

S WALES CH SHOW, 07/10/16 - Shetland Sheepdogs

Shetland Sheepdogs

I came away from this show with mixed feelings. In one way elated because I had found some Shelties who filled my eye because they were such good examples of correct type & fitted the breed Standard as near as was possible. On the other hand I do feel concerned that some breeders are either not understanding what is meant by breeding to type or are really not bothering to concentrate on working to produce puppies which fit the Standard. It is not easy to get it all right, & those of us who have been trying for many years to do so appreciate that fact only too well, & the fact that perfection is really not achievable where living things are concerned makes it even more difficult, but the challenge is to try, not only for ourselves but for the safe future of our breed.

Some of the dogs I have admired from the ringside over the last couple of years & have read glowing reports about were frankly disappointing to go over, mainly for their incorrect angulation & consequent poor movement. We are constantly reading in show reports where judges are complaining about poor angulation but for some reason this very important part of the standard is being overlooked by breeders because this fault is so evident now & isn't getting any better.

I appreciate that we need to look at the whole dog, particularly the head & expression because that sums up the character of this breed. However the head & expression is not enough, the overall balance of the dog has to be right & this cannot happen when the front & hind angulation is straight, the dog will appear to be square when that happens, & the movement will be impaired. Correct front movement was not much in evidence at this show which was very disappointing & worrying.

However, it wasn't all gloom & doom. I did find some very nice Shelties amongst the entry who were good examples of correct type. I really do enjoy judging & there is nothing I like more than going over a Sheltie where everything is all in the right place at the right angle & then when I look at its balanced head with the beautiful expression that is unique to a Sheltie it gives me the most enormous pleasure.

MPD (2,1a) 1 Hateley's Mohnesee With You In Mind, stood alone here but made the most of the ring & really enjoyed his day out. Just over 6 months he is still such a baby but the basics are all there. His head is balanced but is still changing so when his stop settles & the foreface fills a little it will look more finished. He has a well placed & shaped dark eye & neat ears. He looks just right for size at 6 months with the right amount of bone. His angulation is good & he strides out in front on the move, however he is still quite loose in front as many puppies are at this age, so once he builds up some muscle hopefully this will all tighten & he will fulfil his early promise. **PD** (4) 1 Crosbie's Padawan Clan Chieftain at Lanacy, a shaded/s with a wedge shaped, balanced head, dark & well placed eye, flat skull & correct stop with neat well carried ears. He has the right amount of bone for his size. I particularly like his good reach of neck, level topline, slope over the croup & well bent stifle. He needs to develop his chest because at the moment he tends to stand close in front, but that should come with maturity when he fills out & develops. His shoulder is well laid but the upper arm could be

