

Flatcoated Retriever Society

10 June 2017

Judge Anthony Allen

I recall meeting my first Flat Coat back in the eighties when my parents ran the local ring craft class near Peterborough. Those flat Coats were Barbara and Aldo Harkin's Tongreen Storm Petal and his son Sh Ch Falswift Black Storm. If I recall correctly Storm Petal was quite an influential sire of his time. Since then I have always kept a watch on Flat coats and I was thrilled to be invited to be asked to judge at the Flatcoated Retriever Society open show.

I absolutely loved this appointment, there were some lovely dogs for me to go over a super atmosphere with lots of applause to greet my winners. Special thanks to my two stewards Harry Nelson and Chris Whitmore who kept me on the straight and narrow during the day.

With my co judge I was happy to agree to award the dog **Broomswood Hugo Boss by Gemswin** Best in Show and Best Veteran in Show. Then delighted when my best bitch **Woodfinch Hydra JW** was awarded Reserve Best in Show on the referee's decision. Best Puppy bitch was **Blacklake Isabella**, Best Veteran bitch **Eskwinds Driving Miss Daisy to Windyhollows** and Best Liver Bitch **Windyhollows Winnipeg**.

The only two general comments I would make are:

Firstly please watch your fronts. I found a number with short upper arms which gave a rather unbalanced outline and an untidy front action. The other concern was that some were a little straight in front and over angulated behind, while this can look flashy they did not have the reach and drive that is called for in the standard.

SPECIAL VETERAN BITCH 4 Entries, 1abs

1. Gayplume Ebon Flow ShCM – Murray

I last judged this lady in 2012 when she did well under me and was delighted to see her here today at just over ten years of age, and on such great form. I found her head and expression appealing, good through the neck, which led on to correctly placed shoulders, well angulated front with correct depth of chest. Standing on good legs and neat feet. Correct through the body with ribs well sprung and length to loin. Quarters well made with a good bend of stifle. On the move her footfall was accurate and had more than enough drive for a lady of her age.

2. Waverton Floradora SWGC – Delamere

Another grand lady enjoying her day out, tail never stopped. Head of good shape and proportions. Neck well set in to shoulders, not quite the front construction of the winner. Depth to chest and ribs well sprung. Quarters well developed with a good bend of stifle. Moved well.

3. Marsalland Special Edition - Whittaker

VETERAN BITCH 7 Entries ,3abs

1. Eskwinds Driving Miss Daisy to Windyhollows Colson
Super shape on this seven year old bitch, not a big one and very well put together. Presented and elegant picture on the stack but a little too over eager on the move and didn't quite hold her topline but had the most accurate foot fall of all in the class. She has a beautiful head and expression, neck good and set into well placed shoulders, a tad short in upper arm. Chest has good depth, standing on well boned legs and neat feet. Body well proportioned with a good spring of rib. Quarters well made, stifles moderately bent and hocks well let down. Delighted to award her **Best Veteran Bitch**.
2. Casanjay Browneyed Girl AW(S) – Perry
Another very pretty lady who has a good overall shape and balance. I liked her type and I loved that mischievous attitude she came with. She has a pretty feminine head with an appealing eye. Neck clean, shoulder well placed. Good depth to chest, ribs well sprung and strong loin. Just carrying slightly too much weight. Quarters well made, stifles well bent. Good drive on the move just not a tidy coming towards me as the winner.
3. Lakemere Shes My Kinda Girl at Wyrebeck - Sullivan

PUPPY BITCH 4 entries, 3 abs

1. Blacklake Isabella - Goodman
Stood alone in the class but a worthy winner and she was a bundle of fun, so really enjoying herself which is so important in a puppy. She is 10 month old and well developed for her age. Head developing nicely with a good overall shape. Neck clean, needs to drop in to her front but has plenty of time. Body of good overall proportion, ribs springing nicely and loin well proportioned. Good through the quarters, stifle well bent. Very exuberant and needs to settle on the move. More than pleased to award her **Best Puppy Bitch**.

