

Marlborough & District Canine Society

Open Show, 1st May 2017

My grateful thanks to the society for the invitation to judge at this show. It was supremely well organised, and ran smoothly throughout the day. There was a lovely happy atmosphere all day, and, although forecast, as it did not rain until the bitter end made for a comfortable day for all. Congratulations also to the society for securing valuable prize money via sponsorship from local businesses.

My thanks also to the exhibitors for the privilege of having hands on some excellent dogs. Allowing for the problems the floor surface gave the coated breeds, presentation was very good, as was the temperament of all. Often the phrase 'without exaggeration' is used. In my eyes exaggeration implies excessive, and I certainly did not encounter anything either exaggerated or excessive, although there were times when I would have preferred just a little less!

For Best In Show from an impressive line up I chose the Cocker Spaniel, Gardenstone Glamour Girl at Pepperbox JW, for the top award. This cocker impressed with her size, true 'merry' attitude, wonderful construction and correct, easy, free flowing gait. Reserve to her was the Lhasa Apso, Alamiks Dare To Dream, striding out purposefully, she just got better and better, well put together, beautifully presented and handled.

Best Puppy in Show really was a hard decision, I could have given any of them the big rosette, but in the end I could not go past the gorgeous Newfoundland puppy, just 6 months, so balanced, steady and free moving for one so young, a joy to watch, and Reserve to her a glorious Irish Setter, who so fit my ideal for an Irish, superb front and so true on the move, two youngsters who really 'filled my eye' on the day.

Best Veteran was the Basset, Brackenacre Gorgeous, ShCM, this one impressed me most with her soundness, good shape and make, and accurate, easy grace on the move.

AV Veteran Stakes, (29, 19 abs) sponsored by M H Driver Training solutions.

- 1 Vines' Ch Ailort Highlander at Parvodene JW ShCM, Norwegian Buhund, dog, a day short of 10 years young, in superb condition, still showing her correct construction, moved out accurately belying her age
- 2 Jordan-Davis' Norlyght Omatikaya, BSD Tervueren.
- 3 McShane's Milesend Drama Queen, Sheltie.

AV Champion Stakes, (15, 7) sponsored by Moonfrost Crates

- 1 Allchorne's Ch Diheath Guns N' Roses JW, Basset bitch, I liked this 5 year old a lot for her true active movement, good eye and clean lines, substance and the characteristic supple loose skin, not overdone in any way.
- 2 Allum 's Sh Ch Rokeover Fairdinkum Del Macaria ShCM, Italian Spinone..
- 3 Stickley's Ch Silgarhi Dexterity at Walkamile JW ShCM, Tib Terrier

AV Graduate Stakes (43, 19) sponsored by Rangebourne Pet Care

- 1 Oldale's Tweslam Voodoo Child, Cairn Terrier, the more I looked, the more I liked her, she did not command attention, and could have been more outgoing, but she had all the attributes, a very honest type.
- 2 Jordan-Davis' Blackfire Nefarious Intentions (imp USA) Tervueren..
- 3 Barnett & Carter's Alamiks Dare To Dream, Lhasa Apso

AV Open Stakes (33, 22) sponsored by Longford Chase Boarding Kennels & Cattery

- 1 Bull & Warren's Starferry Beyond Belief ShCM, Shar Pei, This 6 year old impressed me with her type and construction, the colour markings on her back gave the impression of more wrinkle than there was. Another that came into their own on the move.
- 2 Barnett & Carter's Minfaa Mr Sandman with Alamiks, Shih Tzu..
- 3 Challis' Tarafield Anya Panni by Vizslanya, Hungarian Vizsla

Jo Norris

Judge