

EASTERN COUNTIES SHETLAND SHEEPDOG CLUB OPEN SHOW 20TH JULY 2025

I would like to thank the committee of the ECSSC for the opportunity to judge their Open show, an appointment I had been looking forward to and was not disappointed. A shame the weather meant we had to be indoors, but the venue had plenty of space. Thanks to my 2 impeccable stewards who make everything run so smoothly and the exhibitors for giving me the chance to go over their dogs and learn even more about this beautiful breed. Overall I was impressed by the quality of the dogs on show, breed type was pretty sound throughout with some sweet expressions to die for and some super puppies promise well. I noticed that there were some shoulders that were a little up and tails a little short and these factors as well as clean movement were often the deciding factors on placement.

Baby Puppy Dog – (1-0)

1. Mitchell: Valdosta Je Amour: 5 month tri who opened the show with such a bang. Presented himself so well, with everything in the right place, lovely head of excellent proportion, good dark eye and well-set ears, great front and held his forelegs so straight, level in back with a very good turn of stifle, moved cleanly with a good balance for one so young. BBD BBIS.

Baby Puppy Bitch – (0-0)

Veteran Dog – (7-0)

1. Withers: Ch. Stanydale Shot in the Dark JW BVIS 10-year-old Tri, who had lots of quality throughout, presented in very good condition, good size and in perfect balance, very correct in head, dark well shaped eyes giving the desired expression, super front, with the angles I was looking for enabled him to hold his forelegs under his withers. Very good topline which he held on the move. BVD and BVIS.
2. Hull: Mohnesee's Dream Date of Lizmark JW. Another lovely quality veteran, this time a sable of 7 years. Well balanced and such a lovely expression with great ears to finish the head picture, in full coat he presented a lovely picture, nice and straight in forelegs with very good pasterns and feet, held a great topline with a smooth sweep over croup, nice low hocks and moved clean out and back.
3. Rutterford: Kelgrove Midsummer Blue at Stormhead, 4. Forster- Cooper: Sheltysham Burnished Gold, 5. Taylor, Wells and Yuille: Ch Lafitte De Moorstile chez Sheltysridge (imp fra) JW

Minor Puppy Dog – (2-0)

1. Fransham: Sheltysham Sandy Shore TAF BPD Best Op Sex Puppy in Show. At 8 months, a youngster whose head and body were very well proportioned, good shape to muzzle, just needs to fill, with correct stop, lovely eye and well set ears, very well angled front, held a good topline, plenty of angle of stifle, moved cleanly out and back and just had the edge in this class with his balanced profile movement. BPD BOSP.
2. Alexander: Felthorn Firecracker. Another of 8 months, has good size and maybe needs a few more months to balance as muzzle a little long at the moment, very good eye and ears, front angles could take a fraction more lay but held a good topline, enough turn to stifle, moved cleanly out and back and showed some nice footfall in profile.

Puppy Dog – (2-0)

1. Fransham: Sheltysham Sandy Shore TAF see MPD
2. Alexander: Felthorn Firecracker See MPD

Junior Dog – (1-1)

Novice Dog – (1-0)

1. Keighley: Fenstyle Firewizard. 2-year-old sable who was a bit of a fidget today, Presented a nice profile picture, very good in head, muzzle, well-proportioned to good flat top skull, clear eyes and well tipped ears. Level in back and enough turn to stifle, moved a little close going out and although footfall was good in profile he needed to show a little more drive.

Undergraduate Dog – (4-1)

1. Rutterford: Myter Black Tarquin at Stormhead JW. 21m, medium sized tri who was very well put together, clean cut muzzle with correct stop, good in eye and super ears which he worked well, plenty of neck to well angled shoulder, enough bone for his size, good in pastern and feet, level in back with a good sweep over croup to well angled stifle, moved cleanly and showed some nice reach in profile.
2. Varnom: Milesend Black Tartan. Another Tri of medium size and in very good proportion, attentive expression with good eye and excellent ears, good in muzzle, a little up in transition to top skull, had just enough neck but could take a fraction more lay to shoulder, held a good topline, not as clean a 1 going away, good footfall in profile.
3. Robinson: Alnmac We Will Rock You.

