

Bath Canine Society Championship Show 2017 – Shetland Sheepdogs.

Many thanks to the committee for the invitation to judge at this popular, well run show and to the exhibitors who brought some lovely exhibits for me to assess. Finally a huge thank you to my 2 super stewards John and Linda who did a sterling job.

Minor Puppy D. 2

1st Halliday & Halliday's Kyleash Noir. Tri of just 6months who moved with the confidence of a seasoned campaigner. Excellent shoulder placement and angulation with good length of upper arm and well bent stifle and let down of hock meant he powered round the ring, holding his topline and with a well carried tail. Ideal size for his age and with good bone and well padded feet this young man has lots of promise. Just needs to settle in ear carriage and not helped by a bit too much enthusiasm with the scissors by his owner which made his expression seem harsher than it truly is. I will watch his progress with interest.

2nd Mottram's Lavika Little Gem. This shaded sable excels for breed type and he had the edge over the winner for his eye placement and expression. Standing he presents a good picture with reach of neck and pleasing outline. As yet he is immature in body and needs to develop a much better spring of rib as on the move his legs were everywhere!!! When he came into the novice class and I moved all 3 dogs again because they had not met each other he did a much better job and deserved his winners place.

Puppy D. 2

1st Bray's Lianbray Lothario. This shaded sable is so well balanced throughout from his proudly carried head with flat skull, correct eye and ear placement, good underjaw and masculine but sweet expression through to his good length of body with excellent shoulder angulation and well bent stifles to his long well carried tail. On the move he is effortless, covering the ground with a good length of stride and drive from the rear. In good coat of the correct texture that was well presented. Best Puppy Dog and eventually Best Puppy In Breed. The future looks good for this one.

2nd Daniels & Taylor's Pepperhill Cruise Control. Beautiful coloured, well broken blue merle who has a pleasing outline with good reach of neck and length of back, strong quarters with well bent stifle and correct let down of hock. Good depth of chest and length of rib but at present he lacks spring of rib which makes him narrow in front both standing and moving – if it's any consolation I said the same thing about Ch Pepperhill Blue Fizz at the same age and we all know how he turned out! Pleasing head pattern with correct eye and ear placement. This boy just needs time and maturity.

Junior D. 1

1st Laversuch's Pacarane Polar Stormtime . This tri is an ideal size with excellent shape and outline. Good shoulder angulation and bend of stifle but I would like a better length of rib. His length of back is correct but he is too short in rib and long in coupling when examined on the table .He has a dark eye of correct size, shape and placement and a very sweet expression but still needs to fill in foreface. Correct parallel rear action and length of stride in front.

Yearling D. 3

Movement in this class was poor.

1st Roberts' Malaroc Mystery Writer JW. Standing this sable dog exudes breed type and quality. Stunning head properties with flat skull, dark almond shaped eye with oblique placement, small ears and well filled foreface giving the sweetest of expressions. Good reach of neck and proud head carriage with good length of back and well let down hock and with a profuse coat of the correct texture he presents a pleasing outline. Moving away he has a strong parallel rear action. His profile movement is not balanced - he needs more length of stride in front resulting in an uncoordinated appearance and spoiling his topline. Acceptable front movement coming towards me. He is still a young male and maturity will help.

2nd Chalke's Malaroc Wordsmith at Ghostland. Sable and white who is of correct size with good reach of neck, proud head carriage and level topline. Excellent rear quarters with well bent stifle and let down of hock. This dog needs more length of upper arm to give a better length of stride as in profile his topline bounces up and down as he moves. He drives from the rear but the locomotion has to go up and down rather than propulsion forward as a result of the short stride. Attractive head pattern with pleasing expression, just needs to finish in foreface but time is on his side.

