

Irish Wolfhound Association of the Garden State

I would like to thank the membership of the Irish Wolfhound Association of the Garden State for selecting me to judge your show and the owners who brought their hounds for my opinion. My judge's gift was splendid and will always remind me of the good times we shared together. Your hospitality towards not only me but to your exhibitors is without a doubt, most generous. I'm grateful to Marc Campbell and Linda Deutch for their expert management of the ring.

Hopefully without sounding too terribly cliché, the quality of the bitches at this show was better than that of the males. One problem I found over and over again was poor front assemblies. Not only was the angulation between the scapula and humerus too open (straight) but quite a few exhibits were straight in the pasterns as well. Compounding the problem was that a large majority of the straight fronts were forward set on the hound. We must work to improve our hounds in this area. I had a few youngsters that didn't want to be touched so we must keep an eye on temperament. Overall the rear assemblies, coats, ears, eye shape, bites and substance were good and movement was sound. Veterans were a tribute and testament to their breeders and owners care.

Puppy Dogs 6-9 months

1-Duncormicks Ruadhan of Kellykerry - nice red wheaten with strong topline and strong arched loin. Good head, dark eye, rosed ear. Front assembly was straight and not in balance with his muscular, well curved rear. Deep chest with proper width for his age. Pasterns were turned out and his movement was not clean coming towards you. He covered ground on the side movement and properly converged when moving away. Proper croup and tail set.

Puppy Dogs 9-12 months

1-O'Lugh's Jagermeister of Aerie - In this class, this young boy was the strongest and in the best condition. Front assembly was straight and not in balance with his muscular, well curved rear. He was clean on the move coming and going and covered ground effortlessly on the side gait. Excellent bone and substance throughout without being course.

2-Aotearoa Suro Whakaheke - Beautiful topline with nice strong loin. Nice depth of chest with good tuck up. Front assembly was straight and not in balance with his muscular, well curved rear. Good croup and tail set. Held his topline on the move and was balanced front and rear.

3-Cu Fleadh Carrickaneen Mo Ghasur Gorm - This boy had the better layback of scapulae in the class and was set under himself a bit better than the other three. He was immature in other areas and giving his handler a hard time. Good scissors bite.

4-Redtops Graedy - This boy moved very cleanly coming and going. He is very up on leg giving him a square appearance on the day.

12-18 month Dogs

1-Eirians Coltrane Running - Nicely muscled gray brindle dog throughout with good reach and drive on the move. Moved a bit too closely coming and going. Strong houndy shape. Masculine head, good bite and expression. Good spring of rib. Had good layback of scapulae and was set under, balanced with rear. Strong topline with arched loin. Proper croup with good tail set. Tail would ring and he carried it a little high on the move which spoiled the outline a bit for me but his quality and strength could not be denied.

2-Carrickaneena Murchadh -This boy has less angles front and rear than the first place boy. He moved widely coming and going but was balanced on the side gait, with adequate reach and drive. He had a nice harsh coat, good bone and was well muscled. Great temperament!

Novice Dogs

1-Carrickaneena Cruiscin Lan - Grey brindle hound. Straight in upper arm and moved wide coming towards you. Well muscled rear, moved well going away. Good bone, substance, topline and depth of chest.

2-Talisker Tribute to Whitehall - Wheaten boy with good bone and substance. Rise started too early in the middle of the back. Knuckled over at the pasterns. Nice eye and expression, good bite.

Bred By Exhibitor Dogs

1-FC Carrickaneena Meirgire, SC - Loved this boys shape. Presented in hard condition. Masculine head without being course, proper planes of the skull with long muzzle, dark eye and rosed ear. Long, strong arched neck flowing into one of the better laid back scapula on the day. Upper arm could have been a littler longer and set under better. It caused him to break just a tad coming towards you. Proper depth of chest and spring of rib. Long back with rise over a strong loin. Curvey, well muscled rear with good bend and strength of the second thigh. Good croup and tail set. Covered ground easily and effortlessly from the side and moved cleanly going away. This boy went on to earn Reserve Winners Dog.

