

IWADV - 2015 CRITIQUE

First of all, many thanks to the IWADV for giving me the honour of judging this lovely show and many, many thanks to my two superb stewards for keeping me on track through a very different judging system. A lovely large ring so the dogs could move to their full potential and two strategically placed pumpkins to aid the exhibitors with their triangles! I lost count of the times I said "pumpkin, pumpkin and back to me".

I found no shallow pads, a particular bugbear of mine. As the first point of impact, pads are so important as shock absorbers. Sadly, pasterns were of concern. As the second shock absorbing line of defence, they should be sprung and I found too many upright pasterns. Mouths were a concern as well. I know mouths do not feature in the AKC standard but that does not mean they are not important. They are - very. A Wolfhound should have a punishing jaw and correctly placed, preferably large teeth. When the ancient Celts were evaluating a hound, the hold or grip was one of the main points. This may seem unimportant and beside the point nowadays but it is part of the overall hound, which I am sure we all wish to keep as near the original as possible.

Side movement was, on the whole, good but there was some flapping of forepaws and very close hind legs on the up and back. I forgave a lot of this because of the slight slope to the ground.

Best of Breed

GCH Riverlawn Exit of Aerie.

A truly superb, upstanding stallion hound in the prime of life and the peak of condition. Wonderful ring presence and pretty well everything right about him. Lovely long, masculine head with a kind expression on a strong neck of just the right length and strength. This flowed into a strong front assembly. Straight, strong forelegs with correctly sprung pasterns. Body the right length with a good top line with correct arch over a deep, broad chest smoothly running into a correct underline. Absolutely correct moderate bend of stifle with well let down hocks. Good feet. Wonderful bone. Movement immaculate. If I had to be picky I would prefer a shorter, harsher coat but this was by no means incorrect. Not so soft as to be a problem when hunting and by no means woolly. I was pleased to find afterwards how many of his progeny I had placed, so he is obviously passing on his good points.

Best of Opposite Sex

GCH Lismore Stoneybrook Roxie Hart.

Daughter of the BOB and has inherited many of his qualities. Perfectly balanced black girl. Lovely feminine head on a correct length neck, running into a very good front assembly. Sprung pasterns; correct underline and topline. In fact, a smaller, feminine version of her father but with a shorter, harsher coat. These two were the absolute cream of the crop and both looked as if they could hunt all day without tiring.

Puppy 6 - 9 months dogs

1) Kellykerry Keiran of Eagle.

Strong head, full of character. Ears too large but he holds them well. Long neck which should strengthen with maturity. Adequate shoulder. Good topline and underline with correct rear angulation. Pasterns too straight for my taste but could drop back a bit when mature. Very long tail!

2) Templar of Warwick.

Lovely boy, soft expression showing his good temperament. Good forechest and depth of chest. Pleasing topline and underline but not enough hind angulation although he could let down more with maturity.

3) Castlemaine Laissez Les Bon Temps Rouler.

Lovely little black boy. Beautiful head, very typical. Good neck and forechest. Would have placed higher but his movement was all over the place and he was flying his tail.

Puppy 9 - 12 months dogs

1) Rockhart Windigo

Very old fashioned type. Correct overall outline except for his hindquarters being rather tucked under when standing. Despite this, his was the best movement in the class. Strong young dog who should go far.

2) Wildisle Brie Taralea Flashback.

Wheaten brindle with good overall angulation. Gentle expression. Movement adequate for his age. He would have won this class but for a slightly undershot bite.

3) Starkeeper's Davinci.

Rangy young hound with a strong head. Lacking in hind angulation but this may come right by the time he is mature. At present he has put everything into growing upwards, not into bodying up which he needs to do - and will, given time. Another whose movement was all over the place.

4) Starkeeper Drummond Duncan.

Litter brother to (3) and an almost identical critique but Duncan lost out to Davinci as the latter's hindquarters are just that little bit better at present.

Puppy 12 - 18 months dogs

1) Lismore Lone Ranger

Rangy young hound. Rather straight front at present. Masculine head on a strong neck. Good underline but rather long in the back so he lacks an arch over the loin. Good hind angulation. Far and away the best mover so far. Should definitely improve with age.

2) Taliesin's Looking For Trouble.

Smaller dog of a lovely deep red wheaten, which we don't often see nowadays. Good depth of chest and tuck up. Adequate hindquarters. Steep croup and he was flying his tail. Even so, a strong dog who looks as if he could hunt all day.

3) Tartan Terror Of Fitzwick.

Larger dog, very hairy and slightly plump. Bursars on both elbows which completely threw out his front movement. A tad too long in the loin but good hindquarters. Would like to see him again when fully mature, over the bursars, stripped out and slimmed down!

Novice Dogs

1) Taliesin's Rory of Abhainn.

Houndy, rangy dog with a gentle expression. Strong neck into good front with good depth of chest. Rather long in the loin. Hindquarters adequate. Moved with enthusiasm.

2) Berrybriar Caraglen leise At Carrowmoragh.

Strong bodied dog with great depth of chest. Obviously very powerful but spoiled by his incorrect topline. No arch over the loin and a definite downward slope from withers to croup. This seemed to fall away even more on the move.