more angled, however he moves with drive from behind; 2 Byewater's Tachnamadra He's Got The Look, tri boy with a dense black coat & just about right for size. He has a well balanced head with a very dark eye, lovely rich tan & a sweet yet masculine expression. He has a well laid shoulder, good bone & substance. As with the other puppies, he needs to develop his muscle so that he has a deeper chest, but I wouldn't expect to see a dog puppy fully developed as it takes time to build up musculature & at this age they are still changing. He has a really good reach of neck, but at the moment he is standing a little high at the back, so the topline is not quite finished. Looking at the two puppies in profile this was quite evident so was the deciding factor when it came to placing them. However, once he has finished developing & his legs have caught up with his body he will trouble the best; 3 M With You In Mind. **JD** (4,2) 1 Edward's Castlerose Star Turn, another handsome tri boy, just right for size, well balanced throughout with a well arched neck, level topline & correct slope over the croup. I like his head & expression, very dark eye, flat skull & just the right amount of stop. Good layback of shoulder & he really strides out well in front on the move, & his correct bend of stifle enables him to drive well from the rear. He has a long tail which is carried as the standard describes; 2 Dixon's Tachnamadra Toffee Apple, golden sable in very good coat of the correct texture, with a well balanced head, flat skull, correct stop & dark well placed eye, topped by neat ears. His front angulation could be better, but because he is well balanced overall this isn't so obvious as he moves quite well. He has a good steady temperament & he shows well. **YD** (6,3) 1 Officer's Castlerose A Shropshire Lad, this sable boy appeals for his really correct breed type, perfect balance throughout & the fact that he is a well made workmanlike dog. He is unmistakably masculine but still has a sweet expression. His head is balanced with a well placed dark eye, flat skull, correct stop & correctly placed, well carried ears. I like his shape, well arched neck, level topline & correct slope over the croup. His coat fits him & finishes off his attractive overall appearance. He moves well & with plenty of drive & although he has substance he is not coarse in any way; 2 Riding's Achor's Surprise Percy Polaris for Torinska, a blue boy, not as mature as 1, so didn't appear quite as masculine & finished, he is probably maturing at a different rate & has a way to go yet. One of those who will probably reach his full potential between 3 & 4. His head is balanced but he needs a bit more foreface & underjaw & his eye is quite full. His front angulation could be better so he lacks the reach in front on the move. He is a beautiful blue colour & his coat is the correct texture, in fact probably one of the best on the day, really harsh & a soft dense undercoat. He does have a black patch on the hindquarters but the rest of the coat is well broken, so the overall impression is definitely blue; 3 T Toffee Apple. **PGD** (7,2) 1 Goodwin's Sandwick Turn Back Time, not an eyecatcher but one of the soundest dogs in today's entry. He does appear smaller than many in the ring these days but he probably measures exactly fourteen & a half inches. His head is balanced with a flat skull & correct stop, his eye is dark & well placed & his ears are well carried. He has very good front angulation accompanied by strong bone & substance, exactly in proportion to his overall size. He moves as well as his conformation suggests, good reach in front & strong drive from his well made hindquarters & good bend of stifle; 2 Saunders' Chalmoor Shades Of Gold at Fernfrey, he is also a very sound dog with good conformation both in front & behind & although he & Turn Back Time do not look very alike they are similar in many ways. I like his clean, well balanced head with flat cheeks, well filled foreface & good underjaw, flat skull & neat well carried ears. His well angled shoulder & upper arm & strong bone are obvious when he moves with plenty of reach in front & good drive from the rear. He didn't have quite the reach of neck of 1 & he tended to tuck his rear end in when he was standing, so in profile his outline was not so positive. I think he was a bit put off, as were many of the Shelties, by galloping Siberian Huskies in the next ring; 3 Mottram's Midday Sun at Lochkaren. **LD** (7,1) 1 Svensson's Me La Divas Bring Me A Viper, so many times when I

judge I always hope that I will find a dog I've never seen before but which will really take my eye. This lovely blue boy did just that. I enjoyed going over him because his conformation is excellent, both in front & behind. He has a very good reach of neck with a level topline, finishing in the correct slope over the croup & a low set long tail. His movement was free & easy with good drive from his well bent stifle. He has a balanced head with good foreface, good underjaw, correct stop & flat skull, however it is a little too deep through & the skull could be leaner so it lacked the refinement which the Standard calls for. His coat is the correct harsh texture but the blue is quite dark & he does have some sizeable black patches, however in this case behind the head & underneath the coat he is difficult to fault, so he won this good class on his many virtues; 2 Lambert's Blenmerrow Music Maker, sable boy, good size with an attractive outline, lovely neck & level topline with the required slope over the croup. He has a well balanced head with a sweet yet masculine expression, well filled foreface, good underjaw, well placed & shaped eye & a lean, flat skull. He has a good layback of shoulder but his upper arm could be better angled, although as he is well balanced overall, this didn't stop him reaching out well in front on the move; 3 Winfield's Oakcroft Star Force. **OD** (6,1) Not a numerically strong class, but strong in quality. 1 Akesson's Cib/Se/Fi/No/Dk Ch Windcrest Stylish Move, for me, this dog brings the breed Standard to life, it was a delight to go over him & a pleasure to be able to judge him. He is as near to the Standard as I think I've ever seen since the beautiful Ch She's My Fancy at Shelert in the early 1970s. Just standing in profile he oozes breed type & balance & then on the move he glides smoothly around the ring keeping his topline level, with the daisy cutting action which a correctly constructed Sheltie should have but which we seldom see. His beautifully groomed coat fits him perfectly, & his graceful carriage is enhanced by his strong, well arched neck, level topline & perfect slope over the croup. On the table I found his head to be just as near perfect as his body! Perfectly balanced, clean, smooth & so elegant with a good underjaw, just the right amount of foreface, slight but definite stop & a flat skull, all this combined with his almond shaped eyes obliquely set make for the unique Sheltie expression. He combines elegance & superb breed type & I was delighted to be able to award him the CC. It was a very strong Pastoral Group & we were very happy to see him win G3; 2 Goodwin's Ch Highbrook Hot Heir, a favourite of mine & today he didn't disappoint. I really like his head, which is well balanced, refined & again with the eye shape & placement which gives the true Sheltie expression. He has a flat skull, correct stop & really neat ears which he uses all the time. His neck is well arched & runs into a level topline & well angled hindquarters. He is a perfect size, well balanced throughout with a correct textured coat. He covers the ground well on the move. He won the RCC in good company; 3 Pierce's Philhope Star Struck. **VD** (2,1) 1 Paterson's Lorainian Kaeto Star, sable boy in very good coat & condition. His head is balanced with a well placed & shaped dark eye, & a sweet but masculine expression. He uses his ears well & is a steady showman. His forehead construction could be better, so he doesn't have the reach in front on the move. However, he is of very good breed type & is perfect for size. **GCD** (1) 1 Edwards' Castlerose Spirit Master, lives up to his name, a blue boy oozing confidence & spirit! He is well put together & in good hard condition striding out around the ring displaying his excellent conformation. His head is balanced with a masculine expression, he has a well arched neck, level topline & well angled hindquarters, neat feet & strong but not heavy bone. Although standing alone, he well deserved his first place.

