

Crufts 2024

Friday 8th March 2024

Flatcoated Retrievers: Bitches

Judge: Miss Louise Jones

It is truly an honour to judge Crufts and well done to all those who came and allowed me to assess their dogs. I had the best day and was often spoilt for choice; obviously the type starts at the head and without this you haven't got a flatcoat and whilst this is important, I also wanted the correct size, balance and movement. (I wanted it all!) but I did notice some untypical heads creeping in along with wider front movement. Ideally the front legs should be tight to the chest and should come through cleanly and in parallel.

A huge thank you to my two stewards on the day and to all the competitors and spectators, the atmosphere was very relaxed and of course let's not forget what an amazing breed they are having the very best of temperaments.

Veteran (22,3abs)

Such a lovely class of top-quality bitches

1st & BV Go with The Flow Dynamic Faithful (Imp Ned) (J & V Egginton & Davis)

Of classical type with a beautiful flowing outline which she held on the move. A quality bitch throughout having a one piece long well moulded head, the darkest of eyes and correct eye shape and expression. Well laid back shoulders, adequate upper arm, correct length and depth through the ribcage, the correct height to length ratio, correct topline and tailset, moving sound and true with a good reach of stride.

2nd Ch/swe Ch Kvicksans Can't Take My Eyes Off You (Imp Swe) (Miss K L Holland)

Another classical type of bitch with a long well moulded head, being well filled in with a good dark eye. In excellent coat and condition, moving well from good well angulated hindquarters, adequate shoulder and good reach of neck but would prefer a little more return of upper arm. Correct size and balance, lovely topline and tailset.

3rd Ch Moonstruck Macadamia Sgwc (Mrs S, Mrs G & Mr M Knight & Jacobs)

Correct sized bitch, moving soundly both fore and aft on a long reaching stride, with the head placement on a level with the back when moving in profile. Good layback of shoulder and depth of chest, good upper arm to give her a defined brisket. Good length through the ribcage and lovely flowing lines. Head of good length with a kind dark eye just preferring the classical moulding of 1 & 2.

Minor Puppy (1)

1st and BPB Hightyne Guns and Roses (Mr P R & Mrs C E & Miss L C Huyton)

Although standing alone this is a quality puppy moving very sound and true for one so young, in excellent coat and condition. Good bone and feet, feminine head, having enough infill with good

dark eyes, good layback of shoulder and adequate upper arm, good length through the ribcage and strong hindquarters.

Puppy (9)

1st Bochilbarley My Girl (Mrs P Bellamy)

Quality bitch puppy, a little pocket rocket, moving with reach and drive, in no way overdone, very sweet head and dark, kind eyes, well laid back shoulder, adequate upper arm, enough bone for size, well angulated hindquarters, correct tailset. Very active and on the go.

2nd Levliann She Bangs (Mrs L Varty-Lindsay)

Quality puppy slightly larger than 1, excellent bone and feet, good long head, well filled in, dark eyes but a little deep set. Well balanced throughout, good layback of shoulder, good level topline, moving soundly but a little wide in front.

3rd - Kimberfield in Love Again (Mrs R Richards)

Nice sized puppy with excellent bone and feet, in lovely coat and condition, good length through the body. Pretty head, with good dark eyes, good strong hindquarters moving soundly with drive. At this stage of her development just preferring the balance of 1 & 2.

Junior (29, abs 5)

1st Benvellyn Sequoia (Mr & Mrs B Jones)

For me this young bitch oozes type, combined with overall good construction and soundness, of the correct size and balance. Classical, long one-piece head with the darkest of eyes and a naughty expression. Super front and good upper arm giving a defined brisket, excellent bone and feet, well ribbed in excellent coat and condition, well angulated hindquarters, level topline, moving sound and true from good rear driving movement.