3rd Greenwood's Omebrid Gives Warm Hugs

Novice D. 3

1st Lavika Little Gem

2nd Pepperhill Cruise Control

3rd Pacarane Polar Stormtime

Graduate D. 4

1st Pierce's Philhope Buzzword. Loved the breed type of this 19 months old sable who has quality stamped all over him. Balanced head with dark almond shaped eye of correct size and placement, small ears correctly placed and the sweetest of expressions. Good reach of neck and length of back with well angulated shoulders and bend of stifle this dog presents a pleasing outline when standing. Balanced profile movement with drive from the rear and extension in front, he moves effortlessly with well held topline and good tail carriage. With full maturity this dog will take some beating.

2nd French's Lirren Tri Wishing. This jet black tri with rich tan markings is an ideal size. Good shoulder angulation and length of upper arm, well developed body with correct bend of stifle he moves with drive. His profile movement is excellent but he seems to need a slightly faster pace as he looked to want to stride out faster than his handler was wanting him to which spoiled the fluidity of his movement. Pleasing head pattern with well filled foreface, good underjaw, dark eye and when he used his ears a sweet expression. Stands on strong legs with well padded feet. Slightly different type to the winner but still correct.

3rd Hillman's Kelmstone Toyota

Post Graduate D. 7

1st Attwood's Terriwood Moonlight Echo. This tri's jet black coat gleamed in the sunlight. Enhanced by his rich tan markings and showing off his excellent bodylines he presented an impression of quality. Head of good length with strong underjaw, dark eye correctly placed and with neat well used ears, good reach of neck and level topline with correct sweep over the loins gives a pleasing typical sheltie outline. Good bend of stifle and well let down hock enable him to move with drive from the rear.

2nd Atkins' Willowgarth Harvest Sunset Over Jontygray. Sable and white of ideal size. Has a shorter head type than the winner but is balanced throughout with flat skull, dark almond shaped eye correctly placed and a sweet but masculine expression. Good shoulder angulation, well developed body and correct bend of stifle and let down of hock meant this dog could move with ease with drive from behind and extension in front. Not wanting to cooperate with his handler at first, but when he did it was worth waiting for!

3rd. Clubley's Mossvale Frosty Moon

Limit D. 10 (2)

1st Sonvico's Willowgarth Baileys Gold Sh.CM This quality sable and white was the best mover in this class. Balanced head with dark eye of correct size, shape and placement, well filled foreface and good underjaw, neat well used ears and the sweetest of expressions. Well developed body with good length, depth and spring of rib and level topline. He moved easily with drive from behind and extension in front. In the challenge he pulled out all the stops, his head properties giving him the edge over the tri who stood second in Open to win the Res CC. I understand he is the sire of the Best Puppy winner – good to see he can pass his qualities on.

2nd Mottram's Midday Sun At Lochkaren. Another quality sable who has the most beautiful head type with a dark almond shaped eye obliquely placed, well filled foreface, neat ears and an expression to die for!! Good body proportions with correct length of back and well developed ribs. Good bend of stifle and let down of hock meant he moved with drive. Acceptable front movement but in profile he could not match the length of stride of the winner.

3rd Paterson's Lorainian Campbell Clan

Open D. 7

1st Rutterford's Ch Kelgrove Just Blue At Stormhead JW Sh.CM Beautiful blue merle of ideal size. Typical sheltie head with flat skull, dark eye of correct size, shape and placement, well filled foreface and good underjaw. Neat ears and the sweetest of expressions. Excellent conformation with good shoulder angulation, well developed ribs of good length, correct stifle bend and let down of hock. In profile he has reach of neck, level topline that he holds both standing and moving and correct tail carriage. He is an easy mover who covers the ground effortlessly with drive from the rear and extension in front. In good coat of the correct texture that fitted his bodylines. A quality dog who is a worthy champion. I was delighted to award him the CC.

2nd Walker's Marsula Shogun (Imp) JW Sh.CM Have always liked this tri since I first saw him as a Minor Puppy at Belfast. Love his shape and outline with good reach of neck, length of back and level topline. Ideal size, he is an easy mover with drive from his excellent hindquarters from his good stifle bend and well let down hock. Good shoulder angulation and length of upper arm. Ribs of good depth, length and spring. Good bone with well padded feet. Pleasing head pattern with flat skull, dark eye and good underjaw. Just a little heavy in right ear carriage today which spoilt his expression a little. He is a quality dog who unfortunately came up against The CC and Res CC winner who excel in expression.

