

BLACKPOOL CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW 25TH JUNE 2023

Shetland Sheepdogs have been close to my heart since I became a member of the Danish Collie and Shetland Sheepdog Club in 1966. Since Collies and Shelties were in the same club in Denmark, I got to know a lot of Sheltie people and I followed them when the club had their shows. I was lucky to be taken under the wings of the chairman and his wife. They bred Shelties, and together with them I went on a 2-week holiday in 1967 when we visited Sheltie breeders in the UK. In 1968 I stayed with the famous Miss Margaret Osborne, of the Shiel kennels for several months. She was a very close friend of the two Rogers sisters of Riverhill fame. I remember sitting with big ears for hours, listening to the three grand ladies discussing Shelties. I became a judge for Shetland Sheepdogs and Collies In 1982, when I was 28 years old. I always thought that breeding Shetland Sheepdogs is more difficult than breeding Collies. The Sheltie has a long list of details which you must get right and to get that, you walk on knife edge. If you fall on one side you get Shelties which are too big, heavy, and coarse. If you fall on the other side you end up with small, tiny, narrow Shelties with legs like matches and narrow forefaces. It's not easy to breed a Sheltie of the correct type, with the right size, substance and all the finer details, which is capable of a hard day's work. We must all remember that a Shetland Sheepdog should be a small working dog of great beauty. I was very impressed with most of the Shetland Sheepdogs I judged in Blackpool, so I think the UK breeders have cracked the code. In almost every class there were dogs of high quality. The size was correct, and the tail carriage was impressive. I didn't see one dog with a high tail carriage. The movements were also very impressive. A few were a bit loose in front, but that were only a handful of them. I was also very impressed with the dog's ear size and carriage. Many Shetland Sheepdogs normally have rather big, wide set ears which spoil the silhouette, which start at the ears. I have written a lot about the silhouette in my critiques because for me Shelties is about floating, soft curves. And you can't have this without the correct neck and carriage. Only very few had a narrow foreface and only a few had deep and broad back skulls. The skulls were nice and flat and not receding. The clever breeders must however try to focus a bit on shoulders. I had too many with upright shoulders placed behind the ears. I felt like a little girl in a candy shop when I had to decide for the CCs. I was spoilt for choice. The breed is in good hands in the UK. I was happy to have so many lovely Shelties in my ring and I want to thank you all for entering under me and for the nice way in which everybody received my decisions.

PD (3) 1 Valdosta Gracelands (Mitchell) A very nice puppy, well put together. Nice size and substance. Good proportions. Attractive head and expression, good silhouette, and perfect tail carriage. Very nice temperament and good stable movements for age. 2 Katiedale The Piper at Nithview (Melvin & Jopson) Masculine male puppy, nice size and silhouette. Typical head and expression. Well set ears and nice eyes. Correct angulations. Still slightly loose in front. 3 Emmaview Mastermind (Whitchurch)

JD (5) 1 Ferngrove's Valentino JW (Norris) Lovely type, a true Sheltie, beautiful silhouette. Beautiful head with lovely eyes and attractive ears, which isn't too big. Good and fitting bones and angulations, moves sound with an extremely nice tail carriage. Wonderful temperament. 2 Lavika Moonlight Storm (Robinson) Beautiful type, very well moving. Shows very well and has a very correct tail carriage. He has a bit light eye which give him the second place in this class. 3 Tooralie's Tornado (Walker)

YD (3) 1 Lirren Quickstep to Oakcroft JW (Winfield) Very typical Sheltie of perfect size. Beautiful head with a very nice expression, nice silhouette. Beautiful neck and croup. Moves very correct with perfect tail carriage. Perfect coat. 2 Lundecock's Hoopie-Doo at Lochkaren JW (Imp Swe) (Mottram) Good type but would look better if some of all the loose under wool was removed. Very beautiful eyes, fitting bones. Nice shape and outline. Perfect size. 3 Afterglow Goldberg at Vidlinvoe (Robertson)

PGD (2) 1 Galateus Bohemia Classic at Torriglen (Imp Cze) (Saunders) A masculine male which is up to size, but he is of a very nice type with a beautiful head, dark almond shaped eyes, flat skull but the skull is a fraction board and cheeks a bit dominating. Beautiful coat and good movements. 2 Emmaview Only Best (Whitchurch) A Sheltie male with a very beautiful head and expression, his is upright in shoulder and has a very short tail. Unfortunately, not in full coat today.

