

The Southern Afghan Club Open Show at Hickstead, Sunday September 3<sup>rd</sup> 2023. Judge Kerstin Holder  
Thank you to the Southern Afghan Club for inviting me to judge their September Open Show. It was an honour and a privilege. Thank you to every exhibitor who brought their wonderful and precious Afghan hounds for me to judge; they were all beautifully presented. They were all gorgeous and I was spoilt for choice. I had a marvellous day, completely absorbed in the very pleasurable task of judging quality dogs. Some decisions were very close. Movement was the deciding factor in several cases.

Minor Puppy Dog 2 (0) 1. Lancashire & O'Donnell's Drishaun Baby's in Black, 6 month black and tan. This is a beautifully balanced young dog with a great attitude in the ring. Full of confidence and inquisitiveness. His conformation is super. He presents a really good outline, showing his proudly held head, complete with monkey whiskers, and a distinct roman nose, onto a long neck and excellent shoulder placement, with corresponding return of upper arm. His rib cage is deep with good spring of rib, and his loin is short and broad. Completed with low set tail with ring forming. Superb movement – very fluid, very collected, smooth and springy. Very promising. BPD. 2. Lancashire & O'Donnell's Drishaun Baby of Mine, 6 month self masked gold. Litter brother to the winner and so many remarks apply equally to him. This was a close decision between these two cracking brothers, this baby being longer cast than his brother, but these variations will no doubt continue between them both until their bodies catch up with themselves. There is so much development in a growing Afghan puppy - I'm sure these two will both do very well.

Puppy Dog 2 (0) 1. Lancashire & O'Donnell's Drishaun Baby's in Black. 2. Lancashire & O'Donnell's Drishaun Baby of Mine.

Veteran Dog 2 (0) Two great examples of our breed, and it was a close decision between the two. Both beautifully presented in great coat and condition. Movement was the deciding factor. 1. Latimer's Ch Jeremiah de Koulangar at Zharook JW (Imp Fra). Powerful and arrogant 9 year old shaded masked gold dog. He has a masculine head, held proudly, with good chiselling, enhancing his expression. Long neck into correct shoulder placement, with return of upper arm. His back is level, good deep spring of rib, and short loin. His quarters are sweeping and powerful. He moved with flowing, light, springy action which belied his years. Best Veteran in Show. Well done. 2. Seemarks & Nemoto's Sayadena Northern Lights (Imp Bel) VW. Imposing self masked gold dog who will be 9 in December. A lovely dog, when you go over him your hands flow from one part to the next. Super conformation, balanced throughout. He

wasn't so animated in movement, being a little flatter than the winner. A close decision between two lovely 'oldies'.

Junior Dog 2 (2).

Yearling Dog 0.

Novice Dog 1 (1).

Graduate Dog 1 (0) 1. Peek-Matar's Yansukhim's Sherbet Fizz. Very nicely proportioned black/brindle just over 2 years old. He has a handsome head, albeit with very little stop, and proud head carriage. His conformation throughout was balanced, with good shoulder and return, level topline and sweeping quarters. Well set on tail, with no ring. He moved with purpose and some style, in profile, but was moving wide behind.

Post Graduate Dog 1 (1)

Limit Dog 2 (0) 1. Trainor, Trainor & Rogers' Tulak Fast and Furious. Shaded masked gold dog, just under 6 years old, with great ring presence. He has substance throughout. Proudly held head, with faraway expression enhanced by delicate chiselling, held on long neck leading into adequate shoulder placement. He has good firm topline, with deep well sprung ribs. His quarters balance the overall picture, complete with a low set ringed tail. His movement just won him this class. Close decision. 2. Hills & Thornton's Absolute Afghan Djibouti at Karnak JW (Imp Nor). Black masked old dog just under 3 years old. Another dog with great ring presence and imposing when stacked. He presents a balanced outline, with proudly held head on long neck, firm straight topline, good pin bones, lovely sloping croup and great fallaway to the rear, with low set ringed tail, raised in action.

