

CRUFTS - SHETLAND SHEEPDOGS 8TH March 2018

Dogs: An excellent entry with quality in depth throughout the classes so it was a pleasure to judge. Thanks must go to my two stewards for their company, for running the ring so efficiently and for keeping me on track. I was delighted with my CC winner who for me is the breed standard come to life. On the day, in agreement with my co-judge, he had to concede BOB to his mother who possesses all the same virtues but in a feminine version, it was lovely to see them flowing round the ring together in the challenge. All in all a very memorable day.

VD (18,3) 1 Mackie's Ch Shebaville Secret Mission. Shapely tricolour, his head is balanced with parallel planes, nice eye shape and placement combined with good ear carriage giving a kind expression, good reach of neck, well laid shoulders, enough bone for his ideal size, level topline, good sweep over croup, good bend of stifle. Moved well once he settled. 2 Stafford's Ch Rannerdale Buggy Malone. Well known s/w, pleasing head with a well shaped eye and neat ears, nicely rounded muzzle, good underjaw, flat skull, and just the right amount of stop. Under a profuse coat, immaculately presented, he is well made with a nicely arched neck, level topline, and good sweep over croup. On the day he lacked his usual sparkle and he could have been a bit more positive on the move. 3 Brady's Ch Francehill Two Tone. Bi blue dog presented in wonderful coat and condition with every hair gleaming. He is a lovely shape and size, and his movement belies his eleven years. Balanced wedge head with nice eye shape and placement, ears well carried but could be slightly more tipped. Good reach of neck, level topline and nice sweep over croup, his angulation is balanced at both ends, and he covered the ground well.

MPD (5) 1 Miles' Milesend Morello. Plain shaded sable, not a glamour boy and yet to coat up, but spot on for size, stands foursquare and draws the eye for his excellent conformation. Good wedge head with rounded muzzle and enough underjaw, correct stop, good eye shape and placement although darker pigment would enhance his expression, and neat ears which he used when asked. Pleasing outline with enough neck, level topline, nice sweep over croup, good bend of stifle and well let down hocks. Moved very soundly from all angles. 2 Mottram's Lanteague Gold Sovereign At Lochkaren. Beautifully presented profusely coated g/s of nice make and shape with good bone, very mature for a minor puppy. He has a flat skull, neat ears and a dark almond shaped eye giving a sweet expression, and stands proudly showing off his virtues. He was not as steady on the move as 1st. 3 Stockden's Willowgarth Pure Gold. More glamour in this raw g/s youngster, who has not yet finished growing so his hindquarters were higher than his forequarters, which spoilt his topline and made him appear straight in stifle - I'm sure this will right itself in time. He has the typical head and expression one has come to expect from this kennel, with good eye and ear placement, firm underjaw, flat cheeks and well filled foreface. He stood foursquare and showed very attentively for his handler, but was a bit erratic on the move.

PD (9,2) 1 Robinson's Lavika Lush Life, BP. 11 month g/s, nice for size with good bone. Refined head with flat skull, rounded muzzle, obliquely set dark almond shaped eye, and neatly tipped ears giving him the sweetest expression, but still unmistakably a boy. His body is well proportioned with good balance of length to height, straight front with flexible pasterns, level topline and graceful sweep over croup, good bend of stifle and well let down hocks. Moved steadily and showed non-stop for his expert young handler. 2 Nixons' Japaro Music Maestro. Another attentive showman, unlucky to meet 1st on such good form. Good wedge head with rounded muzzle, flat skull, correct eye shape and placement and excellent ear carriage. In well fitting g/s jacket which showed off his lovely outline, he is nice for size with good bone, lovely reach of neck, level topline and good sweep over croup. His angulation is balanced at both ends and he moved with reach and drive. 3 Haensels' Sherkarl Majic Touch. G/s with a sweet head and expression, parallel planes of skull and muzzle, good eye shape and placement and neat ears, showing non-stop for his handler. Well presented in good coat, he is of correct size with good bone, but hasn't the reach of neck or layback of shoulder of 1st and 2nd and still needs to develop in chest. He has a level topline and correct sweep over croup, good bend of stifle and well let down hocks, so moved with drive behind but rather close in front.

