

# NEFRA Championship Show (Flatcoated Retriever Bitches)

3rd November 2024

I would like to thank NEFRA for their kind invitation to judge bitches at their show. My grateful thanks to my two excellent stewards Margaret Melrose and Harry Nelson who kept the ring flowing. Although not a huge entry I was pleased with the quality and type of my main winners and thank all the exhibitors for allowing me the privilege of judging their dogs. I was looking for a bitch that fitted the breed standard. The first thing that you look at is the head, a flatcoated retriever's head is moulded and the skull is flat and well filled between and under the eyes, which should be dark and almond shaped.

The ears should be well set and small and I was sad to see few heads and eyes that fitted this description. The standard calls for "power without lumber, raciness without weediness" the majority of my entry today fitted this important part of the standard. Our breed is a working gundog and therefore the standard written by shooting folk calls for moderation, enabling the flatcoated retriever to do a day's work. The overangulation seen in our breed presently and a few today is not correct, if they are not built right they cannot work. The lack of length of upper arm has long been a problem in our breed, I think worse than ever now which accounted for the lack of extension and choppy front movement of some. I was thrilled with my main winners and I loved both my bitch CC and reserve CC but felt that today my winner scored in movement.

I was pleased that my co-judge Kelly Holland and I agreed with all decisions made at the end of the day.

## **VB. 3.**

1. BVB. Caehaid Lets Go Crazy with Braemist JW (Miss L S Jones). Workmanlike 7 yr old who was enjoying her day. A medium, typical moderate bitch throughout but would prefer more refinement in back skull. She had a well laid back shoulder and moderate bend of stifle with correct bone but carried a little too much weight . She moved out well.
2. Sh Ch Moontorn Goddess of Love (Miss A Bellamy) Loved the profile on this 7 yr old bitch, feminine, racy with good reach of neck and level top line. She was short in upper arm so did not have the reach, just preferred the more positive movement of first.
3. Stranraer Lyin' Eyes (Mrs F M Welch) Bright 8 yr old bitch, preferred head and expression of first 2 but she had good depth of chest, excellent feet and bone, correct gradual spring of rib but carrying too much weight, moved ok.

## **SVB. 0.**

## **MPB. 7(1)**

1. Thurwhitt Serafina Pekkala (Mrs S Hurstfield) This puppy took my eye, she was turned out in lovely condition and had the best head in the class. Her head was well moulded with dark almond shaped eyes and correct reach of neck. Up to size but at 8 mths should now just fill her frame. She had excellent bone, correct length of rib and correct couplings. Owner needs more faith. She was in excellent condition and moved true.
2. Flattie Symphony Lor Arwen (Mrs V Kralj) Just 6 mths bitch with a pleasing head and eye but would have preferred more refinement in skull, She had a good reach of neck, well laid back shoulder, prominent fore chest and good tail set but dipped in top-line sometimes as she was not as balanced in her growth stage. Moved well.

3. Jetstarski Run Like Hell (Mr N, Mrs R & Ms S Whitaker) 6 mth racy baby of correct type, balanced for age with a pretty feminine head but would prefer an almond shaped eye. She had a good reach of neck and the correct length of rib, had a lovely profile but a bit proud of her tail on the move.

#### **PB. 5(1)**

1. BPB & BPIS Hopevalley Morning Xanadu (Mrs M E Romeo-Dieste) classical bitch of 9 mths in excellent coat and condition, feminine moulded head with dark expressive eyes, balanced with excellent bone and feet. She had moderate angulation fore and aft with a good width of second thigh, a correct tailset and she moved very well.
2. Shashkrox Never Grow Up (Mr P & Mrs S Holliday) A dark liver racy bitch of a lovely type. She had a feminine head with correct reach of neck and length of rib. and had a correct tail set but she left her coat at home.
3. Flattie Symphony Lor Arwen (Mrs V Kralj) 2nd in MPB.

