

IWADV 2018 Specialty

Judge's Critique

By Jamie Souza Bartlett

Thank you very much for inviting me to judge your 2018 specialty. This was my first time being at the IWADV Specialty, and I was not disappointed! The venue is lovely and all of the club members went over and above to put on a fantastic show. Special thanks must go to my ring stewards – Gregory Kane and Chet Chase – who kept everything running beautifully and kept me hydrated, sun screened and bug sprayed. You both made an already incredible judging experience even better!

The overall quality of this entry was unbelievable. I was so grateful to be the one to go over all of your hounds. There were many world class dogs in this entry and as breeders, you should all be incredibly proud.

On the day, here's how I saw it:

6 to 9 Puppy Dog

- 1) **Lismore Broadway Smash at O'Lugh** A very handsome black puppy that commanded the ring with easy active gait. This boy is beautifully balanced with excellent leg underneath him and enough length of frame to hold a houndy shape. His topline is excellent and he never lost it on the stack or the move. Lovely head and temperament. Beautiful black coat. He should have a nice career ahead of him!
- 2) **Windborne Dawson** Another handsome puppy that stands on a nice tall frame. He was a little unsure of himself on the day but he has a lot of promise. Beautiful head and ear, nice angles for a puppy that had shot up on leg. When he settles on the move, you can see that he is a strong mover.

9 to 12 Puppy Dog

- 1) **Castlekeeper's In Awesome Wonder** A tall light brindle male with a lot of leg underneath him. Nice ears and pigmentation. A little straighter in angles at this age, it will take time for his shape to settle in. He is an easy active mover and holds a nice topline when standing and moving which earned him a first in the class on the day.
- 2) **C'Lute Eagle of Elkhorn** A typey dark brindle boy with a lot to like about him. Beautiful head and coat. More angular than the dog that placed ahead of him, but he was showing a bit of weakness in his back on the day. I would guess that he is at a more awkward stage and ready to shoot up on leg, so his pieces were not flowing together as nicely as I would like to see.

12 to 18 Puppy Dog

- 1) **Riversong Rosslare Orange Crush** A handsome tall drink of water. This boy has a lot of leg under him and nice commanding presence. Excellent bone and coat. Light on his feet for a dog of his size and reached out well in

front. Beautiful topline. It is going to take him a while to settle into all of his angles, but he definitely has the frame to support a maturing body.

- 2) **Tailstorm Kevin Barry, JC** A very close second, this nice brindle boy was more angular than the dog that placed ahead of him. Nice coat, pleasing male head and expression. Good on his legs. He was not standing as strong behind the whither as the dog that placed ahead of him on the day.
- 3) **Ard Rhi's Solstice of Vandeventer** Another nice boy who was a powerful mover. He was standing and moving a bit flat through his back on the day – so common when these young boys have recently gone up on leg. He just needs the time and body to drop back into himself.
- 4) **Legacy's Starkeeper Silverado Spirit** A well-tempered light brindle boy. He moved with a lot of strength and enthusiasm. At this stage of growth, he is carrying a lot of back - both moving and standing. He has a nice strong hind quarter to settle into, and I think a little time and maturity will see him progress into a nice mature boy.

Novice Dog

- 1) **Lonnkyle Aeries Poindexter** A very nicely built, tall houndy boy. Exceptionally well-built front giving his long strong neck a smooth transition into the whither. Excellent topline. A very capable mover. I would give him a little more substance but his overall build and balance were undeniable.
- 2) **Cualainn The Trooper** A very handsome dark brindle boy with a lot of bone and substance. Excellent coat, lovely head and very nice to have your hands on. There is a lot to like about this dog. He was very exuberant on the day giving him a lot of front action coming at me and not allowing him to settle in and reach out in the front the way I would like. I would put a hint more leg under him.
- 3) **Coleraine's Cathbhadh Incubator Jones** A sweet gray brindle boy. Balanced angles front and rear. Nice coat. Perfect on his legs coming and going. He carries a lot of back which has him running a little downhill on the day.
- 4) **Pitlochry's Goliath II** A big dog with bone and substance. Stands a little flat through the back. He would benefit from conditioning to strengthen his movement.

