

Judge's report, Irish Wolfhound Club of Canada, Regional Specialty
Quebec, June 2, 2012

A very happy show, despite the rain, or perhaps even due to the rain, as all we could do was to smile and "get on with it". My "ring organizers", Marie and Pascale Pontois, made sure that the show ran smoothly and had towels handy so that I could dry my hair occasionally !

Junior Puppy Male (2) 1. Glenamadda Wolfholm J Hendrix

Seven-month-old baby, who is nicely balanced and settled into a nice smooth side action. Nice head, but for me rather narrow in back skull, good neck, still very narrow through the front. Good topline, croup and nicely angulated hindquarters.

2. Kalkinny McShane of Starkeeper

Eight-month-old baby who has grown upwards, and in doing so, has lost the angulation of forequarters and hindquarters, a typical growth stage. Nice head, better ears than the winner. Rather short in neck and needs to widen over the front. Side action not as smooth or ground covering as the winner.

Senior Puppy Male (1) 1. and best puppy in show Cugein Tyrian

O'Tairisem. Eleven-month-old light brindle, powerfully built and well muscled for his age. Pleasant old-fashioned head, rather flat ears at present, strong neck which could be longer for overall balance. Very well laid back shoulders with good forechest. Rather too strongly muscled over the upper arm. Nice deep chest, but still retains very good length of leg. Rather flat topline, good wide croup, and hindquarters of more medium angulation. Powerful and free side action.

12-18 month male (2) 1. Taliesin's Dea-Mhiotail. Wheaten dog of 17 months, tall and quite elegant, very much at the teenage stage but very promising. Wonderful head and expression, well folded ears. Good neck, at present rather upright over the front, good forechest, more depth of chest will finish the picture. Firm over the topline, hindquarters of more medium angulation. Fluid and ground covering mover, also very correct coming and going.

2. Aotearoa Kokako. Thirteen-month-old very dark dog, very much at an in-between stage. Nice head, well folded ears, good neck, at present very upright over the front, and lacks forechest, typical bone for a black, topline very well defined, starting rather too far forward, deep tailset, hindquarters of medium angulation. Reasonable mover today. A youngster who needs to grow up both in body and mind, which is what one would expect of a teenage male at this age.

Canadian bred male (3, 1 abs) 1. Blackwing's Starkeeper Tegann. Red wheaten dog, coming up two years. Very nice head, good neck and forehand, good bone for size and make. Firm topline, somewhat flat over the croup, hindquarters of medium angulation. Nice free mover.

Wonderful coat.

2. Royeljoker's Came N'Went . Four-year-old wheaten dog, with a lovely head, eyes and expression. Rather deep-set flat folded ears. Short in neck, forward set shoulders, good forechest, proper bone for size. Topline very accentuated and stands high over his rear quarters with rather a steep croup. Upright hindquarters. Happy mover but rather proud of his tail.

Bred by exhibitor male (7) 1 and Winners Dog Carrickaneena Tyrconnell. Powerfully built young dark dog of just over two years, very well balanced overall. Lovely masculine head, powerful neck, well angulated forehand with proper forechest, excellent bone for size. Strong and nicely defined topline, somewhat forward set, broad strong croup, to hindquarters which are nicely angulated. Very powerful and ground covering side action.

2. Quint of Aerie. Impressive grey dog, same age as winner. Very shapely dog, but rather long in coupling which makes him longer in all over body proportions. Very nice masculine head, well folded ears and lovely expression. Good neck, smoothly set into very nice shoulders, good forechest, proper bone for size and make. Topline could be stronger, lovely long and strong hindquarters. Free and very ground covering side action.

3. Aotearoa Kaldaun Falshane Two year old shaded wheaten brindle dog. Very pleasant head, high earset giving a very keen expression. Still very young looking dog. Free and easy mover

4. Taliesin 's Realtbhuion. Very impressive fourteen-month-old dog, very much a teenager still. Strong head, at present forequarters rather upright. Not the freedom of action of those placed above him today.

Open dog (7, 1 abs) 1. and reserve Winners dog: Redtop's Graedy.

Three-year-old grey dog of lovely type and outline. Pleasant head with beautifully folded small ears, which adds to much to the expression. Very good neck, smoothly set into very good shoulders, good front, could perhaps have more bone for size. Good firm topline, croup and hindquarters which are nicely angulated. Good and smooth mover.

Overall a very typical hound and a lovely type.

