

Marlborough & District Canine Society Open Show Bank Holiday Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May.  
Beauceron Critiques.

I would like to thank the members and committee of Marlborough & District Canine Society for inviting me to judge Beauceron at their Open Show and also to those exhibitors who gave me entries and turned up on the hottest day of the year so far to allow me to judge their dogs. I would like to thank the two stewards who looked after me and also to the exhibitors for the sporting way that they accepted my decisions on the placing of their dogs, it's always difficult when dogs and bitches are judged jointly in the classes and I wish I could have awarded more first places. As I said earlier, it was the hottest day of the year and even though we were inside the Equestrian Centre the temperatures rose rapidly as did the noise, however the majority of dogs coped admirably with the conditions apart from the odd one or two who weren't enjoying their day out. All dogs present had the correct "Double Dews" that are our breeds characteristic visual sign so no need for me to mention in each assessment.

#### Puppy Dog/Bitch Class.

1<sup>st</sup> was Phelp's- "Pebleenas Hot Harbonaro", 7 month old Tri-colour (Harlequin) colour bitch, delightful temperament, loved her owner, loved me, loved her day out although she wasn't sure about the floor covering, took a little while to settle, however once she realised that she had a leg in each corner and that they could be moved in harmony she moved quite nicely, first time round the ring she crabbed a little but this was down to everything being new to her. She is still such a baby but there is a lot about her to like, she has correct head proportions, occiput to stop and stop to nose, correct length of ear, she was happy for me to check her mouth and has a good scissor bite. Her eyes are slightly light but are acceptable due to her being tri-colour. It was quite difficult to assess her body condition as she wriggled her bum constantly and tried to give me kisses but what I could feel was correct, her chest is deep but not very wide at the moment although I am sure this will come in time. She has a nice angulated stifle, her feet are a little untidy and were spread quite widely but again, she's young and the flooring wasn't very even. I will follow her progress with interest and was happy to award her Best Puppy In Breed.

#### Junior Dog/Bitch Class.

Both entries in this class were Bitches, 1<sup>st</sup> place went to Burrough's "Chicoron Dahlia Diva" 18 month old Black & Tan, she is a top size bitch but still feminine, she has beautiful dark oval eyes, correct scissor bite, her head is slightly rounded with a moderate stop, her ears are well set and the correct length, correct length between occiput and stop and stop and nose. Nothing is overdone on this bitch, she is muscular and strong, her ribs are long, her chest is deep and her brisket reaches down to her elbow. Her movement was slightly erratic and she did seem to move close behind but again I think this was down to the floor covering and a small ring which didn't allow this breed to stride out and cover the ground as they should.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place went to Mikusova's "Tallowah La Belle Stella" 17 month old Black & Tan, she is very feminine, I had to judge her on looks alone as she wasn't feeling the love for showing today and almost turned herself inside out when I tried to put hands on. When she did stand still she has a very good angulation to her stifle, her movement was Ok but she clearly didn't want to be in the ring and moved almost too quickly for her handler to keep up.

#### Post Graduate Dog/Bitch Class

Again both entries in this class were bitches, 1<sup>st</sup> place went to Harrell's "Pebbleena's Millie Murphy with Beaukita" 4 year old Black and Tan bitch, Narrow head although everything is in the right place, correct stop, occiput to stop and stop to nose is correct, she is just lacking in width and depth. Nice dark eyes. Correct scissor bite. Her chest is deep but not as wide as I would like

for a 4 yr. old, however her movement was effortless and she has a nicely angulated stifle, she has a slightly sloping croup but did fly her tail on the move, she won this class on movement.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place Phelp's "Pebbleena Bugatti" 20 month old Tricolour bitch, nice sturdy girl, again head and skull is well defined with correct stop, occiput to stop and stop to nose, teeth correct scissor bite, she is very muscular and strong, nice spring of rib but I could not judge her movement as she constantly paced, she stood with a very straight stifle which made her look bum high, despite her owners best efforts to place her legs correctly she just wasn't playing the game today.

Open Dog/Bitch Class.

1st place went to Harrell's "Chicoron Endeavour with Beaukita" 2 yr. old Black & Tan Dog, Strong and muscular, just shouts out that he's all male, his head is developing nicely and is in proportion to his body, he stands proudly with his head held high, he has the correct ratio between occiput and stop and stop and nose, correct scissor bite. His chest is wide and deep, he has a nicely angulated stifle and stood with his legs parallel. He paced slightly and then settled into a strong extended trot. Pleased to award him Best Of Breed here today.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place went to Burrough's "Lexie De La Noe D'Orient (Imp Fra)". Almost 3 yrs. old Black & Tan bitch. So unlucky to meet no 1 here today, it was a difficult choice for me, this bitch just oozes quality, she had the best tail carriage and moved effortlessly, her muscle tone was good and she stood nicely showing just the correct amount of angulation of her stifle, her head is very feminine and is the correct proportion and ratios. She has a good depth of chest and has well sprung ribs. I called her back into the ring for the challenge and she was the best bitch here today but was just lacking that spark that cost her Best Of Breed, on another day the dog and bitch could have easily changed places. Although the weather dictated that judging be carried out indoors (and rightly so), I would have liked to judge this breed outside as I feel that the ring was slightly too small for such a free striding breed, as it was I only moved two dogs at a time, I didn't ask for a triangle as I felt that it wouldn't make the assessing any easier, however by starting the dogs back by the judges tale, we could get a decent movement on the "Straight Up and Back" diagonal. Outside judging? Who knows what may have happened, places may have changed but I am happy with my placings and am confident that on the day the Best Dog was indeed Best Of Breed, however, all owners took their best dogs home with them.

Fiona White- Judge.