

SHOW REPORT**EASTERN COUNTIES SHETLAND SHEEPDOG CLUB****Open Show****Sunday, 26th March 2017**

It was such a privilege to be invited to judge this show, and one which I fully appreciated. Thank you to both the Club and the exhibitors for giving me the opportunity of comparing some top quality Shelties – I shall treasure the memories of a lovely show.

I was fascinated to discover afterwards how many closely related dogs were amongst the class winners. Best Bitch and Res Best Dog are full sister and brother, 1st Veteran Bitch and 1st Veteran Dog mother and son, 1st Limit Dog and 1st Open Bitch full brother and sister, 1st Limit Bitch and 1st Sable Bitch mother and daughter, 1st Junior Dog and 1st Puppy Bitch litter mates, 1st Open Dog and 1st Sable Dog half-brothers, 1st Puppy Dog and 1st Post Grad Bitch half brother and sister. Amazing! I was completely unaware of all this at the time.

I was mindful of the fact that the Shetland Sheepdog is on the K.C. Breed Watch for excessively small eyes and misplaced upper canine teeth, neither of which was a problem amongst this entry.

Not for the first time in a judging appointment, I was confronted with a dog whose virtues deserved rewarding but who insisted on pacing. The Sheltie Breed Standard says, "Pacing.....highly undesirable" and the K.C. Briefing Note For Judges at Kennel Club Dog Shows states, " However, if a dog possesses a feature, characteristic or colour described as undesirable or highly undesirable it is strongly recommended that it should not be rewarded in the show ring." But.....experience has taught me over the years that although pacing may often be the result of poor construction, sometimes it is the best moving dogs (and therefore the best constructed dogs) who will pace through laziness when taken at the wrong speed, for it is an easy and economical gait for them when on the lead. Give these particular dogs a "wake-up" call and the result is breath-taking. And the bitch concerned was to precisely prove the point.

VD (6, 0 abs) I do not ask the age of the exhibits in veteran classes so that I can judge each dog entirely on merit as it appears in front of me, without any sentiment about condition for age clouding that judgement. Where an odd incisor or two are missing it is often possible to see from the remaining teeth that the jaws and teeth are in correct alignment, in which case I tend to be forgiving – if hair is lost, it grows again, if a tooth is lost, it does not.

1. Saunders' Sendora Quickstep, tricolour, caught my eye immediately, both moving and standing, with his lovely shape, which was enhanced by his coat, and he proved to be very well constructed. Although looking small compared with many, he must be very close to the ideal 14½ inches. Beautifully balanced; enough bone; very well-muscled hindquarters; his tail feathers on the floor; good underjaw; ears are good; perhaps not quite as sweet in expression as I would like, which is the point on which his dam beat him for BVIS, but was always alert and responsive both standing and in movement; had an easy, smooth, free-flowing action, all the time maintaining perfection in topline. **Best Veteran Dog.**

2. Hull's Ch Lizmark Look This Way (JW) (ShCM), shaded s/w, now 11 yrs old and still with the sweetness of expression and lovely head that he always had; his excellent construction is still so evident to feel under his correctly textured coat. Hind movement going away is still accurate and sound; he was not quite as firm in pasterns or covering the ground with so much purpose as the winner, but I now know that he was giving away no less than 4yrs in age to the winner, so that is entirely understandable. It's now over 10 years since I gave him a BOB as an unfurnished youngster –how gratifying that his early superb framework flourished into an outstanding dog. **3. Diment & Williams' Ch Peerieglen Pickwick (JW) (ShCM).**

