

Christmas Cracker Regional Event

Saturday 30th November 2013

Sharon Bowen—12 months to 2 years

My thanks for the invitation to judge at the Christmas Cracker. It was my first opportunity to judge a Regional Event which I thoroughly enjoyed. A well organised affair with a pleasant, sociable atmosphere. The two ring layout and efficient scheduling resulted in a successful, effective flow that was both exhibitor friendly and spectator appealing.

The quality was of a high standard especially so in the long coats which was a new experience for me. The most encouraging aspect was the amount of young enthusiasts at the event who displayed a capacity and flair for handling which should be supported and nurtured. My co-judge, Craig Rice commented that no one need to stand at a show and complain that there were no handlers available when these girls and boys were more than capable and adept at presenting dogs to a high standard. I echo his sentiments and hope that they will be given the opportunity to hone their skills and gain the necessary experience to enhance their natural talent for with them lies this breeds future.

If you've never attended the Christmas Cracker I highly recommend you add it to your 2014 show calendar for an enjoyable, festive affair.

Class 9—Junior Bitch (6 Entries / 4 presented)

SG1 Mr & Mrs Cuthbert's **CRUAGHAIRE CATORIA** (Ch Conbhairean Waro x Korzwin Zynti)

Black & Gold over medium sized female of good bone strength and substance. Very good type with correct proportions. Good head and lively expression. Eye could be a little darker. Firm overline but slight nick behind wither detracts. Good lay and placement of the croup. Very good fore and hind angles. Excellent turn of stifle and strong broad thighs. Good underline. Presents a very pleasing picture in stance. Stands correct and moves soundly. With strong hind drive she produces a balanced gait with good fore reach. Starting from second she produced a well schooled and disciplined performance working hard for her handler and owner maintaining a very good outline at all times to win her a very nice class.

SG2 S Hutchinson's **KOMRAD KATJA AT MASCANI** (Boomer von Polarstern x Ch Mascani Kandi)

Well pigmented, substantial female of over medium size. Strong bones and straight columns. Attractive, feminine head with nice dark eye. Little stuffy in neck. High withers, straight firm back with good length and lay of croup. The overline is very good and compliments the underline well creating a well proportioned outline. The angle of the forehand is generally good but the upper arm could be longer. Lovely short, firm hocks. Stands correct but feet are a little splayed. Sound throughout. Excellent hindquarters with strong broad thighs. Walks with purpose and extends effortlessly to a good gait which is ground covering with good drive and reach. She started the class in the first position because of her type, strength and individual assessment, however, being the baby of the class, only just into this age group she struggled a little towards the latter stages of the competition against an older, better schooled female. A very promising youngster with a bright future.

SG3 N Redpath's **IMPRANAH CHIQUITA** (Ch Conbhairean Chico x Ch Impranah Xtra)

Black & Gold tall female of very good type and good height to length proportions. Strong head which retains femininity. Very good length and position of the upper arm. Very good reach of neck flowing into high withers and clean firm overline with a long well laid croup. Very good hindquarters. Stands with feet "ten-to-two", walks towards with elbows out and could be firmer going away. Displays a co-ordinated side gait with enthusiasm powered by a good hind drive with effective fore reach.

Class 10—Junior Dog (2 entries / 2 absent)

Class 11—Yearling Bitch (5 Entries / 3 Absent)

SG1 H MacDonald & M Brimacombe's **CONBHAIREAN GABRIELLA** (Iliano v Fichtenschlag x Ch Conbhairean Leska)

20 month old over medium sized female shown in excellent condition. Attractive head with alert expression, good dark eye and mask. Excellent type of correct proportions, substantial with strong bones but totally feminine. From the tips of well positioned ears, through a good reach of neck flowing into high withers, a clean firm back and long well laid croup the line is smooth and unbroken. Very good length and angle of the upper arm. The brisket development is correct for her age and the underline is appropriate complimenting the topline to present an excellent outline in stance. Very good hindquarters with strong, broad thighs. Stands correct in front and rear. Would like her a little straighter in hocks when going away. She is very alert with a natural, enthusiastic ring presence. She walks with purpose and excellent deportment. The transition from walk to extended trot is fluent and instinctive, she benefits from the powerful thighs which get right under her body and generate a powerful drive. The front reach could be a little freer and is hypercritically too high stepping, that said the gait is balanced, flowing and dynamic creating a pleasing picture retaining her lines at all times. Presented by the handler to perfection she excelled at every stage of the competition to beat another top class female on this day. This female totally impressed me on the day, she has many attributes I admire and ticked every box. Under the KC system on this day she would have earned herself a top honour to reward her performance and the efforts of the owner who had shown her in such outstanding condition.

