

**The Flatcoated Retriever Society Championship Show
Sunday 7th April 2024**

I would like to thank the Society for their kind invitation to judge at this prestigious show. Thank you so much for the warm welcome and hospitality. A very big thanks to my very helpful and efficient stewards. Having experienced and reliable stewards is so essential especially when judging classes with large entries.

I was thrilled with my final line up of bitches all showing quality with no exaggerations. There were others placed second and third in class that deserved also to be in the lineup.

Presentation nowadays seems to be more professional but I was disappointed that so many exhibits were overtrimmed which changes the outline. There seems to be a fashion for this and stringing dogs up on the move which gives the neck a vertical appearance. Perhaps it is thought that by over trimming, especially around the neck, this makes the shoulder look more laid back, in fact to me it gives the impression of an over long upright neck and head held too high. This presents a showy outline but doesn't help movement. Fashion should not dictate breed standard and we seem now be followers of fashion from abroad.. Flatcoats were bred to work. The standard says exhibits should be tidied, this over trimming seems to have come from abroad where I saw this as the norm some years ago. Some bitches had narrow snipy heads and some with round light eyes untypical in the breed. I was looking for a soft kind dark eye and gentle look.

I feel we seem to be moving towards a flatcoat that is taller in leg than longer in body. Standard says body should show slightly more length than height but length should be through the rib not loin. The overall outline should be softer with a less sharp look. There should be a slight slope to the croup giving a more gentle finish and tail set, my CC winner is a perfect example of perfect topline, no dip behind withers and correct tail set. Flatcoats are different in the respect to some other breeds which have flat croup and higher tailset. On the KC website A to Z of breeds the illustration shows this clearly. Looking back at photographs of top winners of the past it seems to me that there is a distinct difference in many cases between today and the past!

Despite all this there were many lovely exhibits of classical type which fulfilled the breed standard for me and I loved all of those in the line up and was spoilt for choice.

The first two classes, veteran and special veteran provided a super start to the day as the exhibits were so classical and of correct breed type. I always love the veterans and winners in these classes were simply of outstanding breed type.

I also thank all those exhibitors who brought their bitches under me and I was thrilled with the wonderful entry. It is a great privilege to given the opportunity to judge at this level. I started judging by assessing each individual moving round the ring then forward and back but time constraints did not allow for this and eventually I reverted to the triangle.

BCC TORINMILL GAELIC AURORA KCWGC

RCC CH BLACKTOFT DANCING THE BLUES SGWC

BBP HIGHTYNE GUNS AND ROSES

Beautiful examples of breed type and both CC and RCC with working dog certificates showing dual purpose ability. The RCC being a full champion. The puppy went on to win BPIS.

Veteran Bitch 12 (1)

1st BRANSCOMBE'S TORINMILL GAELIC AURORA KCWGC

BCC Almost 10 years. Beautiful well balanced outline with lovely head with correct eye shape and colour. Good turn of stifle and correct shoulder and upper arm placement . Excellent depth of body. She has well defined forechest and good feet. She was slightly bigger than second . Shown in great coat and condition. Moved so well showing off her excellent breed type. She carried her faultless topline beautifully on the move showing her correct tail set. It was close between first and second but her accurate movement and better top line gave her first place. In the challenge I found her faultless and she just could not be beaten as she was so full of quality and classical breed type without any exaggerations I do hope her owner enters her for more shows as she is so deserving of a top title.

2nd EGGINTON & DAVIS GO WITH THE FLOW DYNAMIC FAITHFUL (Imp Ned) Ten year old. It was a close decision between first and second. Slightly smaller than first and didn't quite hold her top line on the move. Shown in hard condition. Another with classical head with very dark eye. Great front and rear angulation. Another day she could have been first. Disappointed she was not present in the challenge.

3rd HUTTON'S JAZZANRAGA RHYTHM

Almost ten years old. My apologies that I have no notes but from memory thought she was a lovely bitch of correct breed type. On the day came up against two bitches in top form.

Special Veteran Bitch 5 (0)

1st KNIGHT & JACOBS CH MOONSTRUCK MACADAMIA SGWC

Eleven year old super stylish bitch shown in gleaming coat and condition. Couldn't believe her age as she presented a much younger picture. Good head with kind dark eye. Well made throughout with great turn of stifle. Moved well, though pinned slightly which can be forgiven in a girl of this age., held her topline. Very eye catching and pleased to see she holds her full title.

2nd EGGINTON'S PAJANBECK TEARS IN HEAVEN

Another eleven year old well made bitch with kind dark eye and lovely head. Good front and back angulation , moved well holding her topline on the move which is great to see in an eleven year old.

3rd COLEMAN'S PAJANBECK LADY IN RED AT RAVENSJAIS

Eleven year old litter sister to second in this class. Apologies I have no notes but from memory she was very similar in type to litter sister and well made throughout with correct eye shape and colour.

Baby Puppy Bitch 2 (0)

1st TAGG'S OIYOU LADY GOCEK

Five month old liver puppy with lovely outline good front and rear angulation moved with real drive especially for one so young.

