

English Shetland Sheepdog Club Open Show. 27 April 2024

I should like to thank the ESSC Club for the invitation to judge at this the 110th anniversary show. A nice new venue, and as always, a well organised and friendly atmosphere. Thanks also to Stuart Gruszka, and Dawn Barnett who stewarded for me, and kept me supplied with cups of tea. BIS was Ch Lizmark Lullaby Moon over Mohnesee, a lovely blue merle, in top condition, Res BIS and BOS was the young tri dog Lavika Moonlight Storm. Best Puppy Dog & BPIS Myter Black Tarquin at Stormhead (a very difficult choice between two lovely babies). Best Veteran Achor's Surprise Percy Polaris for Torinska.

Minor Puppy Dog 1 Rutterford's Myter Black Tarquin at Stormhead. BPD, BPIS A well-balanced boy, that moved soundly. Lovely dark eye, good ears, and reach of neck. In the challenge for best dog puppy, I preferred his stronger bone, and in the challenge for BPIS he pulled out all the stops, moving with energy and drive. A lovely young boy.

Puppy Dog 1 1 Pierce's Sabema Mayandi. Handsome golden sable, with good reach of neck, responsive to his handler, I would have liked more fill of foreface, which maturity will probably bring.

Junior Dog 5 1 Winfield's Oakcroft The Mandalorian. Well balanced beautifully sound dog. Level top line, good angulation, and good strong bone. 2 Hoare's Stanydale Ocean Wave. Another dog with good strong bone, and level topline. Sympathetically handled.

Novice Dog 5 1 Myter Black Tarquin at Stormhead. 2 Rhodes' Felthorn Poseidon. Dark well placed eye, stood four square, not in his best coat today, but showed well.

Graduate Dog 4 1 Linford's Hillhenry In Your Honour. Well balanced tri with excellent angulation, level topline, correct size and superbly presented. Not an easy dog to handle, his sensitivity towards sudden sound and movement tending to make him edgy. Look forward to seeing him mature. 2 Varnom's Milesend Black Tartan. Another nice tri dog well presented. Broader in back and chest than 1. Nice dark eye, correct angulation, huge ruff which hides his length of neck.

Post Graduate Dog 3 1 Dimmocks Shougie's Secret Agent For Fernhill, well balanced tri dog with nice dark eye, sweet expression, and beautifully presented. Well muscled thighs and nice level top line., 2 Varnom's, Milesend Blue Jeans. An old favourite of mine. Nice deep chest, and has good bone, nice, neat ears

Limit Dog 11 (6a) 1 Robinson's Lavika Moonlight Storm. Beautifully constructed tri dog with good bone, and covered the ground with ease. A level top line and clean skull, well placed dark eye. Was pleased to award him Best Dog, Res BIS, and BOS 2 Morrison's Ketim Final Edition. Won this place on his lovely movement. Correct head and skull, dark eye, and responsive to his handler.

Open Dog 3 1 Moore's Torinska River Romeo for Shetlo. Strong boned, well constructed boy, with well placed dark eye. In good coat with lovely sweep over the loins. His abundant coat, and long neck giving the impression of being larger than he actually is. 2 Hull's Mohnesee's Dream Date at Lizmark. Well proportioned sable, spot on for size, just preferred the more masculine head of 1. Moved well.

Special Open Sable /White 6 (3a) 1 Torinska River Romeo for Shetlo. 2 Mitchell's Valdosta Graceland JW. My notes say 'gorgeous colour', and looking at his breeding I can see why. Had a lovely head and expression, with flat skull and neat well placed ears. Not as good a shoulder angulation as 1, but this did not stop him moving well, to gain this place.

Special Open Tricolour/Black & White/Black & Tan 3 (1a) 1 Thornley's Felthorn Barnaby Rudge. Lovely gentle boy, with correct skull and foreface, and good clean dentition. Flat cheeks, merging into well rounded muzzle. Could look at his face all day. Nice level topline, and well presented. Was pleased to award him Res Best Dog. 2 Thornley's and Wither's Felthorn Cover Story. Broader head than 1, with a good fill of foreface, and slightly cobbler body. Moved well.

Special Open Blue Merle 4 1 Robinson's Ch Lavika Deep Blue Ocean. One I have judged before and am glad to see has now gained his tittle. I see from the catalogue that he is the sire of my best dog winner. Excellent construction, that completely fits the standard. Nice wedge-shaped head and a coat that fits his body. Thought that today he lacked his previous sparkle, and in the challenge seemed a little unsettled. 2 Milesend Blue Jeans.

Veteran Dog 5 (4a) 1 Riding's Achor's Surprise Percy Polaris for Torinska. Well balanced nine and half year old dog, who moved and showed well. Still a nice coloured blue.

Special Beginners 3 (1a) 1 Pierce's Ferngrove Donavan. Placed lower down the line in earlier classes, has correct head and eye placement, and good bone, but feel he is top size. He won this class on his movement. 2 Revill's Mosardi Don't Stop. Broader skull than 1, but well put down, and very responsive to handler. Originally thought that this would be my winner, but moved rather erratically, and felt I was not seeing him at his best.

