

**Manchester Ch Show – 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2017**  
**Judge Mr Martyn Rees**

My thanks to the committee of Manchester Ch Show for this invitation & also to my two fantastic stewards for their efficiency & hard work throughout the day. The Flatcoat entry whilst numerically strong lacked quality in depth. I do not own or show a Flatcoat anymore & have not done so for nearly 10 years. I rarely watch this breed being shown but on the occasions I have it has become more & more obvious that exaggerations are being rewarded & the true workmanlike dogs are being overlooked. There is little doubt that the breed is in a downward spiral in terms of quality. When I first showed a Flatcoat in the 1990s just to get in the cut was an achievement such was the quality around then.

I would like to thank those who entered & for the sporting way my decisions were accepted. Temperaments were exceptional as always but I found far too many dirty mouths, level bites & a couple of under/over shot bites. Correct forehead construction & short square loins on Flatcoats are becoming almost as rare as Egyptian artefacts & yet the breed standard has not changed! So why have these faults crept in & become the norm rather than the exception? I judged the dogs as they come before me on the day. Past results are of little interest to me as they are somebody else's opinion. Nor can I predict what the dog may or may not turn out like in the future. I judged the dogs as I saw them before me - another day in another ring they may all change places.

My winners were all very typical & I see from my catalogue that my CC & RCC winners are all related - three of them being by the same dog.

**MPD** (3) 1 Kiddell's Hameldowntor Midnight Masquerade, this youngster has so much breed type, a factor missing in many today. He is well balanced all through. Good head with dark eye & kind expression. Clean through his neck into correct lay of shoulder & corresponding return of upper arm. Strong hindquarters, excellent bone & feet. Handled very well to take the class & later BPD & BP; 2 Reekie's Rotherfield Find A Reason, well balanced for age. Not the type, substance or bone of the winner. Good head & expression. Correct ribcage. Moved well; 3 Hammersley's Castlerock Magical Shadow. **PD** (9) 1 Kiddell's Hameldowntor Midnight Masquerade; 2 Joyce's Stranfaer Get Over It, excellent head & expression. I would prefer a little more angulation in his forequarters. Good bone & feet. He did not hold his topline as well as winner today. A very nice young dog; 3 Milner's Park Carriad King Of The Ocean. **JD** (9,3a) 1 Laird's Islstrom Black Grouse Of Daicheil, very well balanced young dog who just needs time. Good head, excellent reach of neck into well-laid shoulder. Correct depth & well ribbed back. Strong hindquarters. Moved out well; 2 Milner's Park Carriad King Of The Ocean, a different type to the class winner. Pleasing head eye & expression, I would like a little more layback of shoulder & forequarter angulation. Moved steadily but not quite the drive of winner; 3 Lynott's Avening Spirit Of The Sky. **YD** (7,1) 1 Mullins' Seaheart Byron, I really liked this dog & considered him for higher in the Challenge. He is the correct size with very good overall balance. Good head shape with dark eye & neat ears. Excellent layback of shoulder & return of upper arm. He has a good depth of brisket & is well ribbed back into a short, square loin. His hindquarters are strong & muscular. Quality bone & very good of feet. On the move he was accurate both fore & aft holding a firm level topline; 2 Pingree's Castlerock Burning Love to Heatheridge, another good overall type of dog. Pleasing head, strong neck & good shoulder placement. For me his rib/loin proportions are incorrect. He is short in rib & too long through the loin, the length of body must come from the ribcage. Very good bone & substance throughout moved & presented well; 3 Douglas' Plainfire's Quintessential Greenbayhill. **GD** (1) 1 Reekie's Rotherfield Chaos Of A

