

Irish Wolfhound Association of the Garden State – Speciality 2016 Critique

I would like to thank the officers and committee of The Irish Wolfhound Association of the Garden State for your kind invitation to judge “The Veteran Speciality”. It was an honour and a privilege to be asked! I would also like to thank the show committee on running a well organised show despite the weather’s best attempt to hamper the proceedings. Gratitude also to my two very knowledgeable chief ring stewards, Mark and Linda for all of their help and efficiency in keeping everything moving in an organised manner – they made my job so much easier.

I found the breed over all in a good state with lots of quality hounds of the correct breed type. Heads and expressions were generally good although many had light eyes and, sadly, rose ears were not much in evidence. However, eyes and ears are only part of the frosting on the cake. Size, bone and substance, was good, with no short legged or chocolate box types on display.

Movement was in general good and much of my notes mention “strong” and “powerful” over and over which is a good indicator of well-constructed hounds. Fronts were a slight problem as they are the world over! Most had decent shoulders but a lot of straight or short and straight upper arms. There were also quite a number of exhibits weak in wrists, which is not what we want for a galloping breed.

The biggest problem I found judging was mouths! I was shocked at the amount of bad mouths present in the entry. I can forgive a slight mouth fault but, between worn down teeth in both adults and youngsters, to bad bites, dropped AND or crooked teeth and in some cases, a wry mouth like a pig! Sadly, I estimate that about 75% of the entry had mouth faults of varying degrees from slight to severe. Please be aware that it will be hard to fix this problem. Lastly temperaments were wonderful!

I was truly pleased with my BOB and BOS and thought they complimented each other beautifully as wonderful representatives of our beloved breed. My Select Dog and Select Bitch along with the three awards of merit also exemplified true breed type and quality. I was proud of them all. Finally, I would like to thank you all for your good sportsmanship and allowing me the opportunity to assess your hounds.

Paoric Hand, Judge.

Puppy Dogs: (6-9months)

1st. No 5. Pinhurst Holden.

Typical. Well grown 6 month old grey brindle youngster of correct type. Lovely head and soft expression. Balanced forehand angulations, and good strong hindquarters with lovely tail set and carriage. Moved well on side gate but just needs to tighten in front and drop in brisket. A very promising prospect. Sweet temperament.

Puppy Dogs: (9 – 12months)

No 7. Absent.

12 -15 Months Dogs:

1st. No 11. Starkeeper's Hayden Highest Honour.

Tall well grown light grey brindle with good bone and substance. Kind head and expression though, a little dome shaped in skull and ears a bit flat. Great depth of brisket and good tuck up with nicely angulated strong hindquarters. Moves reasonably well but needs more angulation in front and a bit more padding over the croup

2nd No. 15. Dahmrak's Jurgen At Elkhorn.

Lovely tall, leggy dark brindle dog of beautiful type. Lovely head and soft expression. Great depth of brisket and well ribbed back, correct in loins and lovely sweeping strong hind quarters. Rather straight and narrow in front thus, lacks reach! I just loved his overall type.

3rd No 9. Sovngarde Dire Wolf.

Typical. Medium sized, red brindle dog, with good masculine head and expression and well held ears. Strong muscular neck, sufficient front and sound hind quarters but needs more sweep to stifle and could be longer in croup. Kink to tail.

15-18 month Dogs:

1st No. 19. Starkeeper Calorian Amber Declan.

Tall, substantial, red wheaten brindle. Kind head and expression. Good depth and tuck up with strong hind quarters though, would like a little more width of second thigh. Sufficient shoulders but rather straight in upper arm and lacking fore chest. Moved soundly but needs more reach in front.

Novice Dogs:

1st No.21. Warwick Quill Of Aerie.

Grey brindle of nice type with kind head and expression. Good depth of brisket and spring of ribs, though, a little short in the coupling. Moderately angulated hind quarters but tail set could be better. Movement a bit erratic and could have more reach and drive. Lovely crisp jacket.

Bred By Exhibitor Dogs:

1st No 33. Kellykerry Barbancourt Of Aerie.

Typical. Quality fawn brindle dog of correct body proportions with good shape and outline. Has a good masculine head and expression, though ears could be tighter. Good neck, fore quarters and hind quarters with lovely tail set and carriage. Correct degree of bone to substance. Beautifully sound free moving hound that powered round the ring effortlessly. A very honest dog. **Winners Dog and Best of Winners.**

2nd. No 27. O' Lugh's Single Malt Scotch.

