

Shetland Sheepdog Club of North Wales Championship Show 10.08.25

I would like to thank the Club for the opportunity and privilege to give CCs for first time in UK. Having had the breed since 1972, my original kennel name registered in 1975 and having judged the breed all over the world, I am proud to say the breed sure has developed into something of great beauty. The Clubs hospitality was great and show ran smoothly with the help of my two stewards Keith Mottram and Gail Jacobs. Overall I felt the entry had depth of quality, with several close split hair splitting decisions. There are a few areas which I feel need to be addressed. Not just today but for quite some time now I have noticed a distinct number of exhibits with snipy muzzles and almost total lack of underjaw, so much so that the bottom lip does not close and meet the upper lip, resulting in the incisors and in some instances canines being visible, referring back to our standard where it uses words like rounded and blunt (I personally find this most offensive and unattractive to say the least). Then there is the case of light eye rims seen too often, once again not pleasing on my eye. Front assemblies tend to be too upright with head appearing to be positioned above the front legs. Then the dreaded short tails. A final observation with regards to altering a dogs appearance with application of lead to the ears, blatantly done at ring side in plain sight. I find this totally unethical behaviour and against RKC rules!

Baby Puppy (2) 1 Tunncliffe's Dippersmoor Rising Star, pretty sweet head and expression, shoulder a bit high placed, bit lift in front, correct tail set and carriage. Certainly thoroughly enjoyed her outing and showed well for her handler. Ended up Best Baby Puppy in Show. 2 Herring's Milesend Ava Perron, like her body proportions, soundly made, bit strong in back skull and ears could be neater, tail set on rather high and carried up.

MP (5) 1 Lambert's Blenmerrow Musetta, certainly one I would proudly own, loved her sweet expression combination of nice dark almond shaped eye, dark rims and well placed ears, neat package, well balanced body with well laid back shoulders, good turn stifle. Moved true in all direction, in lovely puppy bloom. 2 Jackson's Kishdigra An Irish Blessing for Clairavelle (IKC), pretty headed with sweet expression, good reach of neck and shoulder well laid back, well angled in rear and correct amount of bone. Nice on her legs and loved to see how alert and responsive she was to her owner. 3 Pearson's Edglonian Norma Jean.

PB (8,1) 1 Sutherland's – Sutherley Petunia, stylish nicely balanced tricolour, good reach of neck and sweep over croup, needs to develop in chest, loved her sweet expression with neat well placed ears, with well rounded muzzle. Good reach and drive on go around. Best Puppy Bitch 2 Mettan-Ure's – Oakcroft Graceful Star Over Savendie, sweet head and expression, loved her front assembly and solid rear, moved with reach and drive with correct tail carriage. Certainly at one with her owner. 3 Durant's Misti Moon over Neraklee.

JB (6,1) 1 Stafford's Rannerdale Sugar Puff, loved her type, nice eye and well rounded muzzle, ears a tad wide set, good neck into shoulder. Moved well overall. Presented in lovely coat and condition. 2 Bray's Lianbray Lucy Locket, pretty headed with nice dark almond eye and rims. Ears could be touch smaller. Coat coming in had slight wave. Moved well. 3 Keeling's Kishdigra Spirit Of The Goddess RAF.

YB (4,1) 1 Robinson's – Dippersmoor Dazzling Star JW, pretty shaded sable, liked the type, sweet eye and rounded muzzle, ears could be tighter. Lovely angles front and rear, correct bone, balanced on the move. 2 Gruszka's – Achor's Surprise Himalaya Over Samphrey (Imp Che), blue merle nicely balanced, liked her lean back skull and sweet expression, shoulder a tad high placed, well off for bone. Needs to tighten up coming towards. 3 Mettan-Ure Savendie Meleys.

MB (2) 1 Jackson's Kishdigra An Irish Blessing For Clairavelle (IKC). 2nd in Minor puppy. 2 Withers's Wish Upon The Moon for Stanydale, tricolour, nice head with well rounded muzzle, shoulder bit high placed, well developed prosternum. Bit high in rear on stance.

N (2) 1 Withers's Wish Upon The Moon For Stanydale, 2 Winfield's – Oakcroft Amazing Star, sable with abundant coat, ultra feminine with sweet head and expression. Would prefer more length of leg to balance her out. Rather high stepping on the move.

