

## **Northern England Flatcoated Retriever Association 6 November 2016**

### **Dogs**

This was a really enjoyable day. Flatcoats are always so happy – no growls, no barking and all happy to be handled even if some of the youngsters did wriggle a bit. One negative point! As usual baiting was excessive – on occasions not enhancing the dog's appearance but detracting from it as dogs plunged relentlessly for the tasty morsel. Expert handlers use food as a reward for standing in the correct pose not as a lure which gets the dog to stop standing correctly. I appreciate it is difficult with such an extrovert breed but please less baiting.

I am very grateful to all who made it such an enjoyable day for me including the hard working chairman and her committee and especially my two ring stewards, Margaret Melrose and Bob Allen. I was very pleased with the quality of my top winners. As ever there were some points of concern. My chief issue was that a lot of dogs crabbed when they moved. Often this seemed related to somewhat extrovert behaviour as they twisted to look for treats, but others seemed to have a construction problem in that when they moved in profile their hind feet came down beside rather than behind their forefeet so the dog had to crab. Something that was not visible from the ringside is that two dogs were just undershot – the lower jaw does continue to grow for several years. It was disappointing to see a number of otherwise nice dogs moving close behind. However I would emphasise I try not to fault judge but take account of the dog as a whole balancing its virtues and its less good points – the perfect dog has yet to be born.

V (8)

1 Brook's Culmquill Makin' Whoopee

Powerfully built seven year old. Very typical head and expression. Good balance. Better feet than some in this class. Moved freely. Best veteran dog.

2 Holland's Ch Calzeat Causa Commotion at Flatcharm (Imp). Eight year old but looks younger. Very typical flatcoat profile. In good condition. Moved with drive. A close decision.

3 Gulbis's Gayplume Vital Spark

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Sp V (4, 1abs)

1 Bellamy's Bochilbarley Winter Night

In excellent condition for his ten years. Pleasing eye. Fairly tight feet, Best mover in the class.

2 Knight & Jacobs's Candidacasa Choir Master at Gemswin

Also ten year old - lighter in build. In good condition. Preferred winner's head.

3 Hammersley's Levelmoor Dr Devious for Nellspeace

MP (12/1)

1 Strudwick's Burpham Million Love Songs

Outstanding eight month puppy headed a nice class. Lovely typical outline in profile. Attractive head.

Good neck, lay of shoulder and front. Excellent tight feet. Made the most of himself showing in a calm manner. Just needs to tighten up a little in movement.

2 Salt's Toccata of Harlaston with Wetnoses

Similar in type to the winner but not quite the same star quality. Lovely head. Plenty of forechest.

Moved well.

3 Hammersley's Castlerock Magical Shadow

P 15/1

1 B. Million Love Songs

2 Holland's Flatcharm Top Gun

Another lovely puppy. At the moment a little more rangy. Lovely head and expression. Well laid shoulders. Nice tight feet. Moved well.

3 Toccata of H with W

J (10/3)

1 Curtis's Tallistar Mr All Black

Won a close decision. Initially he was difficult to assess because of rather excessive baiting.

Balanced in outline. Pleasing head and expression. Moved very well -true front and back.

2 Reynolds's Wiccanssage Hugos Dream

Again balanced with no exaggeration. Deep brisket. Good reach in front when moving.

3 Savory's Hopevalley Morning Arizona

Y (6)

1 W Hugos Dream

2 Whitaker's Up to the Stars Black Brianta to Jetstarski JW (Imp Cze)

A very active well-constructed dog. Attractive head, Good topline. True mover. Tail carriage could be a little lower. Would prefer to see less baiting.

3 Pingree's Castlerock Burning Love to Heatherridge JW

N (14)

1 Reynolds's Hoedun Malbec

At five much more mature than the rest of the class. Lovely head, eye and expression. Good overall balance. Sound mover. Plenty of coat and furnishings. Moved well.

2 B Million Love Songs

3 T Mr All Black

G (9/2)

1 Fox's Black Mica's Likes It Hot at Blacktoft JW (Imp Swe)

Happy active powerfully built dog. Good reach of neck. Short coupled. Moved well.

2 Harris's Highlander Z Mokre Hory at Siancala (Imp Cze)

Lighter in build. Pleasing head and expression. Good feet. Strong hindquarters.

3 H. Malbec

PG (8)

1 Walker & Roberts's Gloi Dubh Fingal JW ShCM

First and second two excellent flatcoats. Winner is really typical in outline – in no way exaggerated.

Alert expression. Good neck and shoulders with plenty of visible forechest. Good topline. Adequate spring of rib. Moved well.

2 Laird's Branchalwood Strathearn of Daicheil (A1)

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Another excellent dog. Balanced head with nice moulding. Good bone and very good feet. Sound mover.

3 Davis's Pajanbeck Rumour Has It

L (16,3)

1 Lane & Lane-Ridyard's Kulawand Konquistador JW

A lovely class full of quality dogs which could have swapped places easily so the decision was difficult. I particularly liked this dog's excellent reach of neck and lay of shoulder. Very good tight feet. Sound mover showing reach and drive. Won on the overall picture.

2 McDonnell's Frankly Stephen at Seastones

Another dog very typical in profile. Good head and expression. Correct bone and feet. Easy free mover.

3 Orme's Elmstock Thyme to Dream

O (10,1)

1 Holland's Sh Ch Brightmoor Caught in the Act at Flatcharm (Imp)

Really outstanding dog. Active and athletic. Very typical head and expression. Good neck and shoulders. Deep brisket. Strong well-muscled hind quarters. Particularly good smooth mover – true front and aft with good ground covering strides showing excellent reach and drive. In good coat with lovely furnishings. Dog CC and BIS.

2 Strudwick's Downstream Fair and Square for Burpham JW ShCM

Another lovely dog. Excellent construction. Lovely head, eye and expression. Good lay of shoulder. A little unsettled when moving due perhaps to change of handler. Reserve CC.

3 Bowen's Candiliz Black Admiral for Clandrifft JW ShCM

Sp Liver

1 Jacobs & Holmes's Charming Melvin Oasis of Peace (Imp Cz) Jw

Soundly built. Moved freely. Best coat and furnishings in the class.

2 Colson's Windyhollows Brere Bear

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Nice outline. Good reach of neck. Good feet.

3 Evans's Gemswin Relight My Fire

Sp Working

1 Orme's Elmstock Thyme to Dream

Was third in the strong limit class. Lovely head and expression. Balanced outline. Good coat and furnishings. As befits a working dog in hard condition.

Sp Members' Open (Judged jointly with bitch judge.

1 Romeo-Dieste's Hopevalley Morning Mist

Typical mature five year old bitch. Attractive head. Sound mover.

2 Fox's Sh Ch Steelriver Blazin Hot at Blacktoft JW

Another five year old. Very typical in outline.

3 Romeo- Dieste's Yonsaff Vienna by Hopevalley JW

It was a pleasure to decide the final placings with Louise Jones, my co-judge. We agreed easily on all our decisions. The referee was asked to adjudicate on the veteran dog as Louise had handled the veteran dog winner in the past.

BIS, Dog CC Holland's Sh Ch Brightmoor Caught in the Act at Flatcharm (Imp)

Res BIS & BOS Fox's Blacktoft Burleque JW.

Res Dog CC Downstream Fair and Square for Burpham

Best Puppy Gale's Willowswind Nette Lark

Best Veteran Goldberg & Keight's Sh Ch Ballyriver Band of Gold

Ruth Barbour