

THREE COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW - 9.6.2016
FLATCOATED RETRIEVERS

I should like to thank Three Counties for inviting me to judge, the exhibitors for entering and my stewards for working so hard. It was lovely to judge so many dogs I have not judged before and have only seen from the side of the ring.

There is now much diversity in our breed, especially in size. Puppies are larger and taller now. I know we only have a preferred maximum height, but many dogs are significantly taller. Too many dogs are long in loin, making their ribs look short, spoiling their balance and thus affecting their movement. I was looking for balanced, medium sized, well-muscled dogs with good bone and tight feet that fulfilled the breed standard and could do a day's work. We do, after all, have a dual purpose breed and I found most of these attributes in my class winners. Despite the heat, it was a lovely day. Thank you, everyone, for making my first appointment so enjoyable. A day I shall always remember!

MPD(3) 1st Reynold's Wiccansage Hugo's Dream – lively, balanced 9 months puppy with mischievous expression, pleasing head, kind eye, adequate bone, neat feet and good front, who moved well keeping a level topline. Hope he doesn't grow too much taller. 2nd Wheatfield's Bonnyhilbrae Royal Flush – just 6 months old. Taller well made with good bone and lovely expression. He moved well. I preferred the front of first place. 3rd Lynott's Avening Spirit of the Sky

PD(3) 1st Walker's Lizzlog Bootlegger- almost a year old. Well made puppy, balanced with adequate bone, tight feet, pleasing head and lovely soft expression. Up to size. Moved well, keeping his top-line level on the move. BPD & BP 2nd Knight & Jacob's Gemswin Rolling in the Deep – same age as first, slightly larger and longer. Well boned, good feet and moved well. Lovely expression – full of fun. Preferred movement and front of winner. 3rd Broadbent's Trapestone Out Of The Blue

JD(7,1) 1st Whitaker & Whitaker's Up To The Stars Black Brianta to Jetstarski JW (Imp) – Right size for me, with balanced outline, full of life with pleasing head, good bone, tight feet. He moved well, with drive, keeping a level top-line. 2nd West's Pajanbeck Blame It On Me – size larger and longer in loin than first but balanced. Good bone, pleasing head and beautiful feet. Moved well when settled. Full of flatcoat mischief and charm. 3rd Pingree's Casylerock Burning Love to Heatheridge

YD(2,1) 1st Pingree's Castlerock Burning Love to Heatheridge – third in Junior and alone in this class. Well made young man, more substantial than first and second in Junior. Excellent bone and feet, pleasing head and kind expression. Full of life. Moved well, keeping level top-line.

GD(7) 1st Laird's Branchalwood Strathearn of Daicheil – Well constructed, beautifully balanced dog with the best of feet. A pleasing head and soft expression complete the picture. Moved steadily and accurately round the ring. 2nd Millbank's Kvicksans Eye Of The Storm to Larksdown – Good bone throughout, pleasing head, with lovely expression. Longer in loin than winner. Moved well and accurately. 3rd Evan's Gemswin Relight My Fire JW

PGD(5) 1st Edwards' Pajanbeck Young At Heart – Well made, balanced dog with good bone and beautiful feet. Pleasing head and soft, kindly expression but mischief lurks! So well handled, he moved accurately on a steady stride. 2nd Holmes & Jacobs' Charming Melvin Oasis Of Peace – Lovely, dark liver dog, a size larger than my winner and longer in loin. Excellent bone and feet. Pleasing head. Moved well. Preferred overall balance of winner. 3rd Davis' Pajanbeck Rumour Has It.

LD(7) 1st Reading's Sastrugi Beautiful Sunrise at Sabarka – A well constructed, honest flatcoat, the right size for me. Well-muscled and capable of doing a day's work. He presented a balanced picture standing and moved steadily round the ring, keeping a level top-line. Good bone and feet. A pleasing head and soft, kind expression. 2nd Orme's Elmstock Thyme To Dream – A dog I have always liked. It was a shame he came up against my winner today. The same comments apply to this dog as above. However, his movement was not as accurate as that of my winner. 3rd Bowen's Candiliz Black Admiral for Clandrifft

OD(12,2) 1st Sh Ch Branchalwood Tamdhu of Daicheil JW Sh CM – The right size for me. He is a beautifully balanced dog, with excellent bone and tight feet. Well-constructed with hard muscles. He moved accurately round the ring, keeping a level top line. Shown in super condition. Pleasing head and gentle expression. Delighted to award him the DCC. 2nd Knight & Jacobs' Broomsward Hugo Boss by Gemswin – Larger and heavier than my winner, but balanced

and well-constructed. Mischief lurks in his expression! Moved well and accurately round the ring. Pleased to award him the RDCC. 3rd Douglas' Sh Ch Greenbayhill Black Tuxedo