Post Graduate Dog – (1-0)

1. Hoare: Stanydale Ocean Wave. 2 year old merle of a really good size and in very good proportion, well-shaped muzzle, great eye and super ears gave a very pleasing expression, plenty of coat in good condition gave a good profile picture, forelegs of good length and plenty of chest depth, could take a fraction more lay to shoulder but held a very good topline, lovely sweep over croup to enough turn of stifle and good low hocks, tail bone well set but could be a little longer. Moved out a little wide to start but came back well and was balanced with good footfall in profile.

Limit Dog – (8-1)

1. Winfield: Oakcroft The Mandalorian JW Winner of this very good class was this 2-year-old sable who really impressed today. Lovely size and in super proportion, held himself so well, really good straight muzzle of correct depth and length to a gentle stop and flat top skull, correct in bite, well-shaped dark eye and ears set so well, good reach of neck to a well angled front with a good lay to shoulder enabling him to hold his well boned forelegs under withers, plenty of depth of chest with good width, well ribbed, held a great topline with a lovely sweep over croup, moved out very cleanly and showed some good reach and drive in profile to win not only this class but also RBD
2. Revill: Mosardi Don't Stop. I really liked this 3 year merle who had such a sweet and attentive expression, very well proportioned muzzle to top skull, expressive eyes, ears well tipped just a little wide set, good in neck and a well laid front, plenty of depth to chest, just held forelegs a tad forward than ideal, held a very good topline, strong over loin and plenty of turn to stifle, lovely feet, moved steadily with good reach.
3. Miles: Ribends Goldstar of Milesend (JKC), 4. Varnom: Milesend Blue Jeans, 5. Goldie: Blenmerrow Mazurka

Open Dog (2-0)

1. Mitchell: Valdosta Gracelands JW 3 year old sable who took my eye today, good sized and so well proportioned, in plenty of coat with a full frill to make a superb outline, clean well-proportioned muzzle, correct in bite, dark eye and very good ear set and tip completed an excellent head picture, good in neck to a well laid shoulder, forelegs held well of good bone to good angle of pastern and very neat feet. Well ribbed and held a very level topline, strong over loin, tail well set, occasionally tried to hold his tail a little high on the move but kept it down when it counted, excellent angle to stifle, hocks low and straight, moved out cleanly and really well in profile with good reach and drive to take BD and BIS
2. Miles: Lundecock's Theodore (Imp Swe) 5 year old sable of very nice size and well proportioned, great expression, alert yet friendly, lovely dark eye and super ears, plenty of neck, to well laid shoulder, good depth to chest, could take him a tad wider in chest which caused him to be slightly out in foreleg straightness, well boned, super topline correct over croup, tail set good tail just to hock, moved nice and clean out and back balanced in profile just not the reach and drive of 1.

Special Open Dog (Sable + White) (2-0)

1. Mettan -Ure: Oakcrofts Venturer avec Savendie a birthday boy at 5 today, really loved his balance, very sweet expression, lovely in eye and super ears, good in neck to well laid shoulder, enough depth and width to chest, bone OK for size, held a super topline, good over loin and plenty of turn of stifle, moved cleanly out and back, just a bit hurried in stride in profile.
2. Taylor, Wells and Yuille :Ch Lafitte De Moorstile chez Sheltysridge (imp fra) JW. 7-year-old of good quality, very correct in head, muzzle created a good wedge, very good eye and ears, enough neck, shoulder lay OK, nice and straight in foreleg, but held just a tad wide, level topline, very good over rear, clean out and back, footfall correct in profile just lacking a bit of drive today.

Special Open Dog (Tricolour, Black + White) (3-0)

1. Thornley Thornley and Withers: Felthorn Cover Story 6 year old medium sized lad, very good in head with clean muzzle, good transition through stop, well-shaped eye and very good ears used well gave him an lovely expression, good frill covered well laid shoulder, just enough bone for size, topline held ok, tail set good, hocks held straight and low, moved out and back clean and was well balanced in profile, needed to show a little more purpose to compete for top honours today.
2. Pattinson: Kyleburn Romulus: 8-year-old of good size and well proportioned, good in head shape, used ears well, bite just OK but teeth not good, lay of shoulder OK and had a very good length to his foreleg. Well bodied with a good croup and tail set, moved cleanly with correct footfall.
3. Taylor & Yuille: Shelridge Quizmaster at Chelmermead

Special Open Dog Blue Merle (3-1)

1. Rutterford: Kelgrove Midsummer Blue at Stormhead. 7 year old who made a lovely picture, well presented in good condition, good eye, nice transition to top skull and excellent well used ears, very good in neck, shoulder lay OK, would like to see forelegs slightly further under withers, correct pasterns, super topline, very good turn of stifle, tail just to hock, moved well out and back, well in profile competed well for top honours.
2. Taylor & Yuille: Shelridge Toastmaster at Chelmermead. Another 7-year-old, pleasing expression, good in bite, used ears well, held his forelegs straight but was a tad up in upper arm, held a good topline, tail a little short of hock, moved well out and back just not as balanced as 1 in profile.

