

Dog Judges Report for The Flatcoated Retriever Society 41st Breed Championship Show
Sunday 2nd April 2017

I would like to start my report firstly by thanking the members for voting for me in the ballot a few years ago now. Having been a member of the FCRS since 1980 and attended most of the Championship shows since then either as an exhibitor or spectator it was a huge honour to be invited to judge this show and even more interestingly to share the judging with my husband and it was great that we actually agreed on the important places at the end of the show, except for the Best Puppy In Show which we left for the referee, Mr Brian Izzard, to decide.

Many thanks to the Show Committee who work extremely hard to produce this show each year, I know a lot of work goes on unknown to the members and without these people it just wouldn't happen. Also thank you to Mark Jacobs for taking over doing the results for the day, my normal task. I had a wonderful entry of dogs to go over and there were a couple of classes that I just did not have enough first prize cards for and it was lovely to see how sporting everyone was accepting my decisions. I would like to thank my very efficient stewards, Chris Whitmore and Tamsin Swain who kept the classes, rosettes and paperwork in order not forgetting Sarah Egginton who took photos of all the dogs for me, thank you ladies.

My observations of the day were that many handlers let their dogs down by not listening to my instructions, I saw many different versions of a triangle – a triangle is a triangle not a circle! Some dogs were not allowed to move freely being strung up on their leads. Baiting, as always is annoying from a judges point of view, being presented with a dog drooling for its titbit isn't a pleasant experience. I don't believe in fault judging as we all know there is no perfect dog so I will mention the things I like about a dog, but what I was looking for was a typical classical head, good feet, bone and on a medium sized dog with good construction, including hindquarters, I found most of these in my top winners.

Veteran Dog (17 entries, 1abs)

A wonderful class of veterans, nos. 1,2,3 could have easily changed places on a different day, I was impressed with how fit all the veterans were.

1st Mrs H. Fox – Sh Ch Steelriver Blazin Hot At Blacktoft JW – This dog just keeps on improving with age, he is a medium sized dog soundly constructed, he has the right amount of bone and good strong feet with a typical head and soft kind expression and dark eye, he moved freely round the ring covering the ground effortlessly, definitely racy without weediness and lots of power in his hindquarters when he moves, in great condition, good coat and well handled, seemed to be enjoying his day out. So pleased to award him the **Dog CC** and also in agreement with my co-judge he went on to be **Best In Show and Best Veteran in Show**.

2nd Miss K. Holland – Ch Calzeat Causa Commotion At Flatcharm (Imp) – Unlucky to come up against the winner of this class, but nevertheless a lot to like about him. A good medium sized dog with classical head, kind expression, soundly constructed which allowed him to move well. Another happy dog full of life.

3rd Ms K. Anderson – Sh Ch Ballyriver Blake – Another happy mature veteran in great condition, a different size to the 1st and 2nd but not in a bad way, good head with a kind expression and overall soundly constructed, moved and handled well.

Special Veteran Dog (3 entries)

1st Mr and Mrs Moon – Llantrussa Waterloo ShCM – Such a lovely class to judge these special veterans, my winner was a very lively eleven year old full of character. A medium sized dog with a lovely soft expression, he has a good front, plenty of bone and good feet, his overall sound construction showed when he moved covering the ground well with a level topline . Presented in good condition and shown well considering he didn't give his handler an easy time.

2nd Mrs J. Gribble – Bryshot Copper Kingfisher – Eleven year old liver dog, slightly heavier and not quite as lively as one but his typical head and overall construction made him a worthy winner.

3rd Knight & Jacobs - Candidacasa Choir Master At Gemswin, Eleven year old black dog enjoying his day out, medium sized dog with slightly stronger head, and kind expression, didn't move quite as well as 1 and 2 but he is a veteran – plenty of coat as well.

Minor Puppy Dog (7 entries)

1st Mrs C. Malone – Kirkbeck The Man In Black – At just six months old at his first show this handsome black boy was a very worthy winner, although still raw and time may change things he has a typical head with gentle expression, he has a great front, plenty of bone and good feet, his coat was gleaming – overall construction at this age is good - handled well. Pleased that he went on to be **Best Puppy In Show**, should have a good future.

2nd Knight & Jacobs – Galleywood Prince Charming By Gemswin – and charmed me he did too with his very happy personality, it was very close between these first two they could easily change places on another day, he was the ideal size for his age with lovely head, kind expression and good ear set, good coat, moved and handled well.

