

Shetland Sheepdog Club of North Wales

23 November 2024

It was a great honour to be invited to judge the Shetland Sheepdog Club of North Wales Open Show and to receive a numerically strong entry for an open show. I wish to thank the committee for their great hospitality and taking good care of me. A special thanks to my ring stewards Joanne and Paula for all their work around the ring. It is a lot of work to organise a show, but all the people that were helping made sure everything was run smoothly and that everybody was enjoying the show.

Unfortunately, a lot of dogs were absent due to bad weather conditions. I would like to thank all the people that came and braved the weather for their sportsmanship in and around the ring during the day. It all contributed to a delightful day.

I was pleased about the shelties I had in the ring, especially in bitches I had several quality specimens. In general, I thought the sizes and presentation was very good. Much has been written about steep fronts and I also agree that many exhibits should improve in this compartment. Maybe more concerning at the moment was the head. The standard is very specific and detailed: a long blunt wedge shaped head, flat skull, cheeks flat and merging smoothly into a well rounded muzzle, stop slight but definite placed between the inner eye corner, eyes dark almond shaped and obliquely set. I really missed the combination of all these points in many dogs. The head is so important for breed type and makes a sheltie a sheltie.

However, I did find what I was looking for in my winners and that is an elegant working dog of great beauty that is true to type. BIS went to Sheltisha Royal Approval, RBIS to Ch Mohnesee Sweet Dreams, BPIS & BOSIS to Mohnesee's The Dream Master (son to the RBIS) and BVIS to Ch Smiddyshaw I'll Be There For U JW VW.

Thank you for a memorable and enjoyable day.

Minor Puppy Dog (3,1a)

1st Hateley's Mohnesee's The Dream Master, 8 months old s/w puppy of excellent type. Correct size and bone for his age. He has correct body to height proportions. His head is balanced and he has a flat skull, nicely rounded muzzle and a good underjaw, well placed ears that were slightly heavy today. He has a good length of neck and carries his head proudly. His shoulder placement is OK, a bit steep in upper arm. Needs to develop in chest. He has a good spring of ribs and lovely sweep over the loins. He has enough substance in body for his age. Strong bone. Well presented coat. He has a friendly outgoing temperament. On the move he needs to settle in his front (his happy temperament didn't do him a favour), he was OK from the side. Well presented and he showed well. He is a promising puppy and, of course, he needs to mature more, but I think, with the time on his side, he will develop into a nice dog, perfectly normal for one his age. In the line-up for best male I thought he stood out for breed type and that's why he deserved all his placings. **BD, BPD, BOS & BPIS;**

2nd Gartland's Arcot Polished Black, just 6 months old tricolour puppy that is very promising. I liked him a lot for his make and shape. He has a good size for his age and has correct body proportions. His head is wedge shaped and of just enough length. He has lovely neat ears, rich tan markings, correct proportions between skull and muzzle divided by a slight stop. Good underjaw. His eyes could be more almond shaped. He has a lovely neck going smoothly into a level topline and nice sweep over the loins due to a correct layback of shoulder. Solid front construction with good forechest. His rear angulation matched his front. This was evident on the move where he strode out with good reach and drive and correct movement for his age from all sides. Well presented and lovely temperament. I did consider him as reserve best dog, but he just lost out on maturity. I am looking forward to seeing how both puppies will develop.

Puppy Dog (3,1a)

1st Hateley's Mohnesee's The Dream Master;

2nd Hawkins & Foy's Beldones Just A Hunch, 11 months old s/w puppy with a lot of things to like. He is balanced all over, stood foursquare and was presented well the whole time. He has a good size and is slightly longer than high. His head is balanced and he has a lovely rounded muzzle with a very good underjaw, neat well placed ears. His stop is slight but definite and correctly placed between the eyes. He has beautiful dark almond shaped eyes full of expression. But the head, for me, is too strong for his age. He has a lovely arched neck, moderate front angulation with enough filling between the legs. Strong bone, good spring of pasterns and oval feet. Nice topline with typical sweep over the loins. Well set and carried tail. He moves with extension and balance from the side with a correct head carriage, bit untidy in front and behind. Abundant weather resistant coat that was well presented. I thought he was a bit too strong overall.