A lovely silver grey brindle of correct workman like type. Good head and kind expression with strong muscular neck into good shoulders and topline. Correctly angulated hindquarters and well padded over croup with good tailset and carriage. Moves ok in profile but needs more return of upper arm and rather slack in pasterns.

3rd No 25. Pinehurst Rocco.

Workman like red brindle of medium size. Slightly coarse in head but a kind expression. He is a bit too straight in front and a little choppy in pasterns on the move. Nicely curved stifles and broad wide croup with good tail carriage. Good coat and feet.

4th. No 31. Beannaithe Ceobharn Curragh.

Tall, black masculine dog with kind head and expression. Sufficient angulations fore and aft, though fore chest could be more pronounced. Good bone and substance. Movements slightly uncoordinated and without purpose. Feet could be tighter.

American Bred Dogs:

1st. No 43. Gemini's You've Got a Friend in Me.

Beautiful eye catching black dog of correct type and with such a presence about him. He is very well balanced with good body proportions and beautiful sweep to strong hindquarters with low wide powerful hocks. A lovely sound free mover. Good masculine head with good eye shape and color and well carried ears. A lot to like about this dog but sadly his mouth is not his fortune. **Reserve Winners Dog.**

Open Dog:

1st. No 47. Redtops As Time Goes By.

Red/wheaten. Kind head and expression but rather dome shaped skull with flat ears. Good depth of brisket and spring of rib. Correct sweep to good hindquarters. Needs more reach in front as somewhat forward cast. Rather untidy in his movements with slack pasterns. Good bone and substance and nice harsh jacket. Unfortunately gives no impression of strength to him.

Puppy Bitches: (6-9 months)

1st. No 16. Carnasserie Carrickaneana Diamonds and Pearls.

Beautiful 6 month old black bitch with a gorgeous head piece and charming expression. Shapely outline with good reach of neck and nicely balanced angulations fore and aft. Lovely free moving puppy - just needs time to strengthen up.

2nd. No 18. Kellykerry Eabha of Warwick.

Red wheaten bitch. Sweet feminine head and lovely naughty expression with well held ears. A bit short in length of scapula which spoils her front. Good sweeping hindquarters but tail a little kinky. Very athletic sound mover.

3rd No 12. Gladstone's Call Me Kelt.

Lovely dark brindle of correct type with nice shape and outline. A bit upright in upper arm and narrow in chest at present. Lovely sweep to hindquarters and good tail set and carriage. Sweet head and expression but could be broader in bottom jaw.

4th. No 8. Prairie Creek's Libelled Lady of Penumbra.

Lovely clear grey brindle of good workman like type. Rangy bitch of no exaggerations and gentle flow of curves. Sweet head and expression, though jaws could be better. A little steep in upper arm and needs to tighten in pasterns. Lovely temperament.

Puppy Bitches 9 -12 Months.

1st. No 26. Gilda of Aerie.

Typical. Beautifully balanced dark grey brindle of correct type with lovely head and expression. Good forequarters and hindquarters with well put together balanced body proportions. She is a lovely sound free mover with a lot of quality about her. Great coat, legs and feet. Loved her...Should have a bright future! **Reserve Winners Bitch.**

2nd. No 22. Starkeeper Granuaile's Galleon.

Tall and substantial raking bitch of correct rangy shape. Good head and expression. Good shoulders and length of leg gives good reach but needs more return of upper arm. Lovely long deep rib cage and strong hindquarters. Good harsh coat. Very close between 1 and 2. Another with a bright future.

3rd. No 20. Glenamadda Magick Marigold.

Typical. Tall substantial red brindle bitch. Nicely headed though ears rather loose. Good depth of brisket and length of back with medium angulated hindquarters. Would like more layback to shoulders and upper arm. Moved ok.

4th. No 28. Riversong Reagan.

Lovely old style orange brindle of good type. Old style head of correct type and gentle loving expression. Good workmanlike muscled body with no exaggerations. Would like a little more bend of stifle and a better tail set and carriage. Movements a bit untidy coming and going.

12 – 15 Months Bitches:

1st. No 32. Hops – N- Hounds. Storm Ageddon Oonagh.

Typical. Medium sized red wheaten with sufficient fore and hind angulation. Sweet head and expression with well placed ears. Would like more length of stride and a little more padding over the croup as tail set could be better. However, a very honest and sound little mover.