SG2 H Bibby's **EMELI MIT SILKENWOOD** (Ch Idol vom Haus Lerchenweg x Quumba vom Furstenberg)

Black & gold 20 month old excellent type female of over medium size and strength. Very good proportions. Shown in full bloom condition. Strong head which is alluring and feminine. Very good reach of neck, normal withers, firm, clean overline leading in to a croup that is of very good length but a little steep. Very good forehand angles, good development of the forechest and very good underline. Excellent hindquarters. Stands correct in front but the pasterns should be firmer. Stands and moves away cow-hocked. With a fervent attitude she has an animated outlook and competes with enthusiasm and gusto. When walking she has a tendency to over pull, lose wither height and raise in the back. The increase in pace is effortless to the extended trot and is co-ordinated and ground covering with good drive and free, far reaching forehand. At all stages she impresses with her demonstration and appearance. An outstanding female with a bright future.

Class 12—Long Coat Intermediate Bitch (3 Entries / 0 Absent)

SG1 M Hafez **CECANIA RIO** (Zumander Bacchus x Lararth Pochahontas Cecania)

Substantial, over medium sized black & gold female of excellent body proportions and type. Very good head and watchful expression, dark mask and well set strong ears. Very good reach of neck, normal withers and straight firm back with good strength over the loin. Croup is well positioned. Very good angle and lay of the upper arm and shoulder. Very good depth and development of the brisket. Very good turn of stifle. Excellent hindquarters with strong broad thighs. Solid, straight columns when viewed from front and rear, absolutely sound throughout. Through strong short hocks she drives her powerful hindquarters to propel a balanced, ground covering gait which is dynamic and energetic. Throughout the competition she was enthusiastic and spirited. Her excellent proportions and ground covering gait won her a very good class over some lovely bitches. Superbly handled by one of the young handlers at the show, the young lady displayed aptitude and an empathy with the bitch to create a winning team combination. Well done.

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SG2 W L & N L Williamson's **SHELLMEAND MONTANIA** (Ch Tramella Orange x Draycore Seren at Shellmead)

19 month old, black & gold medium sized, medium strength female of excellent type. Very feminine, very appealing female with a good head and very good expression. Shown in excellent condition. Pleasing profile with very good over and underlines. Good body proportions. Good reach of neck. High withers, firm back, croup is well positioned but little short and tail set is high. Upper arm is of good length but little steep. Good lay of shoulder. Very good hindquarters, strong broad, powerful thighs. Short, strong hocks which are sound. Stands "ten-to-two", disappointingly the handler failed to correct or disguise the fault despite many chances to do so. Walks with good drive and attitude. Extends to display a co-ordinated, fluent gait but the fore reach could be freer.

SG3 C Spurr's **GABRIELLA'S PRIDE AND JOY OF REINGLEN** (Balko vom Gleisenauer Schloss x Stardrive to Gabriella)

Top size, black & gold. Good type of female in excellent coat condition but carrying too much weight for competition. Very good head and expression. Normal withers, clean firm, straight back leading into a well laid croup of good length. Very good forehand and hind angles. Deep in the brisket and the extra weight has lost definition of the under line. Stands and moves correct behind, wide in front and elbows out when coming towards. Moves with enthusiasm displaying a balanced gait with good drive and adequate reach retaining her lines at all times and speeds.

Class 13—Yearling Dog (5 Entries / 2 Absent)

SG1 R & S Etches **ETCHICA WILL** (Ch Kleeheugel Bonno x Etchica Queska)

Appealing, robust, correct medium sized, medium strength black and gold young male in excellent show condition. Excellent type and quality. Substantial with very good bone strength. Very good head, attractive, dark mask and very expressive. Correct proportions but a little short and stuffy in neck. Normal withers, firm clean overline and very good length and lay of croup. Excellent underline and chest development. Well laid shoulder. Long upper arm which could be slightly better angled. Very good hindquarters, good second thigh. Strong, broad, powerful thighs. Short, stout hocks which are sound in stance and moving away. Moves a little wide in front coming towards and has a habit of standing "ten-to-two" on occasions. Has a lively attitude and likes to play the clown, I suspect he could make a fool of a lesser experienced handler but today he was well harnessed and presented to perfection. His eagerness causes an erratic performance during the early stages but as the class progresses he settles and effortlessly demonstrates a ground covering gait driving powerfully from strong hocks, generating power effectively through the hindquarters and transmitting it effectually along a firm back to the far reaching forehand retaining his lines at all speeds. Impressed at every stage of the competition and was the clear winner of the class.

