

Flatcoated Retriever Society

Virtual Show 16. 08 .2020

BITCH CRITIQUE

Val Jones (Braemist)

I have been judging now for approximately 40 years and the Virtual Show was certainly new to me and challenging and possibly the most difficult appointment I have judged. This was due to a number of reasons including having to keep refreshing the videos and going back to check that I had the placings correct. And not able to move the dogs again to see if they would improve on another go round! It has definitely given me food for thought in a positive way. I thoroughly enjoyed watching all the videos. Thank you all for your entries. I was impressed with the high quality throughout and in many cases I was splitting hairs for the placings. I was looking for type, alongside correct conformation and for me, good movement, especially hind movement. Size could not be determined in the videos, nor could feet in many cases, and condition was sometimes difficult to ascertain. I hope you all had an enjoyable day watching the videos and not too disappointed if your bitch was unplaced. Another day, a different video and places could well change.

My thanks must go not only to the exhibitors for their awesome videos, but to the Flatcoated Retriever Society and the 2 organisers, Louise Jones and Victoria Goldberg for all their hard work put in to enable the day to go ahead as smoothly as possible. I awarded **BVIS** to the dog Caci's Dark Chocolate of Love 8 plus years' young. Really fell for this boy put through by my co judge Bob Allen, very handsome, with his classical male head and darkest of eyes, construction was excellent, and he is well boned, level topline with his tail coming straight off his back. Moving well.

Veteran Bitch (5) Lovely class, all so happy – very little separated them. 1st. **BVB Richards' Luss Kiss** in the dark. 9 Plus years. Beautiful head and dark eye, excellent dentition for age with sparkling teeth. Pronounced brisket, moderate hind angulation, moving sound with correct tail action and carriage. 2nd Trevelyan and Hean's NZ Ch Trevalley Sun Is Shining At Arangold. Will be 8 years next month, and another with dark eyes and correct dentition with super clean teeth. Very happy standing and on the move with her enthusiastic tail action, possibly a tad narrow through her chest, but overall a quality bitch of correct type and balance. 3rd Milton's Madealea Magic Tricks. 7 plus years and again typical in head and eye, she has a lovely outline and moving out well but not quite the hind movement of the 2 above.

Sp.Veteran Bitch (9) Spoilt for choice in this class and I was torn between all those placed, especially the first 5 – they are all, without exception, a credit to their owners'. I was nit-picking when it came to placements and ages ranged from 10 up to 13 years 7 months. All showing that Flatcoats can and do last well into double figures. 1st. Colson's Eskwinds Driving Miss Daisy To Windyhollows. 10 years 8 months - she has always been one of my favourites, with her classical head, dark eye and pronounced brisket. Perhaps carrying a tad too much weight, moving sound, and still full of enthusiasm for life, as were all in this class.

2nd Saunders and Hurly's Blazingstar Puffin RN 10 years 7 months. In super coat and condition for her age, another with sparkling dentition. Well constructed and moving out with verve, just preferred 1's tail carriage on the move, 3rd Oxford's Taranbeck Sorrel Timeless 11 years 9 months, liver bitch. Another good one holding her years lightly and looking half her age. Again super head and eye and sparkling dentition. Correct construction Moving very well.

Minor Puppy Bitch (4) 1 & 2 are looking very promising for the future. If we ever get back to normal show days I will watch their progress with interest. 1st Grayson's Blakanis Shine On Through 8 months This bitch has a lovely outline, balanced for her age, and moderate hind angulation, profile movement very good. Just needs a little more animation when stood, so don't "over train" her, as this will come as she matures and begins to look forward to "show days". 2nd Hollands' Flatcharm Bianco Del Rio 8 months. Elegant bitch, at this stage more on the leg than 1, classical head and eye, good reach of neck, loved her tail set and carriage and her attitude. 3rd. Bellamy's Bochilbarley Pumpkin Spice With Moontorn 9 month dark liver bitch. When stood her outline was very good, with super tail action, ever wagging, super head and eye matching the colour of her coat. When moving away not quite as good as 1 and 2 at this stage in her development, but will improve as she matures.

Puppy Bitch (4) 1st Best Bitch Puppy and **BPIS** Varty-Lindsay's Levliann Party Wrecker. 8 months, and mature for age, well coated and well grown. Lovely head with dark expressive eyes. Construction is good, excellent bone, and on the move she was accurate holding her topline and tail carriage correct. 2nd Moxey's Lussac Xpress Yourself At Dymexe 9 months. Another out of the top drawer. Again torn between the one above and this beautiful bitch. Classical head with dark eyes, great outline, not moving quite so steady coming and going as the one above. 3rd Knight & Jacobs' Gemswin Dressed for Success 11 months. And another quality puppy. Tremendous enthusiasm for life, excellent bone of quality, superb body and construction, she is also well coated for her age. Great profile movement.