2nd HOLMAN'S RONEVORG CAN I BE FAMOUS FOR MAMTRESSA

Almost six months old. Good head with dark eye . Lovely outline and really good turn of stifle . Very good feet.

Minor Puppy Bitch 2 (0)

1st HUYTON'S HIGHTYNE GUNS AND ROSES

Black almost nine months old puppy. Well up to size and substance for her age presenting a more mature outline. Lovely head with kind dark eye. Moved very well for one so young., at one with her handler.. On checking catalogue I noted I had given her dam her first CC and

I am sure this girl will follow in her mothers footsteps . Was delighted that she went on to be BPIS.

2nd RAMSBOTTOM'S DRONLEY HAZEL

Liver puppy just six months old and at the very immature stage, just a baby. Very nice puppy well made and well presented. Nice head and eye colour for a liver. Good bone, and moved well. Just needs time.

Puppy Bitch 6 (0)

1st VARTY-LINDSAY'S LEVILANN SHE BANGS

Eleven month old puppy up to size. Well balanced outline with good bone . Well defined forechest , well balanced head. Presented lovely outline, topline and tailset. Moved very well. Presented a well finished picture with promising future .

2nd SUNGLETON'S RONEVORG QUEEN OF ATTITUDE

Almost twelve months old. Very nice bitch though not so animated as first. Lovey head very soft kind expression. Good outline with very good forechest . Moved well holding topline. Just needs to tighten in feet.

3rd MOXEY'S DYMEXE MY CHERIE AMOUR

Another almost twelve months old. Lovely puppy with good outline and movement.

Junior Bitch. 18 (2)

1st JONES BENVELLYN SEQUOIA

14 month old lovely classical type of bitch without exaggerations as typical from this exhibitor. Good bone and feet. Well made throughout with good front and rear angulation. Lovely head with kind eye of correct colour and expression. Moved well holding her topline on the move.

2nd BELLAMY'S BOCHBARLEY MY GIRL

Almost 13 months . Well made bitch of correct construction I particularly liked her well defined forechest. Well defined stifle which gave her a great driving action. Her constantly wagging tail added to a picture of a really lovely girl. My only criticism is she needs to tighten feet. She was also placed first in a very large novice class

3rd CURTIS TALLISTAR MIDNIGHT BEAUTY

14 month old bitch apologies for no critique apart from my memory. Lovely quality bitch fulfilling the breed standard. As she was placed second in a large novice class there is a critique there.

Special Yearling Bitch. 13 (1)

1st EGGINTON & DAVIS PAJANBECK ONE MOMENT IN TIME (AI)

15 month old bitch of nice size and correct breed type. Excellent front and rear angulation which allowed good free movement. Sweet head with kind dark eye. Correct tail set . Good tight feet. Very promising girl.

2nd IZZARDS BRYSHOT STARLIGHT EXPRESS

Older bitch of twenty one months who presented a well finished picture. Super front and rear angulation which allowed for good movement. Well defined forechest. Kind dark typical eye . Shown in lovely coat and condition.

3rd CANTS SWANTONWOOD PINK FIZZ

Nineteen months old shown in beautiful coat and condition. Good bone and super feet. Excellent front and rear assembly. Another with correct head and kind dark eye.

Novice Bitch 19 (0)

1st BELLAMY'S BOCHILBARLEY MY GIRL

This lovely girl was second in good junior class and stood out in this novice class with large entry. She was an easy winner with her wagging tail which caught my eye.

2nd CUTRIS TALLISTAR MIDNIGHT BEAUTY

Lovely bitch placed third in large junior class. Well made throughout with good body and bone. Another with good head and kind dark eye. Well deserved second in this class.

3rd KITCHINS CASBLAIDD ANGELS LANDING

Mature bitch of lovely breed type with good outline. Good head and eye shape and colour. Good tailset. Moved well.

Graduate Bitch. 24 (3)

1st SCOTT'S HIGHTYNE BLUE RIVER

Bitch with lovely outline and good topline and tailset. Good turn of stifle and well defined forechest and correct upper arm and shoulder placement. Lovely head with good eye colour and shape. Well deserved first in very large class.

2nd PRIOR'S BLACKTOFT AVELINO

Very close to first. Shown in super coat and condition. Another that meets breed standard. Excellent bone and feet. She has a well defined forechest and correct front and rear angulation, moved well. Nice head with correct eye shape and colour .

3rd KNIGHT & JACOBS GUNOAK SOLAR FLARE BY GEMSWUM

Another super girl with correct outline . She was a little heavier in body than first and second. Lovely head and eye and moved well.

Post Graduate Bitch. 14 (2)

1st EGGINTON & DAVIS PAJANBECK GEORGY GIRL

Quality bitch with super outline which showed her many qualities on the move. Her head is well balanced of correct length to breadth of skull. Kind dark eye with lovely expression. Moved well at one with handler. Another of classical breed type without exaggerations.