2nd Starworkers I'm Not Just A Pretty Face (Ms H Nielsen)

Slightly larger than 1 but she is a quality racy bitch with a beautiful long well filled in head, good dark eye, excellent bone but perhaps not the best feet. Good layback of shoulder, good reach of neck, not quite the upper arm and brisket of 1. Good topline and tailset, moving well on a long easy stride.

3rd Tallistar Midnight Beauty (Miss E Curtis)

Quality medium sized bitch with an outgoing temperament, strong topline and tailset, well angulated hindquarters, good bone and feet, good layback of shoulder and nice reach of neck, head of good length with a dark eye but would prefer the eye to be a little tighter. Excellent topline and tailset, moving soundly but needs to settle as she was rather excited.

Yearling (32,abs 7)

1st Glamour Shine Addicted to You (Miss M & Miss A Racic & Weber)

Racy liver bitch, excellent bone and feet, classical long head, being well filled in between in the eyes, correct almond shaped eye and kind expression. Correct height to length ratio through the body, good long ribcage, excellent topline and tailset, good strong hindquarters. Particularly excelled as she moved on a long free stride, lovely clean lines and not in any way exaggerated.

2nd Stranfaer One Fell Swoop (Mr D & Mrs K Joyce)

Another quality bitch in excellent coat and condition, very sound footfall both fore and aft, excellent bone and feet, good depth of brisket, good layback of shoulder, good topline and strong well angulated hindquarters. Feminine head with a good dark eye, unlucky to meet no 1 today as this was a very close decision.

3rd Wagging Tails The Bellfry Njk23 Belg Jk23 Ger Jw23 Bssjs23 Cw (Mrs S. Rathenau)

Very balanced young bitch, not the full coats of 1 & 2 but everything is in the right place, good topline and tailset, nice racy lines, long well moulded feminine head, kind dark eye and pretty expression, enough bone for size, moving sound and true.

Undergraduate (21, abs 5)

1st Ti Amo Pretty Lady Du Domaine De Maliba (Mrs Catesson)

Lovely quality typical bitch of the correct size and balance. Super bone and feet. Classical head, long well filled in with the correct moulding, correct eye shape, kind dark eyes. Good front assembly with a defined brisket, good deep body, well angulated hindquarters. When settle moved with reach and drive. Well handled by her very young handler.

2nd Wyrebeck Live Forever (Miss V M Sullivan)

Beautifully balanced bitch in excellent coat and condition, super bone and feet, good layback of shoulder and adequate upper arm, good deep body, good tailset, good strong hindquarters, moving sound and true. Head of good length with a feminine expression and dark eye, just preferring the classical type of 1.

3rd - Blacklake Nerisa (Ms V Knight)

Smaller type of bitch but well proportioned throughout, excellent bone and feet, good strong hindquarters, correct height to length ratio through the body, good short loin, pretty feminine head but would prefer a slightly darker eye, moving sound and true.

Graduate (18,2 abs)

1st Windyhollows English Holly at Llantrussa (Mrs Ca & Mrs L Price & Nicholls)

Quality feminine bitch of classical type. Super bone and feet, when settled she had an accurate footfall both fore and aft. Lovely flowing lines in no way exaggerated. Long well filled in feminine head with the correct almond shaped eye and colour. Good length of neck and depth through the ribcage, excellent topline and tailset, well angulated muscled strong hindquarters which she used to advantage on the move.

2nd Flatcharm Guilty Pleasure (Miss G Mellor)

Lovely type of bitch put down in excellent coat and condition, good depth and length through the ribcage, excellent layback of shoulders and good upper arm, excellent topline and tailset. Good long head and a kind dark eye, just preferring the femininity of 1, moving soundly just a little untidy in front.

3rd Telurn for Your Eyes Only (Miss K & Mr Y Lutner & Jacholnik)

A moderate bitch throughout who had a certain verve and drive when moving in profile, in excellent coat and condition, good head with a kind dark eye, good height to length ratio through the body, well angulated hindquarters which enabled her to have the drive, tailset a little low but overall a lovely bitch to go over.

