

English Shetland Sheepdog Club Championship Show 14th October 2023

Bitches Thank you to the ESSC committee for the invitation to judge bitches at this prestigious show and for their excellent hospitality. A huge thank you to my ultra efficient stewards Stuart and Afke who kept everything moving and on track whilst remaining totally unobtrusive, and finally thank you to all the exhibitors for entering their beautiful bitches under me. I had been looking forward to this appointment and certainly wasn't disappointed. I was delighted with my final line up and could easily have given out several CCs. and I had two well filled puppy classes teeming with quality. What a treat! It was also lovely to see so many super veterans throughout the classes, showing how well our breed lasts.

Veteran (10,4 abs.) 1.Lycett's Herds Halicia at Iliad. Bright red sable 10 yr old, in super coat, immaculately presented and not showing her age at all. She is nice to go over, in super body condition, has an excellent bend of stifle and long tail. A little reluctant to use her ears but when she does has a sweet expression. Moved well and was quietly and sympathetically handled. 2.Deveson's Janetstown Je Suis JW ShCM Youthful 9 yr old G/S of ideal size with very pretty head and expression, well rounded foreface, sweet eye and neat little ears. Super bend of stifle but would perhaps like a tad more leng1h to her upperarm. In good coat, well presented and moved well. 3. Gruszka's Samphrey Sea Breeze VW

Minor Puppy(12,3) 1.French's Skeldale Wish Upon a Star over Lindfern (Imp NLD) Very glamorous richly coloured sable, almost 7 mths. In ideal body condition, good for size and the correct amount of substance. Excellent angulation fore and aft, super reach of neck, level topline and a long well set and carried tail. Her head is well balanced with a sweet eye and neat ears but she still needs to clear in stop. Shode out well and was well presented. 2.Thornley & Withers' Felthorn Good Time Girl 6.5 mths B/M baby and very eye catching as she is a lovely colour with a super outline and arched neck and was so well presented. Really well angulated both ends with a sweeping croup and long tail. Good legs and feet, excellent bend of stifle with strong short hocks. Balanced in head with well placed ears, correct stop, flat skull and good underjaw. A shade erratic moving sometimes, due to puppy exuberance, but she has good reach and drive and stood and showed well. I hope she doesn't grow on but looks to have done most of her growing 3.Miles. Milesend Silver Moth Another lovely coloured blue who was close up.

Puppy(17,6) 1.Hill's Mad About You with Molson G/S of 8 mths who excels in breed type and is full of quality. Her head is a blunt wedge with flat skull, well rounded foreface, and smooth flat cheeks. Her perfectly tipped and placed ears and lovely dark almond eye give her a very sweet expression. She is perfect for size, very refined all through, is well constructed both ends, has nice legs and neat oval feet and moved well. Well presented and gently handled. BPB and with the agreement of my co judge BPIS. 2.Hayhurst's Keycharm Sweet Candy G/S unlucky to meet 1 as she is very similar in type, just a month younger. Most of the same remarks apply as she is also full of breed type and quality and I was splitting hairs between them. She has the same beautiful head type as 1 with a gorgeous expression and she moved and showed well and was beautifully presented. 3.Walker's Mossyfox My Trinity Smart tri who was a really super mover.

Junior(10) 1.Miles'Milesend Shadow Dancer Elegant wheaten, 12 mths, who catches the eye for her super shape and exceptional reach of neck. She has a lovely refined one piece head with a lean flat skull, correctly placed slight stop, neat well used ears and the gorgeous dark eye and pigment I always associate with this colour. Really good layback of shoulder and return of upper arm, super bend of stifle, level topline, long low set and carried tail and nice legs and feet. Lovely graceful mover. She was very well presented, as always from this exhibitor, but unfortunately her coat was at that typical junior in between stage. Reminded me of the illustrious "Milkshake" and I am sure she has great things to come as she matures on. 2.Rossiter's Molson More about me at Cocaro Very tidy g/s of lovely type. Well balanced in head with good stop, level planes, well placed and used ears and a dark eye. Lovely outline and topline with good reach of neck, excellent bend of stifle, neat short hocks and a long tail. Correct size, moved and showed well and was skilfully presented and handled. 3.Cheal's Valdosta Galadriel at Faemadra

