

Southern Counties Championship Show 30th June 2024

Firstly I would like to thank the Southern Counties committee for inviting me to judge. My thanks also go to my two excellent stewards and to all of the exhibitors who gave me their support. I was very pleased with my entry and was absolutely spoiled for choice. A useful piece of advice given to me before this show was, "when faced with a difficult choice pick the dog you would most like to take home". Good advice but in some classes I would happily have gone home with every dog/puppy in my final line up. This was my first Championship appointment and I was of course looking for good construction, but also sensible unexaggerated movement, and that special sweet and gentle expression which the best of our breed are gifted with.

SB.D/B (5,1) 1. Paddock's Blenmerrow Lyricist. A heavily coated fairly plain shaded sable dog, nicely made and very good on the move keeping a level top-line. He has a pleasing head, nice flat skull, dark well shaped eyes and well used ears giving him a lovely gentle expression. He was alert, responsive and a worthy winner of this class. 2. Carr's Wansvale Limelight. Not in full coat today but this S/W girl has nice outline with a good length of neck. She was attentive to her owner, used her ears well and had a pleasing head. Movement was sound with plenty of drive. 3. Clough's Evad Lite Breeze

MPD (3,1) 1. Rutterford's Myter Black Tarquin At Stormhead. A handsome 8 month old tricolour boy. who looks balanced with correct size and substance for his age. He has a pleasing head with nice dark eyes and well-placed ears. A promising youngster who showed and moved well. 2. Forster-Cooper's Alnmac We Will Rock You. A 6-month S/W attractive puppy, obviously less mature than my winner, but shows promise. He has a nice body shape, good neck and topline but was a little overawed by the occasion.

PD (2) 1. Jeavons' Grandgenes Hey Good Lookin. Well named, a very handsome shaded sable. He looks good for size, has a nice eye shape, good ear placement and pleasing expression. An eye catching young dog who would however benefit from a little less exuberance on the move. BPD. He was also BP in breed and I was pleased to see that he won 4th place in the Pastoral Puppy Group. 2. Haensel's Sherkarl Sole Diva. A young S/W dog with lots of ring presence. He looks very mature, has ample bone and carries a huge coat. He was beautifully presented and handled and moved with confidence. Hope he doesn't grow any more.

JD (4) 1. Winfield's Oakcroft The Mandalorian. A very smart richly coloured S/W boy. I loved his overall shape and reach of neck. He has good head properties, well placed ears, nicely shaped eyes and a sweet expression. He covered the ground with ease, holding a level top line. This is a well-balanced elegant young dog who looks set for a successful show career. He was best Junior in breed and I was pleased to see him come 2nd in the Pastoral Junior Group. 2. Fagg's Valdosta Lionking At Lynscot. Another promising youngster who looks good for size and carries a glorious colour S/W coat with a full white collar. He moved soundly and freely keeping a level top line. His expression is sweet and gentle with good eye and ear placement. He is lighter in build than my winner and I feel that a little more time to mature and fill out will set him up for future success. 3. Forster-Cooper's Shelytsham Danseur

YD (4) 1. Mitchell's Valdosta Gracelands. Beautifully balanced S/W dog who caught my eye as he entered the ring. He has good head planes, with lovely dark almond shaped eyes and well used ears resulting in a sweet and gentle expression. I very much liked his overall shape and size, Construction is good with well-placed shoulder and upper arm, straight front legs, level topline, good bend of stifle & tail length. He was well presented, ably handled and flowed round the ring at just the right speed, smooth sensible movement without exaggeration. Some serious hair-splitting went on when choosing my CC winner, but I just preferred the size and expression of this boy and was happy to award him his first CC. 2. Fagg's Valdosta Lionking At Lynscot. 3. Philhope In Good Taste

PGD (6) 1. Hirst's Sundark Scaramouche. A BM dog who stands four square showing his elegant outline. He is well balanced, and as I have come to expect from this kennel moved very well with an easy flowing stride. He has a good front assembly, a level topline, a graceful slope over the loins and a really good length tail. 2. Clough's Evad Lite Breeze. An attractive well-presented red gold S/W dog in good coat having a ¾ white collar and a nice gentle expression. He moved soundly and freely keeping a level top line and stood four square in the line-up showing a good outline. 3. Rutterford's Kelgrove Midsummer Blue At Stormhead

LD (13,1) One of the best classes of the day, I wished there were more awards on offer. 1. Norris' Ferngrove's Valentino Another sheltie who immediately impressed on entering the ring. A glamorous well-presented S/W dog with very good make and shape. Those front legs are so well under it just screams correct front assembly which is matched by his good rear angulation. He has lovely almond shaped eyes, well placed and used ears giving a pleasing and alert expression. To complete the picture, he moved soundly with excellent drive and extension. This boy has been knocking on the door for some time now and I was pleased to award him the RCC 2. Lambert's Blenmerrow Merry Minstral A plain shaded sable, nice size and substance, but not one to immediately catch the eye. Then a closer look when he was on the table changed my initial assessment. This boy has a beautiful head, here is that elusive gentle expression, lovely eye shape and well used ears, just what the standard requires. His construction is good, and he moved effortlessly round the ring with an easy flowing stride. 3. Creamer's Lyngarso Captain Tom OD (3) 1. Winfield's Ch Lirren Quickstep to Oakcroft This boy has a richly coloured S/W coat with attractive markings. He was lighter in frame than the others in this class but for me, his size and substance are ideal. He has a nicely proportioned head, well placed eyes, good ear carriage and a very pleasing gentle expression which influenced my decision to place him first. 2. Robinson's Lavika Moonlight Storm. A very smart young tricolour dog immaculately turned out and beautifully presented. He is soundly made with ample bone and good angulation. Excellent drive from a well-constructed rear produces smooth and efficient movement and he positively motored round the ring keeping a level topline throughout. 3. Hull's Mohnesee Dream Date of Lizmark

