

## DARLINGTON CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW 13<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025

I would like to thank the committee of Darlington Dog Show Society for inviting me to judge Shetland Sheepdogs at their show and thank my stewards who kept things running smoothly throughout the day. I would also like to thank you the exhibitors who entrusted me with the honour of judging so many of your Shelties. Our breed had the biggest entry in the Pastoral Group. I was particularly pleased to find so many promising puppies, several of them having the qualities required for them to make the Upper House. On a down point I was disappointed to see so many short tails with the majority ending just short of the hock and a few ending well above it.

**VD** (3) 1. Hull's Mohnesee's Dream Date of Lizmark JW. Golden Sable who excels in head properties having obliquely set dark eyes, a smooth well rounded muzzle and head topped by ears which are set and carried well. I have previously judged him when he was carrying too much weight but today he was in excellent body condition with good musculature. He moved out with a purposeful ground covering stride as his good construction suggested he should. BVD 2. Goodwin's Highbrook Hobnob JW. Rather plainly marked Rich Red S/W. Slightly longer in body than the first, shown in good condition and also moved out well as did all three in this class. Pleasing head with good eye placement and very neat ears. Deep chest and with well ribbed body, stands parallel in front and behind and has well angulated stifles. 3. Walker's Ch Tooralie's Ocho Rios JW

**MPD** (7) 1. Robinson's Dippersmoor Starmaker For Lavika. S/W of just 6.5months. Beautiful balanced head with dark almond shaped eyes, parallel planes and flat skull. Well arched neck of good length which leads down to a well angulated shoulder and upper arm. Good fore chest and body proportions with a level top line. Gentle sweep over the croup ending with a low set tail of the correct length. Moved very soundly when viewed from all directions, single tracking correctly when viewed from in front and behind. 2. Mitchell's Valdosta Je Amour. 7 months old Tricolour. Not as mature as the winner plus today he was a bit distracted by his surroundings but this is another young man who shows good promise for the future. He has a lovely expression. He is very well constructed and presents a pleasing outline having a nicely balanced shape from his arched neck and good height to body length ratios. He also moved very well from all directions. He had one of the longest tails of the day with it reaching several inches below the hock. 3. Fenton's Esstremere Silver Storm

**PD** (4,2) 1. Weller's Evad Halloween Tzar. An eye catching 10.5 month Golden Sable in good coat who stood out for his impressive overall shape. Good head with smooth moulded cheeks, lovely eye set and just the right amount of stop, his head is proudly carried on an elegant long arched neck. His body is totally balanced throughout having super shoulder and upper arm angulation which allowed him to move effortlessly with good extension in front with his well-turned stifles driving him forwards from behind. Everything about him says Look at Me. BPD 2. Forster-Cooper Sheltysham Sandy Shore. 10 month old Shaded Sable. Good head with smooth moulded muzzle and clean stop. Less forward in maturity than the first. He had a fitting jacket which helped to show off his firm level top line which flowed into the correct slope over the croup. His tail is set well and of the correct length. In profile and from behind he moved out very well but when coming towards he was at times a bit close, I'm sure this will correct itself as he bodies up and matures.

**JD** (6) 1. Forbes's Degallo The Prodegy JW. Well turned out mature S/W in good coat. Pleasing head with well-formed underjaw and a clean moulded muzzle, dark well-set eyes, correct stop and perfectly carried ears. Lengthy arched neck leads to a well formed body having a good depth of chest and well sprung rib cage. Having good front angulation and excellent hind angulation he covers the ground with a positive easy stride. Good length of tail which he carried low at all times. One who should gain his crown and was considered in the Challenge. 2. Norris's Ferngrove's Code Blue JW. Blue Merle who is masculine but not overdone. He looks like he could keep up his steady ground covering gait all day. Good for bone with the correct amount of substance throughout his body. His profuse coat partially hides his lovely long neck and level back. He has a sweet expression which can be hard to get on a Merle 3. Mettan-Ure's Savendie Seasmoke

**YD (4)** 1. Rossiter's Cocaro The Highlander JW. 19 months old mature glamorous Shaded Sable carrying a full coat of the correct texture. His head is carried proudly on a long arched neck which is further enhanced by having a full white collar. I loved his head and alert expression, he has good underjaw, well rounded muzzle and beautiful dark obliquely set eyes with neat well carried ears. A deep chest with well sprung rib cage plus he was in excellent condition being well-muscled throughout. He moved with the drive his forehand and hindquarter construction suggested he should. I was pleased to be able to award him and his delighted owner their first ever CC. CC + BOB 2. Jeavons's Grandgenes Play The Game. 14.5 month old glamorous Golden Sable. Pleasing head pattern with dark well placed almond shaped eyes and perfectly tipped ears. An eye catching young man who is carrying a fitting jacket which enabled him to show off his long arched neck and elegant shape to best advantage though to be critical I would prefer a bit more infill of coat underneath which would further complete the picture. He moved out very well as was suggested by his overall construction and excellent turn of stifle. 3. Norris's Ferngrove's Code Blue JW

