

**CRUFTS**  
**11<sup>th</sup> March 2017**  
**Flatcoated Retriever Dogs**  
**JUDGE'S REPORT**

VICTORIA GOLDBERG (JUDGE)

It is a huge honour and a privilege to be invited to judge dogs at Crufts. I would like to thank the Crufts Show Committee for all their hard work in ensuring that this enormous and prestigious show runs smoothly and efficiently.

I would also like to thank my brilliant stewards Sharon and George Rose – who kept my ring flowing and all my paperwork in order.

Most importantly, I'd like to extend a massive thank you to all exhibitors for such a fantastic entry and for accepting my judgement with such good sportsmanship.

I have been concerned lately to note that some judges have reported poor quality in their flatcoat entry and moreover that their critiques have been very negative about the breed in general and about individual dogs. No dog is perfect that is why we are constantly striving to improve the quality of our dogs through our breeding programmes. I personally do not feel that there is any need to make negative comments about individual dogs instead we should highlight the areas where that individual excels. I would advise all up and coming judges to heed these wise words from the Kennel Club (2011):

“Since all dogs have faults and some dogs have good points it is essential that the audience has a picture of what can be attained in the Breed. It is in this way that it is easier to pick out positive values for the dogs and not slip into the habit of ‘fault’ judging the breed”

The only general comment I would make is that as breeders we need to ‘watch our behinds’. The breed standard calls for the hind quarters to be *“Muscular. Moderate bend of stifle and hock, latter well let down. Should stand true all round. Cow hocks highly undesirable.”* – I found that some dogs were either over angulated or straight in stifle which adversely affected their movement.

Crufts is a celebration of all the dogs that have qualified for this prestigious event – with many dogs travelling from overseas. I was delighted with my entry especially as the overall quality was excellent. Many dogs went cardless due to the high calibre of competition. I was looking for that bright, fit and active dog that demonstrates the correct balance between power and raciness. A dog full of confidence and cheerful friendliness that typifies a flatcoat - with a long, clean, well moulded head of one piece, and almond shaped eyes giving that twinkling expression with the required hint of naughtiness. A dog that closely as possible reflects the breed standard and is fit for function.

My Co-judge and I agreed on both joint placings.

### VETERAN DOG: 20 (2 abs)

A very strong class some super dogs in this class – all a credit to their owners/breeders.

**1<sup>st</sup>** - MISS L BROMS - SE U (U)CH ALMANZA TOUGH ENOUGH

What a super dog. He is full of quality and type. He has a lovely male head with soft expression. A very balanced and correctly constructed dog – which was evidenced by his easy free flowing action on the move. I considered him for top honours.

**2<sup>nd</sup>** – MRS K ANDERSON - SH CH BALLYRIVER BLAKE

I have always loved this boy. He is very soundly constructed and was in great condition. He is slightly stronger in head than (1) but still has that soft and naughty expression. He moved well with super rear drive.

**3<sup>rd</sup>** - MRS D COACKLEY - GWENADILLO WILD KNIGHT JW

This boy is looking great. He is very soundly constructed all through. He has a strong masculine but pleasing head. Moving out well like a youngster.

**Reserve** - MRS C M TAITE - GAYPLUME BOWLED OVER SHCM

**VHC** – MS H FOX – SH CH STEELRIVER BLAZIN HOT AT BLACKTOFT JW

### MINOR PUPPY DOG: 2 (0 abs)

**1<sup>st</sup>** - MRS K ARMSTRONG - BITCON VALEGRO

A super puppy with bags of scope. At only 8 months he is still quite raw but has all the right attributes. Lovely male head with melting expression. Super front construction, good quality bone, tight feet, super topline and strong, correctly angulated rear quarters. Presents a racey outline. Demonstrated good reach and driving action on the move. Pleased to award him **Best Puppy in Breed** with my co-judge.

