

The Flat Coated Retriever Society (Championship Show) Critiques

Saturday, 8 June 2024

Frank Kane

It was a great honour and a pleasure to judge the club's Championship Show at The Kennel Club building in Stoneleigh – where an entry of 134 dogs made for an interesting day. Type was mixed and so was size – and I felt some of the smaller exhibits, whilst within the breed standard, were a little low on leg and I found some with bone that were too heavy and some over-sprung ribs – so the result was a cobbiness which is alien to the breed standard. It was a positive to see only a few over-angulated rear assemblies which has been a problem both here and overseas.

The puppies were the most difficult classes to judge – mixed for age, size and type and I tried to put up those with the correct proportions and outline and looked right for their age – but I felt that I might have been hard on a couple of them who were at difficult stages.

Many thanks to Louise Jones and her very pro-active committee who made me very welcome. The Club Open Show which was held in conjunction with this show seemed to run very smoothly also – a great feat of organisation. Many thanks to my stewards Andy and Helen Osborne-Brown.

Best in Show was the dog Sh Ch Lizzlog Granny Won't Like It JW in wonderful form, he looked a picture.

Reserve Best in Show and Best Opposite Sex was the bitch Sh Ch Kazval Angel in Your Sky over Feldkirk whose outstanding movement put her at the top of a very good line up in the bitch challenge.

Best Puppy was the 7-month-old bitch Steelriver Isle View Pippet whose outline and raciness pleased me a lot.

Best Veteran went to the same kennel in Sh Ch/ Ir Sh Ch Plainfire's The Captain of My Heart Is Steelriver.

BPD (1, 0)

1 Bright Hopevalley Morning Magic – 4-month-old black, amazingly co-ordinated on the move and keeps his shape on the move which is a sign of good balance, in lovely condition, great temperament and full of promise.

VD (3, 0)

1 Stevenson Sh Ch/ Ir Sh Ch Plainfire's The Captain of My Heart Is Steelriver (Imp Che) ShCEx 7-year-old scored in balance and movement. Good couplings. Masculine head. I'd prefer eyes more frontally set. BVIS.

2 Stevenson Bochilbarley Blue Moon (ai) ShCEx VW Bellamy 8-year-old smaller dog needing more leg to balance. Refined head. I'd prefer shorter couplings.

3 Kilminster Berend Uit De Zwarte Polder for Witybed (Imp Nld) 11-year-old a little long for balance but good couplings. Good rear action – not quite firm in front today – a pity as he is in remarkable condition for his age with superb clean dentition.

MPD (4, 1)

1 Mawson Steelriver Isle View Robin 7-month-old the most raw but he pleased me most for balance and movement. His construction is good and he went absolutely soundly. I think I was hard on his immaturity in the challenge for best puppy.

2 Clark Ronevorg Can You Be Serious 8-month-old the most forward in body but he is very soft on the move and could carry himself with more style. Good head and eye. I hope he comes up on the leg a little.

3 Gordon Oiyou Waldorf 7-month-old in lovely condition at a difficult stage of growth being a little high in rear with low tailset.

PD (3, 1)

- 1 Campbell & Brown Ronevorg King of Attitude 11-month-old had a big pull in body here. Good head shape. I'd prefer darker eye. Good rear and topline. Looks and moves like a raw teenager but has promise. BPD
- 2 Mawson Steelriver Isle View Robin repeat
- 3 Gordon Oiyou Waldorf repeat

JD (6, 1) a promising class

- 1 Wild Kvicksans The Master Piper at Bluewaters (Imp Swe) top sized dog whose raciness and movement I liked although his tail carriage is a little high. Balanced all through with a lovely head and eye.
- 2 Lane & Lane-Ridyard Kulawand Callisto smaller dog who looked my winner going round the ring. He is all quality – with lovely type and outline and good stride. Against the winner he looked a little short on the leg in the grass outside ring - but inside later he looked well balanced.
- 3 Anson Rotherfield Secret Code quality dog but carrying too much weight.