**PGD (8)** 1. Hardman's Seavall Blue Ensign. One I haven't seen before. 2.5 yrs. old very glamorous Blue Merle carrying a full coat of the most beautiful textbook Clear Silver Blue. He was lovely to go over having a good length of neck and super construction fore and aft. When stationary he stood four square at all times. He moved soundly holding his shape and covering the ground well. Blunt wedge shaped head with a gorgeous expression which can be so difficult to get on a Merle, especially when they have one eye blue and the other brown. RCC 2. Fenton's Shannmie's Dark Arches. A rather plain lightly shaded Sable but what he lacked in glamour he more than made up for with his other attributes. A very soundly constructed boy with just the right amount of bone and substance. His fitting jacket allowed him to show off his elegant shape to best advantage. When on the move his stride was long and easy, one who looked like he could go out and work all day. 3. Linford's Hillhenry In Your Honour

**LD (9,1)** 1. Stafford's Rannerdale Mister Majic. 2.5 yrs old Golden Sable in good coat. Nice head having good stop combined with parallel planes and a flat skull. Well placed almond shape eyes. Pleasing reach of neck which leads down to a decent body with a good depth of chest. Mostly he moved well but at times he became a bit distracted and appeared to be looking for someone, ideally he could have been moved a shade faster which may have helped him to keep focused on the job in hand. 2. Fenton's Shannmie's Cartier. 2.5 yr old. Tricolour wearing a full coat of jet black, the overall image enhanced by him being attractively marked with a full white collar. Ideal for size and well put together throughout. Straight front and stands four square with all four feet pointing forwards. Moved well with his tail carried low. Lovely expression having well placed dark eyes, rich tan facial markings, and well used perfectly carried ears. 3. Glover-Guest's Doonlodge The Explorer

**OD (7)** 1. Robinson's Ch Lavika Starlight Salute. 5yr old Sable sporting an immaculately presented full coat. An old favourite of mine who I have judged and been impressed with previously. That hasn't changed, I still love him, masculine without being cloddy and so very sound in his construction. He has a lovely shape with a lengthy arched neck, super layback of shoulder and return of upper arm together and level back and strong hindquarters. His powers round the ring while keeping his tail low and maintaining his shape. Good head with gentle and alert expression, he was also one I considered in the challenge. 2. Mitchell's Valdosta Gracelands JW. 3 year old Sable in full coat. He has a beautiful balanced head with lovely eye placement, good clean stop and a flat skull. An elegant and racy shaped boy with pleasing balance of height to length ratio together with his head being supported by neck of good length. Super shoulder and return of upper arm and very well angulated hindquarters with gentle sweep over the croup. Another who deserves to gain his crown.

**VB (4)** A lovely class of "Old ladies" who impressed for their angulation and quality of movement. 1. Hateley's Ch Mohnesee Sweet Dreams JW VW. 7 yr old Golden Sable who was rather in between coats today but what she had was in good condition. Pretty head with, well set eyes and perfect ear carriage combining to give her a sweet expression. Excellent forehand construction. Straight front. Moved powerfully around the ring. Litter sister of the best veteran dog, it was a difficult and close

decision between them in the challenge for best veteran, he was in better coat but I felt she moved with a little bit more energy than her brother. BVB + BVIB 2. Main's Shenachie Lyric Of Light. In full flowing coat. At 10 yrs old this Sable was the oldest in the class. She had good eye shape and a sweet expression. Her excellent forehand construction coupled with good hind angulation enabled her to move effortlessly around the ring. I preferred the slightly shorter coupling of the first. 3. Redpath's Sonymer Storm Doris Into Pathaaron.

**MPB** (4,1) 1. Pearson's Edglonian Norma Jean. Perfectly presented golden Sable of just 7 months. Dark almond shape eyes and her ears are carried and used well. Her head is carried on a very long neck. She has impressive lay back of shoulder and return of upper arm. Straight front legs and stands parallel behind. Correct length of tail. 2. Bendelow's Amethrickeh Turnin Gold. 6 month old glamorous sable baby. Clean head with obliquely set dark eyes, good planes and flat skull. Good for front and rear angulation. This was her first show and she was a bit distracted by her surroundings but did enough to show off her charms. 3. Atkin's Esstremere Diamond Lady