Star, pleasing head & expression. Would prefer more angulation of upperarm. Level topline & correctly set tail. Good bone & feet. Moved well. **PGD** (10,1) 1 Jones' Blacktoft American Smooth at Braemist, a very well balanced dog of the correct size. Excellent head & expression. His weakness for me is that I would like a little more length of neck. Correct layback of shoulder & corresponding return of upper arm. He is well ribbed back leading to a short, square loin. Powerful hindquarters with excellent bone & feet. Moved with real drive maintaining his topline throughout; 2 Laird's Branchalwood Strathearn Of Daicheil, this dog is very well balanced with a good outline when viewed in profile. Super in head & expression. Correct layback of shoulder & level topline. I would like to see a more definitive spring of rib as he is very narrow through his chest & ribcage which gives rise to a setter appearance when viewed from above. Shown in excellent condition. Moved very well; 3 Millbank's Kvicksans Eye Of The Storm Of Larksdown. **LD** (10) 1 Trotter's Downstream Friar Tuck, this dog for me has great presence & he is totally unexaggerated in any area showing a very balanced outline & demonstrating power without lumber & raciness without weediness. He has a correctly proportioned head with dark eye & soft expression. A tight scissor bite. Strong neck leading to correct lay of shoulder & good length & return of upperarm. Deep through the brisket & well ribbed back. Strong muscular hindquarters with quality bone & tight feet. On the move he was accurate both fore & aft & demonstrated an excellent open side gait when seen in profile. In the Challenge he could have moved all day if required. His handler was at one with him & got the very best out of him & I was delighted to award him the CC, his second & BOB. I hope he gains his crown, as he was a very worthy winner on the day & a credit to his owners, handler & his breeder; 2 Laird's Seaheart Archibald Of Daicheil, another superb who could have swapped places with my 1 placed dog on a different day. A very honest & classical dog. Very good head & expression. Correct layback of shoulder & corresponding return of upper arm. Strong topline. Lacked in width of second thigh. Moved very well. **RCC**; 3 Orme's Elmstock Thyme To Dream. **OD** (7,1) 1 Laird's Sh Ch Branchalwood Tamdhu Of Daicheil, perfectly balanced all through. Typical & correct head. Correct layback of shoulder & corresponding return of upper arm. He has a deep brisket, correct length of ribcage & short, square loin. Excellent bone & feet. Moved out very well; 2 Douglas' Sh Ch Greenbayhill Black Tuxedo, as I viewed this dog standing he stood out showing everything that I look for in size & type of a Flatcoat. A super quality dog free from exaggeration. Excellent head & expression. Well laid back shoulder & corresponding return of upper arm. Excels in depth of brisket & his loin proportions. Strong level topline when moving. Excellent bone & feet. I was very disappointed when he let himself down on the move with an extremely untidy action coming back towards me, which ultimately cost him the class; 3 Blain's Rotherfield First Request. **VD** (6) 1 Osbourne-Brown's Cassiopi Phynns Tribute To Perrymel, a well balanced dog who is now fully mature & looking an absolute picture. Good head shape with the kindest of expressions. Could have a little more length of upper arm. Moved well showing a level topline. Well ribbed. Strong hindquarters; 2 Tierling's Llantrussa Rum Ba Ba, he has a good head & expression. Good layback of shoulder. Strong topline & hindquarters, moved well; 3 Gulbis' Gayplume Vital Spark.

**MPB** (8,1) 1 Richards' Hameldowntor Moon River In Manhattan, I really did like this puppy. She is beautifully balanced. Lovely head & expression with dark eye. Good forequarters leading through to correct spring of rib & short loin. Moderate bend of stifle & low hocks. Moved & shown very well; 2 Cooves' Draketor Dartmoor Mist, similar type to the winner & showing many of the same virtues. She is balanced, of correct size & proportions, lovely head & kindest of expressions, good fore & hindquarters, good bone & tight feet. Moved well but not quite with the same drive; 3 Cowan's Draketor Dartmoor Beauty with Andwalls. **PB** (13,1) 1 Shaw's Wyrebeck Girl Of My Dreams, she presents a classical outline

