

Western Afghan Hound Club Championship Show

Sunday, 6 October 2013

DOGS

Very pleased with my entry overall, quality more than quantity for me every time! A few years years since my last CC appointment and I'm sad to be echoing my thoughts from back then "One of the most unique and important characteristics of our wonderful breed is its movement, which should be powerful, long striding with a distinct spring to the gait" - the breed is still suffering from a much shortened reach and drive and in many exhibits the spring created by correctly sloping pasterns is simply absent, a great shame! Another small point, dogs moving around the ring together is not meant to be a race.

Veteran (3, 0 abs)

1. Bunney's **Ch. Firos Torran at Zadal**. Well presented 9 year old gold dog, balanced head with dark eye, very good shoulder and upper arm, deep chest and strong loin. Good sweep from hip to hock, level topline held on the move, ring tail. Steady rather than animated today (unusual for him!), won on breed type.
2. Pearce's **Birkhall Mark**. B/s boy, nine-and-a-half with well balanced head with correct eye shape, strong arched neck set onto good shoulders, good ribcage, level topline, good quarters.
3. Hunn's **Andizhan Arcturus**. Big, strong boy with nice eye, adequate length of neck, good shoulder and upper arm assembly. Good ribcage, nice short loin, slightly shallow fallaway. A little erratic on the move.

Minor Puppy (5, 0 abs)

1. Moon & Fillis-Moon's **Maringo Man On A Mission**. Super black and tan baby, solidly made with nice dark eye. Balanced head on very good neck, good layback of shoulder and return of upper arm. Would like a slightly deeper chest but still plenty of time. Short loin, steady but driving movement from well angulated hind quarters, correct ring tail. Very promising youngster.
2. Buttle's **Bondor I Am Legend**. Lovely gold baby of just 6 months with well balanced head set on long arched neck laid into good shoulder and upper arm assembly. Difficult to assess movement as he was full of it! Appears to have the excellent reach we should be looking for, well muscled for a baby, lacked ring to tail.
3. Metcalfe's **Calamus Orient Express (imp)**.

Puppy (3, 0 abs)

1. Scott, Finch & Hopper's **Hubshe Shoki Tu Arushkhan**. Black and silver. Surprisingly mature for his age, hard to fault for one so young, wonderful head with dark eye, well balanced throughout with exceptional shoulder and

upper arm assembly. Good chest and ribcage, level topline. Correct rear assembly which he used to the full, moving very steadily and strongly. **BPIS**

2. **Bondor I Am Legend**

3. Pearce's **Hubshe Hoori**. Litter brother to 1. Very similar in many respects, but 'slightly less so' in all departments than his litter mate but still a nice baby.

Junior (4, 0 abs)

1. Earnshaw's **Lionheart Du Jegdalek Avec Moonshadow (imp)**. Shaded masked gold with nice head and almond eye. Reasonable length of neck, good shoulders and upper arm. Could do with a little more depth of chest and spring of rib. Tremendous reach in front not quite matched from behind but still impressive.
2. Cowley, Maroney-Cowley & Harding's **Ashani Blaze of Fire**. B/s with good head and eye. Adequate length of neck, good shoulder, upper arm and ribcage. Topline held well on the move, showing excellent drive from behind, fallaway a little shallow.
3. Carter's **Drishaun It Ain't What You Do**. Tall gold boy of superb type, lovely lean head with super eye and expression, good length of neck, very well laid shoulders with balanced return of upper arm. Good chest, level topline, strong loin and excellent fallaway. Lovely dog but very sluggish on the move and I'm afraid it cost him!

Yearling (5, 0 abs)

1. Parson's **Sydarya Hazelnut Hobnob at Shukriya JW**. Shaded mask pale gold, loved this boy since he was a baby. Excellent head with nice dark eye. Good length of neck, very well laid shoulder and super return of upper arm. Super deep chest, good ribcage, level topline, short loin and good fallaway. Good tail set with correct ring. Lovely long stride, nicely free in the shoulder and effortless. Should go a long way.
2. Trainor & Blake's **Sydarya Gingernut**. Litter brother to 1. Again, very similar in many respects, but 'slightly less so' in all departments. Needs a little more animation on the move.
3. Goff's **Gezancol In The Zone**.

Novice (4, 0 abs)

1. **Hubshe Shoki Tu Arushkhan**.
2. **Gezancol In The Zone**.
3. **Hubshe Hoori**.

