

Mid Western Shetland Sheepdog Show Championship Show 27th October 2018

DOGS: I have always looked forward to Mid Western club shows as they are always welcoming and the 2018 Championship show was no different. I have mentioned before and it seems to be the norm for strong skulls and forward facing eyes. There was rather too much weight on many. Size is creeping up and not just height but just 'too much of them'. Something I had not really seen much before were rather too small eyes when medium size is required in the standard, There were a few with the odd missing tooth but some with great gaps. One can forgive the odd one but not too many to count! Flat feet seemed rather prevalent. Having said that I had some really nice dogs to go over and was very pleased with my line up. There were some nice expressions and I have never come across so many long tails! Lovely!

MP (5,2) 1 Botham's Balidorn Black Spice. Very very much a baby at 6 ½ mths Tri of nice size for age. Nice eye and ears, well bent stifle. Nothing exaggerated. I felt he has scope and time on his side. Moved and showed well. 2 Hull's Mohnesee's Dream Date of Lizmark. s/w 9 mths to the day and a nice size. well coated, More mature than 1st. nice eye and expression, needs to tighten in front. 3 Walker's Tooralie's Ocho Rios.

P (5,1) Two really lovely puppies: 1 Goodwin's Highbrook Hobnob s/w Smart s/w, 9 ½ mths, nice size, well coated. Sweet head, well placed eye and correct ears giving sweet expression. Excellent neck well balanced in body, good bone legs and feet, well bent stifle. Moved well covering the ground. Best Puppy Dog and Best Puppy in Show. 2 French's Lindfern Light Sabre another lovely puppy and similar remarks to 1st. s/w, well handled and presented allowing him to show off his virtues. Sweet expression from nice head shape, pleasing eye and well placed ears, straight front with sufficient bone. Nice for size well presented. These two were very difficult to separate. 3 Aaron's Shelridge Toastmaster.

J (6) 1 Highbrook Hobnob. 2 Mottram's Lanteague Gold Sovereign at Lochkaren JW very well coated s/w with most attractive expression, nice eye and ears. Good bone, Correct shaped feet. Very long tail. 3 Bendelow's Guxel Gold Ringer from Amethrickeh.

Y (3) 1 Robinson's Lavika Lush Life JW Very smart s/w with good outline, level topline and bend of stifle, correct shaped feet, well carried head, well placed ears, flat skull. Showed and moved well for his young handler. 2 Gamble's Solytic Inaugural Gold. A lot to like about this s/w boy. Somewhat immature and needing coat but otherwise sweet expression and well balanced in head and body. Good legs and feet. Needs time. 3 Robinson's Alnmac Midnight Flyer.

N (1) 1 Lindfern Light Sabre.

G (3) 1 Daniels and Taylor's Pepperhill Cruise Control. Excellent coloured B/M in good harsh coat. Head handles well. Good forehead. Not moved fast enough to get into his stride. 2 Officer's Castlerose A Shropshire Lad JW ShCM Handsome g/s/w. Well placed eye and ears that he used. Plenty of neck and level topline. Harsh coat, very long tail. 3 Chatterley's Silver Coin.

PG (3) 1 Robinson's Shelysham Nut Box In Almac Shaded sable. Ideal size. Very neat, balanced and well put together. Nice eye and expression and so much to like about him. Good legs and correct shaped feet. Moved well. 2 Pattinson's Kyleburn Everlasting Dream. Rich Shaded s/w. Good wedge hedge shaped head, flat skull, nice eye, good neck and topline. Moved well. 3 Woolley's Pepperhill In The Moment at Valjon.

L (6) 1 Stuckey's Carorelen Country Fair At Honeybears. shapely S/W Pleasing head shape with flat skull, neatly placed ears which he used, nice eye giving sweetest expression. Well balanced in body having good neck and level topline, nice to see correct shaped oval feet, long tail. Moved well. 2 Hepburn's Shellamoyed Simply The Best at Leterikhills. Handsome g/s/w flat skull, good underjaw, well placed ears, good legs and feet, long tail. Well bent stifle, moved well coming and going. 3 Edward's Castlerose Star Turn JW ShCM.

