

SHETLAND SHEEPDOG CLUB OF WALES Championship Show 17.3.24

Dogs: My thanks to the Committee for inviting me to judge dogs at their 50th anniversary show and for all their hard work, making it a special day for exhibitors with a gift and cake for everyone. As always, I enjoyed judging the dogs, although the entry was on the small side and there were quite a few absentees. I found the quality of some of the dogs in the early classes was disappointing which can be a worry when some of them will be the stud dogs of the future, however by mid limit things started to improve and the later classes produced some beautiful Shelties. In fact, the line up for the CC was stunning, it was a privilege to judge them! Many critiques highlight the problems of conformation, which doesn't seem to improve despite those reports from various judges. Correct conformation allows the dog to move as the Standard describes, but until breeders concentrate on this very important issue, we won't have dogs moving as a working dog should. I did find many upper arms short and steep, shoulder angles were better, but without the correct combination of both, the front movement will always be impeded. Temperaments were excellent in most cases, in fact in one of the classes I judged, all the dogs seemed pleased to go onto the table wagging their tails and I even had a few kisses from them! That's what makes it all worthwhile.

VD (2,1) 1 Pattinson's Kyleburn Everlasting Dream. 9 years old shaded sable, of excellent breed type, spot on for size. His head is balanced with a well placed and shaped eye, the flattest of skulls, and well carried ears. He is so satisfying to go over, such good front and hind angulation, probably one of the best constructed I judged today, consequently his movement was a joy to see. He doesn't sparkle in the ring so is not an eye catcher but he does all that is asked of him. He was BVD then BVIS, and my co-judge and I agreed that he was one of the best movers in the entry today.

MPD (2,1) 1 Walker's Grandgenes Kensington by Tooralie, mature boy coming up to 9 months, so hopefully he has stopped growing. A strong well made dog, with a super reach of neck, his topline has a slight rise over the loin but as he is still developing this should correct itself. His head is balanced with a well placed and shaped eye. He moved with good drive from the rear and he has a happy outgoing temperament.

PD (6,1) 1 Miles' Milesend Mulberry, attractive well balanced tri of good quality and breed type. He has the darkest of almond shaped eyes which really enhanced his expression. His head is balanced with a flat skull, well filled foreface. He has good front angulation and a well arched neck, level topline and slope over the croup, so his overall shape is excellent. He moved as his conformation suggests. A very promising puppy BPD. 2nd Bendelow's Tooralie Ulixes another attractive tri of similar type to 1. Well balanced outline with a very good reach of neck and level topline. His head is well balanced with a well filled foreface and correct eye shape and placement. His shoulder is correct but I found his upper arm to be slightly steep. However, because he is so well balanced overall, his movement didn't seem to be affected. 3. Thomas' Jontygray Gypsy Rover.

JD (5,2) 1 Miles' Keycharm Music Man of Milesend, well balanced sable of correct breed type. Loved his head and expression, well balanced with a flat skull a well placed and shaped eye and neat well carried ears. Maybe he could have slightly more neck to enhance his shape but his topline is level and flows into the croup, ending in a tail of correct length. His stifle is well angled with strong hocks to give him drive on the move. He was quite playful on the move so difficult to assess, but with his good front angulation and strong hindquarters he must be a very good moving Sheltie. Very happy temperament. 2 Williams' Zaniahs Castiel, a very happy black and white boy of perfect size and attractively marked. He has good reach of neck, level topline and correct sweep over the croup. Being picky, just wish he had a slightly larger head to enhance his overall balance. I called this the happy class because all the dogs were so friendly on the table with tails wagging and having a lovely time on the move, so not easy to assess! 3 Fillery's Wavesong Born To Be Noisy.

YD (2,1) 1 Overton's Pop Goes The Diesel, sable with an attractive outline, although I would prefer more length of neck. An attractive head and expression, enhanced by a well placed dark eye and topped by neat well carried ears. His overall balance was correct, he is of good breed type and moved well. He carries a good coat which fits him!

