

The Irish Wolfhound Club Open Show 2015

Firstly I would like to thank the Club and committee for the wonderful hospitality extended to me on this appointment, my stewards, the domestic goddesses and, of course the exhibitors who gave me the privilege of judging their hounds.

My general impression of the breed at this present time are mixed. As always we have the more compact/short legged type of wolfhound versus the rangy hound that stands over a lot of ground. When judging I like to see a hound that has power, grace and symmetry without being refined, a hound capable of doing the job it was bred for. Good bone and strength was lacking in many hounds and I felt that short muzzles, flat ears and hard expressions were prevalent- there is nothing as beautiful as a well proportioned head, rose ears and that elusive expression that defines our breed. I would have liked to have seen better forehead construction with length of upper arm and more sternum. Generally hindquarters were curvy but lacking drive in many cases. Toplines were varied and loins lacked strength so essential in the galloping hound. Coats were mostly good but some lacked undercoat, however most exhibits were well groomed and handled. Mouths were overall correct as were temperaments.

On a positive note I found hounds that were typical of the breed standard and I was pleased with my final winners.

Minor Puppy Dog (3,0)

1st Das Purkayastha's Ravensbeeche Romanus Among Neckrebagh 6 month old dark brindle boy of a lovely type. Pleasing head and expression and small ears not rosing yet. Strong neck into reasonable shoulder and upper arm. Fair width through chest and depth of brisket, well ribbed back, nice topline and width through rear, nice curves through stifle. Super coat and moved well for such a baby. Promising puppy with a super temperament.

2nd Heather's Ravensbeeche Revenio Whiteorchard. Litter brother to winner also showing promise. Built on similar lines and moved well, just preferred the scope of his sibling at present but I am sure they will exchange places on another day.

3rd Walter's Brachan Breuddwyd Y Ddraig. 8 month old grey brindle rangy lad. Nicely proportioned head with dark eyes, ears a little flat. Long neck into reasonable shoulder, good length of leg but feet turning out a little at present. A little short coupled for height but well ribbed back and good tuck up. Reasonable bend of stifle, profile movement ok but at present uncoordinated coming and going.

Puppy Dog (1,1)

Junior Dog (2,0)

1st Bogart's Mascotts Conquistador. 13 month old elegant dark brindle boy built on houndy lines. Good head proportions and kind expression. Neck long and strong into reasonable shoulder, has some forechest and depth of chest, well ribbed back. Topline still needs to settle. When stood correctly has good bend of stifle. Harsh coat. Moved well in profile but a little close on rear.

2nd Hughes's Bonaforte's Illuminati. 13 month old tall boy who needs to broaden out to fill his frame. Pleasant head, eyes a tad light. Neck long, shoulder upright at present, well ribbed back into strong rear quarters which he used well on the move.

Yearling Dog (2,0)

1st Du Rose's Bonaforte's Earl Grey. 2 yr old wheaten male with a beautiful head and typical expression- dark eyes, rose ears and super pigmentation. Presented a houndy outline. Neck long and arched flowing into a decent shoulder placement, depth and breadth of chest with forechest and elbows set well under. Good topline and well ribbed back. Width through pelvis, curvy stifles and hocks well let down. Moved freely with an easy active stride. RBD.
2nd Dawson's Stonestorm Apache Dream Of Shalico. 19 month old raw brindle boy of good bone and height. Strong masculine head, ears a tad large. Neck strong, shoulder a little straight at present and forechest needs to develop but has depth of brisket. Good underline and topline but tends to fall away in croup when moving. Movement ok.

Special Beginners Dog. (1,1)

Novice Dog (3,1)

1st Bogart's Mascotts Conquistador.

2nd Gregory's Killoughery The Baron. 2.6 yr old dark brindle workmanlike lad with a masculine head and kind expression. Strong neck but a tad short, shoulder a bit upright but has width and depth of chest. He is well muscled throughout with a decent topline and underline and strong hindquarters. Good harsh jacket, moved enthusiastically but would like to see him move with more extension.

Post Graduate Dog (7,2)

1st Poole and Sheppard's Conmeryl The Marksman With Goldswift. 2 yr old well grown masculine male. Strong head if a bit broad in skull but kind expression. Neck reasonably long and strong leading into a fair shoulder with width to chest and depth to brisket. Topline flows over a nice strong loin and width through pelvis. Nothing overdone on this hound, balanced throughout, well muscled, hard coat and moved well.

