

COLLIE CLUB OF VICTORIA

CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW

2 JULY 2017

My thanks to the Club for inviting me to judge your championship show. It was an honour to judge such quality dogs. Thank you too for looking after me so well before and during the show. Especial thanks to the exhibitors for a lovely entry – I understand that many of you travelled a long way to show under me which is very gratifying. I hope that didn't take you too long to thaw out!

Rough Collies

I thought the standard of the Rough Collies was very good. The majority of dogs had balanced heads with correct stops, lovely moulded forefaces and good underjaws. Eyes on the whole were very pleasing – dark, almond shaped and obliquely placed. None were too small or deep set. Ears were correctly placed – the cold was affecting ear carriage for some making them very light in some which was very unfortunate and cost placings. Many of the Roughs lacked the correct angulation of upper arm which is something I think you need to pay attention to in your breeding programmes. Coats were very good in that they were of correct texture and fitted the outline of the dog, not excessive in any way. Some tri's had a rusty tinge to their coat and some blues lacked the pale silvery blue colour that the standard requires – so hard to get that elusive combination of construction, expression and colour right. Movement on the whole was good but those lacking in upper arm lacked any reach in front and displayed short, stuttery steps when moved at speed, often over-reaching behind. Tail length was varied with few reaching to the hock joint. I was pleased that there were no cow hocks in evidence today.

Challenge Bitch, Best of Breed and Runner Up Best in Show was Baker's Ch Carluke Moonlite Over Paris. An utterly feminine tri, shown and put down to perfection (as were all exhibits from this kennel). A lovely size, she is well balanced with super reach of neck and correct length of back. Well angulated in front and behind she is able to cover the ground with ease, maintaining a level topline on the move. She excels in expression having a well balanced head, slight stop and good underjaw. Her ears although folded rather more than I would like are nevertheless correctly placed and well used. Her eyes are the correct medium sized, almond shaped, obliquely set and such a lovely dark brown. Unlucky to meet the Smooth bitch who narrowly beat her for BIS.

Challenge Dog, Runner Up to Best of Breed and Best Intermediate in Show was Milne's Robgai Undrnth The Arches. Very promising young dog of just under 2 years of age. Still to mature but his potential could not be denied. Immediately appealed for his super balance, outline and outstanding movement, covering the ground with reach and drive. He is balanced in head with a sweet yet masculine expression, ears well set on and used as he showed non stop. Lacking in coat today but what he had was harsh. I look forward to seeing how he matures.

Reserve Dog was Cross's Ch Cathkin Cameron, mature, masculine dog who is well constructed and moved accordingly. His expression is very typically Collie thanks to his balanced head, sweet eyes and well set and used ears. Unlucky to be beaten today.

Reserve Bitch was Baker's Carluke Dance Thruth Snow. Super bitch with lovely head and expression. Beautiful colour. Well constructed and moving freely. Unlucky to be beaten by her kennel mate.

Best Baby Puppy and baby puppy in show was Bester's Baqilodge Pocket Full of Dreams, headed a class of confident babies, all having the essentials as you'd expect them at this tender age. The nod went to this young lady who had the better neck.

Best Minor Puppy and Minor Puppy in Show was Jones' Cathkin Mr Sandman – I could have taken him home! Such a promising puppy with super angulation fore and aft, lovely reach of neck and length of back. His expression is so sweet and yet he still retains that Collie dignity that we strive for. Moving soundly and a confident showman. I loved him.

Best Puppy and Best Puppy in Show was Brentland Kennels Ch Yaxeka Road to Rio. Very promising youngster of just under 12 months of age. Is well grown and starting to get a bit teenagery but he is very well constructed and has a typical Collie expression combining sweetness and intelligence. He moves really well as his conformation would suggest and he is an attentive and active showman.

Best Junior and Best Junior in Show was Buckley's Kirriloch Mr Money Bags. Very appealing tri, presented really well. Jet black coat gleaming and coming in well. Super outline with fabulous reach of neck, correct length of back and well angulated. His head has yet to finish but he has a super expression, thanks to beautiful eyes and correctly set and used ears. Moved as if he could work all day. I'd like to see him in a couple of years when he has matured.

Best Australian Bred was Bester's Ch Baqilodge Jewels and Gems. Headed a very strong class. Well made bitch with lovely expression. Moved out really well.

