

## The English Shetland Sheepdog Club Open Show 26th April 2025

Thank you to The English Shetland Sheepdog Club for inviting me to judge your Spring Open Show. This was my first time judging in the UK, and you all made it a truly enjoyable experience. A special thank you to the ring stewards for their kindness and patience, to the organisers for ensuring everything ran smoothly, and to everyone who contributed to the pleasant and welcoming atmosphere around the ring. I was very pleased with the overall quality of the entry, particularly among the bitches, who made the Best Bitch challenge especially difficult. There were probably four or five bitches who could have taken the top spot on the day. As in Scandinavia, I noticed the same challenges with steep shoulders and upper arms. Overall rear construction was generally very good. I was also pleased to see very few tails carried too high – tail carriage is so important for maintaining correct breed type, so this was a real positive. Most dogs were presented in excellent condition, which was lovely to see. One small point to be mindful of is dental hygiene – a few exhibits had some tartar build-up, which is easy to overlook but worth attending to for the dogs' long-term comfort and well-being. Thank you once again for your warm hospitality. It was a real pleasure to be part of your show, and I went home with many happy memories.

**Dogs Baby puppy dog 1.** Hardin's Sheltysham Mystic Miles. Such a sweet and balanced baby boy. Lovely expression with a sweet eye. Neat ears. Well moulded foreface. Moved very well for his age. Promising coat and colour. Very charming lad! **2.** Morrison's Sanscott Late Edition With Ketim. Sweet boy. Head built on shorter lines than number one. Still a little bit steep in his shoulder shortening his neckline. Very well angulated in the rear. Very promising coat and colour.

**Minor puppy dog 1.** Fisher's Shellamoyed Winter Blues. Masculine young blue merle. Nicely broken coat with rich tan markings. Well moulded foreface, neat ears and a lovely eye. Lovely bone and body. Slightly steep in shoulder and could move out with more drive but he is still such young man so this can change.

**Puppy dog 1.** Hateley's Mohnesee The Charm Master. Lovely for type. Excelling in neck and topline giving him that typical sheltie silhouette. Still needs to mature and set into his lovely frame which I am sure he will as he is still so young. Lovely head with a masculine expression. Dark almond shaped eyes and neat ears. Nice bone. Super coat quality and colour. Promising movement for his age. Looking forward to seeing him develop. **2.** Gartland's Arcot Polished Black. Another lovely puppy dog. Shorter in head than number one but still with a nice expression. Neat ears. Jet-black colour and a rich tan. Promising coat. Lovely bone and substance. Balanced in his angulations and movement. Preferred the silhouette of number one.

**Junior dog 1.** Winfield's Iskander Bohemia Classic for Oakcroft. Such a balanced and sound dog with a lovely well-moulded head and a masculine yet sweet expression. Lovely dark almond shaped eyes and neat ears. Well angulated front and rear although somewhat steep in shoulder. Well-developed ribcage and super bone. Very sound on the move. Carrying a lovely rich sable coat. **2.** Norris' Ferngrove's Code Blue. This one I liked much for the same reasons as number one. Full of substance. Balanced in his proportions, nice angulations and moved out well. Lovely wedge-shaped head with neat ears and almond shaped eyes. His stop could be more defined. Also carrying a lovely coat that fits him well. The blue colour could be clearer but is well marbled.

**Novice dog 1.** Winfield's Iskander Bohemia Classic for Oakcroft. **2.** Hateley's Mohnesee The Charm Master.

**Graduate 1.** Gartland's Arcot Polished Black **2.** Ayres' The Great Houdini From Amethrickeh. Lovely silhouette on this masculine dog. Balanced in his angulations. Moved with plenty of drive from behind. Still a bit unstable in front. Well-moulded head with a masculine expression. Dark eyes that are a bit full. Neat ears. Lovely rich sable and a very nice coat. For me he is a bit coarse for his age and that was why he lost to number one.

