

SCOTTISH SHETLAND SHEEPDOG C, 21/02/16

DOGS – A warm friendly atmosphere prevailed at this show, & many thanks to the committee for a well run show & its hospitality.

I envisaged that the overall quality of the males was going to be mixed & it certainly was.

Gone are the days of top quality young males coming through, giving us the choices of stud prospects for the future. A worrying trend. Maybe as breeders we need to keep a few more males for the future of the breed?

Wedge heads are on the decline, all too often replaced by deep backskulls. Upper arms are still steep, which is all too evident when viewing profile movement & also in stance when the forelegs aren't under the withers but much further forward! Rather concerning was the fact that I found two incorrect bites, involving misplaced canines & unlevel incisors. A missing premolar is by no means the end of the world but the bite must be correct & if ignored will only creep in as something else to put right in breeding programs! All dogs today were entire.

My co-judge of the day was Anne Latimer of the famous Sonymer kennels, from whom I purchased my personal first Ch in 1988. Today was Anne's retirement from judging & it was a pleasure to judge alongside her & a very poignant moment when she awarded BIS to Ch Rannerdale Buggy Malone who was on outstanding form on the day & couldn't be denied.

MP (5,1a) 1 Shellamoyed The Kingsman, very balanced baby, collected on the move & quite steady. I liked his size & he had neat ears which he used well. Good topline & was well presented. Coat just coming through & should give his owner some fun in the ring. Eye could be a tad sweeter but overall a promising puppy; 2 Sandwick Fortune Seeker, thought at first glance that this boy would be my winner. Very masculine looking boy, who has a good head pattern & was superbly presented. I liked his neck & topline. Not quite as together on the move as the winner & persisted in standing wide in front which cost him the class. He will have better days when he gets his act together; 3 Amethrickeh Stormi Wizard. **P** (6) A very mixed class for type, construction & head quality! 1 Iliad Isle Spy, well coated sable who presented the most balanced picture on the day. Head of good length with the correct stop. Balanced for his size but could perhaps be a bit more masculine in outlook to advantage. Well presented & he moved easily. Gently handled to get the best out of him but just couldn't match the complete package of the most exquisite bitch puppy who it was agreed went BPIS; 2 S Fortune Seeker; 3 Viewdale Dream Piece. **J** (4) A disappointing class, headed by two completely different types of tri. 1 Jacanshe Black Spinel, the winner gained his place being more masculine in size & having the more shapely & elegant outline with a better length of head; 2 Hillhenry Stormy Sea, superbly presented boy who was shorter coupled & never really got into his stride on the move. Shorter in head type & heavier ears than the winner. Lovely temperament; 3 Tachnamadra Toffee Apple. **Y** (7,1) Headed by two different exhibits at different stages of maturity. 1 Midday Sun at Lochkaren, classically headed golden s/w of a nice size. He has neat ears & one of the sweetest expressions of the day. At 21 months, just beginning to mature & coat coming through nicely which was excellently presented. Well bodied with a good depth of chest which helped with his front action coming toward me which was more accurate than the second. Stood & showed himself off well which helped clinch him the class; 2 Marsula Shogun, at 13 months this tri boy was giving away a bit in maturity. Very shapely profile with a lovely arched neck. He moved with drive from the rear