Yearling(11,2) 1.Atkins' Esstremere Silver Lady B/M of exceptionally good colour and very well broken. Very well presented with sparkling white markings and at almost 2 yrs old had the edge on maturity in this class. Nicely moulded head with good foreface and a soft expression although I would like smaller and lighter ears.

Has very good bone and body condition, is very shapely, in excellent coat and she moved well. 2. Hayhurst's Keycharm Samba Very close up. Well balanced and nicely made rich red sable with a really pretty head and expression, good stop, flat skull, correct parallel planes and nice almond eye, if just a shade heavy in ear carriage. Good bone for her perfect size and she is nicely constructed and moved and showed well. Well presented and handled and unlucky to meet 1. 3. Hateley's Mohnesee Maebelle JW

Novice (16,4) 1. Miles' Milesend Holly Berry Really fell for this pretty little tri who is all Sheltie in outlook. Lovely well balanced head with good ear carriage, well filled foreface, and very dark eye. A narrow white blaze adds to her endearing expression. Not a big girl but has correct bone and substance, good legs and feet and is very well made. In good coat, beautifully presented. Moved well and showed her socks off. 2. Skelldale Wish Upon a Star over Lindfern (1st in MP) 3. Thomas' Myter Lunar Eclipse Promising tri who was Res in MP.

Tyro (1) 1st Massey's Echolynn Harmonic Among Ristine Tri girl Alone in this class but has some nice features including a wedge shaped head and sweet obliquely placed dark eye. She is good to go over, has a long tail, a happy temperament and moves well. Her profuse coat is a good deep black and of correct texture. Unfortunately just too much of her.

Graduate(9,1) 1. Revill's Mosardi Forget Me Not. Lovely coloured and well broken feminine blue merle. Ideal for size and is nicely made and has a lovely lean well balanced head with well placed and used ears. Good reach of neck and level topline and nice sweep over the croup leading to a long, well set and carried tail. A good mover and was well presented and handled. A shade narrow in front at the moment but I would expect this to improve as she matures on. 2. Aaron's Sendora to be Sensational for Shelridge. Another lovely blue merle girl, whose blue is also a good colour although she is more heavily marked than 1. Loved her shapely outline and exceptional angulation with super reach of neck, firm topline, sweeping croup and long tail. She has a one piece head of good length but I would prefer neater ears. Excellent bend of stifle, moved very well, superbly presented and well handled. 3. James' Valmay In Vogue JW

Post Graduate (8) The first two in this class were rather different in type and difficult to split but I really liked both of them. 1. Goodwin's Rannerdale Honey Bee at Highbrook G/S of really lovely breed type and with a gorgeous one piece wedge shaped head, so well moulded and clean and with correct parallel planes, slight well placed stop, super dark almond eye and perfectly placed, well used ears. A nice outline and excellent bend of stifle but perhaps a shade steep in upper arm. Moved well in profile and coming towards me if a shade untidily going away, but I am nit picking. In very good double coat of correct texture, ideal size and substance for a bitch and was well handled and presented. 2. Miles' Milesend Moondancer Super tri, one I have judged before and liked then and she has matured into a beautiful bitch. Superbly constructed with textbook front and rear construction, a lovely sweep over the loins and a low set tail that goes past her hocks. Very fluent on the move, in super well presented and correct textured coat, and showed very well. Her head has parallel planes and she has neat well used ears but is a shade deeper in stop than 1 and not quite as sweet in eye. 3. Perkins' Pepperhill Jive Talking at Calambray

