

Event: Irish Wolfhound Club of Canada National Specialty Show

Date: September 19 & 20 1998

Judge: Ronald Baird, England

I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity; over the two days, to go over such an excellent selection of hounds. Whilst you perhaps suffered a little from the heat, they, the hounds on the whole appeared unaffected and I as your judge due to my concentration and pleasures hardly noticed it.

The hounds were marvelous, such a high calibre selection, lots of good conformation, coats and movement, yes there were of course some lacking in bone and muscle, some moving badly and odd bad mouth but overall the quality' was good. Puppies and youngsters with their current immaturity need time but they were most promising, the older classes of both dog and bitch were of consistent good quality and consequently many good hounds were unplaced. The winner of Canadian Bred Male and Best Opposite Sex is a hound of great presence, with great size, bone and substance married to an ability to move with verve and soundness. I wish we could see more males of this calibre throughout the world. The Senior Bitch classes were a dream, so many super hounds, once again the overall quality was better than that of the males, my Best of Breed, Best of Winners coming from Open Female class, she had beauty; presence, great conformation, femininity type and movement, a true galloping Irish Wolfhound.

I thoroughly enjoyed myself and wish to thank you all for your tolerance and sporting manners, please continue to breed to this high standard. My most sincere thanks to my excellent Stewards and the organising team, due to their efficiency, for me the show went like a dream.

Ronald Baird

Event: Irish Wolfhound Club of Canada National Specialty Sweepstakes

Date: September 1998

Judge: Gretchen Bernardi

While going over the dogs in the ring, I was reminded of how educational the act of judging dogs is, not necessarily for the exhibitors and the spectators, although we hope they learn something, too, but mostly for the judge. The physical act of going over, feeling, evaluating and comparing the dogs gives one a new perspective on the breed, especially if the animals themselves are ones that the judge does not see that frequently. I very much appreciate the show committee and the officers of the Irish Wolfhound Club of Canada for giving me the opportunity to judge this sweepstakes and to learn so much from it.

I'd like to start with a few general comments. There are many obvious reasons why it is so very difficult to judge Irish Wolfhound puppies and why we should probably not put too much emphasis on wins garnered at this age, especially in the 6 to 9 months and the 9 to 12 month classes. But mainly we must remember that, while there are certainly exceptions, a dog that has the proper bone, muscle mass and, especially, length of leg at this stage is usually at a distinct disadvantage against those that will probably, in the end, be too refined and short in leg.

With only exception, temperaments were very good and there were very few examples of serious unsoundness. The bitch classes had quality in depth, but the major problem I saw overall was the problem that affects the breed nation wide--we are awash in mediocrity.

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It seems impossible to me that I would ever say that backs had gotten too long, but many have. Combine a too long back and loin with too much rear angulation and the result is a dog that is completely out of balance, almost a caricature of a sighthound. This makes the dogs look weak and, in fact, I saw far too many sagging toplines in dogs this young.

6-9 Month Male (6 entered, 1 absent)

1. Redtop's Phantom of the Opera Rosemary Wortman)-a well-formed, balanced puppy that moves easily with good reach. He is very pretty and not extreme in any way, but I wonder if he will end up with enough substance. He was pushed hard by the second place dog.
2. Aililan of Eagle (Sam Houston McDonald & Samuel Evans Ewing, III), a masculine pup with good bone and substance and a nice shape, except for his topline, which was soft and especially worrisome in so young a dog.
3. Kellykerry Benson of Eagle (Glen H. Myer & Samuel Evans Ewing, III)
4. Maccaura Triscatel Deirdre McCarthy)

9-12 Month Male (3 entered)

1. Demage Jeteur de Sorts Danielle Renaud & Germain McNeil)-This is a very upstanding dog, especially on the move, and quite sound, but he needs more curves front and rear.
2. Carrickaneena Ruairé (Karen Munson, Eileen M. & Eileen B. Flanagan)
3. Carrickaneena Poulaphouca (Glen H. Myer and Samuel Evans Ewing, III)