MD (3) 1 Tooralie Ulixes. 2 Forster-Cooper's Sheltysam Danseur a very nice sable boy of excellent breed type and much quality. Loved his head and expression, dark well placed and shaped eye, neat ears. Attractive outline, with a level topline and sweep over the croup. He has a well laid shoulder, good upper arm and just the right amount of bone for his size and substance. On the move he has good drive from behind, and as he is still a puppy there was bounce in his front movement, but one to watch. 3. Wavesong Born To Be Noisy.

ND (4) 1 Tooralie Ulixes. 2 Hardy's Sandwick Ace of Hearts, a delightful black and white baby, only 6 months but already he has everything I like to find in a puppy. Easy to handle on the table with the sweetest expression enhanced by his really dark eye. His head is balanced with a flat skull, the right amount of foreface and neat ears. Lovely to go over, his front angulation is excellent, he has a lovely reach of neck and a good

bend of stifle. He moved and showed really well. 2nd place purely because he is immature and still developing, but I loved him and am sure he is a star for the future. 3. Wavesong Born To Be Noisy.

GD (6,1) 1 Hardy's Sandwich Masterclass, tri of correct breed type and quality, perfect size with a really attractive outline, level topline and sweep over the croup. He has a balanced head with a well placed eye and neat ears. He moved as well as I expected from his excellent conformation. 2. Pierce's Philhope in Good Taste, aptly named attractive golden sable of quality. Nicely balanced head with a sweet but masculine expression. His front and hind angulation are correct, but I would prefer more length of neck to enhance his outline. He moved with good drive from behind and was presented and handled well. 3. Miles' Milesend Black Tartan.

PGD (3,1) 1 Roberts' Stanydale Rewrite The Stars for Malaroc. Blue boy of perfect size with excellent conformation. His head is balanced with a well filled foreface and underjaw, flat skull and neat ears. His front angulation is very good so he stands with his feet under his withers. Just the right amount of bone for his size, he has a good length of neck and level topline. Strong well angled hindquarters which enables him to drive well on the move. Not the bluest of merles but his colour is well broken. 2. Hirst's Sundark Scaramouche, another blue boy of lovely shape with a super reach of neck and correct topline, he too has excellent front angulation with a particularly well angled and correct length upper arm. His head is balanced and skull flat, with a well filled foreface. I would like slightly more stop. A well arched and muscular neck, level topline and well angled behind. His movement goes with his conformation, flowing and easy. He does have rather a large patch of black in his coat which in different competition may not matter, but today it had to be the deciding factor. 3. Filllery-Hammond's Wavesong Born To Be Wild.

MLD (4) 1 Mottram's Lundecock's Hoopie Doo at Lochkaren. Glamorous golden sable boy of perfect size who takes the eye with his rich sable colour and white shawl collar. His head is balanced with a dark, well shaped eye, correct stop and good underjaw. Lovely reach of neck, level topline correct sweep over the croup and a long tail. He has a good lay back of shoulder, but his upper arm needs more angulation. Presented and groomed to his advantage. 2. Miles' Milesend Blue Jeans attractive and well coloured blue, in lovely coat and condition. Balanced head with a flat skull and neat ears. He has a good shoulder and upper arm which is obvious when he moves. He is well balanced overall and is of good breed type and quality. I would like a better length of neck to complete the picture. 3 Sundark Scaramouche.

LD (4) 1 Forster-Parish's Lowick Blueberry another eye catching blue boy with a shawl collar. Very nice expression, sweet but masculine. He has a wedge shaped head with a flat skull, good foreface and underjaw. Very well made with correct front and particularly well bent stifle, hind quarters well angled. I really like his bone and substance, not heavy or cloddy but just right for his make and shape. His profile movement is particularly noticeable, a definite daisy cutting action in front and good drive from his excellent hindquarters. 2 Creamer's Lyngarso Captain Tom, another lovely blue boy, with a well fitting coat of good colour. Lovely head with the flattest of skulls and correct stop, a good example of two level planes. He is well angled in front and behind with a good bend of stifle. His movement goes with his correct conformation. 3. Lycett's Iliad Isle of Ewe.