Bred By Exhibitor - dogs

1) Houndhill Vanderbilt of Aerie.

Strong, powerful well made red wheaten. Gentle expression, ears large but well held. Good front, width and depth and good tuck up. Needs slightly more bend of stifle but has a really good, broad croup. Moved well.

2) Taliesin's Rhionganrdd.

Smaller dog of good hunting type. What we used to call "an honest dog". Nothing exaggerated about him. Completely balanced. Good depth of chest. One of the few with well sprung pasterns. Moved well.

3) Rockhart Vengeance.

Another hound dog but with a plain head. Good front. Pleasing overall outline but spoiled by a badly ringed tail. Movement OK.

4) Tralen's West Side Story.

Masculine head on a strong neck into adequate shoulder. Another with straight pasterns. Good body but a tad long in loin. Unsettled by something outside the ring so movement impossible to assess.

American Bred Dogs

1) Inishkeen's Heart Of Olden Glory.

Big strong dog. Correct lay of shoulder. Good body and depth of chest. Correct topline and underline. Hindquarters and movement adequate.

2) Gemini's You've Got A Friend In Me.

Smaller black dog whose type is very much to my taste. Good body and kept his topline on the move but flying his tail. Sadly, another with straight pasterns.

3) Taliesin's Roibhlin Aengus Gumby.

A rather plain dog whose front is better than his rear. Neck and shoulder adequate, good depth of chest but lacks width in stifle.

4) Cill Chuillinn's More Than A Pint.

Good depth of chest but hindquarters tucked too fat under him. Lacking muscle and rather straight hindquarters. Soft condition and soft coat. Profuse face furnishings.

Open Dogs

- 1) Cugein Ortega Of Castlekeep.

Strong bodied grey dog with a gentle expression. Correct neck into good shoulder. Very good depth, width and tuck up. Moderate hindquarters. Better pasterns than most today. Good movement. Winner's dog and Best of Winners.

- 2) Castlemaine's A Leap Of Faith.

Another strong dog but with straight pasterns. Not such a good topline as the first. Masculine head and expression. Fair hindquarters; moved well.

- 3) Carrickaneena Eoghan Ruadh.

Lighter built dog, slightly too long in the loin. Good hindquarters but he seemed rather unsettled on the day.

- 4) R Noble Wyo's Greystone Of Eagle.

Substantial grey dog with a good body but somewhat unbalanced by being up at the back end.

Puppy 6 9 months bitches

- 1) Keel of Aerie.

Lovely young bitch. Beautiful head and expression with lovely furnishings. Good neck into good front assembly. Sprung pasterns, lovely hindquarters, good movement. Very promising.

- 2) Redtops Athena At Blair.

Sweet, happy baby. Lovely head and expression. Good hindquarters; good tail carriage. Moved well for age. Pressed the first very hard. Another promising girl.

- 3) Castlemaine's Smitten By Jemina.

Another very sweet girl but not so settled as the other two. She wanted to do her own thing, Very similar to the first in many ways but her topline was a little odd on the move.

Puppy 9 - 12 months bitches

- 1) Starkeeper Nual O'Ard Rhi.

Shapely bitch. Strong body, good neck into well laid shoulder. Good depth of chest and tuck up, correct arch over loin. Pleasing hindquarters but a rather steep croup.

- 2) Rockhart Whycked.

Typical older type bitch who looks as if she could hunt all day. Sound, enthusiastic mover. If her hindquarters were not too tucked under, due to her steep croup, she would have had this class.

3) Wildisle Brie Deja Vue.

Another sweet baby. Balanced with a nice neck into a fair shoulder. Good body, sprung pasterns and moderate hindquarters. Movement babyish at present but a promising pup.

4) Inishkeen's Trinity Legacy.

Longer cast bitch. Another with good pasterns but a slightly steep croup. Good sweep of second thigh. Adequate width of chest.

Puppy 12 - 18 months bitches

1) Lismore Lovey Wentworth Howell.

Beautiful really hound young bitch. When standing, she can appear to drop away but when stacked properly and on the move, she is perfect. Long strong neck into fair shoulder. Good forechest and depth of chest. Sprung pasterns. Lovely hindquarters. Super girl.

2) Karontara Blathnat O'Tailstorm.

Smaller type. Really lovely little black brindle. Real old hunting type. Completely balanced. Lovely neck and front. Good little rosed ears. Correct hindquarters and very long tail. Could hunt all day. Sadly she was unsettled and seemed anxious on the day. Even so, it was a very close decision between (1) and (2). These two girls from opposite ends of the type spectrum, can change places any day.

3) Karontara's Beach Bride At Tralen.

Litter sister to (2) and very similar, as one would expect. Balanced throughout. Really good forechest and depth of chest. Correct angle of croup. Could do with a little more width in stifle. Another who could hunt all day.

4) Hops-N-Hounds Impossible Girl Rionach.

Slightly larger bitch and more heavily coated. Good neck into fair shoulder but needs more angulation.

Novice Bitches.

1) Taliesin's Ruabhoigh.