12-15 Month Male (8 entered, 4 absent)

1. Yasashlikuma Connemara Sirius Debbie Sharpe & Shelley Camm)-This dog moves well with nice reach and is balanced in every way. I would want him to have more substance, more masculinity. In fact, I liked the second place dog more.
2. Karn's Muire of Eagle (Sam & Linda Ross & Jacqueline Karpinski). He was masculine with a wonderfully strong body, but he completely uncooperative on the move and made it impossible for me to evaluate his movement. But this dog is full of quality and very promising.
3. Erinwood Maenach of Eagle Pamela Paloma & Samuel Evans Ewing, III)
4. Connemara's Challenge (Karen Dent, Debbie Sharpe, Donita Osborne)

15-18 Month Male (5 entered)

1. Ceallaghan Carlo of Eagle (Samuel Evans Ewing, III)-A beautifully balanced and shapely dog. At first I thought he was too upright in the neck, a characteristic I happen to find especially unattractive, but when he relaxed he was fine, as was seen when he moved. BEST OF OPPOSITE SEX.
2. Glenamadda Rainvale Impresario (Susan M. L. Prokopenko)
3. Redtops British Sterling (Karen Eberl)
4. Glenamadda Rainvale I'm Harold (John Lake)

6-9 Month Female (4 entered)

1. Kellykerry Betsy of Eagle (Glenn H. Myer & Samuel Evans Ewing, III)-This is a really big bitch for her age. She is heavily boned with wonderful substance, a good strong neck and a shape so lovely that even her very unattractive tail cannot spoil. She is not carrying herself so well and is a classic example of big, substantial youngsters being at a disadvantage at this age.
2. MacCaura Treana Arafel (Pat Powers)
3. Emeraldisle Pure Delight (Wendy Daniel DeFer and Lyne M. & Steven. Heslip)
4. Eagle Dances With Wolves (James and Celia Barberes)

9-12 Month Female (15 entered)

1. Stoneybrook Etosha (Judith & Lynn Simon, M.D.) This dark bitch has an almost perfect shape with good shoulders, strong neck and she uses it all well when the moves. She is a beautiful bitch.
2. Lonnkyle Loyal Remains (Lloyd Simmons), is another strong bitch who looks as though she could do her work easily, but she carried her head & neck too upright and I couldn't determine if this was due to structure or attitude. Also, her topline was slightly sloping. But she is a very powerful bitch indeed.
3. Kellykerry Glenna of Eagle (Glen H. Myer andt Samuel Evans Ewing, III)
4. Laudkeep Ceoltoiri O'Dundrum Robin A. Kirtley, Peggy Carpenter)

12-15 Month Female (7 entered)

1. Karn's Muinin of Eagle (Samuel Evans Ewing, 3rd & Jacqueline Katrpinski) What a powerful young bitch this is! Unlike many of the bitches in the ring today, she has enough neck and head to match her bodv. She was not moving very freely, because I think she was fighting her lead, but this is a top-notch wolfhound. Nothing mediocre about this one!
2. R Noble Gobnat of Eagle (Samuel Evans Ewing, III)
3. Demage Marie Quat'poches (Danielle Renaud and Germain McNeil)
4. Bilbernie Kalyta (Bernice M. Stevenson)

15-18 Month Female (11 entered)

1. Stoneybrook Mora (James P. & Glenda Blaek)-I fell in love with this bitch the moment she walked in the ring. She's strong; she's powerful; she's balanced. I know that many people would not find her beautiful, because her head is not very feminine. But I find beauty in strength and the impression of great power. She is not perfect in the topline, but it was easy to forgive in a bitch like this. BEST IN SWEEPSTAKES.
2. Stoneybrook Medora (Judith & Lynn Simon, M.D.) is also beautiful and well-built and more feminine than the winner, but she doesn't have quite the strength and the power of the first. But she's another outstanding bitch.
3. Starkeeper Dreamer Damasque (Jocelyne Ivanovskis)
4. Redtops Regina (Rosemary E. Wortman)