

Birmingham National Championship Show 10th May 2012

I would like to thank the Committee of Birmingham National for the invitation and their hospitality and my stewards for their efficiency throughout the day.

A really good entry for a weekday both in numbers and quality, some have commented that I looked very serious on the day, it was just concentration as I can assure you I thoroughly enjoyed myself, but was deep in thought with some difficult choices and some close decisions which were made on the day and as I saw them before me.

I did on the day have a few concerns. While I am of the opinion a head is an important part as this without doubt gives you the essence of type, and without type you don't have a breed, I'm not a real head fanatic but I did find in some of the younger dog classes some heads that were slightly off beat and lacking in the finer essentials that will help develop them into the finished article.

The bitch classes, without exception were well filled with quality bitches. Some that I have admired both in and out of the ring, although I have to say, not all looking the part or moving as well as I have seen them previously.

Balance continues to be a problem, and for me is an important aspect of the breed often overlooked in the quest for correct this and correct that, or whatever seems to be the fad or fashion of the moment. There were also a few that had insufficient width and depth of chest and ribbing another important aspect of the breed that tends to be overlooked.

I was also quite surprised at the amount of dirty coats and teeth on the day and long nails which spoiled the look of some feet on this surface.

Some that looked good on the stack had all the necessary angles but didn't quite hold it together on the move and on a concrete floor this was even more evident, this could be down to insufficient or incorrect exercise, there is a saying " that if a dog is made right, it will move right " unfortunately this isn't always the case and this was evident today and there is nothing like a hard surface to bring out the flaws.

That said I was more than pleased with my winners and beyond in more than a few classes.

My DCC - Sh Ch Kiswahili Martin at Kanix. A mature, upstanding and well known dog who was on the top of his form today, I gave him the RCC last time I judged and he has continued to improve, at 5yrs old he has matured well, has a well moulded headpiece, he is muscled and was presented in great form; well handled to get the very best out of him he moved out with style and enthusiasm. I was pleased award him the CC & BOB and watch him take group 2 in an impressive group.

My RDCC Joneva Diamond in The Rough another in great form; again well handled to get the very best from him, has plenty of type about him. I gave his illustrious dam her 1st RCC and he shows the promise to follow in her footsteps; he is still young and not yet as finished as my CC winner, liked his headpiece, eye & expression, his overall make and shape, he was in good hard condition, although he played around a bit on the move he is young and he covered his ground well, again he moves with a panache and style that says he is nothing else other than a Pointer male.

My BCC: Wilchrimane Ice Crystal. I was unaware until a week or so later that this was a 2nd CC for this lovely bitch, I hope her 3rd isn't too far away, she is the ideal size for me, a bitch of elegant proportions but with the required substance & strength, her head is both pleasing and balanced, she flows from one body part to another, well handled she moved with great style and purpose from her strong rear quarters & low hocks, she still has a bit more to go but I couldn't get past her even in this impressive bitch line up today.

RBCC: Sh Ch Flinthill Forget Me Not. a great favourite of mine, gave this lovely bitch one of her 1st major awards and I have watched her develop, again I love her make & shape, flowing lines, her lovely head and everything about her fits so well together, she moved out well to take a strong open class just not giving her all in the final run off for the ticket.

Best Puppy in Breed: Fowington Won One Won, again a bitch of ideal size & make and shape, loved her enthusiasm and true pointer character, she has a lovely well moulded headpiece which she carried well and has good body proportions, this with her free scopey movement secured her this award today, will watch her career with interest, my notes say 'loved her'

MINOR PUPPY DOG (4)

1st & BPD: Martin. Sunhouse Anything Goes, a b/w coming along nicely of a good make and shape, pleasing head, good neck into nice shoulder liked his ribbing & body properties and was mature for his age moved out well

2nd Smith. Lypal Deeply Dippy, well made b/w not giving his best here today & didn't quite settle, liked his head and he had nice angles and a lengthy upper arm, good overall make & shape, well boned and moved ok.

3rd Westaway. Sobranya Perception

PUPPY DOG (3,1)

1st Coggins. Droveborough Born To Bound At Gemrose, A strong mature l/w, has all the essentials, well grown for his age had good angles fore & aft and moved with purpose for a youngster.

2nd Francis. Freebreeze New Englander, A nicely shaped o/w not doing himself any justice here today, again liked the overall picture, he has a nice head, again a good in neck & shoulder, balanced angles both ends, just not cooperating with his handler today.

JUNIOR DOG (9,1)

1st Walkling. Kiswahili Man Of Our Times. an upstanding young o/w that has all the essentials well headed and well made, good front & rear angles he has caught my eye previously, has taken his time to fill but now beginning to look the part, liked his overall make and shape, stood over and covered his ground extremely well..

2nd O'Driscoll. Gartarry Moonlight Flit to Fowington, med sized o/w, well shaped head, good body properties and everything about him fits together nicely, well angled & ribbed, just needs a bit more time.

3rd Mitchell, Gartarry Moonshine over Staxyl

GRADUATE DOG (10)

1st Barker. Flinthill Chocolate Thyme. a med sized l/w again well made with a pleasing well moulded head and body properties moved with a bit of style about him, would just like to see a bit more sparkle to finish the picture.

