

AFGHAN HOUND ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW 5TH MAY 2014 DOG CRITIQUE

It was an honour to judge the dogs at this prestigious event. I feel at a specialty show exhibitors deserve plenty of time to show off their dogs and newcomers made to feel at ease in the ring. Therefore everyone was given ample opportunity to get used to what can be a strange experience. We had a wonderful grass ring and my stewards, Charles Taggart and Francis Hearne kept me and the exhibitors under control! Thank you to the officers and committee of the A.H.A. for the commemorative crystal goblet and the flowers and a day to remember.

Veteran (4) (2abs)

1) Moore's Ch.Cloudside Warpaint. An 8 year old gold brindle of middle size. Refined in head with Eastern expression, reachy neck leading to sloping shoulder and level back line, correct croup and well set ringed tail. Good length of upper arm in balance to hind angulation and when moved the dog's balance is obvious with correct foot fall. Still maintains a springy gait, with good ground coverage. B.V.I.S.

2) Farquhar's Birkhall Secret Agent Sh.CM. Spritely red 8 year old. Heavier boned than winner shown in beautiful coat and body condition. Balanced head with dark eye and strong jaw line. Strong neck and well placed shoulder. Deeper chest than winner, and firm loin. Good croup but lacks ring to tail. Balanced front and rear angles. Moved with spring and enthusiasm.

Minor Puppy (5)

1) Morris and Meakes' Gezancol Twist Of Fate. This 7 month black and tan is medium in size and presents with a balanced picture stacked. He has a masculine head with correct eye shape and colour. Well bodied and firm fronted for his age, he has a very good top line and continuation to good croup, and ringed tail. When settled, his movement is light and coordinated with good head and tail carriage.

2) Bastille's Andizhan Constantine. Another quality baby, scoring on his great front with good fore chest and angulation which compliments that of his rear. I find him a little strong in head but he will be a good size male in time. Has good scope when moving with good head and tail carriage. When his handler has confidence to give the pup some lead length he will be impressive. His silver brindle coat has a lovely texture and was well prepared.

3) Bunney's Gezancol Strike A Light at Zadal

Puppy (8) (1abs)

1) Abrey's Harlextan Bertie Bubbles. It was a close call between the first two in this group, as they are developing at their own rate and each pup has particular qualities that I like. The winner is a medium sized, 11month black and tan, stacked looks a picture without exaggeration. He has an excellent expression with small dark eyes, good skull shape and strong jaw. Carries his head well on a strong neck leading to well angled shoulders to upper arm. He holds his elbows nicely to his chest which is deep with good spring of rib. The length of rib cage to loin is good and back line is level and strong. He has good body and muscle tone for his age. He is steady and true in movement with a light progressive gait carrying his ringed tail at the required angle.

2) Harrison's Garamond Loganberry Al Kabira. Also 11 months, this black and silver is much rangier and looser in movement just now. His head is long and has well shaped back skull and jaw. He already has a haughty expression. His long neck adds to his impression of height. He also has good shoulder and upper arm balance but is not as full in fore chest yet and is slightly longer in loin. He is more angular than 1) and has the ability to cover some ground with good length of second thigh. Going away he is not as precise as 1). He has a ringed tail carried well. Another promising boy.

3) Mclay's Garamond Tayberry

Junior (10)

- 1) Parker-Holden's Istani Hell Raiser on Affiah. I was immediately attracted to the proportions of this black and cream and he walks into a natural stance with super topline and tail set. Great head qualities and chiselling which is special in our breed. Sensibly angulated front and rear with a well developed chest and loin. His movement is precise and he is in hard muscular condition.
- 2) Gardner's Maringo Wicked Games with Bichoux. Powerfully made and again well conditioned black and cream. Equals the balance and angles of winner but is better in use of fore leg and pasterns, which is lovely to watch. Not as tight at the elbow as winner or as strong in back line on the move. Has a good head and tail carriage. Free stands very well.
- 3) Metcalfe's Calamus Orient Express (imp)

Yearling (7) (1abs)

- 1) Cheesman's Zaram Zeroun. Tall, elegant black and brindle with classic head and dark eye. His length of neck and good stature add to his proud attitude. Firm back line, adequate croup and tail set. Fair length of upper arm and depth of chest, but he makes good use of springy pasterns, so his movement is springy and his hind action most pleasing.
- 2) Gardner's Drishaun It Ain't What You Do. This is a much heavier built shaded masked gold. Rather strong in head but I did find his body construction otherwise very sound. He has big raking hind movement, but his front action is a bit lost beneath his dense coat at this stage in his development. Could possibly be moved slightly faster to show his full potential and reach. Great coat condition.
- 3) Odell's Sukeshi Olympic Torch

Maiden (5) (2 abs, 1 w.d.)

- 1) Morris and Meakes' Gezancol Twist Of Fate
- 2) Kemp's Andizhan Czardin to Suzaph. This silver brindle is much leggier than the winner and looser throughout. His outline is pleasing and he is well proportioned. He is masculine in head; I liked his neck and shoulder which leads into a firm back line, good croup and tail set. His chest is OK but I would like more fore chest. He was more settled in this class, so his movement could be assessed. It is clear he has scope in his side gait so I'm sure he will come good as he grows up.

Novice (6) (1abs, 1 w.d.)

