

Garden State opening section 2015

I'd like to start my write up with what was for me the highlight of the show : the Best of Breed competition. I was really thrilled with my top dogs; the Best of Breed winner, GCh Riverlawn Exit of Aerie is a five year old stallion hound, I can only describe him as magnificent. His outline, on the move, is so free and powerful, so all in balance. His head is so masculine, his expression so gentle. His neck is strong and set into his withers so smoothly, his topline is strong and his croup and tailset so smoothly set into well muscled hindquarters . In all, on the day, a truly great hound .

The Best of Opposite sex went to a beautifully ad feminine bitch, Can & Am GCh Glenamadda Starkeeper Chevonne, also five years old and ironically born within a week of the BOB winner. She combines the strength and elegance of the fairer sex so well. She has a lovely feminine head, with a most wonderful expresson; well balanced quarters and again, moved with great precision and freedom.

For my Select dog and bitch I chose Ch Taliesin's Realtbhuion and Ch Gladstone's Irish Mist. The dog for his exquisite type and soundness; the bitch for her athletic type and wonderful free action. For my Awards of Merit I chose Ch Gladstone's Thunder Road and GCh Lismore Stoneybrook Roxie Hart, two dark brindles who were very alike in type , which was not a coincidence, as they were sired by the BIS winner, Exit, as was the Select bitch. And please remember, I am a "fresh" judge, who do not follow the show scene in the USA; so there is no way I could have known the ancestry of the hounds shown under me.

Irish Wolfhound Association of the Garden State “Veteran” Specialty, Oct.25-26, 2015

Puppy , 6-9 mo dogs

1. Templar of Warwick. Very well grown brindle puppy dog of quality. Excellent size and bone. Nice head, forward set front, excellent firm topline and strong well angulated hindquarters . Moved with great freedom.

Puppy, 9-12 mo dogs

1 Wildisle Brie Taralea Flashback. Ten month old cream wheaten dog of medium size, but of excellent bone for size. Very good somewhat forward set front, very good topline, rather steep over the croup, well angulated hindquarters. Moved well enough but I wish that he would reach out more on the move and that he had more body length.

2 Calyddon Patrick Maloy Gardner. A very raw grey brindle dog, who had to be placed second as he has both lower canines placed very narrow and going into his palate. Pleasant head, good front, solid in topline, strong hindquarters of more medium angulation. Moved very freely

12-15 mo. dogs

1. Summerhill Drive My Car at Ulster Myst. This dog won the class on his overall balance, excellent substance, and his lovely action. A strongly built dog, presented in excellent muscular condition. Strong masculine head, good neck and reasonable front construction.

2. Lismore Lone Ranger. Rather elegant young dog, lacking weight. I like his construction and overall type and balance. Moved very well and freely. Would like to see this dog in two-three years time, when I feel he will be a force to be reckoned with

3. Tartan Terror of Fitzwick Grey brindle dog presented in excellent coat and condition. Could have moved with more freedom of action

15-18 mo dogs

1 Warwick Quill of Aerie. Nicely constructed young dog, standing alone in this class. Could have moved with more freedom of action.

Bred by Exhibitor dog

1 And /winner’s dog: Hound Hill Vanderbilt of Aerie. Such a well balanced dog, at just over two years of age very well presented in condition. Lovely head, good neck and front construction, Excellent body, enough length of leg, excellent definition of underline. Strong topline, well muscled strong hindquarters. Moved very well and truly.

2. And res Winners dog O’Lugh’s Single Malt Scotch.19 month old dog, with a lovely outline, built on longer lines. Excels in his neck and front angulation. Falls off slightly in topline. Very good and angulated strong hindquarters. Very free and easy mover

American-bred dogs

1. Gemini’s You’ve Got a Friend in Me . well grown black dog, looking very well finished at 20 months. Handsome masculine head, rather short in neck, good topline. Well bodied with matching angulations of front and rear quarters. Moved well.

2. Fleetwind Carroy Spicemate's Griffin. Nicely constructed four year old dog, who moved very well as seen from the side. Nice head, good neck and front. Topline firm. Rather private in nature.
3. Carrickaneena Inishowen. Mature black dog of five years. Rather narrow head and tends to stand broad over the elbows. Moved well enough, but would like to see a more firm topline on the move.

Open dog

1. Carnasserie Tarsa Three year old dog, well presented, just coming into maturity and very typical and well balanced. Lovely head and expression, good neck well set into excellent shoulder and front. Good topline, rather steep in croup. Moved nicely and smoothly with good extension. Would perhaps like him to be more masculine
2. Beannaithe Cumador Briomhar Strongly built dog of 22 months. Pleasant head with well folded ears. At present rather upright in front which should settle back with maturity. Also needs to drop in underline. Strong rear quarters. Moved with great power.
3. St Leger Lascaux Shapely dog of five years, who could have more length of body overall Pleasant head, rather a forward set front, good topline but tends to slope off over the rear quarters, with a steep croup. Very free and easy on the move.
4. Carrickaneena Eoghan Ruadh Grey brindle dog coming up to three years of age of a pleasant type, quite well balanced overall. Lovely head, good neck but front very forward set. Excellent topline, good hindquarters of medium angulation. Placed here on his lack of forward reach on the move.

