

Midland Counties Canine Society Championship Show 28th October 2022

Thank you to the Committee for inviting me to award my first set of CC's in Shetland Sheepdogs, at this very friendly and well organised show. To finally get in the ring was a relief after having 2 previous appointments cancelled elsewhere due to the Covid issues that the country had faced at the time. I was thrilled to have such a large entry with very few absentees and there was quality throughout, however I was also a bit disappointed to note that since I had last judged the breed at a Club show in 2017, there were a higher number of exhibits with upright shoulders and quite a few with shortish tails, that would not reach to the hock. That said I was still very pleased with the quality of my class and principal winners and there were a number in each sex who I would gladly have awarded the CC to on another day. I was pleased to hear that the following day both of my CC winners repeated their respective wins at a Breed Club Championship show under 2 well respected breed specialists, so congratulations on your very successful weekend.

MPD (3) 1 Fisher's Foxstones Take a Chance On Me: 7 months old. Not a flashy dog but he is a nice size for a puppy and presents a lovely shape and profile. He has a balanced head with masculine expression and has nice almond shaped eyes which are well set. Good ear shape and carriage finish the picture. Good reach of neck with correct lay back of shoulder and reasonable length of upper arm. Chest and body are still developing as you would expect in a puppy, but the outline is well balanced. Rear angulation is nice with well let down hocks and correct tail length. All through he is a very nice youngster who moves well, and I was pleased to award him BPD. 2 Robinson's Lavika Moonlight Storm; 6 month old Black Tri colour with nice tan markings who is smaller all round than the winner. As you would expect his head is still developing, he has almond shaped eyes with a nice dark colour but would prefer them to be a touch smaller. In a male I would like more roundness to the muzzle with also a stronger underjaw, but this may come with time. Shoulders are ok but he would benefit from a touch more length of neck. Well-constructed to rear, but still needs to strengthen behind. Sound movement and strides out well in front, keeping a level top line on the move. Presented in nice coat and condition by his handler. 3 Norris' Ferngrove's Valentino.

PD (1) 1 Fisher's Foxstones Take A Chance On Me: BPD First in MPD.

JD (2) 1 Mottram's Lundecock's Hoopie-Doo at Lochkaren (Imp Swe); 13 month old Sable who presents a glamorous picture with his full white collar and lovely coat. Masculine head which does not need to strengthen anymore. Muzzle is rounded with a well-defined underjaw, and he has correctly placed and shaped dark eyes. Flat top skull and neatly positioned ears, which finishes off his good expression. Well arched neck and well laid shoulder, but to be hypercritical would prefer a touch more length of upper arm. Good bone and substance for a junior and is quite strong in body for his age. He has a strong top line, has a good croup, and is well angulated in his rear assembly. Moved out well for his handler – a lovely young dog with good ring presence. 2). Hirst's Sundark Scaramouche; 14 month old Blue Merle who has good head proportions, nice muzzle, one blue and one brown almond shape eye, which with his well set ears, complement his pleasing masculine head shape. Sufficient length of arched neck, on reasonable shoulders, but his front assembly still needs to tighten up. Reasonable body shape that is still developing, nice sweep over the loins with a sloping croup and good rear angulation. At the "in between stage" for coat today and moves ok around the ring.

YD (2) 1 Ayres' Gemette Gone Platinum; 20 month old, Blue Merle male. Reasonable head with a blunt wedge shape, good eye shape and nicely tipped ears. Head still needs to finish maturing and develop in the cheeks to give a fully rounded muzzle. Nice neck and good shoulders with straight front. A little narrow all through at present, with chest needing to develop as he matures but he has a good front assembly, reasonable bone & substance, and a nice outline. Good rear angulation and tail carriage. Coat colour and markings are pleasing with a clear silvery blue ground colour and a well broken Merle pattern. Movement was ok but could be a bit tidier in his front action. 2 Sutherland's Shelcrest Winter Solstice at Suthesley JW; 22 month old Shaded Sable who presents a mature

picture. On balance I preferred his head to that of the winner as he has a more “finished” expression. He has dark well shaped eyes, a good muzzle, flat top skull, and attentive ears. Reasonable front and rear angulation with good bone and nice feet. Holds his top line well on the move, but today his front and rear action were not quite coordinated, and he was a touch wide in the front and needs to settle more on the move.

