

WORKING & PASTORAL BREEDS OF WALES CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW 17TH APRIL 2022 - SHETLAND SHEEPDOGS

A very nice entry, with only four absentees. Thanks to my diligent stewards, Mike and Glynis. My apologies for getting slower and slower as the day wore on, but I was feeling quite unwell as time went on, nothing contagious but it took a few days to get over. Whilst I found some very correct exhibits, the same old faults were there, ie steep upper arms. The front legs should not come in line with the ears. The upper arm is supposed to angle back in balance with the layback of the shoulder. Why that is so difficult to understand I don't know. I was also concerned about the creeping in of round feet, and thin, flat feet. The old saying "No foot, no 'oss" applies just as well to a breed that is in the herding category. Hind angulation should not be allowed to become over exaggerated - it is not a case of the more the better, and this does tend to cause the dog to stand with its back feet under its belly. Obviously a judge does not want to fault judge, but similarly it does the breed no favours to ignore the points that are incorrect, as this is where these points become more and more common until they are widespread. The steep upper arms are a case in point here.

VD/B (3) 1 Gruszka's Samphrey Shades Of Blue ShCM VW. Ten and a half yrs. A very well constructed bm bitch of good size with good bone and strong feet. Her head handles well, with neat ears and well set eyes. She moved very well, with good drive and extension. 2 Hirst's Sundark Simply A Star. Eight and three quarter years tri. Another very sound bitch, balanced outline with good bone and feet. Feminine head with neat ears, moved well but not quite the stride length of first. 3 Benstead's Melcette's A Thousand Stars At Benravia 10 yrs. b/m dog, half brother to the second. Nice head with flat skull, well set blue eyes, ears a bit low set, in good coat of good colour. Moved ok, but not enjoying his day out.

MPD (5,1) 1 Thornley's Felthorn Barnaby Rudge. Promising tri dog, just squeezed into this class. Presented an attractive picture. Good head with dark, well set eyes and nicely tipped ears. Good neck and topline, good forehand, long tail. Nice bone with well padded and shaped feet. Moved out well, was so interested in all that was going on around him. 2 Mottram's Lundecock's Hoopie-Doo At Lochkaren. S/w, 6 months. Very attractive baby, good typical head, dark well shaped and set eyes, well set ears he used well. Nice tail length, moved steadily. Not the forehand of first, and I would prefer stronger feet. 3 Hirst's Sundark Scaramouche.

PD (2) Both of these puppies had correct, harsh textured coats. 1 Hardy's Sandwick Masterclass. 11 months tri with a balanced outline, good reach of neck, enough bone and feet ok. Head is balanced, but skull needs to flatten a little, which it should do with time. Good tail, showed steadily and moved well. 2 Ayres' Gemette Gone Platinum. 11 months b/m of lovely colour. A lot to like about him. Front is ok, head balanced, blue eyes, ears used well. Bone and feet good, tail good. Would insist on standing awkwardly and needs to overcome this. Moved well.

JD (3) 1 Hardy's Sandwick Road Runner. 15 months b/m of lovely colour. His construction is excellent with a level topline leading to a lovely sweep over the croup, an arched neck leading into well laid shoulders and correct upper arms. Good spring of rib. Well angulated hocks, good feet and long tail. His head handles well, although his ears could be better set, he uses them well. Moved freely and with drive and reach, although his exuberance can get the better of him for the odd stride. Not in full coat yet, as you would expect at his age, and I think he will be very impressive with maturity. RCC. 2 Sutherland's Shelcrest Winter Solstice. S/s of nice size, good outline. Very nice head with neat, well set and used ears, dark eyes, good layback of shoulder but u/a could be better. Nice length of tail, moved ok and showed well. 3 Goldie's Blenmerrow Mazurka.

ND (2) 1 Hirst's Sundark Scaramouche. Rather heavily marked b/m, but is very nice for size and shape. Good bone and feet, balanced head with good underjaw. Moved very well, just needs to body up and mature. 2 G Gone Platinum.

GD (3) 1 Robinson's Lavika Deep Blue Ocean. B/m of lovely colour, with correct harsh coat. Very good size, good bone, his feet are well padded but a little round. Head handles well with well shaped and set eyes, neat ears well used. Good layback of shoulder and length of u/a which could angle back more. Very attentive showman and moved well. 2 Bendelow's Amethrickeh Mysuntime. Tri who was unhappy with the noisy surroundings. Jet black, harsh coat, Balanced head with dark eyes well set, but a shade round. Nicely put together and moved with drive and good reach. 3 Sutherland's Shougies Starmaker.

PGD (6) 1 Robinson's Lavika Starlight Salute. Very handsome s/w of lovely shape with arched neck and lovely topline. Typical head with dark, well set eyes and neat ears he used well. Good bone and strong well shaped feet. Good shoulder and u/a, good tail. Moved and showed very well, beautifully presented. I liked him a lot. 2 Thornley & Withers' Felthorn Cover Story. Tri of very good size and substance. Typical head with dark, well set

and shaped eyes, neat ears he used well. Good bone and feet, good body. I would just like a better reach of neck. Moved well. 3 Bendelow's Pitch Perfect At Amethrickeh.

LD (5) 1 Pattinson's Kyleburn Everlasting Dream JW. S/s dog with so much to like about him. He is beautifully balanced, has a very correct front with good layback of shoulder and matching u/a, good reach of neck. His head handles well with dark, well set and shaped eyes and very good ears he used well. Good topline, good bone and correct oval feet. Good body and good tail length. Moved beautifully and showed well. 2 Hull's Mohnesee's Dream Date Of Lizmark JW. R/s in good coat which was well presented. Nice for size, good bone, feet oval but a bit flat. He has a tendency to crouch, making him appear slack in pasterns and rear, and this did show in his movement. Attractive head with dark eyes, attentive showman. 3 Gamble's Solytic Inaugural Gold JW. OSW.