Open 3 1. Pearson's Ch. Edglonian Golden Graham, I saw him as a puppy at one of his first shows and he stood out for quality and type. Now he is probably at his best, just coming up to four and a great ambassador for our breed. His shape is eye catching, rich red sable with a text book well arched and muscular neck, perfect topline and well angled hindquarters which give him good drive on the move. His forehead construction gives him plenty of reach in front, so consequently his movement is a joy to watch. His head is balanced with a well placed and shaped eye, good foreface and underjaw, a true Sheltie expression, sweet but in his case masculine as well. It was my pleasure to award him the CC in very good company. In the challenge for BIS, he decided he would rather go to find the bitch in season he'd been after for most of the day so wasn't really concentrating! RBIS. 2. Walker's Ch/Fr/Sui/Lux/Int Ch Tooralie's Pie In the Sky an impressive title for an impressive dog. I have to confess I wasn't particularly excited by him as a youngster but now at five he has matured into a really lovely Sheltie. An eye catching rich shaded sable enhanced by his full white collar, he has a super outline, well arched neck with a level topline and slope over the croup. His front angulation is good and he moves very well. His size and substance are excellent. His head is well balanced with a well placed and shaped eye, flat skull and neat ears. A sound Sheltie of excellent type. 3. Goodwin's Highbrook Hobnob.

Special Breeders (2,1) 1 Robinson's Lavika Midnight Storm. lovely tri boy, almost two and shows like a veteran. Perfect size with just the right amount of substance, he has a text book head, with a flat skull, correct stop and neat, well carried ears which he uses all the time. His neck is well arched and flows down into a level topline with a sweep over the croup. He is well balanced throughout with no exaggerations. His movement is smooth and easy and he has an excellent temperament. Hopefully on his way to the upper house very soon.

Special Open Sable & White (4) 1 Robinson's Lavika Starlight Salute, a lovely golden sable boy, in tip top condition and beautifully presented. He oozes quality. Perfectly balanced throughout, his head has a well filled

foreface, correct stop and flat skull with a well placed and shaped dark eye producing the sweet yet masculine expression which the Standard calls for. He has a well arched neck with a level topline, his hind quarters are well angled with the correct bend of stifle and he stands absolutely four square. A joy to watch on the move, he pressed hard for the RCC. 2. Miles' Lundcock's Theodor. Attractive well balanced boy in good coat which fits him perfectly. Good conformation and a deep chest, he has a well arched neck, good topline, croup and tail set. His head is balanced with a flat skull, correct stop and well placed and shaped eye. His ears were not too settled today but overall he is a quality Sheltie. 3 Iliad Isle of Dreams.

Special Open Blue Merle (1) 1 Robinson's Ch.Lavika Deep Blue Ocean, standing alone here but more than deserved his first place. A favourite of mine, I've watched him from a puppy who has grown into a beautiful Sheltie. Perfect size, another with a text book head, flat skull and correct eye placement. His outline is exactly as described in the Standard, well arched neck, level topline and slope over the croup. He stands four square with his front feet under his withers demonstrating his excellent forehand construction. He was groomed to perfection and is a great showman. I was pleased to award him the RCC in good company.

Special Open Tricolour, Black & White (4) 1 Lavika Moonlight Storm. 2 Sandwick Master Class. 3 Pattinson's Kyleburn Romulus.

Judge - Barbara Thornley

Bitches: It was a pleasure to be invited to judge at the 50th anniversary show of the club. Always such a lovely, well run show. My thanks to the committee and my stewards and of course the exhibitors who chose to enter under me. There were some very nice bitches in my final cut. My co judge Barbara Thornley and I were in complete agreement when it came to the final winners.

VB (5,1) 1 Arnoulds Shadoway Perchance To Dream. At 12 and a half years old this lovely bitch was presented in beautiful coat and condition and out moved much of the entry today. So well constructed front and rear and beautifully balanced throughout. She has the elegant outline called for in the breed standard. She has retained her youthful head quality and sweet expression and ear carriage and a lovely clean set of teeth. Best Veteran Bitch. 2 Hirsts' Sundark Simply a Star. Lovely tri bitch also a credit to her owner, a couple of years younger than the class winner. Another well constructed bitch who moved positively front and rear. Nicely balanced and constructed and her lovely tri coat was beautifully presented.