PGD (8:1) 1 Barrowclough ‘s Shadowess Lockdown Hero; A lovely 2.5 year old dark Sable male with no white collar. Not a dog that immediately takes the eye but lots to like about him. He has a well-balanced head with nice almond shaped eyes and correct ear set. Good arched neck of reasonable length, and shoulders with good angulation leading on to a straight front. Good top line, deep chest, and well sprung ribs. Enough angulation to rear and presented in lovely coat and condition. A touch happy with his tail on the move, but his foot placement was accurate, and he moved well around the ring. 2 Officer’s Balidorn Secret Gold; 2 year old Sable male. A nice dog of correct size and has a lovely shape and outline in profile. Touch finer in the head than the winner, but it is well balanced with a masculine expression. Dark well shaped eyes which are well placed, and he has a good ear carriage. Good reach of neck, correct lay back of shoulder and nice length of upper arm. Body and chest still need to finish their development and I would just prefer a touch more bone for a male. Rear angulation is good. Presented in good coat & condition and moved well. 3 Stock’s Shemist Sea Dragon.

LD (9:1) 1 Redpath ‘s Molson Miroquai Into Pathaaron; 3 years old. Good sized Sable male, presented in full adult coat and lovely condition. His head is well proportioned with correct wedge shape and balance to skull and muzzle. Correct almond shaped eyes and well placed & used ears. Nice arch of neck, set on to good shoulders and a straight front. Well bodied and correct depth of chest. Graceful sweep of croup into nice tail set and good rear angulation. Moves true in front and holds his topline well and was presented in full bloom. A dog of definite quality who I am sure will have a very successful future. 2). Gamble’s Solyric Inaugural Gold JW OSW; 5 year old Shaded Sable with a pleasing head and masculine expression. A touch finer in head than the winner, but everything is in balance with good muzzle, eye placement and well used ears. Good front assembly and shoulders with well-developed chest and body. Good top line, croup, and tail set. He is a nice overall size and shape and although a touch smaller than the winner, he still presents a mature masculine picture. Presented in nice coat and condition and moved well around the ring. 3 Bird & Caden’s Molson Mr Blue Sky JW.

OD (6:2) This class was an absolute pleasure to judge as it contained 3 very high quality Champion males, any of which would have been worthy of the award of CC. In the end however there could only be one top award, and this went to 1 Pearson ‘s Ch Edglonian Golden Graham; 2 year old glamorous Sable who just exudes quality. He took my eye immediately upon first examination of the class and then when I went over him, he did not disappoint. Classic head with nice blunt wedge and good underjaw, good bite, correct eye shape and excellent ear carriage. Muscular arched neck reaching into good shoulder angulation and a straight front. Mature in body with a good deep chest, level back and a gradual fall away of croup. Good angulation to rear and strong flexible pasterns. He projects elegance in profile and for me is so well balanced all through, with textbook proportions that typify the breed standard. In full adult coat and presented in a beautiful condition. On the move he is smooth with excellent reach and drive never putting a foot wrong. A pleasure to judge and I was delighted to award him the Dog CC & BoB. Congratulations. 2 Stafford’s Ch Rannerdale Showmaster, JW; A 4 year old Sable who is also another absolutely top class dog. Masculine, wedge shaped head that was completely in balance, with a rounded muzzle, good underjaw, almond shaped eyes, and well placed ears on a flat skull. Muscular well arched neck, good shoulder and upper arm, nice depth to the chest and a good spring and length to the rib. Good sweep over croup with well let down hocks, good feet, and correct tail carriage. Moved out effortlessly with reach and drive. Presented a lovely picture both standing and on the move. I was absolutely splitting hairs between these 2 fabulous dogs, and it was literally just personal taste that defined the placings as

neither could really be faulted on the day. Wish I had more than one CC to have awarded, but as not I could only award him the RCC. 3 Fisher's Ch Shellamoyed Gold Fever.