2-Taliesin's Willow's Glimpse - Nicely balanced outstanding quality red wheaten male . Moved cleanly coming and going and covered ground easily and effortlessly on the side gait. Shoulder assembly a bit forward set. Would have liked to see more rise over the loin, topline a bit flat. Great croup, tail set and bend of stifle. Well muscled and in good hard condition. Nice bone and substance throughout.

3-Mise Eire An Fear Sarsfield, SC - Would have liked a bit more angulation both front and rear and a bit more length of muzzle. Nice expression, good bone and substance with harsh coat.

American Bred Dogs

1-Fleetwind Carroy Duan Amergin - Wheaten male with correct outline. Masculine head without being course. Had a decent length forearm and set under himself . Good topline with proper rise over the loin. Nicely bent, strong rear. Right pastern turns out on the move but he does cover ground easily. Nice harsh coat and rosed ears.

2-Carrickaneena Croppy Boy - Not quite the scope as the first place boy but balanced both ends. Nice head, well placed rosed ears. Strong topline with proper rise over the loin.

3-Cu Fleadh's Fionn Mac Cumhail - Great rear angulation but the front assembly did not match it. Turns out at the pasterns. Good harsh coat, good topline with proper rise over the loin. Nice croup and tail set.

Open Dogs

1-Pitlochry's Keystone - Very balanced wheaten male with lovely expression, tighly rosed little ear and good bite. Strong, arched neck that fit properly into his body and was thick at the base, exhibiting the requisite strength needed to dispatch his prey. Neck tapered into a strong, masculine head that wasn't course or blocky. Good depth of chest and proper width without being overdone. Correct topline with rise over a strong loin, correct croup and tail set. He had one of the best front assemblies, good layback of scapulae, good length of upper arm and set well under. He moved cleanly coming and going, converging into a single track and had a wide open, balanced sidegait. This boy went on to earn Winners Dog.

2-Can. Ch. Aotearoa Lee Ridge Tote - Another exhibit of outstanding quality. Would have liked for his upper arm to have set under a bit more and more layback of scapulae. His movement was tremendous. He single tracked coming and going and covered ground efficiently and with purpose. His rear was strong and well curved, well muscled throughout with plenty of substance.

3-Carrickaneena Ard Macha - I absolutely loved the outline and houndy shape of this boy, he was the first one to catch my eye when the class entered the ring. He exuded breed type but was overweight and out of condition. This affected his movement and performance on the day. He was sound enough but lacked strength and stamina overall.

4-Carrickaneena An Firic Aris - I found this dog to be very similar in style and shape to my first place Bred by dog. This boy was just not in the same condition and his movement wasn't as strong nor as good on the day.

Winners Dog

Pitlochry's Keystone - Open Dog

Reserve Winners Dog

FC Carrickaneena Meirgire, SC - Bred By Exhibitor Dog

Field Trial Dogs

1-DC Taliesin's Wizard of Wideview, LCX

Puppy Bitches 6-9

1-Skyes Roulette - What a little powerhouse this girl was. Beautifully made red wheaten girl with tons of bone and substance without losing her femininity. Strong head, kind expression and one of the best fronts of the day. Scapulae that lay back with a long upper arm that set well under, strong straight forearm with a slight flex to the pasterns. Long strong neck, long back with a strong rise over the loin. Well bent and muscled rear for a puppy of her age. Properly angled croup with good tail set. Converged on the move with just a little flip inwards of the pastern. Covered a lot of ground with little effort on the side gait. Balanced, substantial, curvy, well muscled, sound not only in movement but between the ears. I awarded her Best Puppy and gave her serious consideration for Reserve Winners Bitch.

I must comment that I had a hard time getting my hands on the next three placements. I hope they were just full of themselves on the day and that they will settle with maturity and more exposure. I hope I helped make the day enjoyable and a good experience for these baby girls. I could not deny their quality therefore placed them accordingly.