MP (O)**P (5, 0 abs)**

1. Miles' Keycharm Heaven Knows of Milesend, 9 mths s/w, completely self-assured and confident showman and already carrying a good coat; good head with a well-balanced skull and foreface and a well-rounded muzzle; good ears; dark eyes and sweet in expression; good bone; level back finished with a sloping croup and correctly carried tail; good turn of stifle; tight feet but I would prefer them a little more oval in shape. Firm in movement although a little close going away, but nice and straight in front coming towards. **Best Puppy In Show.** **2. Woolley's Pepperhill In The Moment**, 8mths tri, initially he was the puppy my eye was drawn to with his very pleasing shape and outline; very nice eye and expression but at present his muzzle is finer and longer than winner's. Coat developing well; excellent bone but he is already well grown, with indication that there may still be more growth to come, which I took into consideration. Correct oval feet. Good hind angulation and correct croup. **3. Robinson's Sheltysam Nut Box In Alnmac.**

JD (4, 0 abs)

1. S. Nut Box In A. 10 mths shaded s/w, close up in Puppy for again he had the shape and outline that appealed very much and he covered the ground very easily, is OK for size and has a good length of neck and body. Face on stands straight in front with enough bone and oval shaped feet. Sweet in expression and dark eyes. In the Puppy Class was not quite as assertive as the two above him in outlook and use of his ears, but I very much liked his shape and build. **2. Forster Parish's Milesend Blue Raider At Lowick**, b/m, OK for size with excellent bone, although not quite such an oval shaped foot as winner; pleasing expression, well rounded muzzle with a good underjaw; in comparison with the winner, the winner showed more reach of neck and a little more reach in front movement. Nice over the croup and good turn of stifle. Good tail carriage. Correctly textured weatherproof coat. **3. Varnom's Milesend Morning Time.**

ND (2, 0 abs)

1. Sargent's Stanydale Puttin On The Ritz, tri, up to size but workmanlike; a little careless standing behind but nevertheless showed strength and drive in hind movement and covered plenty of ground with freedom; alert ears but they just tip a fraction low which detracted from his expression; a flat skull and good underjaw; nicely made in front and excellent bone together with oval feet; tail carriage was a little higher than "slightly raised when moving" but I felt that as it was set on correctly, this was due to his obviously happy attitude – which is certainly not a fault and for which he should not be downgraded. **2. Norman's Milesend Murray**, s/w, preferred his size but he could have been neater in hindquarters and was not as strong in hind action as winner, but he has a good turn of stifle; good ears; nice muzzle; a little round in eye but dark in colour; sufficient bone and oval feet; good spring of rib; coat enhances his shape; well carried tail.

UGD (8, 2 abs)

1. Edwards' Castlerose Star Turn (JW), tri, and **2. French's Lirren Tri Wishing**, tri. Both share some very similar virtues, both being OK for size, both with good bone and tight feet, the winner with particularly excellent oval shape of foot; both have excellent ears, good pigmentation and rich tan; both have good length of neck, good depth of rib, and are correct over the croup; winner has a fraction more hind angulation; both with good tail carriage. Comparing them moving in profile, the main difference lay in the length of body – both moved with purpose but I preferred the length of body of winner, 2nd is a bit shorter in body and was not quite as smooth in his action as winner. However, when Star Turn was in competition for Best Dog, I preferred the front movement coming towards me of my two top winners. **3. Pattinson's Kyleburn Everlasting Dream.**

PGD (5, 1 abs)

1. S. Quickstep. **2. Forster-Cooper's Sheltysam Burnished Gold**, shaded s/w, a very close decision between him and the winner for this one, too, shows a lovely shape and outline and like the winner is free moving. It was only on the table that I felt the winner just had the edge in back. Perhaps a fraction round in

eye but still the desired sweetness in expression. Good bone and pasterns. In lovely coat. **3. Hull's Lizmark Black Gold.**

LD (3, 0 abs)