2nd Welch. Hookwood Top This. Nice headed b/w, good strong neck, well bodied though not as good through the coupling as 1, moved out well

3rd Macmanus. Luneville Harvest Moon

POST GRADUATE DOG (9,1)

1st Stangroom. Lappakia Oasis Dream. A well made o/w his head was pleasing and of good proportions, his body had good depth & ribbing, well coupled, took a bit of time to settle on the move but liked his scoopey movement.

2nd Whitham. Moordale Martime At Sedgekirk. Medium sized b/w who is maturing well, liked his head properties, neck & shoulder, good body just not giving his all today.

3rd Theobald. Tycarreg Stranglely Familyr

LIMIT DOG (13,4)

A cracking class to judge headed by some upstanding young males

1st & RCC Evans & Pavey. Joneva Diamond In The Rough

2nd Alcorn & Lynn. Afterglow Bare Faced Lie At Kanix, a l/w dog that has to be handled to be appreciated, his head is balanced and pleasing. A good strong neck into well angled front assembly good ribbing & powerful hindquarters, stood over and covered his ground well.

3rd Adams. Ansona Simple Simon

OPEN DOG (10,2)

1st DCC, BOB & Group 2. Blackburn-Bennett. Sh Ch Kiswahili Martin At Kanix.

2nd Beesley. Sh Ch Birchleith Barbican Beau. an extremely well made medium sized b/w of good proportions, balanced pleasing head, good neck into a lovely front assembly he was balanced all through moved out well to take this place in this strong class.

3rd Siddle & Oddie. Chesterhope Watch My Step At Wilchrimane.

MINOR PUPPY BITCH (3,1)

1st Dyer. Sharnphilly Juici Cuture. a smart l/w has all the essentials, nice head good neck and shoulder well angled fore & aft she stood over and covered her ground well for a baby
2nd Stilgoe. Teisgol Foxy Lady. B/w a real baby here today but she is of a lovely make and shape that appeals, loved her eye & expression just needs to settle.

PUPPY BITCH (7,3)

1st & BPIB. O'Driscoll. Fowington Won One Won.
2nd Welch Hookwood Solar Star. b/w that has to be handled to be appreciated, head of pleasing proportions, good neck into well laid shoulders, she had plenty of body about her and gave a pleasing overall picture, well handled & again moved with a bit of style.

JUNIOR BITCH (16,3)

I have to say on my first look around this class the first 3 bitches I have placed caught my eye and my immediate thought was one of these could be a major contender for top honours later on, as I was unaware at the time of the quality in depth that would come into the later classes. maturity on the day and the eventual run off is what separated them, but I liked all 3 and I think they all have the essentials to go on to greater things and will change places many times.

1st Barford & Booth. Kiswahili You Live In Me for Protanto. O/w that held great appeal, liked everything about her, head & eye, good neck and front assembly, just the right amount of body which was of good shape moved well to take this very strong class
2nd Edmondson & Robertshaw. Crookrise Trinity. Again a lovely headed bitch, a lemon/white that has all the essentials, well bodied, coupled with good angles fore & aft and moved well
3rd Walkling. Kanix Edwina by Kiswahili

GRADUATE BITCH (17,5)

1st Blackburn-Bennett. Kanix Chilli. An o/w bitch of the correct size & substance, shown in great order she was fit, hard and did her job well on the day, liked her head properties, good neck into a well ribbed & coupled body, strong topline and moved with purpose.
2nd Luneville Strawberry Moon. Lemon/white with a well shaped & moulded headpiece, good neck, shoulder, body shape, bone, pasterns and stifle, liked everything about her just needs to settle a bit on the move.

POST GRADUATE BITCH (12,2)

1st Vickery. Jilony Just Unique. A b/w bitch with a feminine head, dark eye, lovely body properties had all the curves and angles required, bone & feet she moved out with some style to take this good class
2nd Barford & Booth. Kanix Calypso By Kiswahili. Well headed o/w again with a lot to like, well laid shoulder, good body, ribbing & depth not quite the couplings of the winner, moved out well
3rd Evans & Pavey. Joneva Hazy Dream

LIMIT BITCH (14,3)

A hotly contested class with any number of bitches that appealed to me, but decisions have to be made, performance and being spot on the day made for some hair splitting decisions.

1st & CC. Siddle. Wilchrimane Ice Crystal.

2nd Elrington, Green & Cannon. Ansona Lucy Locket. b/w another that appeals for her overall make & shape, she is well put together, has a pleasing balanced head, good neck & shoulder, well ribbed & coupled just not covering her ground today.

3rd Fairbarn & Madigan. Misperros Jumanji Of Carmelflair.

OPEN BITCH (9)

Another class that was a pleasure to judge

1st & RCC. Wilkinson. Sh Ch Flinthill Forget Me Not.

2nd Anthony. Jilony Dancing On Air. b/w have to say this bitch hasn't really caught my eye before, she has to be handled to be appreciated a well moulded head, good neck and shoulder, body properties, well angled both ends, shown in fit hard condition she gave a striking picture on the move she pushed the winner hard here today.

3rd Siddle Wilchrimane Ice Maiden.

Steve Rose - Judge