O (4,2) 1st Dog CC was Aust Ch Hartly How About Me For Molson (Imp. Aus) Impressive pale golden sable who is a lovely size, very nicely made under all that coat having a particularly sweet head and expression. Flat skull under the hair! excellent neck and head carriage, good bone and moved well. Took the CC and with the total agreement with my co judge was Best in Show. 2 Goodwin's Ch Highbrook Hot Heir. Shaded s/w who really has to be handled to be appreciated. Not a glamour boy but lovely for size and well balanced throughout. Nice eye and well placed ears, ample bone, sound in movement. V 1 Samphrey Moonlight Shadow Tri of 8 years. Head has kept well having flat skull and well filled foreface and good underjaw. Ideal size and balance. Moved covering the ground. Best Veteran Dog. 2 Sangster's Drumcauchlie Two Tone. Very plain black and white and not much white! Difficult to see his expression having very dark eyes. Lovely head shape, flat skull, level topline, plenty of jet black coat. 3 Tucker's Sandiacre Set In Ice.

SP O S/W 1 Robinson's Ch Lavika Luminary. Very smart well balanced sable and white being on positive lines, sweet head and expression, flat skull, good underjaw, well used ears, good neck and level topline. With sweep over the croup. Easy mover covering the ground. Well handled and presented. Res CC. 2 Aaron's Ch Lafitte De Moorstile Chez Shelridge JW (imp. Fra) golden s/w Particularly nice for size, good head carriage, neat ears, sweet expression. Was tending to stand with hind legs tucked under which spoiled his outline/topline. A worthy champion. 3 Stafford's Rannerdale Lord Fawly.

SP O TRI. B&T. B/W (5) 1 Withers Stanydale Shot In The Dark JW. Ideal for size and very well balanced in body, good bone, legs and correct shaped feet. Good head carriage and level topline. Moved and showed well. 2 Woolley's Pepperhill In The Moment at Valjon. Very handsome chap in plenty of coat. Head on nice lines and good expression, particularly neat well placed ears. Moved well. 3 Linford's Hillhenry Thunderstorm JW. SP O BLUE MERLE (2) 1 Daniels and Taylor's Pepperhill In The Zone JW. One I have not seen for some time and had won his class when I had judged him as a puppy. His blue is good and he was in good coat. Head handles well, flat skull. Good bone, legs and correct oval feet. Long tail. Was obviously enjoying his day out as he was determined not to have feet on the ground whilst his handler was trying to move him! 2 Sangster's Amethrickeh Storm Wizard. Good bone legs and feet. Plenty of good harsh coat. Moved ok.

Judge - Jan Moody

BITCHES: My thanks to the exhibitors for the excellent entry of 95 bitches. Unfortunately there were quite a few absentees which made some of the classes quite sparse and in some of the lower classes I began to feel quite despondent about the lack of overall quality. These youngsters are the brood bitches of the future and they have to be good examples of correct breed type and also they must also have quality. Breeding for the safe future of the breed is paramount, it is vital that breeders are able to recognise where their bitches need improvement when choosing their stud dogs. Whilst I appreciate that health testing is very important when thinking of the future of the breed, I do sometimes think that perhaps the health test results are becoming more important in people's minds than breed type and quality. Many years ago when CEA was recognised as being a problem in the breed, Miss Felicity Rogers said that we should be careful not to make it the subject of a witch hunt, otherwise we could end up with a breed of "good sighted cripples" Strong words I know, but fifty years later maybe there is some truth in what she said. The venue for this show is very spacious and in the old days it used to be difficult to find somewhere for cages, now with smaller entries that isn't a problem and we have big rings to really get the dogs moving. Some of the dogs find the markings on the floor distracting and they tend to give a little jump when they cross one. I did take that into consideration of course. The other slight problem is the artificial lighting which does have a strange yellow effect on both people and dogs, particularly the blue merles, so again that has to be taken into consideration.