JD (9) 1 Hardy's Sandwich Stagelight. Striking tricolour with a lot of ring presence, showing off his super profile. Nicely balanced head with flat skull, good underjaw, dark almond shaped eye and neat ears all combining to give a charming expression. Muscular well arched neck, good layback of shoulder and length of upper arm, level topline, desired sweep over croup, good bend of stifle, well let down hocks, moved as his construction would suggest. 2 Durant's Neraklee Starblaze. Another pleasing tri, spot on for size with good round bone. Nicely moulded head with good eye shape and placement and neat ears when he chose to use them. Nice outline with enough neck, level topline and gentle sweep over croup, good bend of stifle and well let down hocks. He moved well enough when he settled, but he wasn't very happy in the noisy environment and did not make the best of himself on the day. 3 Smiths' Orean On The Nightrain. Rich red sable, again nice for size with a good fitting coat which showed off his shape. Nice wedge head, very good ear carriage, though they could benefit from a little

trimming, and dark almond shaped eye giving a sweet expression. His chest still needs to develop so he stood a bit close in front, but his overall construction is good so he moved well and he looks good in profile.

YD (15) 1 Bray's Lianbray Lothario JW. Very handsome eye catching sable who carries his head proudly on a well arched neck. Nicely moulded head with smooth cheeks and flat skull, rounded muzzle with good underjaw, neat ears and perfect eye shape and placement giving the sweetest of expressions. Good body proportions and well angulated at both ends, he is a lovely shape with a level topline and nice slope over croup, good bend of stifle and well let down hocks so he moved well from all angles. One for the upper house I'm sure. 2 Woolley's Pepperhill In The Moment At Valjon. Tricolour, not very flashy but shown in gleaming black jacket which fits him well. Good balance of skull to muzzle, well filled foreface, correct stop, good eye shape and placement and neat ears, he has a masculine yet sweet expression. Well constructed throughout with round bone, flexible pasterns, good depth of chest, level topline, good bend of stifle, well let down hocks. Showed very alertly and was very sound on the move. 3 Robinson's Sheltysam Nut Box In Alnmac. Shaded sable, nice for size with a pleasing outline. Good wedge head with nicely rounded muzzle, flat skull, correct stop, well carried ears, would just prefer a sweeter eye. Correct angulation at both ends, good depth of chest and spring of rib, level topline, moved with reach and drive.

GD (13) 1 Edwards' Castlerose Star Turn JW. Smart tricolour with a shiny well fitting coat of good texture. Nicely balanced head with correct stop, good underjaw, flat skull, dark eye and neat well carried ears giving an appealing expression. He has a good reach of neck, very good layback of shoulder and length of upper arm, straight front with strong bone and flexible pasterns, level topline, graceful sweep over croup, good bend of stifle, well let down hocks, and moved soundly in all directions. 2 Robinson's Sheltysam Nut Box In Alnmac. 3 Daniels & Taylor's Pepperhill Cruise Control. B/m in good coat of lovely clear colour, well broken and impeccably presented. Good head pattern with sweet eye and neat ears. He is still very immature in body, but nicely balanced throughout with well arched neck, good shoulder and upper arm angulation, level topline, nice sweep over croup, long tail, good bend of stifle, well let down hocks, moved well.

PGD (19,2) 1 Pierce's Philhope Buzzword. Shapely shaded sable carrying a wealth of coat which actually hides his good construction. Pleasing head with parallel planes and correct stop, enough underjaw, dark obliquely set almond eye, and neat ears carried alertly. He is a nice size with good bone, long well-muscled neck, good layback of shoulder, straight front with flexible pasterns, good ribcage, level topline, graceful sweep over croup and good hind angulation. Moved with good reach and drive. 2 Stafford's Rannerdale Lord Fawty. Red sable, nice for size and substance. Balanced wedge head with flat skull, nicely rounded muzzle with good underjaw, neat ears and dark eye giving sweet expression. Pleasing outline when standing, and his angulation is balanced at both ends so moved well enough, just lacked the reach of 1st in profile. 3 Riding's Achor's Surprise Percy Polaris For Torinska (Imp CHE). Shapely b/m of good colour who has at last come out of that gawky teenager stage and matured into a nice Sheltie. He has a nicely moulded head with good underjaw, neat ears, dark eye, and a cheeky expression. I like his balance of length to height, good reach of neck, and decent forehead construction complemented by well angulated hindquarters with a good bend of stifle and well let down hocks. He can be rather proud of his tail on the move but it is set on correctly and when his handler lets him move freely he moves soundly enough.

