

## Western Afghan Hound Club Open Show – 31 January 2016

It was a great privilege to judge the bitches at the afternoon show of this friendly and welcoming Club, and what a bevy of beauties awaited me. I thank all the exhibitors for the honour of allowing me to go over their lovely girls. Without doubt my decisions were all cases of ‘splitting hairs’ and on another day, or perhaps within a matter of hours, places would have changed. I have to say that I don’t recall seeing such a concentration of gloriously exotic ‘bearded ladies’ for some considerable time. What a shame my puppy entries could not make the show.

**M Puppy** (2, abs). **Puppy** (2, abs). **Veteran** (2) 1 Ch Zandahar Treacle Tart, dark brindle lady with a lovely eye and expression, balanced head and a strong punishing jaw, well assembled fore and aft, good topline and in super condition, strode out with purpose and verve. 2 Metewand Mamabula, a very fetching cream domino of 10 years, in fine coat and condition, feminine outlook and lovely construction throughout, just felt that today she didn’t move quite as smoothly as the first. **Junior** (5,1) 1 Arushkhan Dreams of the Past at Cadmore, delightful shaded masked cream, good head complete with a beard, long neck to well-laid shoulder, excellent bone and large feet, good depth and spring, firm topline, nice rear angles and tail set, moved smoothly. 2 Zilbec Zilandra, b/m gold, pleasing head, typical outline, well put together throughout, correct feet, silky coat beautifully presented, moved freely. 3 Cloudside Flash N Tan at Bashanabad. **Yearling** (5,1) 1 Popovs Bora Bora at Orashan, pretty red girl with a lovely outline, she gives the impression of strength whilst remaining totally feminine, moved with ease and style, good front assembly with matching rear

quarters, firm well muscled body and a massive coat of correct texture. 2 Ayoubkhan Jasmine, another feminine youngster this time in an attractive shade of blue, good body and condition, nice front and rear, good length of neck and well carried head, level back and prominent hipbones, another good mover. 3 A Dreams of the Past at C. **Novice** (3,3). **Graduate** (4,3) 1 Andizhan Charisma with Zarcar, b/m silver brindle, large feet, good bone, good length to foreface and a balanced skull, long neck to correct shoulder, nice depth to rib, firm loin, correctly set and carried tail, just the right amount of rear angulation, moved effortlessly, super presentation and unobtrusively handled. Res Best Bitch. **Post-Grad** (3,1) 1 Andizhan Charlottes Noir, cream/silver grizzle, nice head and expression, well proportioned throughout giving a typical outline, good front with a complementary rear, nice depth and spring of rib, in lovely condition, smooth powerful mover. 2 Garamond Wineberry at Sochera, b/s, another lovely exhibit with a super eye and expression, has all the right things in all the right places, unfortunately however she wasn't giving her all here. **Limit** (5,1) 1 Sleepy Hollow at Yansukhim, I fell for this pale red brindle girl today because of her superb typical springy movement, she floated effortlessly around the ring showing off what good construction can achieve. Feminine head which would benefit from slightly more stop, profuse silky topknot, and a long neck to a well laid shoulder and good return, large feet, good depth, spring and length to ribs, nicely coupled, visible pin bones, correct fallaway and tail set, in fine condition and coat. Best Bitch and BOS. 2 Sitana Nishana at Lakarnadream, a beautiful masked red whom I like so much and have sung her praises before, lovely outline,

wonderful head and eye, correct ear set, good neck and front angulation, big feet, well made body, super quarters, in hard muscular condition and glorious coat, this was a difficult decision as she pushed the winner all the way, just couldn't quite match her on the move today. 3 Pahlevi Disco Diva at Orashan. **Open** (4,1) Three lovely dark brindle girls, 1 Andizhan Balqis, interesting to see she is the mother of my grad and post-grad winners, liked her head and expression, good angulation fore and aft, strong loin, correct bone, large feet, moved with aplomb, lovely presentation. 2 Zandahar Just Tiger Lily, balanced head with strong jaw and nice eye, good length of neck, well placed shoulder and long upper arm, deep chest level topline, powerful quarters with lovely sweep from hip to hock, in tiptop condition, not yet three years and maturing into a beauty, I thought that she could have moved with more verve. 3 Cloudside Glitterstorm.

**Chris Fittus** (Judge)