**2<sup>nd</sup>** - MISS A C KIDDELL - HAMELDOWNTOR MIDNIGHT MASQUERADE

Another super puppy – slightly heavier all through than (1). Very well balanced with good bone. Has good front assembly and strong rear quarters. He has a good male head with lovely soft expression. He was very, very naughty in this class - full of flatcoat mischief so assessing his movement was very difficult.

### PUPPY DOG: 11(0 abs)

**1<sup>st</sup>** - MISS A C KIDDELL - HAMELDOWNTOR MIDNIGHT MASQUERADE

**2<sup>nd</sup>** in the minor puppy class - This puppy had settled down and moved well with good driving action which together with his attributes won him this class.

**2<sup>nd</sup>** - MRS P BELLAMY - BOCHILBARLEY BLUE MOON AI

A smaller puppy than (1) but none the less very well constructed all through. Presented and shown very well. Dog and handler as one. Lovely male head with gentle expression. He moved very soundly.

**3<sup>rd</sup>** - MR D E J & MRS M A SALT - TOCCATA OF HARLASTON WITH WETNOSES

Another really nice puppy. He has lots of scope. He has a super male head and lovely dark eye. Overall well constructed but at the age where he is not quite as well balanced as (1 & 2) – this will change as he matures. Moved soundly.

**Reserve** - MRS L DOEVE - VELVET HUNTERS MOONLIGHT SERENADE

**VHC** – MISS A RATTRAY – ROTHERFIELD MAIN REASON

### **JUNIOR DOG: 28 (4 abs)**

**A difficult class to judge 24 dogs all at different stages of development. 3 really promising youngsters headed this class.**

**1<sup>st</sup>** - MR F & MRS M BUCHGRABER & WOLFSGRUBER - GILLIAN'S CHOICE HEAD OVER HEELS

I loved this very well balanced and soundly constructed young dog – he has just the right height to length ratio and the correct bone and substance whilst still demonstrating a racey outline. He moved very well.

**2<sup>nd</sup>** - MRS B REYNOLDS - WICCANSAGE HUGO'S DREAM JW SGWC

The same comments apply – another lovely well balanced and soundly constructed young dog – he also has just the right height to length ratio and the correct bone and substance whilst demonstrating a racey outline. Dog (1) just held a better topline standing and on the move today.

**3<sup>rd</sup>** - MR J M & MRS K N ROSS - GO WITH THE FLOW EBONY IN HARMONY AT QLOCONTRAIL (IMP NL)

Another dog who is very similar in type - well balanced and soundly constructed. He has a good male head but I just preferred the head and eye of (1 & 2) today. He was shown in super coat and great condition. Moved soundly.

**Reserve** - MR D & MRS S E SAVORY - HOPEVALLEY MORNING ARIZONA

**VHC** – MRS A KILMINSTER – DOUGHALL UIT DE ZWARTE POLDER OF WITBYBED

### **YEARLING DOG: 23 (1 abs)**

**Another super class where I was spoilt for choice.**

**1<sup>st</sup>** - MISS C, MISS C & MR M OSTMAN, LUNDQVIST & PERSSON - CACIS WE ARE THE HEROES

What a splendid young dog – he has a lovely male head and gentle expression. He is so well balanced with super construction all through. Presenting a very typey profile. He moved so well straight and true with good reach and drive.

**2<sup>nd</sup>** - MR F & MRS M BUCHGRABER & WOLFSGRUBER - GILLIAN'S CHOICE HEAD OVER HEELS  
Winner of the previous class and unlucky to meet (1) in this class - he was pipped to the post on maturity and finish.

**3<sup>rd</sup>** - MRS H KARLSSON - ALMANZA BACKSTAGE ENTERTAINMENT NO  
A lovely liver dog. Super rich dark coat of good quality. He has a lovely male head and the gentlest of expressions. He is very similarly constructed to (1 & 2) with good balance. Not quite the finish of (1 & 2) today.