OD (6) 1 Pearson's Ch Edglonian Golden Graham. Very classy s/w of correct size, clean head with flat skull, dark, well set and shaped eyes giving sweet expression, neat ears used well. Good topline with nice sweep over croup. Good bone, correct feet, well padded, well put together with no exaggerations, he moved very well and showed attentively. Beautifully presented. CC. 2 Robinson's Lavika Lush Life. Another very classy dog, s/w, good outline, good topline, head handles well, good layback of shoulder but u/a a bit steep. Showed steadily and moved well. 3 Stafford's Ch Rannerdale Showmaster.

MPB (3) 1 Haensel's Philhope Summer Time To Sherkarl. Pretty g/s with good reach of neck and good topline. Head needs to mature as did the others in this class, but that is to be expected in a MP class. Adequate bone, needs to strengthen all through. 2 Hirst's Sundark Symphony In Suede. Nice for size and balance, good bone and feet. Her eyes are dark but a bit round, moved ok. 3 Ritchie's Jaelis Mystique Reality.

PB (3) 1 Attwood's Black Forest At Terriwood. Tri, really liked this little girl, well made all through with long tail, feminine head with dark well set eyes and very neat, well used ears. Good bone, correct feet, lovely arched neck, good forehand, good rear, lovely size, moved very well and showed steadily. Her presentation could have been better, but looked to be preparing to shed her coat, and her quality overcame this. 2 P Summer Time At S.

JB (3) 1 Stafford's Rannerdale Queen Of The Dark. Lovely tri just 12 months. She is maturing well, without coarseness, and has a pretty, feminine head, good neck and topline, good rear assembly and depth of body. Good layback of shoulders and length of u/a, but this needs to cut back a little. Moved out well, and showed well, but I feel she could stand further away from her handler to advantage, as she tends to look up, losing her neck in her shoulders. 2 Bray's Jontygray Trice As Nice By Lianbray. Tri with very pretty head, dark eyes and neat, well used ears, good overall shape, adequate bone and oval feet, moved well. Just a bit steep in front. 3 Forster-Cooper's Sheltysam Idyll.

NB (5) 1 Forster-Cooper's Sheltysam Merry Maid. S/s just 12 months. Bit overwhelmed by the background noise, but she wasn't nervous. Pretty head with dark eyes and neat ears, good topline, nice bone and feet, moved ok, just needs to mature. 2 P Summer Time To Sherkarl. 3 S Symphony In Suede.

GB (4, 1) 1 Robinson's Lavika Lucid Dreams. Quality b/m, very shapely and vg colour. Good for size, with good bone and correct feet. Her head is balanced with a flat skull and well used ears. Good body and length of tail, moved very well and showed steadily, should do very well in the future. I liked her a lot. 2 Attwood's Mohnesee Beatrice Black At Terriwood. Tri, nice for size and shape. Her head handles well, just a shade strong in backskull, dark eyes. Nice round bone and strong feet. Moved out well and showed steadily. 3 Mottram's Lundecock's There's No Limit At Lochkaren.

PGB (8, 1) 1 Hirst's Sundark Spirit Mistress. Another very good tri, very good for size and balance, decent forehand, balanced head with very neat ears and dark eyes which are a tad round. She has good bone with strong, well padded feet, level topline and good body. Moved very well, and showed well. 2 Hateley's Mohnesee Enchanted. R/s, she doesn't have a lot of white about her, but still manages to be glamorous. Very feminine head, lovely coat which was beautifully presented. Not the forehand of first, and today was tending to crouch a bit behind standing, and was moving close behind. 3 Hardman's Seavall Taran.

LB (7, 1) 1 S Spirit Mistress. 2 Forster-Cooper's Alnmac Killer Queen. This tri doesn't do a lot to put herself forward, but when she does put her ears up the picture changes dramatically. She is so well constructed all through and consequently moved with a long, flowing stride. She has good bone and well padded feet, with a good tail. Level skull with dark eyes which are a tad round, well set ears which she occasionally gave me a glimpse of. Very nice bitch who looked like she could do a day's work. 3 Barraclough's Shadowess True Blue.

OB (7) Lovely class. 1 Thornley & Wither's Ch Mitchfields Fashion Girl At Felthorn. B/m whose new coat has brought an improvement in her colour. She is lovely for size and shape. Her head handles very well, with flat skull, good u/j, eyes correct shape and set, ears a bit "merley" but are used well. She has good depth of body with well sprung ribs, lovely reach of neck with correct forehand and rear angulation. Her movement was a

pleasure to watch and she showed very well. CC & BOB. 2 Hardman & Simpson's Ch Blue Panda Among Clemwood. B/m of great quality and similar remarks apply to her as the first. I was really splitting hairs deciding between these two and they are both so very correct. First was just a little steadier on the move, and second slightly longer cast. 3 Hardy's Sandwick Stage Show. I think this lovely tri deserves a critique, as she has so much quality. She is very feminine, lovely size, so well made and moves beautifully. The handler/owner of the BOB very reluctantly withdrew her from going into the Group as the bitch had not been to the toilet since leaving home on Friday morning, and was showing signs of discomfort as you might expect. A great shame, but fully understandable.

JUDGE – Mary Bathurst