**Post graduate dog 1.** Miles' Ribans Goldstar of Milesend. Shorter type dog but still with a lovely outline. Nicely moulded, shorter type head with a perfectly defined stop. Dark eyes and neat ears. I

really liked his neck and topline. Fitting bone for his size. Moved out well. Carried himself well. Fitting coat with a nice colour. 2. Varnom's Milesend Blue Jeans. Masculine blue dog. He has a well-moulded head. A bit steep in shoulder shortening his neck. Otherwise, good for substance. Well angulated in the rear. Lovely bone. Moved out well. A bit too dark blue for me. Nice coat quality.

**Limit dog** 1. Goldie's Blenmerrow Mazurka. Nothing overdone with this dog. He has a sweet expression. Wedge shaped head with dark almond shaped eyes and neat ears. He could have had a better layback of shoulder giving him more length in neck. He has a lovely sweep over the loins and is well angulated in the rear. Nice substance for his size and lovely bone. Moves out with enough drive but could have more reach in front. Coat of nice quality with a lovely colour. 2. Pattinson's Kyleburn Hidden Dream. Heavier type of dog. Nicely moulded wedge-shaped head with neat ears. A bit full eye. Balanced in his angulations. Could do with a little more length to his neck. Moves out with good drive from behind.

**Open dog** 1. Hull's Mohnesee's Dream Date of Lizmark JW. I fell so in love with this masculine dog oozing of sheltie type. His head and expression is to die for with his perfectly almond shaped obliquely set dark eyes. Perfectly moulded head with neat ears. When he looked at me my heart melted. He is so balanced in his angulations with super substance and bone. Balanced on the move and moved out with purpose. He was a bit lazy to begin with but got better and better as the day progressed. I was delighted to award him best of breed and best in show. I was very surprised to hear that he not yet was made up for his champion title, but I am sure that he will someday. 2. Mettan-Ure's Oakcrofts Venturer Avec Savendie. This glamorous dog really stands out with his lovely silhouette. Beautiful neck and topline with super layback of shoulder. Balanced front and rear. Beautifully moulded head with neat ears. His eyes are a bit full. Lovely fitting coat with super structure. He was a bit too erratic on the move and that was why he lost to number one.

**Special open dog (sable/white)** 1. Robinson's Ch Lavika Starlight Salute. I really liked this dog. So glamorous and with great substance. He is not small but still of excellent sheltie type. Beautiful outline and silhouette. Strong well-moulded head with a melting expression. So balanced all over with super angulations front and rear. Well-shaped chest with good depth. Moved with drive and purpose. Lovely fitting coat. Presented to perfection. It was a pleasure awarding him reserve best dog. 2. Winfield's Oakcroft The Mandalorian JW. Not small this one either but not too big. Masculine well-moulded head with neat ears. Nice topline. A little bit steep shoulder. Well angulated in the rear. Nice bone. Fitting coat with a nice colour. Moved well.

**Special open dog (tricolour)** 1. Gartland's Arcot Polished Black. 2. Fisher's Lavika The Tempest at Shellamoyed. Striking jet-black colour and lovely tan on this tricolour. Well-moulded head with a nice expression. Neat ears. Sound throughout. Nothing overdone. Nice on the move but not as good as number one.

**Special open dog (blue merle)** 1. Forster Parish's Lowick Blueberry. Super clear silvery blue nicely marbled with black and with a lovely tan. Well-shaped head with a rounded muzzle. Ears are a little big as they often are on the blues. Balanced in his angulations front and rear. Lovely bone and substance. Moved with drive. Well presented. 2. Ayres' Gemette Gone Platinum. Another lovely clear blue colour. Well-moulded head with a nice expression. Lovely outline and lay-back of shoulder. Steep upper arm showed in his front movement, but he had great drive from behind. Lovely bone and substance.