ND (4, 0)

- 1 Clark Esined Bright Idea 18-month-old racy and has quality. A touch over-angulated in rear. Very good movement. Good head shape. Eye could be more frontally placed. Scored in bone, feet and front movement.
- 2 Jeffries Mandaral Meet Jules 22-month-old smaller dog with clean outline. I liked his rear angulation. Not yet fully matured. Feet need to strengthen.
- 3 Tinker Kelvincross Smokey Joe 23-month-old liver carrying too much weight but good head shape sound on the move.

GD 0 (10, 0)

- 1 Bowen Clandrift Bring Me Sunshine JW 22-month-old lovely type and good on the move. He has excellent forehand and good rear. Lovely head. Scored in chest and front action to win this good class.
- 2 Clark Hurstclough Night Owl at Flanova 22-month-old another excellent youngster shown in super condition. I liked his head, eye, bone and super feet. Not the chest of the winner yet and this showed in his front action.
- 3 Campbell & Brown Ronevorg Firefly Fantasy 25-month-old masculine dog, slightly heavier than the two above. Good couplings. Dark eye which could be more frontally placed.

PGD (5, 0)

- 1 Churchard Flatcharm Griffin Dark at Churchking 33-month-old comfortable winner of this class for his construction and movement. His handler could help him more on the move. Full of quality, good in head and eye. Could be a touch shorter coupled but I liked him a lot. In super condition. Can do well for his owner.
- 2 Pingree Calzeat Gentleman's Agreement to Heatheridge JW ShCEx (Imp Swe) 6-year-old I liked his size and balance. Good rear and movement. Not the chest or upper arm of winner. Good head shape. Eye a touch round.
- 3 Vanderstegen-Drake Moity Havoc 4-year-old I liked the proportions and movement of this dog but he needs more body on him. Lovely carriage.

MLD (6, 0)

- 1 Colson Windyhollows Ragged Robin JW 2-year-old lovely size and type and went well at both ends. Scored in his chest and front action. Lovely head type and dark eye. Excellent couplings. He pleased me enormously and he made the last 3 in the challenge and the 2 that beat him were more finished. Carried a lot of coat on his neck and forechest which just detracted a little from his outline but I think he should have a very good future.
- 2 Anderson Almanza Late Breaking News (Imp Swe) 2-year-old lovely outline standing and shown in superb condition. Not the chest of the winner yet and this showed in his front action. Good head shape. I preferred the expression of the winner.

3 Gulbis Blacklake Angelo for Gayplume 5-year-old carried himself well. Top size but he has quality.

LD (5, 1)

1 Sullivan Wyrebeck Caught by Surprise 4-year-old stood away here – full of type and quality and going well. Well-constructed throughout. Quality in head and eye

2 May Ronevorg Dark Angel at Lussac JW Kcwgc 4-year-old without his coat but scored in his racy outline and type. Good extension, if a little flamboyant. Very good rear and topline.

3 Youens Riverglide Secret Reprieve 3-year-old in lovely condition and standing has a lovely racy outline. On the move his topline and low set tail detract.

OD (5, 0)

1 Walker Lizzlog Shotgun Harry JW 5-year-old full of quality. I would prefer a little more leg on him for balance. Lovely bone, feet and head and expression. Shown in lovely condition. Strode out well if a little exuberant in front. Scored in head and expression.

2 Walker & Roberts Gloi Dubh Just One Look ShCEX 4-year-old appealed for his leg length and balance and he is an excellent mover. Not as finished in body and coat as the winner. A very good mover at both ends and has excellent flowing outline. Pressed hard.

3 Campbell & Hessing Ronevorg I Believe in Santa at Montechor 5-year-old who is a little short on the leg for my taste. A really good mover but I preferred the raciness of the two above.

CD (4, 0)

1 Walker Sh Ch Lizzlog Granny Won't Like It JW 6-year-old who was in great form. He is a top sized dog but nothing coarse in bone or body and with a masculine, well-shaped head and well-shaped dark eye. On the move his length of front stride and drive from the rear were outstanding. Holds himself well with great tail action. Super dog DCC and Best in Show, a feat he repeated at the Open Show.

