

IWADV SPECIALITY 6TH & 7TH OCTOBER 2019

OVERALL COMMENTS

Thank you for inviting me to judge your Speciality and for the welcome that both Chippy and I received. Donna Wright our "chauffeur and general PA" was amazing, thank you so much to her for everything that she did for us. Also a huge thank you to Donna and Dave Smith whom we had never met before but after the show "turfed" Miranda out of her bed so that we could stay with them rather than staying in an hotel. We had such a laugh and will always remember Hawk Mountain and the "Albino Vulture"! Thank you for the welcome pack in the hotel, a nice gesture that was very much appreciated. Thank you also for my gifts, I especially love my IWH paw towel and beautiful Brachan ceramic.

Thank you to Chet and Stanley, my kind stewards who were lovely to work with, it was such a pleasure.

I thoroughly enjoyed going over your hounds and appreciated the pleasant atmosphere in the ring and the sportsmanship of the exhibitors.

To my surprise, I found that dogs were stronger throughout than the bitches, which is rather unusual. I was very pleased with my unbeaten dog line up, all very much of a type, powerful strong hounds in hard muscular condition.

I was shocked by teeth, I know you do not mention bite in your standard and I am not fanatical about mouths, but you have many level bites, many undershot, 1 or 2 overshot, some lower canines tight to the upper palate and 1 or 2 protruding into the upper palate. In the UK we currently have Breed Watch via the Kennel Club for our breed to monitor the lower canines issue. The young males mouths generally were poor, a concern for the breed.

I also observed poor condition of some gums and teeth often in young hounds, teeth covered in plaque and red inflamed gums. I'm not picky about mouths but unless you address this you will have a major problem for the future. And yet regarding the young bitches, almost all had good bites.

There were some scopy, shapely young hounds showing promise and potential, but I had concerns regarding some temperaments. I came across some nervous temperaments, forgivable in a puppy who may have been "spooked" or is maybe at their first show, or just generally unsure,

but is unforgivable in an adult hound. Commanding appearance does not apply to a hound showing a nervous disposition and backing away from a small, non threatening female judge. Having said that, I had lots of kisses and tails wagging from others, which was lovely! Temperament is everything. Not all our puppies go to show homes, most become much loved pets.

Some hounds were in excellent hard muscular condition. The Winners dog was in fantastic condition which showed in his absolutely true and sound movement. Also, the Winners bitch, who was amazing for her muscular condition and power, she is a true huntress.

Many young hounds had scope and potential and moved freely in profile, but some failed in condition, without the requisite muscle to drive as they should, generally lacking muscle and strength throughout. The Wolfhound is a galloping hound and an effective hunter, they need free exercise and galloping to muscle up to do the job for which they were bred ie hunt and kill wolf. My Best in Show could certainly achieve that goal.

Having "criticised" I was very impressed by my winners, and my overall entry in general. Some hounds I'm sure will change places on another day.

There were some lovely typy hounds fitting your breed standard, who were scopy with fluid free movement, although generally speaking they were more positive in profile than coming and going.

There was beautiful dark pigmentation in the wheaten, and the darkest oval eyes. Some lovely heads and kind soulful expressions, so important for that far away Gazehound look.

Some nicely angulated shoulders giving depth and breadth of forechest. Strong straight forelegs with substantial bone, although some were a little short on leg. Most were well bodied with substance throughout.

Toplines on the whole were well held on the move.

Most hounds had moderate angulation to the hindquarters with length of second thigh and width to stifle with nice low hocks.

Coats generally were of a harsh wiry texture and hounds were clean and well presented. Hounds were well handled. And my winners could certainly compete strongly with our hounds in the UK and Europe.

I would like to apologise for my mix up during Best of Breed, although having extensively studied the AKC rules and regulations, I got lost! I can only apologise, so please forgive me.

But once again thank you. I enjoyed judging your Wolfhounds and meeting such sporting pleasant exhibitors and at the end of the day we all take the best dog home!

Chris MacLeod

Brachan Irish Wolfhounds