JUNIOR BITCH 9 entries, 2 abs

1. Willowswind Nette Lark - Gale
Super type of bitch who caught my eye from the start. She is 15 months old moving and moving with a super gate which made her stand out in this class. Head of good shape and proportion, with the correct definition, pleasing eye shape with a good dark colour, and has that really mischievous look in her eye. Clean reach of neck into well laid back shoulders and return of upper arm, good depth to chest for her age. Excellent bone and super feet, held her topline powering from strong hindquarters. She is a really nice type of bitch and if I can be bold if she keeps developing in this way she will have a bright future ahead of her.
2. Gamerights Deep River Blues – Delamere
Just 12 months and giving a lot away to the winner at the moment. I liked her on the stack. Pleasing head shape just would have liked a better eye shape. Good through the neck, which led in to a well angulated front. Body developing well with good

proportions. Quarters developing nicely, stifles well bent and good rear angles. Good in profile just a little untidy in front action today.

3. Delamere Gwenadillo Zoli - Calverley

YEARLING BITCH 10 entries

This class was a challenge with three top class bitches to choose from and the decision could have gone either way. Nettle Lark gave a lot away in maturity and then with Kodebreaker and Dubh Gigha I was really splitting hairs.

1. Kulawand Kodebreaker JW – Lane-Ridyard
Very smart bitch who caught my as I took my first walk round the ring. Her head is feminine and not unbalanced in any way, I wouldn't want it any stronger for my tastes. She scored in outline on the stack, standing true. She is clean in neck which led in to correctly set shoulders. Good depth and width to chest, would just like her a little tighter in elbow. She stands on well boned legs and neat feet. Well ribbed and strong through the loin. Quarters well developed, with the correct moderate bend of stifle. Tail straight off her back and well feathered. Coat was in super condition which gave her that touch of elegance. She moved with drive, with a good fluid action in profile. Considered her for top honours.
2. Gloi Dubh Gigha JW – Walker & Roberts
As I said in my introduction I was splitting hairs between the first and second. Again this lady has super head shape, neck good in to well placed shoulders would just like a little more return of upper arm. Good through the body, ribs well back and good loin. Strong through the quarters with stifles well bent and hocks well let down. As with the winner scored in profile movement just not quite a tidy as the winner coming towards me.
3. Willowswind Nette Lark - Gale

NOVICE BITCH 5 entries, 3 abs

1. Gamerights Deep River Blues - Delamere
2. Wiccansage Virtue At Rydanah – Holmes & Knight
Not quite the finish of the winner but she has a good overall shape and Balance. Head appealing with a pleasing expression. Good proportions through the body with ribs well developed for her age and strength in loin. Quarters well made with stifles well bent. Good drive on the move.

GRADUATE BITCH 12 entries, 3 abs

Another class headed with two super bitches.

1. Glenturret Colour Me Crazy - Durrant
On my first walk round I liked her shape but not being in full coat she looked a little light through the body, but as the class went on I thought she scored in movement and breed type. All these positive attributes combined to give her the class. I thought she was a really elegant type of bitch, Feminine in head, of good shape. Lovely eye shape and

colour that gave her that typical flat coat expression. Lovely clean reach of neck which led in to well set shoulders. Good front angulation and depth to chest for her age. Stood on well boned legs and neat feet. Body well made, ribs well sprung and loin firm. Good level topline. Well developed quarters, stifles well bent and hock well let down. She just came alive on the move demonstrating that driving action that I was looking for, tidy front. With a bit of maturity I think she will have a bright future ahead of her.

2. Mistledawn Spring Breeze By Gloi JW – Walker & Roberts

Another top flight bitch who I judged recently in the BIS line up for East Anglian Gundog where she took group 3 under me. I still really like her and she made the decision between her and Colour Me Crazy very tough. A balanced bitch with a very appealing head and expression, Good through the neck which led in to a super front. Standing on good feet. Shoulders well laid back, good depth to the chest for her age. Body of good proportions and quarters well developed. A very balanced bitch that had a good profile action just wasn't as tidy as the winner when she came towards me today.