& has excellent forward reach but today he was messing about on the move & coming toward me he was slightly narrow & never really settled to the job in hand. Couldn't match the clean head properties of the winner & one ear was a bit heavy today detracting from his expression. He will have better days but today he was playing the fool! 3 Shellamoyed Statesman. **M** (5) 1 V Dream Piece, very sweet puppy who I would prefer a size bigger. Excellent bone for his size with a super sweet expression & neat ears. He had an excellent forward reach. Needs to get his act together but a quality puppy nevertheless who was well presented; 2 Sommerville Peregrin, mature darker coloured b/m who was excellently presented. He has a good wedge shaped head with a superb eye set. He has a good topline & arched neck, not the upper arm of the winner although a more masculine size. Super temperament; 3 T Toffee Apple. **N** (2,1) 1 V Dream Piece. **G** (3) 1 Rannerdale Lord Fawlty, almost 2 years sable in full coat, excelled in type & expression, excellently presented although a rather reluctant showman. Moved steadily; 2 Degallo The Gambler, similar to the winner in many respects but not carrying the coat or able to match his expression; 3 Hillhenry Winter Storm. **PG** (8,2) 1 Sandwick Kirov, just loved the elegant lines on this young tri. At just over 2 years of age he still has some maturing to do particularly in his forechest as he's still a tad narrow but his sheer quality & class & flowing body lines carried him through. Well handled & he moved so easily around the ring. He was superbly presented & in the challenge just got better & better & gently charmed his way to the RCC; 2 Chalmoor Shades Of Gold at Fernfrey, at almost 3 years this sable was more mature than the winner. He has a super upper arm & moved really well but he wasn't really enjoying the ring today & couldn't match the winner on eye, ears or expression; 3 Chalmoor Mr Blue Sky. **L** (8) A difficult mixed class. 1 Orean The Bootlegger, 4 years sable who was in excellent coat & condition. He has the most lovely of heads & is of a super size, he just screams balance with nothing out of place. Good bone & he held his topline on the move although I would like a slightly stronger rear action. However his pure breed type carried him through to the last 4 of the challenge where he did not disgrace himself. Deserves his title; 2 Sommerville Tri Maccool, I liked the size of this classy tri who at just turned 2 years was close up to the winner, he has the most lovely shape & outline & moved well. Nice rich tan markings but couldn't quite match the eye & expression of the winner. Was tending to stand wide in front today & handed the class to the older sable. Another who would not disgrace wearing his crown. Will have better days; 3 Castlerose Spiritmaster. **O** (5) 1 Ch Highbrook Hot Heir, 4 years rich sable who like the winner of the previous class has the most classic of heads. I have judged him previously & awarded him top honours & today he was in super condition with a smart new coat coming through. He moved with such ease to easily take this class & never let up using his ears for a minute. I retained him in the last 4 of the challenge but he couldn't quite match the neck of the other contenders today. Thank you for bringing him. A classic Ch well deserving of his title; 2 Ir Ch Fearnach Blue Rhapsody at Cluainultaigh, most handsome blue of good colour who presents a very masculine picture. He was well presented & I appreciated his head properties & he had a good neck. Stood well in front & moved with ease, just not as light on his feet as the winner; 3 Avonbank Designed In Gold. **V** (7) A fabulous class! 1 Ch Rannerdale Buggy Malone, have judged this boy 18 months ago when at Darlington Ch 14, I awarded him BV & he went onto finish BVIS. Today he was in even better form – he was in the most stunning of condition & he was groomed to perfection with every hair gleaming. Now 9 years he has the most wonderful head & soft melting expression & the neatest of ears. He used his lovely neck to advantage & moved with a calm collected assurance of the champion he is. Today he was simply stunning & couldn't be denied. CC. My co-judge had no hesitation in awarding him BIS over the bitch, Lythwood Shara, who was another in top form gaining he title on the day. Many congratulations; 2 Orean Top Gun, here was a slightly younger half brother to the winner & not dissimilar to him. He too was in superb condition & moved very easily around the ring.

He is totally balanced & presents a very attractive picture just losing out slightly on eye & expression to Buggy. Not disgraced to stand second to a dog in such form & I really liked him, calling him back to challenge for the RCC. He was close up for it, just losing his composure with a change of handler & gifted it to the young tri from PG. He deserves his title & it would be well deserved for him to get it. A lovely Sheltie 3 Ch Degallo The Real Deal. **Special O S/W** (3) 1 Lianbray Loveheart at Highbrook, an easy winner of this class. This paler sable has the most super upper arm & has a good wedge shaped head. He was in super condition & has a good topline. Can be his own worst enemy & sink into himself throwing away his chances; 2 Murieston Prince Charming, almost 8 years sable who couldn't match the coat or movement of the winner. He has good bone & a nice topline. Soft eye & expression & was gently handled to get the best out of him; 3 Conorsean Cazier. **Special O Tri** (6) Small class but headed by two very sound dogs. 1 Our Little Drummer Boy, super shape on this boy with a good topline. He was in super condition & moved very well & easily around the ring with lovely drive from the rear. Could be a bit cleaner in head & I would prefer a tad more stop for a sweeter expression. Didn't seem happy today & if he gets his act together will more than deserve his title. A very nice exhibit; 2 Leterikhills Emmas Boy, another lovely boy who was close up to the winner with many merits but on the day couldn't match him for coat & condition. Has the most lovely forehand with a lovely reachy neck & neat ears. Another very nice exhibit. Unlucky today; 3 Drumcauchlie Two Tone. **Special O B/M** (3,1) 1 Ardlyn Charley Harper, mature looking 5 year old who moved really well & never let up in his performance. He has a super rich tan & neat ears. A shade darker in colour than the ideal but a very honest Sheltie; 2 C Mr Blue Sky, this 2 years merle was 3 in the PG class. He has the most stunning of colours & like this exhibitors other dog was superbly presented. Couldn't match the winner for movement today & his tail carriage detracted which made the decision easier. **BBE** (3) 1 Ch Degallo The Ultimate, well known s/w who is an excellent showman & never lets up for a minute. He is well off for bone & was well presented. Moved well, at one with his handler; 2 Torriglen Trailblazer, smaller type of boy who had an excellent upper arm & forward reach on the move. Not the eye & expression of the winner. Good topline; 3 D Two Tone. **NBE** (4) 1 Conorsean Tonkin, almost 3 years sable, moving up from VHC in PG. I liked his size & he has neat ears, although his eye could be sweeter. A little uncoordinated on the move today; 2 J Black Spinel; 3 T Toffee Apple.

KAY HATELEY

BITCHES – I would like to thank all the officers & committee & my two stewards for making this my last judging appointment so enjoyable. The show was so well run with a lovely atmosphere throughout. Also to my co-judge Mrs K Hartly with whom we agreed on all joint decisions. I was delighted to be co judging with Kay for whom I have the greatest respect as a judge & breeder.

