

Flatcoated Retriever Championship Show

April 7th 2024

Thank you for inviting me to be Referee and for the honour of judging the Brace, Progeny and Child Handling.

I was asked to Referee the Best in Show.

My final decision went with the dog for BIS. He was in excellent condition, correct size, gentle expression, moved well, holding a good top-line , at one with his handler.

Brace

1. Mrs Welch (Stranfer) Two well matched bitches. Correct size, good bone. Lovely heads, dark eyes, nice size and both held level top-lines as they went round the ring together.

2. Mrs Dunnett (Hoedun) Another pair of well presented dogs. Little to choose between first two. This pair did not move together as well as **1**.

3. Bowen (Clandrift) Top size for me, but good bone, and again in good condition. Moved well together.

PROGENY

1. Steelriver Hit the Beach with Buckley. What a lovely group and so similar. Lovely heads with kind dark eyes. All moved out well across the ring. (I believe they are all from the same litter) Well done to the breeder.

2. Ronevorg I believe I can Fly. Unlucky to come up against **1**. They had good conformation, good bone and nice feet. Correct size . Not quite so together moving.

3. Ronevorg Angel Wiv Attitude. Again a lovely group, just not so alike in heads, one was a little broader in skull, moved well as a group.

Child Handling

Such difficult classes to judge. I felt that it would be helpful if they could all have a little chance before to have explained what might be expected of them. It might make them feel more confident with some knowledge, and not so nervous. Remember some of these handlers were coming into the ring for the first time.

They all listened and tried hard to carry out the suggestions I made to them, hope they will all continue to handle their dogs. It is not easy to come into a ring with people watching you, so well done to them all.

Thank you Harry for guiding them in the right direction.

6-11 Years

1. Sam Davis. A very determined young man, who asked appropriate questions and worked hard to handle a big dog.

2. Kayley Bryant. I think this was the first time for Kayley. Just needed some direction on where she should go in the ring. Listened carefully to advice.

12-16 Years

1. Molly Davis (Best Junior Handler) This young lady showed she had experience and handled her dog gently and correctly. She made sure she had her lead correct before going round the ring. I am sure she will continue to do well.

2. Dillan Harvey. I think a new comer to showing. However, he listened and put into practice advice. Nice connection between handler and dog. Keep up the showing , it is only practice that improves things.

3. Aaron Punter. Another new comer to showing I believe. Again it was so nice to see these handlers listen and try to put things right. Just needs to relax a little and this will come with time.

17-25 Years

1. Anna Rose Hazleton. A young lady who was having a bit of trouble with her dog. The dog was pacing and not moving well behind. I explained this to her and she was trying hard to correct the problem. She is really keen to learn and a delightful new handler.

Sadly only one in this age group. Do hope more young handlers will have a go.

Shirley Oxford