VD (1) 1). Malone's Carmeva Caymen ShCM ShCEx VW; 9 year old dark Shaded Sable. A lovely mature dog with an appealing expression who was very well presented and in lovely condition for his age. Head is well balanced with a rounded muzzle, good teeth and under jaw and excellent ears. Good front and rear angulation and he moves well with good drive from his low set hocks. Precise foot placement both coming and going but could just benefit from a touch more reach in front when viewed in profile.

Special Beginners Dog (2) 1 Smee's Wansvale Amiable; 2 year old Sable. Head has reasonable balance with nice eye shape and well set and used ears. Has sufficient neck but is a touch upright in the shoulder. Straight front and nice feet. Body and chest are still maturing, and he has a good tail set leading onto moderate rear angulation. Presented in nice coat and condition. Movement just lacked some smoothness today, which made him appear to be lacking some reach and drive. 2 Sutherland's Shougies Starmaker at Suthesley; 2 year old Black Tri dog. Finer in the head than the class winner, but still masculine. Head is balanced with good muzzle and top skull with well used ears. Reasonable length of neck, but is a touch overdone in shoulders. Good body and good rear angulation. Not quite flowing on the move today as he was a touch wide behind and lacks a little bit of drive when viewed from the rear and side.

MPB (8:1) 1 Hateley 's Mohnesee Coconut Dream; Making her show debut I believe as she was just 6 months old and what a little star in the making. Sable with the sweetest of heads and expression. Her head has a lovely feminine balance of muzzle to top skull, with correct almond shaped eyes and well placed active ears. Nicely arched neck and good shoulder angulation, and she has correct body development for her age. Good rear angulation and a good length of tail with an upward sweep (which so few had today). Presented in lovely condition and has a typical "baby coat". She was remarkably settled on the move considering her age and she was foot perfect around the ring, showing complete balance and drive at all times. She only narrowly missed out on the best puppy award today due to her slight immaturity but even then, it was a very close decision which could easily have gone the other way. One who I am sure will have a very bright future as she is a stunning young bitch. 2 Bray's Dandlewood Kiss 'n Tell at Lianbray (Imp Ndl) TAF NAF; 7 month old Sable who also has a lovely head and expression. Like the winner she has a nice balance to her feminine head with good ear and eye placement. Good reach of neck and nice front assembly with straight front legs. Body is a touch longer than the winner. Low set tail and moderate rear angulation. Presented in nice coat and condition and moved well. Another lovely puppy bitch, but I just preferred the "ring presence" of the winner when making the final placings. 3 Sapsford's Shelcrest Dream Seeker.

PB (9:1) 1 Robinson's Lavika Lateca; A 9 month old Sable puppy who looks very mature for her age. She has a lovely head with everything in balance, with well used ears and a beautiful feminine expression. Good neck and nice shoulder angulation, deep chest, good top line, and good rear angulation. Presented in lovely coat and condition and well-handled to show off her many attributes. I was pleased to award her BPB & BPIB, which she won today due to her greater maturity against the minor puppy bitch. 2 Hateley 's Mohnesee Maebelle; A 9 month old darker Sable puppy but still striking, nonetheless. Nice head shape presenting a good blunt wedge, with correct almond shaped eyes, and well used ears. She has a good neck & front assembly and is nicely bodied for her age, with room still for development. Nice sweep over the croup and a good tail set. Moved well around the ring, but I would just like to see a touch more rear drive. 3 Haensel 's Sherkarl Copper Load of This.

