

Thank you to the Committee of IWAGS for the invitation to judge, it was such a pleasure and everyone was extremely welcoming and kind – when you judge abroad under rules you are unfamiliar with, good stewards are invaluable and mine on the day were just tremendous so thank you to Mark and Linda, I couldn't have asked for better.

Thank you to all the exhibitors who brought their hounds for my opinion, it was a great privilege and I so much appreciated your good humour and sportsmanship and of course meeting your lovely hounds. This is the Veterans show, and I wasn't disappointed, all the hounds were a treat but the 8 -9 year old class numerically strong, and full of quality hounds, I didn't want to let any of them go. It is such a credit to you to have hounds at that age in such good form and condition, I came back wishing we made more of our veterans at the breed shows in the UK, as it is certainly the aim of the good breeder to produce dogs that live long healthy lives and veteran classes like this show it can be done.

My notes on each hound were brief by necessity of time allowed, so I want to give an overview of my impression on the day - as with every judging experience you find positive and negatives in the entry, and the two key points for me in terms of negative were bites and front construction. With bites, I know this isn't mentioned in the American standard but breeders please do watch this, a narrow jaw was not the problem, but I found far too many mouths across the adult age range where the incisors were worn to nothing, level bites that had slipped under, poor teeth with incisors far too small instead of good sized strong teeth which would be necessary for the dog to finish the job it was bred for.

Fronts were at times an issue as they are everywhere you judge, finding front assembly set too far forward, with no fill in chest and straight pasterns which when taken to extreme knuckle over in an unstable manner, to me it's a serious fault, and I know it's difficult to correct but we must be mindful of it when breeding.

Positives were many, and I found beautiful heads, superb ears, hardly any of the flat hanging ears we can see in the UK which was lovely, and curvaceous shapely hounds were aplenty, condition and muscle tone was on the whole good and I would say excellent in many of the veterans.

Puppy 6 – 9 month Dogs

1. CARNASSERIE JUBILANT SPIRIT -

Lovely puppy, wind flapping the tent unsettling him a little today, lots of quality with good proportions, lovely head and expression, rosed ears, very balanced outline, nicely laid shoulder and upper arm, very well angled hind quarters, good width through the hock, lovely long well set tail.

2. WARWICK QUO OF AERIE.

Another nice quality puppy at a very different stage of development from 1. Growth spurt making him stand high behind, lovely neck, good length of neck, nice shoulder, and length of upper arm, well boned, good depth of rib, flying his tail today, just needing to balance out as he grows.

Puppy 9 – 12 month Dogs

1. STARKEEPER STORM STYKER

Dark dog, built on slightly finer lines, well-proportioned head, small rosed ear well set, just preferred his width through the front, although he should broaden further, balanced in his angulation at this age, good length of neck with broad base, well laid shoulder, slightly straighter in upper arm, deep brisket, true mover.

2. GULLIAGH ALZLAM.

Really liked this youngster, close between 1 and 2. Beautiful head, balanced proportions, ribbing well set to elbow and well carried back, narrow in front at this stage, and would like a little more width through the hock, good topline and line over the croup, nice youngster.

3. BERRYBRIAR CARAGLEN IESE AR CARROMORAGH.

Another youngster at the in between stage. Nice head, neck and front assembly, has the forechest at this age, good depth of chest and well ribbed back, well angled rear, just falling away in topline on the move.

15 – 18 Months Dogs

1. CARRICKANEENA EOGHAN RUADH

Beautiful head, rosed ear, dark eye, kind expression, slightly forward set in shoulder and upperarm and needing to drop in chest, good length of leg, good feet and good bend of pastern, ribs well set to elbow and ribbed back, nice underline, slightly steep in croup, good length of first and second thigh, would like more width of hock, good profile action on the move.

2. CARRICKANEENA AN SUIR

Nice hound, lovely head, ear and expressions, balanced in his outline and nice easy mover, not quite the length of bone or angles of his brother above.

Novice Dog.

1. SYLVERWOLF GRADY GLASGLAENN

Nice masculine head, lovely ear, long neck well arched, fair shoulder but rather straight upperarm, needs more forechest and width, well boned forelegs, good feet, slightly overlong in loin, deep chest, nicely angled rear quarters, breadth across hips good, wide hock, good profile movement.

Bred By Exhibitor

1. ROCKHART TREASON

Rather heavy in head, super small rosed ear, strong well muscled neck, good shoulder, plenty of forechest, rather short in upper arm, preferred his overall depth and length of ribbing, carrying too much weight, good rise over loin, and plenty of breadth across hips, well angled and muscled hindquarters, moved out well in profile.