Best Veteran was Wallace's Ch Coltie Star Attraction, a nine years young girl who can still strut her stuff. Well constructed, sweet expression and shown in very good condition.

Best Neuter was Crowley's Dual Ch (T) NTR CH Ellerran Rioja Blu Distinctn TSDX. Free moving thanks to his very good conformation, he also has an appealing expression and good colour. Well presented and handled.

Smooth Collies

The standard of the Smooth Collies was on the whole very good indeed. Size is an issue for some and colour of some blues could be better. All were soundly constructed and moved well. Heads on the whole were balanced with correctly placed stops and sweet expressions. Height to length ratio was correct in most and long tails were very evident. Looking back at my catalogue after the show, it was interesting to see the influence of Roughs in your breeding programme – we have not been able to interbreed in the UK for over 20 years now. The amalgamation is not that evident except I think in expression and coat length but it certainly not been detrimental to breed type and I congratulate you for your judicious use of what would seem to be excellent examples of both coat varieties.

Challenge Bitch, Best of Breed and Best in Show was the oh so feminine sable Gr Ch Wiru Undressed for Success (Adams). Just my sort of collie, she is ideal for size, has a correct height to length ratio, super reach of neck and good depth of chest. Her angulations are correct and her hocks well let down which meant she was able to move with reach and drive giving the impression that she could work all day. Her head is just lovely. She has such a clean head, beautifully moulded foreface, good underjaw, her stop is slight and breaks in the correct place. Her backskull is flat. She has such a sweet expression thanks to her dark, almond shaped eyes and well set and used ears. I thought her absolutely lovely.

Challenge Dog was Hoggard's Ch Wiru Let it Ride, litter brother to the BOB and quite different but a dog of great quality. His maturity and finish on the day won him the challenge. He is correctly constructed with very good overall balance, excellent angulations, correct length of back, super reach of neck, enabling him to move effortlessly and again giving the impression of a dog fit for function. His head is very pleasing, being clean and balanced with a sweet yet masculine expression.

Runner Up to Best of Breed was Cook's Ch Foxbell Fashion Plate who was also best veteran and best veteran in show. Well made bitch with very good balanced head and super expression thanks to an excellent combination of sweet, dark eye, correctly placed stop and well placed and used ears. Front and rear angulation is very good and she has an excellent reach of neck. I thought her a touch short in back but that really is splitting hairs which I had to do in this excellent entry. She moved very well indeed.

Best minor puppy was Baker's Foxbell Friends Withbenefits. Very promising baby with all the essentials at this age. Has a lovely body and bone for her age. Her head is developing well and she has a sweet expression thanks to a well shaped eye and good stop. Ears need to lift but time is on her side. Moved out well for a baby.

Best Puppy was Cook and Lenarcic's Foxbell Finnish Warrior, litter brother to best minor and very similar. Should have a very promising future.

Best Intermediate was Adams' Ch Carluke Contra Indicated. I loved this dog and at not yet 3 years out, he only lost out on maturity today. I thought him to be very balanced and well angulated with a very good reach of neck and length of back. His head was clean with correct backskull, moulded foreface, good underjaw and correct stop. His expression was sweet yet masculine. Showed non stop and moved out really well, covering the ground with ease.

Best Australian Bred, Reserve Dog and Best Australian Bred in Show was Cook's Ch Foxbell Un Forgettable. Another really lovely male who appealed for his overall balance and breed type. I loved his laid back attitude – super showman who did everything asked of him. His head is balanced and expression masculine but still with that sweetness that we look for but don't always get. Super reach of neck and correct length of back together with correct angulations meant he moved effortlessly round the ring, giving the impression he could do a day's work. He was unlucky to meet today's winner.

Best Neuter was McClellan's Ch Nauglamir New Sensation – only 2 in this class and both were very typical girls who showed and moved well.

From the later classes, Best Headed was Shields' Cathkin What's It All About; Best Coated was Cook's Ch Foxbell Fashion Plate; Best Gaited was Gall's Ch Albermayne Follow That Dream; Best Coloured Sable was Almond's Ch Brooklynson Casablanca; Best Coloured Tricolour was Almond's Ch Yaxeka It The Only Way to Fly; Best Coloured Blue Merle was Cook's Ch Foxbell Fashion Plate; Best Vintage was Hurley-Kees' Erinvista Dream Weaver (in incredible condition for 15 years old!)

Bew White