3rd Saunders Chalmoor Shades Of Gold At Fernfrey JW

Veteran D. 5

1st Hirst's Sundark Starlight Sh.CM This blue merle flew round the ring! Excellent construction and classic sheltie movement. Good shoulder angulation and length of upper arm, depth of chest and length and spring of ribs with correct bend of stifle and let down of hock. Kept his topline standing and moving. Beautiful head with dark eye correctly placed and a sweet expression. His colour has darkened but nothing could match his movement. A credit to his owner.

2nd Rutterford's Evad Whougonnacall At Stormhead Sh.CM Shaded sable whose coat fitted his bodylines and was beautifully presented, enhancing his shape and outline. He is big enough but is not course and he has a lovely breed type with a flat skull, good underjaw, dark eye that is correctly placed and a sweet expression. Good bend of stifle meant he could move with drive.

3rd Paterson's Lorainian Kaeto Star

Minor Puppy B. 4

1st Robinson's Lavika Black Beauty. This 8mth old tri had the edge on maturity over the rest of the class. Quality puppy who has a beautiful shape and outline with good reach of neck, level topline and correct sweep over the loins. Correct shoulder placement with good angulation and length of upper arm, well developed ribs of good length and depth. Very light on her feet on the move with excellent profile movement showing drive from the rear and extension in front. Her head handles well with flat skull, good head planes, dark eye correctly placed and neat well used ears. Her handler got the best out of her both moving and standing – well done. The future looks good for these two, she was only beaten on maturity for Best Puppy Bitch.

2nd Haensel's Sherkarl Molly Malone. Really fell for this pretty sable bitch. Only just 6 mths and so cheeky and full of herself. Pleasing head with dark almond eye obliquely placed, neat well used ears and the sweetest of expression. Good reach of neck and length of back. Good angulation front and rear with well bent stifle and let down of hock. An easy mover with good length of stride in front and drive from the rear. One of the characteristics of the breed is "active" and this young lady definitely ticks that box! A very promising puppy.

3rd Costelloe's Stoneycombe Sweet Talk From Karmidale

Puppy B. 12 (3) - a very strong class.

1st Stafford's Rannerdale Queen Of The North. Sable and white who was beautifully presented in full coat of the correct texture. Well balanced throughout with proud head carriage, good reach of neck, level topline, correct sweep over the loin and well carried tail, she presents an eye-catching picture. Feminine head with flat skull, dark eye obliquely set, correct ear placement, flat cheeks and rounded muzzle combine to give a typical sheltie expression of sweetness. Well developed body with good length and depth of rib. Strong quarters with good stifle bend and well let down hock meant she moved with drive. A quality puppy. Best Puppy B

2nd Lavika Black Beauty

3rd Cox's Blazecroft Ebony Delight

Junior B. 9(2)

1st Hateley's Mohnesee Petticoat Lace. Very pretty sable and white whose dark almond shaped eye was correctly placed. Neat ears and a well filled foreface combine to give her a very sweet expression. Good reach of neck and length of back with well bent stifle and let down of hock complete the picture. On the move she needs to settle. Carrying a little too much weight she is loose in front movement and as a result tends to swing her rear out of the true alignment. Hopefully a diet and maturity will sort this out as she is a quality sheltie who today was beautifully presented and handled.

2nd Thomas' Myter Bees Knees. I really liked this tri b who had the best shape/outline/conformation in the class BUT totally freaked out and wouldn't settle!!! Such a pity. Her profile movement was excellent with good extension in front and strong drive from the rear and being so well made it was impossible to lose her shape and outline. Moving away from me she was in such a hurry that she was very wide and had got to the end of the ring and time to turn round before she was into her stride. I hope she gets over whatever caused her to get upset as she is a lovely bitch who would have won this class with ease.