**PB** (10,2) 1. Stafford's Rannerdale Coco Pop. 11 month lightly shaded sable. What a delight, very feminine young lady who is blessed with the prettiest of heads. She has a slightly mischievous expression, a twinkle in her beautifully set dark eyes and she used her neatly carried ears non-stop. Her neck is well arched and she has well laid back shoulders with a pleasing return of upper arm, this is matched by equally well angulated hind quarters. Good for bone and has a well ribbed body. She absolutely flowed around the ring. I was delighted to see her go on to win PPG2. BPIB 2. Mettan-Ure's Oakcroft Gracefull Star Over Savendie. Very unlucky to come up against the first in this class. Another quality puppy who I am sure will have a good future ahead of her. Golden Sable of ideal size who is just heading into her junior moult. Very pretty head with lovely eye placement, good underjaw and attentively used ears. Presents a pleasing shape when viewed in profile and exhibited good extension and drive when moving. 3. Goodwin's Highbrook Hot Pants

**JB** (4,1) 1. Stafford's Rannerdale Sugar Puff. Clone of her litter sister who was 1st in PB. She is spot on for size and apart from needing to tighten in hind movement the same comments apply to her as given for her sister. In the challenge for BPB I preferred the hind movement of her sister plus I found her sibling's delightful expression totally irresistible. 2. Jacobs and Johnson's Willowthorn's Roulette JW. 17 months old rich red Sable. Nicely put together youngster who is currently between coats. Sweet head with dark well placed eyes of good shape and neatly carried ears. Level top line and gentle sweep over the croup and a tail of good length. 3. Mettan-Ure's Savendie Meleys

**YB** (4,2) 1. Robinson's Dippersmoor Dazzling Star JW. Despite being rather plainly marked this Shaded Sable exudes quality. Feminine and ideal for size with just the right amount of substance to her body. Immaculately presented and wearing a full dense double coat of the correct texture. Beautiful balanced head with good stop, flat skull and well set neat ears. Moved purposefully with steady unhurried gait carrying her tail low. One I considered for higher honours in the Challenge. 2. Hill's Cocaro Contraband For Molson. Glamorous Tricolour litter sister to the BOB winner. Not carrying a big coat but what she had was in pristine condition, jet black and sparkled in the Sunshine. Balanced head with well-placed eyes and good stop. Good height to body length ratio. Moved well. **PGB** (12,3) 1. Fenton's Shannmies Canary Blue. Another from this kennel who impressed for her soundness of construction. Moved very freely with her long stride covering the ground effortlessly. Blue Merle with a fitting jacket which helped to show off her elegant shape. Smoothly moulded muzzle with rich tan markings, almond shape well set dark eyes, good stop, parallel planes and ears both used and carried well. 2. Hateley's Mohnesee's Meliya JW. A smart Tricolour who was wearing an immaculate Jet black coat and was very well presented. She is ideal for size with correct bone and a good body and well sprung ribs. Firm level topline leads into gentle slope over the croup ending with a correct length tail. A very confident young lady who moved out well showed herself off using her neat well placed ears non-stop. 3. Redpath's Pathaaron Fair Isle

**LB** (7,2) 1. Weller's Evad Halloween Spice JW. Sable with full coat in excellent condition. Not a glamour girl but stood out today for her elegant shape and overall quality. Good head pattern with well-formed underjaw, moulded muzzle and dark perfectly set oblique eyes. Hers was one of the

most correct stops among the bitches today. She has an excellent reach of neck coupled with a body of ideal height to length ratio and a correct length tail. Super forehand construction. Her movement is leisurely and unhurried as she effortlessly glides over the ground with daisy cutting action and a long stride. Stands four square with straight front legs and low set hocks behind. Very pleased to be able award her this well-deserved third CC. CC + RBOB

2. Norris's Sabema Mayfly At Ferngrove. 2 yr old richly coloured red/gold sable. A pretty headed girl with sweet expression. She has a well-formed underjaw and good fill to her muzzle, a flat skull and carries her ears perfectly. Her forehand is well constructed and she stands parallel. Moved out very well. Possibly not in full coat today but what she has was in good condition and complemented her pleasing shape. 3. Fenton's Shannmie's Canary Blue

**OB (6)** 1. Mitchell's Valdosta Goddess JW. Sable who is of ideal size and Oh So Feminine while still having good bone and substance. She has a beautiful head which has good balance of foreface to back skull. Tight fitting lips, nicely formed muzzle, well placed clean stop and perfectly set dark eyes all combining to give her a gorgeously sweet expression. Her neat ears are used nonstop. At 3 years of age she has just come into full maturity and was shown in full coat with all the furnishings. Stands parallel in front and behind. Her construction allowed her to move very positively around the ring while keeping her tail low. Congratulation for her recently having gained her Champion title. RCC 2. Pearson's Ch Edglonian Golden Glow. Fully mature 2 year old, very glamorous Golden Sable. Shown in full coat with every hair immaculately in place. Smoothly moulded head with rounded muzzle, parallel planes and the flattest of skulls. Her ears are carried and used well. Shapely girl with long arched neck and good for body proportions. Hind quarters had excellent turn of stifle with low set tail of correct length. 3. Welford's Ristine Emerald

**Judge - Mrs L S French**