

**Event: Irish Wolfhound Club of Canada
British Columbia Regional Specialty Show
Date: May 14, 1999
Judge: Jill Bregy, United States**

It was a great pleasure to be asked to judge this specialty. Overall the quality of the hounds was excellent. The show site was superb and the hospitality and stewarding was wonderful. To be hyper critical, the only fault I found which was of concern was an upright or slip hock which seemed to occur in quite a few dogs. This is a fault that I have not seen in a while so it would appear that it is a problem in this part of the world. One should be careful of this as it creates a lack of stability in dogs, particularly in a coursing hound. Lack of articulation of the joint is the concern here and, if this is not clear, then a look at Rachael Page Elliott's film on gait will clarify it. Please note that when I refer to a dog standing comfortably or not 'over their ground' this refers to the structure of the dog and not the temperament. In general, temperaments were excellent as was breed type.

Junior puppy dog 6 to 9- (3)

1. Gabriel's Fletcher - A very pretty puppy with lovely balance; very strong, moving very soundly, and just the right amount of angulation that you want to see at this age. A very strong neck running nicely out of the neck into the topline and through the croup. His angulation, while moderate, is very typical of puppies which keep themselves moderate at this age until later when they have dropped into it after developing the muscle necessary for maintaining increasing angulation. Lovely depth of chest. Good width of thigh.
2. Ruell Rawley Jacob - Another very beautiful puppy. Very elegant with a greyhound outline. Sweeping angulation in the rear quarters, very nice coat but not as together as the # 1 dog. He has a lovely croup and curve but just not standing as well over his ground, which makes a difference. The key, of course, is how comfortable the dog is with his parts at this point. Hard to find that in a puppy and the first place puppy does have that at this moment in time.

Senior Puppy male- (1)

1. Misty Isle Paddy O'Shea of Legacy - A very promising puppy, alone in this class. Very strong and powerful young dog. Loose in the front right now with a high tail carriage. Nevertheless a dog of quality going through growing pains right now. I love his strength. He is just at the awkward stage right now. A strong neck, topline, lots of depth of chest and could have a little more drop in the croup which may account for the tail carriage. Lots of rib spring. Quite a nice puppy.

12 to 18 months- (4) A class with dogs all in difference growth spurts. Not an easy class to judge.

1. August Aiden - A very strong powerful dog similar to the dog in the previous class. Good bone, moving well and moderate angulation. His topline holds up well on the move and he has nice overall depth. His head and neck and set very well on his shoulders and he handles himself well standing comfortably over his ground. He has a nice sweep from the neck through the croup. Strong in the rear
2. Knocknarea Phelan of Cnoccarne - A dog with a beautiful outline. Not handling his topline well at this point in growth. He does not flex his topline well on the move which is what creates a rather rigid line on the move around and this is what took him to second. He is dead sound coming and going. Once he gets through this growth period, he will be fine. His outline is superb and he is a dog of beautiful type. He has a nice neck, good depth of chest, good ribspring, and nice feet and good head and expression and good coat.
3. Kellcastle Emerald Berrybriar - A beautiful greyhound type. He and the 4th place are similar in some ways. He has a lovely coat, stand well, I would like a stronger neck on him. Lovely head and has nice depth and moves well. Has strong hocks and moves well in the rear.

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Chest moves up nicely into his tuck up. His topline could be stronger on the move but this may come when growth is finished. Very sound coming and going.

4. Rioga's Sar Alain Killian - A very pretty young dog. He moves along well but does not stand well as he is not comfortable on the rear. He is a dog of quality, lovely head, nice neck moving into his shoulder, nice feet, good topline. When he settles down from growing, he may well settle down into the rear. This is such a difficult age.

Canadian Bred Male- (2)

1. Cnoccarne Ruisagh - Has a lovely coat. A strong dog but does not make much of himself. Nicely put together. Would like more of a greyhound look to him. Nice head, good depth of chest. A little straight in the upper arm so he does not extend as much as he might on the move. However, very nice type. Moderate angulation, nice croup, strong topline. Overall a nice dog.
2. Cnoccarne Daighragh - He is certainly a sound moving dog. His coat is blown. I would prefer more length of leg. He has a strong neck and not as strong in the topline as the first dog nor the length of leg. I would like to have more air under him for a greyhound look.