Post Graduate (19, abs 1)

A lovely trio of bitches who were hard to separate and, on another day, could easily swap places.

1ST Lussac Xpress Yourself at Dymexe (ai) (Mr M R & Mrs D P Moxey)

Beautiful classical type of bitch of the correct size, proportions and balance, feminine head of good length, well filled in, beautifully moulded, correct almond shaped eye and naughty expression. Good layback of shoulder and good return of upper arm giving a defined brisket, front feet stand well underneath her. When standing just tends to stand with her hocks slightly turned in, however on the move, she moved parallel both fore and aft with reach and drive. Certainly, caught my eye at the end and was in the final cut for the challenge.

2nd Finhamspride Clio (Mrs Sara & Ms Emc Thurgood & Holmes)

Another one out of the top draw, in no way exaggerated and you can really see her at her best on the move. Excellent bone and feet, good reach of neck into well laid back shoulders and good upper arm. This enabled her to have that great driving rear movement and correct footfall. Feminine head, good length through the muzzle and a kind dark eye, just preferring the finish of 1 on the day.

3rd Woodavens Frozen Flame (Miss D Warrington)

Another with super front construction, great layback of shoulder, good return of upper arm, defined brisket, having width and depth through the chest. Strong Hindquarters which she used to advantage on the move, moving with verve and drive. Head of good length with the correct almond shaped eye and kind expression, loved her overall quality and construction.

Mid Limit (24, abs 3)

Quality class and many of these are on the cusp of greater things as they continue to mature.

1st Moontorn Better Half of Me JW (Miss A Bellamy)

Niced sized well balanced bitch throughout, in super coat and condition. Good bone and feet, good reach of neck into well laid back shoulders and adequate upper arm, good depth and length of ribcage and elbows tight to the chest. Feminine head of good length, well filled in with the correct eye colour and kind expression. Moving soundly with drive holding her topline and tailset and the correct footfall both fore and aft. Certainly one to watch for the future and was seriously considered in the challenge

2nd Blacktoft Caress of Steelriver JW (Miss S Stevenson)

Classical type of bitch, good bone for size, excels with her good strong well angulated hindquarters which she really uses to advantage on the move. Good overall balance and shape, good layback of shoulders, good length through ribcage and good short loin. Strong topline and tailset. Pretty feminine head, the darkest of eyes and a very naughty expression. Moving with verve and drive just preferring the more correct front movement of the winner.

3rd Pajanbeck Georgy Girl (Mr P, Mrs J & Miss S & Mrs V Egginton & Davis)

Another classical bitch with a lovely flowing line from head to tail. Adequate bone for size going down to good feet. Feminine head, long and well filled in with the correct eye and expression, good forequarter construction, with a deep chest and good reach of neck into a good shoulders, correct height to length ratio through the ribcage. Moving sound and true.

Limit (16. Abs 4)

Another quality group of bitches and many had the qualities I was looking for.

1st Hopevalley Morning Wicked (Mrs M E Romeo-Dieste)

Quality bitch in superb coat and condition, beautiful flowing lines when stood, nice reach of neck into good shoulders and upper arm, good forechest with elbows tight to the chest, excellent bone and feet. Feminine head of good length well filled in and a kind dark eye and expression. Correct size and balance, correct height to length ration through the ribcage, very sound and true on the move with the correct tailset, won this class on her more correct foot fall. Pushed hard in the final line up.

2nd Tallistar Crazy in Love (Miss E & Miss G Curtis & Mellor)

Another top-quality bitch, excellent bone and feet, good reach of neck into well laid back shoulders, level topline and tailset, stands four square on good strong hindquarters, good long head, well filled in, good dark eye, moving soundly and with drive holding her topline in profile.