- 1) Goff's Gezancol In The Zone. Now 2 years old this black and cream has become a most pleasing dog. Excels in expression, so one wants to look further. There is much quality under the heavy coat. Good spring of rib, strong bone and body. Sweeping quarters, well let down with correct tail set. Has now learned to show off his movement, covering lots of ground.
- 2) Harrison's Garamond Loganberry Al Kabira
- 3) Morris and Meakes' Gezancol Twist Of Fate

Special Beginners (3)

- 1) Gardner's Maringo Wicked Games with Bichoux
- 2) Stainsby's Istani Breaking Every Code. He is a heavily boned junior shaded masked gold that I found strong in back skull. He does have excellent shoulder placement and front angles, well ribbed and powerful in loin. He needs more angle of croup which makes him appear up at the rear at present. He has very steady movement.
- 3) Mclay's Garamond Tayberry

Graduate (5)

- 1) Finch, Hopper and Scott's Sitana Rajajani from Zinzani J.W. I found this black masked silver such a text book image of a real Afghan hound. Top marks in presentation and sensitive handling skills. He has the breed idea of having to weigh up his surroundings, and luckily the large ring gave him time to show his assets. All about him was smooth lines- that

is top of head to fall away. His ring tail is correctly set, and once settled into his stride it is carried correctly. His expression is exotic as his skull is refined. All proportions just right, coat pattern affording me a chance to watch those sloping pasterns. One of those 'if only' dogs as he just needed to relax.

2) Parker Holden's Davashey Move Like Jagger via Affiah. Extrovert red brindle, more angular than 1) who covers a lot of ground holding a firm back line but a bit gay in tail at times. Very well balanced and has good head carriage with a keen expression.

3) Care and Fairburn's Nightwind True Colours

Post Graduate (10)

1) James' Xenos Art Deco at Jahadi. An oyster brindle who headed a strong class of differing blood lines. I was immediately visually attracted by his coat pattern and aloof expression. On examination I found the combination of a head that had oriental structure, dark triangular eyes and a good jaw line and correct bite. Then a strong neck and flowing back line, correct croup and ringed tail. Excellent angulation with low set hocks producing great drive and complimented by good frontal extension. Perfect rib to loin balance and in superb muscular and body condition. An Afghan with a mind of his own, but when he wants to do it he is top notch. A great prospect.

2) Woodward's Abica's Rhinestone Cowboy (imp). A very aristocratic black and brindle with a grand head with chiselling and again, perfect eye shape. Holds his topline well and maintains a steady almost lazy gait with his ring tail held at the right angle throughout. Lovely substance, with deep ribbing and good fore chest. Springy pasterns and long second thighs producing those easy light strides.

3) Gardner's Javidan Bad Boy Boogie

Mid Limit (8) (1 abs)

1) Gill and Marshall's Miamarna Masquerade J.W..It was a pleasure to judge this black and tan dog and award him his first C.C. His owner was not there to handle him today, so his performance proves how sound he is and also full marks to the lady who took on the lead work. He has everything one should look for in an Afghan male. His size is right, he has strong bone, perfect balance of height and length and of angulation front to rear. To handle he has a magnificent head with arrogance and good carriage, his neck being strong and continuing to well laid back shoulders and good fore legs held exactly below. His chest is deep, back line level and loin strong. Well angled in croup with good tail carriage. He carries correct body weight and quantity of coat so it doesn't distract from his movement. This is when he comes into his own as he can push the extra inch with no effort at all. His hind action is so true, light and powerful and his front action is as if he is on springs- just watch those front feet, absolute magic.

2) Bastow's Karandikar Moon Dancer J.W..Another black and tan that has all the breed characteristics that I would want in a male. Of similar size and substance to 1) and with that same desired expression. He has super front assembly, is a little shorter coupled than 1), is less angled at the rear but has equally good lift to his movement. Text book ring tail with perfect carriage. I just wish he had given a bit more in the challenge.

3) Virgo's Sumahari Tiger Wudz J.W.

Limit (7) (1 abs)

1) King's Karandikar Star Storm. What a sound dog this is. A very well handled and presented black and brindle with all the qualities of his litter brother, Moon Dancer. His added enthusiasm took his movement to another level when going for the Res. C.C. over his brother. Star Storm and Masquerade both held their heads in the correct attitude of a hunting hound, with the eyes forward and head held slightly nose down when in action, yet still able to keep the neck at full length. On the final run he didn't match the ground cover of Masquerade, but he is every inch an Afghan.

2) Harrison's Sarakhan Sultan al Kabira. A very impressive black masked gold. His owner must be congratulated on the manner in which he presents and manages his dogs. This

lad's coat gleams and he is in tip top condition. Being bigger in stature than 1) he needs a big ring to show off his length of stride. Posture good at all times. He has sloping pasterns used to advantage and has the correct length of back to produce exact foot fall with his big strides. His tail is ringed and held at the right height. Very different type to 1) but still lots to appreciate about him.

3) Pascoe's Sarakhan Statesman

Open (9) (1abs)

1) Young and West's Ch. Andizhan Baal at Shirobana J.W. Sh.CM. Another exhibit that eats up the ground with enormous strides. Although I feel he didn't put his heart and soul into it today, he still showed what his construction can produce in power. This black masked cream looks amazing stacked with his masculine countenance and long beard. His silken coat is clearly a labour of love- well done. To go over this dog one finds strong bone and body. Very good lay of shoulder and upper arm producing that front extension. Ribs deep and well sprung and of good length with the square loin. He has a fair angle of croup and well set ring tail and very nicely angulated hind quarters. In an ideal world I would like him to carry a little less weight and be fractionally taller.

2) Gray's Ayoubkhan Fleur De Noel. This dark blue dog is very satisfying to judge. I found him so well balanced in body construction, of medium size and puts all his attributes to good use when moving. He has a pleasing expression, refined head but with good under jaw. His strong neck leads to good shoulder placement, good return of upper arm and big feet. His chest is deep with well sprung ribs and he has a well muscled loin, correct croup and good tail set. Prominent pin bones but with a good hand's width between. On the move he has desired light suspended action and carriage of ringed tail.

3) James' Ch.Shimalma Mercurial Magic

Mary Fisher (Judge)