MLD (17,1) 1 Haensels' Sherkarl Uptown Funk JW ShCM. Shaded sable whose qualities you don't really appreciate until you go over him. He has a good wedge head with just the right amount of stop, pleasing eye shape and placement and neat ears which he used all the time, giving a very sweet expression. He is nicely made with enough bone for his ideal size, good depth of chest, level topline, graceful sweep over croup, very good bend of stifle, low set hocks, and moved very well. Presented in lovely coat and condition. 2 Aaron's Mastermind At Shelridge JW. Plain tri, another extremely well made boy, on the day lacking the furnishings of 1st.. Enjoying his day out and wagging his tail throughout which showed his lovely temperament but slightly spoiled his outline when standing. Nevertheless a quality dog with a pleasing head pattern, good balance of skull to muzzle, well filled foreface, good underjaw, very sweet eye, and neat ears. Lovely for size, he has good angulation at both ends, nicely arched neck, level topline, good sweep over croup, and he moved well once he settled into his stride. 3 Linford's Hillhenry Thunderstorm JW. Very smart tricolour, not quite the forehead angulation of 1st and 2nd, but still very pleasing. His head handles well with smooth cheeks, parallel planes, correct stop, good underjaw, sweet eye and neat well tipped ears used attentively. Nice for size with good round bone, lovely outline with enough reach of neck, level topline, good sweep over croup, well let down hocks, good bend of stifle. Moved and showed well.

LD (10) 1 Dimmocks' Hillhenry Just One Look For Fernhill. Shapely b/m dog, his colour could be clearer but it is well broken. His head is refined, with a flat skull, correct stop, nicely rounded muzzle, obliquely set almond shaped eye, and neat well carried ears giving a gentle expression. His good reach of neck is enhanced by a white collar, a good layback of shoulder and length of upper arm, level topline, lovely sweep over croup, well angulated and well-muscled hindquarters. He moved very well from all angles. 2 Roberts' Malaroc Mystery Writer JW.

Close decision between these two, this boy is a very plain sable but his profuse coat is rich in tone and every hair was gleaming. Pleasing head with nicely rounded muzzle, good underjaw, slight but definite stop, good eye shape and placement and neatly tipped ears carried very alertly. Nice for size with round bone, nicely arched neck into well laid shoulders, straight front, good depth of chest, level topline, graceful sweep over croup, good bend of stifle and well let down hocks. Moved with drive. 3 Drysdale's Donallin Shadow Magic For Jondrea. S/w of good size with an attractive outline. Nicely moulded head with parallel planes, correctly placed stop, dark almond shaped eye and neat ears used well combining to give a sweet but masculine expression,. He stood foursquare showing off his good reach of neck, well laid shoulders, level topline and gentle sweep over croup. Moved well.

OD (24,1) Incredibly strong class with some really hair-splitting decisions, such a shame that Crufts has stopped awarding seven placings in Open classes because many dogs merited a card. It was a really pleasing line up. 1 Akesson's Int/Se/Fi/No/Dk Ch Windcrest Stylish Move [ATC AS03072SWE], CC. Stunning s/w with lovely construction, handled to perfection, and it was his really lithe and graceful action which clinched his 1st placing. He has the classic Sheltie head with that gentle melting expression, small neat ears which he used all the time, almond shaped obliquely set dark eye, parallel planes, slight but definite stop, flat cheeks and rounded muzzle with good underjaw. He is of perfect size and super shape with a well-muscled and arched neck, and excellent angulation which enabled him to move with reach and drive. This was his 3rd Crufts CC in a row, he seems to get better every year. 2 Aaron's Ch Lafitte De Moorstile Chez Shelridge (Imp FRA) JW, Res CC. So close up but just did not have the smooth action of 1st on the move. He has many of the same attributes with a lovely moulded head with neat ears, obliquely set almond shaped eye, good underjaw, giving a very sweet expression. Loved his shape with a good reach of neck, level topline, super sweep over croup, good bend of stifle, and well let down hocks, so moved with drive. Beautifully presented with a well fitting coat. A worthy champion, he is still very young and will only get better with maturity. 3 Rutterford's Ch Kelgrove Just Blue At Stormhead JW ShCM. B/m, 7 years old but really not showing his age, for preference could perhaps be a slightly clearer blue. He has such a sweet head with a dark expressive eye, well carried ears, nicely rounded muzzle, flat skull and correct stop. He also has a very pleasing outline and is beautifully constructed with well arched neck, super topline held on the move, lovely sweep over croup. Moved as his construction would suggest.

