

Shetland Sheepdog Club of Northern Ireland Championship Show Saturday 9th June 2018.

A very warm welcome awaited me from the Secretary Mrs Thelma Cushley, her committee and the exhibitors and I would like to thank the club for the invitation which saw an ambition fulfilled in as much as I have now been privileged to judge the championship show of all the breed clubs.

The weather was extremely warm and the outdoor setting made for a very pleasant outdoor show. I would like to thank the exhibitors for their entries which although lacking in numbers, certainly did not lack in quality with all my main winners well able to hold their own in the UK

My overall observations were that forehead construction still needs attention often those with steep fronts lacking neck. Observe a dog from the side and see where the front legs are. They shouldn't be underneath the ears!!

Presentation was generally excellent with a few coats obviously about to blow, but I did observe a few with very harshly trimmed ears which did nothing for the soft sheltie expression the breed is known for.

Thankfully the growing trend of stacking exhibits was not evident today. Nothing better than a sheltie free standing on a loose lead!

MINOR PUPPY DOG

1ST CASTLEROSE FOXTROT, 8.5 months rich sable who was presented to perfection. Excellent for size with a head of good length and balance although he could clear in stop a fraction which would sweeten the expression. He moved very well indeed with a light accurate movement. Good length of tail, carried well on the move. Overall a well balanced exhibit. Best Puppy dog.

PUPPY DOG

C FOXTROT

JUNIOR DOG. A nice class here.

1ST SANDWICK STARLIGHT, Here is a young star in the making. Superb shape and balance on this tri boy, he is just so balanced all over, everything blends into the next part with no exaggerations. Although not carrying a wealth of coat, it fits his body and its jet black in colour with rich tan markings setting it off and he was presented in sparkling condition. Lovely wedge head properties of ideal balanced proportions giving him a sweet yet masculine expression. On the move he is true and free. Delighted to award him the RDCC. No doubt he will hit the high spots before too long

2ND CAROLELEN COSMIC STAR OF MOIFARA, quality sable scoring heavily in breed type with the most endearing of expressions. An attentive showman who was excellently presented. Couldn't quite match the forehead of the winner today and he is perhaps a tad long in loin but he is a lovely boy and not disgraced at all standing second. Lovely arched neck which he used well. Should have some good days with this boy

3RD PLUTO GINTARINE SALA AT CEARTHALL JD

YEARLING DOG

1ST RANNERDALE THE ENTERTAINER, rich coloured sable boy approaching two years. He was in full coat which was excellently presented as always from this exhibitor. He has the most wonderful head with fabulous ears and a super sweet eye and expression. Not totally settled on the move today but I'm sure when he gets his act together he will have far better days. I liked his size and masculinity without any coarseness (something in the breed were seeing a bit too much of)

2ND P G SALA at CEARTHALL JD. A very appealing blue boy who scored in expression. A very shapely boy who moved up from 3rd in the nice junior class. He isn't the biggest of boys and I would prefer smaller ears but he presented the more balanced picture to gain his place here.

3RD WILLOWTHORN KOBALT STAR BY SAVATAURUS JW JNR CH

NOVICE DOG - 0 ENTRIES

GRADUATE DOG

1ST ILIAD ISLE SPY, shaded sable who I've judged before and is starting to mature nicely. He has a good depth of body and spring of rib. Scored over the second in length of back, upper arm and head pattern and ear carriage. Presented in excellent condition with every hair gleaming.

2ND W K STAR BY SAVATAURUS JW, I liked the size on this blue boy and he was an attentive showman with good bone. Unfortunately he is very heavily marked with black patches but where he is blue it is a good colour. His over exuberance on the move led to a very high tail carriage which distracted from the performance.

POST GRADUATE

1ST CASTLEROSE STAR TURN JW, well known tri who scores initially on the elegance of his shape. On the move he is very steady and covered the ground easily. Well balanced head properties with a cleaner back skull than the second placed exhibit. Excellently presented and gently handled as he's not a showing fool by any means.

2ND PUNCKNOWLE STAR GAZER AT SAVATAURUS JW, SH CM. A 4.5 year old blue boy who can present an attractive picture at times and in complete contrast to the winner this boy is almost too enthusiastic. On the stand he can over stretch himself and stand very wide behind. He's almost too eager and on the move he persisted in pulling away from his handler making assessment harder. Deeper in back skull than the winner. A more settled performance would make all the difference.