1. Thornley's Felthorn Jazz Singer (JW), s/w, correct size; good bone with strong flexible pasterns and oval feet; lovely front end on him with excellent forechest and depth of rib; forequarter assembly is well-angulated and matched with good hind angulation yet, surprisingly, he wasn't covering quite as much ground as the two top winners. Excellent straight front movement coming towards. Good spring of rib. In dense coat of correct texture. Good tail carriage and holds his topline well. **2. Stock's Shemist Black Wizard**, tri, on the first circuit of the ring I thought he might be the winner as he has a lovely shape and was impressive in his free ground-covering action, but when standing he wasn't always as immaculate in front as the winner, also appeared a little bigger than the winner so not quite as close to the ideal. Masculine in outlook without any coarseness. In dense coat. Good tail carriage. **3. Fransham's Jontygray I Have A Dream For Franmead (JW).**

OD (4, 1 abs)

1. Bastiani & John's Ch Hawk Blue Eye Des Romarins De Mayerling Joins Auberswell (IMP FRA) (JW), b/m, in one word, beautiful.... but it was more than skin deep. Ideally could be half a size smaller, but is beautifully balanced. He fulfils the requirement to be graceful and lithe, which he combines with enough strength for hardiness, and is built for speed. Used his neck to show a lovely outline, ideal length of body with a perfect topline and completed with a long tail perfectly carried. Correct feet. He put everything into his movement, where his very good construction became evident. He was accurate out and back and so easy and long-striding in profile. Really lovely expression in his blue eyes, and was always alert with perfect ear carriage; has a well-shaped head with parallel planes to his flat skull and muzzle, and a good chin. Temperament, whether on the ground or being gone over on the table, was exemplary. Coat is dense, with correct, harsh-textured top coat, weatherproof and practical in amount – fully furnished without being over coated. The icing on the cake was his bandbox presentation – his well-marked coat is a beautiful blue colour and glistened with silver; he was groomed to perfection. **Best Dog and Best In Show.** **2. Miles Sommerville Tri Maccool**, tri, masculine and showing strength without coarseness; standing he gave the winner a good run for his money for he too has a look of quality about him; excellent bone with correct oval feet; perhaps not quite as appealing in eye but lovely rounded muzzle with good underjaw; excellent ears; in very good coat; it was in moving them in profile that I separated them where there was a subtle difference in outline to the winner's advantage and the winner covered a fraction more ground. **3. Dimmock's Hillhenry Just One Look At Fernhill.**

Special OD (S/W) (8, 1 abs)

1. Bastiani & John's Faitmoirever Jocker Des Romarins De Mayerling At Auberswell (IMP FRA), well presented rich shaded sable of correct size; initially I was suspicious of his topline which appeared to have a dip, but on the table I found his back to be absolutely firm – strong, straight, level and well-muscled, and it was merely his coat giving an optical illusion. Good length of neck; correct loin and sloping croup and well carried tail. Good spring of rib; excellent bone; good angulation of hindquarters which he put to good use, moving with drive. Excellent straight movement coming towards with strong pasterns. Excellent pigmentation but a minimal difference in ears and the moulding of the head that I preferred in my top two dogs. **2. Wynn's Ch Sheltysam Rose Wood**, golden sable also well presented in full coat – straight, with correct harsh texture of top coat; not quite as much length of neck as 1st, and although he too put plenty of enthusiasm into his movement he didn't cover quite as much ground; appealing in head and expression, with dark eyes and perfect ears. Good bone, strong flexible pasterns and oval feet; **3. Fransham's Jontygray Gilt Edged For Franmead (JW).**

Special OD (Tri, B/W) (4, 0 abs)

1. Stow & Withers' **Stanydale Shot In The Dark (JW)**, this was quite a difficult decision because yet again the Veteran winner appealed greatly for his overall shape, continuing to maintain his easy, steady movement; however, looking at them both face on, I felt there was something a little more classical in outlook in the winner, who also had just a mite more substance all through to his advantage. Excellent ears; very alert; well-rounded muzzle; confident in temperament; excellent bone; strong flexible pasterns and tight oval feet so essential for a galloping working dog; good depth and spring of rib; good angulation of hindquarters; strong hind movement going away, showing correct width between his hocks and was straight coming towards; in profile showed drive and freedom. Sensible weatherproof coat. To me, it was the extra sweetness in the expression of the Open winner that won my favour for best dog, but his excellence in movement gave him the edge over the 2nd in Open to gain **Reserve Best Dog**. Competing for Reserve BIS, it was perhaps just extra coat over his croup that meant he didn't quite match that lovely line over the loin and croup that the bitch had. **2. S. Quickstep. 3.** Robinson & Morgan's **Calambray Back Chat**.

