

Critique for Border Union 2023

Judge: Mrs C Woodbridge

My thanks to the officers and committee of Border Union for the invitation to judge and their kind hospitality. This was my first visit to this beautiful part of the country. The weather was kind to us but quite warm and muggy which, sadly, did affect the performance of some of the dogs who had been exposed to the heat while we waited to start. We were second in the ring and there was pressure for time as the group was called just over an hour into judging so I was very grateful to my kind and efficient stewards for keeping me up to speed throughout to enable the BOB to make the group in time, if slightly out of breath!

I was very impressed overall with some quality dogs and bitches for my consideration and thoroughly enjoyed this appointment. One thing I did notice was one or two exhibits could have done with more preparation on the presentation of their dogs' teeth which spoiled what were generally beautifully groomed specimens.

PD (2, 1a)

1 Stevenson's Peasblossom Brogan a Gaolachcara TAF, stood alone at his first ch show outing at just over six months but a quality baby with much promise. Head, nicely balanced shape with correct almond eye with some darkness to come. Well boned youngster standing on tight feet, compact body with good depth of chest. Moved with composure, still a little loose in rear movement but with plenty of reach and drive. Sympathetically handled on his debut. BPD

JD (2) Two very different styles but both boys with qualities that have much to offer.

1. Chandler's Elazlan Tribal Craft – B/W with a gorgeous head and reachy neck, melting dark eye and expression. Good length of leg with deep chest presenting a stylish picture with excellent topline, well muscled thighs and balanced, moderate angulation. Overall, I found him more mature than 2 at this stage. Moved easily in collected fashion, striding out with both reach and drive.

2. Wilson & Connor's Pineroch No Stunts Larrie – a more compact, heavier built L/W dog with much to commend him, oozing strength and purpose on the move. Preferred head on 1 although this youngster's will develop more refinement in time. Loved his rear construction, well bent stifles and meaty thighs, overall workmanlike physique and strong, short rear pasterns that gave him plenty of propulsion.

YEARLING DOG (1)

1. Hill's Dexbenella Double Trouble at Teignvalley – another very nice L/W boy with excellent bone and substance, good reach of neck and nicely rounded back end standing on great feet. Head, well balanced but would like to see more definition in fluting which will surely come. Once settled, moved out really well.

GRADUATE DOG (1, 1a)

PGD (2)

- 1. Topliss' Beresford Bolt From The Blue** – caught my eye briefly when watching at a previous show where I didn't have the best view. Today, this B/W stood out for me on the stack and I wasn't disappointed when going over him! Loved him for correct size, super topline and set on of tail, deep chest, short coupling and moderate angulation. Head to die for with really gentle expression from those darkest of eyes, lovely curve to the neck into well laid shoulders with great forechest, another with super bend of stifle into short, powerful rear pasterns and well muscled thighs which he used efficiently on the move in this class and later in the challenge. Delighted to award him the DCC, his first, and later BOB. Gorgeous chap!
- 2. Rowlinson's Meltarose Midshipman** – unlucky to meet 1 today as this is a very attractive L/W/T who is also very pleasing with a noble, balanced head and strong, reachy neck. Not quite as powerfully constructed in forehead or with the depth of body as 1 but with lovely, well boned legs, super topline and good rear

angulation. Today, he moved a little erratically but deserved his call back in the dog challenge for another look at higher honours.

LD (3, 1a)

1. **Ganarin's Berkenbar Giovanni**, – a classically styled, mature five-year-old dog who won this class on his lovely, handsome head and strong neck into a deep front, compact body with balanced, moderate angulation. Would have preferred more elan on the move but forgave that in the heat.
2. **Richardson & Terry-Richardson's CherishymDofida** – eye catching B/W with attractive head and gentle expression, little heavy in back skull for me. Excellent forechest, lovely bone and feet, short coupled and moved happily and correctly. Although he has a slight tendency to slope in topline when stacked, this was not apparent on the move. Not quite the rear construction of 1 but a quality dog.

OD (5)

1. **Topliss' Sh Ch Beresford As Good As It Gets** –deserving champion of lovely style and quality with no exaggeration anywhere that really appealed. Handsome head with kindest of eye, good front with depth all through into a strong, short coupled body and lovely rounded backside standing on tight feet, very exuberant and easy on the move which was impressive in the heat! I did note he was a bit of a fidget! An easy RDCC.
2. **Calvert's Sh Ch Calvdale Scaramouche Jones JW**, another gorgeously headed dog from this successful kennel, also oozing quality with compact body of depth and strong topline and rear quarters he used well on the move. I found myself splitting hairs to a degree but preferred the more moderate neck length of the eventual winner.
3. Topliss' Sh Ch Beresford Lockdown
4. Graham's Peasblossom Valentino
5. Richardson & Terry-Richardson's Cherishym Draconis

VD (2)

1. **Rose's Westaway Dream Angus of Rosannoch (Imp Nor)**, quite a difference in age between both these lovely veterans with this eight year old coming out on top on this occasion as holding the better topline on the day in the warm conditions. He is a very well put together, honest dog that exudes strength which he used to good effect on the move. BVD
2. **Taubman's Meonstoke Hawthorn**, a quality gentleman just beginning to show his ten years today but still a 'goer' and presented as always in immaculate condition. Much preferred his head and neck to 1 and he is a real testament to the lasting qualities of this breed.

