

CRUFTS 2020 - SHETLAND SHEEPDOG BITCHES

I was so honoured when several years ago I received the large green 'window' envelope inviting me to officiate at this prestigious show. The years seemed to fly by and before we knew it we were in 2020 and only a few weeks left to go. Then disaster almost struck - the covid 19 pandemic – for a few weeks it was, will it? won't it? (Go ahead) Right up to the eleventh hour there was uncertainty, but on March 7th yes it did go ahead despite some reservations.

Firstly, I would like to thank all the exhibitors who brought along some of the best shelties in the world, for my opinion on the day. I intended to give MY opinion on the dogs in front of me, and not be swayed by any previous wins or friendships etc. As a consequence of the high quality, some bitches that in different company would have been placed, sadly had to go home cardless.

My ideal sheltie is one of correct size, and construction, truly capable of doing a day's work. In addition, a sheltie should be blessed with that kind, gentle expression so typical of the nature of the breed. On the whole my main winners did fulfil these criteria.

My absolute pet hate is straight stifles and long hocks, which prevent the dog having the required drive from the rear.

I would like to thank my two stewards Irene and Bob who kept things flowing enabling me to complete this large entry in time.

Unfortunately, my co judge and I could not agree on our best of breed, both the dog and the bitch being of top quality. The referee gave the nod to the dog, which all concerned, accepted with good grace.

All other main awards we were in complete agreement about.

Veteran - Bitch

Entries: 14 Abs: 5

1st ELLENYORN GEM OF CARA (MRS I ELDER)

This lovely sable and white headed an impressive class of veteran ladies. Almost eight years of age and in wonderful condition. She has good rounded bone, a superb head and expression. Correct outline with level back both standing and still maintained on the move. A little reluctant to show her ears, but when she did they were perfectly placed and enhanced her expression.

2nd HERDS HALLUCINATION JW (MISS M G GATHERAL)

This tricolour of 9 years of age is an old favourite of mine who is beginning to show her advancing years. Correct head properties, used her ears well. Another who has not lost her shape. Moved and dhsowed well, this lady is very unfortunate to not have gained her title.

3rd CH TACHNAMADRA EVISU (MRS M BYWATER)

Well know champion Shaded Sable and white of ten and a half years. In lovely condition, good bone and moved well.

Minor Puppy – Bitch

Entries: 2 Abs: 0

1st LUNDECOCK'S THERE'SNO LIMIT AT LOCHKAREN (IMP SWE) (MR K F & MRS J MOTTRAM) BPB

Feminine sable and white almost 9 months of age. Nice head and expression. Well arched neck which she knew how to use. Good bend of stifle. Moved well. Could stand a little out of sync occasionally, but on a baby so I am sure she will get the message. BPB and with agreement of my co-judge BPB.

2nd PATHAARON EYE OF THE STORM (MRS REDPATH)

8 month old shapely tricolour. Pleasing head and expression. Nice shaped eye, well boned. Very glamorous markings with a full white collar and front. Slightly larger than the winner and must not grow any more.

Puppy - Bitch

Entries: 4 Abs: 0

1st PHILHOPE SUMMER FLAME (MISS J PIERCE)

Feminine Sable and White of lovely body shape. Pleasing head and expression. Good bend of stifle. Moved well. Appeared a little unsettled today.

2nd MOLSON MOVIE STAR (DR J HILL)

Another feminine sable and white, similar in make and shape to the winner, just not quite as good on the move.

3rd OAKCROFT TIANA (MRS V WINFIELD)

11 month old sable and white, good head and expression, pleasing body shape needs to tighten in front.

Junior – Bitch

Entries: 24 Abs: 7

1st VALDOSTA DARE TO DREAM OF SAVENDIE (MISS L METTAN-URE)

This lovely coloured Blue Merle headed a lovely class of teenage girls. She was a little short of coat (goes with the age) but absolutely nothing to hide. Good head and expression. Shapely outline. Moved well. This youngster will have a promising future, I am sure.

2nd DANDLEWOOD ENDLESS SURPRISE [ATC AW01849NLD] (MR J N VAN ULSEN)

Sable and white of correct make and shape, feminine young lady. Classic head properties. Correct shaped dark eye and neat ears giving the desired expression. Moved well.

3rd RANNERDALE THE SHOWGIRL (MISS C J STAFFORD)

Lovely Sable and white who was rather unsettled, nice head and expression, as always from this kennel. Moved well coming towards me but a little erratic going away. Once she settles I am sure she will come into her own.

Yearling – Bitch

Entries: 19 Abs: 4

1st SHELCREST RIVER OF DREAMS (MRS P SAPSFORD)

Shaded Sable and white with classic head properties, lovely gentle expression, ears bang on top. Well arched neck which she used. Well laid back shoulders, level topline. Good bone Moved well.

2nd CLANAVON TOUCH OF BLUE AT LYNGARSO (MRS L S CREAMER)

Nicely broken Blue Merle, pleasing head and expression. Good reach of neck, level top line, Good bend of stifle and well let down hocks.

3rd LIANBRAY LACED WITH GOLD (MRS G BRAY)

Golden Sable and white, correct size. Just preferred the length of neck of the first two.

