

## **RICHMOND CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW 8<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018**

I would like to convey my thanks to Richmond DSS for my invitation to judge here today. To my two efficient stewards - Keith & Jan Starkey, also to you, the exhibitors, who presented me with a lovely top quality entry of Shelties to preside over. Decisions were tricky in some of the classes, the dogs being more varied in type than the bitches, and in many cases it was a matter of splitting hairs to make the final choice, hence some lovely Shelties left the ring cardless. Just a few points I noted on assessment were: forehand construction, some with narrow fronts and lack of fore chest. Movement: some too wide, others too close, and varied head types especially with the males. Another notable point was size hence some nice dogs went unplaced as I found them to be over the standard height. That said, presentation was of a high standard, and I think the breed is still one of the best surviving the downturn at present day dogs shows.

**VD (3)** These three oldies have all done their owners proud during their show years. 1 Patinson's Kyleburn Acis. A ten and a half year old shaded dog who I judged 5 years ago, and awarded a third place in a decent class of 9. He is now double this figure in age, and is proving to carry this well and retain a lot of qualities as he had then. He is a nice size and possesses good forehand construction. He has never been the world's best showman, but when he used his ears, the shapeliness of his head, and correct eye and ear placement produced such a lovely expression. He lost out to the younger dog for BVD, as he tends to lack enthusiasm and zest when it comes to enjoying a day out in the showring! 2 Rutterford's Evad Whougonnacall At Stormhead ShCM. Mahogany sable who is now eight and a half years of age, and does not really look it. His dark shaded harsh to the touch jacket enhanced by a lovely white collar, is groomed out really well. His head is correct in proportion to his size, although his eye is rather bold, and his bite is now beginning to alter. He has a good depth of chest, with good ribbing, but not quite the angulations or sweep over the loin as one. He moved steadily but could drive a little more from the rear.

3 Whittington's Tighness Three Card Trick ShCM. Tricolour of also 8 years, and another not showing his age to be eligible for a veteran class. I don't think I have judged him before, but I always admired his late brother who I thought was a better size. However, on assessment today, I found him to be in good order, with an abundant intense black coloured coat, but would prefer a little less of him overall in size.

**SBD (2)** A big age gap between these two dogs! 1 Graham's Shadoway Game Of Chance. GSW dog of 6 years, who is ideal for size with much to like. He has a decent length of head, with a nice eye, but deep stop. Ample neck, a nice top line and his angulations are ok. He has sufficient bone, and moved well, particularly coming towards in front. He is very attentive to his owner, and won through to the Best Special Beginner award unopposed. 2 Fuller's Jacanshe Circle Of Life. The youngest of the puppies here today, being just 6 months and 1 day old! He is, as expected, very raw at this age, and needs time to develop, and gain confidence. He is a lovely colour, and excels in length of neck a level topline with a lovely long tail but I would not want him to grow much more in height.

**MPD (6, 1)** 1 Goodwin's Highbrook Hobnob. Attractive puppy of eight and a half months, who is well coated for his age and was the most mature out of the five in this class. His head is of equal length with well rounded muzzle and correctly placed stop, an almond shaped eye, and small correctly set ears all carried proudly on a well arched neck. Good angulations with a level back, and just the right amount of body, bone and substance for his age. He moved very well and should go on to impress the judges in the future, just as he impressed the PPG judge today in being awarded fourth place. Well done! 2 Stock's Shemist Sea Dragon. Blue merle of seven and a half months, less mature than one, but shaping up quite nicely. He looks to be ok for size, and just needs time to body up and fill out around the chest and ribs. He has good rear angulation, and a correctly set on tail which is also the correct length reaching down to his hocks. His head is a good length but still needs to clear in stop, and his coat needs to clear a little in colour. 3 Straw's Dukeson Golden Fleece. Another youngster no doubt attending his first show today. He shows potential, and fingers crossed he still has a bit of growing left in him to make size.

