

## **HITCHIN & DISTRICT CANINE SOCIETY OPEN SHOW 15th OCTOBER 2017**

My thanks to the Officers and Committee of Hitchin & DCS for their kind invitation to judge at their well-run Open Show, to my very efficient steward Maryanne and to the very sporting exhibitors not only for bringing their lovely dogs for a non-specialist's opinion but also for their generous applause for the winners today; I enjoyed this appointment very much.

### **RETRIEVER (FLAT COATED)**

Puppy (0 entries)

Junior (2, 1 absent):

1st - Goodman's Blacklake Isabella, 14 months black bitch, very much a lanky teenager in profile which is to be expected at her age, liked her head which was feminine, balanced and of good length, dark eye with bright expression, correct slight stop, sufficient length of neck, clean in throat, good in forechest, shoulder well laid back, would prefer a tad more length of upper arm, deep chest for one so young with correct spring of rib, short coupled, level back, moderate bend of stifle, needs to strengthen in flank & grow into her frame, good tailset both standing & moving, moved freely showing off her obvious happy & friendly temperament, would like to see a little more front extension but showed drive behind

Post Graduate (7)

Some close decisions here and saw from catalogue later that several exhibits were littermates, movement & tail carriage were deciding factors in my final decisions

1st - Goodman's Blacklake Cordelia, smart 4 years black bitch in gleaming coat & condition, dam of Junior winner, presented a racy & powerful outline, appealing feminine head, good length of muzzle, well-shaped skull with slight stop, dark eye that twinkled with good humour, good length of neck, plenty of forechest, excelled in front & rear angulation with well bent stifles, body deep & of good length with correct rib, strong & short in couplings, powerful thighs, level back, correctly set & carried wagging tail, when asked to move she flowed all the way round the ring on a light, effortless stride showing plenty of front extension and power behind, lost just preferred Open winner's tighter feet & ultra straight front for BOB, but very pleased to award her RBOB in good company

2nd - Montandon's Trapestone Bohemian Girl, 2 years black bitch, not yet the maturity of 1, but found her to be well-constructed throughout with many similar attributes, feminine head of good length & balance, liked her eye colour & expression, neck of good length, very good in forechest, well angulated front & rear, well developed in hindquarters, deep in body with good length of rib, not quite the underline & depth of flank of 1 but was short coupled, certainly delivered on movement which was free & flowing, with correctly held wagging tail, another with a cheerful outgoing temperament

3rd - Hart's Gayplume Cotton Candy

Open (4, 1 absent)

1st - Murray's Araminta Glass At Gayplume, quality mature 6 years black bitch in shining coat, well muscled throughout, racy & powerful in outline, confident & friendly temperament, feminine head, well balanced skull & muzzle, dark eye & alert worldly-wise expression, good length of neck, excelled in forechest & front angulation, deep body, correctly sprung ribs of good length, short coupled, deep in flank, strong thigh of good width, correct moderate bend of stifle, could perhaps be a touch firmer in topline but this did not adversely affect her effortless & flowing movement, correctly held & wagging tail, preferred her front assembly & front extension on the move to 2, in the challenge was pushed hard on the run round by the PG winner, but stood straight & true on round tight feet to take a very well deserved BOB, delighted to see her later shortlisted in a large Gundog Group under a breed specialist judge

2nd - Boradbent's Hallbent October Toccata ShCM, almost 7 years black dog, sire of the littermates in PG, in excellent coat & condition, his powerful build throughout makes him something of an eye-catcher, masculine well-balanced head, delightful intelligent expression, good length of neck, very strong & deep in body, flank & thigh, well bent stifle, decent layback of shoulder but would prefer a touch more length of upper arm & length in body for better balance, could not match the animation of BOB & RBOB on the move, his correctly carried tail nevertheless wagged constantly showing off his excellent temperament & making him a pleasure to judge

3rd - Montandon's Calswish Happy Ending

## **KOOIKERHONDJE**

Junior (1):

1st - Kennedy's Crunchcroft Quantum Leap, feminine 16 months bitch, presented a neat outline with many virtues to commend her, correct body/height proportions, good coat & feathering, liked her pretty, balanced head, right amount of stop, well shaped muzzle which was not too deep, dark almond-shaped eye with dark rims, high ear set with desired black ear rings, moderately long neck, well angulated front & rear with moderate bend of stifle, deep chest, well sprung ribs, sufficiently short in couplings with slight tuck-up, ok for width of thigh with time to develop further as she matures, oval feet, correctly marked & carried tail, her movement was light & flowing with head held high, however she moved a little close behind today, pleased to have the opportunity to go over her & to award her BOB

Post Graduate (1, 1 absent)

Open (1, 1 absent)

TERESA DUNSDON

(JUDGE)