Special Beginners Dog – (0-0)

Veteran Bitch – (5-1)

1. Withers: Stanydale Luck Be A Lady. 9 year old, who stood out in this good class, lovely size and very well proportioned, retains her sweetness of expression, has excellent pigment to lips a clean well-shaped muzzle, dark eye and well set ears, she is well constructed with a good lay of shoulder, strong bone and excellent feet, held a great topline and was strong over loin, moved very clean out and back with some nice reach in front.
2. Hull: Mohnesee Queen of Diamonds of Lizmark. 7-year-old merle, not the quite size of 1 but still in great proportion, loved her head and expression, good shape to muzzle and held her ears well, nice and straight on her forelegs and good width to chest, excellent topline, good low hocks, just a little close moving away but very good coming and steady and correct in profile.
3. Kennedy: Lirren Blue Gamble of Donbeley, 4. Fransham: Shelcrest Starling

Minor Puppy Bitch – (3-1)

1. Taylor & Yuille: Shelridge Snowflake at Chelmermead. 7 month merle who presented herself very well, has a good proportion of muzzle to flat top skull and a correct stop, well-shaped eyes, still growing into her ears, had a good lay to shoulder and was impressive in chest

width and how she held her forelegs straight, topline level and a good angle to stifle, little unsteady going away but moved well with good footfall.

2. Hood: Felthorn Fancy Nancy. 8-month sable with a very pretty expression, well-shaped muzzle and very good dark eye, super ears, held her forelegs which could come up a bit, nice and straight, had a good lay of shoulder just a bit more width to chest to come, held topline OK, moved soundly out and back, footfall correct in profile just a little front down atm.

Puppy Bitch – (5-0)

1. Winfield: Oakcroft Amazing Star. Winner of this super class of puppies was this 9 month sable of good size and well-proportioned, she has the sweetest of expressions, a clean straight muzzle just the right amount of stop, dark eye and used her ears so well, plenty of neck to a well laid front, good width to chest, well boned forelegs and super feet, under her full coat her topline was level and she had a lovely sweep over loin, good straight hocks and backed all this up with good clean movement and showed excellent reach in profile, had to be on her game to take this class and then on to BPB and BPIS
2. Withers: Wish Upon The Moon for Stanydale, 9 month Tri, who impressed a lot with her lovely balance, very good muzzle, straight, in good alignment and proportion to top skull with correct transition, dark in eye and good ear set, well angled front, very good length to forelegs which she held straight, not quite the bone of 1, good feet, chest width coming, held a good topline and moved well, clean going with some nice front reach.
3. Durant: Misti Moon Over Neraklee, 4. Hull: Lizmark Forget Me Not, 5. Mettan- Ure: Oakcroft Graceful Star over Savendie

Junior Bitch – (3-1)

1. Miles: Milesend Gold Silk. 15month sable of good type, such a sweet expression, good muzzle to skull planes, lovely shape to dark eye and correct in bite, ears well set, very good front, well laid shoulder, straight forelegs of just enough bone to well angled pasterns and neat feet, cracking topline and good angle to croup, tail set and length good, just a tad close going away but very sound coming and accurate in profile.
2. Mettan-Ure: Savendie Meleys. 1 year Tri who needs a bit more time to balance out, very good in head, muzzle and transition, good eyes and ears, shoulder had an OK lay but she holds her forelegs a little forward which made her look a little long and impacted on her topline which rose over loin a little too much, she was OK for bone and had a good turn to her stifle, tail set and length good, moved well throughout.

