

HITCHIN & DISTRICT CANINE SOCIETY – OPEN SHOW – 15TH OCTOBER 2017

My thanks to the officers and committee for this appointment to judge at Hitchin. I thoroughly enjoyed my day and the Gundog Group was one of the strongest I have ever judged at this level and I thank my fellow judges for sending such quality through. The puppy stakes was also a quality class with close decisions to be made.

AVNSC Gundog

Puppy (1)

1st Kirton, Dackombe & Gale's Sabisabi Choix Chimaka. American Cocker. 11 month buff bitch. Well balanced with typical head and good chiselling beneath the eyes. High shoulder leading to correct topline. Good depth and width of chest with well sprung ribcage and short loin. Well turned stifles and low hocks. Moved freely with drive. BP

Post Graduate (1)

1st Shepherd & Macbain's Fecimus Flirting with Fire JW. Field Spaniel. Delightful bitch. Well balanced with correct height to length ratio. Pleasing head – I would prefer a little more leanness beneath the eyes. Well laid back shoulder with corresponding length of upper arm. Level topline. Correct rib/loin proportions. Well made hindquarters with excellent bone and feet. Moved with drive and purpose – accurate both fore and aft and correct when viewed in profile. In excellent coat and condition. Best AVNSC

Open (2)

1st Kirton, Dackombe & Gale's Sabisabi Choix Chimaka. American Cocker. Well balanced black with typical outline. Good head shape with correct chiselling. Clean neck leading to high wither and slightly sloping topline with correct tailset. Large ribcage with short loin and powerful hindquarters. Moved with drive – just preferred the hind action of the post graduate winner when it came to the challenge. Res Best AVNSC.

2nd Shepherd & Macbain's Sh Ch/Int Ch Hardypups Cookie Monster

Gordon Setters

This was such a quality entry and I would like to thank all those who entered and afforded me the privilege of judging your dogs. My open class was a complete joy – quality right down the line.

Junior (4, 1)

1st Mitchell's Roydock Ruby Hidden Gem at Brobruick. It was a very hard decision between him and the second placed bitch in this class because I felt that I could make a case for both of them. In my opinion both are top quality exhibits who on another day I would place the other way around. The winner just scored on his movement coming in towards – he had the advantage of age and being slightly more co-ordinated in his front action which was the deciding factor. For me the winner has the correct balance and size. His head and expression are superb. Strong neck leading to correct shoulder and good depth and width of chest. Well ribbed back to short loin and strong well muscled

hindquarters. Excellent bone and feet. True movement – both fore and aft and when viewed in profile.

2nd Seymour & Newton's Pegasett Miz Guidance. A cracking puppy who has everything in the right place for her age. Excellent balance. Feminine head of the correct proportions. Clean neck leading to correct lay of shoulder. Excels in depth of chest. Well sprung rib. Correct topline with flat croup leading to well made hindquarters and low hocks. Shown and handled to advantage and presented in tip top condition. I have no doubt that she will go on to great things. BP, PG1 and RBPIS.

3rd Sandiford's Hernwood Boston's First Lady

Post Grad (3)

1st Poynter's Hernwood Thunderstorm. Well balanced with good head and expression. Correct shoulder and depth of chest. Well boned. Good topline with long stifles and well let down hocks. A little excessive in coat for my preference. Moved well and with good rear drive.

2nd Haliday's Yennadon Reiss

3rd Norman's Yennadon Kyllachy

Open (6,1)

1st Justice's Lyric Rhapsody in Blu. I loved this bitch. For me she epitomised the phrase in the standard that says "weight carrying hunter". If she was a horse I could sit on her comfortably all day. Just watching her side profile movement was a pure joy – I could have sent her round and round the ring and just revelled in the pleasure of watching – smooth, effortless, economical but with drive whilst maintaining her topline throughout. Balanced in outline with feminine head of correct proportions. Strong neck leading to correct shoulder and corresponding length of upper arm. Chest that was both deep and wide, through to well sprung ribs, short loin and relatively flat croup giving the correct tail set. Long stifles with good width of second thigh and short, well let down hocks. Excellent bone and feet. BOB and G2 – pushing the eventual group winner right to wire.