2nd Fox's Kazachok Roan Inish At Newdigate (IKC) Raw 18 month old still needing time to mature but has a pleasing head and outline. Would prefer more strength throughout . Balanced fore and aft although croup a bit steep at present. Well presented and moved well in profile.

3rd Bogart's Nellwyn's Mr Ozymandias. At nearly 3 yrs old this is a masculine hound with super bone and feet. Strong head slightly spoiled by large ears but kind eye. Long, strong neck into fair shoulder. Depth and breadth to chest, ribs well sprung and strength to loin, broad pelvis. Just lacked a little in rear angulation but moved true. Excellent coat and well presented.

Res. Severn- Kumar's Gaelmarque Melton Say.

Vhc. Jones's Conmeryl Montgomery.

Limit Dog (6,1)

Morris's Sapwoods Mystery Man To Amarach (Imp Fin) At just over 2 yrs old this hound has great size and commanding appearance combined with ring presence. He is masculine throughout with great bone and substance. Good head with width to under jaw, long strong neck into fair shoulder, excellent width of chest and depth to brisket, well ribbed back and width through loin and pelvis. Nicely angulated rear end and width through stifle. Moved with his head up and look forward to seeing him when he is mature. He was the closest to my ideal of a stallion hound on the day. BD and BIS. . 2nd Seven - Kumar's Gaelmarque Drop Du Berry. At almost 2.6 yrs this wheaten male has a lovely head,

pigmentation and correct ears. Strong neck with fair shoulder, good forechest with depth of brisket, well sprung ribs, correct topline with rise over loin. Fair hindquarters, moved well. 3rd Brown and Sheppard's Draugfara Taren. Nearly 4 yrs old a brindle male who is tall and rangy. Well proportioned masculine head, long neck, decent front assembly and nice length to upperarm. Underline and topline correct. Presents a houndy outline and in good muscular condition. Just needs to drop into himself on the move.

Res Vaudin's Fearghas Really Irish In Torteval (Imp Cze)

Open Dog (2,2)

Veteran Dog (1,1)

Veteran Bitch (7,4)

A lovely trio of veteran ladies!

1st Donaldson's Rainster Rosa At Kirkcarswell. At 7 yrs old this girl is in wonderful condition. Lovely old fashioned huntress type, lovely head and ears, nothing overdone in any way, moved well and I am certain she could still do the job she was bred for. BV

2nd Holder's Mascotts My Shakira. 8.5 yr old with a truly stunning head and rose ears so typical of this kennel. I would prefer more width to her front and a stronger topline but she is well angulated on the rear end. Moved ok.

3rd Ashton's Nightwing Only Make Believe Of Madalinca. 7.5 yr old dark brindle girl with the sweetest head and expression. Shapely girl but would prefer more width throughout and a little more enthusiasm on the move.

Minor Puppy Bitch (7,2)

1st Macleod's Brachan Eira. Super 8 month old girl who oozes quality. Lovely head, dark eyes, neat ears. Long strong neck into good shoulder, lovely front assembly with forechest and depth to brisket. Super topline and strong loin finishing in well angulated stifles. Flowed under the hands. Moved well for such a baby. BPIS

2nd Pask's Amarach Caitin At Baronglen. Another striking 8 month old, rangy and upstanding. Really beautiful head, length to neck but not the front assembly of one at present. Well ribbed back and flowing topline. Lots of scope throughout and moved freely.

3rd Dolling's Rainster Nancy. Looking very much the baby at 7 months. Lovely old fashioned type fitting nicely together. Good coat and moved very well.

Res Seven - Kumar's Tarlog Black Lace Of Gaelmarque.

Vhc Ashton's Bribiba Cuan Ghra Of Madalinca.

Puppy Bitch (7,1)

1st Macleod's Brachan Eira.

2nd Cramphorn's Yelxba Victoria. Really lovely 11 month old girl who stands over a lot of ground. Typical head and expression, super long neck, good shoulder with length of upper arm. Long clean lines throughout and a curvy rear end, super jacket and moved well.

3rd Sterling's Clanlily Million Dollar Gem. At 11 months this tall and rangy girl has somewhat outgrown her frame and needs to settle back into herself. Houndy outline but I would prefer a little more width throughout, harsh coat, well muscled, well handled and moved well in profile.

Res Bridge's Barrassy's Dual Starlight.

Vhc Vaudin's Maccaura Lacey of Torteval

Junior Bitch (5, 2)

1st Ashby's Ashgroave Burleigh Oakley. Feminine 13 month old wheaten girl. Typical head and expression, strong neck with nice lay of shoulder and a well developed forechest for her age. Soft flowing curves throughout, well handled with true movement in all directions.