VD/B (8,1) 1. Sundark Simply A Star. This nicely balanced 10 yr old tricolour bitch carrying a good coat, certainly lives up to her name. She has a pleasing outline, and a nicely proportioned head on a well arched neck, Her top line, is level, she is well angulated and was one of the best movers of the day which earned her BVB and BV. 2. Whittington's Tighness The Tide Is High. S/W . A very elegant sheltie having a nice shape and blessed with a lovely length of neck. She has good head properties and a sweet expression. A graceful little lady who moved effortlessly round the ring. 3. Riding's Achor's Surprise Percy Polaris For Torinska A BM dog nicely presented with good well broken blue coat. He moved soundly and sensibly around the ring showing his nice construction and good balance. BVD

MPB. (4) I would happily have gone home with any of the puppies in this class. 1. Roberson's Melwhays Promise To Delight I loved the overall make and shape of this most appealing S/W puppy. She has nice head properties, with dark almond shaped eye, and used her ears well. At 8 months and still just a baby she looks well balanced with good bone and her movement round the ring was sound with good reach and drive. BPB 2. Hill's Molson Modern Millie. Another quality S/W puppy carrying a lovely golden coat. She is a little smaller than the first, but nicely made and so feminine with a sweet expression well used ears and almond shaped eyes. She moved well but was not as confident as the winner. 3. Tunncliffe's Dippersmoor Dream Alliance. PB. (6) 1. Lambert's Blenmerrow La Boheme. A very elegant lightly shaded S/W puppy who immediately caught my attention as she entered the ring. She has a lovely shape, nice reach of neck, good head and a pleasing expression. She moved freely with good extension, keeping a level top line at all times. Unfortunately, she was unable to stay for the challenge. 2, Lambert's Blenmerrow Lullaby. Another lovely S/W puppy, litter sister to the 1st place puppy and having many of the same attributes. Much more glamour here, and a very sweet expression, but I preferred the overall shape and movement of the winner. 3. Tunncliffe's Dippersmoor Dream Alliance

JB (5) 1. Hill's Mad About You With Molson. A glamorous golden S/W girl having a pleasing wedge shaped head, with well-placed almond shaped eyes and a very sweet expression which made her my first choice in this class. She is nicely made, looks good for size and although she was rather unsettled by the weather conditions today moved well keeping a level top-line. 2. Robinson's Lavika Sunset Rose. This young girl has an exceptionally good blue colour coat and as usual with this kennel was immaculately presented and expertly handled. Smaller for size than my winner, nicely made, lovely outline and such a good show girl. A proper little trooper, who really motors round the ring with great enthusiasm. 3, Norris' Sabema Mayfly At Ferngrove. YB. (6) 1. Weller's Evad Halloween Spice. Wow, this golden girl has matured well and is both elegant and graceful. She has a lovely moulded head, dark almond shaped eyes and well used ears giving the desired sheltie expression. Her shape and outline are excellent with just the right length of neck. She is nicely constructed. standing with her front legs well under and movement is a joy to watch. I was delighted to award her the RCC. 2. Mitchell's Valdosta Goddess. Another promising lightly shaded S/W sheltie well balanced and having a good outline. She has nicely placed dark eyes with well used ears which combine to give her a pleasing and alert expression. Her construction is good and she moved round the ring soundly, smoothly and at the correct speed. 3 Straw's Dukeson It's Amazing

PGB. (14.2) 1. McShane's Blenmerrow Ring Of Roses. A nicely constructed lightly Shaded S/W girl, well presented and very smart, looking at her best today. She has a lovely outline, very good angulation, stands four square with front legs well under, and has a nice length of neck. Her head is well proportioned with eyes and ears correctly placed to give the required sheltie expression. She is not an easy girl to show but when co-operating with her owner, she moves well with excellent drive and reach. 2 Hirst's Sundark Symphony In Suede. A smart tricolour with jet black coat, glamorous white collar and elegant outline. She has a lean wedge shaped head and very nice expression. Her construction is good with nice angulation and as expected she moves very well with good drive and extension 3. Revill's Mosardi Forget Me Not.

LB. (13.1) The class of the day with so many quality shelties competing. 1. Bray's Dandlewood Kiss 'N' Tell At Llianbray. An eye-catching very feminine elegant golden S/W girl. She has a nicely proportioned head with well-placed dark almond eyes and the sweetest expression. Her size looks good, and she is well balanced and well-constructed with good front and rear angulation. She stands four square showing an elegant outline, and a level top line with gracefull sweep over loins and croup into a good length tail. As expected, she moves with an easy flowing stride. This girl just oozes quality and I was pleased to award her BCC and then BOB. 2. Robinson's Lavika Lateca. Golden S/W, a real glamour girl with full white collar, beautifully presented, carrying a profuse coat in excellent condition. She is a very good showgirl, alert and attentive. and stood four square in the line-up. When going round the ring she moved well with excellent drive and reach. 3. Lambert's Blenmerrow Daisy Chain,

OB (3) 1 Hill's Molson Movie Star. A slightly smaller size S/W girl in full coat who is very feminine in appearance. She has an attractive head with good parallel planes, lovely almond shape eyes and well used ears resulting in a very sweet expression. An excellent show girl who moved well with plenty of drive. 2. Barrowclough's Shadowess True Blue. A very smart glamorous BM bitch with excellent coat, rich tan markings and full white collar. She has a nice shape with a good length of neck and well-proportioned head although I would prefer the ears a tad smaller. She is well constructed and moved soundly covering the ground with ease. 3. Rennison's Esterbon Bi Storm To Zaniah

Judge - Maureen Arnould