3 Lycetts Herds Hallicia at Iliad.

MPB (4) 1 Walkers, Grandgenes The Look of love. 8 months sable and white who won this class on her lovely size and balance, clean wedge head and correct stop. Nicely placed and shaped eye and well placed ears created a sweet expression. Just the right amount of under jaw. She was not necessarily the best constructed in the class but her other breed qualities put her above the rest. 2 Hardys' Sandwick Opalescent. Beautifully coloured blue merle of correct size. Good reach of neck lovely top line and general shape and moved positively in accordance with her nice construction. Her head has some developing to do but her eye is well placed and her expression sweet. 3 Yaxleys' Lavika The Perfect Storm.

PB (5) 1 Robinsons Lavika Sunset Rose. Very promising young lady. Beautifully presented and coloured blue coat. She has a lovely body shape with proud neck, level topline and pretty sweep over loin. She is very well balanced throughout with lovely front legs, well laid shoulder and good bend of stifle. She moved positively around the ring and showed like a veteran. My only concern would be that she is on the small side and hope this fact will not hold her back in the future. Best Puppy Bitch and Best Puppy in Show. 2 Hateleys Mohnessee's Meliya. Smart young tri colour for whom most of the above comments fit. Lovely size and balance. Attractive outline and moved out confidently covering the ground well. Just tiny preferences split the two. 3 Pearsons' Edglonian Golden Glow.

JB (5,1) 1 Miles' Milesend Shadow Dancer. Pretty pale sable bitch with lovely outline. Good reach of neck, level top line and sweep over loin. Well placed shoulder and nice bend of stifle allowed for free movement around the ring. Proudly carried head with correct stop and flat skull. Nicely placed eye and well carried ears. When her foreface matures her head will have more balance. 2 Purchases' Puncknowle April Delight. Nicely balanced sable and white in well presented jacket. Lovely overall shape and balance and moved nicely. Sweet head and expression. Just a bit unsettled today so did not make the most of herself. 3 Fillery-Hammonds' Wavesong Born To Be Wild.

YB (8,1) 1 Bensteads Melcett Silver Star at Benravia. Pretty blue merle of correct size and balance. Nice head type with correct amount of stop and underjaw. Ears a little heavy but did not spoil expression as she had a nicely shaped and placed eye. Good front and rear angulation and moved positively. Not a showing fool but a nice breed type. 2 Daniels and Taylors Pepperhill Light 'N Shade. Another nicely coloured blue with a pretty

body shape and good size. I would prefer a little more substance but she is young and has time to mature. Moved out well. 3 Goodwins Herds Height of Fashion at Highbrook.

MB (2,1) 1 Withers Felthorn Athena at Stanydale. Sable and white of correct size with nice substance. Good legs and feet. Sound construction and moved accordingly. A little more length of neck would complete balance. Nice head type with flat skull pleasing expression and neatly placed and used ears.

NB (7,1) 1 Robinsons Lavika Sunset Rose. 2 Hateleys Mohnesee's Meliya. 3 Divineys Divinecroi's Bonny Ailbhe.

GB (6) 1 Brays Dandlewood Kiss 'N Tell at Lianbray (imp NLD) Sable and white in lovely coat and condition. This bitch is so well balanced throughout that my eye was drawn to her over and over again. When standing she never puts a foot wrong with each leg in the right place showing off her lovely shape and balance. Head proudly held on correct length of neck. Clean wedge with no exaggeration, flat cheeks correct balance of skull and foreface separated by a slight but definite stop. Beautifully moulded and lovely to handle. Eyes well placed and obliquely set and neat well placed ears complete her sweet expression. Bodily she is nicely put together, angles more balanced than perfect which gives a steady movement if not quite the extension desired. She has the correct length of body to height to create perfect balance and shape, holds her level topline and has a lovely sweep over the rear and beautifully carried tail which enhances her shape on the move. Each time I looked at her she was giving 100% and could not be denied the CC and eventually Best in Show. 2 Hardys Sandwick A La Mode. Smart tri bitch who has many pleasing attributes. Good reach of neck. Flat skull with nicely placed dark eyes and ears. Nice front legs and neatly shaped feet. Holds herself well standing and on the move. 3 Divineys Divinecroi's Bonny Ailbhe.

