Midland Cairn Terrier Championship Show 2024, Judge Mr Iain Shaw

It was five years ago whilst lying next to the pool in Golf Del Sur, Tenerife, that I got the call inviting me to judge this special 40th Anniversary show. Let's just say there was a few extra cocktails that evening, not that Mrs Shaw needs a good reason.

When I arrived at the show, I felt I was in a time warp. The hall was buzzing. Lots of exhibitors, spectators, and the cairns were chatting away to each other. It had that proper club show feel and the committee should be congratulated for their organising skills. I know what is involved in trying to bring all the loose ends together. Special thanks to my stewards, Chris (Honorary Scotsman for the day) and Sue, for their sterling work; to all the exhibitors and spectators for their generous applause for each class, and; for the generous way my placings were accepted in that true sportsmanship way our breed is noted for.

After my six-year sabbatical, most exhibits were new to me. My general impression was that we have very varied types, from the long to the short-legged. Heads were in general fine, although many lacked that desired "stop" to enhance expression and some big round eyes have appeared. Mouths, which are so important to a terrier, were good. Most had large teeth and scissor bites. Coats were varied as would be expected and I made allowances if the texture was good. I did have some lovely free-flowing exhibits moving true in front and behind. However, some exhibits who would have done better were let down by their handlers which was frustrating for me.

I was pleased with both lineups and some lovely comments afterwards with the "We could follow what you were looking for", which is nice to hear. Showing and presenting a cairn is not easy. In fact, it can be very challenging. My grateful thanks to everyone who made the journey through a storm to support the Midland CTC on their special day.

Best in Show and Best Puppy: Felter & Rumen's "Landbuck Sabrage"

Although not quite a year old, this youngster ticked all the boxes for me. Stunning head piece with lovely shape and colour of eye. Neat ears and plenty of stop. Super mouth, with a cheeky expression. I wouldn't want him any bigger but he takes your eye for balance and is so well constructed. Lovely front movement, neck and shoulders. Super topline which he holds on the move. Drives from the rear with a good bend of stifle and short hocks. In full coat of good quality. He has real ring presence and I was totally smitten and wish him well for the future.

Reserve Best in Show and BOS: Goud's "Vale of Atholl's Swing in the Blanket"

Two and a half year old with a beautiful head and varmity expression. Ideal size with super balance, length to height ratio. Moves well in front on good legs and feet. Ok for bone. Good depth and spring of rib. Level topline and tailset spot on. Moves with drive from behind. Oozes femininity. I loved her personality and she gave her all for her handler. Shown in lovely coat and condition.

Best Veteran: Munday's "Lentrica Dolly Mixture at Carernwile"

Seven year old daughter of the beautiful "Dolly Daydream". Lovely head with nice expression, good balance, depth and spring of rib. Nice legs and feet. Moved with purpose, with her handler and enjoying her day out.

Baby Puppy (5, 2 absent)

1st Percy's Ariom Northern Dancer

Lovely red youngster, nearly six months. Moves well for one so young. Lovely tight coat. Full of personality and very well handled.

2nd Dolan's Glenrood It Has To Be Me

Another red with potential. Developing nicely and has a sweet head and shoulders

3rd Percy's Ariom Calypso Dancer

Veteran Dog or bitch (9)

1st Lentrica "Dolly Mixture at Carernwil"

2nd Vlieghe's "INT/BEL/LUX CH Marie's Magic Pocketful of Dutch Gold"

Red bitch who moved around the ring with zest. On her toes with plenty of attitude. Nice head and expression. Good topline and tailset. In lovely coat and condition. Pushed winner very close.

3rd Metcalfe Sault's "Cannwood Call Me Aggie"

Puppy Dog (4, 1 absent)

1st Landbuck Sabrage

2nd Firth's "Cairngold Carson"

Red. Nice head and expression. Good stop. Wealth of good textured jacket. Nice neck and shoulders. Level topline. Nice bone, legs and feet. When he settles moves ok. Just needs time.

3rd Saich's "Lindcoly Golden Buick"

Junior Dog (5, 1 absent)

1st Parkin's "Mosspur Into The Shadows"

Red. Just turned 12 months and still looks like a baby. Head coming on nicely. Presents a balanced outline. Neck and shoulders ok. Can move a little wide in front if moved too quickly. Good topline. Nice bend of stifle and moves with drive, keeping a nice profile. New coat coming of good texture. Showed well.

2nd Munday's "Furythor Reluctant Villain"

Son of the best veteran. Nearly fourteen months. Typy head and expression. A heavier set male who could lose some weight to his advantage. Good depth and spring of rib. Level topline with a happy tail for his handler. Lovely coat and condition. Well presented and handled.

3rd Saich's Lindcoly Golden Hudson

Postgrad dog (5, 1 absent)

1st Robert's "Cannwood Moonlight Shadow"

Wheaten brindle. Just turned two and by the same sire as The RCC winner. Lots to like. Lovely male head with decent stop. Nice expressive eyes. Super mouth. Lovely bone and tight feet. Keeps a nice topline on the move and drives off short hocks. A slow burner who is progressing nicely.

2nd Sinclair's "Tycadno Quick Shot"

Cream. Twenty months old. Nice head with keen expression. New coat coming in of good texture. Scores in neck and has a nice outline when standing. Movement was ok when he settled down. Full of life and enjoying giving handler a difficult time.

