Crufts 2024 – Judge Mr Geoff Thomas

It was an honour to be asked to judge the breed at Crufts. My thanks must go to my two ring stewards for keeping things moving smoothly, but mainly to the exhibitors for giving me a lovely entry and the privilege of allowing me to judge their dogs.
I was surprised to find a number of incorrect mouths and a number of upright shoulders. Movement can still be a problem with a lot moving close behind. But on the positive side heads were generally very good, with many having the required width of skull and muzzle with a deep stop. Temperaments were excellent and most were presented in good coat and condition. My main winners, I feel, could hold their own in the best of company. The Open dog class, with 19 entries and just 3 absentees, was a joy to judge with many worthy dogs being unplaced. And in the bitch classes I again had quality dogs being unplaced in some of the classes. The Open bitch class in particular I could have done with 5 red cards.

VD(2)
1. Marchants, Ch Winetta Quest For Fame, just 7 year old dark grey brindle and still very much on his toes. Excels in head, with broad skull and muzzle, deep stop and keen expression. So well put together, best of fronts, firm topline, good ribbing and well set tail. Shown in excellent coat and condition. Gave his handler a hard time on the move, but moved well when he settled to it. Could still challenge for top honours, Best Veteran.
2.Lamb & Saltmarsh's, Birselaw Dark Charmer forMacmoon ShCM VW, darkest of brindles, 10 year old and starting to show his age a bit. He has a well made head, with deepest of stops and good width to skull. Well made throughout, with a good front and level topline. In good condition, but coat not so good. Moved steadily and soundly.

MPD. (1)
1. Shoplands, Sanderfield On The Rocks for Cherrycrack (imp Fin), almost 9 month old dark red brindle. Smart young dog, with so much potential. Well balanced head, with deep stop and good width to skull, good bite with big teeth. Well made front, with decent forechest, firm topline and nice spring of rib. Carries himself well, moving steadily, front needs to settle a bit, but he has time on his side. BPIB.

PD.(1)
1. Van Den Brink & Bogers, Brutus Habanero Van Thuredrecht, well grown 10 Month old bright red. All male with well made head, deepest of stops, good bite and big teeth. Well made throughout with good layback of shoulder, firm topline and good rib. Coat not at its best and moving a shade close behind.

JD(3)
1. Inett & Harrisons Carradine Apple Jack, almost 18 month light red. Well made head, with well set ears, good width to skull and broad muzzle with good bite. Well made front with decent forechest, firm topline and well set tail. Shown in excellent coat and condition, moved well and covered the ground when he got into his stride. Lovely dog but just needs a little more animation.
2 Kolodziejczaks, Bezaidas Top Gun Int/Cze/Pl/Sk Jch, nicely balanced 16 month wheaten brindle. Masculine head with deep stop, keen expression and good width to skull. Well made font with
good forechest.irm topline and well ribbed. In good coat and condition. A shade proud of his tail on the move and not as well made behind as winner.
3 Brutus Habanero VanThuredrecht.

YD(5,1abs)
1. Ikemanns Camster Cairn's Van Halen, smart wheaten, totally masculine in outlook, excels in head, with intense expression, so well balanced with good length of neck into well made front with good forechest. Presented a well balanced outline. Good quarters which allowed him to drive from behind and in excellent coat and condition. Just a bit lazy with his tail on the stand.

2 Yates-JohnsonsPendleySeafarer, masculine brindle. Another smart dog with a well made head and keen expression. Balanced outline with firm topline and well made quarters, coat and condition spot on. An accomplished showman, but not moving as well in profile as class winner.
3Sonntags,Camster Cairn's U got it, dark brindle, nicely balanced head, presented a balanced outline, well set tail and well made behind. Another in good coat and condition. Covered the ground well but was a shade wide in front.

PGD(5,1abs)
1 Courants, Trio D-Enfer Du Moulin De Mac Gregor, dark brindle, masculine in outlook. Well made head with deep stop and good bite. Excellent in front, with good layback of shoulder and good forechest, firm topline and well set tail. Nicely ribbed and shown in excellent coat and condition. Covered the ground well on the move and an accomplished showman.
2 McIntyres,Macantsaoir Celtic Warrior, wheaten brindle, well made head with good stop and keen expression. Firm topline, well ribbed and shown in good coat. Not quite the overall balance of class winner.
3Inett & Harrisons, CarradineAyreFriar, light red, well made throughout and presented a balanced outline. Well made in front and firm topline. Just a bit uninterested in proceedings today.