Bred by Exhibitor dog- (5)

1. Castelmaine Moses - A very solid dog. Lovely shoulder and topline and moves soundly on the move. He is very comfortable with himself. Nice shape, depth of chest. Pleasing head and expression. Tail is carrying high at some times but his croup is correct. But overall a lot of quality and deserves to win this class.
2. Am.Ch. Kellcastle Macgillivray of Highgate - A dog who is very sound and with a superb topline. Nice strong neck coming into a nice shoulder and with a lovely shape. Moderate angulation in the rear. Nice depth of chest into a nice tuck up. Pasterns not as strong as the #1 dog. A dog of quality.
3. Procyons Rambo of Moloney - A lovely head and neck. Lovely depth of chest and looks well going around from the side. He needs a lot of room to get himself going as he has a lot of angulation and has not figured out how to handle it yet. He has a lovely shape to him with a nice croup and his topline is a little off right now probably due to the fact that he has so much rear. He again has a very lovely coat and nice head and expression.
4. Ruell Renegade RT - A very typey dog. Very nice head and expression, nice neck and good upperarm. Lovely rear angulation but not as strong in the topline as the preceding 3 and not as collected in his movement. Still a very nice dog, overall.

Open Dog- (6)

1. Kenton Lilliput Sir Galahad - A very strong red wheaten do. Nicely laid shoulder, nice coat, solid topline, stands well, strong on the hock. Moves around soundly. Nice deep chest and good tuck up. Moves around well. Would prefer a little more neck but overall a very well balanced dog and certainly and went up easily to #1 by virtue of his overall quality.
2. Kellcastle Seamus Sean - A pretty dog, solid in top line and moves along very nicely. A very smooth mover going around and dead sound. Lovely head, nice neck, nice topline. Would prefer a little more angulation in the rear.
3. Crescendo's Maestro of Rioga - A close thing between 2 and 3. Another pretty dog who moves along soundly. Again, I would prefer more angulation in the rear. Nice type, good depth of chest and good tuck up, nice head and expression.
4. Am.Ch. Buloach Ce Tiogar O'Limerick - A nice dog. Not quite as sound as the first 3. Nice neck going into a strong shoulder, topline strong. Would prefer more rear angulation. Good coat. Lovely substance and type.

Winners dog - A lovely class of winners but it boils down to the Open dog, the Bred by dog and the puppy. A very promising puppy in superb condition. Between the open and the bred by, the open dog had a little more leg length. Both were strong movers with the open dog edging out the bred by dog by virtue of overall balance, and edging out the puppy as the latter was not moving as well as he might on the go around. A close thing between these 3 class winners. Overall a lovely class of dogs.

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Reserve winners dog - The puppy went over the bred by dog as, all things being equal, I preferred his length of leg and his overall balance. Both are dogs of great quality and outstanding type and movement.

Junior Puppy bitch- (4) A beautiful group of puppy bitches

1. Gabriel's Faith - Very strong, beautifully balanced and very easy in her movement. Again a very strong topline which is so critical in our breed. We have some many topline problems due to front and rear assembly problems that the topline becomes very important in judging the breed. Beautiful front and rear assembly on this puppy with dead sound movement.
2. Windswept Gale Force - A little different in type from the #1 bitch. An elegant bitch with lovely curves. Lovely head, strong in the neck but not as strong in the topline as the #1 bitch. Still a bitch of great quality and one must be super critical in judging as each placement is important and in a class of this quality it comes down to very fine points. After she settled down, she moved very soundly.
3. Rainvale Glenamadda Fey Lady - Similar in type to the first place bitch. A little skitterish but settled down. Moved along very well with beautiful side gait. Lovely head and expression. Well balanced. She's got more rear under her than front right now which took her to 3rd place as she was not as together on all quarters as the first 2. Certainly understandable in a puppy.
4. August Darcy - A beautiful bitch with lovely type, wonderful temperament and great topline. Great coat and put together well front and rear but not handling her front well at this point so in this tough competition, this takes her to 4th place. She is certainly a bitch of quality.