**PD (4)** 1 Goodwin's Highbrook Hobnob. 2 French's Lindfern Light Sabre. This glamorous puppy has held court with Hobnob at several shows recently, and I am sure like myself, the judges have had a difficult decision on their hands as to who should stand ahead of whom to claim the red card! This lad has a lovely outline, very symmetrical in shape and flows from head to tail with nothing out of proportion. He is very collected on the move, and stands well showing balanced angulations fore and aft. He is well schooled, and undeniably a winner for the future. 3 Edwards' Castlerose Foxtrot. Richly coloured sable just two weeks under the year in age. He is quite mature in growth and coat and is well developed in body with good bone and substance and moves quite well. His head is all in proportion, but not quite the features of the first two.

**JD (5, 2)** 1 Durant's Shoughies Winter Wizard At Neraklee. Mature blue of fourteen and a half months. One shown locally to me, and who I have thought is up to size. He has a clean head, smooth in outline with obliquely placed eye and definite stop. A well developed under-jaw with correctly placed and well used ears. Muscular arched neck and good layback of shoulder. Straight front with rounded bone and tight feet, he moved very soundly. His coat fits him well, could be slightly better marked, but his blue is clear enough in colour. 2 Stockden's Willowgarth Pure Gold. Golden sable of 14 months. This lad has the most adorable nature, and wants to say hello to everyone. He has a true gentlemanly expression with a lovely kind eye. He is well off for coat, but there is a little too much of him all over for me. 3 Reynolds' Kelgrove Black Comedy. Tricolour dog of 16 months who is quite immature compared to the other two males he was up against in this class. He is a respectable shape, and has decent head features, but just needs time to develop, mature on and settle on the move.

**YD (4, 1)** A class of tricolours. 1 Hardy's Sandwick Stagelight. Res CC. Young dog of 20 months whose jet black coat was presented with not a hair out of place. He is quite mature for his age, and is very workmanlike in appearance. He has a strong body with plenty of neck, sloping shoulders and a good depth of chest. His back is level, thighs broad and muscular with strong, well let down hocks, and padded feet. He covers the ground well on the move, reaching out in front, and showing good drive from the rear. His head is clean, with rounded muzzle, and strong under-jaw, although a little broad in skull. His ears are correct and he sports a masculine expression. I thought him worthy enough today to award him the Res CC. 2 Durant's Neraklee Starblaze. Plain coloured tri who also appeals for his shape and outline. Different in head type to one with a leaner skull and narrower foreface, but he has a nice dark obliquely set almond eye. He also has a good length of neck and decent body angulations but was not quite as steady in movement as one, and just needs a little more time to settle and show. 3 Reynolds' Kelgrove Black Comedy.

**PGD (8)** A mixed class. 1 Patinson's Kyleburn Everlasting Dream. Another dog who is built to do a days work, and a change of handler at the last minute did not deter his performance at all. In profile he presents a nice shape. His head is long, with skull and muzzle of equal length, an oblique eye, but could be more defined in stop, and have a little more chin. His neck is muscular, he has strong withers with a well developed chest, sufficient angulations and muscular thighs. He moved well, albeit a little wide in front. His coat fitted his body but tends to lack a bit of length underneath. 2 Goodwin's Highbrook He's Got Style JW. And yes he certainly has! A GSW with much to like about him, being a small long haired dog, all in proportion and showing no sign of coarseness. His head is shorter in length and deeper in stop than one and he is a little shorter in neck, but his back is level with matching front and rear angulations. He moved out freely and showed well. 3 Isdale's Viewdale Cuddly Duddly. Light gold sable who has accumulated some nice wins during his 18 months of showing. He has a pleasing head with nice eye, and ear placement. Good body angulations. He is now getting ready to grow a new coat and mature into an adult.