2nd Court's Caredig Belladonna. Dark brindle girl of 13 months. Nice type, I would like a stronger neck and more angulation to her front assembly. Nice underline, tends to fall away in croup at present. Sweeping hindquarters, moved ok.

3rd Bridge's Katy Perry Roan Inish Of Barrassy (IKC) Very pretty 15 month old grey brindle. Nice head with dark eyes and rose ears. Decent neck into shoulder but a little straight in front at present although she has width through chest. Pleasing topline and underline and well bent stifles. Moved ok.

Yearling Bitch (4,1)

1st Redfern's Rainster Izabela. 18 month old raw, rangy but elegant dark brindle girl. Lovely length of muzzle and dark eye. Clean neck into nice shoulder placement and forechest. Flowing topline, good tuck up and well angulated rear end. Has length of leg and good bone. Good reach of stride in profile just needs to settle coming and going.

2nd Dawson's Stonestorm Dream Spirit of Shalico. At 19 months this girl is more workmanlike than one. Needs to soften in head but nice dark eye. Strong neck into reasonable shoulder, upper arm could be longer, depth of brisket and well ribbed back. Nice rear angulation. Moved well fore and aft but would like to see more length of stride in profile movement.

3rd Stote's Ravensbeech Caritas. 21 month old girl of a nice type. Well bodied throughout. Nice head and rose ears, reasonable neck into shoulder but upper arm a tad short and straight. Topline and underline ok, curvaceous on the rear. I would prefer a harsher jacket. Moved ok.

Special Beginners Bitch (3,2)

1st Macleod's Brachan Eira.

Novice Bitch (4,1)

1st Macleod's Brachan Eira.

2nd Redfern's Rainster Izzy. Litter sister to my Yearling Bitch winner and similar throughout. Lacks the width of her sibling at present, very houndy outline who will be interesting to see when mature. Again moved well in profile but a bit erratic fore and aft.

3rd Bridge's Bribiba's Lycoris Black Over Barrassy. Mature 5.6 yr old dark brindle girl. Very soft head and expression with dark eyes and rose ears. Built on more compact lines but has a nice reach of neck into a decent topline. Depth of chest but a tad long in loin. Reasonable curves, moved ok.

Post Graduate Bitch (8,4)

1st Sheppard's Conmeryl Miss Scarlet For Goldswift. 2.6 yr old grey brindle girl who is workmanlike but houndy. Pleasing head, ears a tad large. Strong neck into fair shoulder and front assembly, depth and width throughout. Rise over loin and well ribbed back. Balanced fore and aft, well muscled and moved well with purpose.

2nd Wilkinson's Conmeryl Merriment Over Hunacres. Litter sister to one and of the same mould, I just preferred the overall balance, strength and scope of her sibling. Harsh coat and moved well.

3rd Gilbert's Anstyarna Lili Marleen. Another workmanlike 2 yr old girl with lots of substance and muscle. Pleasing outline and lots of breadth. Correct coat and moved well.

Res. Ashton's Hawkhaven Carriad Neala Of Madalinca.

Limit Bitch (4,1)

1st Heather's Whiteorchard Venusta. Just over 2 yr old dark brindle quality bitch who is maturing well. Good head, dark eyes and rose ears. Long, strong neck into fair shoulder and good forechest. Depth of brisket and width through chest. Well ribbed back and strong topline. Lovely length of leg, sweeping hindquarters and in excellent condition. Moved with an effortless easy action. Was pleased to award her BB and BOS.

2nd Wilkinson's Conmeryl Merriment Over Hunacres.

3rd Gregory's Killoughery Eineen. 5yr old brindle girl who is strong and workmanlike with a typical head and expression. Powerful neck with fair shoulder placement, I would like more width of chest but she has depth of brisket. Topline flows and good strong loin. Curvy hindquarters but not moving enthusiastically today.

Open Bitch (6,4)

1st Sheppard's Tather Lussea Goldswift. Mature 4 yr old bitch with a kind expression. Strong neck into reasonable shoulder, upper arm ok but I would prefer more forechest although she has depth of chest. Well ribbed back and a strong topline and width through her nicely bent stifles. Moved freely.

2nd Ashton and Ross's Can Ch Cnoccarne Anne Bonney Agh. 4 yr old mature red brindle bitch who has a pleasing outline. In very hard muscular condition and a super harsh jacket. Moved ok.

Karin Burt-Hughes.