

Joint Flatcoated Retriever Championship Show hosted by NEFRA Sunday May 1st

BITCHES - Judge Mrs A. Youens (Riverglide)

Firstly may I say thank you to NEFRA for their invitation and hospitality at this Joint Show, a very humbling privilege to have such a quality entry. Secondly a big thank you to Bob Allen and Helen Fox, my stewards for working so hard to keep my ring running smoothly. Third and by no means least to all the exhibitors for the fantastic entry and also presenting their bitches in a wonderful condition. It is a beauty contest although I look for a dog I think can do a days work, there is no excuse to present it in an unkempt condition. So, many thanks for giving me the absolute pleasure of going over so many beautiful bitches.

I believe the depth of quality in bitches is far better than in dogs at the moment, I had so many bitches that went cardless. Not only did I have quantity I had quality. My co-judge Mrs Valerie Foss and I agreed completely on all decisions.

I will not repeat in each critique that a bitch had good shoulders or good rear angulation because that will go without saying! Some bitches were either having phantom pregnancies or had had them and maybe when on top form the places could change. I expect some people thought my placings were Swedish dog orientated but never forget many Swedish dogs go back to some superb English dogs and if you look, there is a common factor in a lot of my placed dogs' pedigrees. I will leave you to research that one but even I was surprised at what dogs came through and they turned out to be dogs I had admired over the years!

Veteran Bitch (8 entries - 1 absentee)

1st & BV Forster's Wizardwood Tawny Tyne, what a lovely liver bitch in superb condition. Excelled in forechest and length of upper arm. Ribcage of correct length with a gradual spring. Beautiful head with well set on ears, handled so well keeping her topline both standing and on the move. My co-judge and I had no hesitation in awarding her Best Veteran and also Best Liver in Show. A credit to this kennel.

2nd Buckley's Branchalwood Aylanfara of Buckleyhill ShCM, A black bitch who has good ring presence. Very pleasing head and dark eye, good length of neck. Again good overall front construction, but my first place just had the edge. Good presentation. Liked her movement again another Veteran who could show them how it is done.

3rd Jorgensen's Gwenadillo Christmas Eve A substantial bitch who again had all things in the right place, nothing overdone. Pleasing head. Good tailset. Moved well.

Minor Puppy Bitch (5 entries - 0 absentees)

1st Oakley's Oaksenriver Atico, Feminine head, and such a baby but I could not deny her place. Good feet, enough bone. Correctly coupled and good length of hock. Moved well for one so young. Handled and presented well.

2nd Romeo-Dieste's Hopevalley Morning Mist, another baby, who has everything in the right place, just lost out as her rear movement was not as positive as my first place although I wouldn't expect it to be so at this age. Pleasing head and eye. Nicely trimmed and presented on a very smart colourful lead!

3rd Stanley's Hallbent October Melody, what a baby who gave her handler a hard time. I am sure she has potential and I liked her head and construction. In good coat.

Puppy Bitch (11 entries - 4 absentees)

1st & Best Puppy Bitch Goodman's Beanit Zillah, A pretty bitch with just enough bone. She had a well developed fore chest, good rear angulation. Good tailset, using it to advantage. A bitch with a long stride. Liked her head and eye. I hope she continues to fill out a little more.

2nd Berrisford's Wistaston Love Song, This little bitch was of good quality. Felt she did not always show herself off to advantage. Nice head, and length of neck. On occasions she lost her topline, but she is still young and I suspect with a little bit of ringcraft these two could change places.

3rd Egginton's Pajanbeck Heaven Can Wait, Super head, good construction all though slightly shorter in neck than my first two with good well sprung ribs. Her front movement was good but her rear movement was a little erratic. Excellent coat.

Junior Bitch (17 entries - 6 absentees) In this class many bitches went cardless, they were of good quality and does show promise for the future

1st Anderson's Feldkirk Fashion, a mature bitch, very good overall conformation. Well moulded head, good depth of chest, correct length couplings. Loin short and square. In good coat and condition. Her tail came straight off her back making a pleasing outline. Moved true fore and aft.

2nd Gilchrist's Gloi Dubh Blue Moon over Ardmhor, to go over this bitch is a pleasure, as what is underneath her considerable coat is a very well constructed young lady. Feminine head, well defined brisket and spring of rib. Good tail-set. When she settled her movement was positive.

3rd Walker & Roberts' Gloi Dubh Celtic Legacy, this bitch has a lot going for her, is slightly less mature than my first two, but could hold her own. Good overall conformation, good spring of rib. Moved and handles well. Again good tail-set.

Yearling Bitch (9 entries - 0 absentees)

1st Walker's Lizzlog Lacey's Enigma, a lovely happy bitch, showing great potential, beautiful head, well moulded. Dark eye, good feet, good bone, very good overall construction, her handler, moved her at just the right pace. Will watch her progress.

2nd Tagg's Gwenadillo Wild Wish at Oiyu, Another bitch of good quality, ample bone, good front construction with excellent depth of chest and nice rear angulation. Feel she may come into her own in the higher classes. Again one to watch. Moved and shown well.

3rd Walker & Roberts' Gloi Dubh Celtic Legacy

Maiden Bitch (14 entries - 1 absentee)

1st Walker & Roberts' Gloi Dubh Celtic Heritage, 13 month old bitch of good quality, enough of her and another I think will do better in higher classes. Good sound construction. Liked her head, well boned, tight feet. Handled well. True movement fore and aft

2nd Gilchrist's Gloi Dubh Blue Moon over Ardmhor

3rd Jorgensen's Paviland Cariad Mor Brialen, this bitch has a really classic well moulded head, workmanlike construction. In good coat and presented in excellent condition. Good tail-set. She moved far better in this class than the Junior class.