Junior Dog (2,2a)

Maiden Dog (1,0a)

1st Gartland's Arcot Polished Black, 2nd MPD.

Novice Dog (3,0a)

1st Hateley's Mohnesee's The Dream Master, 1st MPD;

2nd Gartland's Arcot Polished Black, 2nd MPD;

3rd Welford's Echolynn Saxophonic.

Graduate Dog (3,2a)

1st Berry, Clegram & Clegram's Smiddyshaw Here I Go Again, 18 months old s/s/w who stood alone in his class but caught my eye for his complete balance. He has an excellent size and ideal body proportions. His head is a blunt wedge with a good rounded muzzle and underjaw. Stop is placed a bit low and he is a tad strong in back skull. Correctly placed, slightly heavy ears. His eyes are dark but could be more almond shaped and more obliquely set. He has a good construction. His head is carried by an arched neck of just the right amount of length, going smoothly over in his level topline due to his good

shoulder placement. Correct length and return of upper arm. He has enough forechest and depth in body for his age. Excellent bone, straight legs, flexible pasterns and nice oval feet. Good substance in body with a nice oval shaped ribcage. Typical sweep over the loins, well angulated behind. Nice straight short hocks. He moved coordinated and balanced from the side with good extension, could be better behind. Fantastically shown and handled to get the most out of him. Coat had the correct harsh texture.

RBD.

Post Graduate Dog (no entries)

Limit Dog (3,2a)

1st Sorockyj's Padawan Mandalorian, 3 year old sable dog with a lovely warm sable colour. He has a good size, but is slightly more compact. He has a masculine head, correct wedge shape, he has a slight drop off and he could be more parallel in his head planes. He has a good rounded muzzle. His eyes are a bit widely placed, but are dark and almond shaped. His ears were well placed but slightly heavy. Enough neck. Stronger angulated behind than in front, ample bone, good spring of pasterns and oval feet. Bit steep in his croup. Correct tail set. Moved OK from the side, could be more stable in his front and hind movement. Good temperament and nicely presented coat of good quality and quantity.

Open Dog (1,1a)

Veteran Dog (3,1a)

1st Isdale's Viewdale Cuddly Dudley JW, 8 years old masculine g/s/w dog of excellent type and size. Masculine head with a good underjaw, tight scissor bite. I would prefer less stop, a flatter skull, and less depth in back skull. Lovely small and neat tipping ears that are well carried and placed, lovely dark almond shaped eyes that gave him a very sweet expression. He could have a bit more neck. His layback of shoulder is good, but his upper arm is a bit short and steep. He has good substance in body and a nice sweep over the loins. I would prefer a better return of stifle. He is coordinated in his movement from the side with enough stride, narrow behind and loose in front. Well presented abundant coat of the correct harsh texture. Nice temperament. **BVD;**

2nd Gamble's Solyric Inaugural Gold JW OSW, 7 years old s/w dog, again one of excellent size and type. He has a sweet expression, but could be a bit more masculine. Wedge shaped head, lips could close better, correct stop, dark eyes that are a bit full. Neat tipping ears that he showed the whole time. I would prefer a touch more neck. He is steep in his front angulation and could have more forechest. Correct pasterns, a bit flat feet, ample bone, he could have a more oval shaped ribcage, typical sweep over the loins. Correctly placed sometimes a bit too happy carried tail. He could be tighter in his movement and I would prefer a longer stride. Friendly temperament and really well shown.

Special Open Sable and White Dog (no entries)

Special Open Tricolour/Black and White/Black and Tan Dog (2,1a)

1st Hardy's Sandwich Style Council, charming tricolour male of excellent size and good body proportions. He caught my eye directly when he came into the ring because of his shape. His head is more triangular than a wedge and I would prefer less stop. His muzzle is well rounded and he has a good underjaw. Dark, somewhat round eyes. Perfect small tipping ears that are well placed. Due to his lovely tan markings he still has a sweet, yet masculine expression. Lovely fluent topline with a typical sweep over the loins. Decent shoulder, correct upper arm, good front. He is too round in ribs (he is winter ready), which affects him standing and moving. Well angulated behind, but he tends to stand a bit cow hocked. He moves with good extension both ways with drive from behind, in front he is a bit out of elbow and he is rolling a bit. Beautiful jet black colour of the correct weather resistant texture. Very well presented.

