

For your information
Sincerely
Averill

The Great Dane Club of Wales

November 26th 2016

Bitches - Judge Averill Thorndyke

My sincere thanks to the committee of the Great Dane Club of Wales for their invitation to judge their show, to my 2 hard working efficient stewards and to Geoffrey for the camera work.

Sadly the day was not all unalloyed joy. Movement - 2 exhibits moved well, some half dozen acceptable on a bad day, the rest were the bad day. Strangling, not a pretty sight, have you ever tried it on yourself?. Given a large grass ring I would have requested loose leads. In this situation I did not dare for fear of the mayhem which would ensue - several exhibitors had trouble releasing the garrotte to let me see "junction of head and neck and loose skin at the throat. Bill maintained you should be able to show a Dane on a bootlace, I can't help wondering if these two moans are related. I can appreciate that if your head is being held unnaturally high on a very tight chain the tendency would be to pin, and this was the main fault. When stopped in front of me only one exhibit stood pigeon-toed. I can only recommend training and gentle persuasion - instead of lazy preparation and brute force. If you do not pull your socks up I fear the Kennel Club is going to have something to say on the matter.

Sternums - where have these ugly lumps come from. A huge pigeon chest is definitely not "fit for purpose". The sternum should be virtually level with the point of the shoulder, above- too shallow a chest, below- too deep. Whilst a good chest is necessary for a galloping dog - lung and heart room - too deep a chest forces the elbows out and would cause serious shoulder problems for a galloping dog over time.

Mouths - only one reverse scissor bite, a few level, some very small teeth and one with missing teeth. With a few exhibits I had difficulty fighting my way through the huge pendulous lips. This also makes a Dane not "fit for purpose"

Best in Show was Ch Vanmore Stop and Stare at Castleon. In my youth I stroked Beau Brummel, admired Eurydice and Fergus from the ringside and judged Amelia. To my personal list of the "Greats" I will now add "Stop and Stare".

Veteran 2

1 CRANFIELD NI Ch ZEFEATHER'S TOTAL MINDED SHCm

Fawn - 6 years old - good shoulders and front, elbows well under, good rear and turn of stifle. Would like her a bit shorter with less sternum.

2 POCOCK Ch. INT & MULTI CH. TAMZDANE JAIMACAIN ME CRAZY JW SHCM

Harlie - 6 years - excellent balance, good shoulder and front, lovely colour. Would prefer more stifle.

Minor Puppy 7 (1 absentee)

1 TEMPEST ADOREADANE JUST THE TICKET 8 months

Impressive young Harlie - good markings, clear background. Excellent head with appealing expression, good shoulder and front, moving a little close but young enough to improve this. Got tired and fed up in the challenge for best puppy - and threw it away sadly.

2 DYSON SAMDICE BEST OF YOU 8 months

Quality fawn, good head and front, slightly long but should finish balanced, again moving close but a very nice youngster.

3 MORGAN SAMDICE IN YOUR HONOR

Puppy 2 (1 absentee)

1 MORGAN SAMDICE IN YOUR HONOR

Third in MP - sister to second but different type. Nicely balanced with a better head than her sister, good rear. I would like more of her and trust it will come as she matures.

Junior 9 (3 Absentees)

1 MCGUINNESS GARSAK KNOWING DINAHTRON

Fawn with a sunny temperament . Good head, well balanced - very appealing. Would like less sternum and more neck to be picky.

2 DONNELLY PRIMUS TIMELESS STYLE

Fawn with a harder expression than 1, better neck than 1 but did not move as well. More stifle would enhance, excellent croup and tail set.

3 RYAN & GEORGE KEIRKANE'S KISS FROM HEAVEN

Yearling 9 (1 absentee)

1 TEMPEST ADOREADANE MAKE YOUR MARC

Mantle "Elegance of outline and grace of form" personified. Beautiful head and neck, perfectly balanced, clean outline, full of dash and dare. In immaculate condition with short dense coat. I wanted to do more for her but as the day wore on her movement deteriorated - so sadly this is all.

2 MORGAN-EVANS VANMORE AMERICAN EXPRESS

Despite the above this was a very close decision, a top quality Golden Brindle, excellent head and neck. Slightly more sternum than I like. I just loved her but she was slightly out of coat which blurred her outline and beautiful black stripes.

3 DONNELLY GARSAK CITY OF ANGELS AT PRIMUS

Novice 3(1 absentee)

1 SIMPSON RENESCENT LOVE HEART

Blue - lovely colour and condition a little bum high today but good croup and proportions, less sternum would enhance.

2 ALLAN MOIRA DELTA VELORUM VON DRAMADANES (Imp, Pol)

Harlie, nicely marked, good length to height, slightly steep croup, would prefer a much finer head. Sadly I did not see her trot as she insisted on pacing.

Graduate 5 (4 absentees)

1 JACQUES & KIRBY VANMORE AINT SHE A DREAM WITH JACQUKIR

Fawn, strong head, good proportions, Excellent turn of stifle, sternum passable, a little steep in the croup and perhaps a trifle weighty.

Postgraduate 8 (4 absentees)

1 ELLIS-KHANNA RAVENDANE MALEFICIENT FOR HARVAXE

Very smart Harlie, excellent colour. Another example of "Elegance of outline and grace of form", good head and expression flowing into long neck with correct shoulder placement. Excellent turn of stifle well proportioned length to height. A most attractive exhibit and in my view worthy of her title. C.C.

2 KINGSLEY DAINOAK FORTUNA

Harlie, lighter built than 1 and spottily marked. Good head and neck, excellent balance. Would prefer a little more bend of stifle, so she did not drive as well as 1.

3 DREW LINDEEFAY HEART OF GLASS

Limit 7 (1 absentee)

1 NEWTON BYCOSDYCOS SUMMERTIME AT SHLARRA ShCm

Fawn, neat and tidy, excellent proportions, good head and neck. Correct shoulder and croup, good bone and feet. I wrote the word "classy" in my notes.

2 BLACK LUKYMA ATHENA BY BAMDWAR ShCm

Harlie, good colour, good head and neck. drove off well, just needs confidence.