JB (11:4) 1 Pearson's Edglonian Slack Alice; A 13 month old Sable bitch. Absolutely classic type with beautiful head properties. Smooth long blunt wedge with flat skull, completely feminine expression combining correctly placed dark almond shaped eyes and neatly placed ears. Excellent arched neck and front assembly with good shoulder angulation, straight legs, and strong pasterns. Well bodied for her age and has lovely rear angulation. Presented in beautiful coat and condition and moved around the ring smoothly with a beautiful driving action. Construction is totally correct presenting a

picture of elegance and balance when stood and on the move. In the challenge she just only lost out to an open bitch who was in full bloom, however I thought she is such a beautiful bitch that I could not deny her the RCC in very strong company. Definitely a future Champion in the making in my opinion. 2). Fisher's Sonymer Illusive Gold at Rowancrest; Another lovely youngster of excellent breed type who at just 14 months of age has all the right attributes. She has a good blunt wedged head, lovely eye shape and well used ears. Good arched neck and lay back of shoulders, with correct depth of chest and correctly built rear angulation. Presented in lovely coat and condition. Moved out with ease, showing both reach & drive and she is a lovely bitch with many virtues. Another one with a bright future. 3). Hirst's Sundark Symphony in Suede.

YB (5) 1 Stafford's Rannerdale Queen of The Dark. An 18 month old Black Tri bitch of undoubted quality with a super shape and outline who instantly takes the eye. She has a beautifully balanced head with a well-defined underjaw, rounded muzzle, and dark correctly shaped almond eyes. Well set and used ears on a moderate flat top skull complete the picture, to give a sweet feminine expression. Correct muscular neck set on well laid back shoulders and straight front legs. Deep chest with the level back and good sweep over the loins. Lovely rear angulation and construction which showed in her driving movement. Presented in gleaming coat and condition. Another bitch who was in the running for top honours and only narrowly missed out today in a quality challenge line up of stunning bitches. 2). Smith's Kiemont Paris is a Charmer at Bramblecroft; Another 18 month old bitch with a very sweet head an expression. Good balance to muzzle & skull, correctly placed eyes and well used ears. Sufficient length & arch to neck and reasonable shoulder angulation, with straight front legs. Good body and level back with moderate rear angulation, flexible pasterns, and nice feet all round. Presented in excellent coat and condition and moved OK around the ring, but just preferred the more balanced driving action of the winner. 3 James' Valmay in Vogue JW.

PGB (7:2) A difficult class to judge as there was no one bitch that really stood out for the top award. 1 Sapsford's Shelcrest River of Dreams; A 3 year old darker Sable with a good head, muzzle, and a nice eye shape, however I would prefer a more natural look to the ears. Good neck and shoulders. Reasonable depth of chest and length of body and she has good rear angulation. Coat not in full bloom but she was presented in good condition. Movement was precise but would prefer a touch more reach and drive. 2 Stock's Shemist Summer Romance; 2 year old Sable bitch. I prefer her better head to that of the winner as it has more balance throughout and a better ear set. However, I would have liked more reach of neck and better front angulation, as she is somewhat upright in shoulders. Reasonable body depth and rear angulation and her footfall is OK but would benefit from more rear drive. 3 Deveson's Milesend Sea Pearl.

LB (13) 1 Stafford's Rannerdale Abracadabra; A 2 year old lovely sable bitch with a well-proportioned head nice eye shape and well used ears. Extremely alert and attentive which makes her "lively" to show, but this only adds to her abundant qualities as she shows great personality in the ring ! She has a good arched neck, correct shoulders and front angulation and is well bodied. Lovely croup, tail set and rear construction complete the package. Presented in beautiful coat and condition. She shows a lovely balanced outline at all times and moves smoothly around the ring with both reach and drive. 2 Barrowclough's Shadowess True Blue; Just 3 years old and a beautiful blue Merle bitch, who pressed so hard for this class. Ideal size with the feminine head and expression. Beautifully neat and well carried ears which accentuates her almond shaped & well placed eyes and all round well-balanced head. Good substance with correct well-rounded bone for a bitch. Good neck and lay to shoulders, and well bodied with gradual slope to croup. Strong hindquarters and well let down hocks. Her coat colour has a clear silvery background, nicely broken & marbled with black, and with the correct appearance of blue. Presented in lovely coat & condition and handled to best advantage by her young handler to show off her very correct movement. Another lovely bitch and a very close decision between the first two. 3 Raaff's Molson Miss Congeniality for Stormraven.