3rd Mrs M.Bilton – Lizzlog Master of Coin, a happy boy similar to 1 and 2 but slightly longer in body with a typical head and kind expression.

Puppy Dog (14 entries)

1st Mrs C. Malone – Kirkbeck The Man In Black

2nd Mr T. Cowley – Tongreen King Of The Makers, Eleven month old black puppy with typical head, kind eye and expression, he obviously needs time to mature but overall well constructed for his age, his coat which was also gleaming like the winners, shown and presented well.

3rd Mr and Mrs Joyce – Stranfaer Get Over It – very similar to puppy no. 2, on another day these two could change places, moved well when settled.

Junior Dog (19 entries, 2 abs)

1st Mrs L. Strudwick – Burpham Million Love Songs JW, this young dog stood out in this class winning it easily, plenty of bone and fantastic feet, typical male head with lovely dark eye and good ear set, great reach of neck and overall construction is very good, he moved with plenty of drive – a very happy boy who should have a good future.

2nd Mrs Goldberg & Mrs Keight – Laurvic Talking Italian, a lovely young boy slightly heavier than the winner, but there is a lot to like about him, very typical male head with cheeky expression and good dark eye, a well-made dog with good front and rear angulation which showed in his movement, presented well.

3rd Mr and Mrs Salt – Toccata Of Harlaston With Wetnoses – lovely young dog just out of puppy, typical male head, kind expression and good ear set, great front, feet and bone with good construction, lacking a little coat today but just needs time to mature then should have a good future.

Yearling Dog (15 entries)

1st Mr R. Douglass – Plainfire's Quintessential Greenbayhill (Imp Che) – quality fit youngster, a good medium sized boy with classical head, great front, bone and strong feet, he was moved and shown well, also very happy with himself.

2nd Mrs B. Reynolds – Wiccanssage Hugo's Dream JW, similar in type to one but with slightly heavier coat, good size, plenty of bone and good feet, moved well and was also a very happy character.

3rd Mr S. McCormick – Steelriver Sun's Up – a lovely youngster, full of quality and type, typical male head, good front, bone and feet with good overall construction, moved and handled well.

Novice Dog (7 entries, 1 abs)

1st Mrs Goldberg & Mrs Keight – Laurvic Talking Italian

2nd Mr & Mrs Dalziel-Scott & Scott – Buckleyhill Finava Destiny For Branchalwood (AI), lovely young dog of good type, classic head and dark eye, good bone and feet, handled well as he was a very fast mover and I think his handler had trouble keeping up with him.

3rd Mr and Mrs Joyce – Stranfaer Get Over It

Graduate Dog (12 entries, 3 abs)

1st Miss S. Pingree – Castlerock Burning Love To Heatheridge JW , excellent type of mature dog, good head and front construction with strong feet and plenty of bone helping him move freely round the ring when settled.

2nd Mr and Mrs Salt – Toccata Of Harlaston With Wetnoses

3rd Mrs K. Evans – Gemswin Relight My Fire JW – mature liver dog with pleasing head, good feet and front, moved and handled well.

Post Graduate Dog (19 entries, 4 abs)

1st Mr R and Mrs M Millbank – Kvicksans Eye Of The Storm Of Larksdown, loved this young dog, he is as the breed standard says racy without weediness, plenty of power in his hind quarters showing in his movement, typical male head with kind expression and nice dark eye, overall a well balanced medium dog, good coat, strong feet and just the right amount of bone, one to watch for the future, shown well, very pleased to award him the **Reserve CC**.

2nd Mrs H. Fox – Black Mica's Likes It Hot At Blacktoft JW (Imp Swe) – another quality dog and the racy without weediness comments apply to him too, good classical head , the right amount of bone with good feet, great construction just unlucky to come up against the winner today. Shown and handled well.

3rd Mr and Mrs B. Jones – Arminizeras Infomania By Benvellyn (Imp Nor), this class really had some good quality dogs in it, a lot to like about this young man too, not quite as racy as 1 and 2 but still a very good example of the breed, typical head, dark eye, kind expression, good bone and tight feet, well-constructed dog, moved well for his handler.

Mid Limit Dog (10 entries, 1 abs)

1st Miss L. Jones – Blacktoft American Smooth At Braemist JW, I have judged this young dog before and was so pleased to be able to do so again, he is a medium size with classical head, good dark eye and superb construction, great front and plenty of bone with very strong feet, powerful hindquarters that were evident when he moved, this young man should have a good future and is one to watch, handled and shown well.