MPB (8) 1. James Mohnesee's Mayd Marion at Valmay - sable, spot on for size with a balanced head and sweet expression, with neat well carried ears and a well placed and shaped dark eye. Her front angulation is good but on the move she is quite loose at the elbow, so when she muscles up that should tighten everything and help correct that problem. She has a lovely reach of neck and uses that to advantage, at the moment she is a bit high on the hindquarters so is dipping at the withers but again that is a puppy problem which hopefully will sort itself out. She moved well in profile in spite of her puppy bounce! 2. Forster-Cooper's Sheltysham Midnight Lady, delightful six months baby with everything going for her. Her head is balanced with a flat skull, neat ears and a really dark eye topped by neat ears which she used all the time. Very good construction with a good shoulder and upper arm, level topline and strong hindquarters which gave her good drive from the rear. Of course at six months she is immature and her coat is still coming but I'm sure she has a good future. 3. Robinson's Lavika Spring Queen.

PB (7,1 abs) 1. Hateley's Mohnesee Sweet Dreams, glamorous sable of lovely shape enhanced by a well arched neck which she showed off to her advantage and her body is well balanced height to length. Her head is also balanced and her eye (although on the small side) placement topped by her neat well carried ears added to the sweet expression. Her upper arm and shoulder is well angled as are her hindquarters, although at the moment she stands a bit high behind but hopefully that will correct itself when she has finished growing. She moves with drive and enthusiasm. BPB. 2. Aaron's Kyleburn Sibylla At Shelridge. I have admired this lovely golden sable since a young puppy and unsurprisingly she has had a very good puppy career. Her outstanding feature is her beautifully balanced head and expression enhanced by the darkest of eyes set obliquely into the skull which is flat, with just the right amount of stop. She has a well filled foreface and underjaw and flat

cheeks and the whole picture is delightful. Her angulation front and rear is good and she moves well but today she didn't stride out and tucked her neck into her shoulders which spoiled the outline. 3. Midnight Lady.

JB (6,3abs) 1. Barrowclough's Shadowness Eternal Spirit. Golden sable of perfect size with a well balanced head, good foreface, well shaped and placed eye and neat ears which she used all the time. Her upper arm could be better and at times she stood wide in front, but she has a good reach of neck, level topline good hindquarters and in profile she moves with drive. A bit short of coat at the moment in common with other bitches of this age, but she was well handled and presented. 2. Bladon's Kiemont Angel's Delight. Another sable of excellent size and well balanced throughout. Very similar to the winner in size and type. A wedge shaped head with a well placed and shaped dark eye, ears a little heavy today which slightly detracted from her expression. Slightly steep front angulation, and she needs a little more neck but has a level topline and good hindquarters. She moves well in profile. 3. Watson's Solyric Initial Gold at Shebamiro

Y (7, 2 abs) 1. Hardy's Sandwich Silhouette. She has the right name because her outline is just superb. In profile her feet are under her withers which allows her to reach out in front on the move with the required "daisy cutting action" Her neck is well arched and the topline is level, leading smoothly into the sloping croup with the correct tail set. Her head is balanced with a well placed and shaped dark eye, good foreface and underjaw, maybe her ears could be just a little closer together. Hindquarters are well angled and she moves with ease and grace around the ring. Beautifully presented and shown, she is leggy at the moment as her coat is coming back and I look forward to seeing her when her coat is in full bloom, a lovely Sheltie. 2. Edwards' Castlerose Babushka. Another very nice sable, well balanced throughout with a beautiful, feminine head and expression. Lovely dark, well placed and shaped eye, perfect ear carriage all supported on an excellent reach of neck. Good shoulder and upper arm, good bone and neat feet, level topline and correct slope over the croup. She moves with drive from strong hindquarters. At the moment her elbows are a bit loose which does spoil her front movement, but I understand she had an injury, so hopefully when her muscle tone returns that will correct itself. 3. Hill's Ellenynorn Exclusive to Molson.