Puppy 6-9 Bitches

1. Keel of Aerie this light grey bridle bitch is just right for her eight month. Very shapely, with lovely angulations fore and aft. She occasionally moved absolutely correctly but like all baby puppies she gave up in the challenge for best puppy bitch. The one I would have loved to take home !
2. Spicemate's Blizzard. This eight month old light grey brindle is more strongly built and very nicely balanced. Lovely head and expression. Match in angulation of fore quarters and rear quarters. Moved very powerfully but must learn to keep her tail down when moving.
3. Renwyck's Passion. Seven month old wheaten bitch shown in her underclothes. Pretty head, well bodied, outline spoilt by her standing so high over her rear quarters. Yes, I know it is simply a growth stage.
4. Stoneybrook Castlekeeper Victorious Ascension. At just six months this was the baby of the class, and is presently lacking body. Very well balanced in construction, so will no doubt end up very well. At present moves with a very exaggerated topline.

Puppy 9-12 bitches

1. And Best Puppy in Breed :Starkeeper Ard Rhi's Supernova. Two eleven month old sisters headed this class. The winner scores on a bit more substance; but they are so similar otherwise. Beautiful head and expression, with well folded ears. Very good neck and well angulated front, good topline and lovely hindquarters. Moved so well and freely.
2. Starkeeper Nuala of Ard Rhi Perhaps a bit more rangy than her sister, but all the comments apply to her as well. Perhaps a bit more upright over the upper arm, her elbow not set back as well. Another who moved so well.

3. Tir Alain's The Rising of the Moon from Maccaura. This brindle looks so much a baby still, very chunky in bone. Sweet head, with lovely expression. Very well bodied, but could have more tuck-up. Moved very freely but her somewhat steep croup showed on the move.

4. Laislinn Starkeeper Mistletoe. Another golden brindle baby who is not so together yet. She seems to have grown upwards, and lost her width, as she is quite narrow over the front. Lovely hindquarters, used well on the move.

12=15 month, bitches

1. And Winners bitch.

Lismore Lovey Wentworth Howell. What a well-finished young bitch, of just 14 months. She scored on her ultra-free and sound movement. Nice head, good neck well set into excellent shoulders. Elbows nicely set back, but could be more firmly anchored; this did not affect her movement. Lovely definition of underline, strong well angulated hindquarters. Her overall balance and outline, both standing and on the move, won her the winners bitch award.

2. Summerhill Prairie Creek Dear Prudence. Shaded wheaten bitch who is of lovely type and finish, but so much younger looking than the winner. Moved very truly and well.

3. Lismore June Cleaver. Red litter sister to the winner of this class, but much less finished and in her "underclothes". More angular in outline.

4. Hops-n-Hounds Impossible Girl Rionach Brindle bitch of just 12 months, at present lacking body and finish. Moved well and freely.

15-18 month, bitches

1. Karontara Blathnat O'Tailstorm black bitch of 17 months, very well balanced and well presented, Nice head, good over the front, well defined topline and underline. Moved well, could perhaps have more bone and substance.

2. Karontara Binne Cara Duinn of Carrickaneena. Grey brindle litter sister to above. The same comments apply to this bitch. On the move she tends to an overdone topline.

Novice bitch

1. Aine of Warwick. 18 month old clear grey bitch who scored in this class on her outline and the way she held her topline both standing and on the move. Pretty head, good in front and with matching hind angulation. She does need to strengthen in rear and I wish she would not ring her tail when moving.

2. Orchid of Nutstown. Another young bitch, clear grey, who scored on her long lines. Moved very freely but was rather overdone in topline on the move

3. Heronoak's Back in a Flash. Very pretty bitch. Very narrow backskull and rather upright in pastern, but otherwise very balanced in outline. Moved well enough

4. Carrickaneena Cuceile Cuisle Mo Chroi. Five year old brindle bitch, nicely balanced who moved well enough, but with her tail held too high. She could also have more bone and substance.

Bred by ~Exhibitor bitches

1. & reserve Winners bitch

Dun Myrica Maybelline of Eagle A very well finished bitch of two years. Nice head, good neck nicely set into a somewhat forward set front. Well set back upper arm and elbow, excellent bone for size. Scored on her well angulated rear end. Very free and ground covering movement.