15 – 18 Months Bitches:

1st. No 36. Starkeeper Calorien A Diamond.

Typical. Tall well grown red/wheaten with kind feminine head and soft expression, though ears could be tighter. Lovely depth of brisket and well ribbed back. Correctly angulated strong hindquarters with good tail set and carriage. Covers the ground well on the move but needs more return of upper arm.

2nd. No 38. Dun Myrica R Noble Nuala of Eagle.

Lovely dark bitch with pleasing outline, correct over loins and nice bend to strong stifles. Needs more reach in front and better spring of pastern. Head slightly fine in muzzle with narrow jaws. Good length of leg and good feet. A bit two dimensional for me

Novice Bitches:

1st. No 44. Starkeeper Nuala O’Ard Rhi.

Brown brindle. Lovely old style hound with kind head and expression. Good shoulders and length of leg. Good topline and angulation to hindquarters with strong wide hocks. Nice profile movements but could be firmer in upper arm and toeing in slightly in front. Loved her type.

2nd. No 48. Redtops Elyssa.

Typical. Grey brindle with nice feminine head and kind expression. Nice shape and outline. Good strong hindquarters with low hocks which she uses well on the move. Would like better lay of upper arm and more fore chest. Good coat. Moves reasonably well and sound.

3rd. No 46. Stoneybrook Castlekeeper Victorious Ascension.

Typical. Light grey brindle of workman like type. Kind head and expression. Front somewhat forward cast and rocking horse stance. Sufficient hindquarters. Moves from the elbow rather than reaching through the shoulder and winging beneath the pastern. Good coat, legs and feet.

4th. No 40. Lismore June Cleaver.

Shapely old fashioned red/wheaten feminine bitch with nice topline and under carriage. Rather deerhoundy in type for me with slightly plain head and ears could be better however, kind expression. Light on her feet in profile movement but a bit loose coming and going and flags her tail.

Bred By Exhibitor bitches:

1st. No 60. Dun Myrica Maybelline of Eagle.

Typical. Nice feminine head and expression with good reach of neck, shoulders and fore chest. Correct in topline and under carriage. Strong well muscled sweeping hindquarters with good tail set and carriage. Nice free and easy gait retaining her shape on the move. A fraction short in upper arm and a bit slack in pastern. Good coat.

2nd. No 54. Kellykerry Echo of Aerie.

Lovely tall rangy grey brindle of beautiful type and quality. Wonderful head and noble expression. Long flowing body lines with correct length and rise to loins and good strong hindquarters. Bit loose and forward cast in upper arm and slight dip behind the shoulders. Great double coat and good feet.

3rd. No 50. Pinehurst Essie.

Grey brindle of workmanlike type with fair head and expression. Lovely deep brisket and tuck up into powerful loins and good strong hindquarters. Would like better lay to shoulders and upper arm as needs more reach in front. Movements relatively sound, good coat.

4th. No 56. Lismore Lovey Wentworth Howell.

Typical. Red brindle with nice head and expression though ears a little flat. Good arched neck and length of back and good strong hindquarters. Good legs, coat and feet. Topline slightly off and needs more lay of shoulders. Moved just ok.

American Bred Bitches:

1st. No 74. Lismore Gracie Allen.

Very honest sound bitch of correct type with no exaggerations and built on gentle flowing lines. Good length of back and strong powerful loins and good hindquarters. Moves well on side gait but a bit choppy through the pasterns. Would like a little more depth of brisket.

2nd. No Shancarrick's Iolanthe.

Seven year old dark brindle of correct type. Nicely made forehead and hindquarters. Sweet head and good expression. No glaring faults but she was rather uninterested in the proceedings and unhappy on the move, but I loved her type.

3rd. No 64. Gladstone's "She Devil" Siobhan of Country Breeze.

Tall dark brindle bitch of lovely type in profile. Beautiful deep brisket and tuck up with lovely sweep to hindquarters and good tail set and carriage. Head is rather fine in muzzle with narrow jaws that cost her a higher placing! Moved ok but lacks reach in front. Crisp jacket, good legs and feet.

4th. No 76. Maccaura Riversong Fenna.

Typical. Red brindle bitch who is a bit plain in head and narrow in jaws. Good neck and shoulders with nice fore chest. Medium curve to hindquarters but a bit flat over the croup and flags her tail. Moved ok in profile though a little untidy coming and going.