Special Open Blue Merle Dog (no entries)

Special Open Bred By Exhibitor Dog (2,1a)

1st Barrowclough's Shadowess Lockdown Hero, s/w dog that I liked standing. He is of good size and type. Lovely body proportions and good substance in body. Good length in head, although he is a bit deep in stop and back skull and I would prefer a more almond shaped eye that is more pigmented around the eye rims. Lovely tipping ears. Needs to fill in more under the eyes. Good length of neck, a bit steep in front and he needs to drop in body. Oval shaped rib cage, bit slopy in croup. Would prefer more length to his tail. Neat oval feet. His side movement is short and he is narrow coming and going. Very good coat and presentation.

Special Open Not Bred By Exhibitor Dog (no entries)

Baby Puppy Dog (2,1a)

1st Venton's Gemette Glace Icing at Mistyisle, well schooled 5 months old b/m puppy. He has a good size and body proportions for his age. Wedge shaped head, but stop needs to clear, very flat skull, correctly placed somewhat big tipping ears, decent front angulation, good body and angulation behind, ample bone, correct pasterns and feet. Very long tail! Still a bit puppyish in his movement. His merle is broken sufficiently and the ground colour is OK. Fantastic outgoing temperament! **BBPD**.

Baby Puppy Bitch (4,2a)

1st Bray's Lianbray Lucy Locket, such a pretty and very feminine puppy bitch. She has such an attractive pale golden sable colour which enhances her expression due to the contrast with her super dark pigmentation. 5,5 months old and already very confident.

She has a correct size for her age, perhaps a touch long in body at the moment. A beautiful, one piece, blunt, wedge shaped head with a lovely moulded foreface and good underjaw. Well set ears (one ear was a little light tipped), beautiful almond shaped, oblique set, very dark eyes. She had that typical sweet expression that you expect to see in a sheltie. She is balanced in her angulations and has a nice length of neck, good spring of ribs and nice substance in body. Strong bone. Moves well from the side, a bit wide from behind. Promising puppy coat. I really liked this little one and she was of obvious breed type and quality. Good luck with her in the future. **BBPB & BBPIS;**
2nd Bray's Lianbray Luck Be A Lady, s/s/w bitch puppy of 5,5 months old. Again a very promising baby. She has a good size and at the moment I preferred the body proportions of her compared to 1. She has a shorter head type than 1 and could not match the eye shape of her kennel mate. Her ears are well placed but a touch heavy. Good body and well angulated in front and rear, giving her a typical topline with an elegant neck and nice sweep over the loins. Beautiful bone for her size, correct feet and pasterns, correct lowset long tail. She moved very well for her age from all sides. Lovely temperament.

Minor Puppy Bitch (4,3a)

1st Hills' Sandwich Chanel, elegant s/s/w bitch, just turned 6 months old, she has an elegant and racy outline. Feminine enough. Long, blunt, wedge shaped head, rounded enough in foreface for age, dark eye that is a little round, ears are well placed but they are a touch heavy. Such an elegant, long neck going smoothly over in her level topline. Excellent angulated in front and behind. OK sweep over the loins. She needs to drop in body, sufficient forechest, very long tail, needs to settle in her movement, very good temperament. Excellent bone. Her coat is of the correct harsh texture. She has, like some others in that age, not that fluffy undercoat which made her look more mature and 'raw'. I think when she starts growing her undercoat she will soften in outlook. The framework is there, so it will be interesting to see how she will develop. Both dog and handler did very well for their first show.

Puppy Bitch (3,2a)

1st Hateley's Mohnesee's Ninabelle JW, g/s/w bitch of excellent type, good for size, a bit long in body. Feminine, long wedge shaped head, too long in foreface and stop is placed too much forward. Underjaw could be better closed. Dark, almond shaped obliquely set eyes. Somewhat heavy and wide set ears. Elegant neck, good shoulder, but front is placed too much forward. She could be stronger in back, oval ribcage, nice sweep over the loins, although she is a bit too long in loins, well angulated behind, long and low set tail, enough coat of correct harsh texture, moves excellent from profile, a bit out of elbows. Well presented. **BPB.**

Junior Bitch (7,3a)