3rd Thomas' Jolex Guided Lily

Yearling B. 5

1st Walker's Tooralie's Matilda. Beautiful tri who is jet black with the richest of tan markings. Ideal size with excellent conformation and well balanced throughout. Correct shoulder placement with good angulation and length of upper arm, well bent stifle and let down of hock meant this lady could really move. She looked a picture going round the large ring with extension in front and a strong driving action from behind, holding a level topline at all times. Pleasing head with dark eye and a cheeky expression topped by neat well used ears – I loved her. A little more maturity and she would have been a very strong contender for top awards.

2nd Ambler's Watchwood Sweetheart of Chalmoor JW. Very pretty blue merle who is an excellent colour that is well broken. Classic head with flat skull, well filled foreface and muzzle and such a sweet feminine expression. Very well made with good shoulder angulation and length of upper arm, good length, depth and spring of rib together with well bent stifle and let down of hock meant it was

no surprise that she covered the ground easily with drive from behind and good length of stride in front. A very close decision between 1st and 2nd - I just felt the winner stood with more arch to the neck. Another quality exhibit.

3rd Roberts' Malaroc Covert Love

Novice B. 7 (3)

1st Lavika Black Beauty

2nd Totesaut's Lirren Line Dance. Pretty shaded sable who has a pleasing head pattern with flat skull, dark eye correctly placed, well used ears and a very sweet expression. Good bend of stifle and let down of hock meant she moved with drive. Loose in elbow when moving which spoilt her profile moment.

3rd Jacobs & Johnson's Tooralie's I Spie With Willowthorn

Graduate B. 7

1st Stockden's Willowgarth Gentle Breeze JW. The star of the show!! Very pretty golden sable who was in full coat of the correct texture and that fitted her bodylines so well. Ultra feminine head with good planes, flat skull, dark obliquely placed eye of correct size and shape, good underjaw, rounded muzzle and well filled foreface topped with small neat ears that she used constantly. Well proportioned body with good depth, length and spring of rib. Excellent conformation with correct shoulder placement and angulation and good length of upper arm. Strong quarters with good width through the pelvis, well bent stifle and strong, well let down hock. Attractive outline with good reach of neck, level topline and sweep over the loin. On the move she comes into her own – classic sheltie action, very light on her feet, covering the ground easily with extension and reach in front and her strong hocks powering from behind. She looked like she could work all day. I loved her. I so wanted to find a good representative of all that is good in the sheltie – attractive, workmanlike but not cloddy, and above all to move – to represent us in the group and this lady had it all. Thrilled to award her the CC, then Best of Breed and she fulfilled all my hopes and dreams by gaining Pastoral Group 4 under Barrie Croft. Congratulations. Hope the 3rd CC is not too far away.

2nd Thomas & Thomas' Myter Trade Secret JW. Blue merle who excels for shape and outline. Good reach of neck, level topline, correct sweep over the loin and long tail. Well proportioned body with good bend of stifle and well let down hock, she has a strong rear movement with drive from the hock. Not as positive in front action as the 1st place exhibit coming towards me. Balanced head with flat skull and well used ears. Not the sweetness of expression of the winner and I would prefer a clearer blue

3rd Fox's Ruscombe Work Of Art With Follyfox

Post Graduate B. 5 (1)

1st Hirst's Sundark Simply A Star. My notes on this lady start off with OMG can this dog move!!!!!! And she could. Tri of ideal size who is balanced throughout – nothing out of proportion anywhere. Standing she has a good reach of neck, level topline, correct sweep over the loins, long tail well set and carried. Excellent conformation with correct shoulder placement and angulation and good

length of upper arm, ribs of good depth, length and spring, strong quarters with well let down hock and good stifle bend. Her head is balanced with good planes, dark eye of correct almond shape and size and oblique placement, neat ears correctly placed and the sweetest of expressions. On the move she came into her own. Very light action, easily covering the ground – luckily her runner had long legs!!! Keeping her outline at all times this bitch was a pleasure to watch – extension and reach in front, drive from the rear and not a wobble on the topline. Going away from me she had a strong parallel action and coming towards she showed the typical slight convergence of legs required by the standard. She went on to win Limit over a beautiful sable that I have long admired and eventually the Res CC. – congratulations, she so deserved it.