LD(8,1abs)
1. Asmyhrs, Corynthean Sunspotter at Motoppen, smart wheaten brindle, excels in head with well set ears, deep stop, dark eyes giving an intense expression, good bite and big teeth. Well made throughout, with well laid shoulder, good forechest, firm topline, well set tail and muscled quarters. Moved with drive, covering the ground well and a natural showman.
2Clarkes,FurythorMr Bojangles By Lentricia, dark brindle who pushed so hard for this class. Loved his head, broad skull with deep stop and intense expression. Presents a balanced outline, with good shoulder and forechest. Firm topline and well set tail. Showed steadily but not quite as positive in front as class winner.
3Gordons, Scotch and Soda GlenBrullemail, dark grey brindle. Made in a slightly smaller mould than 1 and 2 but still masculine in outlook.Well made head with intense expression. Good length of neck into well made front. Firm topline, good ribbing and well made quarters, covered the ground well on the move.

OD(19,3abs)
1. Hogartys, Ch/IrCh Cadagio Another Day In Paradise, bright red who caught my eye the minute he came in the ring. So well balanced, with a beautiful masculine head with deep stop and intense expression, correct bite with big teeth. Good reach of neck into best of fronts with well laid shoulder and a well defined forechest and good ribbing. Firmest of toplines and well set tail. Shown in excellent coat and condition. Covered the ground with ease on the move and showed himself off to advantage, CC.
2TheodorssonsMulti Ch Hjohoo's Yes Hjo Can, very smart wheaten, all male in outlook, well made head, deep stop, keen expression and correct bite. Presents a balanced outline, with firm topline, good spring of rib and well turned quarters. Shown in excellent coat and condition. Couldn't quite match the freedom of movement of class winner, RCC.
3Hiams, Ch Carradine Arfa Pint, showy red brindle. Judged him as a puppy and awarded him the RCC. Pleased to see he has achieved his early promise. Well balanced head and keen expression, good length of neck into well laid shoulder, firm topline and well set tail. Shown in first class coat and condition. Moved well, covering the ground and a natural showman.

GCD.(1).1. Lamb & Saltmarsh's, Birselaw Dark Charmer for Macmoon ShCM VW, 2nd in veteran.

VB.(7,1abs)
1. Courant's, IB/CS/EN/FV Ch Tara Cottage J'adore Dite Dior, almost 10 year old red, well made head with good stop and correct bite. Presented a balance outline with a good front, firm topline , good ribbing and well set tail. Covered the ground well on the move and a steady showgirl.

2Vileghe's, Marie's Pocket Full of Dutch Gold, 8 year old red, very feminine in outlook. Lovely head with good stop and bite. Nicely made throughout with good front, firm topline and nicely ribbed. Shown in good condition, not in as good a coat as class winner and not quite so positive in front.
3Tranehed'sMulti Ch/Nordic Ch Goldclints Gina Loreen, almost 12 year old dark grey brindle. Very feminine in outlook with a lovely well balanced head with deep stop. Well placed shoulders, firm topline and well set tail. Shown in good coat and condition, does not show her age at all. Moved and showed steadily, a credit to her owner.

MPB.(1).1. Saich's, Lindcoly Singing Angela, 9 month old red brindle. Such a feminine girl with sweetest of heads, still has some developing to do but has a deep stop and correct bite. Good length of neck into well laid shoulder, straight front with good bone. Well ribbed, with well set tail and good quarters. In a full puppy coat of correct texture. A bundle of energy, so took a little while to settle. But moved true and covered the ground when she did. BPB.

PB.(2,1abs).1. Inett & Harrison's, Dechamberay Lady Margot of Carradine, almost 10 month old light brindle. Very feminine in outlook with a well made head giving a keen expression, with her well set ears, lovely dark eye, broad muzzle and correct bite. Presented a lovely outline, with such a well made front, firm topline and well set tail. In great coat and condition. Moved steadily and when she got into her stride covered the ground well. Smart girl, not using her tail so well on the stand.

JB.(4,1abs).
1. Petts, Doonrae Tuesday's Child. Almost 13 month old cream. So feminine in outlook with well set ears on a broad skull, good stop and correct bite. Correctly made throughout, with well laid shoulder, firm topline and good tailset. Good ribbing, quarters and in good coat and condition. Moved well when she got into her stride, showed steadily but would like a bit more animation.
2Silfer's,Sandersfield Wild Rose, 15 month old light red. Another with a beautiful head, giving that keen Cairn expression. Well balanced throughout and correct angulations both ends, which allowed her to move well and cover the ground, close decision.
3Inett & Harrison's, CarradinePiccaddLilly, 17 month old red brindle. Presents a balanced outline, with a decent head, but not quite the strength of 1 & 2. Good in front, firm topline and well set tail. Shown in good coat and condition. Covered the ground well but just a little wayward on the move, sure this will settle with maturity.

