

Midland Whippet Club Championship Show, 23rd October 2022

Dogs

Thank you to the Officers and Committee of Midland Whippet Club for inviting me to judge dogs at their show. I had a most enjoyable day, as so often is the case for individuals fortunate enough to step into the centre of the ring to judge Whippets, a wonderful breed to admire ringside and to get one's hands on when judging. Thank you to my efficient stewards who helped ensure my ring ran smoothly and thank you to the exhibitors for their entries. It was a pleasure to undertake this appointment alongside Jo Beckett-Hughes, the bitch judge. We agreed on all but one of the main awards, awarding Best In Show to Ch. Collooney Dita Von Tease, Reserve Best In Show (Referee's decision) to Aarminias Change The Game At Drumburn, Best Puppy in Show to Zoraden You Are My Universe, Best Veteran in Show to Ch. Danluke Lord of the Dance and Best Special Beginners in Show to Runnel Run For Fun.

Veteran Dog (7-9years) – 7(4a)

1st – Johnston's Ch. Danluke Lord Of The Dance JW

8 year old brindle who secured this class, and topping the day's entry of veterans, with his foot perfect profile action. Handsome head, refined yet undeniably male. Excellent neck, strong and of balanced length and proportion. Well laid shoulder and stands with his front legs set well under his body. Straight forelegs with slight spring of pastern, something which was missing in other exhibitors today. His topline was a little flat and could have a dash more tuck-up but he has that all-important spring of rib. Balanced rear assembly with good muscle-tone. He really comes into his own on the move, true coming and going, covering the ground efficiently with low reach in front and plenty of rear drive. BVIS.

2nd – Wayman's Speymalt Northern Star JW

8 year parti-colour shown in good condition with a suppleness of coat. Balanced head with good length of muzzle and well chiselled. Lovely dark eye and ears correctly set. Elegantly arched neck. A little upright in shoulder and front assembly, pasterns were a little weak. Good length of body, with balanced proportions of ribcage and loin. Curvy underline with plenty of tuck up. Well bent stifle and hocks well let down. Moved out true fore and aft, would just prefer a dash more reach in front action. 3rd -Wood's Ardencote Star Gazer

Veteran Dog (10+years) – 2(0a)

1st – Candler's Ch. Maidenbower Make Believe

11 year old fawn who is a real credit to his owner. Looking excellent for his age and holding a super outline. He really excels in shape, with a correct arch over the loin and gentle curves in the right places. Handsome headpiece, would prefer a fraction more length of foreface. Correct neck set, elegantly placed but strong and fit for function, leading into an excellent shoulder and return of upper arm. Very balanced throughout. Well constructed rear with no exaggerations. Moved out soundly both coming and going and in profile, albeit just lacking a bit of power and propulsion.

2nd – Chappell's Blueflight Tiger Mist

10 year brindle, of different type to the winner. Pleasing head with correct eye shape and pigmentation. Good length of neck although this leads into an upright shoulder assembly. Good substance of bone. He has a deep brisket and sufficient spring of rib. Topline falls away and I would prefer more overall length to body. Well muscled. Lacked reach and drive in profile movement but true coming and going.

Minor Puppy Dog – 9(0a)

This was a very mixed class with a large diversity in type and of course there were puppies at different stages of development. I was taken aback by the number of flat toplines present.

1st – Brew's Boxing Helena's Victor Ena NAF

8 month dark brindle who is up to size for me. However, his curvy shape secured him this class, something which was lacking amongst the other young puppies today. Attractive head, dark eye and kind expression, correct ear set. Lovely length of neck leading into a good shoulder and front assembly. Although he is taller than I prefer, he is not heavy or coarse, retaining elegance throughout. He is very balanced for one so young with excellent length of body and strong loin. Well angulated

rear which he really uses on the move. Covered the ground very cleanly, with reach and drive, although his handler just needs to be careful not to move him too fast. BPD.