2. Kellamore Braemar of Fitzwick Six year old grey dog, another scoring on type and maturity. Nice masculine head, flat folded ears, good neck and nicely angulated forehand, very good bone for size. Deep chest and gives an overall impression of being rather low on the leg. Nice hindquarters. Very good mover, reaching well out on the move.

3. Carrickaneena An Firic Aris. Five-year-old almost black dog who presents a most beautiful outline standing. Magnificent head and expression, good strong neck, shoulders nicely laid back but upper arm very upright and this prevents his forward reach on the move. Proper bone for size, lovely capacious chest, excellent topline and rear quarters.

All over a beautiful hound, what a pity his movement lets him down.

4. Blackwing's It's Himself. Very old fashioned type in this young dog, just two years old, and being so out of coat doesn't help the over all look. Nice head, very high set ears, good neck and forehand. Nicely angulated hindquarters. Free mover.

Veteran dog (3) 1 and Best Dog and Best opposite Sex: Taliesin's Suailce.

Unfortunately my Dictaphone did not record any of my comments during this class, so cannot write anything except my recollections, one week later.

I was, as always, most taken with the three Veterans, it is always so wonderful to see our hounds in their senior years. The winner of this class was a grey brindle seven year old of wonderful type. Head absolutely classic and if he had been entered in the class for Best Head, would certainly have won it. Excellent neck, forehand and bone for size, also correct proportions and length of leg. Strong and firm topline, lovely hindquarters, especially for his age. Dignified and very correct mover.

2. Ch. Aotearoa Toakea Castlekeep Wheaten dog, nearly ten years old, with a lovely masculine head, well folded ears and a wonderful eye and expression. Entered later in the special Head class, won this class.

Powerful body, topline now showing the effects of age.

3. Cboccarne Carrowmoragh. Eight-year-old grey dog, who looks very well for his age. Nice head, excellent all over body proportions and a dog of lovely type.

Junior Puppy Female (2) 1. Wolfholm Glenamadda Mata Hari . These were two charming six month old litter sisters; happy and steady for their age. Both have lovely heads with that wonderful inquiring expression that young puppies have. The winner, clear red, is more in balance with herself today, with better angulation of forequarters. Both have good firm toplines and nicely angulated hindquarters. Happy movers. I do find both these babies rather narrow all through, in body, and hope that they will widen and body up with age.

2. Glenamadda Wolfholm Haiya. Grey brindle sister; very well trained, but at present more upright over the forehand and needing to deepen in chest. Two lovely babies !

12-18 month female (3, 1 abs) 1. Taliesin's Damhsoir. Powerful sixteen month old bitch, who took a while to settle but most impressive on the move when calmed down. Strong head, good ears, strong over the front

and needs to settle in action here. Good topline, croup and wide hindquarters. Very ground covering action.

2. Hacienda Maya. Grey wheaten bitch of the same age, rather narrow all through. Fine head, rather prominent eyes, well-folded, large ears. At present very upright over the forequarters, and in pasterns as well. More depth of chest will finish the picture. Narrow over the hindquarters. Moved freely.

Canadian bred female (6) 1. and reserve Winners bitch Kiso's Essence of Life. Beautiful black brindle bitch, not tall, but of lovely shape and type and outline. Charming head, excellent ears, lovely neck smoothly set into well laid back shoulders. Good forechest, well laid back upper arm, proper bone for size. Excellent firm topline, lovely croup and hindquarters. Moved so freely and elastically in a surging powerful action.

2. Glenamadda Starkeeper Clodagh. Very showy grey brindle bitch of lovely type and very well presented. Lovely head and expression, lovely neck, shoulder and forehand, proper bone for size and in wonderful crisp coat. Excellent topline, croup and hindquarters, moved very well also.

3. Cugein Caragln Omurchda Abryan. An impressive bitch, carrying too much weight today, so not at her best. Strong head, well folded ears, good neck. Somewhat forward set shoulder but moved out well despite this. Excellent strong bone, topline good considering the weight she is carrying. Strong wide hindquarters. Powerful and free side action.

4. Starkeeper Fitzwick C's Legacy Very nicely presented bitch, keen expression with high earset. Reasonable fore hand assembly, needs more bone. Good topline, very nice croup and hindquarters. Moved freely.