#### **JB.5.**

1. Caci's The Jewel of June at Inchstellie (Imp Swe) (Mrs F Mackessack-Leitch) This bitch was up to size, a quality bitch with a pretty head and dark almond shaped eyes. Her ears were well set with a good reach of neck which led to well laid back shoulders. She had the correct length and gradual spring of rib with excellent bone and feet. Lovely in profile with her correct tail set, which she kept when moving freely around the ring.
2. Kimberfield in Love Again (Mrs R Richards) A medium sized balanced bitch of good type, pleasing head, adequate bone, excellent feet, correct couplings and moderate bend of stifle.
3. Glamour Shine Bombarda Maxima (Miss M & Miss A Racic & Weber) Lots to like about this bitch. I preferred the head and eye of my winner but she had a good reach of neck with well laid back shoulder and a prominent fore chest. A happy show girl, just not as balanced as my first two presently and I would prefer a more moderate hind angulation.

#### **YB. 5.(1)**

1. Caci's The Jewel of June at Inchstellie (Imp Swe) (Mrs F Mackessack-Leitch) 1st in JB.
2. Benvellyn Marakele Into Casblaidd JW (Mr C & Mrs C Hewison) A pretty medium sized bitch who was typical in head with a flat skull and dark eyes, Correct reach of neck, good feet and adequate bone. She was balanced with moderate angulation fore and aft and had a good depth of chest and correct couplings. Her tendency to shrink back, spoilt her outline at times, she moved well.
3. Satinbaze Tranquil Sea (Miss J M Hedges) Up to size typical bitch with a pleasing head and outline. She had a good reach of neck and was balanced with a well defined brisket and correct length of rib. I would prefer a little less length in couplings.

#### **NB. 5.**

1. Hopevalley Morning Xanadu (Mrs M E Romeo-Dieste) 1st in PB.
2. Satinbaze Tea for Two with Shelkaru (Mrs J Pacey) Up to size bitch with pleasing feminine head and good reach of neck, leading to well laid back shoulders, correct in couplings, balanced with correct height to length, excellent bone and feet.
3. Bochilbarley She's The One by Woodavens (AI) (Mrs P & Miss D Bellamy & Warrington) A baby in this class at 7 mths and a little over awed, a pretty, feminine girl. Racy with a good reach of neck, adequate bone for size, correct couplings and depth of chest for age. Not so positive in front movement today.

**SBB. 6.**

1. Caci's The Jewel of June at Inchstellie (Imp Swe) (Mrs F Mackessack-Leitch) 1st in JB & YB.
2. Satinbaze Tea for Two with Shelkaru (Mrs J Pacey) 2nd in NB.
3. Angel Undercover Take My Breath Away (Imp Fra) (Ms P H Turner) A very pretty racy, medium sized bitch with a well moulded head. Correct bone and depth of chest and correct gradual spring of rib. I would just prefer a more moderate bend of stifle and tighter feet.

**GB. 6.**

1. Shashkrox Raise Your Glass Sgwc (Mr P & Mrs S Holliday) A 2 yr old bitch so the best has yet to come. A lovely outline on this bitch. She had a pleasing head and eye, with a good reach of neck and correct bone. Well laid back shoulder, prominent forechest, balanced, correct tailset, moved well in profile.
2. Blacktoft Avelino at Finnashember (Mrs A & Dr I Prior) A typical bitch with a lovely head, which was well filled in with correct dark eye. Quality bone and feet with a well laid back shoulder and good forechest. I would prefer a more moderate bend of stifle. A happy show girl.
3. Angel Undercover Take My Breath Away (Imp Fra) (Ms P H Turner, 3rd in SBB).