3rd Parker-Tucker's "Uniquecottage Grey Shiso"

Limit Dog (5)

1st Byrne's "Carradine Howzat Howard"

Silver Brindle of nice size and type. On his toes throughout. Lovely head and expression good mouth, Nice front, legs and feet. Balanced outline. Moved with great enthusiasm, in lovely coat and condition. Presented to advantage and well-handled. Nice dog who only had eyes for his handler.

2nd Thomas' "Tycadno Magic Man"

Super headed cream with good stop. Expressive eyes full of mischief. Nice neck, legs and feet. Balanced outline when standing and moving around the ring. In full coat of good texture. Moved fine behind but not settling in front today. Lots to like.

3rd Lucas' "Seveek Country Lad"

Open Dog (11) Nice class. Full of quality

1st Ballinger's "CH Cloverbrook Game Set Match"

Brindle. A very deceiving dog shown in full coat. I found him to be very well put together. Nice size for a male. Ample bone. Lovely balanced head, good stop. Strong muzzle with expressive eyes. Nice neck and shoulder although a little thinning of coat would be to his advantage. Deep well-sprung ribs, in excellent body condition. Moved with purpose on a loose lead. Never stopped showing and fully deserved the RCC.

2nd Parker-Tucker's "CH Uniquecottage Grey Borage"

Upstanding all male. Not quite the head of 1st but there is so much to like. Love his forechest, front, bone and feet. Has depth and spring of rib. Moves with drive from the firmest of hocks. Shown in a proper coat of quality. A quality champion.

3rd Hiam's "CH Carradine Arfa Pint

Completing a nice trio.

Special Beginners D/B (5, 1 absent)

1st Ortolano's "Svendalens Pumpkin Pie"

Brindle with a lovely head and expression. Nicely constructed and moves well. In nice body condition. Her presentation could be better but lots to like. Handled well.

2nd Tycadno Quick Shot

3rd Seveek Country Lad

Minor Puppy Bitch (3)

1st Firth's "Cairngold Claim to Fame"

Brindle, very much a baby. Sweet feminine head and expression. Very assured moving around the ring. In lovely coat and condition. Hope she grows on.

2nd Waugh's "Tribannon Angel's kiss"

Brindle. Up to size. Typical head and expression. Very showy, moves well both fore and aft and is nice in profile. Good coat qualities.

3rd Saich's "Lindcoly Sweet Maid Marion"

Puppy Bitch (5, 1 absent) [Nice class]

1st Thomas' "Tycadno Winter Star"

Such an attractive type. Loved her head with a wicked expression. Nicely balanced with lovely body shape. Good topline and tailset. Good bend of stifle. Moves with purpose from behind. Gives her handler a hard time going around the ring, full of mischief and personality. New jacket coming in. Very promising. Best puppy Bitch

2nd Petts "Doonrae Ultra Violet"

Another promising young lady. Liked her shape and balance. Nice head and expression. Very sound, moving on good legs and feet. Nice topline and tailset. Nicely presented. Showed all out, maturing nicely.

3rd Felter's and Rumen's "Landbuck Amethyst"

Junior bitch (5)

1st Thomas' Castleline Seren at Tycadno

Cream. Super head and expression. Nice size. Balanced and super feminine. Moved really well front and behind. Beautifully presented in a proper jacket. Showed her socks off. Nice prospect.

2nd Thompson's "Castleline Cariad"

Litter sister to Seren. Similar remarks apply. Not quite the steady movement of her sister but another nice bitch.

3rd Dennis' "Svendalens Skye Lantern"

Postgrad bitch (11, 2 absent)

1st Osborne's "Begin Again at Tweslam"

Silver brindle. Beautiful head and expression with good stop. Strong muzzle. Lovely mouth. Lovely balance, neck and shoulders. Moves very well on good legs and feet. In half jacket. Super coat quality. I really liked this bitch. Unfortunately, her handler unintentionally let her down. Such a shame as she is a proper cairn and deserves to reach the top.

2nd Parker-Tucker's "Uniquecottage Red Chervil"

Another lovely type. Nice head and expression. Good front. Took time to settle before getting into her stride. Well bodied, good topline and tailset. Super coat. Nicely presented and sympathetically handled.

3rd Innet, Harrison and Smith's "Carradine Becky Between Us"

Limit Bitch (9). [Quality class]

1st "Vale of Atholl's Snug in a Blanket"

2nd Shannon and Storr's "Brenndarry Witches Promise"

Red Brindle. Just turned two. Lovely head piece with a wicked expression. So well put together. She moves true once she gets into her stride. Shown in excellent jacket. Maturing nicely. Just needs to body up. Nice type.

3rd Parker-Tucker's "Birselaw Floral Dancer of Uniquecottage"

Open Bitch (11, 3 absent)

1st Yates- Johnson's "CH Pendley Sea Breeze"

Red brindle for sheer type, she is a beautiful bitch. Nice size, proper cairn head with lovely expression. Very stylish on the move at one with her handler. Her presentation was flawless. I liked her a lot . RCC.

2nd Saich's "Lindcoly Picture Perfect"

Lovely type of bitch with a feminine head and expression. She handles so well on the table. Neck, shoulders and elbows tucked in. Only just over two and bodying up nicely. Good topline and tailset. Nice bone, ample bend of stifle. Moves very well on good legs and feet. Pushed the winner hard hopefully her time will come .

3rd Inett and Harrison's "CH Carradine Picadd Lilly"

Brace (4)

1st Thompson's "Well matched Schooled Creams

2nd Munday's "Brindle Rogues"

3rd Saich's "Red Mischievous Babies"

Iain Shaw
Judge