**Reserve** - MRS B REYNOLDS - WICCANSAGE HUGO'S DREAM JW SGWC  
2<sup>nd</sup> in previous class.

**VHC** – MRS E FAUNCH – CLANDRIFT SCOUT FOR STARS AT MORRIELAND

### **UNDER GRADUATE DOG: 12 (0 abs)**

**1<sup>st</sup>** - MR F W J & MRS L D COOVES - DRAKETOR SEA SHANTY  
This boy has the most beautiful male head and darkest eye with twinkling naughty expression. He is very well constructed fore and aft hence he could move out well with good reach and drive. He is still a young dog but one to watch as he matures.

**2<sup>nd</sup>** - MRS K EVANS - GEMSWIN RELIGHT MY FIRE JW  
What a lovely honest liver dog. Slightly bigger all through than (1) but none the less very well constructed with good front and rear angulation. Good male head with dark eye and soft expression. Moved soundly.

**3<sup>rd</sup>** - MISS SEF WHITTAKER - BRAMATHA BROWNIE  
This boy is more workmanlike than (1 & 2) and not in his best jacket today. He has a good male head and dark eye. He has good bone and is well balanced. Shown very competently by his young handler – moved well.

**Reserve** - MISS H S WALKER - LIZZLOG CHICAGO OUTFIT

**VHC** – MR R & MRS C MALZ – BLACK MICA'S UNLIMITED

### **GRADUATE DOG: 13 (1 abs)**

**1<sup>st</sup>** - MRS V ARDINO - DAKOTASPIRIT INTO THE WILD  
This dog has really started to come into his own. He presents a very typey profile. He has a lovely well moulded male head with lovely dark eye and soft expression. He has super front angulation and a strong rear end. He moved out well demonstrating good reach and drive.

**2<sup>nd</sup>** - MS C & MR N LILLY & REYNARD - RAINESGIFT TIME TO PRETEND

A very honest flatcoat – he is full of breed type with a lovely male head and the softest of expressions. He is soundly constructed with adequate bone and substance. A dog that still has some maturing to do. Moved soundly.

**3<sup>rd</sup>** - MS H TOMLINSON - MONTEGRINO TOM THUMB FOR RAINESGIFT

Very similar dog to (2) but much flashier. Whilst this boy has a good male head I preferred the softer expression of (2). He is well made with good angulation thus presenting a lovely profile. He moved effortlessly and soundly. Not in his best coat today.

**Reserve** - MRS A HARRIS - HIGHLANDER Z MOKRE HORY AT SIANCALA (IMP CZE)

**VHC** – A & CJ DURRANT – GLENTURRET CUTTING CREW

### **POST GRADUATE DOG: 16 (0 abs)**

**3 young dogs just coming into their own headed this class – I expect that all 3 of them will challenge the best when they reach maturity.**

**1<sup>st</sup>** - MR R A & MRS M MILLBANK - KVICKSANS EYE OF THE STORM OF LARKSDOWN

This dog is still a relative youngster and therefore still has some maturing to do. I have always liked him from the ringside and have seen him really beginning to mature in the past 6 months. The most lovely male head and melting expression. Soundly constructed all through and well balanced. Moved well and soundly in the class though not with exuberance, however he came alive in the challenge (in response to the clapping and cheering). I will watch his development with interest. I'm sure he has a very promising future.

**2<sup>nd</sup>** - MS H FOX - BLACK MICA'S LIKES IT HOT AT BLACKTOFT JW

At just 6 months old I gave this boy best puppy dog he was then and remains a very happy and outgoing boy. He has a beautiful male head with the darkest and kindest eye. Full of type - overall very well balanced with good bone. Very well constructed and able to demonstrate this by moving soundly with drive. Another that I will watch with interest as he matures.

**3<sup>rd</sup>** – MRS V ARDINO - DAKOTASPIRIT INTO THE WILD

**1<sup>st</sup>** in graduate class - This dog has really started to come into his own. He presents a very typey profile. He has a lovely well moulded male head with lovely dark eye and soft expression. He has super front angulation and a strong rear end. He moved out well demonstrating good reach and drive.