2nd Miss S. Stevenson – Caci's Just A Gigolo At Steelriver (Imp Swe) JW – another quality youngster with plenty to like about him, good head, dark eye with a very kind expression, good overall construction with ample bone, strong feet and just the right amount of bend in his stifle, good coat, moved and shown well.

3rd Mrs V. Davis – Pajanbeck Rumour Has It, I have admired this dog from the ringside and was not disappointed, just feel he needs a bit more time to mature and he will soon be taking the top honours. A racier build than 1 and 2, but well made and soundly constructed, typical head, kind expression with a dark eye and in good coat, not quite as settled as he could be when moving. Should have a good future.

Limit Dog (13 entries, 1 abs)

1st Mr P and Mrs and Miss Horner – Pajanbeck Magic Moments – this dog has often caught my eye from the ringside and I was pleased to be able to judge him, another good example from this kennel. He has a typical male head with great expression and dark eye, his front, ample bone and good feet is all part of his overall construction, the right amount of bend in his stifle helps him move with drive. Presented in good condition, one to watch.

2nd Mrs W. Blain – Rotherfield First Request JW – a very workman like fit dog, slightly heavier in build to the winner but a lot to like about him, typical male head with good front, bone and feet, moved well.

3rd Miss J. Reading – Sastrugi Beautiful Sunrise At Sabarka, a mature slightly racier dog with a typical male head and a very cheeky expression, good dark eye, having the right amount of bone and good feet, good sound overall construction helped him move freely round the ring. Well handled.

Open Dog (10 entries)

1st Mr and Mesdames Mangham – Sh Ch Onyxro Mensa JW, I was spoilt for choice in this class, so many quality dogs – this dog won the class with his lovely typical male head, great expression and dark eyes, great front with plenty of bone and good tight feet, a good example of the breed by being what I call a workman like type, soundly constructed, level topline on the move but just lacked that bit of extra sparkle in the challenge today.

2nd Mrs L. M. Strudwick – Sh Ch Downstream Fair and Square For Burpham JW ShCM – I have judged this dog in the past and done him well, so pleased to see how he has progressed since last judging him and not disappointed today either, he has a good male head, dark eye and a kind expression, fantastic bone and tight feet, great construction, moved and presented well.

3rd Miss D. Warrington – Sh Ch Woodavens Water Archer JW, the naughty dog in the class, full of character! He is slightly heavier than 1 and 2, but there is still a lot to like about him from his typical male head, cheeky expression and dark eyes, sound construction and constant wagging tail. Moved and presented well.

Field Trial Dog (1 entry)

1st Mrs S. Higgs – Feather In The Cap At Higgscroft WTW – unfortunately the only exhibit in this category, but a worthy winner and so pleased there was an entry. He is a medium sized dog with reasonable head, good feet which he needs for working, his overall fitness was noticeable which showed when he moved round the ring, a very happy boy enjoying the day out.

Special Open Liver Dog (9 entries, 1 abs)

How lovely to have such a good entry of Liver dogs.

1st – Mrs G Jacobs and Mrs J. Holmes – Charming Melvin Oasis of Peace (Imp Cz) JW – 5 year old mature male liver dog full of character with a typical head and kind expression, he had a good coat, not often found in a liver. He is very soundly constructed with good bone and strong feet, moved and presented well. Pleased to see him go **Best Liver In Show** with the agreement of my co-judge.

2nd Miss K. Lutner – Beautyfield's Glenury Royal At Telurn (Imp Deu) - a younger dog and slightly racier in outline to 1, but still a lot to like about him, typical head with kind expression and dark coat, but not the amount of coat as 1.

3rd Miss V. Sullivan – Jarvo Jewel Of The Lake, similar comments apply as to the 2nd dog, a smaller type but still deserved his place.

Special Shooting Dog Certificate Dog (8 entries, 3 abs)

1st Mr F. Newton – Jasper I'm No Angel, a 6 year old black dog of medium size, pleasing head and kind expression, good feet with ample bone and soundly constructed, the dog was presented in hard condition and superbly handled by one of our junior handlers.

2nd Mrs L. Mastroianni – Tygwyn Tawny Porthos – 8 year old liver dog, in good hard condition with typical male head and kind expression moved well for his delighted handler.

3rd Mrs J. Hewison – Casblaidd Quaker – a five year old dog of medium size with typical male head and good expression, good front with adequate bone and feet, impressed with fitness of this dog, moved well.

Judge: Sue Goodman