1st Mayhew's Sandwich Saffron Gold, very pretty and feminine g/s/w bitch full of breed type. Excellent type and proportions. Smaller sized, but not too small. Just turned 12 months old. Beautiful head with the sweetest expression, very balanced, muzzle and skull equal in length, divided by a correctly placed slight stop, perfectly placed and

carried small ears, flat skull. Needs to fill out a little in foreface. Most beautiful dark almond shaped obliquely set eyes. Altogether just a very melting feminine expression. Elegant arched neck, almost disguised in the abundant mane. Balanced angulations. Good substance in body, oval shaped rib, low set tail that she sometimes carries a bit too happily. Sufficient length of stride, very attentive show girl. For ideal, I would prefer slightly stronger bone. The coat had a correct texture, but I wished it was better presented. Nevertheless, she is a quality girl and I will follow her show career with interest;

2nd Bray's Molson Modern Millie at Lianbray, shapely g/s/w bitch of a pleasing breed type. Correct size and body proportions. She has a feminine head with a sweet dark almond shaped eye, neat ears and a lovely rounded muzzle. She has a long arched neck, good front with especially a pleasing shoulder. Good bone, sufficient forechest, elegant outline and sweep over the loins, low set long tail, well angulated behind with good bend of stifle. Moved well from all sides. Beautifully presented coat. Sympathetically handled on a loose lead creating a lovely picture;

3rd Sorocky's Shazbeck Maid of Honour at Sheltisha;

4th Goodwin's Rowancrest Legally Blonde.

Maiden Bitch (2,0a)

1st Goodwin's Rowancrest Legally Blonde, placed 4th in JB, s/w bitch that moved much better in this class. Up to size, but in no way big or strong. She is very shapely and gives a feminine impression. Her head is a long wedge, stop breaks a little low, she has an attractive white blaze, would prefer a better underjaw, correct ears, dark almond shaped eyes. She has a sweet expression. Balanced angulated with a good front. Too round in rib due to some extra weight. Elegant topline with a nice sweep over the loins, correctly carried tail. When she wants she has a long stride in her movement, but in the previous class she insisted to pace. Front is placed a little forward, could be tighter in front movement. Well presented coat;

2nd Hills' Sandwich Chanel, 1st MPB.

Novice Bitch (4,1a)

1st Hayhurst's Keycharm Sweet Candy, quality s/w bitch that I liked and would have loved to take home with me. She is of obvious quality. Ideal size, type and proportions in head and body. So correct and nothing exaggerated. Lovely moulded clean head with an attractive expression. Almond shaped dark eyes, slight stop that is correctly placed between the eyes, flat skull, lovely well used small ears giving such a sweet, feminine, intelligent expression. Her outline is symmetrical with nothing out of proportion. Excels in her make and shape. Excellent angulated in front and equally matched with her rear angulation. Enough neck to carry her head proudly, nice sweep over the loins, balanced mover from the side. Correct coat texture that was well presented. Friendly temperament. It was a close decision between her and the open bitch for reserve best bitch. I wish the owner the best with this lovely sheltie and I am sure she will continue to do well;

2nd Hills' Sandwich Chanel, 1st MPB;

3rd Welford's Echolynn Polyphonic.

Graduate Bitch (9,4a)

1st Hayhurst's Keycharm Samba, older sister of the winner of the previous class and many of the comments also apply to Samba. Again a lovely feminine s/w girl of excellent type, size and proportions. She has a balanced head with a lovely rounded muzzle, tight lips and good underjaw, nice expression, but not the eyes nor ears of her younger sister. Beautiful topline with a touch more neck than her sister giving her just a little more elegance. Excellent angulated and good substance in body and correct shape of rib. Lovely rounded croup with correct set and carried tail. Excellent bone, pasterns and oval feet. Well presented coat with the correct texture. Sound mover. The breeder must be pleased to have bred these two quality bitches;

2nd Clegram's Smiddyshaw All The Glitz, feminine tricolour bitch, litter sister to the reserve best dog. Again one that stands out for her soundness. She has a nice shape and confirmation, a real forechest and moves really well from the side. Her head is a wedge, but she needs to fill out in her foreface. Eyes are a bit round, she has lovely rich tan markings, and neat ears. Her framework is good, she only needs to mature in body to fit as she is a little narrow at the moment, also whilst standing in front. Her coat is jet black and very well presented. Well angulated behind. She needs to get firmer in her front movement, but that will come when she matures in body. Bit untidy behind. Expertly handled;

3rd Hardy's Sandwich Valencia;

4th Jackson's Ribans Starlet of Milesend (JKC);

VHC Sparks' Jealis Mystique Addition.