2nd Ellerbeck's My Shining Star Black Lofty. Another lovely bitch whom I have done well before. She pushed the winner hard but just preferred the felt the winner had the edge today on substance but a worthy RBOB and delighted that she was later placed in the RBOB stakes.

3rd Mappin's Bryerdale Texas Star JW

Italian Spinone

Junior (3)

1st Wagh's Protino Del Vera by Dewdhala. Well balanced for age. Good head with well developed planes. Square outline. Short neck. Excellent depth of chest and well ribbed back. Super bone and correct coat texture. Moved steadily – just needs time to come together. BP and RBOB.

2nd Martin's Orvieta The Enchantress at Riannta

3rd Morton's Munystar Magnetic Melody

Post Graduate (1)

1st Wagh's Larila Pecora for Dewdhala. This bitch was quite difficult to assess as she was reluctant to be gone over. Well balanced with pleasing head and short neck. Deep chest. Well ribbed back with correctly made hindquarters. Coat a little on the soft side. Movement steady.

Open (3, 2)

1st Harrison's Riccini Abrielle JW ShCM. Well balanced with correct square outline. Excels in head and expression. Short neck leading to well laid shoulder and good depth and width of chest. Correct topline. Good spring of rib. Carrying a little too much weight which prevented her from going further in the group. Well made hindquarters with good width of second thigh and short hocks. Excellent bone and feet. Correct coat texture. Moved well with good open side gait. BOB.

Cocker Spaniels

Puppy (4, 1)

1st Thomas's Snowgate Blue Diamond among Claramond. Well balanced with square outline. Excellent head and expression. Correct lay of shoulder and return of upper arm. Well ribbed with short loin. Broad rump with correct tail set. Well turned stifles. Excellent bone and feet. Moved well. BP

2nd Thomas's Quaralia Claramand Rosemary

3rd Mardlin's Wimberry Springtime

Post Grad (5, 2)

1st Rothchild's Cachel Starlette At Rothima. Good overall balance with square outline. Excellent head and expression. Correct forequarters with good depth and width of chest. Well sprung ribcage. Level topline with correct tailset. Well angulated hindquarters. Excellent bone and feet, Shown in excellent coat and condition. RBOB.

2nd Beckwith's Troverothway Jack The Lad at Balaambeck

3rd Pitt's Wagaflag Magical Mayhem

Open (1)

1st Worgan's Lujesa Licence to Thrill for Luthame. Beautifully balanced all through. Excellent head and expression. Correct forequarters with good depth and width of chest. Level topline with big ribcage and short loin. Well muscled hindquarters with good width of second thigh and low hocks set square. Excellent bone with good, cat like feet – well padded. Moved well with both fore and aft with good tail action. Shown in excellent coat and condition. BOB.

AV Gundog

Puppy (9)

1st Osbourne's Pendarlow Peter Pan with Braego. ESS. Good outline with typical head. Clean neck and shoulder. Deep chest. Well ribbed back. Strong hindquarters. Accurate driving movement with excellent bone and feet.

2nd Tester's Gingafing Careless Whisper

3rd Joyce's Racheater Vyvyan

Post Graduate (9)

1st Beckwith's Troverothway Jack The Lad at Balaambeck. Cocker Spaniel. Well balanced. Would like more work in his head. Good rib and loin. Strong hindquarters and excellent bone. Moved well.