2. HOUNDHILL VANDERBILT OF AERIE.

Loved the elegance of this boy. Super head, dark eye though slightly large ear, good length of neck, nice shoulder, fair upper arm, but lacking in rib depth and length, good topline and well angled rear, plenty of reach on the move.

American Bred Dog

1. LISMORE STONEYBROOK FORBIDDEN BROADWAY

Super typey dog, well balanced head, good bite, nice shoulder, well ribbed back body, good length of leg and slope of pastern, good feet, typically juvenile and needs to deepen yet, good topline and well bent stifle with breadth through, would prefer touch more length to height, lovely easy mover plenty of reach and drive. **RES. WINNERS DOG.**

2. GLADSTONES THUNDER ROAD

Tall boy of good type, balanced in his angulation although little too long in loin, needs to broaden out all through, good profile action on the move.

3. MIS EIRE CALLAN AT KENMORE

Handsome strong dog of more compact type, plenty of depth and forechest, nicely laid shoulder and upper arm, would prefer little more rear angulation.

Open Dogs.

1. CARNASSERIE TARSA

Nice typical hound, loved his rangy lines and quality, lovely head, slightly light eye, good length of neck very good shoulder and upperarm placement, needs to widen in front as yet, ribbing depth good to elbow and well ribbed back through body, correct length of loin, good underline and rise over loin into well angled croup, well let down hocks, well bent stifle with plenty of width and muscle, good feet and bend of pastern, super easy mover covering the ground well. **WINNERS DOG.**

2. TALIESIN'S REALTEOLAI OF WIDEVIEW.

Attractive wheaten male, another nicely made dog with a good masculine head, strong muscular neck, good lay of shoulder, fair upperarm, good forechest, needs slightly more rear angulation to balance him, moved out well in profile also coming and going – liked him.

3. GEMINI'S YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND IN ME.

Black male, balanced angles, slightly light in eye and rather heavy backskull. Good length of neck, nice shoulder and good length of upperarm, would prefer ribbing to extend further back, but good depth to elbow, falls away a little sharply on croup, moved on long easy stride sound in all directions.

BITCHES

Puppy 6 – 9 months

1. CARNASSERIE ETERNAL SPIRIT

Curvaceous black puppy just 6 months, super balanced proportions, lovely forehand and rear construction, super bone, very settled on the move for one so young – loved her.

2. CARNASSERIE CELEBRATE THE SPIRIT.

Another where my notes say – loved her. So close between these two, pretty bitches, super head, curvy outline, well boned slightly longer in loin than her sister, and at that growth stage where she stands a little high behind, long wagging tail, two cracking puppies.

3. ORCHID OF NUTSTOWN

Just 6 months, another very appealing puppy, stockier in make at the moment, very balanced, super curves to her rear, nice low hock well boned, body well ribbed back – touch steeper over croup just now.

4. CARRICKANEENA CUCEILE MO CHROI

Lovely head on a super typey puppy, well laid shoulder and upper arm, good depth to body, well angulated rear, nice line over croup, standing a little high behind and flying her tail today.

Puppy 9 – 12 month

1. TOMAHAWKE BLUE CHRISTMAS AT GEMINI

Really took my eye, lovely hound proportions, feminine head, good length of neck, excellent forehand construction with good bone and feet, has forechest, deep ribbing carried well back, touch longer in loin than ideal, well angulated hind quarters, plenty of width and muscle through stifle, super mover really extending and driving well in profile, tidy moving up and down – super pup. **BEST PUPPY IN SHOW**

2. MARBLEHEADS KISS OF THE JUMBIE

At a more raw stage, very pretty head of good proportions, lovely rose ear, nicely laid shoulder and upperarm, feet rather flat at the moment, well ribbed back, plenty of depth from side, touch long in loin and a little steeper in croup than ideal, well angulated rear quarters.

12 – 15 month

1. FOINAVEN ASIA

Very much appealed to me, strong shapely bitch, plenty of substance, slightly light in eye, well placed ear and lovely proportions to head, good shoulder and upperarm, plenty of width through front, well ribbed back and well angulated rear, nice broad croup, moved out so well with lovely long stride plenty of reach and drive, sound all round, change of handler in the challenge for Winners bitch threw her off pace.

RES WINNERS B.

15 – 18 month

1. CARRICKANEENA ANNA LIFFEY

Tall bitch, lovely head full of character, long strong neck into good shoulder, would like to see more length of upper arm to balance, nicely sloped pasterns good length of leg, deep body, ribbing well carried back, just needs to drop into her frame a little more, very easy sound mover.