Post Graduate Bitch (7,5a)

1st Sorockyj's Sheltisha Royal Approval, high quality b/m bitch with a beautiful shape and lovely proportions. She is feminine and has that perfect combination of being elegant and refined, but still has the strength and look of a small working dog. Her head is of the correct length and is a blunt wedge shape with a nice almond shaped oblique set eye. Nice rich tan markings. Lovely tipping ears that were correctly placed. She has a refined head and a sweet expression. Her absolute forte is her beautiful make and shape that can only be obtained by being perfectly balanced and having all the right angles at the right places. Her neck is long and arched and carries her head proudly, the neck is well set due to a really well layed shoulder, she has an excellent forechest and return of upper arm. Straight legs and strong oval shaped bone, good spring of pasterns and oval shaped neat feet. Excellent substance in body and good oval shaped ribcage. Level back. Muscular loins that gave her the correct sweep over the loins. Excellent croup and bend of stifle. Short, straight, parallel hocks. Low set and long tail. With that confirmation and (muscle) condition it was no surprise that this bitch moved excellently from all sides: low, ground covering, daisy cutting movement from the side, and single tracking coming and going with a minimal effort. Her coat was abundant and enough to enhance her beautiful shape, correctly textured. Perhaps she was slightly heavily marked and the blue could be a bit more clear for ideal. I thought she was the best on the day and I had no hesitation in awarding her best in show. I have no doubt that she, in the form she is in now, will trouble the best. **BB & BIS;**

2nd Gartland's Arcot Take A Moment JW, a nice g/s/w bitch who was unfortunate to meet 1 in such good form. However, she had lots to like. A shapely up to size bitch. Long wedge shaped head with good proportions and balance between skull and muzzle. She has sweet dark almond shaped eyes and correctly placed and carried tipping ears. Good underjaw and nicely rounded muzzle. Elegant topline with a good reach of neck. Well angulated in front and rear, she has a strong level back and nice sweep over the loins, although she is a touch too long in loins. Oval shaped ribcage with good depth. Moves really well from the side with extension from the front and drive from the rear. OK bone for size, long tail. Well presented coat with a harsh texture. I would prefer her to be a little more feminine.

Limit Bitch (1,0a)

1st Hardy's Sandwich A La Mode, quality tri, of ideal size and excellent proportions in body. She has a pleasing shape and is feminine, but was carrying a little too much weight today which affected her front. That being said, I liked her classically shaped head on examination. Her more faded tan markings on the side of the muzzle did make me think that she lacked filling on her muzzle, but she actually had a nice clean wedge shaped head with a well moulded foreface and clean cheeks, slight but definite stop, flat skull and parallel head planes. Neat ears and a nice expression. To be critical, she had a slight drop off. Elegant neck that is well set. Excellent shoulder and upper arm angulation. Good depth of chest, reaching to point of elbow. Excellent shaped and amount of bone, flexible pasterns and neat oval shaped feet. Excellent forechest. Excellent rear angulation with especially a good bend of stifle. Low set tail, straight and parallel short hocks. Moved very well from the side, but her front was affected by the extra weight. Jet black coat and her tan was of a rich colour. Tends to stand a little wide behind. Not totally happy in the ring today.

Open Bitch (4,3a)

1st Hateley's Ch Mohnesee Sweet Dreams JW, g/s/w bitch, nearly 7 years old, who stood alone in this class, but was of high quality and showed so much breed type! This was the head I was looking for during the day. A one piece head that is so well moulded and soft. Beautifully rounded muzzle that merges into flat cheeks, parallel head planes divided by the perfect amount of stop. Lovely small ears, fairly close placed and constantly used giving her such an attentive look. Her eyes were perfectly almond shaped, obliquely set and jet black (but should not be any smaller in size). Her lips were tight and she had a good underjaw which gave her that smiling expression. This head screams breed type and quality. It is sweet, feminine, balanced, intelligent and so sheltie. It is hard to get all these details together in a head, but if it does, it can give you goosebumps. Everything in her head was balanced. In the line-up for reserve best bitch my eyes were drawn to her head and she made me smile. Because of this and her obvious quality of breed type I couldn't deny her her placings. She has a shapely outline, although she starts to show her age a bit in her back. Lovely sweep over the loins. Well angulated in front and behind. She tends to stand a little out of elbow. Moves well from the side and behind. Excellent strong bone. She has a super temperament and was wagging her tail all the time, she must be a joy to live with. **RBB & RBIS.**

