

Hitchin & DCS 18th October 2015

A super line up of dogs for BIS, and a lovely big ring giving me plenty of opportunity to assess each on the move.

The **top award** went to a delightful Welsh Terrier, Witmond's BOOWIRE IGNITE MY FIRE AT TILTSEER, compact dog in super condition, lovely head, clean lines, neat ears and flat skull. Well angulated and true parallel mover – covering the big ring with ease, very much the showman.

RBIS, Corr & Horwood's LOUPEIS MIAMI TWICE, shar pei, another who excelled on move, sound from all angles. Square in profile, strong well developed head, flat skull, correct pigment throughout. Firm body and well angulated.

BPIS, the Lancashire heeler, Syrett's GANSEBLUME ENCHANTRESS, so well named, definitely charmed her way into my affections, alert and oh so happy as the breed standard requires. Correct head of parallel planes and lovely eye. Correct length to height ratio and straight legs, moved very well and for a small dog really owned the ring.

RBPIS, the NSDTR, Streven's ERIKACHEN CONAIRE AT TOLLISTY JW, didn't put a foot wrong, lovely proportions and outline, standing four square at all times as only a well-made dog can, alert and attentive to handler, well-muscled and strong mover. Lovely broad head, flat sides and lovely expressive eyes. The veterans were all amazing – what a credit to their owners and breeders, probably the hardest decision of the day, and well done Hitchin for including a special competition for these more mature exhibits, certainly demonstrates the health and longevity of the breeds represented.

BVIS was the Cesky Terrier, Burrage's VANDELL SWEET SONG OF SAMETOVA ShCM, nine years old, strong workmanlike, good length to back with correct rise over loin. Head correct blunt wedge, with high set ears and full dentition. Excellent coat condition, and sound powerful mover.

RBVIS, the maltese, Holland & Lees' CH/IR CH LAFFORD TRADE MARC ShCM, eight years old, and in gleaming condition. Moved around the ring with plenty of drive, covering ground easily. Lovely dark pigment, rounded head and good stop, excellent dentition.

Alaskan Malamute

JD/B (1, absent) PGD/B (1,0) 1. Stevens & Hales's ICEWOLF FIRE N ICE, a bitch strongly made with good bone and size. Very good condition double coat. Muscular neck to attractive wedge head, flat skull, strong muzzle, lovely almond eye. Deep chest, strong back and loin. Moved ok, could just tighten a little in front, BOB. OD/B (1, absent)

Siberian Husky

JD/B (2,1) 1. Seward's Elleonia Perfect Chance, very tall dog, well boned, and has attractive chiselled head, good eye shape. High set medium ears. Would prefer more reach of neck and angulation in front as lacked reach in front, though strong behind. Topline could be more level. PGD/B (3,1) 1. Seward's FORSTAL'S CRYSTAL WITH ELLEONIA, bitch of correct shape and proportions, athletic build. Feminine head with chiselled skull, would prefer slightly stronger muzzle for balance. Very good angulation, and stands on oval feet. Moved very well covering ground in light easy gait. Would prefer slightly looser tail carriage, BOB. 2. Tinker's ZALTANA DIREWOLF AT LOLOTEA ShCM, bigger framed male, heavier boned than I would expect for the breed. Well angulation and proportioned just too much all over. Thick double coat. Erratic on move in front. OD/B (4,0) 1. Brown's ZOOX ZAMORA, older bitch, has lovely outline, correct bone for bitch. Well angulated front and rear and with correct reach of neck. Attractive feminine head, though would prefer a little more stop. Good eye & ear. Moved well in profile, but would prefer more strength behind, RBOB. 2. Tinker's ESQUIMAX A KIND OF MAGIC JW, bigger framed male of different type to winner. In good coat and well boned, but feet too round. Head is broad but rather dished and ears wide set. Strong topline.

Belgian Shepherd (terv)

JD/B (3,1) 1. Flether, Finnigan & Church's INVANSE RED HOT, very nice male, good proportions, square in outline. Well coated, attractive head balanced head and muzzle, well developed neck and correct angulation, stands four square. Moved well with light action, BOB. PGD/B and OD/B no entries.

AV Imported Register

SYD/B (1,0) 1. Hayes' LIBERTY BELLE DES VALLEES LONGERONNAIS, Basset Bleu de Gascogne, low and long backed with good bone. Attractive head blunt muzzle, well defined nose. Ears set low. Movement little erratic as was very keen to work the indoor school surface – not easy venue to show a scent hound and a puppy at that. Tail carried well, lovely attitude. BIR & BP.

AV Rare Breed

JD/B (3, 2) 1. Wearmouth & McDaid's AKNA CASTIEL, CED, strongly built bitch, in good coat and has deep chest. Good balanced angulation, muscular neck. Broad wedge shaped head, dark eye and wide ears. Well boned to strong round large feet. Moved very well. BP. PGD/B (7,2) 1. William's DANIELLA VOM THYROWBERG TO GLADSHEIM, loved her shape standing, correct balance of length to height, correct bone, very well angulated. Attractive feminine head with skull & muzzle balanced in length, dark brown almond eye and well feathered ears. Good depth of chest and firm topline. Moved very soundly, BOB. 2. Whybrow's MILLHANGER SUSIE AT UNOSTA, overall taller and bigger bitch, but well proportioned. Well angulated front and rear and moved soundly. Attractive head, good eye colour. Well coated with good feathering. 3. Kennedy's CRUNCHCROFT ONYX. OD/B (6,2) 1. William's MAXIMILLIAN ALFIE OF GLADSHEIM ShCM, lovely shape, good outline, and excellent condition. Firm back to sloping croup. Well angulated front and rear. Attractive head good proportions and slightly curved skull, good eye shape and colour, high set well feathered ears. Moved very well, RBOB. 2. Whybrow's UNOSTA CONQUEST, son of winner I see, and therefore not surprised my notes say similar type. Bigger framed dog and not quite the hind angulation of my winner. Attractive head, gentle expression from dark eye and correct high ears. Moved ok but could be firmer in front. 3. Dickenson's THE ACE OF SPADES.

Judge Toni Jackson