

Emma James' Critique: Dogs at Southern Afghan Club Championship show 2021

Thank you to the Southern Afghan Club for inviting me to judge and for their first-rate organisation and hospitality and thank you to my stewards who kept the ring running smoothly. Lastly, thank you to all the exhibitors who brought their dogs under me. I appreciate the hard work that goes into preparing for a show, as well as cost of entry and long journeys for some. I always came back to fit for function and in some classes, places may have changed. There were some very well constructed dogs that lacked muscle, some were overweight. I believe afghans move better and stand better if they are fit, giving that general appearance that combines strength and power. Having said that some classes were particularly hard work with some nice dogs going cardless.

Minor Puppy Dog 3 Entries

1st Ayoubknan Stargazer (*Mrs E Semple & Mrs E Beck*) Lovely self-masked cream puppy with the most beautifully shaped, coloured and positioned eyes, giving superb expression. His neck into shoulder flows beautifully and his angulation both fore and rear is both balanced and correct. His loin is firm and square and he was shown in good condition. His tail was set on correctly and positioned well on the move. He went round with a confident sure footedness which showed good style. He has a bright future, along with his littermates, I'm sure.

2nd Ayoubkhan Silk Road (*Ms Tracey & Mrs J Gosling*) Litter brother to 1 and many of the same positive attributes apply. Longer cast than his brother and was more mature in body, however was not quite so sure footed on the move and although correct, I preferred the expression of 1. I am sure they will swap places regularly.

3rd Yansukhim's Sherbet Fizz (*D Peek-Matar*) Happy baby on his first day out. Handsome head. Well bodied, good neck into shoulder and very exuberant!

Puppy Dog 3 Entries

1st Ayoubknan Stargazer

2nd Ayoubknan Silk Road

3rd Yansukhim's Sherbet Fizz

Special Veteran Dog 6 Entries 1 Absentee A lovely class full of quality dogs.

1st Garamond Cloudberry For Tokando (*Mr Clive & Mrs Susan Winters*) Very handsome black and tan dog with a correctly balanced masculine head. His neck flows well into shoulder and he has a deep chest with correct spring and prominent fore chest. Short well-muscled loin. In good condition. He has balanced angulation and moved well. His correctly set on tail was raised when moving which he did with style and stamina.

2nd Ch Syrdarya Toffy Pop at Eweyisska (*Mrs Tina Cullen*) A lovely dog who is a favourite of mine. Another handsome boy with an elegant yet masculine head and correct expression. Lovely arch of neck into shoulder and he is correctly angled with good return of upper arm and balanced rear angulation. He has good depth and spring of rib with a correctly set on tail, raised when in action. Beautifully presented. Difficult decision between 1 and 2, however I preferred the general impression of speed and power in 1.

3rd Garamond Tayberry (*Mrs Sandy Mclay*)

Special Veteran Dog No Entries

Junior Dog 1 Entry

1st Shimalma Drambuie (*Mr M & Mrs J Drage*) Stood alone but a worthy winner. Shaded masked cream boy with a handsome head, correct eye and expression. Strong neck into a well laid back

shoulder with correct return of upper arm and balanced angulation on the well-muscled hindquarters. Fairly raw youngster with good depth of chest with sufficient spring of rib. Square well-muscled loin. Beautiful tail set and ring tail raised when in action. A little variable on the move and would like to see him on a looser lead. Another youngster with a bright future.

Yearling Dog No Entries

Maiden Dog 2 Entries

1st Shimalma Drambuie

2nd Ayoubknan Stargazer

Novice Dog 2 Entries

1st Shimalma Drambuie

2nd Ayoubknan Silk Road

Graduate Dog 2 Entries

1st Calamus Devil in Disguise (*Mrs Jacqueline Walsh*) Red Brindle with a lovely head and expression. Nicely balanced angulation. Good neck into shoulder. Well ribbed with prominent forechest. Nicely balanced, good tailset with ring tail, correctly carried, which he raised once he'd warmed up. He was presented in good physical condition.

2nd Trust Queen Buddha at Zalmerrah (Rus imp) (*M & W French*) Shaded masked cream dog with a handsome head, good expression and correctly balanced. Well boned throughout and in excellent muscular condition with good depth of chest and spring of rib. Balanced angulation fore and aft. Correctly angled croup and although moved well, I preferred the tail carriage of 1. Groomed to perfection.

Stud Dog with Progeny 2 Entries Stud dog with progeny This class was the highlight of my day with two lovely sires being presented with their progeny.