PB (4, 1a)

1. **Smith's Melverley Irisdescent**, a very mature 11 months puppy of superb style, size and outline with compact body of depth, totally balanced angulation, strongest of rear quarters with meaty thighs, lovely topline and set on of tail. Attractive head of correct proportions still with some finishing to go but with alert yet gentle expression in an eye darkening nicely. On the move she came into a realm of her own rather like a nicely oiled machine, a real pleasure to watch and undoubtedly a huge career to come. BPIB, PG1.
2. **Harris' Melverley Amy Dorrit with Coastalglows**, sweet headed, increasingly confident B/W well behind 1 on the maturity stakes but very appealing. Lots to like, especially her topline, good depth all through, nice short coupling, sturdy bone, wide thighs and tight feet. Nicely composed on the move. Very promising.
3. Tolladay's Calvdale Half A Story Bethersden

JB (8, 2a)

1. **Savell's Petranella Tipping The Wink**, lovely outline to this bitch with super dark eye and expression on sweet balanced head with graceful neck of strength, still some depth to come in her compact body but with lovely bone, feet, lovely bend of stifle into a good width of thigh. Another very composed on the move with great precision and good drive. One to watch for the future.
2. **Ganarin's Pinereoch Primavera**, slightly bigger bitch with great front angulation allowing her to move with great reach, another with meaty thighs and tightest of feet. Attractive head, not quite so feminine as 1 although nicely balanced all through.
3. Rose's Pinereoch Amethyst of Rosannoch
4. Joyce's Peasblossom Aura at Felltops
5. Richardson & Terry-Richardson's Daenerys Moondancer to Cherishym

YEARLING BITCH (2, 1a)

1. **Strover's Seaspring Windcatcher at Chipewyan**, very feminine headed B/W who stood alone but a worthy winner of quality and an example of moderation throughout in bone, angles and overall balance. Moved easily with precision but just a little narrow behind today.

GB (2, 1a)

1. **Carr's Alhambian Kirsty Maccoll at Amhrani**, again alone, a compact if slightly plain headed bitch with sweet expression. Slightly disappointed this little girl was overweight as that marred a very decent example of the breed and she moved without verve as a result.

PGB (3)

1. **Harris' Melverley Burano with Coastalglows**, compact, nicely balanced, strongly made L/W bitch without exaggeration I have always liked. Attractive head with a lovely eye and expression. Moved steadily with reach and drive which earned her the class.
2. **Fairgrieve's Alkaruss Forget Me Not**, very attractive B/W with the waggiest tail on the show ground! Liked her length of muzzle and very elegant neck, nicely angled with good bone and lovely level topline.
3. Rowlinson's Meltarose Mystique

LB (6, 1a)

1. **Willett's Trimere Time Fly's**, pretty, feminine stylish lady with lots to commend her, balanced, head with strong muzzle and enough flew, good depth of forechest, gorgeous neck with graceful curve, lovely bone and angulation and strong rear quarters used well on the move. Would have liked just a tad more of her all over which will come in time.
2. **Savell's Petranella Shenanigan**, my surprise of the day as this sweet headed bitch with stylish head, darkest eye and expression has really matured in bone and substance, moderately angled lady with good neck into shoulder, strong topline and lovely backside with excellent muscletone throughout. Moved out freely in total harmony with her handler.
3. Taubman's Meltarose Madeleine at Meonstoke
4. Hill's Peasblossom Tupelo Honey with Teignvalley
5. Wilson & Connor's Potrail Turn The Swag On for Pinereoch

OB (6) What a class of quality bitches anyone of which could have changed places another day!

1. **Calvert's Sh Ch Calvdale Flutter**, this beautiful Liver tri bitch was definitely at peak on the day and sparkled. Gorgeous, balanced head with sweetest expression, graceful neck into well laid shoulder, deepest chest, short loin, wide thighs and nicely rounded rump. Stood on sturdy limbs which powered round the ring today amidst the strongest opposition. Loved her. BCC.
2. **Wildsmith & Brown's Sh Ch Trimere Tickle Me Fancy**, one I have always admired for her femininity, overall balance and harmony with her handler, belying her age with her usual graceful but purposeful gait, every inch the champion we love. Could not outclass the front angulation of the winner but totally deserving of the RBCC and BVIB. Thrilled to see her take another group placing later in the day. VG4
3. Dobbin's Donarden Gin Fizz

4. Casey & Jayes' Sh Ch Sandylands Send The Roses
5. Topliss' Sh Ch Beresford Night Class

VETERAN BITCH

1. **Fairgreave's Peasblossom Shimmer of Alkaruss**, 7 years B/W of lovely style standing alone in this class. Neat in size with pretty head, elegant neck of strength, good balanced angulation, lovely topline and tailset. Plenty of depth to chest and in good coat and condition. Moved decorously round the ring rather than with the power and drive I would like to see from such a young veteran.