2 Bellamy Sh Ch Woodfinch Masquerade 5-year-old and the same racy type with clean racy outline. He was shown in great form and moved well but I just preferred neck into shoulder flow in the winner, whose front extension gave him the edge. Top quality. Rec DCC.

3 Lewin Sh Ch Rodsream First Choice for Vynesbrook 5-year-old racy and full of type - short of coat on the day.

SBD (3, 1)

1 Churchard Flatcharm Griffin Dark at Churchking the winner of Post Graduate and he might well take his owner out of this category.

2 Turner Torwood Galactic Flyer 3-year-old standard size, but a teenager yet in his body. I would prefer more strength in his muzzle.

BPB (1, 0)

1 Holliday Shashkrox Never Grow Up 4-month-old liver, well boned and racy in outline. She is very promising and enjoyed herself. Good head shape

VB (10, 2) the top two were very close.

1 Bellamy Moontorn Goddess of Love beautiful type and proportions and a picture of femininity. Lovely head type. I would prefer a little more bone and stronger hocks. She scored in coat and slightly in front action.

2 Walker & Roberts Gloi Dubh Gigha JW this one scored in bone and substance and rear action. She is full of type but not in the bloom of the winner on the day and a little untidy in front

3 Dunnett Hoedun Alexandra of Denmark apologise I lost my notes on this bitch.

MPB (4, 1) Perhaps the most difficult class of the day and I chose the one who I thought was the right for her age. Very mixed for size.

1 Stevenson Steelriver Isle View Pippet 7-month-old appealed most for size and proportions and her feminine head, feet can tighten, flowing outline. BPIS

2 Holman Ronevorg Can I Be Famous for Namtresa 8-month-old stronger type, racy and very sound, with lovely rear. I preferred head of the winner at the moment

3 Walker Lizzlog Naughty Nun at Night almost 9-month-old and the tallest of the three but she is feminine and sound. I hope she has finished growing.

PB (3, 2)

1 Moxey Dymexe My Cherie Amour 11-month-old, stood alone but her quality and type, flowing racy outline. Can fill out in front. Good head shape. Balanced. Front action a little loose and turns her feet out a little. When she fills out in front this should be remedied. A lot of quality.

JB (8, 1)

1 Walker & Roberts Gloi Dubh Lady Muck JW 17-month-old lovely bitch all through and carries herself well with level topline and correct tail set which won her this class. Good legs and beautiful feet. Quality all through. Made the last cut in the challenge. She has type and movement and should have a very good future.

2 Lane & Lane-Ridyard Kulawand Cartier 14-month-old another top-quality bitch built on racy lines. She is a good mover at both ends. Correct bone and feet. Not as finished in head as the winner whose tail set, I preferred.

3 Kiddell Diamante Blu Regina Della Pace to Hameldowntor JW 17-month-old bigger stamp of bitch and she is very sound. Took this place on her topline and movement.

NB (6, 3)

1 Moxey Dymexe My Cherie Amour repeat I understand that she finished her Junior Warrant with this win. Congratulations.

2 Branscombe & Egginton Pajanbeck Miracle of Love (ai) 17-month-old lovely type and size, racy outline. Can tighten in feet. She needs to strengthen in rear movement.

3 Dunnett Hoedun The Night Before 16-month-old she is racy and well built. Top size and will look more balanced when she moves on from this teenage stage.

GB (13, 2)

1 Thurgood Thurwhitt Tamara almost 3-year-old racy and full of quality. Could be a little cleaner in throat. Good ribbing. A little close in rear action but I just preferred her proportions here.

2 Campbell Ronevorg Madame Butterfly almost 3-year-old I liked her size and proportions. I preferred her head to the winner but not quite the raciness on the move.

3 Durrant Glenturret Gypsy Tart 2-year-old liver with a lot of type with lovely head and ultra sound. Not in her best coat. Could do very well when in good form.