Graduate - Bitch

Entries: 17 Abs: 3

1st MOHNESEE'S MAYD MARION AT VALMAY JW (MR G & MRS V JAMES)

2 year old Sable and white, pleasing head and expression. Good reach of neck, well laid back shoulder. Showed and moved well.

2nd ELLENYORN EVITA (MRS I ELDER)

Sable and white. Not a glamorous girl but sound bitch. Pleasing head and expression. Good bone and coat. Covered the ground well.

3rd SONYMER STORM DORIS INTO PATHAARON JW (MRS REDPATH)

A glamorous tricolour with jet black coat a full white collar. Carrying a little too much weight. Classic head and expression. Well handled.

Post Graduate – Bitch

Entries: 19 Abs: 2

1st MALAROC RAINFALL (MR B S MRS L J ROBERTS)

Feminine sable and white bitch. I have admired since she was a youngster and was not disappointed on going over her. This bitch has a lovely head and expression, good reach of neck. Beneath that wealth of coat is a bitch of lovely make and shape, well boned. Moved correctly coming and going. Was considered strongly in the challenge.

2nd VALDOSTA TRI YA LUCK (MISS A MITCHELL)

Shapely tricolour that I have also admired from a distance. Pleasing head and expression, used her ears well. Good neck length. Moved well, I am sure she will have a great future. Unfortunate to meet the sable above, who on the day showed more maturity.

3rd CHALMOOR I'M INDI JW (MR M & MRS J AMBLER)

Well coated tricolour, who was beautifully presented and handled. Good head and eye shape (difficult to achieve in a tricolour). Well boned. Showed and handled well. Just failed in movement to the ones above.

Mid Limit - Bitch

Entries: 18 Abs: 9

1st MOHNESEE SWEET DREAMS JW (MRS K E HATELEY)

Glamorous Sable and white with a lovely head properties, nice shaped and placed eye, ears bang on top and used none stop, all giving true melting expression. Good reach of neck flowing into well laid shoulder and level topline, which was maintained on the move.

2nd SHELLAMOYED BABYCHAM JW (MRS D & MISS A FISHER)

Similar type to the winner and same comments apply. Just preferred the neck of the winner

3rd CHIBAYA BELLE OF THE BALL (MRS C MOORES)

This shaded sable must be spot on 14 inches and in that package is a feminine bitch of good make and shape with a typical sheltie melting expression. I must compliment her young handler who was completely at one with her dog, and showed and moved here like a seasoned exhibitor.

Limit - Bitch

Entries: 13 Abs: 2

1st JAPARO I HAVE A DREAM (MRS C DUNNE)

This sable bitch who is not yet 2 years of age has had an exceptional show career to date and it is easy to see why. She as a classic head, gorgeous expression, good reach of neck, well laid shoulders, level top line. It is on the move that she absolutely excels. Another one that was a serious contender in the challenge.

2nd SHADOWAY PERCHANCE TO DREAM JW (MS M ARNOULD)

Another favourite of mine, Slightly taller and slightly longer cast than the winner, but nevertheless a quality bitch. Has settled since the last time I judged her.

3rd WATCHWOOD SWEETHEART OF CHALMOOR JW (MR M & MRS J AMBLER)

Blue bitch, of good colour. Bang on 14 inches. This young lady knows how to show her virtues. Pleasing head, nice expression. Good reach of neck. Shows none stop. Moved well in front, a little erratic in the rear.

Open - Bitch

Entries: 15 Abs: 3

1st CIB/DK UCH/FI UCH/NO UCH/SE UCH SPECIALDREAM'S EVER SO CLEVER SE V'19 SE VV'19 (MR S-E SUNDBERG) BCC

All I can say is that this bitch caught my eye as soon as she entered the ring. I was amazed when the handler told me that this bitch is almost 10 years old. A classic head with a soft dreamy expression, ears bang on top. Good reach of neck, level top line and sweep over the loin. Well padded feet and good bone. Covered the ground with ease, perfectly handled and presented to perfection. I was pleased to award her the CC and on the decision of the referee she was BOS.

2nd CH RANNERDALE QUEEN O'THE NORTH JW (MISS C J STAFFORD) RCC

A very well known champion of superb construction, pleasing head and expression, moved well coming and going. Pushed hard but just had to give way today to the winner. Pleased to award her the RCC.

3rd FEARNACH MAKING MISCHIEF [ATC AV01560IKC] (MR D MCDONALD)

This lovely coloured blue merle completed a trio of top quality bitches. Well balanced, gentle expression, good bone. Covered the ground with ease

Good Citizen Dog Scheme - Bitch

Entries: 15 Abs: 3

1st VALDOSTA DARE TO DREAM OF SAVENDIE (MISS L METTAN-URE)

1st in Junior

2nd LINDFERN ENCHANTED SUNRISE (MRS L S FRENCH)

Sable bitch rising 10 years, but not showing it. Pleasing head and expression. Level top line.

3rd CHIBAYA BELLE OF THE BALL (MRS C MOORES)

3rd in Mid Limit

Judge Sandra Taylor