Senior puppy female- (3)

1. Berrybriar Jamoca Almond Fudge - A very easy mover and very nicely balanced. Good neck, not overdone either front or rear and very nice topline. However, the owner has a tendency to over stretch her so she can look flat but is not. She is dead sound coming and going, lovely depth of chest, good croup and good width of thigh.
2. Kellcastle Caramel Praline - A little more extreme in type but a beautiful bitch. Strong neck, lovely head and expression, good ear, good depth, lovely croup. A Very sound mover but not quite as sound in the front as the first place winner which is causing her topline to go off a bit but a very promising bitch. Moves along evenly.
3. Horizon's Siobhan O'Caithness - Again a beautifully balanced bitch. Lots of air under her. Good proportion of body length to length of leg. Nice head and expression. Lovely ear. Nice shoulder coming off into her topline but Not moving as smoothly as the first 3. Not as angulated in the rear as the first 3 but let's remember that we're in a puppy class so there is lots of growing to do.

12-18 month female- (7)

1. Knocknarea Prelude - A beautifully balanced bitch with good head and ear, strong neck, solid topline beautiful croup and just the right balance overall and in her quarters front and rear. A strong powerful bitch who still maintains elegance with her strength. Lovely mover.
2. Marumac Gabriellagh - Dead sound, and has very nice type and has a very nice topline although overstretched by her handler at most times. Very solid, lovely depth of chest, lovely croup, lovely head and expression. Good coat. She could use a little more bend of stifle in the rear. A bitch of quality.
3. Rysheron's August Mystery-A very typey bitch. Not quite as sound as the first two but wonderful substance, beautiful head and strong neck, good shoulder but not as sound as the above in the front. Good depth of chest, nice tuck up and nice rise over the loin. She could have a little more hock angulation.
4. Rioga's Fairge Eala - Beautiful moving bitch, lovely type. Lovely coat, nice neck, good shoulder, nice rise over the loin. Just needs a little more rear to carry off the rest of the dog. Overall quite a nice bitch and using herself very well.

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Canadian Bred female-(5, 1 ab, 2 exc.)

1. Cnoccarne Raenagh - A very pretty bitch with lovely type and moving well coming and going and on the go around. Good overall depth and nice tuck up. Would prefer a stronger topline but a very promising bitch. Has moderate angulation in the rear.
2. Rainvale Glenamadda Ivory Echo - Another very pretty bitch. Not quite as good in the shoulder as above which is affecting her topline. A lovely head and strong neck. A bitch of quality with good depth of chest, nice tuck up but just not standing as comfortably over her ground as well as she might right now

Bred by Exhibitor female- (8, 1 ab.) A very nice class.

1. Haro's Grace of Berwyck - A beautiful bitch with lovely type, beautiful balance, lots of air under her. Nice head and neck, good shoulder good depth of chest, nice tuck up, strong rear and nice coat. Overall a good example of Irish Wolfhound type. A strong, greyhound type. She moves with ease and flexibility using her quarters and topline correctly.
2. August Amber - Another very pretty bitch and dead sound coming a going and on the move around. Lovely shoulder, head, neck and expression. Good depth of chest and tuck up. Not quite as strong in the topline as the winner.
3. Kellcastle Tartan MacKellar - A very pretty bitch. Very sound. Strong neck going into a nice shoulder. Good topline, nice depth of chest and good tuck up. Good angulation and nice croup. Placing third to two very good bitches and is a very good bitch herself.
4. Castlemaine Ruadgan - A close thing between 3rd and 4th placement. I love this bitch's balance and type. Beautiful head and ear, good coat. Very sound. A bitch of great quality but at the moment her topline is a little off right now but could easily be a winner on another day.

Open female- (7) A beautiful class of bitches!