Bred by Exhibitor Dogs – Extremely strong class.

- 1) **Nightwing's Preacher** A handsome boy with a lovely temperament. Very strong mover both in a circle and up and back. Beautiful head and overall type. Nicely set front assembly with excellent bone. Long strong neck that sets beautifully into his whither. Outstanding topline that holds beautifully in motion. Nice low set hocks. Everything about this dog screams strength and it all comes in a nice houndy package.
- 2) **Kellykerry Barbancourt of Aerie** This beautiful wheaten boy pushed hard for the win in this class. He too is beautifully headed and is set on a nice strong balanced body with lovely curves. Outstanding underline and topline. Excellent front assembly which made room for his beautiful neck. It was

quite hot out, and he was fighting the lead a bit toward the end, but he could be the winner of this class on any given day.

- 3) **Shancarrick's Debonair Derragh** I really liked this young dark boy. He stands with a lot of leg underneath him and over a lot of ground. Pretty head. Excellent coat. Lovely underline and topline. Very capable on his legs for a teenager. As to be expected of a boy of his age, he is a little straighter in his front and rear angles than the boys that placed ahead of him. He has tremendous promise, and I look forward to seeing him in the future.
- 4) **Ancupla Pennys Arcade** A shapely brindle male with a nice underline and mature angles. He stands a little flat through his back, and he had large hygromas that were distracting his movement.

American Bred Dogs

- 1) **Taliesin's Rory of Abhainn** A handsome gray boy with a lovely look about him. Beautiful head and expression, fantastic coat. He has a strong long neck which enters his wither beautifully and continues on to an excellent topline and croup. All of this dog's lines are very smooth. He does stand overly straight through his pastern which keeps him from reaching out as much as I would like, but his overall type and balance earned him a first in this class.
- 2) **Maccura Riversong's Riff** A big dark boy. He stands with a lot of leg underneath him. Extremely substantial in bone and body, he still held a nice shape. Balanced front and rear angles. He was not giving on the move today, most likely due to the heat.
- 3) **Taliesin's Roibhilin Aengus Gumby** A nice boy with a lovely head and expression. This dog is exceptionally good on his legs coming and going. He stands flatter through the back than the dogs that placed ahead of him and is flat through his croup.
- 4) **Berrybriar Caraglen leise AR Carrowmoragh** A big upstanding dog with nice balance of curves. Excellent coat. I would like to have done more for him but he was pushing himself forward and when he bore down it was causing him to slide off in the croup. There was still a lot to like about him.

Open Dogs

- 1) **CAN CH Starkeeper Calorien Amber Declan** A strong wheaten boy in very good condition. Excellent coat. Balanced curves. Nicely constructed through his front. Strong underline and held the best topline in the class. The heat was definitely a factor for him come Winners.
- 2) **Tartan Terror of Fitzwick** This fully mature gray boy has lovely type points. Handsome head, good coat. His angles are deep. He holds an excellent topline – strong even when holding up all of that length. He is a way too low on leg which kept him from pushing for a higher award.
- 3) **Cnoccarne Olog Carrowmoragh** A light brindle boy that was very eye catching on the move. He was the strongest in the class when it came to his side gait. Nice front construction. Good coat. He too needs significantly more leg underneath him and he was not as strong through the middle of the back as the dog that placed ahead of him.

Winners Dog: Nightwing's Preacher

Reserve Winners Dog: Lismore Broadway Smash at O'Lugh

6 to 9 Puppy Bitch

- 1) **Lismore Ard Rhi's Little Night Music** A really lovely type dark bitch with so much to love about her. At this age, she stands like a filly, which I love. Up on leg, beautiful topline and underline. Beautiful face and expression. She is standing a little straighter in her front at this stage, but her overall look and easy, active gait propelled her to the top of this class.
- 2) **Eirian Nellie Q O'Tailstorm** A feminine brindle girl with pretty lines. Excellent coat. She had recently gone up on leg and was standing a little higher in the rump on the day, but she should drop in to her angles nicely. Could use a better ear. Her overall houndy look brought her to second in the class.
- 3) **Inishkeen's Light of Ancient Shine** A nice wheaten bitch with a lot of substance. Nice length and angles. Used herself well on the move. She was a little plainer in type than the bitches that stood ahead of her.
- 4) **Cranna Beatha's Oonagh** A dark brindle girl that was very rambunctious on the day. She has a lovely head. At this stage of growth, she was doing some funny things with her topline both standing and on the move. Once she settles down, she has pretty lines that she could settle into.