& is beautifully balanced all through. Correctly shaped head with soft expression. Good layback of shoulder leading through to level topline & strong hindquarters. Neat feet. Moved out well; 2 Davies & Stenner's Wyrebeck Daydreamer at Fentop, litter sisters, the only thing that separated them on the day was the movement, which could have been more fluid & positive. A very nice youngster; 3 Cooves' Draketor Dartmoor Mist. **JB** (8) 1 Ross' Islstrom Onora, a lovely youngster, I wouldn't want her any longer cast. Good head with dark eye. She has a correct layback of shoulder & corresponding return of upper arm. When moved she maintained a level topline & well made hindquarters. Good bone & feet; 2 McDonald's Steelriver Dance In The Sun at Skyloch, slightly different in type & up to size but displaying good breed type. She has a pleasing head, eye & expression. Neck of good length. Good lay of shoulder with adequate return of upper arm. Well ribbed back. Moved out well; 3 Lynott's Avening Sky Full Of Stars. **YB** (7,2) 1 Gilchrist's Seaheart Bryony with Ardmhor, another lovely young bitch who with more maturity I would have considered for higher honours. She is very sound & workmanlike with good overall balance. Typical head & lovely dark eye. Correct shoulder placement, which leads though to level topline & correct tailset. Good depth to brisket. Excellent bone all through & tight feet. Moved out well; 2 Harris' Woolfhill Ceri's Bubble Magic, my notes remind me just how much I liked this bitch, full of type, correct size, well balanced, pleasing head & eye, strong neck, Well laid back shoulder & corresponding return of upper arm. Strong hindquarters, moved extremely well with her handler but flew her tail enough for me to have to penalise her a place; 3 Saich's Lindcoly Perfect Melody. **GB** (5,1) 1 Joyce's Stranfaer Solitaire, this bitch is very well balanced & is of the correct size for me & is very workmanlike as the Standard calls for. She has a lovely correct head, eye & expression. Good forehand construction although I would have preferred slightly more length in upper arm if I were to be picky. Level topline, which was maintained on the move. Good bone & tight feet. Moved out well; 2 Nicholls & Afseth Price's Llantrussa Hot Off The Press To Lineover, up to size bitch but displaying good breed type. She has a pleasing head. Good lay of shoulder with adequate return of upper arm. Well ribbed back. She was not as animated on the move as winner; 3 Scaife's Chanangel Wishful Thinkin For Shennanjoy. **PGB** (12,2) 1 Hedges' Blacktoft Quickstep Of Satinbaze, for me, this bitch stood out today, yes, she was without her full jacket but her other virtues allowed me to overlook this fact & she will grow a coat whereas others who were in full coat could not move as well as she did. She is very workmanlike & extremely fit. She has a lovely typical head. Good layback of shoulder & adequate length of upper arm, which in the perfect world could be a fraction longer. On the move she was completely at one with her handler & to be blunt, made the other class winners in the Challenge look 'ordinary' on the move. She maintained a level topline at all times, has a correct ribcage & short loin leading through to well muscled hindquarters. Excellent bone & feet. My absolute pleasure to award this young bitch the CC; 2 May's Lussac Tassle, unfortunately for this classical bitch, she met my CC winner in her class. Very workmanlike, nicely made throughout with nothing to hide. Good head & eye. Correct layback of shoulder & return of upper arm. Well ribbed back. Strong hindquarters with good bone. Moved out well. On the day for me, she was a fraction heavy around the shoulders, which detracted from her outline; 3 Reid's Orkhatos Elektra. **LB** (11,2) 1 Jones' Seaheart Anneliese by Benvellyn, a very classical bitch, who presented a stunning picture standing. She is extremely well balanced & workmanlike. She is of the correct size & proportions throughout for me but would not want any more weight on her especially around the forequarters. A head that I cannot fault, kind eye, very good layback of shoulder & corresponding return of upper arm. Correct depth & width of chest with elbows tight to her brisket. Well sprung ribcage to a correct short & strong loin. Disappointingly, in the challenge, the more I moved this bitch, her head & tail started to drop. I hope this is not an indication of her fitness levels. She was however a very worth RCC winner; 2 Gilchrist's

Gloi Erin with Ardmhor, a top quality bitch who was beaten today by a very classical bitch. Classical head with the softest expression. Correct layback of shoulder & corresponding return of upper arm. Deep in brisket & long in ribcage. Moderate bend of stifle. In excellent coat & condition. Just not quite the overall balance of winner; 3 Walker & Roberts' Gloi Dubh Enchantress. **OB** (8,1) 1 Stevenson's Blacktoft Misty Blue Steelriver, another quality bitch who is well made throughout. She has a pleasing head & expression. Good shoulder & return of upper arm. Well ribbed back. Strong hindquarters. Very good bone & feet. Good ground covering movement; 2 Ross' Sh Ch Islstrom Torrakilty, very pleasing bitch who is well balanced all through. Excellent head, good shoulder & return of upper arm. Strong hindquarters. Quality bone & good feet. In excellent coat & condition. Could not match the class winner on the move today; 3 Dyren's Flatcharm Chelsea Whopper. **VB** (6,3) 1 Reid's Orkhatos Phoebe, at nearly 10 years of age what a lovely example of the breed & full credit to her owner for her fitness & presentation. Her overall balance is still maintained & her head is very pleasing together with her neck & forequarters assembly, which has a well laid shoulder. Shown in excellent condition & still maintaining her topline whilst moving; 2 Brooks' Castlerock Stormy Song, slightly longer cast than I would like, nice head & expression, strong neck & shoulders with adequate length of upper arm, moved out well; 3 Bellamy's Bochilbarley Xanthes Angel.