BIRMINGHAM NATIONAL DOG – Judge Miss E Hooton

First of all, I would like to say that this was a bittersweet judging appointment for me, as I know how much my dear friend, Lynda Hughes, was looking forward to doing it…I'd like to thank the exhibitors for turning up and to their sporting nature, in accepting my decisions.

Although it was a numerically small entry, as sadly is the way these days, there was still plenty of quality to be found! Movement, as always, is still cause for concern, I found many too narrow in front and sometimes pinning in and many lacking drive behind. Heads on the whole were good but some were lacking width in scull and muzzle. I also found a few exhibits to be lacking the required depth of Rib. Temperaments were all excellent and on the whole, dogs were shown in a good and clean condition and I only found a couple of suspect mouths.

SPECIAL BEGINNERS DOG – NO ENTRIES

MINOR PUPPY DOG (3)

Three very different puppies in terms of size and maturity.

1ST. Hiams, Carradine Arfa Pint, Super showy red brindle of very nice type, with correct balance which made a really nice picture when standing. He has a pleasing head and is very sound in movement with good reach in front and that desired drive from behind. I have no doubt that he has a very bright future ahead of him! BPIB and I was delighted to find out later, that he went on to win 4th in the Puppy Group. Well done!

2nd. Waugh's, Glenrood Galaxy of Tribannon, Dark brindle who for me is up to size and not as well balanced as 1, he has a super head and expression with lovely dark eyes of correct shape, excellent topline and tailset, correctly made hindquarters that enabled him to move with drive from behind, unfortunately, he was moving a little close in front today.

3rd. Parker-tucker's, Splinterhill's, Real Black Devil of Uniquecottage, very much a baby but with lots to like.

PUPPY DOG (3 1abs)

Two very different types here, even though, I found out later that they were actually from the same breeder.

1st. Lucus's, Seveek Country Lad, Wheaten Brindle, whose type appealed to me more than the second place. I liked his overall balance and shape, he has a very nice head with dark eye and well made hindquarters, that once settled, enabled him to move well behind, his front movement is a little wayward at the moment but may settle with maturity.

2nd. Keeves's, Seveek Guilded Dream, Very showy Red with an attractive head, he moved well behind but again, needs to settle in front.

JUNIOR DOG (1)

1 Shannon, Storr and Middlehurst's, Brenndarcy It's magic (AI) This showy Red/Wheaten creates a lovely outline when standing, he was shown in excellent coat of correct texture and is spot on for size, he has the most attractive of heads but was a little heavier in shoulder than I like and unfortunately wasn't moving so well today.

YEARLING DOG (1)

1st. Shopland's, Cherrycrack Horatio, Upstanding Wheaten shown in super coat and condition, he has an excellent outline with plenty of forechest and well sprung deep ribs, very pleasing head with excellent stop and dark eye, really good bone and correctly made hindquarters that gave him a lovely driving action behind, moving a little narrow in front today but seriously considered him for the RCC.

POST GRADUATE DOG – NO ENTRIES

LIMIT DOG (3)

Two very different types here and the winner is very much my type.

1st Hiam's, Carradine Podgy Paddy, initialy this well handled Wheaten Brindle impressed me with his faultless movement, he simply glides around the ring. He has a head to die for and a super outline with good forechest and ribcage, really clean shoulders, he was a pleasure to go over and award the RCC.

2nd. Parker Tucker's, Tom Tricks Incredibly Islay of Uniquecotage, Nicley balanced Dark Brindle with pleasing head, nice outline with a good depth of ribs and shown in excellent coat of correct texture, sound mover.

OPEN DOG (1)

1st. & CC, Dennis, Goddard and Waites's, Good Times Ahead with Oudenarde, Some may say this Red Brindle is a little too big, but as the Late Great Walter Bradshaw said "there have always been Bigguns and Littleuns" and today I could not deny this 'Biggun' his day! He most impressed me with his super confirmation and precise movement, he has a very masculine head of correct proportions and was well presented and handled. Very happy to hear that this made him up. Congratulations!

VETERAN DOG (1)

1st. Lamb and saltmarsh's, Birselaw Dark Charmer, I liked this 8 year old Grey Brindle very much, he is really nice to go over with not a bit of coarseness. He has a lovely head and expression, super straight front, clean well laid back shoulders, dead level topline and excellent hindquarters. Unfortunately not in the best of coats today.