Novice Bitch – (6-2)

1. Revill: Stanydale Secret Dream at Neraklee. Very pleasing 2 year old Tri, well balanced and put together, good head with attentive expression, well pigmented in lips, good depth to muzzle, nice dark eye, plenty of neck to well laid shoulder, forelegs of good bone and length, held straight with good angle of stifle, well ribbed and held a very good topline, liked her sweep over croup and good length to tail, enough turn to stifle and low hocks, moved cleanly out and back and showed some good purpose in profile.
2. Miles: Milesend Black Ribbon. 15 month Tri who pushed 1 very close, lovely expression and very good shape to muzzle, good pigment to lips, correct in bite, eye and ears, very nice in neck to a shoulder that had a good angle of lay, held forelegs which were OK for bone nice and straight, level in back to a well angled rear moved cleanly out and back and with good footfall in profile, just not the reach and balance of 1 in profile today.
3. Winfield: Oakcroft Amazing Star, 4. Durant: Misti Moon Over Neraklee

Undergraduate Bitch (5/2)

1. Withers: Felthorn Athena at Stanydale. 2 year old sable who put in such a good performance today, of good size but so well balanced, very good in head, clean and straight in muzzle with good pigment, good bite and lovely well-shaped dark eye, correct transition through stop to top skull that aligned with her muzzle, ears sitting well and used well to create a very typical expression, enough neck and very well laid shoulder, held her forelegs nicely under

withers, good bone and correct in pastern with well-shaped feet, good ribbing and a very level topline which she held on the move, good angle to stifle, very straight and low in hock completed a pleasing rear, impressed on the move, clean and so well balanced which tipped the scales in her favour to take RBB in the challenge.

2. Flyma: Felthorn Material Girl of Flymeg. 2 year old merle, not quite the size and substance of 1 but in nice proportion, my notes say, a real cutie, pretty in expression with ears just a tad oversized, well angled front and good straight forelegs to neat feet, plenty of frill, lovely level topline with very good angle to croup, tail to hock, well angled stifle and she moved cleanly with some nice balance in profile.
3. Mettan-Ure: Savendie Meleys

Post Graduate Bitch (3/1)

1. Flyma: Felthorn Material Girl of Flymeg See above.
2. Fransham: Shelcrest Nightsky 6-year-old Tri of good proportions with a clean sharp wedge to head, good dark eye and well set ear, enough lay and really good width and depth to chest, well covered in body, a little too much rise over loin impacted her topline in profile, moved OK with good footfall, but unable to show more.

Limit Bitch (2/1)

1. Forster- Cooper: Sheltysam Idyll. 3-year-old sable of very nice size, really well proportioned, not too long in body, liked her expression very feminine and sweet with a dark eye, good flat top skull, well laid shoulder, held forelegs straight to well angled pasterns, well ribbed and held a good topline, moved clean, with a jaunty profile movement. Considered in the challenge.

Open Bitch (3/1)

1. Saunders: Tachnamadra Button Moon at Fernfrey. Lovely size to this 4 year old tri, who was so willing to please her handler, well-proportioned throughout and presented in excellent coat, loved her expression, clean muzzle, straight, in excellent angle to top skull with good transition, lovely dark eye and good ears, well laid shoulders to well boned forelegs of good length and excellent feet, held a super top line, plenty of ribbing and good sweep over croup to a well bent stifle and low hock, very clean out and back and correct in profile, moved well to take BB BOS and RBIS
2. Mitchell: Valdosta Goddess JW 3 year old sable who I really loved for her very good type and super sweet expression, dark eye, very proportionate muzzle to skull and excellent ears, which she used so well, well angled front, plenty of width and depth to chest and held a very good topline, well bodied and a good angle of stifle, whilst her profile movement was very good she was let down today by her movement going away which needed to be cleaner

Special Open Bitch Sable & White (0/0)

Special Open Bitch Tricolour & Black & White (4/1)

1. Saunders: Tachnamadra Button Moon at Fernfrey. BB BOS RBIS see above.
2. Withers: Neraklee Naomi at Stanydale. 8-year-old, very well put together and had a good expressions, muzzle straight but a tad longer than top skull as stop a little up, very good in eye and ears, good lay to shoulder and width to chest and held a very good topline, moved well all round, clean and steady.
3. Mettan-Ure: Savendie Meleys

Special Beginners Bitch (3/1)

1. Flyma: Felthorn Material Girl of Flymeg see above

Kennedy: Oakcroft Aurora Dream at Donbeley. 7 year old sable, well presented and in good proportion, very nice in head, giving a sweet expression, nice dark eye and pigment and held her ears very well, front angles OK but could take a tad more length to forelegs which she held straight, back level but too much rise over loin which meant she was not as balanced as 1 on the move, but was clean out and back.

Judge – Mr D. Bedford – Chateaunewf.