2nd JONES BENVELLYN AMETHYST SUNBIRD

Lovely bitch of good breed type. Well made throughout with good depth of body . Good bone . Another with well balanced head and dark eye, moved well but would like tighter feet, perhaps she was unsure of the floor surface. Nevertheless a lovely bitch who deserved her place.

3rd CHAMBER'S HOTOTO PRETTY BALLERINA JW

Another fine example of a good flatcoat with super head and correct eye shape and colour. Excellent front and rear assembly in particular her stifle angulation which allowed for good free hind movement.

Mid Limit Bitch 12 (2)

1st EGGINTON & DAVIS PAJANBECK ANGELS ON MY SIDE

A beautiful bitch that filled my eye when she entered the ring for her traditional classical breed type. Great outline showing her many qualities. Good tail set , bone and feet. Nice well balanced head with dark eye. Moved well and shown to perfection.

2nd STEVENSON'S BLACKTOFT CARESS OF STEELRIVER

Another bitch of excellent quality and type. Lovely outline, great upper arm and shoulder lay back. Good forechest. Good bone and tight feet. Moved so well keeping her topline on the move. Super coat and condition at one with her handler. Pushed first hard, a close decision.

3rd GROOM'S LITTLE ROE MAUD OF PIETHORN

Another flatcoat built on traditional lines. Good head and correct eye shape and colour. Tight feet and held her topline in the move.

Limit Bitch 17 (7)

1st ROMEO-DIESTE HOPEVALLEY MORNING WICKED

Stood out in this quality class for her beautiful classical outline. Lovely topline and tail set. Good head with correct eye shape and colour. Very good bone and tight feet. Moved very well displaying her excellent front and rear angulation. Very eye catching bitch with bright future.

2nd MATTHEW'S GEMSWIN SHE'S GOT THE LOOK

Another lovely bitch with excellent forechest and front and rear angulation. Great outline holding her topline on the move. Correctly balanced head with dark eye. Good bone and feet.

3rd GARDINER'S BITCON TAYLOR MADE FOR SVENJAK

Another nice girl also built on classical lines. Typical quality well balanced head with kind eye and expression. Held her topline on the move, great turn of stifle and tight feet.

Open Bitch 9 (3)

1st HOLLAND'S WOODFINCH HIGHLAND FAIRY FOR FLATCHARM

Really beautiful bitch full of quality. Great upper arm and shoulder placent complemented by good rear angulation. Super eye shape and colour. Quality bone and tight feet. Moved with real drive presenting a bitch with real style.

2nd STEVENSON'S Ir Sh Ch CACI'S MAGIC IN EVERY MOMENT AT STEELRIVER (Imp)

This girl only had her second birthday in February and already is an Irish champion. She is full of quality and only lost out to older bitch who presented a more finished picture with full furnishings. Another with lovely head with correct eye shape and colour. Good bone and tight feet. Moved with fantastic drive keeping her topline

3rd BELLAMY'S MOONTORN GODDESS OF LOVE

This bitch presented a quality classical outline and was close to one and two. Good depth of body excellent front and rear angulation especially well defined forechest. Moved well showing her lovely typical outline. I liked her a lot, three lovely bitches.

Champion Bitch 6 (1)

1st FOX'S CH BLACKTOFT DANCING THE BLUES

RCC This lovely girl shows all the super qualities I expect from this exhibitor. Typical outline with deep body, level topline and good tail set. Good bone and tight feet. Another with well balanced head and eye of correct shape and colour. Moved well at one with

handler. Well done to exhibitor who can breed a bitch of this quality who also holds her full title. I noted later that I had also given her sire a CC from veteran when I last judged.

2nd ANDERSON'S Sh Ch FELDKIRK DIOR OF KAZVAI

Very eye catching bitch shown in excellent coat and condition at one with her handler as she flowed round the ring showing her many qualities. Great front angulation with well defined forechest. Good feet and well balanced head and correct eye shape and colour. Close decision between one and two.

3rd FINLAY'S Ir Ch/Sh Ch BLACKTOFT VENEZA AUGHNALECK

Bitch built on slightly sturdier lines than first two. Good front with well defined forechest. Good well balanced head with very dark eye.

Special Open Liver Bitch 9 (2)

1st SULLIVAN'S WYREBECK SHES MY SURPRISE

Nice liver with gleaming very dark coat. Excellent conformation with super topline and excellent front and rear angulation. Good well balanced head. Her excellent stifle provided her with good driving action.

2nd KNIGHT & Jacob's GEMSWIN GOODY TWO SHOES

Bitch with correct outline displaying very good conformation. Well balanced head. Moved well holding her topline on the move. At one with her handler.

3rd HUTTON'S JAZZANRAGA EXCLUSIVE

Lovely bitch showing maturity. Great front assembly with good upper arm and shoulder layback. Good head and eye.

Special Shooting Dog Certificate 2 (1)

1st HEWISON'S DONASCIMENTO DANILO FROM CASBLAIDD

Nice girl who moved so well with real drive . Good depth of body. Well balanced head and good eye colour. Held her lovely topline on the move.

E. Ann Danabie