SPECIAL BEGGINNERS BITCH (1)

1st. Metcalf-Sault's, Cannwood Quiet Reflections, I really liked this pretty Wheaten brindle, she has excellent breed type and although up to size, is very feminine, she is well balanced with a sweet head and expression, lovely outline with a nice forechest, deep ribs and good front, well made hindquarters which enabled her to move with drive behind, well presented and handled. Was thrilled to hear that she went on to win 3rd in the SB Group.

MINOR PUPPY BITCH (3 1abs)

Two very promising puppies (litter sisters) that will no doubt change places many times in the future. They are both very well balanced and although I preferred the head of the 2nd. I just preferred the shoulder placement of 1 and felt that on the day, she out moved her sister.

1st. Felters' and Rumens's, Bireslaw Caol Ila. Best puppy Bitch

2nd. Firth's, Bireslaw Cora at Cairngold.

PUPPY BITCH (1)

1st. Metcalf-Sault's, Cannwood Can't Get Enough, Attractive Cream baby with pleasing outline and pretty head with nice dark eyes, she excels in forechest but has a slightly low set tail, she moved well behind with plenty of drive but a little too close in front today.

JUNIOR BITCH (2)

1st. Waugh's, Glory Daze at Tribannon, Well balanced Wheaten brindle extravert, she has the most delightful head with a truly wicked expression, behind which lies a super outline, with well angulated hindquarters, she took a while to settle on the move, but when she did, she moved with plenty of drive behind, unfortunately she was pinning slightly in front today, nevertheless, she oozes quality.

2nd. Osborn's Tweslam Be Gin The Magic (AI1) Feminine Red of correct size, another with a gorgeous head and expression, she is really nice to go over on the table, very good neck and shoulders with good spring of rib, on the move she has a good width behind but lacked the drive of 1 today.

YEARLING BITCH – NO ENTRIES

POST GRADUATE BITCH (3 2abs)

1st. Metcalf-Sault's, Cannwood call Me Aggie, Cream with a lovely head and expression, very good forechest, depth of rib, topline and hindquarters but I would prefer a little more layback of shoulder. She had free flowing movement, which was parallel front and back.

LIMIT BITCH (5 1abs)

A very nice class.

1st. Miller's, Cornton Fyne Hope, this bitch took my eye on entering the ring (just my type) she was beautifully presented in a full double coat. She has the most stunning head and is so well constructed, which showed in her free flowing and accurate movement. But…Please Please get some weight off her, then she would get the title that she so deserves, I'm sure!!

2nd. Keeves's, Seveek Everlasting Dream, another quality exhibit, nice sized Dark Brindle of correct balance, presenting a lovely outline, very attractive and feminine head, nice front and well angulated hindquarters, just not moving as well as 1 today.

3rd. Soper's, Elitecharm Showgirl, a lot to like but preferred the balance of the first two.

4th. Metcalf-Sault's, Cannwood Quiet Reflections.

OPEN BITCH (4)

What a Class! Four beautiful bitches, all worthy of their titles. I was splitting hairs between them all.

1st. Felter's and Rumens's, Landbuck La Voix, this Wheaten brindle has what they call 'The X Factor'! She has the most exquisite head with a really wicked expression, she is an ideal size and is so well balanced, her construction is hard to fault but if I was to be ultra-picky, I would like a little more bend of stifle. Her movement is spot on front and rear and she moves around the ring like a little train, a joy to watch, was very pleased to award her the CC (her 3rd) and BOB. Well done!

2nd. Inett, Harrison and Clayton's, Carradine Jo, Dark Brindle that I have admired for a while, another of correct size, she oozes breed type and is so lovely to go over on the table, really well put together throughout, she has a very feminine head of correct proportions with lovely dark eyes and is very sound in

movement, a real honest Cairn who looks like she can do a good days work. Hopefully she'll gain her so deserved title soon.

3rd. Firth's, Cairngold Chiquitita, Another beautiful bitch that I have long admired, she is so sound and was put down to perfection.

4th. Yates-Johnson's, Pendly Dinah, Beautifully presented stunner who unfortunately played her handler up on the move…

VETERAN BITCH – NO ENTRIES

Liz Hooton (Judge)