NB (9, 3abs) 1. Kyleburn Sibylla at Shelridge. 2. Mohnesee's Mayd Marion At Valmay. 3. Elder's Ellenynorn EvitaGB (6,5abs) 1. Wilkie's Avonbank Designed to Dazzle. Stood alone today, I liked her head, flat skull and well filled foreface, well placed and shaped dark eyes and very neat ears giving her a sweet, feminine expression. I would prefer more defined front angulation and more reach of neck.

PGB (6,1abs) 1. Mackie's Iliad Illusive Gold at Shebaville. Attractive shaded sable of perfect size with a sweet feminine expression, flat skull, well filled foreface and really well placed and shaped eye all topped by neat well placed ears. She has a good reach of neck, pleasing front angulation and a level topline, strong hindquarters and on the move she goes well with reach in front and drive behind. A very attentive showgirl. 2. Deveson's Milesend Sea Pearl, very similar in size and shape to 1, and little to separate them. She is well balanced throughout with a very sweet expression, flat skull good foreface and underjaw and a well placed and shaped eye, her ears are slightly heavier than 1. She has a good neck and level topline, and strong hindquarters which enabled her to move with drive. Also an attentive showgirl. 3. Gruszka's Samphrey Sea Breeze.

LB (9, 2 abs) very good class. 1. Dunn's Neraklee Chardonay at Shelleary. Lovely shaded sable girl of perfect size, in good coat and a good example of correct breed type. She has lovely bone but without being cloddy and looks as though she could do a day's work. I like her refined head with a flat skull and very well filled foreface and underjaw, her eye could be more almond shaped but she still has a lovely feminine expression. Her upper arm is well angled, which is rare these days, and makes the correct angle with her shoulder. She has a good reach of neck and very level topline, a well bent stifle and very strong hindquarters, in fact when the shortlisted girls were moving around the ring I asked myself which one could support a cup and saucer on her back, and she was the one! 2. Bywater's Lundecock's Cover Girl with Tachnamadra. I really liked this golden sable girl, very similar to the first in the class, so hard to separate them. Again, a very good example of correct breed type with no exaggerations. Beautiful head and expression with a better eye than the first and tighter ear carriage. Very good angulation both in front and behind and her movement reflected this. I had to find a reason to separate them and it was just a very slight difference in the length of neck, but that was miniscule, they could change places many times. 3. Main's Shenachie Lyric of Light.

OB (6,2abs) 1. Stafford's Ch. Rannerdale Queen O'The North, beautiful sable girl of superb quality and breed type. Perfect size with a beautifully balanced head, flat skull, dark well placed and shaped eye and correctly placed ears to complete the ideal Sheltie expression. Her conformation is very good both in front and at rear, I like her strong rounded bone, just right to support a dog of her size and she has neat oval feet. Very good reach of neck and level topline. Her movement was in keeping with her conformation and she is a great showgirl. 2. Elder's Ellenynorn Gem of Cara. Another lovely sable girl of good breed type and quality with a really good reach of neck which enhances her outline. She has a well balanced head with a flat skull and well

placed and shaped eye, neat ears which she used all the time. I just thought that although she has a very good neck, she does tend to stand near to her handler slightly disguising the arch, but otherwise she is a lovely Sheltie. 3. Walker's Tooralie's Matilda.

VB (7,3abs) 1. Bywater's Ch Tachnamadra Evisu. Difficult to find anything to say about this beautiful girl which hasn't been said before. She is an outstanding example of correct breed type and oozes quality. Her outline is symmetrical, lovely reach of neck with a level topline, which flows into a graceful sweep over the croup and a correctly set tail which she carries low on the move. Her head is so well balanced and topped by very neat ears, and she has a well placed eye, her lovely expression is sweet and gentle. She flows around the ring and is a joy to watch. RCC & BVIS. 2. Lycett's Ch Shebaville Saucy Secret at Iliad. I loved her as a puppy and still do. She has a beautiful head which hasn't coarsened in any way, still has a lean flat skull with a really lovely expression and neat ears. Her conformation is excellent with good angulation in front and behind, so she moves with drive and purpose around the ring. A lovely Sheltie. 3. Stafford's Ch. Rannerdale Lady Penelope. I just had to mention this lovely girl who is now fourteen years old and looking amazing. Beautifully presented and groomed, when I examined her on the table I just couldn't believe her teeth, all clean and even, looking better than some mouths in the lower classes. A great tribute to the care and devotion of her owners as well as being a beautiful Sheltie.