**PGB. 3.**

1. Hurstclough Joy of The Moors at Elmstock (Mr R D & Mrs V E Orme) I loved this medium sized, 2 yr old, typical bitch who had a pretty head with a good ear set. Correct in bone with balanced moderate angulation, fore and aft and prominent fore chest. A happy show girl who was in lovely coat and condition. Handled well, she flowed on the move.
2. Manteauplat Margaux (Mrs A & Mr N Jackson) A 3 yr old, up to size bitch who is going to take time to drop and fill her frame, so not as balanced presently. She had a lovely head with dark almond shaped eyes, with a good reach of neck and correct gradual spring of rib. Slightly longer in stifle, good bone and feet,
3. Finhamspride Kia at Inchstellie (Mrs F Mackessack-Leitch) I would prefer more refinement in head and a better shaped eye, but she had a good depth of muzzle and a level topline with correct bone and feet. Moderate in bend of stifle with a good width of second thigh, a happy girl

**LB.14 (5)** A class of quality.

1. RBCC, Windyhollows English Holly at Llantrussa (Mrs Ca & Mrs L Price & Nicholls) I loved this medium sized bitch who was so typical, with her well moulded head and sweet expression. Held a lovely profile with her reach of neck, moderate angulation, level top line and correct tail set. She had quality bone and feet and was well handled. Presented in excellent coat and condition.
2. Tallistar Crazy in Love (Miss E & Miss G Curtis & Mellor) A quality bitch, I have done well before but today she was in her underwear but she had nothing to hide. A bigger bitch than my winner but many of the same remarks apply as she had a lovely head and eye and was very typical throughout. She has a well laid back shoulder and return of upper arm which gave her reach on the move. Correct in couplings with excellent bone and well arched feet.
3. Shennanjoy Walkin Miracle (Miss V Scaife) Another I have done well before, such an honest, well constructed, balanced bitch who had a good reach of neck, level top line and correct tail set. I just preferred the more refined head and eye of my first two, Moved well.

**OB.5.**

1. Hopevalley Morning Wicked (Mrs M E Romeo-Dieste) BCC & BIS, Pleased that this win gives this stunning bitch her title. This was the first time I have judged her and I had no hesitation in giving her top honours. A flatcoat outline should be all curves, each part flowing into the other and she certainly flowed. Classic head with dark eye with a clean reach of neck, Balanced throughout and moderately angulated with good width of second thigh. Correct in length and gradual spring of rib and correct couplings. Excellent bone, coat and condition and she just flowed around the ring and so much more pleasing to the eye that she was tidied not excessively trimmed. Congratulations!
2. Karmesina Ma Jolie (Mrs V Kraal) A bigger bitch than my first, had a pleasing head and a good reach of neck. She had a well laid back shoulder and return of upper arm but was carrying a little bit of weight which spoilt her outline. Correct tail set and she moved well.
3. Manteauplat Black Pippin (Mrs A C Milton) A bitch with a beautiful classic head and dark almond shaped eye, correct reach of neck and front angulation. I just preferred the tail set and carriage of my first two.

**CB.4.(1)**

1. Sh Ch Kazval Angel in Your Sky over Feldkirk (K Anderson) A racy medium sized bitch with a typical head, reach of neck and was balanced with moderate angulation. She had very good bone and feet and a lovely profile standing but carried her tail a little on the move today.
2. Sh Ch Braemist Witches Fire (Miss L S Jones) Medium sized, typical bitch with a classic head and almond shaped eye. She had correct moderate front angulation with length of upper arm and she excelled in hind construction. What a shame that she was carrying far too much weight which spoilt her profile, she moved out well.
3. Ch Blacktoft Dancing The Blues SGWC (Mrs H M Fox) bigger bitch, typical in head with a lovely eye and expression, good reach of neck, correct length of rib, not so positive in front movement today.

**SLB. 2.**

1. Shashkrox Never Grow Up (Mr P & Mrs S Holliday) 2nd in PB.
2. Dronley Hazel ( Mrs H. Ramsbottom) 13 months and at the legs and wings stage, dark liver, adequate bone, good reach of neck, correct couplings, out of coat and preferred the balance and positive movement of first.

**SWB 2 (1)**

1. BSWIS. Benvellyn Marakele Into Casblaidd JW (Mr C & Mrs C Hewison) 2nd in YB.

Jan Egginton (Judge)