Open Dog 3 (1). An absolutely cracking class with two glorious specimens for me to judge. I wish I had two Red cards. It was an honour to have the opportunity to go over such wonderful dogs, both of whom were presented in rock hard condition, and presented to the last hair. 1. Gosling's Ch Ayoubkhan Silk Road JW. Magnificent 2 year old self masked white arrogant dog with attitude in spades. Houndy and athletic in build. Balanced throughout. Proud head with darkest pigmentation enhancing his tight eye and expression. Long neck leading into text-book shoulders. Deep, well-sprung rib cage and short firm broad loin. Prominent pinbones; good fallaway, with low-set ringed tail. Great sweep from hip to hock. This boy came into his own on the move, with a huge, seemingly effortless stride, showing light springy powerful movement which took my breath away. Best Dog and Best of Breed. Well done. 2. Gardner's

Ch Drishaun Said Tiger to Lily. 5 year old red brindle with great ring presence. He is a stunning Afghan with great substance. He has a marvellous head, eye and expression, held on a long, strong arched neck into excellent shoulders and return of upper arm. He too has a deep, well-sprung ribcage, short, firm broad loin, great sweep from hip to hock, and he presents the classic Afghan profile on the stack, with everything in the right place. This was reflected in his movement with great reach from the front, and powerful drive from the hindquarters. He commanded attention as he powered round the ring. Reserve Best Dog and Reserve Best of Breed. Well done.

Minor Puppy Bitch 2 (0). 1. Lancashire & O'Donnell's Drishaun Don't Call Me Baby. 6 month shaded masked gold. Enchanting young lady with everything to like. Lovely head with profuse monkey whiskers, good eye and expression, set on a long neck into extremely good shoulder placement and correct complementary return of upper arm. Long, straight front legs with good bone and desired springy pasterns. Ribcage already demonstrating spring of rib, deep chest and good width between front legs. Firm loin, correct slope to croup, tail set a little high with no visible ring yet, great sweep of stifle and low set hocks. Beautiful free collected movement positively eating up the ground with her long strides. Such a lovely, inquisitive baby who will do very well. Best Puppy Bitch and Best Puppy in Show. Very well done. 2. Lancashire & O'Donnell's Drishaun What Baby Wants. 6 month shaded masked gold litter sister to First place and the two litter brothers in the Dog Puppy classes. There really is so little to separate them, but movement was the deciding factor on this particular day. Many of my remarks for the First place apply to this lovely puppy. At this stage of their development her shoulder placement is fractionally better than her sister's but her return of upper arm is not as good. Her tail set is marginally better than her sister's. Again lovely free movement from this baby, just a little wide behind. What a fantastic litter this is, so full of quality and promise.

Puppy Bitch 4 (0) 1. Lancashire & O'Donnell's Drishaun Don't Call me Baby. 2. Lancashire & O'Donnell's Drishaun What Baby Wants. 3. Rhodes' Alaqadar Ariodante of Shadowfax pretty 9 month old black and silver baby with lots of appeal. Lovely head with gentle expression, low set ears, and good head carriage. Long neck leading into adequate shoulder placement and corresponding return of upper arm. Good body with deep chest, spring of rib, short loin, good fallaway and tailset. Moved with confidence and a great sense of purpose. 4. Thompson's Istani Armani my Way

Veteran Bitch 3 (2). 1. Peek-Matar's Sleepy Hollow at Yansukhim (Imp) JW ShCM. This magnificent lady of nearly 10 years strode into the ring as if she owned it. She has great ring presence, and is at one with her owner. She is a lovely black brindle of good substance. She comes into her own on the move,

powering round the ring with her style of high order. She was like a stately galleon in full sail. Lovely to watch. Everything is in the right place, although her head is a little narrow for me.

Junior Bitch 2 (0). 1. Latimer, Latimer, Gorman & Gorman's Sitana Moon Star at Zharook JW. Shaded masked gold of nearly 18 months. Lovely houndy Afghan bitch with so much to like. Great head, dark eye and chiselling already coming through enhancing her expression. Long neck into good shoulder placement and return of upper arm. Deep chest, with plenty of heart room, good spring of rib. Short strong loin, good croup and low tail set. Nice ring in tail. Great sweep from hip to low set hocks. She is eye-catching on the move, demonstrating lift, reach and drive. A very promising bitch. 2. Lawson-Ball's Sitana Mystique at Zarcar. Self masked gold litter sister to first and much of the same comments apply. Not quite as houndy as her sister, but a very nice bitch. Very exuberant on the move and a little wayward at times.