Mid Limit (6,1) .Standlick's Lavika Lagoon Blue of MacStanryn Very elegant blue girl of good colour. Enthusiastic but difficult girl to show, who was giving her handler a hard time! I liked her very much on the table and was charmed by her lovely head and expression with her dark soft eye and neat ears for a blue. Very shapely with super reach of neck, level topline and excellent shoulder and upper arm. I would like a slightly longer tail and she can stand over extended behind due to her exuberant temperament, but her expert handler is aware and quickly corrects this. She has good reach and drive (when she isn't trying to race her handler) and was in good coat, well presented. I liked her enough to award her the Res CC in such hot competition and I gather she was made up the following day. Congratulations! 2. French's Lavika Soul of Gold for Lindfern. G/S with a really good reach of neck and elegant outline all the more apparent as she is out of coat at the moment. Her head is balanced although I would prefer a tad more underjaw and she has tidy ears and a sweet eye. Excellent bend of stifle and she moved out well. A close decision between 2 & 3 as the third placed was in better coat and also moved well but I just preferred the sweeter eye of 1. 3. Arnould's Shadoway Charlotte Rose

Limit(11) 1.Hill's Molsen Its Morven Very pretty and elegant G/S with a nicely proportioned head, sweet dark eye and well used correctly positioned ears. She has a super reach of neck leading to a really good topline with a sweeping croup and long tail. Good shoulder and upper arm angulation and excellent bend of stifle although I would perhaps like firmer hocks. Lovely flowing profile movement with excellent forward reach which clinched her this class over another lovely bitch. 2. Morrison's Ketim Future Edition. Pretty and feminine S/S bitch that I have often admired from the ringside and very unlucky to meet 1. Not over done in any way and is perfect for size and substance. Lovely one piece wedge head with just the right amount of stop and a perfectly placed very dark almond eye with good pigment giving her a lovely expression. Very well made with good topline and neat oval feet and was in good harsh well presented coat. She moved very soundly, and I preferred her stance behind over 1. but she didn't quite have the forward reach of the winner, 3. Mottram's Lundecock's There's No Limit at Lochkaren (imp.Swe)

Open(5,1) 1.Hardy's Sandwick Stage Show Smart and glamorous tri who will always catch the eye for her elegant outline, excellent reach of neck, level topline and superb construction. Her skull is flat and her stop is in the right place and she has a well rounded muzzle. She has a dark eye and uses her correctly placed and tipped ears well. Ideal shoulder and upper arm placement, strong hindquarters and a long tail complete the picture. An effortless and efficient mover who flowed round the ring in profile and was very skilfully presented as always from this exhibitor. In the challenge, in an indoor venue, I felt she was just showing a little too much daylight under her but a super bitch. 2.Welford's Ristine Emerald Another beautifully constructed tri, perhaps a shade stronger than 1, but she has much to like with her ideal front angulation, well bent stifle, short straight hocks, and faultless movement. Correct skull to foreface ratio, correctly placed stop and a dark eye. She was in super double coat of good texture and a good black. Showed well and was well presented and handled. 3. Robinson's Lavika Lucky Star JW

Sp. Open S/W (7,2) Hill's Molson Movie Star Gorgeous ultra feminine golden sable full of breed type and very refined in outlook. Her head is a classic wedge, with all the proportions exactly right, and she has a super dark, obliquely placed, almond eye and neat well carried and tipped ears giving her a lovely expression. She is a very graceful shape with arched neck, correct body proportions and good angulation both ends. Very nice legs and feet, low set tail, moved well and was well presented. This exhibitor is certainly producing a consistently beautiful type of Sheltie as she is very similar to my best puppy. 2.Rossiter's Lorainian Starlight Wonder Sprightly 9 yr old plain sable. Not quite the head properties of 1 but she is a super shape and very well angulated both ends, with her elbows well under her withers and an excellent bend of stifle. Good body length and reach of neck and well boned with correct substance. In excellent body condition and good coat, she moved well and was well presented and handled. 3.Bray's Stormraven Summer Love by Lianbray