1. Marumac Chant of Cnoccarne - A very nice bitch and beautifully balanced with just the right amount of air under her. Strong with a lovely coat. Nice head and expression and good angulation fore and aft. Strong topline. A bitch of excellent type.
2. Haro's Tippi of Berwyck - A bitch, similar to #1 in many ways. Nice depth of chest, good tuck up, absolutely dead sound and the easiest mover in the class however while she moves very strongly, she is not as strong in the rear as the first place bitch. Not quite the muscling of the #1 bitch. Lovely head and expression, good ear with a lot of quality about her.
3. Procyons Shelby of Moloney - A very stylish bitch, very powerful, wonderful head and neck. Good front. Did not move well at the start but pulled herself together. Has a lot of angulation in the rear and probably needs to grow on some to handle it more easily. Good tuck up, nice croup. She has a lot going for her.
4. Castlemaine Sally - Another very pretty bitch of great type. Good head and expression. Would prefer a little more leg on her. Good coat. Lovely front and rear action. Good depth of chest, nice tuck up, good croup and solid topline. A bitch of excellent quality.

Winners bitch - A really lovely class to judge. In the end it is between the open bitch and the bred by bitch. Both wonderful bitches. I like the bred by bitch as she has a little more air under her, moving with grace and ease and with beautiful balance.

Reserve Winners goes to the 2nd in Bred by. A very lovely bitch who has a nice balance and who settled into herself and edged out the wonderful Open bitch. Really a wonderful class of bitches and easy to see any one of them going on to Winners or Reserve.

Best of Breed - (6 bitches entered, 4 present) Goes to the Winners bitch over some very nice specials bitches. She is very true moving and moves with great ease. Great coat, lovely front and rear. Very elegant and strong and excellent type.

Best of Opposite Sex -The Winners dog is a wonderful, strong dog in good condition with lovely coat. A real quality dog.

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Best Puppy in Show goes to the Reserve Winners Dog, Gabriel's Fletcher. Two very pretty puppies in the class. He is in lovely condition, beautifully put together with lovely coat.

Best Canadian Bred goes to an exceptional Specials bitch, Can.Am. Ch. Ar Morga Amaragh Na Cnoccarne. Very strong with a lovely outline and beautiful balance. Beautifully made, she has lots of power and strength about her. She was a strong contender for Best of Breed.

Best Brace - Marumac Gabriellagh and Marumac Chant of Cnoccarne. Two lovely braces with the other being the winners from the Junior dog and bitch class Gabriel's Faith and Fletcher. Both braces well matched in type. The two adults were a little more evenly matched in size and balance.

Altered Male (2, 1 ab)

1. Antrim Starkeep Cedar - A little overweight so it is difficult for him to move as well as he might. Nice type.

Altered females (4, 2 ab)

1. Ch. Greymist Morgan Le Faye - A very pretty bitch, moving along very well. Nicely put together with correct balance and a strong topline.

2. Ch. Celticwind Irish Laurel - Another nice bitch but would prefer a little more leg on her.

Best Altered in Breed goes to Ch. Greymist Morgan LeFaye. She moves beautifully and has a lot of quality about her and is very nicely put together.

Brood Bitch - Two very nice groups. The Winner is Ch. Ar Morga Feydragh Na Cnoccarne -Two get of equal quality as good as and /or slightly better than the dam. In the other group, the brood bitch is quite nice and one of the get, lovely but the 2nd get was not equal to the other get.

Gait Class - (5) Kellcastle Tartan MacKellar - Moving most soundly coming and going and with correct reach and drive on the go around.

Forequarters - Kellcastel Tartan MacKellar - Lovely strong neck, coming nicely into the topline at the shoulder. Well laid shoulder and nice upper arm. Well filled in between the legs with correct muscling. Moving very soundly in the front and was Gait class winner as well.

Hindquarters - Can.Am. Ch. Ar Morga Amaragh Na Cnoccarne -Perfect pelvis is set correctly with a beautiful slope to the croup and well muscled. Perfect articulation of the joint where tibia meets the tarsal bone at the hock. A beautiful look to the whole rear assembly with good width through the thigh.

Head Class - Rainvale Glenamadda Ivory Echo. Beautiful head and expression; strong fill in front of the eyes; lovely ear and correct planes of the head. A strong, yet feminine head.