

Critique – Pat Hutchinson (Karibuni)

All Ireland Collie & Sheepdog Society's Championship Show, 28 August 2011 – Rough Collies

I thoroughly enjoyed my visit to Dublin and thank the Officers and Committee of the AICSS for inviting me to judge their Club's Championship Show. This was held out on the manicured lawns in front of the IKC's Show Centre and, despite a few short, sharp rain showers and a cool breeze, we were blessed with sunshine.

Inevitably there were absentees but those dogs present were generally of good quality and, together with the friendly atmosphere, I thoroughly enjoyed my day.

Some dogs lost out on poor presentation and I must comment about the few with excessive hair deliberately left on the hind pasterns. If you ever watch your own dog moving away from you, surely it cannot look tidy? This combed and fluffed up hair does not serve to give the impression of more bone, but gives the impression of the hind legs moving too close behind.

Dirty teeth are another bone of contention and they were generally not good! Puppies should not have tartar forming on their young teeth and if the diet is correct and the teeth are regularly cleaned then Collie owners should never accept this as the norm.

Having said all of that I was delighted with my main winners and wish them well for the future. It was a close decision for BIS as I was fortunate in having two extremely dignified and beautiful Collies in the challenge for Best in Show. The bitch pushed the dog hard but a quick rain shower at the crucial moment unfortunately caused her to lose her former poise, whilst the dog's concentration never wavered. I therefore had great pleasure in awarding Tom Wall's Country's Dream King the BIS award. Congratulations!

**Dogs:**

Green Star & BIS: Wall's Ch Country's Dream King For A Day

Res Green Star: Ball's Rosshell Kiss'n The Dark At Durham

**Bitches:**

Green Star & RBIS: Ball's Beldones Take A Chance At Durham

Res Green Star: Ware's Ch & Int Ch Alouette Bleu des Marecages du Prince to Wassail

BPIS: Ware's Wassail Tip Toe Franc

Baby Pup D/B (1)

1. O'Sullivan's Rosshell Quicksilver. A promising b/m dog pup of 5 months, of good height and length for age and with ample bone and neat feet. Coat coming through slowly, though somewhat soft in texture and the colour needs to clear. Head is in proportion with good under jaw, sweet dark eye and well carried ear though stop needs to clean out. Moved really well for one so young.

Dogs

MPD (1)

1. Naughton's Ingledene Raithneach Fionn. Promising 8 months s/w dog at his first show. Good height/length ratio with excellent bone and fair spring of rib. Pleasing head pattern with dark eye. Excellent temperament. Showed quite well for his novice handler though his movement was somewhat erratic due to lack of ring craft training, and his tail carriage was not his fortune.

Puppy Dog (3)

1. Ware's Wassail Tip Toe Franc. 9 months s/w dog of good type, quite mature for age and of good size with good reach of neck and well angulated front and rear; excellent bone and deep chest with well sprung ribs. Balanced head with well filled muzzle, flat skull and good under jaw, and sweet, kind expression. Coat developing well and of correct coarse texture. A fraction high on the leg at present which affects his overall balance though he moved freely with good drive and extension. BP dog & BPIS. Well done.
2. Monteverde's Ballahanna Believe In Me. 11 months upstanding s/w pup of similar type to 1 though not so good in hind angulation. Moved well in front but lacked a little drive behind.

3. Ball's Durham Duke of the Alps. 10 mths s/w pup well up to size and with good front assembly like his dam. Head handled quite well though lacked expression of 1 & 2. Showed and moved quite well.

#### Junior Dog (4,1)

1. Mitchell's Chopard Soulstar. 15 mths s/w upstanding dog in good coat of correct texture. Well balanced dog of correct height/length ratio with good depth of chest and sufficient substance. Clean head of good length with ample under jaw, good ears and sweet dark eye. Showed steadily and moved with drive though a trifle fast. When handler was asked to move him more slowly, he settled down and moved with a good length of stride, holding his top line well.
2. Brothers' Seryphina Touch Of Pride At Moygold. 1 year old upstanding s/w dog of not dissimilar type to 1 though not so good in stifle. Of good length throughout with excellent depth of chest, good bone and neat feet. Head clean though unbalanced with flat skull rather shorter than fore face. Showed steadily and moved well. Reminiscent of his sire and needs time to mature.
3. Watkinson's Wassail Into The Rough At Teagan. 15 months b/m boy of very different type. Excellent bone and substance with good depth of chest and spring of rib. Unfortunately his over-heavy coat, rather soft in texture, gave him a somewhat stuffy appearance and I would prefer more refinement of head. Moved and showed well.

#### Intermed Dog (2,1)

1. Ball's Rosshell Kiss'n The Dark At Durham. Gleaming tri dog, well constructed with good bone and substance; good angulation and reach of neck; ample depth of chest and level top line. Head handled well with clean cheeks, well filled foreface and good under jaw, and sweet eye. To be critical would prefer slightly tighter ear carriage. Showed well and moved freely round the ring holding his top line and tail well.

Delighted to award him the Dog Res Green Star.

#### Open Dog (8,3)

1. Byrne's Roclynn Orpheus at Millbyrne. G/S dog of correct height/ length ratio, in good coat and with excellent bone and substance. Angulation good with fair reach of neck. Pleasing head pattern with expressive ears and medium dark eye. Showed steadily and moved with drive.
2. McIntyre's Timeless Twilight's Lone Ranger For Meryctin. Well presented, upstanding s/w dog of good length and height, with ample bone and substance, and good depth of chest. Head balanced but would prefer more refinement. A well coated dog in good hard condition and he moved soundly.
3. Boothroyd's Wicani Snowfire. B/m dog in good textured coat of clear blue. This boy was a bit on the small side for me and overall balance was spoiled by his top line falling away too quickly. Head handled well with good fore face and flat skull and he has the sweetest of expressions. Moved OK..
4. Ball's Durham Ladys King.

