

SCOTTISH SHETLAND SHEEPDOG CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW 16 FEBRUARY 2025

I would like to thank the committee for inviting me to judge the dogs at their championship show and all those who supported me with their entry. The dogs were all immaculately presented and my hands were as clean when I finished as when I started. We know perfection is illusive and as judges we have to make compromises, but I did find today I was having to forgive perhaps more than I have in the past. Where fronts were good rear ends were less positive and visa versa. I found a number of heads lacked refinement, particularly in some of the younger exhibits, which is a concern. The muzzle should not be heavy or overfilled, particularly under the eyes, but a clean wedge with refined lines blending into a lean back skull. This is what creates the sweet charm of the Sheltie with its lovely head properties. If the balance of the skull is changed in any way then some of the charm is lost. Eye shape and ear carriage were for the most part very pleasing and most had a good reach of neck and level topline. Good construction is, as always, varied but so important in a working breed. Moving at the right pace for your dog would help in many cases and some nicely constructed dogs were held back on the move. I don't agree with running with our dogs but setting a pace that suits your dogs stride is very beneficial. I was very pleased with my CC winner and the three I was considering for the reserve were all worthy of the award. My co judge and I agreed on all the final decisions and BIS went to the bitch CC winner who was a beautifully feminine representative of the breed. I wish you all good luck in the future.

Baby Puppy (2) 1 Fishers Shellamoyed Winter Blues. Blue merle of beautiful broken clear colour. Sweet head and lovely expression with neat well carried ears. Quite decently made and moved and showed with confidence. 2 Stafford's Jammy Dodger NAF. This sable puppy had a little more substance than the blue and was very nicely constructed. Unfortunately he refused to move in the hall sufficiently for me to be able to appreciate him fully. Very sweet expression and neat ears. Two nice babies. Will be interesting to see how they both develop.

MP (4) 1 Gartland's Arcot Polished Black. Eye catching tri boy who at just 8 months old was everything I like to see in a young male puppy. Shapely body lines and nicely constructed frame with a lovely reach of neck. Well balanced throughout and confident on the move. Nicely moulded head with a sweet dark eye and neat well carried ears creating a charming expression. 2 Forbes Degallo The Name of the Game. Sable and white of lovely size and nicely constructed. Stood a little bum high on the day but I am sure this is just a stage of his development and will balance out as he grows. Lovely clean head and flat skull with well placed and shaped eyes and neat ears. 3 Jeavons Grandgenes Play The Game.

P (7) 1 Gartland's Arcot Polished Black. 2 Winfield's Iskander Bohemia Classic for Oakcroft. Nice breed type with attractive head shape, well placed eye and neat ears. A little fidgety and not the extension on the move of 1 but overall a nice puppy. 3 Malones Di'Leilas Sheltie FCI Amore Mio.

J (5,2) 1 Glencross' Interstellar Bohemian Classic. Nicely presented sable and white who moved quite well on good legs and feet. A little heavier in head than I would like at this age but nicely placed and shaped eye and neatly carried ears. 2 Norris' Ferngroves Code Blue. Blue of nice size and shape. Colour could be clearer and needs to develop in stop. Lovely dark almond eye. 3 Dillons Lundcocks Tempest in a Pot Runforest.

Y (8,1) 1 Staffords Rannerdale Mister Majic. Golden sable of lovely size and balance. Good reach of neck and sweep over loin. Very sweet head and expression with correct stop and flat skull. Moved out nicely as his conformation dictated. 2 Norris' Ferngroves Skywalker. Another nice sable dog of pleasing type and construction who moved positively. Clean wedge head and nicely placed almond eye with neat ears. Just lacked the presence of 1 today. 3 Hardmans Seavall Blue Ensign.

N (8) 1 Forbes The Prodigy. 9 month old sable dog of lovely breed type. Beautifully presented and showed off his lovely qualities with confidence. Good angulation front and rear. Very sweet head with well set dark almond eye giving a very sweet expression. Well balanced throughout. Best puppy dog and BPIS. One to watch for in future. 2 Gartlands Arcot Polished Black. 3 Winfields Iskander Bohemia Classic for Oakcroft.

