

DELAWARE VALLEY IRISH WOLFHOUND ASSOCIATION CRITIQUE
OCTOBER 5TH AND 6TH. 2014

JUDI ORSI

I would like to thank all the members, exhibitors and supporters of the specialty for the privilege of judging your hounds.

I was thrilled with the overall quality of the hounds exhibited to me and it was exciting to have my hands on them. Generally, most were in hard condition, very few overweight or underweight. So many of them just felt good in my hands. I was also pleased to see so many males of good quality.

Two major concerns:

I see them here more often and saw them in Europe on two occasions a few years ago - knuckled over or very straight pasterns. I realize these are not new to the breed but they certainly seem to be more evident now than they have been.

My other concern is lack of spring of rib. I had some lovely outlines and I am sure I was questioned outside the ring on why I walked these dogs. Even allowing for finish on the ribs, these hounds were slab sided when standing over them.

Although many will say teeth are not in our standard, they are important as they reflect in the jaw. Generally, there were many fine bites with large, strong teeth. I saw numerous hounds, including young ones, with the upper incisors inside the lower incisors although I can say the canines were correct. Worn, small teeth in apparently young hounds were a surprise.

The quality of the hounds would have allowed me to make any number of awards in some classes.

Puppy, 6 to 9 Months Dogs

1. CILL CHUILLINN'S BEYOND THE PALE

Quality grey brindle who felt good in hand; of good size and bone. He is balanced front and rear with curves that allowed him to move out easily, especially on a loose lead. Lovely pasterns and low set hocks. Nice planes to his skull and strong neck set well into his shoulders

2. WARWICK QUO OF AERIE

Quality puppy who loved being here today; of good size and bone. Strong hindquarters coupled with front structure that allowed him to move out easily. Masculine in headpiece; could use a smaller, finer ear to enhance his head.

While I preferred the ranginess and head piece of 1, these two puppies could easily change positions on another day.

3. EIRAN'S CHIEFTAIN CONTAE ROS COMAIN

A rangy hound in good condition and coat. A little longer in the loin that I prefer. Balanced front to rear. He could move out with some ease.

4. EIRAN'S DUBHLINN O'HARCAIN

A rangy puppy in good condition and coat. Again, a little long in the loin for me. Deep in brisket; not as angulated in upper arm to allow extension.

Puppy, 12 to 18 Months Dogs

1. TALIESIN'S RHIONGANEDD

A beautifully balanced young male in hard condition. Strong neck set into well angulated shoulders. Pleasing head planes and expression. Side gait shows reach and drive and he is true moving up and back.

2. BRIMSTONE THRILLER AT NIGHTWING

A large, well boned, quality hound in hard condition. Excellent coat. Masculine with strong neck set well into his shoulders. He moves with drive. At the moment, tending to knuckle over in his pasterns and when standing, a little flat over the topline.

3. STARKEEPER STORM STRYKER

A more moderate but balanced hound than #1 or #2. Excellent condition; he moved out with ease on the go round and was true coming and going. Pleasing through the skull and in his expression.

4. TALIESIN'S RORY OF ABHAIN

A big boned, rangy hound in hard condition. I find him a little plain through the head. Standing, he exhibited lovely curves through his hindquarters but his front and rear do not match and he did not always pull himself together on the move.

Novice Dogs

1. HOUNDHILL VANDERBILT OF AERIE (disallowed per AKC - jp)

A harsh coated wheaten who won on his overall balance both standing and on the move... He is in harsh condition with well-muscled upper and lower thighs. He has both depth and width of brisket; I would like to see more spring of rib at this stage. Pleasing expression.

2. NIGHTWING'S SILENCER

I love the shape and masculinity of this hound. Beautiful muscling over his whole body. Heavy boned; I have some concerns about structure from elbow to pastern. He uses himself well with strong drive and extension.

3. R NOBLE GHETT OF EAGLE (disallowed per AKC - jp)

Pleasing overall hound shape and muscular condition. Balanced hound that was sound coming and going and moved with an easy side gait when on a loose lead. Pleasing head and expression. I would prefer a less straight pastern.

4. CASTLEMAINE'S A LEAP OF FAITH

A grey brindle with good coat. Low hocks and well bent stifles. Standing he looks well set under but he is needs to pull himself together on the move.