MPB (4) 1 Mottram's Lanteague Stage Whisper at Lochkaren, golden sable baby in good coat. She has a very sweet feminine expression enhanced by her lovely well placed & shaped dark eye. Her head is balanced but she needs to fill in foreface, however she has time to do this. She has neat correctly placed ears which she uses & a well arched neck & level topline.

She has good front angulation & this shows when she moves. She is of good breed type, the correct size & shows much promise. Unfortunately in a later class the galloping Siberians were just a little too much for her to cope with, but she showed a steady temperament in this class; 2 Thomas' Myter Bees Knees, a really well constructed tri baby with a jet black, shiny coat. Perfect for size & in lovely condition with correct angulation which showed in her excellent movement around the ring, with good reach in front & drive behind. She has a lovely body, good reach of neck & very well angled hindquarters. Her head needs to develop & fill out but she has plenty of time, otherwise she is a very nice Sheltie of excellent breed type; 3 Bray's Lianbray Lorelei. **PB** (6,2) 1 Byewater's Tachnamadra New Look, a tri baby almost identical to her litter brother (who was 2nd in PD) but more feminine, so most of his report applies to her as well. Her angulation is very good so her movement is consequently correct & she is just right for size. Her topline needs to level out but I'm sure that will come, she shows great promise. **BP**; 2 L Stage Whisper at L; 3 Hateley's Mohnesee Petticoat Lace. **JB** (6) 1 Ambler's Watchwood Sweetheart of Chalmoor, a really attractive blue girl of excellent colour, well broken with just one black patch. She is very sound with excellent conformation, so her movement is a joy to watch as she covers the ground easily with very little effort. One of her best features is her well arched neck which so enhances her shape. She has a balanced head topped by neat ears which she uses well. Coming back into coat now & she is maturing nicely after a successful puppy career; 2 Bray's Shelridge Shantilly Lace at Lianbray, very feminine, eye-catching sable girl, presented to perfection with a well fitting coat. She has a well balanced head with a good foreface & underjaw correct stop & flat skull. Her eye is dark but I would prefer a slightly more almond shape. She is well constructed both in front & at the rear with a very good bend of stifle so she moves really well with good drive from her well bent stifle. It was difficult to choose between these two bitches as they were very similar in type so it came down to splitting hairs & I just thought that on the day the sable's ears were not carried quite as well as the blue's, although the noise in the hall may have had something to do with that! 3 Parkes' Milesend Sweet Whispers. **YB** (4) 1 Daniels & Taylor's Pepperhill Kicks 'N Flicks, another beautiful blue girl, a good example of how a b/m colour should be, she is just coming back into fresh coat so the colour stands out even more. Just right for size with an elegant outline, very good front angulation & super reach of neck, level topline & slope over the croup. Her head is balanced & clean with a lean flat skull, correct stop & good foreface, she too has well carried ears which she uses. She is a very good mover & is determined to get round the ring faster than her handler, so at times the movement appears to be erratic, but with her conformation she cannot fail to move correctly; 2 Saunders' Chalmoor I'm A Peach at Fernfrey, very well constructed sable of the correct size with just the right amount of bone. Straight front with well angled shoulder & upper arm, she moves easily round the ring with good reach in front & drive from her well bent stifle. Her head is balanced with a flat skull, although it could be just slightly leaner. She has a well placed & shaped eye. Not a glamour girl but a very sound & workmanlike Sheltie; 3 Fox's Ruscombe Work Of Art with Follyfox. **PGB** (9,1) 1 Miles' Milesend Bluebell, a blue girl of excellent colour with a well fitting coat which shows off her excellent balance, conformation & reach of neck. Very good angle of shoulder & upper arm, level topline, correct slope over the croup & a well carried tail. She has a pleasing head which is also balanced with good underjaw, correct stop, a lean, flat skull, & neat well carried ears. Her movement is a joy to watch, very smooth with good reach in front & drive from behind. She showed well; 2 Deveson's Janetstown Je Suis, a very glamorous sable girl, takes the eye for her overall balance & shape. Lovely neck & topline, graceful slope over the croup with a long tail which completes the picture. Wedge shaped head, well balanced with a lean flat skull, correct stop & very well placed & shaped eye providing a sweet & very feminine expression, helped along by her neat well carried ears. She has good front & hind angulation, so it was a very