GCD (8) 1 Woolley's Pepperhill In The Moment At Valjon. 2 Edwards' Castlerose Spiritmaster JW.ShCM. B/m, nice for size and pleasing shape. His head is masculine but refined with a flat skull and dark well placed eye, his ear set could be higher but he uses them well, and he has a sweet expression. He has workmanlike construction with a good reach of neck and well laid shoulders, good depth of chest, level topline, and good bend of stifle. Moved well but felt his hind action could be more positive which cost him a place. 3 Hirst's Sundark Starlight ShCM. B/m boy of ideal size with a pleasing outline, unplaced in the strong Veteran class but nonetheless a quality exhibit. His colour has darkened with age but it is well broken. He has a nicely balanced head with correct stop, neat ears and dark well placed eye. He is well constructed throughout with a lovely reach of neck enhanced by his white collar, stood foursquare on good legs and feet, and moved vey soundly.

Judge - Marion Withers

Bitches: What a marvellous entry and I was thrilled to see so many beautiful examples of the breed. The BCC and BOB winner is one of the best Shelties I have ever had the pleasure of judging and she could almost be a blueprint for the breed. She just exudes that sheer sheltie charm which we aficionados recognise and cherish. I just wish she was mine. Had she been campaigned in this country I am sure she would have been a Group and BIS all breeds winner. She is that good. And to think her son was the DCC winner, for the third year running!!!

VB (20, 6) What a gathering of truly golden oldies including several champions. 1 & Res CC, Bywater's Ch Tachnamadra Evisu. A shaded sable of real class which simply oozes breed type at it's best. Beautiful headpiece, perfect combination of eyes and neat little ears to give that so sought after expression. Her shape just flows, arched neck, smoothly moulded croup, excellent angles both ends, spotless in jacket, the showgirl supreme and ultra sound. Desperately unlucky to meet such a superstar as the BOB but certainly one to gladden the eye and remain fixed in my memory. 2 Miles' Ch Milesend Milkshake. An old favourite of mine and one of the classic Shelties of her era. The beautiful head, eye and expression remain, she is still so sound moving and is clearly a class act. Today just not in the coat bloom of the winner. 3 Barnett's Ch Rainway Crystal Star JW. A new one to me, but another so worthy titleholder. This blue merle is a lovely colour, well broken, excellent presentation and she is such a co-operative show girl. Her head is a clean cheeked, one piece wedge with a moderate stop, good ears for a blue and lovely eyes and expression. Moves out with a light, easy stride and well deserved this spot in this outstanding class.

MPB (2) 1 Miles' Milesend Merchant. Pretty headed, well coated shaded sable, lovely eyes for shape, colour and expression, enough neck, nicely ribbed and a smooth round croup line to a low set tail. In excellent coat she moved around with a positive step and co-operated well with her handler. 2 Stock's Shemist Night Mist. Tricolour whose head is a shade long for me which is exaggerated by her needing to finish rounding off in muzzle. Eyes a good colour, well placed ears, lovely reach of neck and clean backline to a smooth croup. She needs to develop in forechest as she stands and moves narrow in front though her side action is balanced.