Sp Open S & W Bitch (12) Looking round this class at the beginning it seemed that all my eggs had arrived in one basket!! A fabulous class of high quality bitches, such a pity that there could only be one winner. 1. Robinson's Lavika Good Luck. Headed this super class because of her outstanding breed type and overall quality. Her head and expression is absolutely as the standard calls for, a beautifully shaped and dark almond eye set obliquely into the skull, neat well carried ears and all in perfect balance and so very feminine, difficult to achieve but fantastic when it happens. Her overall balance is absolutely correct, she is a perfect size and with her correct construction she moves with great ease around the ring. Completely in tune with her handler who moves her at exactly the right speed to show off her movement and presents her in immaculate condition. I was very pleased to award her the CC which I later found out to be her third. She was also RBIS & BOSIS. 2. Doyle's Ir Ch Little Barbie Girl Des Romarins De Mayerling for Sevenoaks. Another lovely example of perfect breed type and quality. Just right for size with a super outline, beautiful reach of neck, level topline and graceful sweep over the croup. Head is in perfect balance with a lovely almond shaped eye, flat skull and correct ear set and carriage. She took my eye for her overall quality and balance. There is very little I would want to change. 3. Barnett & Hardman's Rainway Returning to Seavall.

Sp Open Bitch, Tricolour, Black & Tan or Black and White (6) 1. Hardy's Dippersmoor Joie De Vivre At Sandwick, In lovely condition and another example of correct breed type with quality. Her overall conformation is excellent, very good angulation in front and behind and her feet are directly under her withers, so when she moves she really reaches out in front and drives from the rear. She has strong bone and beautifully straight front legs which single track on the move. Her head is balanced with a dark eye, but I would prefer just a little less stop. 2. Bywater's Tachnamadra New Look. Again spot on for size and an example of correct breed type, lovely outline with a good reach of neck, level topline and correct sweep over the croup flowing into strong hindquarters so giving her drive on the move. She has a sweet expression but her skull is broadening just a little and her ears could be set higher on the skull, but she is a quality Sheltie in super condition. 3. Robinson's Lavika Black Beauty.

Sp Open Blue Merle (5, 2 a) 1. Barnett's Ch Rainway Crystal Star. One of my all time favourite Shelties. Lovely breed type, fabulous colour and oozing quality. Excellent conformation, perfect size, well arched neck and level topline, strong well developed hindquarters and well muscled so she really gets going on the move. Her head is still lean with a flat skull, good foreface and underjaw, now she's a veteran her eye is filling out slightly but it doesn't detract from her lovely expression, enhanced by her very neat ears which she uses non stop. She is a great showgirl and has lost none of her enthusiasm, fabulous temperament! 2. Main's Shenachie Flakey Dove. Spot on for size, a lovely shape and very well made with well angled shoulder and upper arm. Excellent reach of neck and level topline, correct hindquarters and as all the Shelties with this affix, she moved really well and with lots of drive. Her head is balanced with a lean, flat skull, and she is very much in tune with her handler. 3. Gruszka's Samphey Shades of Blue.

Brace (5, 2 abs) judged jointly with Jan Moody. Daniels and Taylor's Pepperhill Cruise Control Pepperhill In the Zone, very well matched boys, not easy to match blue merles but they were even in size, heads were of similar type and they both moved well. Robinson's Lavika Spring Queen Lavika Black Beauty, tricolours, again similar sizes and well matched in type, they both moved well, not as mature as the blue boys, but they both showed well. Hateley's Mohnesee Sweet Dreams/Mohnesee Petticoat Lace.

Judge - Barbara Thornley