2nd Greaves' Clanavon Love Me Do. Two year old who was not in full coat but had nothing to hide. Very well constructed with good shoulder angulation, well developed ribs, Good bend of stifle and let down of hock. She moved freely and easily with drive from behind and extension in front. Pleasing head pattern with flat skull, good underjaw and well used ears. Just needs to finish in foreface to complete the picture.

3rd Atkins' Jontygray To Find A Dream

Limit B. 10 (2)

1st Sundark Simply A Star

2nd Allan's Willow Tarn Time To Frolic. This sable bitch is technically so correct – against the standard everything is as it should be. If she would only have a little bit of oomph and realise just how gorgeous she is she would be untouchable. Beautiful head pattern with good planes, flat skull, dark eye of correct size and shape, obliquely placed, small ears which when she uses them give that typical sweet sheltie expression. Excellent conformation with good shoulder angulation and length of upper arm, well bent stifle and let down of hock, good length of back and level topline. When moving this bitch is so easy on the eye – maximum ground coverage with minimum effort. If only she would put some va va voom into it. I have long admired this pretty lady - she was unlucky to meet a tri who already had go faster stripes.

3rd Ambler's Chalmoor I'm Indie JW

Open B. 6 (1)

1st Daniels & Taylor's Ch Pepperhill Kicks 'n Flicks. I have judged this beautiful blue merle before and have always thought highly of her. She has fulfilled her promise and today she was presented in full coat that is an excellent colour and well broken. Feminine lady with balanced head, flat skull, good underjaw, beautiful blue eyes correctly placed and the sweetest of expressions. Pleasing outline with good reach of neck, level topline, correct sweep over the loins, long tail correctly set. Good angulation with correct shoulder placement and length of upper arm, well developed ribs of good depth, length and spring, strong quarters with good bend of stifle and well let down hock. On the move she has a strong driving action, excellent profile movement with extension and good length of stride. A quality bitch who is a worthy Champion.

2nd Hirst's Sundark Tsarina. This 8yr old tri gained her place for her excellent conformation and movement. Not the eye or filling in foreface of the winner, but nothing could touch her on the move.

Like the others from this kennel she is very well angulated with good shoulder placement and long upper arm, well developed ribs and strong quarters giving a good stifle bend and let down of hock. On the move she came into her own, extension and length of stride in front, drive from the rear, a topline that didn't move, correct tail carriage and an effortless action that gave the impression she could move forever. Her litter brother won Veteran D and her daughter took 2 x 1st and the Res CC . The breeder should be very proud of the consistency in the conformation and quality of the exhibits she brought under me today.

3rd Bray's Lianbray Locked In Love JW

Veteran B. 6 (2) A lovely class that I really enjoyed judging.

1st Thomas & Thomas' Ch Myter Eye To Eye JW. This well known tri Champion has kept her many qualities. At 8yrs old she excels for shape and outline. Standing she has a proud head carriage, good reach of neck, level topline, correct sweep over the loins and a long tail correctly set and carried. Balanced head with flat skull and good planes, strong underjaw and well filled foreface, dark eye of correct size, shape and placement, well used ears and such a sweet expression, not always easy on a tri. On the move she makes it look easy – good forward reach in profile, strong parallel driving action from the rear, level topline that remains true and good tail carriage, she looks as though she could move forever. A pleasure to award her Best Veteran In Breed.

2nd Seymour's Willow Tarn Twice as Nice. This 12yr old golden sable so does not look her age!! Sheer quality with a beautiful head, eye and expression and neat well used ears. Pleasing outline with good reach of neck, excellent rear angulation with good bend of stifle and let down of hock – she just couldn't match the winner in front, but what a star. A credit to her owner for the condition this young lady is in – even thinking about her brings a smile to my face!

3rd Whitfield's Kimarg Summer Breeze

Judge: Gwen Beaden