Bred-by-Exhibitor Dogs

1. NIGHTWING'S CONSPIRACY

I love the balance and feel of this dog in my hands. His stride and powerful movement were such a pleasure to watch. His muscular neck is well set into his shoulders. I love his head planes and expression, soft but masculine. Too be super critical, I would like a tad more leg under him but he is one his breeder should be very proud of.

2. ROCKHART TREASON

Another hound shape I loved and in wonderful hard condition. On the move, he displayed both reach and drive. Well set shoulders and powerful hindquarters. Good length of leg and correct pasterns. I found his tuck up a bit lacking with thickness there. Overall, a beautiful hound and one to be proud of having bred.

3. SHANCARRICK'S DECLAN THE DAUNTLESS HOOLIGAN

A brindle hound with good coat and pleasing head. While balanced front to rear, he needs more overall angulation.

American-Bred Dogs

1. CARNASSERIE VANDEVENTER'S FIERY AIDAN

A moderate dog in good condition. Flexible on the move and true coming and going. Would like more of his length through his chest and less in his loin. Overall, he made a pleasing picture.

2. DUN MYRICA NOLAN RILEY OF EAGLE

A hound in good coat and condition. Adequate bone with good length of leg. He is balanced front to rear but needs more overall angulation. He showed himself as true moving up and back. His side gate lacked the desired reach and drive.

3. GLADSTONE'S THUNDER ROAD

This hound won his placement on his overall flexibility on the move. He is a moderate hound with a pleasing expression. Overall he needs more angulation and condition.

4. R NOBLE WYO'S GATSBY OF EAGLE

This moderate, masculine hound provided a pleasing picture standing. He was shown in good condition and coat. On the day, his movement was stilted and he did not exhibit the reach and drive typical for a Wolfhound.

Open Dogs

1. ROCKHART NIKOLAI

This hound has wonderful curves; he is in beautiful condition and felt good in my hands. His front and rear construction allowed him to use himself well, showing reach and drive in his side gait. True coming and going. A powerful, flexible hound on the move. Good pasterns and well boned. His head planes make for a masculine head with pleasing expression. I would like to see him with a bit more length of leg to balance his size.

2. CUGEIN ORTEGA OF CASTLEKEEP

This masculine hound makes a beautiful picture both standing and on the move. He felt good in my hands. He strides out with reach and drive. Excellent coat; presented in hard condition. His strong neck is set well into his shoulders. His front is set under. My preference would be that he have more stifle angulation but his flexibility obviously allowed him to excel in his movement.

3. TALIESIN'S DEA-MIHOTAIL

A tall wheaten with overall pleasing outline, presented in good condition. His side gait was easy and he is sound coming and going. I would prefer him heavier boned for his size and find him a tad long in the loin for me.

4. HOUND HILL TALLBERG O'TAILSTORM

This hound received his placing on his overall outline. When he got himself together, he was true coming and going and moved with adequate reach and drive. I would prefer that he carry heavier bone to balance his size.

WINNERS DOG: NIGHTWING'S CONSPIRACY

RESERVE: ROCKHART TREASON

Puppy, 6 to 9 Months Bitches

1. EIRAN'S RED HOT AT BROAD VIEW

A rangy puppy in good condition with well-developed muscles. Harsh coat. Feminine head and expression. Strong neck set well into her shoulders. Good bone. Strong pasterns and feet; low set hocks. Well developed through the brisket and chest for her age. Moved out on her side gait and was true coming and going.

2. GLADSTONE'S DONNA MARIE OF RATHKEALE

A tall, rangy puppy with well-developed hindquarters which gave her rear drive, not quite matched by her front. Pleasing head planes and expression.

3. CARRICKANEENA CUCEILI MO CHROI

A playful puppy who insisted on telling us how happy she was to be in the ring. Lovely head and expression. Compared to the first two placements, she has low on her legs and shorter in outline at the moment. Her front is well set under and she did show that she could move out on her side gait.

4. ANIE OF WARWICK

A puppy not unlike #3 in outline. Her structure shows her as balanced front to rear; she has a strong neck set well into her shoulders. A bit steep in the croup. She hasn't quite got her front and rear movement pulled together and was a bit all over the place in the rear moving away from me.