Totally balanced red wheaten bitch. Correct width and depth of chest and forechest. Wellsprung pasterns. Correct top and underline. Well muscled. Correct, easy movement. Beautiful bitch. Winner's bitch and Award of Merit.

2) Wolfhaven Calorien Nitro.

Substantial girl - a bit chubby! Correct depth of chest. Good broad croup but slightly steep. Good sweep of second thigh and correct pasterns.

3) Aine Of Warwick.

Pale grey bitch. Good depth and tuck up. Otherwise good top line spoiled by her slightly steep croup.

disqualified entry per AKC

4) Shanachie's Hi-Lili, Hi-Lo. **

Tall, very rangy bitch. Good depth but too narrow all through. A bit too tucked under in the rear.

Bred By Exhibitor - Bitches.

1) Carrickaneena Anna Liffey.

Imposing black brindle. Lovely face furnishings. Good neck. Would prefer better sprung pasterns but they are adequate. Correct top and underline. Correct bend of stifle. Another all day huntress.

2) Starkeeper Rena's Rogue.

Another really strong bitch. Good depth and breadth. Strong neck, sprung pasterns. Good second thigh, broad croup.

3) Kellykerry Echo of Aerie.

Taller bitch. Long neck into fair shoulder. Correct outline but needs just a tad more width of stifle. Seemed a bit put out by the heat.

4) Taliesin's Realta Scaibe.

Smaller bitch. Balanced but she can stand so as to look too high in the rear (which she is not). Good breadth all through. Another close decision.

American Bred Bitches

1) R Noble Lola of Eagle.

Another huntress. Good broad chest with correct forechest. Good depth and tuck up. Pleasing sweep to second thigh. Eras held correctly but a bit on the large side.

2) Jeepers Of Aerie.

Very substantial girl but by no means overweight. Good depth of chest, good tuck up. Good hindquarters with the good broad croup, so sadly lacking in many modern hounds.

3) Tomahawke's Blue Christmas At Gemini.

Light grey bitch. Good neck into fair shoulder. Adequate depth of chest. Correct length of body. Good top line and second thigh.

4) Starkeeper Laislinn On The Edge Of Glory.

Substantial bitch with a kind expression. Rather straight front but with adequate depth. Steep croup gave her that tucked under look.

Open Bitches

1) Nutstown Aisling Of Carrickaneena.

Honest type of bitch, very sound. Good head and neck going into nice front assembly. good top and underline. Very good hindquarters.

2) Taliesin's Spirolag.

Red wheaten bitch. Typical head, good neck, shoulders and front with good width all through. Nicely sprung pasterns, good hindquarters. True movement.

3) Castlekeepsake For Cugein Cyna.

Slightly larger grey brindle. Good front with a broad chest of correct depth. Good topline but needs more width in stifle.

4) Castlemaine Hey Lollie Lo.

Beautiful head - but if only she would hold her ears correctly! Broad chest, good pasterns. Correct arch over loin and good tuck up. Well let down hocks which she uses well on the move.

Veteran Dogs

1) Am/Can Ch. Glenamadda Starkeeper Armagh.

Handsome nine and three quarters dog. Well made all through. Very good condition for his age. Good teeth. Good front and lovely hindquarters. Has kept his shape very well.

2) Ch. Kellamore Braemar Of Fitzwick.

Smaller dog whose legs could be a tad longer to balance his length. Coat rather soft, probably due to his age. He is in very good shape indeed for his ten and three-quarter years!

3) Ch. Shanachie's My Guy.

Large wheaten dog. Lovely head and expression with very dark eyes. Good front and depth. Correct topline and croup.

4) Ch Gound Hill Tailberg O'Tailstorm.

Masculine head on a lovely neck. Good front, sprung pasterns. Good top and underline but could have better hindquarters.

Veteran Bitches

1) Eiran's Inishkeen Dibheasa.

Typical strong bodied bitch. Happy girl who looks as if she could still hunt. Good neck set into well laid shoulder. Good topline and has kept her tuck up.

2) Taliesin's Wyver Wilnet.

Very strong neck, good breadth of chest and correct length of body. Lovely hindquarters. Ears rosed but a bit on the large side. Very good condition. Another happy girl.

3) Taliesin's Wylde Rum Runner.

Litter sister to (2). Another strong girl with a wise expression. Good front. Teeth still good for age. Tuck up not so good. Nice sweep to second thigh.

4) Stoneybrook Lismore Castlekeeper Condi.

Lovely face and expression. Still has a good tuck up. Good second thigh but not enough width of stifle. She seemed older than her years but a nice bitch all the same.

Field Trial Dogs

1) Am. Can. Ch. Starkeeper Glenamadda Firenze of Gryffendor.

Large, handsome dog. Good neck into fair shoulder. Straight front but with good depth of chest. Fair hindquarters. Soft coat. Strange tail carriage.

Field Trial Bitches.

1) DC Inishkeen's Tempest Brewing.

Typical huntress. Could really do the job. Lovely head and expression. Good neck into nice front assembly. Top and underline correct. Correct bend of stifle with lovely second thigh. Nicely sprung pasterns.