9 to 12 Puppy Bitch

- 1) **Starkeeper Aoibheann Ailis** A big upstanding bitch that stands over a lot of ground. Ultimately, it was her presence and commanding appearance that brought her to the top of this beautiful class. I loved her head – the proportion, the pigment and beautifully set ears. Strong and moderately built, she is very balanced. She is stationed a little further forward but I am confident that maturity will settle this in. She could get a little rambunctious on the move but on the moments when she was settled in, her extension and power were evident. Lovely girl.
- 2) **Lismore Marion Kerby** Another beautiful bitch that pushed hard for the win in this class. Beautifully constructed front with a strong neck. Balanced angles. Very strong mover and in fantastic condition. I wish she had just a touch more leg underneath her at this age which ultimately kept her from the win.
- 3) **C'loan Eagle of Elkhorn** Another gorgeous bitch – very classic in type. Houndy. She had beautiful lines, and I particularly liked her topline which was the strongest in the class. Very nice on her legs. Had there been a bit more of her, she could have made it higher in the ribbons in this excellent class.
- 4) **Carrickaneena Cumann Na Mban** Another quality bitch. Balanced – she stands with plenty of leg underneath her and has nice curves fore and aft. She is an easy, active mover and carries a beautiful greyhound shape in motion. She is a little more refined than the bitches that placed ahead of her but is still a quality young girl.

12 to 18 Puppy Bitch

- 1) **Ard Rhi's Summer Solace** First in this class went to a beautiful brindle girl. There was so much to like about her. Perfectly balanced with good leg underneath her and standing over a little of ground. Beautiful head. Feminine but with bone and substance. Perfect topline that she held perfectly on the move. Lovely angles – none overdone. High quality youngster.
- 2) **Dash Shancarrick at Aerie** A pretty black girl that was also a free and active mover. Houndy, she stands with a lot of leg underneath her. She uses herself well on the move. The depth of her lines was not as strong as the bitch that stood ahead of her on the day but all of her quality is evident.
- 3) **Shancarrick's Darling Dubheasa** Another classic beauty with balance and leg underneath her. Pretty face. Excellent topline. Good angles both in front and behind. Easy and active in her movement. She was thinking quite a bit of herself on the day and was holding her tail high. Still another quality bitch.
- 4) **Taliesin's Brice** Another quality light brindle girl. Big free mover. She has great bone and substance. She was standing a little flatter through the back than the bitches that stood ahead of her, but at this age and stage of growth there is still so much to like.

Novice Bitches

- 1) **Gaeltarra Eireann The Jean Genie** A really nice gray brindle girl. Well made and nothing overdone, she has good leg underneath her. Beautiful face. Nice goat and in excellent condition. Good strong back and very well built through her rear. Easy active mover. Lovely bitch.
- 2) **Petra Du Bois De Sina** A good strong brindle bitch with a lot of substance. Exceptionally good front construction. Very angular fore and aft. She could use a touch more leg under her and is a little weaker through the middle of her back than the bitch that stood before her.
- 3) **Kellykerry Eabha of Warwick** A nice girl with good leg underneath her. Good strong mover. She is carrying a lot of back both standing and on the move. Her other angles are strong, but her top needs to settle in. Well made in the front. Good legs coming and going.
- 4) **Taliesin's Saile** A young girl with a lot to like about her. Balanced, she stands with good leg underneath her. Free and easy mover. She just needs to time and maturity to push down into her angles and hold her to the ground on the move.

Bred By Exhibitor Bitches

- 1) **Gladstone's Kiss Me Kate** This bitch took my breath away the second I saw her in the line. She fills your eye. A large upstanding dark gray girl, she has legs for days and stands over a lot of ground with power and grace. Beautiful head and expression, excellent bone and substance with curves in all of the right places. Houndy. She used every bit of her long legs in motion, moving effortlessly around the large ring. An outstanding representation of our breed.