Special OD (Blue Merle) (2, 1 abs)

1. Edwards' **Castlerose Spiritmaster (JW) (ShCM)**, well-marked and a good colour; strongly built without being coarse and although very happy and confident, still carried his wagging tail correctly; a pleasing expression from his two blue eyes; good ear carriage; excellent bone and feet; good spring of rib; moved OK in front, but he was a little closer going away than the two top winners although he went soundly and with plenty of drive; coat is dense, weatherproof and workmanlike.

VB (6, 1 abs)

1. Sendall's **Peeriglen Pearl Drop Of Sendora**, b/m, unbelievable to afterwards discover that she is 11 yrs old, for she was always full of enthusiasm and she moved with plenty of drive, (not surprisingly when I found her hindquarters to be strong and very well-muscled up), and she had lovely straight movement coming towards. In profile she covered plenty of ground and the reasons for her capability to do this were confirmed on the table where I found her lovely to go over. Although up to size she is nevertheless very feminine in head with a sweetness of expression that was to carry her through to her higher awards later on; dark eyes, excellent ears and always alert in attitude; flat skull and an excellent underjaw. Plenty of heart room and firm elbows. Maintained a firm topline in movement, completed with correctly carried long tail. In full coat. Her construction and movement meant that she was easily in contention when it came to the top awards, but the winning bitch beat her on ideal size. **Reserve Best Bitch, Best Veteran In Show. 2.** Edwards' **Castlerose Madame Arcati (JW)**, b/m, similar in size, also sweet in expression with dark eyes and excellent ears but winner just had the edge in muzzle and underjaw. Is well balanced and covered the ground well. OK for bone, flexible pasterns and correct feet; good hindquarter angulation; **3.** Diment's **Peeriglen Pillow Talk**.

MPB (4, 1 abs)

1. Norris' **Clanavon Love In A Mist**, s/w, at only 6 mths it was lovely to see how confident she was – completely at ease when moving, showing a lot of scope and with lovely straight front action both coming towards and in profile; looking very leggy at the moment but face on she stands beautifully straight in front; has a good topline and tail carriage. Very dark pigmentation, excellent ears; very pleasing in head and expression; **2.** Stock's **Shemist Dark Angel**, tri, also just 6 mths old and she caught my eye straight away because, even though she is at that "bum high" stage of development, seen in profile she covers the ground so well, but seen going away she was closer behind than the winner; good bone and feet; good turn of stifle. A little larger in ear than the winner. **3.** Metson's **Kyleburn Fantastic Dream**.

PB (5, 3 abs)

1. Forster-Cooper's **Sheltysham Nut Free**, and **2.** Deveson's **Milesend Sea Pearl**, a very close decision between these two shaded sable/whites; both 10 mths old and in good coat; both well boned and correct

in size; both with correct length of body and good over the croup and hindquarters; both covered the ground really well; visually there was little to separate them, but under the coat I felt the winner had a little more development in prosternum together with a fraction more front angulation and neck, but two very nice puppies and Sheltysham Nut Free became **Best Puppy Bitch**. When it came to choosing Best Puppy I actually preferred the shape and outline of the bitch, particularly over the neck and shoulders, but in the run-off she was not as positive in movement as the dog puppy was.

JB (2, 1 abs)

1. Hull's Lizmark Blue Lalique, b/m, well-marked but perhaps about to change her coat, for the blue colour was not at its best; very full of enthusiasm and covered plenty of ground with keenness, yet still with good tail carriage; excellent correctly sized ears, always on the alert; feminine in outlook with a pretty face and lovely dark eye; good bone but would prefer tighter feet; good length of second thigh and looks athletic.