**LD (7, 2)** 1 Withers' Stanydale Shot In The Dark JW. CC. It is no secret that I am familiar with this dog, having seen him often at local shows. However, seeing him standing in the ring is different from handling and assessing him close too. He was the easy winner of this class standing out for general appearance and breed type. His head is clean, if a little strong, but is all in proportion, and he has a well set eye, and correct ears, all helping to form a masculine expression. He presents a lovely outline in profile excelling in length of neck, laid back, sloping shoulders, straight forelegs and strong but flexible pasterns. A good length of body with sweep over the loin and his coat is in gleaming condition. His movement is steady and I have sometimes seen him move wide behind, but today he came together well to present positive, straight action coming and going with good extension in profile. I was pleased to award him the CC - his second I believe. Good luck with trying for his third! 2 Edwards' Castlerose Star Turn JW. Another nice Tri with a rich tan, now 3 years of age who I have assessed before. He has come on really well since then, is nice for size, with good body ratios, bone and substance for his sex. His head is smooth in outline and is all in proportion with well placed dark eye, smooth cheeks, and full muzzle, but he wasn't happy using his ears to advantage today. He was however, worth a second look in the challenge.

3 Ridings' Achor's Surprise Percy Polaris For Torinska. Blue dog of three and a half years who has been topping the classes at several shows this year. He is now stepping up a class and having to meet with some of the older boys. He is one of those dogs who is improving with age. However, he could move with a little more animation and today he flied the flag which spoilt the elegance of his outline in motion. Acceptable in colour.

**OD (8)** Fabulous class, close decisions and being spoilt for choice with some Shelties (as nice as they were) leaving the ring unplaced as I felt their size went against them. 1 Rutterford's Ch Kelgrove Just Blue At Stormhead JW ShCM. BVD. Well known blue merle I have also had the privilege to judge when he was younger. He is very attractive to the eye and needs no introduction to get himself noticed. He has matured on well, is an ideal size being masculine without coarseness, and is nicely made with correct angulations, and just the right amount of bone and substance. His head is wedge shaped and he has a lovely alert expression, and nothing phases him in temperament. He moves with ease and drives along freely with very little effort. His colour is now a shade darker

but his markings are correct enhanced by his lovely white collar. A worthy champion. BVD. 2 Paterson's Lorianan Campbell Clan. Pale gold coloured sable who is now approaching his veteran years. I liked him for his size, balance, and body ratios. His head is refined with flat cheeks merging into smooth well rounded muzzle, dark well placed eye and small ears placed on top of his skull. He has a lovely level back and holds his topline on the move. He is not one to set the world on fire and I have seen him in fuller coat, but what he had is harsh textured and fitted him ok. Have always had the desire to judge his older kennel mate 3 Aaron's Ch Lafitte De Moorstile Chez Shelridge JW. Another GSW who has gained his title at a young age, and yet still has time to come to his best. He has had a change of coat since I last saw him, which nicely enhances his outline. He is good for size and suitably constructed with nice angulations. His head is refined, and carries a kind, but masculine expression although his eye could be darker in colour. He moved well. One who will often be in the cards.

**VB (7, 2)** A super class of mature ladies. 1 Goodwin's Ch Rannerdale Some Like It Hot At Highbrook. BVB Lovely sable bitch - a firm favourite of mine having judged her at the height of her show career and awarding her a RCC. She is now ten and a half and is still carrying her age very well. She retains a lovely outline, with sufficient length of neck, level back and well constructed fore and hind quarters. She still moves well very soundly and positively. Another worthy of her title. BVB. 2 Seymour's Willowtarn Twice As Nice. Pale GS of thirteen and a half years, who does not look the age she has reached. She is very poised and elegant in outline, has the most super length of neck with nice front and rear angulations, although her topline is now beginning to lose its levelness. She moves well albeit at her own desired pace and more than deserved her place here today. Long may she reign! 3 Lycett's Shebaville Saucy Secret At Iliad JW. Blue merle of 8 years who is also in super coat and condition. She has a wedge shaped head with flat skull, dark almond eye, correct stop, and small neat ears. In profile, she just lacked a little length of neck compared to the first two, but she is a lovely mover, who also carries her well deserved championship title.