**Veteran dog** 1. Hull's Mohnesee's Dream Date of Lizmark JW. 2. Walker's Ch Tooralie's Ocho Rios JW. Such a nice shape on this lovely veteran! Loved his outline. Well-moulded head with a nice expression. Neat ears. Balanced throughout with lovely bone and substance. Fitting coat not hiding his lovely neck and outline. Moved with drive. Special beginners dog 1. Clayson's Lavika Prince Misha. Such a happy boy! Jet black colour. Shorter type of head. Neat ears. His eyes could be darker. Steep shoulder and loose in elbows. Super bone and nice substance. Very happy on the move and proud of his tail. Sweet temperament.

**Bitches Baby puppy bitch** 1. Naulls' Wynelle's Golden Thoughts. Promising feminine baby girl. Such a well-shaped head for her age. Neat ears and a lovely eye. A little bit steep in shoulder but a nice upper arm. Well-bodied for her age and with fitting bone for her size. Very nice type. Looking forward to seeing how she develops. 2. Moore's Sanscott Ruby Tuesday. Another sweet baby girl in this class. Excelling with her lovely dark almond shaped eyes. Contributing to a mild and sweet expression. A little bit shorter neck than number one but still early days for such a young puppy. Moved out quite balanced for her age.

**Minor puppy bitch** 1. Winfield's Oakcroft Amazing Star. This puppy caught my eye the moment she entered the ring. Her shape is just perfect and add to that a super feminine expression in a well moulded head with neat ears and dark almond shaped eyes. So balanced throughout. Balanced mover when she relaxes into it. This is one to watch for the future. Charming show girl. I was honoured to award her best puppy. 2. Haensel's Frecia Blue Sa ire at Sherkarl. Another promising puppy. Lovely clear silvery blue. Well angulated front and rear. Shorter type of head with a feminine expression. The ears could be smaller. Lovely bone for her age and size. Moved soundly.

**Puppy bitch** 1. Bray's Lianbray Lucy Locket. Super feminine puppy girl with a lovely expression. Shorter type of head with neat ears and lovely dark eyes. Beautiful silhouette. Balanced front and rear angulations that showed in her movement. Should have a bright future. 2. Mettan-Ure's Oakcroft Graceful Star Over Savendie. Another feminine girl. Not as developed as number one but still promising. Beautiful eyes and expression. Ears could be smaller. Beautiful outline. Balanced front and rear. Moved with drive. Promising coat and colour.

**Junior bitch** 1. Miles' Milesend Gold Silk. Super construction on this lovely junior bitch. Loved her front assembly, her beautiful neck and topline and lovely sweep over the loins. Moved effortlessly with reach and drive. Stronger type of head but still with a beautiful expression. Lovely wedge-shape, dark almond shaped eyes and neat ears. 2. Johnson's Willowthorn's Roulette. Nothing overdone on this bitch. Balanced throughout. Lovely lines and bone. Alert expression. Super fitting coat with good texture. Warm sable colour.

**Novice bitch** 1. Wise's Milesend Golden Lace. Feminine racey type of bitch. I really liked her for her lovely silhouette with a beautiful neck and topline. She has a lovely head with a beautiful expression. Dark almond shaped eyes and neat ears. Fitting bone. She doesn't have a lot of coat but enough. 2. Haensel's Sherkarl Blue Elegance. Nice blue bitch. Shorter type of head. Lovely eyes. Ears could be neater. Good lay-back of shoulder contributing to a nice outline. Upper arm is a little bit steep. Fitting bone.

**Graduate bitch** 1. Hayhurst's Keycharm Sweet Candy. This bitch is for me a true sheltie. She is oozing of sheltie type. She has a perfectly moulded head with dark almond shaped eyes obliquely set and neat ears giving her that typical soft and sweet expression. She has a sound construction, good substance, balanced angulations front and rear and moved effortlessly. Coat in full bloom. I was happy to award her best bitch and reserve best in show. 2. Hateley's Mohnesee Meliya JW. Another top bitch that I really liked. This one a lovely tricolour with a jet-black coat. Standing out with her beautiful outline and effortless movements. Perfect bone and substance. Well-moulded head with an alert expression. Absolutely one of the top contenders of the day.