MPB(5) 1st Williams' Wistaston Another Love – Full of life! Good front and angulation, adequate bone, tight feet and a pleasing head. Shown in super condition. Balanced when standing and moved well on a good stride. BPB 2nd McHowat's Blazingstar Fiery Topaz at Wayfoong – Lovely dark liver of nearly nine months. Well-constructed with excellent bone and tight feet. Pleasing head and kind expression. Moved well when settled. Would have liked more animation, but this was her first show. 3rd Romeo-Dieste's Hopevalley Morning Dakota

PB 1st McHowat's Blazingstar Fiery Topaz at Wayfoong 2nd Walker's Lizzlog Chicago Showgirl – Well constructed girl of almost 12 months. Longer in loin than my winner. Pleasing head, full of mischief but with a kind expression. Moved well round the ring on tight feet. 3rd Lane & Lane-Ridyard's Kulawand Kodebreaker

JB(7,1) 1st Bellamy's Woodfinch Hydra – Lovely size and so well-balanced. Very feminine girl, full of life and mischief! Moved well round the ring on the tightest of feet. Everything in the right place for me. Shown to her advantage. 2nd Kulczycka's Seaheart Bronte – Longer than my winner. This girl has adequate bone and the tightest of feet, a pleasing head with a lovely dark eye and kind expression. Handled so well, she moved round the ring on a steady stride. Preferred the balance and size of my winner. 3rd Bowen's Clandrift Midnight Galaxy

YB(6) 1st Branscombe's Torinmill Gaelic Aurora – Right size for me. Balanced girl with good bone and tight feet. Well-constructed with excellent lay of shoulder. Pleasing head with lovely expression. Moved well round the ring, keeping a level topline. 2nd Joyce's Stranfaer Solitaire JW – another lovely girl. Most of the same comments apply as for my winner. However I would have liked more lay of shoulder. Very close decision. 3rd Harrison, Danabie & Eggington's Torinmill Gaelic Spirit of Glendaruel.

GB(11,2) 1st Goodman's Keepersway Gracie to Beanit – Two very nice bitches, of the size I like, headed this class. My winner was beautifully balanced standing and maintained this balance and a level topline on the move. She is well constructed, has excellent bone and tight feel, and a pleasing head with a soft expression. Shown in lovely condition. 2nd Drottsgard & Brunnstrom's Moonstruck Macadamia JW – same comments apply but she is longer in loin than my winner and so not quite as well-balanced either standing or on the move. 3rd Wells' Candiliz Pink Lady.

PGB(5,1) 1st Griffiths' Castlerock Cosmic Hattie – Lovely size for me! Well balanced standing and moving. She has good bone, tight feet and is well-constructed, with a pleasing head and kind expression, but mischief is there as well! Shown to her advantage both standing and on the move. 2nd Fisher's Seaheart Astra over Sawbrook – Many of the comments above apply to this bitch but she is slightly longer in loin and so not quite as balanced as my winner. 3rd Kulczycka's Burpham Spring Sky.

LB(15,5) 1st Romeo-Dieste's Hopevalley Morning Mist – a bitch I have done well before. She is the right size for me. She is balanced with good bone and angulation front and rear, a good front and really tight feet. She has a pleasing head with the kindest expression. She moved accurately on a steady stride. She is at one with her handler and I was delighted to award her RBCC. 2nd Skjelbred's Torpedo's It's A Magic Morning (ATC AQ00975SWE) – Slightly larger all over than my winner. She has adequate bone and tight feet. She is well-constructed which shows in her flowing movement. Well-handled to her advantage. So unlucky to meet my winner today. 3rd Murray's Gayplume Tickled Pink

OB(10,2) Bellamy's Rainesgift Fleur De Lis for Woodfinch – Beautifully balanced medium-sized bitch. She is so well-constructed with everything in the right place. Full of life and energy and shown to perfection today. Moved round the ring with drive on a steady stride, looking exactly right. I was delighted to award her the BCC and BOB. Under Mr Chris Bexon, she went on to gain Gundog Group 3! 2nd Walker's Sh Ch Lizzlog Kiss Me Quick JW Sh CM – Another lovely bitch. Unlucky to meet my winner today. Larger and longer than first but well-constructed and balanced both standing and on the move. Beautifully handled to show her to her best advantage. 3rd Harrison's Glendaruel Black Diamond at Solotown (ai).

Sharron Enticknap