**SBB (5, 1)** 1 Hillman's Kelmstone Rosemary. Smallish shaded sable of almost 2 years who appealed for her nice outline. When standing fully relaxed, she is a lovely shape, with level back, and a graceful sweep over the loins. She moved ok although a little wide in front. Her head is short but balanced with correct stop, dark eye, rounded muzzle, enough under-jaw, and sweet expression. Shame she did not stay until the end to challenge for the BSB award. 2 Fuller's Jacanshe Elsa's Winter Waltz. Merle sister to second placed in the SBD class. Like her brother she is very much a baby, and I think I do prefer her to him at this stage. Her head still needs time to develop, and flatten in skull. Her body shape is ok, she is coating up nicely, and is also a good colour blue. I will watch their progress with interest. 3 Kennedy's Lirren Blue Gamble At Donbeley. Another blue of 5 years old who is lacking in coat and furnishings today. She has a nice clean head, is well off for neck, with nice forehead construction. She is a bit long in thigh and hock, hence moves close behind. However, she is the apple of her owner's eye, and has a new playmate to keep her company - and I wish her owner the best of luck with her.

**MPB (9, 1)** Such a lovely class of quality puppies. Two charming puppies vying for first place here. Both bred by the same kennel, and a matter of four weeks separating them in age with lots to like about both. They have lovely outgoing temperaments, are in good coats and moved well. 1 James' Mohnesse Mayd Marion. This golden sable pup is the younger one of the two. She has a nice wedge shaped head with correct eye, and nice moulding of foreface. She is well off for neck and is nicely made in forehead construction with a firm body, good legs and feet. 2 Hateley's Mohnesse Sweet Dreams. Light gold in colour, this pup is also a nice shape, and has a good length of neck and body. She has a pretty head, with a lovely obliquely set eye, possess such a sweet expression and fabulous temperament. 3 Thornley & Withers' Mitchfields Cover Girl. Plain coloured tri approaching 8 months who is coating up well and developing into a lovely shape. She has good bone and substance with good legs, padded feet, and moved well.

**PB (7, 2)** 1 Hateley's Mohnesse Sweet Dreams. 2 Aaron's Kyleburn Sibylla At Shelridge. 10 months GS. A daughter of third in OD. She has a pretty head, equal in length with flat skull and well defined stop, moulded foreface and good under-jaw. Her eye is obliquely set of almond shape, with small well placed ears, all combining to produce a sweet expression. In body she needs a little more length of neck and back to balance her outline. She moved ok. 3 Walker's Tooralies No No Nanette. A rare b/w who has had a good summer in the show ring. Her head is equal in length, balanced and smooth in outline. She has a good length of body, and sufficient angulations, but she is now losing coat and condition as she approaches her junior age and needs time to fill out and mature on.

**JB (2)** 1 Withers' Neraklee Naomi At Stanydale. Another sweet tri of 15 months who I have watched develop throughout puppyhood. A daughter of the DCC winner and her dam, second in Limit. Her head is refined but still needs to fill in foreface. She has a nicely shaped body with good angulations and goes well on the move. She lacked a bit of coat today as to be expected at this age but has a lovely outgoing nature. 2 Sendall's Sendora Songbird. Lovely coloured and well marked blue merle of sixteen and a half months who was placed in SBB. She is a little taller than the ideal, but her outline is rather nice, displaying a lovely length of neck, good shoulder and

correct bend of stifle. She moved efficiently and extended well in front. Her head is rather long, and lacks stop, but should fill out given time.

**YB (7, 2)** 1 Robinson's Lavika Black Beauty JW. And quite a beauty she is, standing out in her jet black jacket in gleaming condition. At 20 months she is quite forward in development. In profile she presents a lovely outline, with long neck, level topline, well sprung ribs with good bend of stifle and short parallel hocks. She has good musculature, is very sound and went really well on the move. She is very attentive to her young handler and appears keen to please. 2 Whittington's Esterbon Three Kisses For Tighness JW. Another tri of 21 months with pretty head and correct features who's expression is very sweet and feminine. She also has a super outline with a long neck, and good angulations. In size she is smaller in frame and finer in bone than one, but when she is older and more mature, I'm sure she will keep up with the best! 3 Hillman's Kelmstone Rosemary.