Puppy, 9 to 12 Months Bitches

1. HIGHGATE'S EIREEN OF CILL CHUILLIN

A rangy puppy in wonderful condition. Good width in brisket and length of chest. She moved true coming and going. On the go round, she did not appear to be stretching herself as her structure would indicate she probably could.

Puppy, 12 to 18 Months Bitches

1. SHANACHIE'S MIRA OF THUBAN

An extremely powerfully built young bitch in hard condition. A pleasure to go over. Balanced front and rear. She is correct through the ribs and underline. She moved out with drive and was true coming and going.

2. BRIMSTONE RAVEN 'BOUT CONNEMARA

This too is a powerful, greyhound like bitch with beautiful muscle tone. She is probably on the far end of the "greyhound-like" spectrum for me. Her front is well set under. Lovely head and expression. She demonstrates wonderful side gait with reach and drive. She did not like coming and going which resulted in her sidewinding. I would like to see a little more angulation in her pasterns.

Placements #1 and # 2 could easily change places on another day.

3. TASLIESIN'S RUADHOIGH

A balanced red wheaten in hard condition. Strong neck set well into her shoulders. A powerful side gait. She never misses a step on the go round or up and back. Feminine head with pleasing expression.

4. CARRICKANEENA ANNA LIFFEY

A moderate, balanced hound with lovely head and expression. I would like more angulation front and rear. She is true coming and going but did not extend herself on the go round.

Novice Bitches

1. STARKEEPER RENA'S ROGUE

A moderate and balanced bitch in wonderful hard condition. Good coat. Nice head planes with pleasing feminine expression. Well ribbed and good underline. Moves true coming and going and moves out with drive on the go round. Well let down hocks and good pasterns.

2. CASTLEMAINE HEY LOLLIE

A dark brindle with good coat and balanced outline. Sound coming and going and on the go round. Well let down hocks and good pasterns. To my mind, carrying a little more weight than she should.

3. R NOBLE LOLA OF EAGLE

A rangy young bitch in good condition. She moved with an easy ground covering side gait. Shoulders well set under and good pasterns. Standing, she is high in the rear but overall a pleasing outline.

4. TALIESIN'S REALTA SCUAIBE

This hound carries a classic head with lovely ears. Strong neck set well into her shoulders. Good muscle tone and strong through her well-shaped hindquarters. She moved with drive on the go round and was true coming and going. I would prefer that she be a little heavier boned.

Bred-by-Exhibitor Bitches

Loved this class as a whole.

1. NIGHTWING'S SILENT SCREAM

Beautifully built hound. Powerful from tip to tail. Strong feminine head, muscular neck set into well laid back shoulders. Her front is well set under. Correct underline and topline. She floated in her side gate as she moved with reach and drive. She was a pleasure to see and go over. Pasterns are a concern but she used herself so well, she could not be denied her placement.

2. KELLYKERRY KINDLE OF AIRIE

This was another lovely bitch with correct structure. While not so muscular, she earned her placement. She has such a pleasing head and expression. Well-shaped hindquarters with low set hocks. She floated on the go round and was true on the up and back.

3. BRIMSTONE CONNEMARA MAIBACK

And yet another beautifully built, muscular hound in this class. She has nice proportions, deep chest and correct ribbing. Well-muscled neck set into well laid back shoulders. She could float on the go round when she wanted to. I find her a little plain through the head.

4. ROCKHART RAPHAELA REQUIEM

A typical, tall rangy bitch in hard condition. I love her head and expression. Powerful neck set into well laid shoulders with sweeping stifles. Deep chest and strong topline. Nice tuck up to complete her outline. She used herself well in moving around the ring and on the up and back. Pasterns of some concern but she earned her placement in this strong class.

American-Bred Bitches

1. JEEPERS OF AIRIE

A balanced bitch in good condition. Strong neck set well into her shoulders, balanced by her hindquarters. Pleasing head and expression although she could use finer ear leather. Adequate ribbing. She moved out easily and with drive on the go round and was true coming and going.

2. NIGHTWING'S DEFIANCE

More moderate than the first place bitch but did push her on movement. This bitch used herself well and covered the ring with drive although front movement was a little wide. Wonderful hard condition with her front well set under her. Good pasterns.

3. MYTHIC'S TEXAS PEARL

A tall, rangy hound looking less mature at the moment. Good bone. Pleasing head and expression. Lacking brisket. On the move, she showed her curves as she covered ground and was true coming and going.