2nd Pitt's Wagaflag Magical Mayhem

3rd Goodman's Blacklake Cordelia

Open (8)

1st Frost's Bushwaker Something About Mary. WSS. Cracking bitch. Beautifully balanced all through. Classical head and expression. Clean neck leading to well laid shoulder and corresponding return of upper arm. Deep chest. Correct rib to loin proportions. Slight arch over loin to correct tail set. Well muscled hindquarters with good width of second thigh. Excellent bone and feet. Shown in tip top condition and handled to advantage. Moved with accuracy reach and drive. Best AV Gundog.

2nd Spillane's Belatarr Charlie Parker ShCM

3rd Broadbent's Hallbent November Toccata

Veteran (18)

It was an absolute treat to judge this class – many quality dogs had to go cardless such was the depth of quality.

1st Boden's Sh Ch Tweedsmuir Beautiful Dream Among Suelynnda. Clumber Spaniel. More than 7 years ago I judged this bitch before she had attained her title. In the intervening years I have had the pleasure of judging her and I have never changed my opinion. Although she is showing her years now she still screams true Clumber Spaniel type. She has superb balance and is so very sound. Her head is of the correct proportions, with a deep stop, correct ear shape. Deep muzzle and strong jaw. Well arched neck leading to correct layback of shoulder. Deep and wide chest with elbows close to brisket. Well ribbed back leading to short loin and well shaped hindquarters. On the move she is accurate fore and aft and shows a good open side gait in profile. A credit to her owners and breeder and thrilled that she was later awarded Best Veteran in Show.

2nd Sandiford's – Sh Ch Hernwood Diamond Rock JW ShCM

3rd Barry's Sh Ch Shireoak Hurricane Ruby Rushtasha

Gundog Group

1st Barry's Sh Ch Rushtasha Rhapsody in Red. Irish Red and White Setter. Very well balanced showing excellent breed type and correct construction all through. This dog excels in a big ring where his movement can be shown to advantage and his handler gets the very best out of him. He is well balanced and extremely athletic. There is no doubt in my mind that he could work on the moors all day – and more. Good head, clean neck leading through to well laid back shoulder. Deep in chest. Well sprung rib with short loin. Strong hindquarters which propelled him around the ring. The more I asked the more he gave. Worthy group winner.

2nd Lyric Rhapsody in Blu

3rd Streven's Sh Ch Erikachen Conaire at Tollisty JW ShCM. Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever. Very typical. Well balanced with true head and expression. Correct forehead angulation. Well ribbed. Strong, muscular hindquarters with correct tailset. Moved with drive and purpose.

4th Baker & Baker-Roullier's Desfrisa Flirtini. Pointer. Lovely flowing outline – all curves and no sharp edges. Very typical and well balanced. True head with correct definition of dish faced appearance. Clean neck and shoulder. Deep in brisket. Strong hindquarters. Flowing movement with excellent open side gait when moved in profile.

Gundog Puppy Group

1st Pegasett Miz Guidance

2nd Stammer's Deena Ballettanser at Lochpointer. GSP. Shortlisted in adult group. Well balanced with short back standing over a lot of ground. Mature for age. Good depth of chest. Correct topline. Accurate movement both fore and aft and in profile

3rd Pashley's Wakaduze Wah Pen Dah Ska. Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever. Smart, well balanced with good construction all through. Good wedge shaped head. Well sprung rib cage and strong hind quarters. Accurate movement both fore and aft and in profile

4th Spillane's Belatarr Jupitar. Hungarian WH Vizsla. I was very taken with this youngster. Well balanced all through with excellent head and expression. Well constructed. His coat just needs to come on a little more. Accurate movement and very sound.

Puppy Stakes (44)

1st Knowles & Metselaar-Williams – Anya Hindmarch Avec Brailment. GBGV. Cracking puppy. So well balanced. Excellent head and expression. Strong, well arched neck leading to good lay of shoulder. Deep chest. Well sprung rib. Level topline and well muscled hindquarters. She commanded the ring and moved with drive

2nd Adair's King of Helluland Love Actually at Darebear

3rd Adams' Fisherbloom All Eyes on Me

Becky Johnson