Minor Puppy Bitch 2 1 Hateley's Mohnesee Lullaby Ice. Beautifully proportioned BM, Level topline, correct size and carriage of ears showed well. Lovely baby. 2 Yaxley's Lavika The Perfect Storm. Tri baby, with good bone, nice fill of foreface, needs to mature, for her top line to level out.

Puppy Bitch 3 1 Hateley's Mohnesee Meliya. Correct angulation, good reach of neck, lovely rich tan, dark well placed eye. Flowed around the ring with confidence. Superb presentation, as always from this kennel. I was pleased to make her Best Puppy bitch and had initially expected her to be best puppy in show, but with BPD, and BPB side by side it was splitting hairs, and I preferred the proportions, and length of back of the dog puppy. Nevertheless I'm sure this young lady will certainly hit the high spots in the future. 2 Norris' Sabema Mayfly at Ferngrove. Slightly shorter and broader in body than 1, with nice reach of neck, and good shoulder angulation. Another baby that should mature well.

Junior Bitch 7 (3a) 1 French's Skeldale Wish Upon A Star Over Lindfern. (Imp NDL). Another glamorous s/w, with good balance and excellent angulation. Stood four square, with well let down hocks. 2 Ambler's Dancing In The Dark. Sound tri with good bone, and nice dark eye. Well moulded foreface, longer in back than 1

Novice Bitch 7 (3a) 1 Wither's Felthorn Athena at Stanydale. At just over 12 months, this young lady was in between coats, which gave her symmetrical outline a rather ragged look. Underneath I found her to be well constructed, with a sweet expression, and nice dark eye. More mature than 2 and moved well to win the class. 2 Mohnesee Lullaby Ice.

Graduate Bitch 3 (1a) 1 Skeldale Wish Upon A Star Over Lindfern 2 Cheal's Valdosta Galadriel at Faemadra JW. My notes say similar in type to 1, and in fact I found that they were by the same sire. Good flat skull, well let down hocks, but would have liked more neck.

Post Graduate Bitch 4 (1a) 1 Revill's Mosardi Forget Me Not. Another class where I was splitting hairs, between placings. A bm, with symmetrical outline, good ear carriage, and reach of neck and nice fill of foreface. Very well balanced. 2 French's Lavika Soul of Gold For Lindfern.. Another that stood foursquare, and had a nice reach of neck, just preferred the flatter skull and foreface of 1.

Limit Bitch 5 (1a) 1 Saunders Tachnamadra Button Moon at Fernfrey. A three year old tri, that has matured slowly to show off her lovely level topline, and reach of neck. She has good bone, and a nice dark eye, and was one of the best movers of the day. 2 Morrison's Ketim Future Edition. A shapely shaded sable, with good dark eye, harsh coat, and nice reach of neck, although she tended to pull her head into her shoulders to hide it.

Open Bitch 3 (1a) 1 Hateley's Ch Mohnese Enchanted. Now at aged 4 a mature plain sable, who stood and showed to perfection. Excellent presentation, nice dark eye, reach of neck and level topline. Love this girl but in the challenge, felt she lacked the sparkle of her youth. 2 Cheal's Carolen Call My Bluff At Faemadra. Good flat skull and topline. Lovely sweep over the loins. Not as profuse in coat as 1

Special Open Sable & White 2 (1a) 1 Mitchell's Valdosta Goddess JW. Although the only competitor in the class, was still a worthy winner. Level topline, nice dark eye, with melting expression, well presented.

Special Open Tri/ b/w /b/t 5 1 Tachnamadra Button Moon at Fernfrey. 2 Whittington's Esterbon Three Kisses For Tighness. Well known 7 year old with good length of stride, well laid back shoulder and sweet expression.

Special Open Blue Merle 1 1 Hateley's Ch Lizmark Lullaby Moon Over Mohnese JW. Absolutely lovely girl. Well balanced, with flat skull and moulded foreface, good ear carriage, dark eyes, arched neck, good depth of chest. Well broken blue, and totally at one with her handler. Stood four square, and simply showed her head off. I had no hesitation in awarding her Best Bitch, and Best in Show.

Veteran bitch 8 (1a) What a lovely class of veterans, their owners should be proud of every one of these lovely elderly ladies. Thank you for giving me the chance to see them. 1 Whittington's Tighness The Tide Is High. What a glorious red gold this girl is. At nine years old, she still looked capable of doing a good day's work. The word 'lithe' describes her accurately as does the term, 'sufficient length of neck to carry the head proudly' 2 Fransham's Shelysham Bedazzled at Franmead JW. A sound compact tri, that moved well. Had particularly nice neat feet. Still looked as though she could do a day's work.

Special Beginners Bitch 2 1 Mosardi Forget Me Not. 2 Kennedy's Oakcroft Aurora Dream at Donbeley. Well balanced golden sable, with smooth cheeks, dark eye, and sweet expression.

Baby Puppy Dog or Bitch 2 (1a) 1 Mettan-Ure's Savendie Fortune's Feather. Charming BM bitch puppy. Well balanced, with good eye, deep chest, stood well and sympathetically handled. Good luck with her in the future.

Judge Val Woolley