2. SHANCHIES MIRA OF THUBAN.

This bitch has a lot of appeal, loved her side profile action on the move, super reach and drive. Lovely feminine head, well set ear, lovely front angulation, balanced by well angled rear, just needs to broaden out in chest.

Novice Bitch

1. STARKEEPER'S RENA'S ROGUE

This bitch is such a sound mover, dead accurate up and down and lovely profile action. Lovely typical head nice long muzzle, small well placed rose ear, strong neck good shoulder, would like more slope to upper arm, good underline and topline, nicely angled rear.

2. KELLYKERRY ECHO OF AERIE

Rangier bitch all through, just needs to broaden out in body, lovely feminine head, balanced angulation front and rear, excellent profile action on the move.

3. NUTSTOWN BRIDIE OF CARRICKANEENA

Smaller but shapely bitch, beautiful head and small well set ear, fair angulation front and rear, good depth and length of ribbing, slightly overlong in loin, smart profile action just a little close in rear.

4. GLADSTONE'S SHE DEVIL SIOBHAN OF COUNTRY BREEZE.

Nice bitch of good type, plenty of depth to body and well ribbed back, rather straight in front and upright in pastern, good topline and underline, moved well in profile.

Bred by Exhibitors

1. LONNKYLE PHL Y

Not over big bitch, but what an accurate mover. Nice shoulder and upper arm placement, nice rise over loin, good underline, balanced rear angulation, slightly too long in loin, lovely head, well set ear if a touch large.

2. HOUND HILL VALE OF AERIE

Beautiful wheaton, classic head of excellent proportions, good shoulder, upper arm placement, good forechest, ribbing could be little deeper and longer, well bent stifles covers the ground well in profile action.

3. CU AODHAGAIN SHEELAGH AOIFE

Needing a little more angulation, but she is balanced, nicely ribbed back, plenty of width across rear, moved out well.

4. IERNE'S FAIRE LA NOUBA

Lighter made bitch, nice shape all through, balanced outline, feet a little flat, well ribbed back body with good breadth, tidy mover.

American Bred

1. STARKEEPER LAISLINN ON THE EDGE OF GLORY

Very appealing bitch, won on her sound accurate movement, had the edge in hind action over 2. Good head, small well placed ear, fair neck, would like slightly more lay to shoulder, deep capacious body, well ribbed back, balanced hind angulation.

2. JEEPERS OF AERIE

Another pretty bitch – just moving closer behind than 1. Nice head, fair neck, balanced angulation, would like a touch more length of leg.

3. STONEYBROOK SUMMERHILL ASTERISK

Promising but raw youngster, came together more on the move than standing, needs to drop into her frame, has plenty of width of body and good length of bone, much more to come I think.

4. GLADSTONE'S IRISH MIST

Shapely bitch of good type, Good length of neck, nice lay of shoulder, standing rather narrow in front, lovely long lines to her, good depth of rib, good bend of stifle, tight feet, easy profile action, not quite so tidy coming towards.

Open Bitch

1. NUTSTOWN AISLING OF CARRICKANEENA

Superbly balanced bitch, strong and purposeful movement, excelled in reach and drive in profile, true coming towards, touch close behind. Lovely feminine head, small well set ear, strong neck, super front

construction, has forechest, deep ribs carried well back, well drawn up belly, arched loin, well angled croup, well bent stifles, plenty of muscle tone – **WINNERS BITCH.**

2. CRIONNACHT CARRICKANEENA UALLACH

Slightly softer in coat texture, lovely head and expression, nice shoulder lay, good topline and underline, well angled rear, moved out well.

3. LAISLINN PERFECT POUR O STELLA

Very substantial wheaton, in good muscular condition, nicely laid shoulder and upper arm, slightly straight in pastern, good forechest, well ribbed back, well angled rear and plenty of breadth all through.

4. SHERWOODS AINE OF SHANACHIE

Smaller but well put together bitch, needing more grooming to show her qualities. Nicely balanced angulation, needs touch more length of leg, good breadth throughout, would benefit from being handled by someone who can move her more actively as she is a very sound moving bitch.

Field Trial Dog

1. GCH DC GLENAMADDA STARKEEPER CONNERY

Very typey hound, lovely well proportioned head, good lay of upperarm, well ribbed back, slightly overlarge ear but well held, well angled rear quarters, moved slightly close in rear action, otherwise pleasing movement, kind dark eye and good bite.