GB (8,2) 1 Goodwin's Rowancrest Legally Blonde, lots to like about this sound shapely girl, structure to write standard around, stood four square, free sound mover. Well placed ears and dark eye. Should prove valuable in whelping box. 2 Thomson's Sommerville Starlight At Lochdee, up to size well marked clear blue merle, nice head with well rounded muzzle, ears could be tighter, moved well. 3 Goodwin's Herds Height Of Fashion at Highbrook.

PGB (7,2) 1 Lewthwaite's – Rannerdale Queen Of Majic, sable of lovely type, sweetest of expressions, shapely with good reach neck and shoulder lay back. Reach and drive on the move, considered for higher award. Hoping her time is not far off. 2 Curtin's – Blarney Black Magic, pretty well balanced tricolour, liked her head, ears a tad wide set and eye a touch round. Well off for bone, smooth easy on move with correct tail set. 3 Hateley's Mohnesee's Meliya JW.

LB (8,2) 1 Thornley, Thornley & Withers's Felthorn Good Time Girl, quality blue merle, one admired in the past who did not disappoint, lovely type, size and bone, correct front assembly, moved true coming and going, possibly like a touch more drive. One considered for higher award. 2 Norris's Sabema Mayfly at Ferngrove, pretty moderate sable, nice head with sweet eye, neat ears and finish of underjaw. Good reach neck and moved well on day. 3 Rosslyn's Balidorn Golden Amber ShCEX.

OB (8,2) 1 Welford's Ristine Emerald, pretty tricolour with rich tan marking, filled my eye on entering the ring with low forward reach and drive from well angled rear and distinctly angled stifle joint, neatly low set, her head and expression did not disappoint with combination of alert neat small ears and oblique eye. Reach of neck into well laid back shoulder enhanced her balance and ease on the move. In fabulous condition and warmed my heart to witness her loyalty to her owner. Pleasure to award her the CC (her 2nd) and later BOS, RBOB and BVIS. 2 Pearson's Ch Edglonian Golden Glow, impeccable presentation as always from this exhibitor, loved her type and pleasing outline, sweet expression, neat well placed ears and rounded muzzle with underjaw. Balanced on move, bit higher set stifle compared to class winner. Another in contention for higher award. 3 Keeling's IrCh/Ch Kishdigra Heavenly Goddess IR/INT CW24.

VB (7,1) What a quality packed class! 1 Main's Shenachie Lyric Of Light, well this old lady certainly tugged at my heart strings, at almost 12 years of age, just floated around the ring, with low reach and drive, still so true out and back as sound as a bell. Then to go over her lovely lean flat head with those soft sweet dark eyes, melted me. Honoured to award her the RCC in strong company. Surprised and rather sad to hear she was not a Champion. 2 Hateley's Ch Mohnesee Sweet Dreams JW, another of my favourites, lovely headed with desired oblique almond eye, neat ears giving sweet expression, very well structured with well used reach of neck. Just needed a touch more coat to complete the picture on the day. 3 Hardy's Ch Dippersmoor Joie De Vivre at Sandwick.

Special Beginners B (4,1) 1 Curtin's Blarney Black Magic, 2nd in Post Grad. 2 Jackson's Kishdigra An Irish Blessing For Clairavelle (IKC), 2nd in Minor puppy. 3 Thomson's Lochdee Miss Marlie.

Special Open Tricolour B (3,1) 1 Rennison's – Esterbon Bi Storm To Zaniah, always nice to see a bi black being shown as I know how hard it is to be noticed and become a Champion, this bitch did not disappoint in many areas, certainly can not deny her shapely construction, pleasing head detail eye a touch round, neat well placed ears. Reach and drive on go around and nice low tail set. 2 Stafford's Rannerdale Queen Of The Nite, liked her type, well balanced, in gleaming coat. Pretty expression, back skull a tad wider than class winner, portrayed reach and drive, bit close in rear. Splitting hairs with this class.

Special Open Blue B (3,2) 1 Main's Shenachie Flakey Dove, note say my type with lovely refined head for her 12 years of age, ear set tad wide. Shapely outline and moved soundly.

Judge - Guy Jeavons (Grandgenes/ GrandGables)