3rd Manteauplat Black Pippin (Mrs A C Milton)

Of classical type, with the very best of heads, long, well moulded, correct almond shaped eye, good dark colour and kind expression, The best of bone and good feet, in excellent coat and condition. Good front assembly with a defined brisket and good length through the body, lovely flowing lines, moving soundly but a little close behind today.

Open (26, abs 9)

A very strong class of international bitches, many of whom were unlucky and went without a place today. At this stage we are down to the very finer points of for me what makes a flatcoated retriever.

1st BCC & BOS Int/ger Drc/ger Vdh/at Ch Jarven Jella of Firien Wood (Mrs C Blank)

For me this epitomises the flatcoated retriever being of medium size showing power without lumber and raciness without weediness, she is moderate all though with no signs of exaggeration, not only does she have that classical head and type that I was looking for whilst still retaining her femininity; she has the correct forehand construction which is matched by good strong hindquarters. When you get this, on the move they really come into their own as they move with their head on a level with the back with both forward reach and rear driving movement, she did not put a foot wrong and was parallel both coming and going. When standing her legs are well under her body and stands true all round, she has good depth of chest, with a defined brisket correct length of ribcage, good short loin. She was a picture and was presented in gleaming coat and condition.

2nd & RBCC No/se/fin/nordic Ch Almanza Why Mess with Success (Mrs Madel Asp Mikko)

Another one straight out of the top draw I loved her classical head, long well filled in with the correct eye and expression. Excellent bone and feet, moving soundly on a long free flowing stride. She certainly was very eye catching and was difficult to split the two apart, she flowed from the tip of her nose to her tail and loved the fluidity and racy appearance she presented. Excellent topline and tailset, good well angulated hindquarters and again was presented in gleaming condition, at the end of the day I just (ever so slightly) preferred the front construction of the winner, but really there was hardly anything in it. A pleasure to judge her.

3rd Sh Ch Seaheart Cecilia JW (Miss G & Mr P Smitherman)

A super classical type, with good front construction, well laid back shoulders and good upper arm, good depth of body and tight elbows, good topline and tailset. Beautiful, attractive, long well

moulded head with the darkest of eyes and a kind expression, moving sound and true , loved her overall type and balance and was unlucky to meet 1 & 2 today.

Special Working (19, abs 1)

1st Woodfinch Highland Fairy for Flatcharm (Miss K L Holland)

Very feminine pretty bitch with lots to like, Classical head and the darkest of eyes, with a twinkling expression, excellent bone and feet, level topline, good height to length ratio, well angulated hindquarters, good strong topline moving soundly although a little narrow behind.

2nd Multi Ch On My Way Cedletes Oasis of Peace (Mrs K. Raiskubova)

Larger type of bitch, very well made throughout, excellent bone and feet, moving sound and true, good strong topline, excellent hindquarters and good front construction, head of good length with a kind dark eye, just preferred the refinement of 1.

3rd Dix Huit Carats Star-Of-The-Eighties (Mesdames Cain & Riche).

Larger slightly longer cast type of bitch with a lot of bone and substance, but moved extremely well, good topline and tailset, long pretty, feminine head, dark eye, and kind expression.

Good Citizens Dog Scheme

1st Benvellyn Marakele Into Casblaidd (Mr C & Mrs C Hewison)

Quality young bitch , needing time to mature and fill her frame, classical type with a long well filled in head and good dark eye, good bone and feet, good length through the body and good well angulated hindquarters, moving sound and true.

2nd Finhamspride Kia at Inchstellie (Mrs F Mackessack-Leitch)

Well balanced moderate bitch of all the right proportions, moving sound and true. Pretty feminine head and dark eye, good bone and feet, moving sound and true.

3rd Blacktoft Avelino (Mrs A & Dr I Prior)

Looks good when standing and has all the right body properties, good bone, good topline, pleasing head with a kind dark eye, in excellent coat and condition when moving just tending to twist in the body, the owner just needs a bit more practice and get her going straight.