- 2) **Gilda of Aerie** A very shapely girl with a nice upstanding presence. Long neck set nicely into her whither. Lovely front assembly. Very strong on her legs and moved with purpose. I would like to see more leg under her but her type points and strong movement earned her a high placement in the exceptionally nice class.
- 3) **Ard Rhi's Summer Skipper** A lovely young brindle girl. She is extremely well made for her age. Excellent bone and substance. While young, this bitch has curves in all of the right places. Her topline is outstanding and she holds it beautifully in the stack and on the move. Her front and rear curves are not overdone and exactly as they should be for her age and stage of growth. She moves on clean legs and will only get better as she develops more body and drops into her lovely lines.
- 4) **CAN GCH Starkeeper Nuala O'Ardrhi** A very pretty dark grey girl. Balanced, she has the leg to support her long shapely frame. Nice underline. Balanced front and rear curves. Extremely strong rear assembly – sturdy hips and beautiful second thigh. She was losing her topline a bit on the day which kept her from placing higher in this strong class.

American Bred Bitches

- 1) **Tomahawke Blue Christmas at Gemini** A nice dark brindle girl with a beautiful head and ear. Balanced and houndy, she has a lovely underline and topline. Holds her shape well on the move. Could be a little stronger behind but her easy, active movement and overall condition earned her a first in this class.
- 2) **Inishkeen's Trinity Legacy** I liked this bitch quite a bit and she pushed for the win. She was very out of coat on the day which affected the look of her overall dimension. Still so much to like. Beautiful head piece. Excellent strong back. Beautifully made rear. Wonderful strong mover.
- 3) **Cranna Beatha's Hawthorn of Skywalker** A pretty dark bitch with a pleasing head and expression. Good coat. When she settled, she cut some pretty stacks when looking at her in the line. She was not using herself on the go today, tending to grab with her front rather than reaching out.
- 4) **Taliesin's Dairine** A nice little dark bitch shown in excellent condition. She is hard as a rock. Strong topline and good coat. I wish she had a bit more substance and she is stationed rather far forward in her front. Still, she was nice and light on her feet and many nice feminine qualities.

Open Bitches

- 1) **Gladstone's Call Me Kelt** Another eye catcher for me. A beautiful houndy bitch, standing on a lot of leg and over a lot of ground. Beautiful head and neck. Exceptionally strong back. None of her curves were over done and she exudes femininity AND strength. Beautiful on her legs, she is good coming and going and has lovely easy active side movement. A true hound. At just two, she has not even reached her full potential. In another year, her curves will only settle in more to that gorgeous frame. Outstanding bitch.

- 2) **Cill Chuillion Castlemaine's Lady Day** A nice little dark bitch. Pretty head. I wish there was a little more of her. She carries a lot of back but the longer she was in the ring and settled, the more her back came down and she held the ground better on the move. This bitch has perfect legs coming and going.
- 3) **Inishkeens Caiomhe** This bitch pushed hard for second. Good coat and nice balanced lines. She could use a little more leg underneath her, but carries a nice topline and is a capable mover. Pretty face but could use a better ear.
- 4) **CAN CH Starkeeper Calorien A Diamond** A big wheaten bitch with a nice face and excellent pigment. Good strong back. Well made in the front and rear. She was not keen to move on the day which kept her from placing higher in this class. I wish there was a little less of her.

Winners Bitch: Gladstone's Kiss Me Kate

Reserve Winners Bitch: Gladstone's Call Me Kelt

Thank you to everyone who brought me their beautiful veterans! It was an honor and privilege to judge each and every one of them.

Veteran Dogs

- 1) **GCH Taliesin's Realtbhuion** What a handsome gentleman! His breed type is superior. Absolutely lovely head and expression. Fantastic coat. Beautifully assembled front and a lovely strong rear to match. Still holding an excellent topline. Easy and active on his legs and very good coming and going.
- 2) **Inishkeen's Heart of Olden Glory** Another handsome boy with a lot of leg underneath him. He opened up very nicely on the move. Beautiful head and ear. He was not standing as strong through the middle of his back than the ultimate class winner.
- 3) **Taliesin's Realta Gheal I Bodach, BN RN THDA CGC TKI GRC** A handsome wheaten boy with a fantastic temperament. Perfect legs coming and going and a big strong mover. The boys that stood ahead of him were a little more angular but certainly a lot to like about this boy.
- 4) **Ch. St. Leger Grafton** The eldest gentleman in the ring, he did not get around the ring quite as well as the boys that placed ahead of him. There was still so much to love about him. A big upstanding boy, he has a lovely strong neck, excellent front assembly and beautiful underline. Strong rear with lovely low hocks.