Junior Bitch (8) This was a strongly contested class 1st & **RBB** Huyton's Hightyne Ramblin Rose rising 18 months. Love her outline and balance, being slightly longer than her height, moderation throughout, with beautifully constructed hindquarters, which she used well on the move, especially in profile, with correct tail carriage. Best of heads, dark eyes and mischievous expression. 2nd Barnett's Steelriver Echo Beach At Annbecks. Really liked this bitch with her pretty well moulded head and dark eye, so well put together, gleaming coat, moving well coming and going and in profile, very close up to 1. 3rd Richards' Hopevalley Morning River Through Kimberfield And another of top quality, with many good attributes from her head to the tip of her tail. Very little between these 3 and they will, no doubt, change places in the future.

Sp. Yearling Bitch (2) Gilchrist & Smitherman's Wistaston Lucky Choice Of Ardmhor JW. 20 months of age. Flashy and elegant, long, well moulded head, dark eye, well constructed with pronounced brisket, moderate hind angulation. So close up for RBB with her ever wagging tail. In the video just preferred profile movement of the Junior bitch, but very little between them. 2nd Bauschmann's Fuzzy Flatmate Clotilda. 21 months of age, presented in gleaming coat and good condition. Sound movement.

Graduate Bitch (11) Class well filled with quality bitches 1st. Thomson's Caci's The Dream Catcher For Badcall. Top quality, in good coat and condition, lovely head and eye, front well constructed, good bone, short, ever wagging tail, moving well. Could easily take the spot spot on another day. 2nd Huyton's Go With The Flow Dreams Can Be Joyful By Hightyne. Very pretty and looked to be full of Flatcoat mischief, in gleaming coat and well presented to show herself to advantage, Moving well, steady and fluently. 3rd Osborne-Brown's Perrymel Magnolia. This bitch made me smile with her outgoing attitude, full of fun, great head well filled, good eye colour. Construction as it should be and moved well with a strong tail action.

Limit Bitch (11) 1st **BB & BIS** Romeo-Dieste's Hopevalley Morning Rainbow JW. Took my breath away. Long head, well filled, flat cheeks, dark almond expressive eyes, set slightly into the side of her head. Standing four square, correct width between her front legs, and back legs, which was reflected in her strong movement, coming towards and going away. Hindquarters well turned, moderate bend of stile and short from hock to ground. Great outline with the desired height to length ratio. Holding her topline on the move from her powerful hindquarters, covering plenty of ground with the minimum effort. In full coat and good condition. Congratulations on a well deserved win in exceptionally strong competition 2nd Richard's Hameldowntor Moon River In Manhatton. Lovely outline, good head but would prefer a slightly darker eye, stood and moved out well, retaining her level topline and carrying her tail correctly. Very nice all through. 3rd Thomson's Badcall Petronella This bitch made up a trio of quality bitches. Very good all through, well made with a pronounced brisket, ever wagging tail, in good coat and condition, not quite so true as the two above her when moving away.

Open Bitch (5) 1st Knight & Jacob's Moonstruck Macadamia This bitch with her lovely head, dark eye really came into her own on the move, I was torn between her and Quickstep, but in the end her powerful, strong movement clinched the first place and I could not deny her. Great tail action, ever wagging . 2nd Hedges Blacktoft Quickstep Of Satinbaze. Loved this one, again classical head and eye, and so well constructed, reminded me of my first Flatcoat I ever owned, Shargleam Black Orchid. Two first places would have been ideal here, but a decision had to be made. I swapped them round twice, then went back and looked at the video's again! 3rd Wilkie's Aus Ch Sherepoint Obsidian and yet another one of quality and would grace any Ch show here in the UK. Stood and moving well with great drive, but not quite so steady going away as those above her, but still presented a very nice picture.

Working Bitch (5) Another strongly contested class. 1st Hewison's Donascimento Danilo From Casblaid. SDC. KCWGC. SGWC Would look good in any class on the show scene. Good head, being well filled, great line through neck and shoulders, with front legs well under her body. Movement was strong and accurate as I would expect in this class, presented in good coat and condition. 2nd Saunder & Hurly's Can GrCh Blazingstar Black Bubbly CD WCI RE Am WC Could change places with 1 on another day. Very similar in outline with the same good conformation, good coat and moving well coming towards and going away. One to be proud of. 3rd. Kirsten & Eichler's DJCH VDHJCH DJCH VDHJCH NLJCH

DCH Pride Of Greenyard A Unique Sunshine Racy bitch, head with length and being well filled, stood and showing herself well. Not quite the front construction of the first two, but nevertheless a bitch showing quality.

Val Jones (Judge) 17.8.20