3. Casanjay Kishi - Perry

POST GRAD BITCH 7 entries, 1 abs

1. Woodfinch Hydra JW - Bellamy

This bitch appealed on my first walk around the ring and did not disappoint when I put my hands on her. She is not overdone in anyway and to me was totally without exaggeration, which is what I was looking for. I found her balanced throughout. Her head is appealing and of good shape with a lovely eye. Clean through the neck which led in to well placed shoulders and a good return of upper arm. Standing on well boned legs and neat feet. Still needs to deepen in chest but that will come as she matures. Ribs well sprung, leading in to a firm short loin. Quarters developing well, stifles moderately bent and hocks well let down and tail straight of her back. She came alive on the move and had really super profile action. Coat in excellent condition. In the challenge the more I looked at her she filled that description of a medium sized, moderate dog without exaggeration and I could not deny her the top spot. I was delighted to award her **Best Bitch** and on the referees decision **Reserve Best in Show**.

2. Seaheart Bronte Of Everblack - Kulczycka

A two year old bitch who I like for shape and outline, Head of good shape and proportion but would like a better eye shape. Shoulders well placed and a good return of upper arm. Still needs to drop in to her front but has age on her side. Super through the body, correct spring the ribs, firm loin and level topline. Very sound on the move.

3. Candiliz Pink Lady JW - Wells

LIMIT BITCH 8 entries, 3 abs

1. Gloi Dubh Enchantress JW ShCM – Walker & Roberts
This lady is so balanced with super angles fore and aft, her silhouette just gave that classic outline that I was looking for. There is a little bit more of her than I would like but that did not distract, and she still has elegance. Lovely head and expression with a good eye. Super through the neck and shoulders. Well developed front with correct amount of depth. Ribs well sprung and strength to loin. Lovely shape to her quarters with stifles well bent and hocks well let down. On the move she had the best footfall in the class with both accuracy and drive. Coat in good condition with good feather. In the challenge she commanded attention and was pleased to awards her **Reserve Best Bitch**.
2. Flatcharm's Goade Delbax From Castlerock (Imp Swe) JW - Brooks
Could easily have one the class, totally at one with her handler and a real showgirl. Head pleasing but would like a bit more work. Good through the neck, would have like slightly more lay back of shoulder. Well boned legs and super neat feet. Sill needs to drop in to her front. Body well made with rib well sprung. Quarters well developed. Sound on the move but not a tidy as the winner in front today.
3. Kissock Weesleekit for Kirkbeck JW - Malone

OPEN BITCH 6 entries, 3 abs

1. Flatcharm Chelsea Whopper KCWGC - Dyren
This bitch was an easy winner in this class, she has both style and personality and is a real show girl. Head balanced with a good eye shape. Clean through the neck which led in to well set shoulders and a good return of upper arm. I like her body proportions, very balanced with a level topline. Ribs well sprung and firm loin. Super quarters with stifles well bent. Good muscles tone and condition. Drove round the ring with a fluid action. Totally a one with her hander who showed her to advantage. Close up for RBB.
2. Byeways Fair and Square At Hototo - Chambers
Lovely head and expression on this girl but she is not quite the showgirl that Chelsea Whopper is. Shoulders well placed, body well made with ribs correct and firm loin. Quarters are well developed with correct bend of stifle. Super side gate.
3. Keepersway Gracie To Beanit JW - Goodman

SPECIAL OPEN LIVER BITCH 3 entries

1. Windyhollows Winnipeg – Colson
I could not believe this bitch was nine years old, she looked like a youngster and she was in fabulous condition. She is a lovely dark colour and a super type, with a most lovely well moulded head and good eye colour. Well constructed, level topline & sound, powerful movement.
2. Gemswin Let's Dance - Reynolds

A young junior bitch so obviously giving a lot away to the mature winner. Developing nicely for her age but just at the in between stage at the moment. Good overall shape and sound on the move.

3. Autumnal Flame Over Wyrebeck - Sullivan