G (4,1) 1 Norris' Ferngroves Skywalker. 2 Dillons Lundcocks Tempest in a Pot Runforest. Sable and white who I felt was big enough. Head and expression was sweet and ears neat and well carried. Lacked extension on the move. 3 O'Connells Rowancrest Rather Smart at Sionnachdu.

PG (4,2) 1 Sutherlands Shelcrest Winter Solice. Lovely shaded sable with very attractive outline. Good reach of neck and well laid shoulder and length of upper arm, sufficient to enable free movement and extension. Clean head with correct stop flat skull and nice expression. Pressed hard in the challenge for the res CC where I found myself really splitting hairs. 2 Saunders Galateus Bohemia Classic at Torriglen. Another nice dog of correct size and type. Nice head properties and lovely expression.

L (10,2) 1 Norris' Ferngroves Valentino. Smart sable and white of lovely size, balance and outline. Head held proudly on good reach of neck. Level top line and attractive sweep over loin. Lovely legs and feet with sufficient well rounded bone to give strength without heaviness. Nicely angulated front and rear and moved out well when the correct pace was achieved. Clean wedge head with nicely rounded muzzle, correct stop and flat skull. No exaggeration in any feature. Well placed dark eyes and sweet yet masculine expression. Please to award him the CC and with my co judge Res BIS and BOS. Unlucky to come up against such a stunning bitch. 2 Smees Wansvale Amiable. Shaded sable of correct size and balance who challenged hard for the res CC. Lovely breed type with many pleasing attributes. Nicely constructed front angulation but has a tendency to bring his back legs under him when standing which spoils his outline. Fortunately he doesn't do it all the time. Lovely clean head and pleasing expression. 3 Mains Shenachie Secretariat.

O (5,1) 1 Walkers ChUK,ChFR,ChSUI,ChLUX,ChINTL Tooralies Pie in the Sky. A shaded sable with many lovely attributes as his many titles reflect. Clean wedge head with correct stop and flat skull. Lovely expression from his well placed dark eye and neatly carried ears. Nicely constructed front and rear and looks a picture standing but rather proud of his tail on the move. 2 Staffords Ch Rannerdale Showmaster. I admired this dog as a youngster and have not changed my mind about his lovely attributes. He is a sound breed type with a beautiful correct head and melting expression. Construction wise everything is where it should be but he now has a tendency to stand and move wide in front. Beautifully presented and every bit a champion. 3 Winfields Ch Lirren Quickstep to Oakcroft.

V (1) 1 Staffords Ch Rannerdale The Entertainer. 9 year old sable who has a lovely body shape, correct size and substance. Presented in lovely coat and condition. Good legs and feet and correct construction enabled free flowing movement. Lovely sweet yet masculine expression. Best Veteran Dog.

Special open Sable and White (1) 1 Mettan-Ures Oakcrofts Venturer Avec Savendie. Well balanced dog of pleasing proportions and breed type. Good legs and feet with sufficient bone for his size. Lovely reach of neck and level top line. Front angulation is correct and stifle is well bent with well let down hocks. Good front extension on the move but would have preferred a bit more drive. Nicely balanced head with flat skull and correct stop. Each time he caught my eye he was standing proudly showing off his nice outline and ultimately it was this that swung in his direction for the res CC.

Special Open Tri colour, Black & White, Black & Tan (1) 1 Walkers Tooralies Tornade. Black and white of nice size and substance. Gleaming jet black coat in lovely condition. Nicely constructed and moved positively on good legs and feet. Well balanced head with clean skull and correct stop. Neat well carried ears but would have preferred a softer expression. **Special Open Blue Merle (2)** 1 Bradys Ch Afterglow Sky Miles to Bordercot. Nicely coloured blue of correct size and balance. Presented in lovely coat and condition. Nice head type with correct stop and pleasing expression. Showed of his nice qualities to advantage. 2 Proctors Cuilshelties Lochan Torr. Shapely dog with many nice attributes. Not quite the clearness of colour of 1. Proudly carried head on good reach of neck leading into a well angulated front construction. Nicely placed eye and expression.

Judge - Mrs Margaret Lambert