3RD GLENN HURRICANE OF THE DEE

LIMIT DOG

1ST FEARNACH CRUSADER, outstanding tri boy, approaching 4 years of age and in wonderful coat and condition which was presented to perfection. Walked into the ring exuding breed type with his beautiful overall shape and flowing movement. I liked his size and balance, he has a good neck and tail. He has lovely head properties with a sweet eye and lovely ears, a slightly flatter skull would be ideal but hey ho he'll do for me! Today was his day and he was quietly handled to get the best from him and I was delighted to award him the DCC and reserve best in show. I do hope he's campaigned to his UK title, he deserves it.

2ND DONALLIN SHADOW MAGIC FOR JONDREA SH CM, 2.5 year old sable of far heavier build than the winner. He is balanced for his size but he is stronger in head properties and bone. He was in full coat and well presented and handled to show himself off. A bit happy with his tail on the move.

OPEN DOG

1ST SANDWICK FORTUNE SEEKER, love the head properties on this shaded sable boy, such a clean wedge head with flat back skull with a sweet eye and expression. Not carrying a wealth of coat, it fits his body and was presented in sparkling condition. Moved very freely in the class and was a contender in the challenge narrowly losing out to his son from the junior class for the RCC

2ND IR CH OSCARS WINNING LEGACY OF HILLAWNS, Very workmanlike and upstanding tri boy of 7 years in lovely coat and condition and he was handled and presented to advantage. He has good bone but not the upper arm, nor neck of the winner and therefore not the overall balanced picture. He has a decent expression and he had a super driving rear action on the move.

3RD RANNERDALE LORD FAWLTY

VETERAN DOG

1ST O WINNING LEGACY OF HILLAWNS

SABLE AND WHITE DOG

1ST BEECHCOTE MILES AHEAD, a 2 year old of smaller type all through who was an attentive showman with a sweet expression. His ears are a tad larger than the ideal. Good length of tail and moved well enough behind but a little narrow in front. Presentation could've been improved

TRI COLOUR DOG

1ST F CRUSADER

2ND ARDLYN ALFIE BO, 7 year old who has good bone, a super upper arm and length and balance of head. Masculine in size with a balanced outlook. Carrying a bit of weight today which showed in his movement today and was unable to challenge the winner.

BLUE MERLE DOG

1ST CASTLEROSE SPIRITMASTER JW SH CM, well known workmanlike boy who is approaching 7. Always pleases for his shape and overall balance and soundness on the move. Colour a bit dark now but a boy who will always be there or thereabouts

2ND P STAR GAZER, 2ND PGD.

3RD P K SALA AT CEARTHALL

BRED AND OWNED IN N IRELAND

1ST G HURRICANE OF THE DEE, moving up from 3rd in PGD, sweet eye on this well presented boy who was in good coat. Stood rather wide at times and was reluctant on the move today persistently lifting his tail. Would prefer a flatter back skull. An attentive showman enjoying his day.

MINOR PUPPY BITCH

1ST LETERICKHILLS SHE'S A STAR AT FINCALLAGH, 6.5 month old baby with a lovely temperament. She has a good topline and is balanced all through with a decent length of upper arm although today her movement was quite bouncy as she enjoyed herself! Her stop needs to clear to sweeten the expression and I do hope she has stopped growing

PUPPY BITCH

1ST FEARNACH MAKING MISCHIEF, blue merle out of the top drawer. Simply stunning. So well balanced, with a superb shape, arched neck, level topline, sweep over the loin, well set and carried tail. Feminine in size with beautiful head properties with the correct balance and a sweet eye, correctly set and used ears. In full bloom and was presented and handled to advantage. On the move she just floated around the ring. Very close up today for the top award, just loved her. Pleased to award her the RBCC and BPIS

2ND HILLAWNS BLUE PANDORA, Glamorous good coloured blue a shade taller than the winner and not quite the balance of her being a bit shorter in back. Balanced head properties but a richer tan would enhance the expression. Sound on the move and was well presented and handled.

JUNIOR BITCH

1 AND 2 REPEAT OF PUPPY BITCH

YEARLING BITCH

1ST WELLNEUK DANCING FLAME JW, have done this girl well before and she's maturing slowly along the right lines but i feel still needs time to come to her best. I love her balance of head and she has a sweet eye and a typical sheltie expression. She presents a balanced picture. She moved true today but just needs to mature in body and coat to challenge higher.

2ND MURIESTON MAKE A WISH, feminine sized girl who couldn't match the ear carriage of the winner on the day. In good coat which was well presented, scoring her place over the 3rd on the better forehead construction.

3RD MURIESTON SHOOTING STAR FOR JONDREA

NOVICE BITCH – NO ENTRIES

GRADUATE BITCH. Overall a very nice class.

