

## **Darwen Canine Society**

**17.12.11**

I was honoured to be asked to judge at this well run show, and especially grateful to the weather for holding off this year owing to it being cancelled in 2010 because of the snow. The dogs did, generally, struggle with the floor surface which was unfortunate. Despite several attempts some just did not want to co-operate and put on a good performance. Sadly there were a great number of dogs in very poor condition. Fat dogs, weak pasterns, long nails, flat feet, lack of muscle tone; all prevalent. Gundogs of all sizes need regular exercises to tone the body and stimulate the mind. Sadly I went over some dogs who felt as if they were rarely afforded this privilege. Dogs who are exercised regularly not only look the part but will show to greater advantage also. Appropriate presentation of the coat extends to short coated breeds also!

**Cocker Spaniel P (3,1)** 1 Walsh's Indiana Wind Over Blueacre. Smart puppy who was full of spirit. Did enough to show good type & sound movement. Totally mischievous on the table and the floor it was great to see her character. Sweet head & expression, well balanced all through. Well bodied, not too fat, standing on good feet. When handler gets to grips with her and she learns her job, she should do well. BP. 2 Davies' Annaside Moonbeam. Large made b, not the type of the winner but sound & correct in movement. J (2,1) 1 Balmer's Lochranza Glowing Embers. Stronger headed masculine d presented in good coat & condition. Needs to settle on the move, don't think the floor was to his liking today. PG (3,1) 1 Davies' Annaside Blue Moon. Well shaped head on this d, plenty big enough in height. Short and compact through the body, with well set on tail. Moved out well enough however excess coat on forechest detracted from front action. 2 Davies Annaside Celestial Dream. O (3,1) 1 Davies' Annaside Ray of Sunshine. Very smart well made red, making excellent use of his construction on the move. Masculine head of correct shape with good ear set. Good shoulder & front assembly, well sprung ribs & short through loin. Balanced in hindquarters, moved out with verve. Easy BoB. 2 Davies' Glentree Armani at Annaside.

**American Cocker Spaniel P (3,2)** 1 Bell & Wainwright's Afterglow Sticky Wicket. Upstanding male standing well over his ground. Masculine head, reachy neck leading into well laid shoulders. Well developed in forechest & through ribcage. Hindquarter angulation used to advantage on the move. A change of handler in the challenge transformed him to easily take BoB & BP. O (3,2) 1 Bell & Wainwright's Afterglow Blue Movie. Black presented in full coat and looking very glamorous. Well ribbed and short through loin. Tail set correct. Could not match the style nor side gait of his younger kennel mate for BoB.

**ESS P** 1 Elliott's Allenie's Tears for Fears with Jonabar. One who needs time to settle & was not coping well with the floor. Sweet head, well balanced in conformation. Presented in good muscletone and well enough coated for age. BP. O (4,2) 1 Cunliffe's Calvdale My Girl of Fallenleaf. This b I thought was stunning. Sweet head with correct expression. Reachy neck to excellent shoulder and upper arm. Well sprung ribs, strong loin and correct croup leading to a well set on tail. Hindquarter angulation in balance with front producing a superb side action when on the move. True up and down & BoB with some to spare. This exhibit was very fit & presented in excellent coat, a credit to her owner. 2 Elliott's Jonabar Mulled Wine.