**Reserve** - MISS H BRIGHT - POLGARA A NEW DAY AT MIDNIGHT

**VHC** – MR R & MRS S ROSS – ISLSTROM ORRIN

### **MID LIMIT DOG: 16 (0 abs)**

**1<sup>st</sup>** - MR H NIELSEN - STARWORKERS XACTLY MY KIND OF GUY

I loved this young dog. He is so full of type with bags of exuberance. In great coat and condition. He has a super male head and dark eye with kind expression. He has a superb

front, super topline and strong correct rear quarters – he moved out with real drive. I considered him for top honours today – he just missed out on maturity to the open dogs.

**2<sup>nd</sup>** - MS E J & DR L WALKER & ROBERTS - GLOI DUBH FINGAL JW SHCM

This dog I have admired from the ringside. He has a lovely male head and soft expression. He has a super front matched by his strong rear quarters – he moved out with fantastic reach and drive. Not in his best coat today so did not present the complete picture.

**3<sup>rd</sup>** - MISS L S JONES - BLACKTOFT AMERICAN SMOOTH AT BRAEMIST JW

What a lovely happy boy – a size smaller all through than (1 & 2). So well constructed with fabulous male head, good reach of neck into a very soundly constructed front, level topline and strong sound rear quarters. Boy can this dog move he flew round the ring. Not in his best jacket today.

**Reserve** - MISS G SMITHERMAN - COVELLYN'S ARCTIC LOON OF SEAHEART JW (IMP CH)

**VHC** – MS S STEVENSON – CACI'S JUST A GIGOLO AT STEELRIVER (IMP SWE) JW

### **LIMIT DOG: 19 (0 abs)**

**1<sup>st</sup>** - MR A & MRS A LAIRD - SEAHEART ARCHIBALD OF DAICHEIL

A super dog of medium size, looking the best I have ever seen him, in hard, fit condition - clearly fit for function he was shown and presented very well. A lovely male head and correct eye shape with that gentle expression. Overall very well constructed with super balance. Moved soundly and effortlessly.

**2<sup>nd</sup>** - MRS C A PRICE - WHIZZBANG'S WE WILL ROCK YOU AT LLANTRUSSA (IMP)

I have always really liked this dog from the ringside. Lovely well moulded head with good length. Lovely dark eye and expression. Good reach of neck and length of upper arm. Super topline and tailset. Well angulated rear. Moved very well. Not in his best coat today.

**3<sup>rd</sup>** - MRS J VASSBOTN - MOONSTRUCK BLACK FRIDAY

A very workmanlike dog. He has a strong male head and super dark eye. A size bigger than (1 & 2) but nonetheless very balanced throughout. Did not move with the precision or drive of the winners of this class today.

**Reserve** - MR, MRS M & MISS N HORNER - PAJANBECK MAGIC MOMENTS

**VHC** – MRS L SCARPA – DELPHINIUMS VOULEZ VOUS

### **OPEN DOG: 23 (2 abs)**

**1<sup>st</sup>** - MISS I WIESENER - CIE/NUCH/SEUCH/HRCH/ESTCH ALTAFLATS AIN'T I'M A DOG

And - Ain't he a fabulous dog – this outstanding dog took my eye straight away. He presents a fabulous profile both standing and on the move. He has a super male head with the darkest of eyes and kind expression – yet with a hint of naughtiness. He is in tip top condition -

presented and shown to perfection. He might be top size but he is brimful of type and so very well constructed all through. There is no doubt that he is a powerful dog, whilst still demonstrating the raciness our breed standard calls for. He has excellent rear quarters which allowed him to move with real drive. He covered the ground effortlessly and never stopped showing. **I was delighted to award him the CC and with my co-judge BOB.**

He represented the breed admirably in the group - It was a very proud moment to see him awarded **Group 2** (beaten only by the eventual BIS winner).