Sp. Open Tri/Black & Tan/Black & White (4,1) 1.Stafford's Ch Rannerdale Queen of the Dark. I remember admiring this tri girl when she was just 6 mths at this show two years ago. Since then she has matured into a simply stunning adult and there is not much I would change about her. Not a small girl, but within the standard, and no mistaking her sex as she is so pretty and feminine. Her quality was obvious from the moment I had her on the table and she is so good to go over with excellent construction both ends, straight forelegs and hocks, a firm topline and long tail. She has a perfectly proportioned head with correct stop, flat skull and gently rounded foreface. Her ear carriage is exactly right and she has the sweetest dark almond eye (quite difficult to achieve in a tri) all combining to give a gorgeous expression enhanced by some pretty snippets of white on her face. She was in ideal body condition and an object lesson in presentation, as always from this exhibitor, with every shiny black hair gleaming. She moved very well with excellent reach and drive. BCC and with the agreement of my co judge BIS. 2. Bussey's Kelgrove Kinda Black Magic at Hamblrose Hard to believe this elegant girl is 10 as she is full of herself! She has such a graceful outline with a super reach of neck and level topline and her shiny, straight black coat was groomed to perfection. She is well made, with nice legs and feet and moves very well. She has a sweet, dark almond eye and good ear carriage, just showing her age a little in underjaw. 3. Cooper's Beckandfern Angel Delight at Wyckwood

Sp.Open Blue Merle ((5) 1.Thornley and Withers' Ch Mitchfields Fashion Girl at Felthorn Very shapely and graceful girl with correct overall body length, excellent layback of shoulder and corresponding return of upper arm, super arched neck, level topline and gently sloping croup. Really good bend of stifle, short hocks and long

low set tail. Her head has a very flat skull, slight but definite stop, well rounded foreface and firm underjaw and she has a nice dark eye. Really comes into her own on the move and I could watch her all day, so correct with really excellent forward reach. 2. Barraclough's Shadowess True Blue So unlucky to come up against the winner as she is also a lovely bitch and an exquisite colour and super shape. She is very refined in head with parallel planes, lean flat skull, perfectly placed stop, flat cheeks, gently rounded muzzle and a sweet expression. She is decently made with a lovely outline, well bent stifle and neat short hocks and she moved well but couldn't quite match the exceptional forward reach of the winner, although I preferred her colour to the winner's. Extremely well presented and handled and she showed beautifully. One who has been hitting the high spots recently and I hope her day will come. 3. Perkin's Pepperhill Jive Talking at Calambray

Breeders (3,1) 1. Hateley's Ch Mohnesee Sweet Dreams JW G/S/W looking every inch the champion she is. Her head is a long blunt wedge and very well moulded with a flat skull, rounded foreface, slight but definite stop, a sweet dark almond eye and correctly placed and tipped ears all combining to produce the ideal expression that we all strive for. Very mature in body with a deep chest and plenty of substance, well bent stifle, strong hocks giving her very good rear drive. She was well presented in super coat, she moved well and was expertly handled. 2. Arnould's Shadoway Perchance to Dream One I haven't seen out for a while and it is hard to believe she is 12 years old as she has scarcely changed a bit. Still a very enthusiastic show girl and has retained so many pleasing properties. She is very well angulated both ends with especially good bend of stifle and correct body length. Different type of head from 1 but it is still very well balanced, although with a slightly deeper stop and a shade fuller eye than 1, but her expression is still very endearing. She moved like a youngster and came in to successfully challenge several other beautiful veterans for BVB and with the agreement of my co judge BVIS

Sp. Open Working (1) 1. Sheltysam Medley of Gold AW(S)R6 EX Stood alone in this class but absolutely worthy of her place as she is a really pretty little shaded sable, dripping in coat and presenting a very pleasing picture. Very sweet in head with super neat little ears and a very dark almond eye giving her such a gorgeous expression. At 9 years old she is still moving out very well and full of enthusiasm.

Judge - Linda Whittington