NB (11, 4 abs)

1. Stow & Withers' Stanydale Luck Be A Lady, 18 mths rich shaded s/w who caught my eye immediately. The old Sheltie Standard used to say, "...with speed and jumping power great for its size", which summed up the required type in a nutshell. For me, she demonstrated this type exactly. Although seemingly self-assured on the ground, she was initially a little cautious on the table but as I re-examined her (as I did all the class winners) during her progression through her subsequent awards she responded with intelligence and increasing relaxation. So well made all through, which resulted in excellent movement going away, and straight in front coming back; in profile an easy, smooth, ground-covering stride looking athletic, strong but utterly feminine, workmanlike and unexaggerated. Her lovely coat enhanced her shape and was beautifully presented. Excellent bone and feet. Topline and tail carriage perfect. Appealed greatly in head and expression and alertness. I loved her. **Best Bitch**. Competing against the dog for BIS, she had the advantage of ideal size, but I felt that on the day I had to give the dog his due credit for his complete assuredness throughout the day. **Reserve Best In Show**. **2. Salmon's Fenstyle Isle O'Dreams**, b/m, my first impressions were not good, for her expression didn't really appeal to me and she was pacing, but what a surprise when I examined her on the table. Beautifully constructed front end, well angulated forequarters and an excellently formed ribcage. Firm coupling. Excellent bone. Enough angulation of hindquarters. Her blue is a good colour and perhaps it was just the markings in her blue eyes that affected her expression. With a bit of guidance, her handler eventually managed to get her to open up into an extended trot down the side of the ring, and she produced a quite exceptional length of stride and very powerful hind action – positive, enthusiastic and easy. It was only brief, but it was enough to prove her capabilities and workmanlike assets. **3. S. Nut Free**.

UGB (6, 2 abs)

1. Lycett's Iliad Isabear Secret, b/m, preferred her in expression to 2nd. Could perhaps have carried her ears a fraction closer together on top of her skull, but correctly tipped forward; lovely flat skull; excellent bone and strong, flexible pasterns; oval feet; sufficient forechest; good angulation of forequarters; covered plenty of ground and light on her feet but surprisingly was a little close coming towards me; lovely length of second thigh; good length of body; although a bit heavily marked, the blue is a good colour; in lovely condition with what appeared to be new coat, which still needed a few more weeks of growth of feather to complete the picture. **2. F. Isle O'Dreams**, once again she initially paced but I was sure it was due to handler error, and with more advice about the speed to take her at, she again produced that remarkable ground-covering free movement to earn her placing in this class. **3. Fransham's Sheltysham Bedazzle At Franmead**.

PGB (5, 1 abs)

1. Parkes' Milesend Sweet Whispers At Eljetia, light golden s/w yearling who immediately appealed greatly, bringing to mind the words "small long haired working dog of great beauty". Correct size, balanced

and a lovely shape in profile, showing her free movement and finished with a good length of tail, which was perfectly carried; she moved well going away and had good reach in front. Bone is correct for her size; flexible pasterns with nice oval feet; lovely head, eye and expression, ears are perfect and she is so feminine; certainly in the running for best bitch, but ultimately, although she has a good depth of midrib, the top two had the advantage in development of forechest and firmness in elbow. Nevertheless, a bitch of lovely quality. **2.** Mitchell & Tydeman's **Sendora One For The Road**, b/m, both eyes are dark brown but not quite as sweet in expression as winner, nor quite her underjaw; very good bone and correctly shaped feet; very pleasing to watch going round the ring with smooth lines which continued over her croup and tail, which was perfectly carried, and her movement was very free and steady. **3.** Miles **Milesend Black Cherry**.