Open Bitches:

1st. No 88. Winterdream Kaviar of Pinehurst.

Tall, rangy and substantial grey brindle of correct type. Good head, neck, shoulders and topline. Built on long flowing lines. Deep brisket, well ribbed back with gently arched loins and strong powerful hindquarters and excellent tail set and carriage. A lovely sound, free moving hound that's beautifully balanced and precise with her movements. Good legs, coat and feet. **Winner's Bitch.**

2nd. No 84. Nutstown Aishling of Carrickaneena.

Red/brown brindle of correct make and type. Good head neck and shoulders though a fraction short in upper arm. Nice topline and underline with shapely well balanced body and strong powerful hindquarters. Great harsh jacket and a lovely sound free mover.

3rd. No 82. Orchid of Nutstown.

Medium sized black bitch with beautiful well furnished head with charming expression and dark eyes. Lovely crest to neck with good shoulders and shapely topline. Text book hindquarters, tail set and carriage. A fraction short in upper arm and just needs time to drop in brisket with maturity. Moved well.

4th. No 78. Laislinn Starkeeper Mistletoe.

Typical. Grey brindle with nice head and soft expression. Adequate angulation to front and rear though lacks finish to topline and needs better tail set and carriage. Moved ok on side gait but rather loose and untidy.

Veteran Bronze: 6years and under 8 years Dogs.

1st. No 59. GCH Carrickaneena Tyrconnell, CGC.

Lovely quality grey brindle dog who scores for type, overall construction, balance and has good ring presence. Not needing to be stacked, he just sets himself 4 square and always looked right, both standing and moving. To complete the picture he has a gorgeous head piece with such a noble expression. Good true mover too. I thought him a fine representative of our breed. BOS.

2nd. No 57. Can. CH. Blackwing's Starkeeper Tegann.

Big, strong orange brindle with a lovely masculine head and soft expression. Has moderate gentle angulations to forequarters and hindquarters and stands over plenty of ground on well boned legs but I would like him a fraction longer in croup and with more padding. He is a very honest, sound and tidy mover but needs a little more length to stride.

3rd. No 53. GCH. DC Glenamadda Starkeeper Connery RN, SC.

Typical. Nice head and expression but ears a little flat. Nicely balanced dog with adequate front and lovely sweep to hindquarters with tail carried well. A bit soft in condition and down on his pasterns. Movements rather loose.

4th. No 55. GCH. Carrickaneena Antaine Dubh.

Nice black dog of good type. Gorgeous masculine head and soft expression though ears could be tighter. Good body shape throughout and good quarters. A little zag in topline and just not moving so true, and was wide and gangly at times.

Veteran Silver: 8 years and under 9 years Dogs.

Absent.

Veteran Gold: 9 years and over Dogs.

1st. No 67. DC Mise Eire an Fear Sarsfield, SC.

Dog of wonderful breed type with nice masculine head and good expression. Nice overall shape and body proportions. Just a bit stuffy in neck, carrying extra weight and starting to break down in his movements with age but a lovely example of our breed.

Veteran Bronze: 6 years and under 8 years Bitches.

1st. No 92. DCH. Gladstone's Maeve, JOR.

A beautiful steel grey brindle bitch absolutely dripping in type and quality. Wonderful head properties and melting expression. Correctly balanced body proportions with each part fitting so well into the next. She has excellent floating, easy and active sound movements and never put a foot wrong. I could hardly keep my eyes off her. Well deserved BOB. This bitch stole my heart...I loved her!

2nd. No 96. CAN AM. CH. Glenamadda Starkeeper Clodagh.

Lovely typical grey brindle bitch with a lot of quality to her. Good overall construction and nice lines. Good feminine head and gentle expression. A little over weight but still moves true if a little sluggish.

3rd. No 94. Sherwood's Aine of Shanachie.

Substantial wheaten bitch of lovely type. Sweet expression on a well carried head with nice general shape and make. Lovely sweep to hindquarters with low wide hocks. Just not very enthusiastic on the move and slightly overweight.

Veteran Silver: 8 years and under 9 years bitches.

1st. No 108. DC Carrickaneena Winds of Morning, SC.

Grey brindle of lovely type with beautiful head and expression enhanced by her silver furnishings and lovely big Roman nose. Gentle series of curves and lines with no exaggerations and is nicely balanced throughout Shown in great muscular sound condition and well able to move out around the ring. Gorgeous!