PB (9) 1 & BPB, Nixon's Japaro It's All About Me. A real charmer of a sable whose future looks very bright. Delightful headpiece, that so desired soft expression, sufficient neck, so well ribbed with good angles both ends. Her croup is so well moulded leading to firm hocks standing 90 degrees to the ground. Moves out with a light, positive step and never stops showing off. 2 Robinson's Lavika The Time Of My Life. Another very bright prospect and she ran the winner so close. Again that quality headpiece we have come to expect from this Affix, a clean one piece wedge which fills the palm so well, good stop, clean in cheek, delicious expression and really well bodied. Her outline draws the eyes, presentation faultless and in a tight finish I felt that the winner was just that tad better when moving towards me. 3 Pearson's Rhythm N Rhyme. As always from this very famous kennel, impeccable in presentation with not a hair out of place and a non stop show off which does aid the cause. This one is a tricolour whose real working shape, that reach of neck and the beautiful croup all help to draw the eye. Her head is long, the skull flat enough but I would like a better stop definition and I felt those I put over her just had the edge in eye and expression. On the move she did everything I wanted and looked like she could work all day.

JB (15, 4) 1 Hateley's Sanscott Sweet Serenity At Mohnesee JW. Sable and white with lots to admire. She is well constructed, balanced angles in angulation, enough neck, so well ribbed with good bone, legs and feet and she moves around the ring with a balanced action. Her head handles well, pleasing eyes and expression, just needs a little more chin to finish the picture. 2 Visser's Poppy Slopes Cherish (ATC AU). At first glance I had her as my winner as she has a better reach of neck and that fraction more bend of stifle which caught my eye. Her head, eyes and ears combine to give a super expression, her coat was immaculate and she looked like she would fill the bill on the move. But it was not to be. She lacked the rear drive of Serenity and she was just a bit on the gay side with her tail which detracted from her merits. Standing she was lovely. 3 Costelloe's Stoneycombe Sweet Talk From Karmidale. An even stepping s/w in good coat and a excellent make and shape. Her head handles well but she is another who needs a fraction more underjaw to complete the picture. She is well ribbed, carried a good coat, low set tail and side on her action is fluent and balanced.

YB (20, 3) 1 Miles' Amoueye Blue Mist Of Milesend. This beautifully coloured b/m will have lots of admirers as she is such a lovely colour. For me she is a tad more handsome in head than pretty, but it is all in proportion, very good eyes and ears, ample neck, so well bodied with a well moulded croup. She out-moved the rest of this class I will watch her progress with interest. 2 Thomas' Jolex Gilded Lily. Nice type of s/w but she has somewhat low set ears which detracted from her expression. A shame as she has really good eye shape, colour and set, ample neck, well laid shoulders, straight fore limbs and supple loin. Shown in excellent coat she moved around the ring with a light, positive stride. 3 Rigby's Lundecock's Ramona At Lythwood. One of the best constructed exhibits of the day, Beautiful fore assembly, well arched neck, so well ribbed, excellent bend of stifle to firm hocks, her blue merle colour is clear and well broken, the tail long and she is shapely. Her head is balanced but just a tad on the strong side for her sex, at least for me. Not too happy on the move at times, I think the collar was not one she was used to. It will be interesting to see how she does as she has heaps to like.

GB (16, 3) 1 Tinker's Ruscombe Mosaic. Although not in full coat I felt this blue bitch scored in so many other areas that she deserved the red card. Pleasing headpiece with well shaped eyes, excellent reach of neck, good wither definition, level back, smooth croup and well bent stifles. Her racy outline confirmed on the move where she covered the ground with such a light step. 2 Stafford's Rannerdale Queen O'The North. I did so admire the headpiece, eyes and expression on this top quality s/w but she was carrying too much bodyweight which was reflected in her front action being too wide when coming towards me. She was in full coat which optically exaggerated the weight yet side on she moved out with the brisk step confirming just how good her construction is. 3 Arnould's Shadoway Rosa Esmerelda. Shaded s/w of good size, well weighted bone and neat feet. Her head places pleased though for me the eye could be that little bit softer in expression. Very good neck and outline, side action smooth but going close in hock when rear viewed.

PGB (17) 1 Bray's Shelridge Chantilly Lace At Lianbray JW. Such a sweet expression on this delightful s/s bitch. Head so balanced, lovely arched neck, level back to a slight rise over the loin then that sweeping croup line to a low set tail. In excellent coat her side action was so smooth and balanced and her length/height ratios edged her the red card. 2 Miles' Milesend Bluebell. Scores in flatness in skull, correct stop, well rounded muzzle and well set and carried ears. Another blue merle of such good colour, in excellent coat and so pleasing to watch as she moves easily around the ring. In truth she is a shade shorter coupled than I like and I felt the winner had

that little more length/height balance for my eyes. 3 Thomas' Myter Secret Agenta. Slightly heavier marked blue merle but the blue is a good colour. Nice headpiece, very good neck and shoulders, immaculate in presentation and she has such good hock action. I felt those above her had a better underjaw finish and she can tend to lift her forelegs a shade high when gazing up at her owner whilst moving!