Yearling Bitch 1 (0). 1. Lawson-Ball's Sitana Mystique at Zarcar. Loved the acrobatics on the move!

Novice Bitch 0.

Graduate Bitch 2. (0) 1. Allan's Ayoubkhan Magnolia at Kabella. Exquisite 2 year old self masked pale cream bitch who is really coming into her own with promise of great things to come. She is not a big girl, but everything is in the right place and in the right proportion for her size. She displays the most amazing attitude in the ring where she truly demonstrates the aloof and dignified traits so desired in the Afghan hound. This in spite of her gently wagging tail – she still manages to make you realise that she is deigning to subject herself to the routine of the show ring! She has excellent conformation, starting with her lean arrogant head, with deep pigmentation enhancing the faraway look in her eyes. Chiselling already coming and serves to intensify that look of other-worldliness. Long strong graceful neck into text-book shoulder placement and corresponding return of long upper arm. Strong bone throughout. Deep chest with good spring of rib, excellent heart room, and powerful strong loin. Prominent hip bones, correctly sloping croup with low set tail, complete with ring. She has great length from hip to hock, with well bent stifles, and low powerful hocks. She comes into her own when she moves. She has that elusive lift, complete with great reach at front and drive from the rear – she appears to be floating round the ring. Her stride is very long, very economical. She is in rock hard condition and you feel that she could go on all day. Best Bitch and Best Opposite Sex. Well done. 2. Hirst's Ayoubkhan Snow Cloud. 2 year old self masked pale cream bitch, litter sister to the winner. She is a lovely bitch, slower to mature than her litter sisters and brother. She has a proudly held head, with intense gaze, on a long

neck into adequate shoulders. Her body conformation is correct, and she has great sweep from hip to low set hocks. A nice bitch, whose movement, when she decides to concentrate, is a joy to watch, powering round the ring with long ground covering strides. She too is in rock hard condition, and you feel she could go on all day as well as her sister.

Post Graduate Bitch 3 (1). 1. Parsons' Ayoubkhan Honeysuckle to Shukriya JW. 2 year old self masked cream bitch, litter sister to winners and second in Graduate Bitch and BOB Dog. So many of my remarks for the Graduate Bitch winner apply to this lovely beautifully presented young lady. She oozes quality throughout and grabs your attention by her presence. She is very houndy, flowing one part to the next with ease. Her head is full of quality, with a faraway look, enhanced by dark pigmentation and chiselling already to the fore. Low set ears, held close to her head. Long neck into good shoulder placement, complemented by powerful sweeping quarters. Comes into her own on the move with lovely flowing action. Felt she flagged in the heat as the day went on. 2. Turner, Hutton & Boydell's Nightwind You're my Kind of Crazy (Imp Deu). 6 year old pretty black and silver bitch, sympathetically handled. She has a lovely head and good conformation, presenting, at times, a nice flowing outline, but she had a tendency to stand with her hind feet under her. Movement was fairly free, but a bit erratic.

Limit Bitch 1 (0). 1. Fisher's Shimalma Campari Goes to Ifmaraf. 3 year black masked pale cream who is very easy to go over. Classic outline, each part flowing into the next. Her head is balanced, with dark eyes, which completely ignored me and the show ring. Great expression. Good angles fore and aft, giving good balance. Sweeping quarters, low set hocks, and low set ring tail. She can at times appear high at the back, both stacked and when moving. Silky coat presented to perfection.

Open Bitch 2 (0). 1. Rhodes & Shaverneva's Shadowfax Threepenny Opera JW. 5 year old cream domino bitch who swept into the ring as if she owned it. She is taller than some, but she has such presence – I couldn't take my eyes off her. She is a beautifully headed aristocratic bitch, standing proud and arrogant. Classic head, with great chiselling, held proudly on a long neck, into great shoulders and corresponding return of upper arm. Everything flowed – from her deep chest with plenty of heart room, her level topline, her powerful short broad loin, good fallaway, low set ring tail, and great sweep from hip to low set hocks. On the move, she powered round the ring as if she owned it. Reserve Best Bitch. Well done. 2. Turner, Hutton & Boydell's Nightwind You're my Kind of Crazy (Imp Deu)

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