Veteran Gold: 9 years and over Bitches.

1st. No 114. CH Mise Eire Niamh.

This bitch has such lovely breed type. Old style hound of good proportions and nicely balanced throughout. Well headed and beautiful haunting expression. Age starting to show as

she's losing strength to her movements but she showed spurts of great enjoyment for the proceedings. Loved her!

2nd. No 110. GCH. CH. Glenamadda starkeeper Unahorme, RN

10 and a half year old bitch of correct type. Lovely well furnished head and soft expression. Still a good topline and underbelly with good overall angulations. Not moving so well now and throws a leg but what a credit to owner and breeder! Lovely.

Best of Breed Competition.

Best of Breed. No 92. DCH. Gladstone's Maeve, JOR.

A beautiful steel grey brindle bitch absolutely dripping in type and quality. Wonderful head properties and melting expression. Correctly balanced body proportions with each part fitting so well into the next. She has excellent floating, easy and active sound movements and never put a foot wrong. I could hardly keep my eyes off her. Well deserved BOB. This bitch stole my heart...I loved her!

Best of Opposite Sex. No 59. GCH Carrickaneena Tyrconnel, CGC.

Lovely quality grey brindle dog who scores for type, overall construction, balance and has good ring presence. Not needing to be stacked, he just sets himself 4 square and always looked right, both standing and moving. To complete the picture he has a gorgeous head piece with such a noble expression. Good true mover too. I thought him a fine representative of our breed. BOS.

Select Dog.

No 83. CH. Carrickanenna Eoghan Ruadh.

Great big strong dog of correct type with good masculine head with ears held well and has a soft and loving expression. Nice crested strong neck into good shoulders and top line with belly well drawn up. Correct arch to loins and broad strong hindquarters with well set tail. Lovely sound free mover for such a big dog and is at one with handler.

Select Bitch.

No 128. CH. Carrickanenna Anna Liffey. CGC.

Very eye catching black with beautiful head and haunting expression with good pigmentation. Lovely outline and correct shapely body with excellent forequarters and hindquarters, deep chest and spring of ribs. Well balanced and has so much of the qualities that the standard asks for. Wonderful hard condition with true floating movements. A really top class bitch.

Award of Merit.

No 132. CH. Dun Myrica Nova of Eagle.

Another quality bitch with the correct shape, outline and breath throughout. Good forehead angulation and excellent hindquarters with low hocks and well carried tail. Has a lovely feminine head and expression. Movements are true, easy and active. She ran my select bitch close but I just preferred the front of the winner. Another top class bitch – Award of Merit.

No 71. GCH. Pinehurst Stuart.

A very imposing dark brindle dog of lovely type and great commanding appearance. He has a good masculine head and expression with decent shoulders and lovely sweeping back end and broad croup. Nicely balanced dog with great bone and substance who moved well in profile but a little soft in pasterns. I just loved his stallion like quality presence. Award of merit.

No 108. DC. Carrickaneena Winds of Morning. SC.

Grey brindle of lovely type with beautiful head and expression enhanced by her silver furnishings and lovely big Roman nose. Gentle series of curves and lines with no exaggerations and is nicely balanced throughout Shown in great muscular sound condition and well able to move out around the ring. Gorgeous! Award of Merit.

Stud Dog.

1st. No 55. GCH. Carrickaneena Anthaine Dubh. CGC.

Brood Bitch.

1st. No 92. DCH. Gladstone's Maeve. JOR.

2nd. No 96. CAN. AM. CH Glenamadda Starkeeper Clodagh.

3rd. No 118. GCH. Gladstone's Irish Mist. SC.

Generations.

1st. No 92. DCH. Gladstone's Maeve. JOR.

Best Gait.

1st. No 36. Starkeeper Calorien A Diamond.

Best Head.

1st. No 61. Carrickaneena Innishowen.

Best Hound with Irish Spotting.

1st. No 12. GCH. Shancarrick's Damara The Radiant.

Brace.

1st. No. 19 + 36, Starkeeper Calorien Amber Declan **And** Starkeeper Calorien A Diamond.

2nd. No. 35 + 40. Lismore Puck **And** Lismore June Cleaver.

Team.

1st. No 22, Starkeeper Granuaile's Galleon + No 44, Starkeeper Nuala O' Ard Rhi + 96, CAN. AM.CH. Glenamadda Starkeeper Clodagh + No 124, CAN. CH. Starkeeper rena's Rogue.