**Post graduate bitch** 1. Robinson's Lavika's Sign Of The Time. Racey bitch. Lovely feminine head and expression. Dark almond shaped eyes and neat ears. Beautiful outline. Longer in body. Balanced throughout. Not a lot of coat on the day but enough. Beautifully presented. 2. Weller's Evad Halloween Spice JW. Well-constructed bitch. Shorter type of head. Nice outline with a beautiful sweep over the loins. Balanced on the move. Limit bitch 1. Miles' Milesend Shadow Dancer. Striking pale sable bitch built on beautiful lines. Super conformation. Well-moulded head with a beautiful feminine expression. Loved her angulations front and rear. Moved effortlessly around the ring. 2. French's Lavika Soul Of Gold for Lindfern. Balanced bitch without exaggerations. Lovely head and expression. A slightly longer underjaw would make her head even better. Beautiful outline. Perfect bone for her size. Good substance. Fitting coat.

**Open bitch** 1. Raaff 's Molson Miss Congeniality for Stormraven. Longer type of bitch but still feminine and with a lovely expression. Longer head with neat ears and beautiful dark almond shaped eyes. She has a long neck and a beautiful topline. Lovely sweep over the loins. Carrying a big coat. Sound mover. Fitting bone. 2. Rowan's Sonymer's Illusive Gold at Rowancrest. Another one on the longer side. Excels in movement. Moves out with plenty of reach and drive. Well angulated front and rear. Well-moulded head but not as sweet in expression as number one.

**Special open bitch (sable & white)** 1. Robinson's Ch Lavika Lateca. Lovely class won by this striking sable girl in full bloom. Feminine head with a melting expression. Neat ears. Super outline with balanced angulations. Loved her bone. Moved soundly around the ring. 2. Hateley's Ch Mohnesee Enchanted. Another beautiful sable girl. This one excelling with a wonderful outline and well-moulded head. She has such beautiful eyes giving a melting expression. Fitting coat. She moves with plenty of drive from the rear. Could be more stable in front.

**Special open bitch (tricolour)** 1. Welford's Ristine Emerald. Well-constructed heavier type of bitch. Beautiful jet-black coat and rich tan markings. Nice front assembly. Well-moulded head with neat ears. Moved well. 2. Mettan-Ure's Savendie Meleys. Racey bitch. Built on beautiful lines. Good layback of shoulders. Quite light in body. Beautiful black colour. Lovely eyes and sweet expression.

**Special open bitch (blue merle)** 1. Robinson's Lavika Sunset Rose JW. Striking blue merle bitch with a fantastic silvery blue colour nicely marbled with black. Lovely front assembly and well-constructed rear. Beautiful topline. Sweet head and expression. One of the best movers of the day. She was such a joy to see floating around the ring. Presented to perfection. I was very happy to award her reserve best bitch in sti competition. 2. Daniels & Taylor's Pepperhill Light'N Shade. Beautiful silvery blue bitch perfectly marbled with black. Lovely tan. Feminine head. Balanced throughout. Good bone. Not as good on the move as number one but sound.

**Veteran bitch** 1. Hateley's Ch Mohnesee Sweet Dreams JW. This veteran bitch melted my heart with her perfectly moulded head, dark almond shaped eyes obliquely set and neat ears giving that true sheltie expression. She also has a super outline, fitting bone and moved well around the ring. 2. Gruszka's Samphrey Sea Breeze VW. Very nice old lady. Good mover for her age. Lovely outline. Fitting bone. Well-moulded head with neat ears. Nice well-managed coat.

**Special beginners bitch** 1. Kennedy's Oakcroft Aurora Dream at Donbeley. Sweet girl. Well-moulded head with a nice expression. Bit light ears. Good substance. Fitting bone. Lovely rich sable coat. 2. Robson's Saxonoak Rose of Cimarron. Lovely clear silvery blue colour on this bitch. Shorter type of head with a sweet feminine expression. Lovely bone and substance.

Judge: Mr. Jostein Tostrup (Belmara)