MLB (12, 2) 1 Rossiter's Lorainian Starlight Wonder. G/s of quality and bags of style. I loved her headpiece, beautiful eye shape and expression aided by such neat ears. Useful neck, firm back and good croup and tail set. Stunning coat presentation and her side action is smooth, lithe and even stepping. 2 Wyper's Murieston Classic Design. Another bright golden sable with a sweet head, eye and expression, just about enough reach in neck, well ribbed, slight fall away over the croup and in excellent coat. She is quite sound on the move but not quite the reach and drive of the winner. 3 Brady's Bordercot Blue Weave. Stunning shape, sound as a bell, head handles well and in excellent coat. She could out move the rest of the class but her colour is not her fortune and as is well known, I am a bit of a puritan when it comes to the blue merle colouring. If the standard seeks clear silvery blue splashed and marbled with black, then that is what I seek!! But this one still conveys that look of intelligence and charm which class shelties have.

LB (13) 1 Robinson's Lavika Good Luck JW. Such a stylish, classy looking g/s with that air of quality and good breeding. Pretty headed, gorgeous expression, ample neck, well laid shoulders, straight fore limbs and sufficient let down in hocks. Coat presentation par excellence and she is pleasing watch circle the ring with an even stride. I would be surprised if she does not become a Ch. 2 Paterson's Lorainian Celtic Star. Another top quality golden sable and white which could swap places with the winner anytime. She too has that look of style, shapely in construction, her head fills the hand so well, the skull flat and so well moulded, good stop and lovely underjaw. Her reach of neck aids her outline appeal, the coat was spotless and she too can drift around the ring with much purpose. 3 McDonagh's I'm Sha-Kir-Ra By Karshanty Jr Ch. This charming blue merle completed the line up in this lovely quality class. She has heaps to admire, her colour, size, shape, reach of neck and her smooth, driving action Her head is a one piece wedge, her ears are well set and carried and the only thing which pegged her back for me is that I would like a slightly smaller eye.

OB (25, 8) 1, CC & BOB, Akesson's Int/Se/Fi/No Ch Windcrest On The Move. All I can say is "Wow!!" For me the find of the decade at least. I had never seen her before today and have reflected since judging her that if she is so brilliant now, what was she like 3 or 4 years ago (she is now 8)? I would not change a thing, other than her ownership. Goosebump time for me and a memory to treasure. I won't list her attributes....just believe me when I say she is utterly gorgeous. I couldn't believe she was not short listed in the Group, but c'est la vie. 2 Seu Ch Special Dream's Ever So Clever if before judging I had seen this one entering the show I would have jumped for joy thinking I had found my BCC winner...she is that good. A class act, a stunning example of the breed and an honour to have judged. What a privilege as a judge to be so spoiled with these lovely bitches. 3 Barnett & Hardman's Rainway Returning To Seavall JW. At last a British bitch which presented a fair competition to those from overseas!! A real working shape, full of quality in head and expression, stunning outline, spotless in coat and she moves around the ring with drive and purpose. She the correct size, ample bone, excellent fore assembly and I am just surprised she has not gained her crown.

GCB (10) 1 Deveson's Janetstown Je Suis JW ShCM. Lots of style in this pretty headed sable. She is the correct size, good length/height balance, well laid shoulders, smooth flowing backline and ample hind angulation. Her head handles well, the eyes are so alive and expressive and she was in excellent coat. 2 French's Sonymer Snow Fall Over Lindfern. I loved the eyes and expression on this totally disarming sable bitch. She is so well constructed, not quite the reach of neck of the winner but she was in lovely coat has a light free stride and never stopped trying. 3 Allan's Janetstown Jillions. White blaze on this glamorous sable bitch. Loved her size, well bodied and coated delightful head with such a flaw skull and well rounded foreface. Side action was smooth but she was just not as firm in pastern as those I out over her.

Judge - Albert Wight