**Pointer.** A very mixed entry with some difficult decisions to be made - many dogs who presented a good outline on the stack let themselves down on the move, many not coping with the floor. P (4,1) 1 Knotdog Whatever for Shadesett. Masculine headed d who came up with the goods on the move producing good reach & drive with accurate footfall. Nicely made all through and well balanced, with time should mature into something very nice. 2 Mitchell's Gartarry Moonshine Over Staxyll. Not so together as the winner at this stage but nice for type and sound in action. 3 Ward's Kiswahili Timely Nu Edition. PG (9,3) 1 Blackburn-Bennett's Kanix Chilli. Beautiful bitch all through possessing excellent type and balance. A series of graceful curves she has a correct head, strong neck & the best of shoulders. Good angulation of upper arm and excellent development of forechest. Ribcage extends well back to a strong loin, with sloping croup and correctly set on tail. Stifles well turned. The muscular condition of this b is particularly commendable; she is rock hard and so fit. Stands on the best of feet and produces excellent action on the move, reach, drive, and accurate foot fall. BoB & G4. 2 Ward's Adventruers of Isabel. Unlucky to meet the winner in such superb form, this bitch was sound & honest and presented in good condition. O (6) There were a few in this class in desperate need of a bath. 1 Best's Bestina Midnight Sapphire. Feminine b who was determined to throw it all away on the stack by not cooperating with her handler. Head shape pleasing, good neck & front angulation. Would prefer more depth to brisket. Well arched loin and correctly set on tail. Well muscled quarters. Produced a ground covering side gait on the move to clinch the class, could do with handler striding out more. 2 Miller's Shadesett Better Believe It. Another who was not cooperating to advantage. Smart male who is well made and moved accurately with good reach and drive. 3 Blackburn-Bennett's Kanix Cara Anne.

**Weimaraner** P (3,1) 1 Yewdall's Gunalt Adoptable to Ladway. Alone but worthy. Feminine soundly constructed puppy with sweet head and expression. Well balanced all through and with time and maturity could go on to great things. In excellent muscle tone, obviously one which enjoys plenty of exercise. Standing on good feet. Moved out well in unison with her handler. BoB & BP.

**Flat Coated Retriever** P (3) 1 Buckley's Zeus. Despite arriving very late and being rushed into the class, eventually settled enough to win it. A smartly made young chap he possesses a well shaped head, good neck and excellent shoulder. Well bodied and ribbed, leading on to nicely angled quarters which were sufficiently muscled for his age. Moves soundly. BP. 2 Buckley's Buckleyhill Venus. Close up to winner, just didn't have the edge of maturity of her brother today. 3 Ashcroft & Long's Canalhouse Top Suit to Keepersway. PG (3,1) 1 Walker, Roberts & Smitherman's Gloi Dubh Celtic Seaheart. Handsome upstanding male. Correct head and alert expression. Balanced fore and aft. Not an enthusiastic however his true action, accurate footfall, good side gait clinched him this class. This d was presented to me in superb musculature, and ultimately took BoB. O 1 Ashcroft & Long's Beanit Ned Kelly to Keepersway. Headed a very mixed class in terms of size & type. This d is balanced and has a correctly shaped head. Dark eyes, well set on ears. Strong neck and correct front angulation. Well ribbed back. Well muscled quarters produced good driving action. 2 Buckley's Buckleyhill Starchaser. 3 Buckley's Buckleyhill Starlight.

**Golden Retriever.** Massive diversity of type. Many dogs produced poor movement which defied their construction. P 1 Harvey's Brigria's Mist Over Sky Viz Shebelta. Really took me for type & balance. Such a sound young b. Sweet head, strong neck, well laid shoulder and return of upper arm. Developed in forechest and ribcage, strong short loin. Hindquarters well angled & muscled.

Tail correctly set on. Balance & co-ordination along with accuracy of action clinched BP & BoB. Could change places with 2 & 3 who were also very nice but not settled. 2 Walker & Roberts' Gloi Marilyn Monroe. 3 Walker & Roberts' Gloi Nighthawk. PG (2) 1 Magson's Dantassie Day Dreamer at Castlegolden. Preferred head of 2 however this b moved better and was in better condition. 2 Tomlinson's Crisansa Cullen at Kirstenglen. O. 1 Walker & Roberts' Gloi Keltic Sunset. Despite several attempts to get him to move in a more settled fashion he still would not cooperate and was somewhat erratic. Another day & a different surface would do this dog the world of good. Good type and balance all through. Another from this kennel who was well muscled. Has good feet & pasterns. 2 Marshall's Sansue Fashion Parade at Gainspa. Nicely made bitch but had to give way to the condition of her younger classmate here.