Veteran Bronze

1. ROCKHART NOKOLAI

I liked the type strength and power of this boy, rather heavy in head for me and flat in ear, strong muscular neck in to lovely shoulder and upper arm placement, plenty of forechest, depth of ribbing, underline could be better, topline good, well angled rear with good muscletone.

2. CARRCKANEENA AN FIRIC ARIS

Very handsome male, lovely head, very curvy outline, good depth of body, not quite the front of 1, ribbing carried well back, good topline, preferred his length of loin over 3. Super angulation on rear, very well muscled, moved out well.

3. CH MOONDANCER OF ELKHORN.

Excellent type, balanced hound, slightly shorter in upperarm, plenty of depth of body, well angled rear, good muscletone.

4. DC MISE EIRE AN FEAR SARSFIELD

Good type, lovely kind head and expression, balanced outline, rather flat ear, fair shoulder and upperarm placement, nicely angled hind quarters, good profile action.

Veteran Silver

1. TOMAHAWKES CEDAR OF SHANACHIE

I really loved this grand gentleman. Super red wheaton dog, curvaceous outline, retained his shape on the move, lovely shoulder and good length to upper arm, deep body with ribbing well back, super kind expression, well angled rear and hocks well let down, moved out well with good reach and drive.

2. TALIESIN'S WIZARD OF WIDEVIEW

Another handsome male, balanced outline, adequate angulation, plenty of depth and breadth of body, and super dentition.

Veteran Gold Dog

1. CARRICKANEENA GARRYOWEN

What an honour to meet this gentle hound, 11 years old – sweetest head and expressions, still holding his lovely front construction, did his bit in the ring to much well deserved applause and I suspect a teary eye or two.

Veteran Bronze Bitch

1. CARRICKANEENA ABBEYLARA

Loved the look of this bitch almost 8 years old, super head with kind expression, curvy outline, still strong in the rear with good muscletone, good bite, plenty of leg length, moving out well.

2. MISE EIRE NUALA

Another bitch in good condition, slightly lower on the leg than 1. Super head, lovely front construction, good depth and breadth of body and nice topline, good profile action.

3. AM. CH. STARKEEPER GLENAMADDA USA FLAG

Quality bitch of balanced outline, lovely head, moving out well covering plenty of ground, just preferred slightly better rear angles of 1 and 2.

4. CH. MOR DERRY WAR EAGLE OF ELKHORN

Love her breed type, lovely forehead and fill of chest, good ribbing, would prefer more length to upper thigh, moved soundly.

Veteran Silver Bitch

1. THUNDERWOLF TESSA OF SHANACHIE

Two bitches of very different type, so hard to split - I would be so proud of both. This girl is a plainer type, well angled rear quarters, fair shoulder and upper arm, good body depth and ribbing, holding her shape on the move, so well muscled, at almost 9 years old she retained such fluid movement it was impossible to ignore her

2. CH. GLENAMADDA STARKEEPER UNAHORME

Extremely pretty bitch, again almost 9 years old. Beautiful head, great breadth, lovely angulation, just not quite so solid in rear action as 1, but grand bitch.

1. CARRICKANEENA AN DUN

Excellent type, lovely head on her, super breadth of body all through, nicely angled both ends, in superb condition.

BEST OF BREED COMPETITION

From a fabulous line up of hounds I chose AM CH GLENAMADDA STARKEEPER CHEVONNE.

Super quality bitch who was just a joy to watch on the move, absolutely sound and accurate both in front and true rear movement, covering the ground with effortless reach and drive in profile. Beautiful feminine head, small high rosed ear, strong neck into well laid shoulder and upper arm, plenty of forechest, deep ribs carried well back, good underline, nice rise to loin, correct line over croup and well angled rear with low set hocks, a very lovely bitch.

BEST OPPOSITE SEX

GCH/ Can CH CARRICKANEENA TYRCONNELL.

Very handsome upstanding male, quality head and strong muscular neck into superb shoulder lay and return of upper arm, nicely sloped pasterns, good depth and length of ribbing, plenty of breadth all through, good underline and rise over the loin, well angled croup, good length of first and second thigh, broad muscular stifles, moved out with purposeful sound action.

AWARDS OF MERIT

CH HANNIE OF WARWICK

CH THUNDERWOLF TESSA OF SHANACHIE

CH. FURLONGS BARBARO

SELECT DOG

AM CH WINDSEEKER BROKER

SELECT BITCH

CH MORE CADENCE WAR DANCE OF ELKHORN