MP (7) 1 Ambler's Watchwood Sweetheart, what a delightful 7 months b/m baby, correct size, lovely shape, good rounded bone, clear blue colour, beautiful moulded head, flat skull, well filled foreface & good underjaw. **BP**; 2 Nixon's Japaro Touch The Stars, very glamorous s/w, typical of this kennel, good shape, good reach of neck, well set ear carriage, ears which she never stopped using, moved really well. **P** (10) 1 W Sweetheart; 2 Smith's Orea Rambling Rose, correct size, in huge coat, good substance of bone, pleasing head of correct proportions, move with drive. **J** (10) 1 Fisher's Shellamoyed Babysham, a glamorous g/s in good coat, which was of correct texture, correct size, good length of shoulder, short hock,

with correct bend of stifle, moved with drive; 2 McCourt's Philhope Killigrew at Conorvean, s/w in super coat almost too much, that made her look on the heavy side. Lovely dark eye, sweet expression, ears need to settle. **Y** (2) 1 Parker's Tolurock Such A Treat, tri of good black coat, good reach of neck, well laid shoulder, level topline, good sweep over the rump, moved with drive, did not want to use her ears; 2 Saunder's Chalmoor I'm A Peach, shaded sable, not in full coat today but had nothing to hide, good shape, clean head, flat skull, well placed dark eyes, used her ears well. **M** (5) 1 W Sweetheart; 2 Mottram's Lundecoaks That's My Girl at Lochkren, in huge coat, very glamorous, well presented, dark well shaped eye, wide set ears spoiled her expression. **N** (5) 1 W Sweetheart; 2 P Killigrew at C. **G** (10) 1 Fisher's Rowancrest Champagne at Shellamoyed, blue of correct size, lovely shape, well laid shoulder, rounded bone, well moulded head, flat skull, good underjaw, well rounded foreface, two blue eyes gave a rather hard expression, moved really well; 2 Smith's Orean Roses And Guns, very close between these two. Another lovely bitch who just lost out on the better movement of 1. Tri of really good shape, good shoulder placement, correct straight front, correct head proportions, well shaped eye, sweet expression. **PG** (12) 1 Scott's Look Who's at Degallo, not in best coat today but well presented, correct size, level topline, not so good in front, well balanced head, flat skull, well rounded foreface, well shaped dark eye; 2 Lycett's Herds Hallicia at Iliad, s/w in good coat, straight front, would like more substance of bone, lovely shape, moved well. **L** (7) 1 Elder's Ellenym Gem of Cara, what a lovely shape, good substance of bone, straight front, long neck, in super coat, moved with drive; 2 Gatheral's Herds Hallucination, very close decision between these two. Another lovely bitch of correct size, s/w in good coat, lovely head, correct shaped dark eye giving the typical sweet Sheltie expression, moved with drive. **O** (10) What a lovely class this was with some quality bitches going unplaced. 1 Rigby's Lythwood Shara, I judged this young lady as a puppy making her BP & have watched her mature over the last 18 months & was not disappointed going over her again, what a stunning Sheltie she has turned into, loved everything about her, correct size, good bone, lovely shape, good hindquarters, in superb coat, neat ears, well balanced head, sweet expression, moved well. **CC & RBIS**; 2 Scott's Ch Degallo For Real, another girl I have admired from a puppy, very similar to 1, in super coat, the sweetest expression. **V** (10) 1 Stafford's Ch Rannerdale Star O The North, what great condition this girl is in, she really strode out, won this class on her movement, never stopped showing, neat ears right on top of her head; 2 Parker's Ch Tolarock Trick N Treat, another quality girl with so much to like about her, jet black coat, lovely moulded head, flat skull, almond shaped eye, typical Sheltie expression. Just lost out on the better movement of 1. **B/w** (6) 1 Stafford's Ch Rannerdale Lady Millicent, very typical of this kennel, beautifully presented, correct size, good substance of bone, well placed shoulders, short hock, moved well; 2 Hill's Molson Miquila Sunrise, what a glorious colour, this girl is in great condition, level topline, good shape, clean head, well placed dark eye, moved really well. **Tri** (1) 1 Hepburn's Leterikills Niki's Girl, correct size, lovely shape, good bend of stifle & depth of chest, moved well. **B/m** 1 Barnett's Ch Rainway Crystal Star, always admired this girl from afar, glorious blue colour, in full coat, lovely shape, straight front, good bone, the sweetest of expressions in a well balanced head, moved well. **RCC**; 2 Fisher's Shellamoyed My Blue Heaven, another lovely blue, clear blue coat of good texture, excellent bone, straight front, moved well. **BBE** (6) 1 Elders' Ellenym Endless Love; 2 Stafford's Ch Rannerdale Queen Of Hearts. **NBBE** (1) 1 Saunders' Chalmoor I'm A Peach.

ANNE LATIMER