LD (8,2) 1 Solyric Inaugural Gold JW OSW (Gamble) Wonderful type, everything fits perfect together. Perfect size. Very attractive head and expression with dark almond shaped eyes. Nice ears, which isn't too heavy and big, shoulder placement could be better. Perfect silhouette, beautiful croup, and workmanlike movement. 2 Viewdale Cuddly Dudley JW (Isdale) Nice male but a bit deep in back skull, very nice eyes, wonderful silhouette, and good movements. 3 Pitch Perfect at Amethrickeh (Bendelow)

OD (8,1) A class of very high quality.. The 3 first is of International high standard. 1 Ch Rannerdale Showmaster JW (Stafford) Here he came, the dog which stole my heart. This is how a Shetland Sheepdog male should look. Everything fits together. He is strong but not coarse and elegant without being too refined. He is so well constructed with an expression which can melt a stone, ears on top and not too heavy or big. Flat skull. Good angulations and never puts a paw wrong when moving. Coat of weatherproof quality. Expertly handled and with a fantastic temperament. So happy to see him placed 3 in a very strong pastoral group later. DCC/BOB. 2 Ch Lavika Starlight Salute (Robinson) A very attractive Sheltie male of perfect size and substance. Attractive silhouette. Wonderful temperament. High quality and moves perfect. He is a bit broad in back skull and has a bit heavy ear. RDCC. 3 Ch Edglonian Golden Graham (Pearson)

VD (2,1) 1 Ch Oakcroft Star Force JW (Winfield) A very well-kept veteran of attractive type. Perfect size but eyes are a bit too small. Very nice ears. Shoulders a bit upright. Super silhouette. Moves sound with attitudes.

PB (7) 1 Valdosta Goddess (Mitchell) Super feminine and charming bitch puppy. Correct silhouette, very efficient long movements. An expression you could die for. Wonderful coat, perfect attitude. One for the future. BP. 2 Rannerdale Queen of The Nite (Stafford) Very well constructed, correct size and very feminine. Beautiful expression, nice fitting bones, a bit straight in front, but moves very nice. 3 Shellamoyed Dark Secret (Fisher)

JB (9,3) 1 Sheltisha Royal Approval (Sorockyj) Very beautiful and well-balanced blue merle bitch, very well constructed. Attractive silhouette and proportions. Very nice head and expression, super ears which isn't too big as many blue merle ears. A bit upright in shoulder. Moves perfect and very correct coat and colour. BJ. 2 Mohnesee Maebelle JW (Hateley) Feminine bitch, out of coat and could do with a bit of slimming. Wonderful head and expression with small well placed ears. She is well angulated and well moving. 3 Arcot Take A Moment JW (Gartland)

YB (5) 1 Sonymer Illusive Gold at Rowancrest (Rowan) What an attractive and beautiful bitch this is. The type is to die for. Outstanding in silhouette and soooooo much Sheltie from nose

to tail. Extremely beautiful silhouette. Very attractive and correct expression but a bit heavy ear. Shoulders a bit upright but you don't see it when she floats around the ring with so correct movements. 2 Sheltisha Royal Approval (Ms Sorockyj) Critique – see Junior class. 3 Arcot Take A Moment JW (Gartland)

PGB (9,2) 1 Sheltisha Bell of The Ball at Natara JW (Hickling) Very beautiful Sheltie. Lovely silhouette with nice neck and croup. A bit heavy ears, beautiful dark almond shaped eyes. Very nice movements. Slightly broad and deep in back skull. Very well presented, very well moving and with a correct blue merle colour. 2 Edglonian Blue Belle (Major) Very well moving, beautiful silhouette, nice blue merle colour. She would look better if all the long dead hair in her head was finger trimmed. Beautiful ears. 3 Balidorn Golden Amber (Rosslyn)

LB (12) 1 Mohnesee Enchanted (Hateley) Very alert bitch with a lot of attitudes. Very feminine of correct size. Moves very well seen from the side but a bit bow legged seen from behind. A true Sheltie expression with wonderful eyes, a bit big ears, very well presented in super coat condition. 2 Lavika Lagoon Blue of Macstanryn (Standlick) Very attractive blue merle bitch with fantastic head and expression and flat skull. Dark almond shaped eyes. Well angulated and well moving, correct blue merle colour but could have a bit more attitudes. 3 Lundecock's There's No Limit at Lochkaren (Imp Swe) (Mottram)

OB (11) 1 Ch Edglonian Rhythm N Rhyme (Pearson) A biggish bitch but extremely well-constructed with an outstanding silhouette. She moves so very correct, but I would like her to have a bit more feminine expression. Beautiful croup, bones, angulations, and movements. Beautiful coat, glittering of soundness. RBCC. 2 Lavika Lucid Dreams (Robinson) Charming blue merle bitch with a wonderful expression with dark almond shaped eyes. Perfect blue merle colour. Good bones and movements. Tends to become a bit high behind when moving. 3 Slo Ch Navarrem Fortuna Girl (Koenen & Jeavons)

VB (6) 1 Ch Lavika Good Luck (Robinson) Here she came. The queen of the day. What a lovely Sheltie bitch this is. So extremely feminine and still so fit for work. Perfect size and substance and with a lovely balance. You can easily imagine her with a big flock of sheep, working all day without being tired. She is so full of herself and stand perfect all the time looking like 10 million dollars. Her head and expression are just amazing, and her ears are small and well placed. What a fantastic silhouette. She moves so correct and effortless with a lot of self-confidence. She just knows how beautiful she is, and the judge agree. BCC/BV. 2 Smiddyshaw I'll B There for U JW (Clegram & Berry) Beautiful type, super feminine, attractive silhouette. Very nice neck. Moves very correct. I would prefer her with a bit more filling in foreface and with a stronger underjaw. 3 Jaelis Mystique Reflection JW (Ritchie)

Judge - Charlotte Høier (Denmark)