LB (4, 1 abs)

1. Lycett's **Herds Hallicia At Iliad**, rich s/w with a snip of a blaze; very sweet and feminine in head with a lovely eye and expression; good ears; correct size; beautifully turned out in excellent coat, correct in texture; good bone and pasterns; feet are correctly shaped; moved a little close going away, OK coming towards, has a very pleasing outline in profile with good tail carriage but didn't show quite as much freedom as the two top winners. **2.** Diment's **Peerieglen Pollywog**, tri, a little rounder in eye than winner; neat ears; well-rounded muzzle; excellent bone and good feet; good length of body; carried her tail well; again, correct in size but was apt to stand a bit loose in elbows, and she made this more noticeable in a much later class, where it affected her placing. Dense coat. **3.** Taylor & Yuille's **Shelridge Casa Lilly At Chelmermead**.

OB (5, 0 abs)

1. Thornley's **Felthorn Lindy Hop**, s/w with absolute textbook construction. Perfectly formed ribcage with a defined forechest, together with deep ribs giving a firm basis for her elbows. Well laid back shoulder, exposing a good length of neck, and has an excellent return of upper arm, putting her elbows well underneath her. Ribs carried well back and correctly sprung giving her plenty of lung room. Firm coupling. Strong hindquarters are just as well angulated and she stands perfectly parallel behind with strong hocks. Produced plenty of drive and has excellent daisy-cutting action in front with good reach. Excellent bone, weatherproof coat and overall gives a very workmanlike impression, yet still feminine. Excellent ears and pigmentation. Pushed hard for the top spot, but against two bitches who were also well made I had just a slight preference for the expression of the top two. **2.** Miles' **Edglonian Gossip Girl**, s/w, loved her sweetness in head and expression; lovely dark eye and pigmentation; utterly feminine; enough bone; good spring of rib but not quite the development in forechest that the winner had; good angulation of hindquarters; covered the ground with freedom and a well carried tail; good coat; nice tight feet; **3. P.Pollywog**.

Special OB (S/W) (4, 2 abs)

1. Lycett's **Iliad Isla Wishes**, lovely rich colouring of her face, with a correctly shaped eye giving a very nice expression; good bone and very nice oval feet; well presented in good dense coat; good hindquarter angulation; moved a little close going away, OK in front, but not quite covering as much ground as the top two; well carried tail; **2.** Deveson's **Janetstown Je Suis (JW) (ShCM)**, pleasing expression and neat ears; a little finer in muzzle than winner; good length of body; moved well going away with a good tail carriage, but winner had a little more reach in front; enough bone but I would prefer her pasterns to be less steep and with more flexibility; confident temperament and very nicely presented in good coat;

Special OB (Tri, B/W) (8, 1 abs) not an easy choice between the first two, for they were rather different in type and size, the winner being the smaller of the two;

1. Forster Parish's **Rosdyke Heavenly Spice Of Lowick**, sweet in expression and very good ears; good overall strength in her small package, with the right bone for her size and nice oval feet; good ribcage; she was in dense coat and standing she looked well balanced with a good topline, happy and confident in

manner; moved well going away with good drive and was good coming towards, but when moving in profile I preferred the outline of the top two. **2. Baker & Pettitt's Myriehewe Ellie At Lakebank (ShCM)**, a little bigger than winner; firmly put together; dark eyes, excellent ears; well-rounded muzzle; good depth of rib; she seemed heavier and felt not quite as shapely in body as the winner but she was superbly muscled up and had particularly well-muscled second thighs, and in movement she had ample drive and enthusiasm; very dense coat; **3. S. Bedazzle At F.**

Special OB (Blue Merle) (2, 1, abs)

1. Kennedy's Lirren Blue Gamble At Donbeley, maybe up to height but not too heavy in bone; nicely coloured with a good blue; good ears; flat skull, perhaps a mite long in muzzle; reasonable length of neck; just a bit down on her pasterns on the day and could have been a bit tighter in feet. In good coat and maintained a good topline going round the ring together with a nice sweep to a well carried tail.

Rosalie Brady (Judge).