YB.(12,1abs).
1. Yates-Johnson's. Pendley Sea Breeze. Very feminine red brindle, who is so well balanced and presents a lovely outline. Good front with a decent amount of forechest, firmest of toplines and a well set tail. Good spring of rib and well turned quarters, and in excellent coat and condition. Moved out well, true in both directions, covered the ground well and an accomplished showgirl, RCC.
2Courant's, Tara Cottage Take My Breath Away. Feminine wheaten brindle, with awell madehead, giving a keen expression. Another who presented a well balanced outline, good front and forechest, firm topline and good quarters, in decent coat and condition. Moved well, covering the ground on the move. Not quite the animation of class winner.
3Shannon & Storr's,BrendarcyWitches Promise. Red brindle, another feminine bitch, with a lovely head, deep stop, keen expression and big teeth. Good front and topline, well ribbed and well made behind. In excellent coat and condition.

PGB.(11).
1 Munday's, Furythor Marvel at Me. Feminine dark red brindle. So much to like about this girl. Beautiful head with correct proportions giving a keen expression and a correct bite. So well put together, with well laid shoulder, good forechest and decent bone. Firm topline to well set tail. Shown in excellent coat and condition. Moved true both ways and covered the ground, worthy winner.
2Courant's, Tara Cottage Sweet Dreams. Wheaten withwell madehead, deep stop and correct bite. Balanced outline, with well made front, firm topline and good tailset. Shown in good coat, a shade heavy. But still moved well and covered the ground.

3Goud's, BreezyKingussieMolly Connell. Dark brindle, with a lovely head and keen expression, good neck into well made front and firm topline. Well ribbed and in good coat and condition. Moved well and covered the ground.

LB.(11,5abs)

1. Shoplands, Tom Trick's Little Hot Kiskadee at Cherrycrack. Feminine grey brindle, loved her head and expression. Balanced throughout, with a good front and forechest, firm topline and well made behind. In a good jacket, slightly heavy but didn't affect her movement. Not an easy girl to show and gives her handler a hard time, when she settles to it she moves soundly and with drive.

2Thompson's, CastlelineMaitree. Very feminine wheaten, lovely overall balance, with well laid shoulder, good topline and tailset. Well ribbed and in good condition but not quite the bloom of class winner. Moves so well and covers the ground.

3Novakova's, Novarokan A Moonstonne. Nicely made wheaten brindle, feminine in outlook, well balanced head, with a deep stop and correct bite. Well made in front and good forechest with firmest of toplines and well set tail. Super showgirl, just a shade heavy and could do with more coat.

OB.(14)

1. Theodorsson's, Hjohoo's I'm Perfect For Hjo, a very apt name for this ultra feminine bright red bitch. In a class full of quality she just shone. She looked right at every angle, I found her hard to fault. A beautiful head with deepest of stops, scissor bite with big teeth. Good length of neck into well placed shoulder and upper arm and good forechest. Firm topline, held on the move, tail set right and well muscled quarters, with short hocks. Presented to perfection. Moved true both ways and motored around the ring covering the ground with ease. And what a showgirl, never put a foot wrong. So pleased to award her CC & BOB. Pleased to see her shortlisted in the group.

2Firth's Ch CairngoldChiquitita, another bright red. I have awarded her a CC previously and still think she is a lovely bitch and worthy champion.Well made head, with a feminine outlook. Presents a balanced outline, with best of fronts and firm topline, nicely ribbed and shown in a good full coat. Moves well both ways and shows steadily. When it came to the challenge she just lacked a bit of animation of the YB,

3Waugh's Ch Glory Daze at Tribannon. Another very feminine brindle. Beautiful head with correct proportions. Presents a balanced outline, well made front and enoughforechest. Good ribbing andwell made quarters. Moved well when she got into her stride and covers the ground. No disgrace to stand 3rd in this class.

GCB.(3).

1. Keegan's, Golden Shadow of Loughend. Light red, nicely balanced, very good in front with good forechest, held her topline on the move and carries her tail well. Good spring of rib and in good coat and condition. Moved true both ways and covered the ground well.

2Lund's, Cairngold Brandy Snap byJorvikairn, feminine light red. Nicely made head with good width to skull. Balanced in outline and well made in front. Shown in excellent coat and condition. Very attentive to her handler and shows steadily. Not moving with the drive of class winner.

3Parkin's Svendalens Dancing Queen. Pretty dark brindle, beautifully balanced head with keen expression. Nicely put together but not quite the front of 1st and 2nd, good quarters. Shown in good coat and condition. Not so positive on the move.

Geoff Thomas, (Judge)