2nd – Smiths' Palmik Who Knew at Lorbri

7 months fawn who pushed the winner hard as there is much to like with this young dog. Shown in excellent coat, soft and supple with a super gleam and shine. With his headpiece, to be ultra picky, I would prefer more stop. Another with a good neck set and shoulder placement. He is a little upright in pastern. Lovely depth of chest with well sprung ribs set well back. Pleasing outline, with no exaggerations or harsh angles. Well balanced rear with good length of thigh and second thigh. On the move, I would prefer more drive in the rear but he was accurate and typical in action.

3rd – Owen's Dapperdiva Ezra Brooks

Puppy Dog – 3(0a)

1st – Rawlinson & Searle's Reffton Tibalt at Whipsearle (Imp Esp)

6 month red fawn who is an eye-catching young dog. I just hope he makes the size. Although petite in stature, he is masculine. Refined headpiece, good length of neck correctly set into his shoulder which is well laid, accompanied by a sufficient return of upper arm. Deep brisket with good tuck up in underline. Pleasing in overall shape, albeit lacking a little length in rib, with slight arch in topline leading into a balanced, unexaggerated rear. Best mover in this class, securing his position with his freedom of action in profile movement.

2nd – Hollands' Elmanash Glen Grant

11 month fawn of different type and build to 1. Pleasing head with a lovely expression, dark eye and correct earset. Well proportioned neck, elegantly arched with good muscle. Straight forelegs and good substance of bone, would prefer more strength in pastern and a greater return of upper arm. Curvy in outline, ribs set well back. Well angulated rear with good bend of stifle and hocks let down. He moves out true but lacked the fluidity of movement in front with a lack of reach in forelegs.

3rd – Anderson's Runaround Richochet

Junior Dog – 7(2a)

1st – Hunters' Collooney Was Meant to Be at Sulahmara

16month brindle of correct size. Super head, dark eye with wonderful pigmentation, rose shaped ear correctly set. Well placed neck leading into a good lay of shoulder, could have a fraction more return of upper arm. Tight feet, slight spring to pastern. Lovely deep chest, excellent length of rib and ribs well sprung. Could have a little more rise over the loin but curvy in underline and tuck up. Balanced rear, nothing overdone. Shown in excellent condition. He moved extremely well, covering the ground with that low daisy cutting action and really using his rear, true out and back.

2nd – Arkell's Fantastic Fred

15month brindle parti who is up to size. Handsome head, well muscled neck and good placement of shoulder. Straight forelegs and slight spring of pastern. Well sprung ribs which are set well back and he has a pleasing outline with tuck up in underline and sufficient arch over his loin which is well proportioned with the rest of his length of body. Good coat, supple to the touch. Well angulated rear but not overdone. Moved out honestly, true coming and going, albeit lacking some power and enthusiasm in profile.

3rd – Bunney's Bnehug Let It Be Me

Yearling Dog – 5(0a)

1st – Dillon & Bailey's Collooney Eat My Shorts at Runforest JW

16month dark brindle, litter brother to the Junior Dog winner but quite different, having an altogether scopier frame. A little heavy in head for my preference. Super neck and front assembly, with flowing lines throughout his outline. Excellent placement of shoulder and his forelegs were set well under his body. Deep capacious chest, plenty of tuck up and strong loin which was gently arched. Good rear angulation and well muscled. Secured his position at the top of this class with his foot perfect movement. Not only does he hold his shape on the move, but he has an effortless action in profile and accurate coming and going.

2nd -Whitehead, Smith & Mixidies' Citycroft Drumshanbo

22month brindle who has a lot to like. Elegant yet masculine in build. Pleasing head, more refined than that of 1 although lacking strength of foreface. His front assembly is a little upright throughout from his neck set through to his shoulder placement. Correct bladed bone, and well knuckled feet. Excellent spring of rib with broad back, would just prefer a dash more length of rib. Balanced rear construction

with well bent stifle and good length of second thigh, well conditioned. Moved out true and sound both out and back and on the go around, just lacked the freedom of foreaction displayed by the winner.
3rd – Arkell's Swistir Baileys Cream

Maiden Dog – 6(2a)

1st -Price's Kierpark Moonlight Shadow Amongst Silkdance

6 month brindle, raw but they should be at this age. Beautiful headpiece, well proportioned with good strength of foreface and that melting expression that should be so typical in a Whippet. Neck elegantly arched and well placed into his shoulder. A little upright throughout his front assembly, including in pastern, which just threw his overall balance. Excellent for size and good length of body, with ribs well set back. He is quite flat in topline, lacking arch over his loin. Good rear construction with the required bend of stifle and balanced length of second thigh. Moved out a little close behind but moved accurately in profile.