difficult decision between her & the blue. Both are good movers but I just felt that Bluebell reached out just a little more in front on the move, but again a hair splitting decision; 3 Lycett's Herds Hallicia at Iliad. **LB** (6,1) 1 Lambert's Blenmerrow Infinity for Kevdon, a sable girl, of excellent type & quality, a real Sheltie. She is spot on for size & I love her shape, her head is refined with the correct stop & flat skull, her eye shape & placement is just right & her expression is sweet & feminine. The topline flows uninterrupted from her well arched neck down through the topline, the slope over the croup & continues on to the end of her tail. She is very sound with excellent angulation & her movement is steady & positive. She filled my eye with her breed type & quality & I was very pleased to award her the CC; 2 Hateley's Willowgarth Tangerine Lace at Mohnesee, another lovely Sheltie of perfect size & excellent breed type, & one I have admired from the ringside for a while. She has a balanced head, the sweetest of expressions & perfect ears which she uses most of the time. Very good angulation & a particularly good bend of stifle enables her to really move around the ring with ease. A small criticism is that she will stand close to her handler & tip her head backwards in order to see the bait which then creates an illusion of not having much neck. I know she has got a good reach of neck because I found it on the table examination, but looking at her in profile, it wasn't so obvious. She was the RCC winner today; 3 Thomas' Myter Guilty Pleasure. **OB** (6,1) 1 Lycett's Shebaville Saucy Secret at Iliad, a blue girl of perfect size & excellent breed type who excels in conformation. Her head is well balanced with a flat skull & well filled foreface, her eye could be a little more almond shaped but it doesn't detract from her sweet feminine expression. She has good shoulder & upper arm angulation, so on the move she covers the ground well with a good drive from the rear. Her blue isn't particularly well broken & she does have some black patches, but she deserved to win this class because underneath the coat there is a lot to like; 2 Thomas' Jolex Moonflower, another blue girl, also of the correct size. She too has good front & hind angulation & a good reach of neck & a level topline. She is a very good showgirl, with a wedge shaped balanced head, flat skull & good foreface. She has some black patches but also has a lovely rich tan. She moves as her conformation suggests; 3 Winfield's Oakcroft Going For Gold. **VB** (4) 1 Barnett's Ch Rainway Crystal Star, she is still a star & there was no indication of her being a veteran, her enthusiasm for showing hasn't diminished & she really enjoyed her day out. She is an object lesson in what is meant by splashed & marbled with black & her colour is still blue, although it has darkened a little. She has super conformation & moves around the ring with drive & purpose. Her head is refined & balanced & she has a sweet feminine expression. She oozes quality & breed type, a lovely girl; 2 Miles' Ch Milesend Milkshake, what is there to say about this beautiful Sheltie who is the breed bitch record holder & still looks fantastic at over 9 years. She is a pleasure to go over & to find such super conformation underneath her beautiful coat. Then to watch her move with such grace & drive is the icing on the cake. On the day I just thought she was showing slight signs of age around the eyes & a little on her skull. Two beautiful Ch with hardly anything to separate them; 3 Akesson's Cib/Se/Fi/No Ch Windcrest On The Move. **GCB** (2,1) 1 Deveson's Lucky Liaison at Lianbray, sable with a sweet feminine expression topped by neat ears which she uses all the time. She is well put together with a good shoulder & upper arm, good bone & neat feet so she moves very well. I like her overall shape & excellent breed type.

BARBARA THORNLEY