

GLEN OF IMAAL ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW 26/11/2023

I was called in as a very last-minute replacement for the advertised judge. Hope Moira Barrass got back home alright. 40 years in the centre of the Glen ring so the pre-amble will deal partly with when dinosaurs walked the earth. Back then there was something called a Sanction Show and a Limit Show. One of the classes frequently scheduled was AV Long Legged Terrier and Glens were shown there rather than AV Short Legged. Not because they had long legs but because the power and fluidity of their movement meant they out moved, ridiculously so, any Short-Legged Terrier. Today the majority just couldn't have competed there. Is it due to ring classes? It's a dwarf breed so you oick the lead up behind the ears and move it at a restricted pace. Not with a Glen. I hold my hand up and admit to being quite frustrated at the pace some were being taken (as one exhibitor said to me, you don't have the poker face you used to) and I actually told one exhibitor to move again, quicker and stop him plodding. They did, he did and the Dog CC was his. The Bitch CC-and Best In Show-does move beautifully but more muscle behind would be the icing on the cake with her.

There was a dog and bitch that I seriously wanted to consider for the respective Reserve CCs. Their handlers equally seriously didn't want me to. I know Glen events are a hugely social occasion but when you've paid good money out to let the dog sit down whilst you look up at the ceiling and around the room and the judge is stood staring directly at your dog is maybe not the best move. The same with being called back into the ring to challenge, the judge is probably a little bit interested. To dash in and then look vaguely around whilst ambling up and down with little control of your animal won't earn honours. Is it a bit rude to mention it when everybody has had an off moment? No, it isn't because both the dog and bitch concerned have so many plus points and judges can only do what they see on the day. The hiss from varying points ringside to the two handlers was quite audible by the way.

As "back in the day" is featuring here; what has happened to shop window walking? Not taking the dog to do the Christmas shopping but to go into town, if possible, at a quieter moment and just watching how your dog walks via the reflection. I would have thought now it would be far easier as many own a mobile phone so your dog's movement can be videoed and analysed but what I had before me says it isn't. Dogs were crabbing, hopping, skipping and one did a beautiful dressage half pass movement. Hands on though didn't find any problems with construction. I'm not totally obsessed with movement but that, and coat, is what gives first (and second) impressions of a dog and frankly the breed is being let down. To be fair though a late November show will see dogs with coats in a mess if Crufts/NT is intended the following year.

The Glens themselves...were Glens. All had teeth and the big majority were rather good. Just a couple of mis-placers which considering what they used to be is truly remarkable. Obviously some had lighter bones than other but none were present that I considered too light. The V shaped rib appears to be been consigned to the history books. The straight back end was a new one but again I got the feeling it was often the handler not setting up to advantage. I've loved this breed for over 45 years so it was with great pleasure I could finish my judging career here. Thank you folks, it's been a blast.

Post Graduate Dog: 1st Fraser Amhard Runrig (Wheaten) Mouth sound, skull good but jaw a little narrow, reasonable coat, shape good, one of the lighter boned males, moved ok

2nd Lily & Reynard Romainville Blue Indigo (Brindle) Taller dog. Has most of the breeds desired traits and a really nice head and mouth but his extra height throws off his proportions. Shame

Limit Dog: 1st Bailey Zippor Brendan (Wheaten). Good head, good coat, reasonable shape, movement ok when settled, moderate length of back, well sprung ribs. Much to recommend.

2nd Withers Pajantick Darknite (Brindle). Good bone and has good substance for size, long in loin. Flat feet detract. His outline on the stand was not the best. Wonderful personality

Open Dog: 1st Hall Jojase Heremon Bear (Wheaten). He's a better dog than he looks from ringside. Good head strong jaw, excellent shape, minces on the move if not made to stride out. Would like better angulation behind. Res CC

2nd Hardy Ch Amhard Quick Fire (Wheaten). Great head with an impressive jaw and teeth. Superb bone, beautiful feet. I've done him very well before but today he was lame.

Veteran Dog: 1st Hannington Ch Boudivella Osca (Wheaten). 8 years old and fully mature. A prime example of a senior Glen in all their glory and like all of them that has been there, done that, got the t-shirt doesn't like to exert himself too much. When he finally did and produced a neck with none plodding action the Dog CC and Best veteran was his.

Junior Bitch: The first two were brindle litter sisters and it certainly showed. So very similar but one with a very novice handler and one not. Due to that it had to be 1st Hannington Boudivella Rosie. 2nd Pierce Boudivella Maisie. Both had good substance, head, mouth, bone, it's all there in both of them. Maisie had the best muscle of the day but that advantage just wasn't used. A pair to be very pleased with.
3rd Howarth Amhard Sugar Plum(Wheaten)

Post Graduate Bitch: 1st Hardy Amhard Rapid Beat (Brindle). Very feminine so appears smaller. Probably the best brindle coat of the day. Sound in movement but front could be better
2nd Griffiths Amhard Ruby Icon(Brindle). Perhaps a little long in back. Nice head set on a moderate neck. Did not move as well as one
3rd Hannington Jojase Aisling Pixie

Limit Bitch: Hannington 1st Mo Stor Ailin Of Tatlers Jack Clan (Wheaten). Good shape size and outline. Bone good for her type, moved positively with some reach and drive. Another one that would benefit from more muscle to act as a finish for the picture. Res CC
2nd Hardy Amhard Raspberry Fizz (Wheaten). Good mouth, good head but jaw a little narrow. Balanced and typey but why bother settling on the back end?

Open Bitch: 1st Sage Ch Wickholm Bohemian Rhapsody(Brindle) Just love this Plain Jane bitch. When I last judged her I wrote she could possibly be joining the ranks of the great bitches of the breed, my mind hasn't changed. Excellent shape and outline good size with good substance and bone. Moved well with reach and drive would have liked more muscle behind. She is everything a Glen should be. Bitch CC and Best of Breed
2nd O'Grady Amhard Quick Sand (Wheaten). Longer in back than one. Excellent coat, head, topline, hind quarters. No shame in coming second to the best.

Veteran Bitch: 1st Hall Bendikes Fidelma (Brindle) 8 and half year old. In good coat, well muscled and good outline but never really settled on the move

Harold Gay (Judge)