2. Starkeeper's Rena's rogue. Another grey brindle bitch with a very nice head, well angulated quarters and very well balanced overall. Moved well and truly.
3. Mythic's Texas Pearl. Darker brindle bitch, presented in closer coat, very coarse. Very well balanced in quarters and moved with a very harmonious gait.
4. Kellykerry Echo of Aerie. Substantial light grey brindle bitch of three years. Very nice head, good front but for me too upright over the pasterns. Free and powerful mover.

American bred bitch

1. Sherwood's Aine of Shenachie. Six year old bitch, not in her "show costume" but won the class on her sheer type and soundness. Wonderful head and expression, very well constructed front, good and firm topline and her strong rear quarters. Moved very well and elastically, with great drive from her hind quarters.
2. Gladstone's Donna Marie of Rathkeale. Grey bitch of just 20 months, so very unfinished. Well constructed in terms of body construction, but so overly elegant, almost shelly, at present, lacking depth and width of body. Moved with great freedom. One that I would love to see in the future.
3. Tomahawke Blue ~christmas at Gemini. Light grey young bitch of good type and construction, more medium in angulations for and aft. Moved well
4. Jeepers of Aerie Three year old bitch, who scored on her beautiful head and expression.

Open bitch

1. Kellykerry Keynote of Aerie. Five year old bitch with many fine breed points, but starting to show her age. Lovely head with well folded ears, good neck and forehead, somewhat forward set. Deep body. Topline now not her fortune. Shows powerful drive from her hindquarters. Would have loved to see her in her prime.
2. Can Ch. Glenamadda Starkeeper Clodagh. Another fully mature bitch of five years, who is most probably in whelp, as she has thickened around her middle. Grey brindle of lovely type and construction, who scored on her free and powerful action.
3. Nutstown Aisling of Carrickaneena A very nicely constructed bitch, with more medium angulations fore and aft. Nice head with well folded ears. Moved with great precision.
4. Calcara Damhsoir. A bitch similar in type to the preceding bitch, I would call them "old-fashioned". Lovely head with the darkest of eyes, good over the front with nicely set back upper arm and elbows. Moved well.

Field Trial dogs

1. Can/Am Ch Starkeeper Glenamadda Fyrenze of Gryffindor. A five year old dog of very good type, presented very well. Nice masculine head, good front and body. Lovely strong hindquarters. Moved very well and freely.

Veteran Bronze 6-8 year old dogs

1. Ch Shanachie's My Guy. Very shapely and substantial wheaten dog, who moved very actively and well.
2. Ch Temair Let Freedom Ring of Eagle. Light grey brindle dog, scoring on his lovely head and expression. Lovely outline, and another who moved very well.
3. G Ch. Dun Myrica Lyre of Eagle. Another light grey dog, who scored on holding his topline very well on the move.

Veteran Silver 8-9 year dogs

1. Carrickaneena An Firic Aris . Near black dog, with a wonderful outline, scoring on the way he just stands himself. Could have more substance overall. Moved freely enough
2. DC Mise Eire an Fear Sarsfield Light grey dog with more medium angulations in quarters. Could have moved with more enthusiasm.

Veteran Gold 9 years and over dogs.

1. Can/ am Ch. Glenamadda Starkeeper Armagh. Nine and a half year old dog a grey brindle who is of excellent type and moved the best in this class of venerable hounds.
2. Ch Tomahawke's Cedar of Shanachie Wheaten dog of lovely type, who I note is the sire of several winners today. Presented in excellent coat. Moved well but with a somewhat overdone topline
3. Ch Kellamore Breamar of Fitzwick. Very near his tenth birthday, this grey is of very good type, if not the largest of hounds. Moved in a very typical fashion

Veteran bronze 6-8 years bitches

1. And Best Veteran: Ch Gladstone's Maeve headed this wonderful class of nine bitches. She is of beautiful type and in great condition. Moved so powerfully and truly
2. Gch Stoneybrook Lismore Gypsy Rose. Another beautiful bitch. Scored on her beautiful head and expression. Moved so well
3. Aragorn Cecilia O'Tailstorm Light grey bitch , another who doesn't really look like a veteran and who also moved so truly
4. Gch Ard Rhi's Anyka. Another who scored on her beautiful outline .Overall I feel that this was the best class of the day.

Veteran silver 8-9 years bitches

1. Ch Brenniams Redtop Virginia Rose. This wheaten bitch scored on her beautiful outline and topline. Moved reasonably well
2. Ch Mise Eire Niamh dark steel grey bitch, scoring on her beautiful head and eye, also on her excellent well angulated front. Moved well for her age
3. Carrickaneena Abbeylara Black bitch, rather finely boned; Moved very well for her age.

Veteran gold, 9 years and over. Bitches

1. Ch Ard Rhi's Calida of Castlemaine A lovely bitch of 9 ½ completes my Veteran group; she really is of beautiful and not exaggerated type, and holds her topline so well. A compliment to her owner on keeping her in such lovely condition.