#### Champion Dog (2,1)

1. Wall's CH Country's Dream King For a Day. I judged this dog in 2006 and how he has matured! This elegant tri dog is now 7 years old and, although he is beginning to show a few grey hairs on his muzzle, his gleaming black jacket belies his age. In good hard condition and beautifully presented, he was handled sympathetically and gave of his best, never putting a foot wrong. An upstanding dog of correct proportions, he is really well put together with excellent bone and substance, and neat feet. Pleasing head pattern with clean cheeks, good muzzle and under jaw, and his expressive ears and kind eye complete the picture. He oozes ring presence, and his movement is fluid with plenty of drive. Delighted to award him the dog Green Star and BIS.

Vet Dog No entries.

JH (8-11yrs - 2,2)

JH (12- 14 yrs -2,1)

1. Michelle Ball handled her bitch with ease and competently completed a triangle, with good sharp corners, and straight line. However she should learn that in JH'ing classes she should never put herself between her dog and the judge. The art of 'shadowing' is a useful handling technique to master. Well done on showing your dog to advantage and keep trying.

JH (15-18 yrs-1,1)

**Bitches**

MPB (1)

1. Finnegan's Oakmoon Diamond Sky. Raw 7 months b/m baby with good angulation and reach of neck. Her coat is of good texture but needs to grow to complete the overall picture. Her head is developing well and she has a well placed dark eye and expressive ears, though stop needs to clean as yet. A happy and confident girl, she showed and moved well.

PB (2,1)

1. Carr & Colclough's Durham Mistaken Identity at Donohill. 10 months s/w daughter of my RBIS winner. A puppy in good coat with harsh texture. She is the correct size and has good bone and substance with good front angulation though could do with a little more bend of stifle to complete the overall balance. Good head pattern with dark oblique eye and expressive ears giving sweet expression. Lovely temperament and she showed and moved quite well though needs to tighten up at the rear.

Jun B (6,3)

1. McNally's Copamage Lily Langtree. 9 months s/w daughter of my BIS. In good coat of correct coarse texture and quite well balanced. Of good height/length ratio with ample bone, substance and depth of rib cage. Head handled well with flat skull, well moulded foreface and sufficient under jaw. Good ear and eye placement. Moved soundly.
2. Byrne's Copamage Elisadoolittle. S/w litter sister to 1 and similar remarks apply though this girl is not quite so good in rear angulation.
3. Kelly & Donnelly's Chelborn She's Delightful. Tri b with pleasing body shape. She is well angulated, fore and aft, with fair reach of neck. Her head is a little heavy for me and I would prefer a kinder eye. Showed and moved well.

Inter B (1,1)

Open B (15, 8)

1. Ball's Beldones Take A Chance at Durham. A quality s/w bitch of top size, with ample bone and substance, and so lovely to look at. She is so well balanced with excellent reach of neck and length of back, giving her the elegance that so many of our collies do not possess. Her clean wedge head handled well with flat skull, rounded foreface and good chin. Her eyes were of the correct size and shape, with the correct oblique set and with her well set ears she had the sweet feminine expression I was looking for. She stood and demanded attention and moved effortlessly round the ring looking the picture of dignity. Delighted to award her the b Green Star and RBIS.
2. Tiernan's Valeo Bronte Belle. Shaded sable b put down to perfection. In great coat with coarse texture, her tremendous ring presence demands one's attention and she stood four square showing her socks off non-stop. There is much to like about her - good height/length ratio; well ribbed up and good depth of chest; hind angulation pleased me though she was short and steep in upper arm which detracted from her overall elegance. Pleasing head piece with clean cheeks, flat skull and good muzzle. Her ears and eyes were well set giving her a sweet enquiring expression. She moved with drive though could have done with a tad more extension in front.
3. Finnegan's Oakmoon Lady Madonna. Tri b of nice type and well balanced, with good angulation and reach of neck. Just coming back into coat after her litter (daughter won the MPB class) but her lack of

furnishings only served to emphasise her lovely shape. Pleasing head and expression though would prefer a sweeter eye. Moved freely and with drive.

4. McNally's Roclynn Oksana of Copamage Jun Ch.

Champ B (3,2)

1. Ware's Ch & Int Ch Alouette Bleu des Mirecages du Prince to Wassail. B/m in excellent bloom. She is of good size with level topline, plenty of bone and substance and a good depth of chest. Her head is topped with neat expressive ears though overall expression was spoilt by her head not being quite in balance. She has good angulation and a fair reach of neck which is not obviously apparent because of her heavy coat. She stood and showed proudly and moved soundly round the ring keeping her topline level and tail low. Pleased to award her the Res B Green Star.

Vet B (1)

1. Carr & Colclough's Kynan Remember Me. S/w b aged 9 years. In excellent condition and in good coat of correct texture and presented a balanced profile. Ample bone, substance and spring of rib, and her hind angulation was good though would prefer slightly better lay-back of shoulder and associated improved reach of neck. Head clean and well balanced with flat skull, well filled foreface and good chin. A slightly sweeter eye would enhance the overall expression. Showed steadily and moved freely though a tad close behind.

Brace - no entries

Colour classes, judged only on colour:

Tricolour (1)

1. Finnegan's Oakmoon Lady Madonna

B/M (4, 2)

1. Watkinson's Wassail Into The Rough At Tegan
2. Finnegan's Oakmoon Diamond Sky

SW (2,2)

Pat Hutchinson (Judge).