PGB (4) 1 Forster Coopers Shelytysham Idyll. Sable and white with a lovely head pattern. Clean skull with correct stop and well placed dark eye giving a sweet expression. Nice size and balance and good reach of neck. Does not make the best of herself when standing but some ring training could improve this. 2 Goodwins Rannerdale Honey Bee at Highbrook. Sable and white with a shapely outline. At over 3 years I would have like a little more maturity in head. She has a nicely shaped and place eye and sweet expression. The tendency to stand wide behind spoilt her outline standing. 3 Hirsts Sundark Symphony is Suede.

MLB (3,1) 1 Arnoulds Shadoway Charlotte Rose. Sable and white, with lovely balance throughout. Correct size and substance and nicely constructed which showed in her smooth easy gait. Smooth cheeks and correct flat skull, stop and foreface culminated to create a well moulded and balanced head. 2 Crawford's Mohnesee Queen of Clubs at Joshlinic. Small Tri, nicely presented. Nice head type with sweet expression created by her well shaped dark eye and neat well used ears.

LB (4) 1 Bendelows Channerswick Lotus Flower from Amethrickeh. Shaded sable and white beautifully presented in full coat and bloom. Very pretty, feminine and shapely bitch who fits the standard in many ways. Lovely head type with correct stop and underjaw. Sweet well placed eye and neat ears create a charming expression. Good reach of neck and nicely put together enabling her to move around the ring with style. 2 Hirsts Sundark Spirit Mistress. Smart tri with lovely head pattern. Lovely dark well shaped eye and sweet expression. Neat well used ears. Sound shoulder angulation and reach on the move. 3 Ayres' Gemette Glitter Girl.

OB (6) 1 Mottrams Lundecock's There's No Limit at Lochkaren JW (imp swe). Such a pretty bitch who was so close to gaining the CC today. She is perfect for size, is completely balanced and has a lovely outline. Carries her pretty head proudly on a good reach of neck. Lovely head pattern, a clean wedge from every angle. Flat skull and correct stop. Well placed and shaped eye and neat well used ears complete the picture. Her body is well angulated front and rear and she was one of the better movers here today covering the ground smoothly. Beautifully presented she certainly pressed hard in the final line up. I am sure that 3rd CC cannot be far away. 2 Creamers Clanavon Touch of Blue at Lyngarso. Pretty, well constructed blue with a lovely body shape and substance for her size. Good reach of neck sets off her balanced head. Nice legs and feet and moved out well. 3 Pearsons Edglonian Slack Alice.

Special Breeders (1) 1 Robinsons' Lavika Lateca. Sable and white who stood alone in the class. Shapely and beautifully presented as always from this kennel. Hind angulation was better than front so lacked some reach when moving. Head has some lovely properties and she just needs more time to mature and fill in foreface. Sweet expression and neatly carried ears and very attentive show girl.

Special Open Sable And White (3,1) 1 Robinsons' Lavika Lateca. 2 Lycetts' Iliad Isla Wishes. Rich sable with a lovely clean head, sweet expression and neat well used ears. A nice size with good bone, legs and feet. Just a little short in back to create perfect balance in body which affected her ability to cover the ground when moving.

Special Open Blue Merle (3) 1 Robinsons Lavika Sunset Rose. 2 Robinsons Dinmore Making Waves at Lavika. Nicely broken colour. Nice in profile and well balanced. Sweet head and expression. Has a tendency to stand a bit slack behind which spoils when decision making. 3 Nunns Sundark Simply Amazing.

Special Open Tri, Black & White Black & Tan (6,1) Two lovely tri colours headed this class. 1 Robinsons Ch Lavika Black Beauty JW. This smaller bitch has a lovely shapely outline and really makes the most of it. In lovely black shiny coat and bloom. Well balanced front and rear angulation added to her positive movement. Pretty head with sweet expression and neat ears completed the picture. 2 Hardys Sandwick Stage Show. This bitch is a better size with lovely bone and balance. Good topline and legs and feet and moved out really well covering the ground with ease. Her head handles well and is beautifully balanced. Today she was not in her best coat which might have made a difference in the placings. 3 Hirsts' Sundark Spirit Mistress

Judge Margaret Lambert