2-Gemadora at Curiann - this girl had nice layback of scapulae but would have liked a little more length of upperarm and for it to have set under her a bit better. Topline sloped a bit but feel this is due to her attitude in the ring today. She had plenty of bone and substance, nice head and good bite. Nice rear.

3-Shancarrick's Dervla - Littermate to 4th place. Has a better front with more depth and fill in the chest. Moved out nicely, clean coming and going.

4-Shancarrick's Fiachre - Litter mate to the third place girl. Very similar in type, just less of her.

Puppy Bitches 9-12

1-July of Aerie -This dark puppy was the most balanced of the class on the day. Her movement was clean coming and going with good reach and drive on the sidegait. Great head and expression, little rosed ear, long strong neck that flowed into a nice layback of scapula. She had a correct topline with proper rise over a strong loin. She had good width and muscle throughout.

2-O'Lugh's Jigger of Aerie - litter sister to first place. This girl had more leg under her but was more upright in upperarm. She did have good layback of scapulae and her neck fit nicely into her shoulder. Her rear was more curvy than her front, causing her to be a bit out of balance on the day. She was a bit narrow causing her to move close coming and going. Her side gait was easy and active.

3-Futura Glendaloo Once In A Blue Moon - Nice Wheaten brindle bitch, not overdone, easy and active mover. Good bone and substance throughout. Would have liked to have seen a bit more curves front and rear.

4-Cu Fleadh Carrickaneena M'Ardsmaoineamh - Smaller girl with less substance than the other three girls. Not happy to be in the ring on the day. Hopefully bite will improve.

12-18 Month Bitches

1-Hound Hill Tapanga of Aerie - I felt this bitches croup fell off a bit too steeply but I was able to overlook this in this class because she covered ground and had so many other outstanding qualities. She had one of the better shoulders on the day. Her layback of scapulae was good and she set under herself without having to be stacked into it. On the move she really used her long upper arm and reached way out, using herself without restriction. She had an elasticity to her movement that you don't too often see in our breed. She had a good topline with a strong loin. Deep chest with good width and spring of rib. Good tuck up. She had a lot of substance and muscle for a girl her age yet did not lose her femininity. Beautiful head and expression.

2-Sylverwolf Ginger Snap - Another young bitch of outstanding quality. This red brindle girl moved cleanly coming and going with balanced reach and drive. Topline was a little flat on the move on the day. Nice shoulder, good spring of rib, substance and strength throughout.

3-Starkeeper Glenamadda USA Flag - Nice strong bitch, built a little more moderately than the first and second place. Would like more angulation front and rear. Moves cleanly coming and going, could use a bit more reach and drive. Moderate but balanced.

4-Gladstone's Wicca - Beautiful head and expression, Good topline and croup with proper tail set. Good leg underneath. She covered ground nicely. Was a little more immature looking than the rest of the girls in this class.

Novice Bitches

1-Mythic's Kindred Vala - Nicely balanced silver brindle bitch. Good bone and substance, in good muscular condition. Harsh coat. Nicely balanced front, set under that matched her nicely angulated rear. Good topline with rise over the loin. Moved cleanly and covered ground effortlessly. Not an overdone bitch in any manner. Round eye.

2-Starkeeper California Ierne - Would have liked a bit more leg underneath this girl. Nicely shaped body with substance, beautiful head and expression, nice ear. Strong topline with rise over the loin. Moved along nicely.

3-Carrickaneena Winds of Morning, JC - Nicely built bitch, didn't move quite as cleanly or cover as much ground as the first two placements. Curled tail spoils her outline on the move.

Bred By Exhibitor Bitches

This bitch class exuded quality, type, depth and strength. I found this to be a very rewarding class to judge as I had to nit pick my placement decisions down to the minor points.