Novice Bitch (10 entries - 3 absentees)

1st Walker & Roberts' Gloi Dubh Celtic Heritage

2nd Creasy's Willowswind Summer Sorrel ,I quite liked this bitch but I feel she will be far better as she gets older. Soundly constructed with good spring of rib. Pleasing head Moved better again in this class for her competent handler.

3rd Perry's Casanjay Browneyed Girl, young lady with a lovely head. Good length of couplings. Good feet and bone, movement occasionally erratic, but v.good when her mind was on the job. Handled well.

Graduate Bitch (15 entries - 3 absentees) **What a super class this was and many bitches went cardless, I would have liked a couple of red ones and a few more placings. I really was nit-picking at the end.**

1st Joyce's Stranfaer Lucy Lockett JW, I have liked this bitch from ringside and I was not disappointed today. Feminine bitch just up to size with the most pleasing of heads. Good eye shape with a little glint in it. Constructed so well, good feet, tail straight off her back. Moved with drive and front extension. A racey outline, standing and on the move. Presented in super condition. One I will always watch with interest.

2nd Ashcroft & Long's Beanit Luka to Keepersway JW A shame these two came together, another I have liked from the ringside, slightly bigger all through but nevertheless super construction. She presented a lovely profile picture on the move and I really was nit-picking again. Beautifully handled.

3rd Brooks' Castlerock Stormy Song JW, bitch of sound construction, up to size, really unlucky to come up against my first two today and I am sure they could change places another time. Pretty head, with a correct ear-set. Moved soundly on tight feet.

Post Graduate Bitch (19 entries - 3 absentees)

1st Holmes, Cambbell and Young's Montegreno Mystic Meg by Candicasa JW This bitch has a superb outline, everything in the right place, Well moulded head. Good length of neck leading into good shoulders. Excellent length of upper arm, giving a good forechest. Good feet and bone, tail came straight off her back. Moved with such drive and lovely front extension.

2nd Jones' Downstream Paper Chase (AI) A bitch I have liked again from the ringside. She really is so well made all through. Lovely moulded head. Good upper arm and depth of chest. Good bone, tight feet. Well let down hocks, she can drive at any pace. I am sure she will get top honours before long.

3rd Lane & Lane-Ridyard's Kulawand in No One's Shadow JW Another quality bitch with an appealing head, Her construction is very sound and she could not be denied her placing in this excellent class. Moved well with drive but occasionally lost her topline when not concentrating. I am sure she will gain top honours as she matures.

Limit Bitch (26 entries - 3 absentees) Wow, what a class, I am not sure I have been privileged to judge such a quality class before. 23 bitches and I really had to be picky to get what I wanted at the end. Movement was on many occasions the deciding factor and several who were not fully sound on corners fell by the wayside.

1st & Res CC Rudin's Cassiopi Free Time with Suford. I loved this bitch, just right weight, construction could not be faulted. Good forechest, good width of chest, good shoulders in fact everything GOOD or better. Feet were tight and she moved with drive enthusiasm and front extension. Power without lumber. Handled and presented to perfection.

2nd Vassbotn's Almanza Bag Lady, two similar bitches but first was a little more mature, nevertheless, comments of my first apply to this young lady too. She moved with such drive. Overall a quality bitch. Presented in superb condition. As always this handler gets the best out of her dogs. I am sure this bitch will get top honours at some stage before too long.

3rd Tappenden, Head & Morrissey's Cassiopi Fancy That, a bitch I have liked from the ringside, Excellent construction all through, lovely head and eye. Tail-set was excellent. Just felt she was having a phantom which made her a little sluggish when it came to the end, although her movement was so sound. Handled and presented beautifully. I really had to put my thinking cap on for my first 5 places and they could have changed another day

Open Bitch (11 entries - 2 absentees)

1st, CC & BIS Candler's Capeldewi Never on Sunday I had absolutely no idea who this bitch was, but loved her as soon as she came in the ring. Nicely moulded head, superb forechest and upper arm, good spring of rib and superb bend of stifle. Nicely let down hocks. Kept her top-line always both on the move and standing. She just had enough cheekiness about her to say "look at me" The epitome of racy outline, power without lumber. A credit to her owner for her condition A credit to her handler for getting the best out of her. Well done. There was no hesitation from both myself and Mrs Foss in awarding her BIS. Thank you for the privilege of allowing me to go over her.

2nd Smitherman's Ch Levelmoor Lanosa at Seaheart, I know this bitch has done so well in the past and there is not a lot I can add to what has already been said. On this occasion she had to give way to a younger bitch. She is so well handled and presented I can well understand how she has won all her tickets. Again I was really nit picking.

3rd Tomlinson's Rainesgift Clemence Again another nice bitch, who was in full coat. Well constructed all through. A beautiful head and mischievous eye. Not quite so clean in neck than my first two, but it had to be minor details that decided my placing. So unlucky to come up against these two bitches on top form.

Special Open Liver Bitch (7 entries - 2 absentees)

1st & Best Liver in Show Forster's Wizardwood Tawny Tyne

2nd Branscombe's Taranbeck Sorrel May Day, a bitch who was presented in super condition. Sound front construction..Deep chest. Good shoulders. Moved well and handled beautifully

3rd Thomas' Tygwyn April Surprise A very well presented bitch, her sound construction gave her this place. She was just so happy in the ring. Moved well and presented in lovely condition.

BEST BREEDER IN BREED - Mrs Dorothy Brooks (Castlerock)

Judge

Ann Youens