1st Drishaun Fair As A Lily JW (*Mrs Avril M & M Lancashire. C O'Donnell*) In this class was the entire litter! What a fantastic sight, made all the more special because their fluffy cream coats beautifully matched the Christmas season! Lots of similarities and a tightly consistent kennel type was evident in all of them. They all moved around the ring confidently with angulated quarters and with their heads held high and ringed tails lifted. Variations between siblings in overall balance was evident but as raw youngsters they will be maturing at different rates. Visually, the highlight of my day!

2nd Ch. Syrdarya Ginger Nut (*Trainor & Blake P. J & M. A*) Handsome sire- a favourite of mine, who had passed on many of his traits to his children. Consistent kennel type with beautiful chiselled forefaces and balanced heads although expression varied more than progeny of 1. All had balanced angulation and are quality dogs in their own right but unfortunately on the move, not all showing a style of high order. They all had long silky coats which were well-presented and correctly textured.

Post Graduate Dog 5 Entries 2 Absenties

1st Way up Walker to Cloudside (Imp Ita) (*Mrs Colleen Neilly*) Black dog with lovely expression. Very well muscled and in good condition. Nicely balanced outline and correct tailset. Good flow from neck into shoulder with balanced angulation. Good depth of chest and prominent forechest. Square loin. Balanced angulation used well on the move.

2nd Tulak Fast and Furious (*Rogers & Trainor*) Very close decision between this very handsome gold dog and 1. Longer cast with excellent flow from neck into shoulder and good depth and spring of ribbing. Nicely constructed throughout with balanced angulation. Moved out well, holding his topline- correct tailset with tail raised in action.

3rd Cloudside Sun King (*Mrs Sandy Mclay*)

Mid Limit Dog 8 Entries 1 Absentee A very strong class.

1st Cloudside Sunstrike JW (*Mrs Amanda & Mr T Reed*) Beautifully presented blue brindle with attractive head and correct expression. He has a good depth of chest, well ribbed with a prominent forechest. Really good to go over. Excellent muscular condition. Beautifully balanced moved with style of high order. Lovely dog with no exaggerations.

2nd Sitana Bijali Toofan at Zalmerrah (*M & W French*) Shaded masked gold dog, beautiful head and expression, lovely to go over. Well muscled. Strong neck into well placed shoulder, balanced angulation. Correct tailset and carriage. Lovely lift on the move but was a little distracted today.

3rd Zandahar Xcuse Me Mister (*Mr Richard & Mrs J Hurl, Mrs F Nisbet, Ms A Forrester*)

Limit Dog 7 Entries Another strong, quality class.

1st Tulak Despicable Me RCC (*Mrs V McCormack & C Hindley*) Beautiful self masked gold dog with an exquisite head and expression. Beautifully proportioned, with balanced angulation fore and aft with correct tailset. Deep chest and well bodied. Short strong loin and quarters. Lovely stacked profile and pulled out all the stops today to show easy flowing movement with tail and head carried correctly. **RCC**

2nd Drishaun Star Among Lilies JW (*Mrs Avril M & M Lancashire. C O'Donnell*) Beautifully presented Brindle in superb well muscled condition- longer cast than 1. Gorgeous head and eye, with excellent expression. A long strong neck into well laid shoulder. Well bodied with a good tailset, moved well and ringed tail carried correctly.

3rd Gilari Redwood Earl at Zarankhan JW (*Mrs J & The Late A J Buttle*)

Open Dog 7 Entries Super class

1st Ch Cloudside Flash Strike JW DCC (*Mr Wendell Moore*) Well constructed and proportioned black and cream dog who is very good to go over. Masculine head with correct eye shape and expression. Everything flows nicely from his long strong neck into his correctly balanced angulation. Good depth of chest. Excellent croup and tailset. In great muscular condition. He won today on his superb free flowing light and springy movement showing the desired style of high order. **CC**

2nd Ch Drishaun Said Tiger to Lily (*Mrs G Gardner*) A very handsome well made Brindle dog with a well balanced head and correct expression. Plenty of bone and substance with no hint of coarseness. A taller dog than 1 but well proportioned with a long strong neck into well angled and balanced quarters. Correctly angled croup and tailset. Lovely spring and depth of rib. Moved well and close contender for **RCC**

3rd Drishaun Fair As A Lily (*Mrs Avril M & M Lancashire. C O'Donnell*)