4. SHANACHIE'S CLAIR DE LUNE

A tall wheaten brindle with good coat. Depth of chest and good ribbing. She is not as balanced as others in this class. Steep in croup, she tended to pull her rear under her while standing. Lacking strength in the rear on the move.

Open Bitches

This class was a pleasure.

1. SHELLANE ASPEN HIGHLANDS

An absolutely beautiful big boned dark brindle bitch. Truly feminine through her head with lovely planes to her skull and melting expression. Muscular neck well set into her shoulders. Deep chest and correct underline and topline. Very muscular; a pleasure to have my hands on. Powerful on the move with reach and drive

2. LONNKYLE PHLY

Well built in hard condition. Lovely hound shape. Balanced in structure which allowed her to move out coming, going and on the go round – when she chose to. Lovely head planes and expression.

3. NUTSTOWN AISLING OF CARRICKANEENA

Another well -made bitch in hard condition. Balanced with good bone. A bit smaller make than other placements in the class but she covered ground beautifully and with drive.

4. KELLYKERRY KEYNOTE OF AIRIE

A large well made bitch. Lovely head planes and expression. Strong long neck set well into her shoulders. Her front is well set under and her hindquarters well angled. She covered ground easily. I found her a little soft in condition but loved her overall.

WINNERS BITCH: SHELLANE ASPEN HIGHLANDS

RESERVE: NIGHTWING'S SILENT SCREAM

Veteran Dog

1. AM. CAN. CH. GLENAMADDA STARKEEPER ARMAGH

A quality hound who has held on to his shape and condition as a veteran. Balanced with good bone. Strong neck set well into his shoulders with his front well under him. Defied his age on the move as he covered ground.

2. DC MISE EIRE AN FEAR SARSFIELD

A well-built eight year old with good coat. Well set under himself and still showing that he could use his hindquarters, if he chose to. Steep in croup.

Veteran Bitches

1. TALIESIN'S WYVER WILNET

A bitch of beautiful shape and type, shown in hard condition. She excelled in side gate as she covered ground with ease. Pleasing head and expression.

2. TALIESIN'S WYLDE RUM RUNNER

Another bitch shown in hard condition. Her front is well set under and balanced by her hindquarters. She was happy to show off her reach and drive as she covered ground. A little soft in her topline.

3. CH. KELLYKERRY PEONY OF AERIE

A lovely hound outline; shown in good condition. Her shoulders are well placed and her hindquarters well bent. While her gait was a little soft in the rear, I loved the extension she exhibited in her front movement. She has a classic headpiece.

4. CH. MYTHIC'S MORRIGAN A KINDRED

A rangy bitch shown in hard condition. She is balanced; she tended to move efficiently but a little sluggishly on the day. Pleasing head planes and fine, well rosed ears.

Field Trial Dogs

1. AM. CAN. CH. STARKEEPER GLENAMADDA FYRENZE OF GRYFFINDOR, CAN. FCH. SC.

A masculine hound with size and bone. Balanced but no extremes. Movement was true coming and going.

BEST OF BREED: NIGHTWING'S CONSPIRACY

BEST OF OPPOSITE SEX: KELTAIRS HALO LEGENDS

A bitch of high quality who caught my eye with her movement as she went around the ring. Well made with strong hindquarters and overall lovely type presented in beautiful hard condition.

BEST OF WINNERS: NIGHTWING'S CONSPIRACY

SELECT DOG: GCH RIVERLAWN EXIT OF AERIE

A very masculine dog of great size and soundness.

SELECT BITCH: AM. CH. CAN. GCH. GLENNAMADDA STARKEEPER CHEVONNE

A strong bitch of good make who covered ground easily

AOM: SHELLAN ASPEN HIGHLANDS

Stud Dog

1. GCH. RIVERLAWN EXIT OF AERIE

2. AM. CAN. CH. GLENAMADDA STARKEEPER ARMAGH
3. CH. CASTLEMAINE`S SALINGER

Brood Bitch

1. CH. MYTHIC`S MORRIGAN A KINDRED, JC.
2. CH. GLADSTONE`S MAEVE
3. GCH. CH. SHANCARRICK`S ASSUMPTA

Brace

1. SHANCARRICK`S THE RADIANT HOOLIGAN
GCH. CH. SHANCARRICK`S ASSUMPTA, CGC, TD.