Bred by Exhibitor (10, 2 abs) 1 , Winners bitch and Best of Breed:

Opal of Aerie. Tall and substantial, yet elegant, almost black bitch at two and ½ years of age. Wonderful type and outline and just as good to go over. Lovely head, excellent folded and well set ears, lovely eye and expression. Powerful neck, of correct length, smoothly set into well laid shoulders, some forechest, nicely set back upper arm to elbows.

Absolutely correct bone for size and scores also on her length of leg. Deep, capacious body, excellent topline, wide croup, beautifully angulated hindquarters. Moved so freely and elastically...just an all over beautiful bitch !

2. Kiso's Journey of Life. Not presented as "professionally" as the winner, but really liked this grey brindle bitch. Nice enough head, excellent well folded ears, good neck, smoothly set into the well-laid shoulders, good forechest and upper arm. Very proper bone for size, although overall impression is that she is somewhat low on the leg.

Excellent topline, croup somewhat steep, strong wide hindquarters.
Powerful and free mover.

3. Carrickaneena Greenore. Black brindle bitch, of excellent type and powerfully built. Nice head and expression, rather upright neckset, and strongly built over the front. Proper bone for size. Firm topline, nice wide hindquarters. Powerful and free mover

4. O'Murchadah's Bebhinn. Clear grey brindle bitch of nice type, who scores on her excellent proportions and length of leg. Quite young looking still. Very nice head, good neck, good shoulder but upper arm rather upright. Good topline, hindquarters of medium angulation. Free mover.

Open bitch (8 , 1 abs) 1. Gordon of Aerie. Older half-sister to the winner of the previous class and nearly six years of age, and very similar in overall size, type and quality. Lovely head, flat folded ears, neck set smoothly into excellent front assembly, excellent bone for size, as well as length of leg. Lovely topline, croup and hindquarters. Smooth, easy ground covering mover. Just not in the firm all over condition, and her action not as precise. Beautiful type.

2. Carrickaneena Crionnacht Darcy. Such a free action in this six-year-old bitch, she really covers the ground so effortlessly on the move. Nice head, rather flat folded ears, strong well muscled neck of correct length; well set into very well angulated front assembly. Proper bone for size, although she could have a bit more length of leg, emphasized by rather long coat under the chest. Excellent firm topline, wide croup and hindquarters. Wonderful mover.

3. Carrickaneena Lon Dubh at Curiann. 19-month-old black bitch, an excellent prospect for the future but who looked young against the others in this class. Nice head and expression, very good neck and front assembly, proper bone for size. Good strong and wide hindquarters. Not always co-operating with her handler but a correct and free mover once she settled.

4 Ballyhara Cinneide four-year-old bitch, black brindle with lovely grey furnishings. Nice head, good neck, which could longer, nice front, good bone for size, but lack of leg hair doesn't help the overall picture and she has to be handled to be appreciated. Distinct topline, starting rather far forward, rather rounded over the croup. Good mover.

Veteran bitch (2) 1. Carrickaneena Slan Leat. A very well preserved nine & ½ year old bitch, beautiful head and expression, good neck well set into very well angulated forehand. Excellent topline, especially considering her age. Good strong hindquarters still.

2. Ch. Dariagh of our Valley. What a beautiful type, a classic grey brindle bitch of lovely proportions. Beautiful head and expression. Nice front

still, and very well angulated; but now, at eight years, getting weak in the hindquarters. Both these bitches are really lovely examples of the breed !

In the Best of Breed competition an additional 12 “Specials” came into the ring, together with the two Winners, and the two Veterans.

I chose my Winners bitch, Opal of Aerie, as Best of Breed with the Veteran dog winner, Taliesin’s Suailce as Best of Opposite Sex. I gave the Award of Merit to the Specials bitch, Ch. Starkeeper Glenamadda Kayte, which made her best Canadian bred in show.

Best puppy was Cugein Tyrian O’Tairisem from the Senior Puppy Male class.

The classes after the BIS competition were won by

Altered: Windseeker’s Wayward Son

Stud dog: Carrickaneena An firic Aris

Brood bitch: Carrickaneena Crionnacht Darcy

Brace : Glenamadda Starkeeper Clodagh & Ch. Glenamadda Starkeeper Chevonne

The movement class: Ch. Glenamadda Starkeeper Chevonne

The Head Class: Ch. Aotearoa Toakea Castlekeep

The Hindquarters class: Glenamadda Starkeeper Clodagh

Mrs. Dagmar Kenis Pordham (judge)