Veteran Bitch (6,3a)

1st Clegram & Berry's Smiddyshaw's I'll Be There For U JW VW, 9 year old g/s/w bitch who is sheer quality. So very feminine and refined, not a trace of coarseness can be found on this 'golden oldie'. She has such an attractive elegant shape, good size and lovely body proportions. Refined wedge shaped head that is very feminine and sweet, she could have a little more filling in muzzle and I would prefer a better underjaw. That being said, she has such a soft and wise expression due to her lovely, sweet dark, almond shaped and obliquely set eyes. Her ears are well placed, but are tipping a bit light. Elegant arched neck, very good front with forechest. Excellent bone for her size, good pasterns and feet, level back and an elegant sweep over the loins. Good spring of ribs. Excellent angulated behind. Moved so easily and lithe with daisy cutting action. True coming and going. Out moved most of the dogs that were present. Excellent presented coat. Lovely temperament and such a willing showgirl that is so attentive to her owner. I hope the owner can keep enjoying this quality bitch for a long time! **BVB & BVIS;**

2nd Gamble's Balidorn Solitude At Solyric JW VW, another lovely typey g/s/w bitch of 9 years old, still in a great condition for her age. She is of excellent type and slightly longer than high, lovely in size. Wedge shaped feminine head, could have a better underjaw. Neat ears that she used well. Correct eye, that is perhaps a bit on the larger side, sweet endearing expression. Elegant neck, could have more forechest and she is a bit steep in front angulation. She is better angulated behind. Ample bone, good spring of ribs, low set tail, attractive long petticoats, moves easy from the side. Really well presented on a loose lead. Lovely temperament;

3rd Welford's Tooralie Indigo Violet, I want to mention that this bitch, like the other dogs from this exhibitor, was in fantastic muscle condition! I wished some of today's dogs were in the same condition. Compliments to the owner!

Special Open Sable and White Bitch (1,1a)

Special Open Tricolour/Black and White/Black and Tan Bitch (2,2a)

Special Open Blue Merle Bitch (2,1a)

1st Sorockyj's Sheltisha Royal Approval, 1st PGB.

Special Open Bred By Exhibitor Bitch (2,2a)

Special Open Not Bred By Exhibitor Bitch (7,4a)

1st Rosslyn's Balidorn Golden Amber, interesting class and I needed some time to decide who should be first and second as both bitches had lots to like, but were different in type and virtues. 1st went to a typey g/s/w bitch who is feminine, has an ideal size and correct body proportions. Just coming back in coat and probably needs

another month to be in full bloom, but she had enough to show her lovely shape. Very sweet balanced head, with a pleasing expression and very feminine, lovely dark eyes and lovely small tipping ears. She is more moderate but balanced in her angulations. Good neck, topline and sweep over the loins, oval shaped feet, moved well enough from the side and coordinated. Again, like all the other dogs that this exhibitor showed, a lovely and calm presentation to get the most out of her;

2nd Welford's Ristine Emerald, tricolour bitch, up to size and perhaps more handsome than pretty. I would like a little less of her and her being more refined. She has a very stylish outline. Excellent angulated and in extremely good body condition with muscular thighs (something i missed in several exhibits) accentuating her lovely bend of stifle. Her head is balanced and has a long blunt wedge shape with nice rich tan markings and she has nice almond shaped eyes. Technically her head is hard to fault, but for me she could be more feminine and less strong. On the move she had really good side movement, but she was a bit untidy in her front today. Unfortunately, the more I let her move, the more happy she became with a too happy tail carriage. Well presented coat and standing she created a nice silhouette. Nice temperament;

3rd Sorocky's Shazbeck Maid of Honour at Sheltisha.

Jasper van Ulsen