OB (8:2) This class was headed by 2 stunning bitches, which made for another difficult decision. 1 Dunne's Ir. Ch. Longrange Cailin Dubh; 3 year old Black Tri bitch who presents a stunning picture both standing and on the move. She has an elegant feminine head with everything in balance,

correct almond eye shape and lovely ear carriage. Muscular neck with good arch and length, set on well laid back shoulders. Good straight front with strong flexible pasterns and nice oval shaped feet. Correct body proportions with a good depth of chest, but still presenting a feminine outline. Her rear angulation is correct in all details which finishes off her lovely all round construction. So well balanced throughout and this was topped off with a well fitted coat which enhanced the final picture. Moved correctly in all directions and despite the level of competition, in a quality line-up of bitches, I felt she deserved the CC on the day. Delighted to be told afterwards that this was her 3rd and crowning CC. Congratulations on your new Champion, and it was an absolute pleasure to judge her. 2 . Pearson's Ch Edglonian Rhythm N Rhyme; A 5 year old Black Tri of great quality and maturity with many of the same attributes as the winner. She has a correct head with nice eye shape and well placed & active ears. Her neck is muscular and well arched, and she has well laid back shoulders. Good front angulation, straight legs, and good depth of chest. Lovely sweep over the croup with a nice tail set and good rear angulation. Presented in excellent coat and condition and has a lovely driving action around the ring. I seriously considered her for the Reserve CC, however on the day I just preferred the elegance and outline of her younger kennelmate from the Junior class. 3 Redpath's Sonymer Storm Doris Into Pathaaron JW.

VB (7:1) 1 Hirst's Sundark Simply A Star; A 9 year old Black Tri bitch. She has a lovely, refined head with everything in balance, good eye shape and nicely used ears. Good neck and shoulders, lovely body shape and good rear angulation. Presented in nice coat and condition and when settled moves very well around the ring. Pleased to award her BVIB. 2). Fisher's Shellamoyed My Blue Heaven JW; Another pleasing veteran who is 8 years old. A Blue Merle with a pleasing head, correctly placed and shaped blue eyes, and a nice expression. Good neck and shoulder angulation and well bodied. Top line is level with a gentle sweep over the loin and sloping croup. Presents a beautifully balanced outline. Not quite the full coat and finish of the winner, but still a lovely girl who moves very well for her age, which made it a close decision on the day. 3). Deveson 's Janetstown Je Suis JW ShCM.

Special Beginners Bitch (4) 1 Raaff's Molson Miss Congeniality for Stormraven; A classically marked 2 year old sable bitch, who was also placed third in limit. She has a nice head and expression, with correct eye shape and good ears. Reasonable neck and good shoulders angulation. Nicely bodied, but for me carrying a touch too much weight which detracted slightly from her outline. Nice tail set and good rear angulation Moves well and looked very good in the Beginners Group in the main ring, where she took third place. Well done. 2 Kennedy's Oakcroft Aurora Dream at Donbeley; A 4 year old pretty Sable with a nice head and expression. Well placed almond eyes and well used ears. Reasonable neck and shoulders, level top line and moderate rear angulation, but somewhat lacking in body and coat. Smaller all round than the winner. Movement is satisfactory but could have a touch more reach and drive. 3 Sutherland's Beechmere Beautiful at Holamber.

Judge - Gary R. Clarke