2nd - Rawlinson & Searle's Reffton Tibalt At Whipsearle (IMP ESP) NAF

3rd – Anderson's Runaround Richochet

Special Beginners Dog – 8(1a)

Two lovely dogs topping this class, both very classic and typical examples of the breed.

1st – Trouton's Runnel Run for Fun

This fawn dog really appeals with his overall balance and unexaggerated outline. Undeniably male with a handsome head, dark eye and good pigmentation. Strong neck, correctly set. Well laid shoulders accompanied by a good return of upper arm. Straight forelegs and pasterns correctly sprung. Gentle curves in both top and underline, although he was maybe carrying a dash more condition than needed. Excellent length of body. Well bent stifle and hocks well let down. Very accurate on the move, sound out and back and displaying sufficient reach and drive in profile. Best Special Beginners in Show.

2nd – Owen's Dapperdiva Ezra Brooks

This 7 month fawn caught my eye in the Minor Puppy Dog class although a little heavier in build than my ideal. Beautiful head, all male and with super pigmentation which is lacking in some Whippets nowadays. Another with an excellent neck set, shoulder placement and with his forelegs set well under his body. Ribs well sprung and loin strong but he could have a dash more rise over his loin to complete his outline. Good rear assembly, balanced and with pleasing musculature. Not a big mover but correct in action with daisy cutting foreaction. Moved a little close behind moving away.

3rd – Middleton & Gilhooly's Stormida The Brave

Graduate Dog – 13(3a)

1st – Soffe's Zoraden Macchiato

Red fawn with white trim, a really eye-catching young dog who just had something special about him to edge him to the front in this class. Excellent for size. Long, lean headpiece and correct rose shaped ears which he used well. Good length of neck leading into a very strong front assembly with excellent layback of shoulder and return of upper arm. Well knuckled feet and pasterns slightly sprung. Lovely overall length, could have a fraction more arch over the loin especially on the move when he does tend to flatten in topline. On the move, he covered the ground effortlessly with reach in front and power and drive from the rear. I will watch his development with interest.

2nd – Hunters' Collooney Was Meant to Be at Sulahmara

3rd – Dillon & Bailey's Dreamjet Float My Boat at Runforest

Post Graduate Dog – 9(1a)

1st – Martin's Bowdonia Go The Distance for Stalwart

Light brindle who topped this class with his excellent shape. His outline is textbook with curves in all the correct places. Good head with dark eye and giving that melting, gentle expression. Well muscled neck which was elegantly arched leading into a well laid shoulder. Could have a dash more return of upper arm to complete the picture. Balanced throughout, excellent tuck up in underline, good length of rib and arched loin, finished with a well proportioned rear assembly. Moved out well, true coming and going and accurate in profile, albeit lacking a little bit of drive in the rear.

2nd – Wayman's Collooney Charlie Brown at Scarletfair

Pale fawn, masculine but elegant throughout. This dog is still young but he has matured a lot with plenty to like about him. Pleasing headpiece, another with excellent pigmentation complementing his

dark, oval eye. Lovely length of neck which is gently set into his shoulder. Good substance of bone, straight forelegs which are set well under his body and accompany his correct shoulder placement. Another who has good overall shape, with a strong loin, correctly arched. True coming and going on the move, holds his shape, could have a dash more reach in front to be ultra picky.

