

## **Critique**

### ***AICSS Breed Champ Show – 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2009***

#### ***Judge: Brian Hawkins (Brilyn)***

As usual in Eire the hospitality and organisation was impeccable. Thanks to the committee and my stewards for ensuring everything went smoothly.

To generalise and say this entry was a fair assessment of the breed in Eire would be wrong with many absentees to the entry.

I am not a fault judge and judge on virtues of the dog, however in the collies present many were unbalanced, heads varied from that of border collie to sheltie and movement particularly fronts on some were to put in a word terrible.

Height to length ratio was wrong in many giving totally unbalanced conformation. Unfortunately all these faults were prevalent in the champion dog class, the collies which are supposed to be the cream of the countries dogs.

Hence my grading of 5 very goods and 1 excellent in the champions class of males, and i felt i was generous at that.

The young puppies on show in both sexes particularly the bitches were appealing, but all showed traits of the afore mentioned.

Karen O Neils Caronlea kennel made a clean sweep winning most of the awards on the day.

The first being the young dog  
CARONLEA LORD OF THE DANCE winning The Green Star and Best dog his  
kennel mate JAMES BOND the Res Green Star.

My notes were very similar for both.

This young sable and white is an excellent showman, his head is pleasing and he as very good ear carriage, pleasing eye and expression. I would like him longer in body, but he is still young and yet to mature. He was by far well ahead of the older competition for his quality and virtues. I do strongly believe that a good youngster should have the right to win over older competition. It is the quality of the dog that matters foremost.

Their kennel mate DIXIE CHICK won bitch Green Star and BOB, for me the most promising and the nearest to the standard on show today.

Nicely balanced standing, good reach of neck. Very pleasing head properties, good ear carriage, correct well placed stop and lovely eye giving a feminine expression, moved freely enough and carried far more virtues than many of the other collies today.

Res Green Star went to Di Wares blue merle bitch

CH ALOUTTE BLEUE DES MARECAGES DU PRINCETO WASSAIL

beautifully coloured, well put together and pleasing head properties, balanced in conformation , she moves freely and shows her attributes well, tighter ear carriage would enhance the picture , but i had no hesitation in awarding these two BEST IN SHOW AND RES BEST IN SHOW respectively,

To sum up the entry had some collies which had won top awards that carry some very worrying faults that need addressing.

How exhibitors wish to take this critique will depend whether they can see what i saw in their collies. It is written to be constructive not destructive.

Brian Hawkins  
Judge