SG2 R & D Cross & S Beck's **HELIOS AUS FAMKES ZAUBERWALD AT DRACHENBERG** (Fulz de Zenevredo x Goldy aus Fameks Zauberwald)

Over medium sized 19 month old Black & gold male of very good type and good body proportions. Strong, masculine head with good expression but the eye is a little light. Shown in good condition but lacks furnishings. Good reach of neck flows into long withers and firm, flat back. Croup is well positioned but could be longer. Good forehand assembly, pasterns are somewhat steep, little shallow in the brisket and depth of body. Very good hindquarters. Stands and moves soundly coming and going. Displays a very enthusiastic, fluent side gait with good hind drive and free front reach but the back should be firmer and as the competition develops the lack of firmness becomes more apparent and he loses wither height and body outline.

SG3 A Fryer's **CLYNALWIN JAEGER** (Decline Wallace x Clynalwin Dee)

Black & gold topsize male with a strong, masculine head, attractive dark mask and dark eye. Very good type with good body proportions. Good reach of neck into long withers and straight firm back. Slight nick behind the wither detracts. The croup is long but a little steep. Very good angle of the upper arm, good chest development with good long underline. Long forelegs and the pasterns little too steep. Adequate hindquarters and lacking in second thigh. Stands correct and moves soundly coming and going. Shown in excellent condition and gives a full enthusiastic performance. He walks well with high withers and extends to a fluent, ground covering gait with normal drive and free front reach. The nick behind the wither becomes more prominent after prolonged walking and gaiting which detracts from an otherwise pleasing and correct outline.

Class 14—Long Coat Intermediate Dog (5 Entries / 2 Absent)

SG1 S Small's **HAZROH ULK** (Ch Conbhairean Waro x Korzwin Lucie at Hazroh)

Impressive 22 month old well pigmented sable. Top size, strong and masculine with excellent substance. Correct body proportions. The most handsome, expressive head with dark mask and good depth of muzzle. Presents an outstanding picture in stance, with a very good reach of neck flowing into long withers and clean, firm, straight back. The croup is very well positioned of good length and well moulded. Very good assembly of the forehand with a long well angled upper arm and well laid shoulder. Excellent chest development and correct underline. Strong broad thighs, excellent turn of stifle and powerful hindquarters. The hocks are short, strong and straight. The pasterns could be a little firmer and has a habit of lazily standing with feet "ten-to-two". He walks with purpose, style and excellent deportment with a focused attitude. The transition to the extended trot is effortless and produces a very fluent, ground covering, co-ordinated gait. The hind drive is formidable, he maximises the power generated from his muscular hindquarters to full effect and transmits it effectively through a firm back to propel forward the free, far reaching forehand. He retains his lines at all times and performs with enthusiasm and fervour. A stunning male exhibited in excellent show condition who impressed at every stage of the competition. Very well presented by another capable young handler. A stunning dog who is a credit to his breeders, owners and trainers. If he were a normal coat I feel secure in stating that he would worry the best and dominate our rings. Congratulations this dog impressed me immensely and changed my attitude towards long coats.

SG2 T Archer's **EBONY JUMPIN JACK** (Romainville Monteiro x Romainville Ebony)

Excellent type young male of very good body proportions. Over medium sized with good bone and strength. Shown in excellent condition. Very good head and expression. Normal withers, firm, straight back and good length and lay of the croup. Very good underline which compliments the clean overline and creates a pleasing, classic outline. Very good forehand assembly with good position and length of the upper arm. Excellent hindquarters with strong, broad thighs and good length of second thigh. Strong, short hocks which are straight in stance and moving away. He stands with the right foot turned out. He has an enthusiastic attitude and displays a little too much exuberance in the early stages of the class. He has a powerful, effective hind drive and a very good free front reach. In his eagerness at the beginning he has a tendency to pull too hard which spoils the overall shape. For this reason he started the class in third but as the proficient young handler gathered him together she demonstrated his ground-covering gait ably which earned him promotion to the second place.

SG3 T Archer's **GOLDEN ROB ROY** (Romainville Monteiro x Romainville Ebony)

Very good type black & gold 14 month old male in excellent condition. Over medium size with very good strong bones and very substantial. Strong head with very good expression and neat well set ears. Normal withers, firm overline and well moulded croup. Very good fore and hind angles. The thighs are broad and strong. Strong, short hocks. Absolutely sound throughout in stance and moving. He is on the limits of depth in the brisket and when he pulls too hard the deepness becomes more apparent. He has a keen and enthusiastic ring attitude and walks with purpose and motivation. He has a very good extended side gait with good drive and reach. He began the class in second place but as the class progressed he had a tendency to raise in the back and didn't maintain his outline as well as the dog I eventually promoted over him, who, incidentally was his brother. Congratulations to the owner of 'Ronnie' and 'Reggie' for managing to put both dogs out in the ring together in excellent show condition.