1ST ILIAD ISLA WISHES, nicely sized sable who excels in head properties, having a lovely wedge shape with a flat back skull. Her ears could be a tad tighter to advantage but her overall balance and driving movement won her the class. Presented excellently and handled to perfection by an expert.

2ND FEARNACH TILLY TROTTER AT SLIEVEMAC, Glamorous golden sable of feminine size who scored over the winner having a slightly sweeter eye and tighter ears but couldn't match her on the move. Another who was very well presented and handled

3RD AVONBANK DESIGNED TO DAZZLE

POST GRADUATE BITCH, another very nice class

1ST KEARTHALL GOLDEN DREAMS, a super girl who really impressed. Shaded sable with a large white blaze which was very attractive. Loved her head length and balance with neat well used ears and a lovely set eye gave her the most endearing of expressions. An ideal feminine size with a good top line and a nice easy mover. A good neck which was well used and she was in good coat which was well presented. Unlucky to meet some other top class girls in later classes.

2ND CASTLEROSE CLAIRVOYANT, nicely shaped blue merle carrying a well fitted coat of a good colour. A nice size. Could perhaps carry a little more body to advantage and she moved well albeit without the composure of the winner. Another from this exhibitor that was presented so very well.

3RD MURIESTON LADY LUCINDA

LIMIT BITCH

1ST RANNERDALE QUEEN O'THE NORTH, almost two year old ultra feminine young lady who demands attention the second she walks in the ring. Of ideal size and in full bloom which was presented to perfection. She has a super arched neck which she uses so well showing off her super head properties with such an endearing expression with well used attentive ears. Moved easily and positively keeping her composure in the challenge holding off the precocious puppy who chased her all the way. Pleased to award her the BCC and ultimately Best in Show

2ND C GOLDEN DREAMS

3RD SEVENOAKS PENNY HEAVEN

OPEN BITCH

1ST DIPPERSMOOR JOIE DE VIVRE AT SANDWICK, super jet black tri in absolute gleaming condition which with her rich tan and superb presentation made for a very pleasing picture. She has a very cheeky expression and never lets up showing for a moment although a slightly better eye would be ideal. She is ultra sound with super bone and a level top line striding out with a lightness of foot. A lovely girl.

2ND IR CH SEVENOAKS ANGEL BY MY SIDE, a nearly 4 year old sable who is of a nice size and balance. I liked her length of head although her ears aren't as neat as the 1st, she still has a good expression. She was carrying a good coat and moved around the ring easily just not quite the assurance of the tri

3RD NO NAE NEVER AT SLEIVEMAC

VETERAN BITCH, another lovely class headed by two lovely champion girlies

1ST CH SHEBAVILLE SAUCY SECRET AT ILIAD JW, 8 year old blue girl who was in full coat. A darker shade of blue than the ideal but she cannot be denied for her beautiful head qualities and ultra sound movement. Presented in sparkling condition. Best veteran in Show.

2ND CH RANNERDALE STAR O'THE NORTH JW, a 10 year old lady in full coat and looking an absolute delight sparkling in the sunlight. Lovely head properties and a super sweet expression. Just lost out slightly to saucy when comparing their toplines. Two lovely champions.

3RD WELLNEUK DANCING WATERS JW SH CM

SABLE AND WHITE BITCH

1ST LITTLE BARBIE GIRL DES ROMARINS DE MAYERLING FOR SEVENOAKS. A very nice girl with a good balance of head with good ears and eyeset. Good bone, and a level topline which she kept on the move as she moved freely around the ring with a good forward reach due to her correct upper arm. In good coat which was well presented.

2ND C GOLDEN DREAMS

3RD MURIESTON CLASSIC DESIGN

TRI COLOUR BITCH, NO ENTRIES

BLUE MERLE BITCH

1ST F MAKING MISCHIEF

2ND I'M SHA-KIR-RA BY KARYSHANTY JUN CH, 6.5 year old mature attentive showgirl who never let up showing. Her eye is rather full so couldn't match the expression of the winner. Very sound action from the rear driving around the ring but rather steep in upper arm. In good coat. Rather heavy in bone.

3RD BLUEQUARRY PEARL BLUE

BRED IN NORTHERN IRELAND BITCH

1ST BEEHCOTE KATY DALY, a feminine sized sable who was in good coat. She has a decent length of head giving an overall balanced picture. An attentive showgirl, just a little bold in eye. A fair mover with a good topline and she has a decent upper arm.

KAY HATELEY

JUDGE