1-FC Carrickaneena Crionnacht Darcy, SC - This bitch looks right down her nose at you and demands you pay attention to her. She made me laugh and I loved it. She had a beautiful head and expression, lovely tight little rosed ears. Long strong neck that flowed into a well made shoulder. Strong loin. Deep, wide chest without being overdone. Good spring of rib. Properly angled croup with good tail set. When this bitch moved her topline remained rock solid. She converged to a single track coming and going and just ate up the ground on the side gait. She was mature and presented in hard condition. This girl went on to earn Winners Bitch.

2-Gordon of Aerie - Another bitch of exceptional quality. Excellent layback of scapula. Beautiful mover, covered the ground effortlessly with good leg underneath. Just wasn't quite as settled into her curves as my first place girl.

3-Ierne's Stella Artois - Another lovely and well balanced bitch of exceptional quality. If I could be a tad critical, maybe just a smidgen more length of leg underneath. She covered ground with great strides and moved cleanly coming and going.

4-Sylverwolf Sage - And again, wow. I could tell this was a very young bitch and was told by the owner that she had just turned 1 year old. She is well muscled throughout and didn't place a foot wrong on the move. Beautiful and curvy with good depth of chest and spring of rib for a young girl. Bodied up without being overdone. Can't wait to see this girl mature.

American Bred Bitches

1-Skyes Tess - well balanced wheaten bitch that didn't put a foot down wrong. She moved cleanly coming and going, converging into a single track with balanced reach and drive on the side gait. Strong head without being course, long neck flowed into a well laid scapula. Would have liked a little longer upper arm. Good topline with rise over a strong loin. Well-muscled rear, good croup, proper tail set. Good spring of rib, well ribbed back, proper depth and width of chest.

2-Gladstone's Diamond In The Rough - Beautiful leggy silver bitch with good bone. Again, would have like a longer upper arm but what she had was well set under. Well muscled throughout, moved nicely coming and going and was balanced on the side gait. Lovely curve to her rear, covered in good hard muscle.

3-Kellykerry Peony of Aerie - Lovely curvy dark bitch. Correct topline with rise over a strong loin. Moved easily and effortlessly but front reach did not match the rear drive on this bitch. Needs a longer upper arm ,set under better with a little better layback of scapula. Strong head without being course, rosed ear, strong neck.

4-Crionnacht Carrickaneena Daly, SC - Another lovely shapely high quality bitch. This girl was well put together, just lacked conditioning on the day.

Open Bitches

1-CAN. Ch. Wolfhaven Caper of Aerie - Nice honest bitch without being overdone. Dark grey girl with good bone and substance. Well balanced on the move, went around the ring with reach and drive and single tracked coming and going. Good strong topline with rise over the loin, well angled croup with good tail set. Strong feminine head, nicely rosed ear, strong neck that fit properly into the shoulder assembly. This girl went on to earn Reserve Winners Bitch.

2-Riversong's Road to Rosslare - Pushed the first place girl hard. Another typey bitch with strength and substance throughout. Moved extremely well. Was a bit overweight, causing her topline to sag.

3-Crionnacht Carrickaneena Lyons, SC - I loved this bitch's beautiful head, eye and expression. Well balanced bitch with soft curves. Correct topline with rise over the loin. Moved well.

4-Carrickaneena Slievenamon - This girl was presented in great condition. Would have liked a little more leg underneath. Curvy girl, wasn't as clean on the move as the first three placements.

Winners Bitch

FC Carrickaneena Crionnacht Darcy, SC

Reserve Winners Bitch

CAN. CH Wolfhaven Caper of Aerie

Field Trial Bitches

1-FC Riversong's Long May You Run, RN, CGC

2-Laislinn Starkeeper Rayne, FCH, SC.

3-DC Carrickaneena An Dun, SC

Best of Breed

CH. Kellykerry Peggy Sue Of Aerie - If I could change just one thing about this bitch I would darken her eye just a little and she'd be as close to perfection as you could ask for in my opinion. Feminine yet strong head, correct planes, very little stop, correct eye set, well placed rosed ears, long strong neck flowing into nice layback of scapulae, long upper arm set under, deep chest, correct topline, good tuck up, proper croup with correct tail set, long strong first and second thighs. Good coat. She covered ground easily and

effortlessly with good reach and drive. This lovely mature bitch well deserved her Best of Breed win.