PGB (9, 3)

1 Strudwick Burpham Lotties First Love JW almost 3-year-old in lovely coat and condition. Excellent construction at both ends which gives her good movement. Lovely bone and feet. Appealed in head and expression. Maximum rib. Tail set could be a little higher.

2 Thurgood & Holmes Finhamspride Clio 3-year-old not in her best coat but I liked her raciness and stride when she settled. Good head shape. I slightly preferred expression of the winner but she pressed hard here.

3 Chambers Hototo Pretty Ballerina JW almost 3-year-old, of good size and raciness. Not in her best coat today.

MLB (6, 2)

1 Bellamy Moontorn Better Half of Me JW 3-year-old who came into the ring with cramped rear but then went soundly to win this class. Racy with good head. I liked her size, could have a little more rib.

2 Gardiner Bitcon Taylor Made for Svenjak 5-year-old a typy bitch with maximum rib. Feminine head. Gardiner Good rear action but could be stronger in front. Needs more confidence in her carriage.

3 Smitherman Seaheart Diva 2-year-old stronger bitch in lovely condition. Sound mover. Tail set and carriage detract.

LB (9, 1)

1 Watson Rainesgift Omega almost 4-year-old stood away here in superb coat and has beautiful balance. Good head shape. Good legs and feet. Carrying maximum body. Excellent movement at both ends. I loved her type and quality and I think she will have a very good future. Pressed the top two very hard today.

2 Lewin Vynesbrook Deja Bleu 4-year-old without her coat but appealed greatly for balance and movement and topline. Very good head and eye carries herself well. When in coat can have a good future.

3 Warrington Woodavens Frozen Flame 2-year-old smaller bitch who needs a little more leg under her. Lovely head. Good fore-chest.

OB (11, 2)

1 Anderson Sh Ch Kazval Angel in Your Sky over Feldkirk 3-year-old super bitch with wonderful movement. Lovely size, correct ribbing and really uses her quarters on the move. Well-made throughout topped by a quality feminine head. BCC & RBIS

2 Walker Lizzlog Fanny by Gaslight 4-year-old beautiful quality and type, superb legs and feet. Not the upper arm or front action of the winner. Lovely head. RBCC

3 Branscombe Torinmill Gaelic Aurora Kcwgc 9-year-old amazing form, hard to believe she is not a champion – pressed hard in this super class.

CB (5, 1)

1 Anderson Sh Ch Feldkirk Dior of Kazval 6-year-old in great condition. Lovely size, head and carries herself well! Great profile action. Could be a little cleaner in front.

2 Watson Sh Ch Rainesgift Bide Your Time JW 11-year-old remarkable bitch still ultra sound and carrying herself well. Great quality. A pity for her to run up against the younger bitch today who had the advantage of a more racy athletic body which is to be expected. However, her star quality is still there and I shall remember her!

3 Kiddell Multi Ch Hameldowntor Midsummer Night's Dream (tan) 8-year-old stronger bitch, racy and sound.

SBB (4, 1)

1 Goodman Blacklake Dark Lady for Gayplume almost 3-year-old racy and carries herself well and with sound, scopey movement.

2 Mcquade Gemswin River of Dreams 2-year-old VHC in Graduate. I like her size and proportions quality head. Can put a little more into her movement.

3 Turner Angel Undercover Take My Breath Away (Imp Fra) 2-year-old a lovely head and expression. A teenager in her body.

Frank Kane (Hirontower)

Junior Handling - Helen Fox

Junior Handling (12-16 years)

1st and Best Junior Handler Isabella Tharmasingam

This smart young lady could show the adults how to get the best out of a dog in the show ring! She was very proficient, calm and gentle in her handling, and was aware of my position in relation to the dog at all times. The dogs teeth were shown completely and correctly. Her patterns were clean and precise, she moved at one with her dog, adjusting her stride to suit the pace of the dog. I was very impressed her, and although she stood alone, she was very worthy of being awarded Best Junior Handler and I wish her all the best for the future.

Helen Fox (Blacktoft)