of neck, brisket let down, well ribbed, round croup. Stifles turned and hocks set low, she is overweight. However, her movement fore and aft is what won her this class.

2<sup>nd</sup> Saregresi Supreme Blonde (Hasegawa). O/W liver points. Nice head, well proportioned, good length of foreface, long neck. good shoulder placement and depth of brisket. short coupled, tail set on high, well turned stifles and hocks set low. Longer ears than the winner.

3<sup>rd</sup> Piasharn Breaking The Law (Bush).

**POST GRADUATE BITCH** (Ents 24, Abs 3)

1<sup>st</sup> Keepersfield Giselle (Cooper & Pearson). B/W quality bitch nicely put together; lovely head, well balanced, defined stop, long neck set into well placed shoulders, brisket well let down, well ribbed, short coupled, stifles turned and hocks set low, moved well.

2<sup>nd</sup> Raigmore Faith Restored (Crowhurst). O/W good well balanced head, nice length of neck, good body, stifles turned.

3<sup>rd</sup> Heartbury Tormenta over Nosam JW (Mason).

**MID LIMIT BITCH** (Ents 19, Abs 1)

1<sup>st</sup> Kanix Smoochie at Stargang (Blackburn-Bennett). O/w built on flowing lines throughout, well balanced head, good length of foreface, lips curved, long neck set into well placed shoulders, good front angulation, not overdone. Oval bone and feet, deep brisket, well spring ribs reaching well back, falling away correctly, short coupled, good tailset, well muscled first and second thigh. Hocks set low. On moving showed in profile long low reach of the front foot. driving from hock, back foot being placed where the front foot left. Good movement fore and aft. she should have a very bright future.

2<sup>nd</sup> Wilchrimane Piri Piri (Siddle). O/W another nice type, balanced throughout, sweet head and expression, good neck. Depth and rib, good hind quarters, stifles turned and hocks set low. Preferred the overall picture and movement of the winner.

3<sup>rd</sup> Braithwaite Passion at Forthbourne (Mcgilp).

**LIMIT BITCH** (Ents 12, Abs 0)

1<sup>st</sup> Kanix Skyfall (Blackburn-Bennett). L/W built on very similar flowing lines as the previous class winner. Good head, well defined without being coarse, long neck set into well placed shoulder, brisket well let down, again liked the front angulation and free from exaggeration, well ribbed, short coupled, good oval bone and feet. Good strong hindquarters well developed first and second thigh, hocks set low, lovely low front extension on the move, long and low driving from hock.

2<sup>nd</sup> Davigdor Poppies (Moss). O/W nice bitch, pleasing head, long neck set into well placed shoulders, front angulation good, brisket down to the elbow, good expanse of rib; short coupled, stifles turned and hocks set low. Preferred the movement of the winner.

3<sup>rd</sup> Brent Ever Blazing at Sedgekirk (Whitham).

**OPEN BITCH** (Ents 20, Abs 3)

1<sup>st</sup> Sh Ch Wilchrime Frankly Darlin (Siddle, Siddle & Medeiros). O/W lovely bitch built on graceful lines and flowing curves throughout. Nice head, balanced, good length of neck, well placed shoulders, deep brisket with well sprung ribs extending well back, short coupled, strong hindquarters, well muscled first and second thigh, stifles well turned, hocks set low, moved well. Pleased to award BCC/ BOB and congratulations on her G2 later.

2<sup>nd</sup> Sh Ch Kanix Petunia at Stargang (Blackburn-Bennett & Macara) Another lovely O/W just preferred the work in head of the winner. Long neck set into well placed shoulders, nice angulation of front, oval bone and feet, deep brisket well ribbed, well turned stifles, hocks low. Another super moving bitch. RBCC.

3<sup>rd</sup> Sh Ch Tenshilling The Wanderer (Webb).

**SPECIAL WORKING GUNDOG BITCH** (Ents 1, Abs 0)

1<sup>st</sup> Sharnphilly Gingerbread Sgwc (Klaiber). Scopey type, nice front and depth, well ribbed. Moved well.

**GOOD CITIZEN DOG SCHEME BITCH** (Ents 7, Abs 0)

1<sup>st</sup> Hawkfield Scandalous (Klaiber). Nice O/W pleasing head, neck and front, good hindquarters and had the best movement in the class.

2<sup>nd</sup> Sharnphilly Gingerbread Sgwc (Klaiber).

3<sup>rd</sup> Phlynnies Catch Me If You Can of Dappleline (Fox).

**MR BRYN WILLIAMS - judge**