**Labrador Retriever P (8,3)** 1 Maclean's Afinmore Alexandrova. Headed a good class & had the added advantage of being older & therefore more mature & together. This b is very well bodied, balanced fore & aft. She has a sweet head and expression. Stands on good legs & feet. Well muscled and moved very soundly. BP. 2 Smith & Oulton's Oulsmi Tick Tack Man. Very smart young d who really appealed, just giving a lot away in age. Should turn out very nicely. 3 Burrow & Robinson's Rookerynooks Saw Ya Lookin. J (3,1) 1 Maclean's Afinmore Alexandrova. 2 Smalley's Glenmoss Solitaire. A little proud of her tail and wasn't moving out well on this surface, being somewhat short striding. PG (7,2) 1 Maclean's Afinmore Antora. Another from this kennel produced in excellent (clean) coat & good muscle. Feminine head, strong neck, good shoulder. Straight front, excellent feet. 2 Price's Carpenny Rio Bravo at Christibay. 3 Concannon's Gowanvale Wenningdale Warrior. O 1 Concannon's Richbourne Moment of Time at Gowanvale. Smart upstanding yellow with superb head. Correct skull shape, expression, eye and ear. Strong neck leading to best of shoulders. Good length and angle of upper arm. Super big spring of rib, short strong loin, well set on tail and strong well muscled and angled quarters. Stands on good feet. Moved out well to take BoB.

**GSP P (3)** 1 Drysdale's Barleyarch Farthing of Drysika. Just about to head out of puppy, this smart young d is exceptional. So correct and typical in outline. Keen expression, correctly shape skull leading on to a strong arched neck. Shoulder and upper arm angulation excellent along with a good development of forechest. Excellent ribbing & short coupling. Hindquarters well angled producing a strong driving action from low hocks. Coat clean and harsh and clearly a well exercised dog standing on excellent feet, strong pasterns and excellent musculature throughout. Should have a very exciting future ahead of him. BoB, BP, PG1. 2 Grahams' Winterwell Jelly Bean with Nyliam. A smart correctly made young d giving a lot away in age. Very nice. 3 Brown's Redmires Kate Moss. PG (3) Repeat of P. O (4,1) 1 Drysika Fleur De Lis JW A tidy bitch from all angles and presented and shown well. Correct size. Balanced in construction & sound on the move. 2 Brown's Montalba Maurice. Well grown dog but nicely constructed and balanced, very well muscled and extremely fit. 3 Brown's Montalba Millie Chillum.

**GWP O (5,1)** Pleasing to see the dogs in this breed were fit. 1 McCulloch's Kimmax Kit and Kaboodle. Nice size of a b, possessing a sweet head of correct balance and expression. Balanced fore and aft with desired length to body. Sound in action on the moving producing good forward reach from the shoulder and strong driving action from low hocks. Stands on well arched feet and shrouded in a harsh jacket. Very smart, BoB. 2 McCulloch's Kimmax Anton. Worth champion this male, however I preferred the side action of the winner. 3 Geary & Adamson's Germanus Going To Be There JW.

**English Setter** PG (2,1) 1 Fitzimmons' Bournehous Weaving A Dream at Haransett. This b presented a feminine, typical outline. Sweet balanced head and expression with dark eye. Balanced fore and aft, just needing time to mature and fill in in-between. Feet need to tighten up but moved out on a good length of stride. BoB. O (1) Hacking's Benrae Royal Variety. Well presented d presenting an imposing outline. Balanced in angulation front and rear, moved with a pleasing side gait. A shade wide when coming towards. Well presented.

**Irish Setter** P (2) 1 Cohen's Caispern Lorenzo with Shushana. Promising youngsters in this class who need time to mature into their frames. This male was a little more collected on the move and presented a typical outline. Nice head and expression. Good coat and nicely presented. BP & BoB. PG (1) 1 Cohen's Brabrook Mastercraftsman at Shushana. Upstanding male standing well over plenty of ground. Smart balanced skull, strong neck. Lovely feet and really good coat. Not too settled on the floor surface. O (1) 1 Caispern Vilette with Shushana. I liked this d's masculine head and kind expression. Longer cast and tended to drop his topline a shade on the move.

**David R. Alcorn (Judge).**