Best of Winners

FC Carrickaneena Crionnacht Darcy, SC

Best of Opposite Sex

CH. Kellykerry Emmit of Aerie - This young stallion of a hound was the litter brother to the Best of Breed. He pushed his sister hard but wasn't moving as strongly as his sister on the day. He is very similar in type to his sister, which is a great testament to his breeder.

Non-Regular Classes

(Dogs)Veteran Bronze 6-8 years

1-Ch. Wildisle Emeraldisle Maxim - You would not have known this 7 year old dog was a veteran. Still in prime shape, very sound and strong on the move.

2-Ch. Carrickaneena Paddy Clancy - Another boy that has held up well with age. Strong well-curved stifle that showed no signs of weakness.

3-Ch. Karontara Starkeeper Dylan - This grand old man was to turn 8 in a couple of months. He was beginning to show signs of weakness in the rear but his spirit was strong as was his desire to please his owner.

(Dogs)Veteran Silver 8-9 years

I have to be honest and tell everyone that my emotions got the better of me by this class. I was surprised and had no idea that experiencing the company of these wonderful old guys would bring me to tears.

1-Ch. Redtops Southern Gray Ghost - Lovely dark 8 year old grand man still exhibiting good muscle tone throughout. Still had his curves and could cover ground. Still in nice harsh coat.

2- Ch. Carrickaneena Templebreedy - Another fine old fellow that enjoyed being in the ring. Was happy to see that he too, was exhibiting good muscle tone and strength throughout.

(Dogs)Veteran Gold 9 years and over

1-Ch. Ironweed Deataig - What an absolute honor to go over this 11-year-old gray faced gentleman and enjoy his company for a short time today. His body told me he wasn't strong enough to take down a wolf but his heart and spirit told me otherwise. Again, his

desire to please his owner and his unwavering spirit was evident. Was also a pleasure to go over such a nice, well-placed angulated shoulder.

(Bitches) Veteran Bronze 6-8 years

1-Ch. Starkeeper Glenamadda Realtan - Lovely 7 year old that had good muscle tone and covered the ground effortlessly. She was a little wide going away but did converge as her speed increased. This grand dam was still very shapely and fit and could easily compete with the younger girls.

2-Ch. Rathkeale Nora Of Gladstone - Another exceptional and shapely bitch, soon to turn 7 years old. Still in good muscular condition and covered ground nicely and without any signs of weakness. Lovely outline with soft, mature curves throughout.

3-DC Carrickaneena Slan Leat, SC, LCX, FCH. - Soon to turn 7 years old and still fit and in hard condition, especially her rear. Would have liked a little better layback of scapula but overall still a wonderful outline and moved along effortlessly.

4-Carrickaneen Uisce Beatha - This soon to be 8 year old still had a lovely shape and moved along with ease. Not quite the muscle tone as my first three placements.

(Bitches) Veteran Silver 8-9 years

1-Ch. Rathkeale Irish Of Gladstone - Despite being a tad overweight, this 8 year old lady was still covered in good hard muscle and moved cleanly coming and going and covered ground on the side gait.

(Bitches) Veteran Gold 9 years and over

1-Ballincu Kelair Alleagan Rua - This nine year old was in really nice condition for her age. Her shape was still good, her topline held on the move and she moved cleanly coming and going.

2-Ch. Ballincu Kellair Ashleigh, CGC - This gal had to show us all a thing or two by doing a little jig for all of us. It was heartwarming to watch her kick up her heels and enjoy herself on the day.

3- Carrickaneena Sise - A little high in the rear today with a little bit of an arthritic limp in one hind leg but you could tell she was happy to be there and in good spirits.