3rd – Yeates & Winter's Zoraden Bright Star

Mid Limit Dog – 8(0a)

1st – Brew's Crosscop The Show Must Go On

Fawn, shown in excellent condition. A very typey example of the breed and his moderation edged him in front today. Excellent headpiece, long, lean and clean, correct earset. Balanced neck, strong and not coarse. Well laid shoulder and sufficient return of upper arm. A little upright in pastern. Deep chest, well sprung ribs and super length of body. Gentle arch over loin creating excellent outline. Well muscled rear and correct feet, handler just needs to be careful to not overstretch this dog on the stack. Moved out very soundly and precisely, true coming and going and displaying typical profile movement.

2nd – Dargue & Halliday's Brochinbelle Wee Dancer with Jalwhipp JW

Brindle, built on a larger cast compared to the winner but this young male is not heavy in any way. Super head, well proportioned with good length of muzzle. Beautiful eye and expression. Pleasing front assembly. At only two years old, there is still some maturing to go with infill and spring of rib. Lovely length of body and good tuck up, with sufficient curves in topline. Well balanced rear assembly. An incredibly free moving dog, very light on his feet with daisy cutting action in front and plenty of rear propulsion.

3rd – Winstone's Lolani Moonshine over Monelli

Limit Dog – 13(2a)

1st – Bell's Aarminias Change The Game At Drumburn

Brindle and white who presented me with the most complete package today. So balanced, absolutely no exaggerations with gentle curves throughout. Such a gentle expression, superb headpiece with correct bite, balanced foreface and well chiselled. Dark eyes, beautiful pigmentation and correct rose shaped ears. Good length of neck and well laid shoulder, excellent substance of bone, well knuckled feet and slight spring of pastern. Deep chest, well sprung ribs which are set well back, strong loin which is gently arched. Best mover in this class, accurate out and back and although not a "flashy mover", he moves out with low reach in front and plenty of rear propulsion. The standard asks for a "Balanced combination of muscular power and strength with elegance and grace of outline" and for me, this dog best met this description today. Delighted to award him the DCC and pleased to see him go RBIS upon the Referee's decision.

2nd – Tysons' Starceylon Summer Bran

Handsome black who has much to like about him. Elegant head but still masculine, excellent length of neck which is correctly set into his shoulder. Good layback of shoulder, straight forelegs and pleasing return of upper arm. Well proportioned body with good length of ribcage and excellent tuck up in underline. He can occasionally stand "bum high" in topline. Good rear construction with well bent stifle and hocks let down. An honest mover, sound coming and going and correct profile action, just lacked a bit of rear drive.

3rd – Gibbins's Osterfen Janus

Open Dog – 7(1a)

1st – Fryers' Ch. Collooney Eye Love To Tease At Stonefox

Dark brindle, one of just two dogs today that I had the pleasure of judging on my previous appointment. When I judged him last, he was just a minor puppy and was second behind the dog I placed 3rd in this lovely open class today – it is interesting to see how promising puppies develop into beautiful adults. This boy is such a worthy champion. Masculine head, gracefully arched neck, textbook front assembly with superb lay of shoulder and return of upper arm. Lovely length of body, spring of rib and sufficient rise over the loin. Strongly built rear quarters, balanced and no exaggerations. He is a joy to watch on the move, so easy covering the ground with fluidity of action both fore and aft. RDCC.

2nd – Yeates, Winter & Morland's Ch. Lolani Cafe Amore

Blue fawn, built on smaller lines compared to the winner and different in type. He is a very honest example of the breed and one who is also deserving of his title. Excellent head, well proportioned,

refined yet handsome. Very elegant in outline, with strong neck, correctly assembled front construction, and superb bone. Good length of rib, well sprung and capacious chest. Strong loin, could have a bit more arch. Excellent rear with well bent stifle and balanced length of second thigh. Very sound on the move, true out and back and precise in profile, not the biggest mover, but completely correct in action. 3rd – Johnston, Johnston & Wilson's Ch. Aarminias Dragon Lord Of Danluke
Another worthy champion and my Best Puppy the last time I judged. He is a quality exhibit and interesting to note, he is the sire of my DCC winner.

Helen H. Rishworth