**PGB (12, 1, 1 w/d)** 1 Deveson's Milesend Sea Pearl. Dark shaded bitch who I have often admired from the ringside and was pleased to have the chance to assess her today. Like the previous class winner she has just the right amount of body, bone and substance yet still retaining her femininity. She has a nice head, wedge shaped with flat skull, correct eye and ears although she would benefit a little more length of neck. Her presentation is exemplary - not a hair out of place. She also moved very well. 2 Moody's Janetstown Jenerous. Lovely sable, a shade smaller than one, but with lots of pep and personality. She is very neatly put together and is in fine fettle and condition for her 5 years. I liked her head and sweet but cheeky expression. She has a good length of neck but is a bit shorter in back than one. She really looked like she was enjoying her day out. Another effortless mover. 3 Arnould's Shadoway Rosa Esmeralda. Yet another sable who appeals for her nice construction, balanced outline and suitable angulations with good body tone. She has nice head qualities but not quite the femininity overall of the first two.

**LB (7, 1, 1 w/d)** 1 Lycett's Herds Halicia At Iliad. RCC. Beautiful GSW who stood out in this class for her refinement and femininity. Her head is smooth in outline, nicely moulded with flat cheeks, medium sized obliquely set eye, and small correctly tipped ears. She has a lovely outline, symmetrical, and balanced through from point of shoulder to croup, with good layback of shoulder and upper arm, straight front, rounded bone, and flexible pasterns. Ideal rear angulation displaying a good bend of stifle and straight hocks. She moved fluently and was presented to perfection. I was pleased to award her the RCC and was made aware afterwards she is the sister of a well known champion dog. It would be nice if she could eventually match his title! 2 Dunn's Neraklee Chardonnay At Shelleary. Three and a half yr old shaded sable who is dam to the JB winner and is in full bloom with double coat and full furnishings. Her head is wedge shaped if a little deep through in skull, and not quite as feminine in expression as one. She has a muscular neck, laid back shoulders with good ribbing and well made forequarters with a lovely bend of stifle and short clean cut hocks. She moved along swiftly covering the ground well. 3 Hoares' Briggsview Opalesque. Nicely coloured merle with ideal coat markings who presents a nice outline in profile. Clean head with flat skull and rounded muzzle although her eye is rather round in shape. She moved well, although a little less weight would benefit her femininity and lightness in movement, but she drives well from the rear.

**OB (10, 3)** An excellent quality class. All worthy of winning a red card and more! 1 Hardy's Dippersmoor Joie De Vivre At Sandwick. A four year old tri who took my eye as she entered the class. Her name translated means "joy of life", and she was certainly a joy to judge! She is of good breed type. Her outline is balanced with ideal body ratios and just the right amount of bone and substance for her sex. Her one piece head is clean with correct stop, almond eye, flat skull, correctly placed and well used ears, all producing a sweet, gentle expression. Lovely arched neck merging into well laid back shoulders with enough spring of rib and her front legs placed directly underneath her. She has a level back, long tail and ideal rear angulations with good bend of stifle and clean cut short well let down hocks. She moved freely covering the ground with ease, appearing straight coming and going. Her coat fitted the outline of her body, and I was pleased to award her, her first CC with BOB, and before I could find time to complete this report, she gained her second CC at Darlington the following weekend. Well done. Destiny foretold! 2 Robinson's Lavika Good Luck. Another lovely golden sable who demands attention. Her head type is refined, she has a very sweet eye, and her ears are perfectly placed. She could benefit a little more chin and a better lip line, but she still presents a lovely expression. She has plenty of neck, but in profile it appears short, as she tends to look up high at her owner, which then hides the length. However, she is nicely made, and moves out freely, and is presented to perfection, as all the Shelties are from this kennel. Good luck with campaigning her - I am sure her title will not be far away. 3 Allen's Willowtarn Time To Frolic. GSW who, despite being a veteran of 8 years, deserved her place in this quality class. She is very akin to the other bitches of her lines who have been exhibited here today and replicates them in head type and body shape. Another who's movement was a pleasure to watch.

**Judge - Lisa Pettitt**