**2<sup>nd</sup>** - MISS R ULIN - SWED/NORW CH ALMANZA BURBERRY GOODIEBAG

Another fabulous dog – smaller than (1) but of a very similar stamp - full of breed type and very soundly constructed. Not in the full bloom of (1) today. He has a super male head with a kind dark eye and soft expression. Another dog using his excellent construction to advantage by flowing round the ring with the greatest of ease. **Pleased to award him the RCC.**

**3<sup>rd</sup>** - MRS K ARMSTRONG - SH CH ALMANZA FINAL IMPACT (IMP SWE)

I gave this striking youngster the RCC from junior in 2014 – today this super dog held his own amongst the more mature dogs placed (1 & 2). He is really coming into his own now. He has a lovely male head, kind eye and gentle expression. He has correct front and rear construction which is evidenced as he moves with drive and enthusiasm covering the ground with ease.

**Reserve** - MRS S M & MS C HENESEY & OSTMAN – SEU (U)CH/NOUCH CACI'S HIT THE ROAD JACK WITH WRENSMEAD JW

**VHC** – MS D WARRINGTON – SH CH WOODAVENS WATER ARCHER JW

#### **FIELD TRIAL DOG: 1 (0 abs)**

**1<sup>st</sup>** - MRS F H HIGGS - FEATHER IN MY CAP AT HIGGSCROFT WTW

Stood alone but thoroughly deserved his award. A real workmanlike dog – he has a good male head and soft expression. A well balanced dog in fit, hard condition. A good dense coat for the required protection when working. Moved soundly.

#### **SPECIAL WORKING GUNDOG DOG: 16 (2 abs)**

**1<sup>st</sup>** - S AXMANOVA - CIE/CIB/MULTI CH EXOTIC NIGHT Z MOKRE HORY

A very stylish dog – lovely male head. Presenting a classical profile. He is well constructed and in super coat and condition. He just missed out on the cards in a very strong open class. Moved very soundly.

**2<sup>nd</sup>** - MRS & MRS CAIN & RICHE - FR/IB/CIE CH CACI'S CARD TO WIN

Very similar in type to (1) – classical male head and dark eye with soft expression. Soundly constructed and moved out well. Not in the best of coats today.

**3<sup>rd</sup>** - MRS G & MRS J JACOBS & HOLMES - CHARMING MELVIN OASIS OF PEACE (IMP CZ) JW

A super liver dog that I have often admired from the ringside. He has a strong male head and super dark eye. A size bigger than (1 & 2) but nonetheless very balanced throughout.

**Reserve** - MISS P ERRERA - CIB/CIE/IT/FR/A/H/HR/SLO CH SHINY COAT VIVALDI 4 SEASON

**VHC** – MRS B & MISS K LAUZER – INT/PL/RO/ROGRANDCH/UA CH WILDEST SAM THE FIREFIGHTER Z BASISFORY

**GOOD CITIZEN DOG SCHEME DOG: 11 (0 abs)**

**1<sup>st</sup>** - MR D E J & MRS M A SALT - TOCCATA OF HARLASTON WITH WETNOSES

3<sup>rd</sup> in puppy class – this lovely youngster won this class for his super breed type and classical head.

**2<sup>nd</sup>** - MRS E FAUNCH - CLANDRIFT SCOUT FOR STARS AT MORRIELAND

This boy was VHC in a very strong yearling class. A soundly constructed boy beginning to mature nicely.

**3<sup>rd</sup>** - MRS C M TAITE - GAYPLUME BOWLED OVER SHCM

This gentle boy was 4<sup>th</sup> in the very strong veteran class. An honest workmanlike dog. Soundly constructed and moving well clearly enjoying his day out.

**Reserve** - MR E W, MRS P J & MISS N E COLSON - WINDYHOLLOWS BRERE BEAR

**VHC** – MRS M HAMMERSLEY – LEVELMOOR DR DEVIOUS FOR NELLSPACE

This dog is getting on for 11 years old – what a fantastic ambassador for our breed and a credit to his owner and breeder.

Judge: *Victoria Goldberg*