Graduate (6)

1. Finch, Hopper & Scott's **Sitana Raja Jani from Zinzani JW**. Shaded mask silver with elegant head and nice dark eye, would prefer slightly more stop. Excellent length of neck, tremendous lay-back of shoulder with good upper arm. Good spring of rib, good chest, short and powerful loin, excellent rear angulation, correct ring tail. Swept round the ring with great flowing strides.
2. Latimer's **Zharook I Had A Dream**. Black brindle (owner's preferred description), nice head with good eye, adequate length of neck, good lay-back of shoulder, spring of rib and chest. Would prefer steeper croup, lacked ring tail. Steady mover with good reach and drive.
3. Gunn & Zagdan-Gunn's **Katanga's Kandy King**. Tall, shaded masked silver with nice head and excellent eye. Super shoulder, good chest. Excellent rear angulation, good mover but unfortunately did not raise his tail.

Post Graduate (4, 0 abs)

1. Buttle's **Sarakhan Shamir JW ShCM**. Shaded masked pale gold, balanced head with excellent eye giving true oriental expression. Long, lean neck laid into very good shoulders with correct return of upper arm. Well sprung ribcage, deep chest, short square loin. Good length from hip to hock with well angulated rear assembly. Good scope on the move, used his quarters well.
2. Bloor's **Pashtari The Gamekeeper**. Shaded masked gold of good size, balanced head with strong underjaw. Well arched neck, good shoulder and upper arm. Good chest and ribcage, let his topline go a little, slightly short in loin but with excellent rear angulation and good tail set. Movement a little stilted, would prefer to see a longer stride, rather hurried.
3. Hunn's **Sarakhan Shah-Bashir JW**. Solidly made self-masked light gold with many good qualities. Nice head and eye, good length of neck and lay-back of shoulder, good deep chest and ribcage with plenty of heart room. Correct ring tail and steady on the move.

Mid Limit (9, 2 abs)

1. Gill & Marshall's **Miamarna Masquerade**. Worthy winner of what was without doubt the toughest class of the day, many of these hounds could change places and this was very close. Black and tan, beautifully balanced head with correct eye shape and colour. Long, lean neck, excellent front assembly with good spring of rib and nice deep chest. Short, strong loin and well angulated rear. Correct tail carriage from correctly angled fallaway. Strong flowing movement. **RCC** but oh so close with 2.
2. Forrester's **Kharabou Scot Wizardly Ways**. Another stunning boy, b/s, lovely lean beautifully balanced head with correct eye shape and colour. Strong neck set on excellent shoulders and upper arm. Good spring of rib, slightly high withers, level topline, exceptional rear angulation, moved

effortlessly covering huge amount of ground, put down to a hair as always with this exhibitor.

3. Newton's **Shimalma Colour of Magic**. Beautiful 'houndy' hound who I've much admired from the ringside. Black and tan of quality, lean balanced head and correct overall construction. Had expected to do better for him but unfortunately he seemed somewhat distracted and lacked purpose on the move today, great pity.

Limit (5, 0 abs)

1. Nisbet's **Finix Treig**. What a dog! Black and silver of a type I love. Fantastic head with correct eye shape and dark colour, good chiselling. Long, powerful neck set on truly excellent shoulders and upper arm construction. Correct return of upper arm, deep chest with superbly sprung ribcage. Short well muscled loin, excellent rear angulation, good fallaway with correct ring tail. Stunning on the move, covering huge amount of ground with effortless gait. No hesitation in awarding the **CC** to this fine hound, surely his title can't be far away!
2. O'Neill & Thompson's **Saxonmill Midnight Mayhem of Terstine**. Almost solid black with nice lean head, adequate length of neck. Good shoulders, deep chest with good spring of rib. Sound, steady mover, covered the ground well, overall a very honest dog.
3. Hitch's **Zendushkas Viejo**. Brindle boy, nice head but would prefer a little less stop. Excellent shoulder. Good chest and very good spring of rib. Fallaway a little shallow, excellent rear angulation and correct ring tail. Rather lacking in drive on the move today.

Open (5, 0 abs)

1. James' **Ch. Shimalma Mercurial Magic**. Beautiful self-masked red dog of excellent type. Lovely balanced head with no hint of coarseness, strong arched neck leading to excellent lay-back of shoulder and good return of upper arm. Excellent chest and ribcage, strong loin, level topline and super rear angulation - hard to fault and a worthy champion.
2. Kemp's **Ch. Andizhan Banjalucah to Suzaph JW**. Another worthy champion who could swap places with 1 on another day. Know him since a youngster and has matured into a lovely hound. Shaded mask silver with super head and expression. Excellent shoulder and return, good chest and ribcage, topline held well on the move. Super rear angulation but would prefer slightly steeper fallaway, swept round the ring with purpose. Beautifully presented.
3. Young & West's **Ch. Andizhan Baal at Shirobana JW ShCM**. Litter brother to 2 and exactly the same comments apply, 2 has better ring to tail to split hairs!

Richard D. Hurl

Judge