Veteran Bitches

- 1) **Ch. Dun Myrica Nova of Eagle** An absolutely gorgeous veteran bitch. She could use a touch more leg underneath her, but her curves are undeniable. Beautiful head and ear. Wonderful crisp coat. Fantastic on her legs. Lovely underline and strong back. A highly competitive veteran.
- 2) **R Noble A Glympse of Eagle** Another competitive veteran bitch of high quality. Beautiful type. Exceptional head and ear. Strong neck and front

assembly. Still nice and light on her feet. She pushed for the win but in the end was not quite as strong through her back as the bitch ahead of her.

- 3) **Taliesin's Spriolag** A really nice red wheaten bitch. She was sloping off a bit on the day, but BOY could she move! Excellent legs coming and going with strong purposeful side gait.
- 4) **Ch. Rosslare's Roisin O'Riversong** A lovely gray girl. Also good on her legs and still a strong easy active mover. On the day, she was standing a bit rump high and was showing some weakness through the center of her back, but her overall breed type kept her in the ribbons in this highly competitive class.

Best of Breed: GCHB Gladstone's Irish Mist

This bitch is just a WOW. In an unbelievable lineup of specials, she continually caught my eye. A big upstanding girl, she has plenty of leg underneath her and stands over a lot of ground. She is strong but maintains her femininity. Her head and expression are classic and are capped off by beautifully pigmented eyes that add to her soulful expression. Fantastic bone, her front is set well under and she has a beautiful front assembly. This bitch has an outstanding topline – strong with a nice gentle rise over the loin that she never loses. All of her curves run right into her rear assembly where you see her perfect croup, strong second thigh and lovely strong low set hocks. And once she moved, I was a believer! She uses every curve to her benefit when in motion and she never let down. Knowing now that she is the mother of my Best of Winners and Reserve Winners Bitch, I can say that she is an all-around great girl on every level. Congratulations to her breeders and owners.

Best of Winners: Gladstone's Kiss Me Kate

I loved both my Winners Dog and Winners Bitch. She just stole my heart.

Best of Opposite Sex: Ch. O'Lugh Single Malt Scotch

A fantastically conditioned gray brindle male. He has lovely presence in the lineup and when he moves you must take notice. He is a strong, powerful mover and has no lost motion in his action. It is fun to watch him go! He is very well made in the front, with excellent bone and set well under himself. His length of upper arm is excellent and his shoulder is set sloping, giving him a nice strong neck. His rear construction is equally as good – well angled and nothing overdone. I wish he had a cleaner flew, as that would soften his expression but his overall athleticism and condition were undeniable.

Select Dog: Nightwing's Silencer

A lovely upstanding dog that exudes a commanding appearance. Beautiful head and expression, lovely ears and an excellent coat. Long strong neck flowed nicely into his whither. Nice length of upper arm and well laid back. Good length of body with a nice gentle rise over the loin. Strong rear – nothing overdone. He moved with ease and purpose but was letting down a bit at the end. The overall strength and presence this dog exudes when standing earned him this award.

Select Bitch: GCH Dun Myrica Grainne of Eagle

A lovely, ultra-typey dark bitch. Gorgeous head. Her well assembled front gives her an outstanding long strong neck. She has lovely curves fore and aft, a gorgeous underline, and everything about her screamed femininity and strength. I wish she has a touch more leg underneath her, but that does not trump her overall quality. Beautifully handled, she moved effortlessly around the ring and earned this high award.

Best Puppy: Lismore Broadway Smash at O'Lugh

See 6-9 Puppy Dog.

Best Bred By: Gladstone's Kiss Me Kate

See Winners Bitch, Best of Winners