

The Irish Wolfhound Association of the Delaware Valley Specialty Show 2019

Sweepstakes Judge's Critique

Jodi Alward

Prior to offering my critique, I would like to extend a special thank you to the show committee and my ring steward's who made my job both smooth and easy allowing me to thoroughly enjoy my assignment and your wonderful hounds.

I firstly would like to say, as many of you may already know, this breed is very dear to my heart. It was a great honour to be able to be part of this fabulous Specialty. I have the greatest respect for all those involved in both preserving and loving this breed. Specialty shows enable breed enthusiasts to come together to share knowledge and passion while bringing forward their best dogs to compete. I believe there was great depth of quality in all the classes. Well-done breeders! My hope with this assignment, was to allow both exhibitor and hound an opportunity to have a fun experience while I was able to offer my humble opinion on the day regarding how I saw each hound measuring up to our breed standard.

I have always approached judging by having a picture in my mind of the idea dog that I am trying to find. This picture is a composite of hounds' that have captured my eye from the past and present and have informed my interpretation of breed standard. With this being said, I offer the following impression of the dogs I judged.

Sweepstakes 6 to 9 Months Dogs:

1ST Schaeffer. HOPS-N-HOUNDS THE ONCOMING STORM LUGH.

This was a single entry in the class. He is a very lovely, promising puppy. Balanced at this stage of growth. Nice shape, well ribbed and moves with athleticism at this age. Great head and expression. He was a contender for my best of opposite. I look forward to seeing him in the future.

Sweepstakes 9 to 12 Months Dogs:

1st Mc-Neely-Aube and Roland. R NOBLE LUCIEN OF EAGLE AT ELKHORN.

A lovely scopey puppy. He was a nice easy and active mover His powerful well-muscled hindquarter contributed to his action. He had a beautiful head and expression with a strong long and muscular neck.

2nd Fitzgerald and Gagne. STARKEEPER BRADY OF FITZWICK.

A puppy with great character and temperament. A substantial, heavy boned youngster. A young male with a strong neck and a beautiful front assembly and lovely curves.

Sweepstakes 12 to 15 Months Dogs:

1st and BOS Weidinger. R NOBLE BEYOND THE HORIZON.

This dog had a beautiful headpiece and neck. A Greyhound-like youngster with lots of leg underneath and great shape. A powerful mover who was at times out moved by his littermate yet held his own and got better as he went.

2nd Roland. R NOBLE NASCH.

This dog was in contention for winning the class. He is very spirited yet kind. A fantastic mover yet on the day was determined to control his human. A commanding powerful male with a fabulous rear assembly. Well balanced on the stand. Nice long back and great breadth across the hips. I am excited for this young male's future.

3rd Forman. BALLYHARA MICHALEEN.

This was a littermate to my fourth place puppy. Initially a little shy however able to find his confidence as the class proceeded. Great bone and substance with active movement. Nice powerful neck into a good front assembly.

4th Forman. BALLYHARA MANE.

This puppy slightly smaller than his littermate possessed a nice head and expression. At this developmental stage, although a balanced puppy, I wanted to see more curves. A well-muscled male with a great arched neck.

Sweepstakes 15 to 18 months dogs – all absent

Sweepstakes 6 to 9 Months Bitches:

1st. Marx, Benjamin and St.Clair. QUID WARWICK OF AERIE.

What a strong class. My winner was a treat to the eye. Great type and overall shape. She had great bone and substance. I melted with her expression. She had a strong neck with great carriage. What took her to the top of the class with a ring of fantastic movers was her powerful yet ease of gait. I am so looking forward again to watching this young lady's career.

2nd. Marx and Benjamin. QUIP OF AERIE.

A close second was awarded to this bitch. Such a mover as well. On the day not possessing the curves and shape of her sister at this stage however again lovely head and expression and overall strong commanding appearance.

3rd. Dormady. NIGHTWINGS CHAOS AT O'LUGH.

This young bitch was a spitfire. Attitude all the way when she wasn't fighting her human she was breathtaking on the move. Such power and action while maintaining balance. She had an outstanding headpiece with eyes that could melt your heart. Another bitch I look forward to watching as she develops.

4th. Knight. NIGHTWING'S BLUE DOVE AT DRY CREEK.

A very well bodied bitch. Exceptional headpiece like her sister. Well balanced with a great front assembly and powerful rear.

Sweepstakes 9 to 12 Months Bitches:

1st. Marx and Benjamin. GIN FIZZ O'LUGH OF AERIE.

A lovely raw bitch in the making. A bitch that kept drawing my attention both on the move and standing. Super curves, great length in neck, body and leg. Fabulous rear end assembly again used so beautifully on the go. The future is promising!

2nd. Roland. R NOBLE LYANNA OF EAGLE.

Superb mover with power and ease. Wonderful head with dark capturing eyes. Super strong neck, however would like to see a better blend into shoulder and front assembly.

3rd. Callender and Gagne. STARKEEPER CALORIEN BERYL.

A very noteworthy bitch that I might guess has just had a growth spurt leaving her in a slightly gangly stage on the day. Superb head and wonderful temperament and attitude. A strong neck blending into a wonderful front and beautifully broad chest. Another beautiful bitch that I am sure has much to contribute in the future.

4th. Carmichael. BARRASSY'S LIMITED EDITION.

A playful happy youngster who I think might like her food. A balanced girl with great bone, ribbing and depth of chest.

Sweepstakes 12 to 15 Months bitches:

1st. Flanagan. CARRICKANEENA SI FEIN.

A young female who unfortunately was blowing coat. Again, another strong easy mover. A nice head, strong and muscular neck moving into a beautiful shoulder and front. I'd like to see in time and maturity whether she drops in chest and gets more spring of rib.

2nd. Roland. NEW GIRL IN TOWN AT R NOBLE.

Litter sister to my third place winner. Both wonderful bitches. This girl is an impressive houndy young lady A tall graceful hound who moves with great ease and power she maintains lovely shape on the stand as well as on the move. She is of great length and shape. So much to appreciate about her.

3rd. Roland. R NOBLE NAINSI.

This young hound similar to my second place bitch was a superb mover. Powerful and commanding. Great front assembly. A well balanced well bodied female.

4th. Wright. HUNTERSRUN STARKEEPER BELLINA

A balanced female with great coat texture. Nice substance and breadth and depth of chest. Nice hindquarter with a great slope of croup.

Sweepstakes 15 to 18 Months Bitches:

1st & BISWPS. Marx, Benjamin, Callender & Gagne. CALORIEN STARKEEPER DARLEY AT AERIE.

A quality bitch that deserved this recognition. Beautifully conditioned with good coat texture. This bitch commanded my attention from the moment she walked into the ring. Great presence both standing and on the move. Her outline was one of curves in all the right places. A bitch of substance and power with balanced features from the tip of her nose to the tip of her tail both in standing and on the move.

2nd. Dormady. O'LUGH'S YUENGLING.

A strong powerful young lady who once again illustrated power and ease on the move. Many lovely details to appreciate about this bitch. Great angles front and rear. Not as balanced as my first place bitch on the day.

3rd. Shriver. PADRAIC BLACK EYED SUSAN.

A smaller more moderate bitch. A Well conditioned muscled female with a pleasing head end expression. Decent Layback however may like a smoother transition from neck to shoulder. Easy active true gait.

4th. LeVan. O'LUGH LISMORE BUNNAHABHAIN.

A well boned female of substance and strength. A kind eye and keen presence. A huntress in action!