

SOUTHERN AFGHAN CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW - 3rd December 2023

Credit must go to the hard working dedicated devotees of this prosperous club who have always pulled out all the stops to put on a most enjoyable festive event. I have very fond memories of attending as an exhibitor and can not put into words how thrilled I was to be invited to judge Bitches at the 2023 show. I extend my grateful thanks to The Officers & Committee for honouring me with this invite and also to my two very efficient stewards who did a fantastic job. Today's entries are very different to what I was used to when I was exhibiting and I did not know what to expect in today's entry which was good for today's climate. Thankfully I could find what our breed standard requires in several exhibits and delighted that my co-judge and I could agree on all our decisions. It was enjoyable to have a spacious ring and a good venue with pleasing surface to assess today's entry in which makes a big difference to large breeds that need this to see them at their best. One of my pet hates mentioned in my previous judging critiques is trimming of coats and today I was pleased to say this was not in evidence so please stick to the breed standard and present your hounds as to the standard. I am not a coat fanatic at all but even the sparsely coated can be well presented and some today could have been presented better to their advantage. Thank you to all who entered their hounds today and sadly due to bad weather conditions overnight a number of absentees was inevitable. We owe a great deal to the few dedicated breeders we still continue to have and encouragement to new enthusiasts of this fantastic breed are always to be encouraged and nurtured. The Saxonmill & Drishaun breeding featured heavily in my awards today and although in some aspects are different both are correct and we must remember the ancestry of this breed had two types the mountain and desert varieties were combined but the difference is still very evident today.

BITCHES

Minor Puppy (2-1abs) : 1 Lloyd & Webster's Ameserwah All WE Hear Is Radio Gaga bl/silver, pleasing for size she is feminine and has good balance, loose and free movement but fine for raw age, good eye set & shape, well set ears, good balance of skull & fore face, clean neck & pleasing in shoulder, needs to drop still in depth of chest but in good body condition, has good top line & short strong loin, pin bones & well set hocks, ring tail well set & carried, gleaming coat & in excellent condition, low correctly set firm hocks.

Puppy (3-2abs) : 1 Lancashire & O'Donnell's Drishaun Don't Call Me Baby s/masked deep gold, lovely dark eye with excellent pigmentation, strength in her jaw, slight stop & prominent occiput, holds top line well on move, light free strides a little uncoordinated yet but enjoying herself which is paramount at this stage, well set shoulder & return of upper arm, well bodied for age, good pin bones & fall away, ring tail correctly set & carried when moving, gleaming coat of silky texture. B. Puppy B.

Veteran B (8) : Credit to all owners for the condition of these senior ladies. 1 Waggett & Wilkinson's Saxonmill Kiss Bang Bang Clenagh JW bl/silver well set neck with proud head carriage & holding her top line on stack & moving, head needs studying to appreciate, good eye & ear placements, liked her size and her movement won her this class in strong competition, in good coat and condition with correct feet & well set tail, would like more of a tighter ring. Moved at the correct pace and still full of vigour & enjoying her day out ; 2 James's Ch Gilari Vermillion Venus JW, s/m gold ultra feminine with most desirable head with veining, correct eye shape & set, well placed neck, excellent in top line & carrying correct weight, well ribbed & firm short loin, well set hocks & has good length from hip to hock, ringed tail correctly carried, moved true fore & aft just not the side gait of 1 ; 3 Adam's Ch Kandahar Just Tiger Lily JW ShCM VW.

Jun B (3-1abs) : 1 Moyes, Lockett-Davies, Hunter-Ryan & Shaw's Rhazmakh Heart O'Summer By Bryellis JW bl/silver good height with desired head shape, prominent occiput, has good dark almond eye, well set neck & particularly good in shoulder set with corresponding upper arm, excellent ribbing & loin, lovely big feet & has good bone, stands herself well, prominent hip bones & correct croup, excellent tail. Gleaming silky coat well presented & desirable saddle, when started moving was a little restricted but once handler loosened the lead and let her go it was delightful, one for future top honours I am sure ; 2 Scott's Altside Hot Shot At Arushkhan s/m cream who is another quality youngster, loved her head, with desired chiselling, correct eye & ear placement, lovely big feet, correct neck & shoulder would like a shade more length of upper arm,

moved well with light action & ground covering, good tail set & carriage, well presented coat with saddle, in excellent condition. Two quality youngsters.

Yearling B (2-1abs) : 1 Latimer & Gorman's Sitana Moon Star At Zharook JW, sh/gold just oozing in femininity and correct height & balance, lovely head shape with good eye, scores highly in shoulder & upper arm, despite still raw in body holds top line well stacked & moving, correct fall away with well set pin bones, silky coat of correct pattern, light springy free flowing movement. Another with great potential on maturity.

Grad B (4-3abs) : 1 Hirst's Ayoubkhan Snow Cloud s/m cream, very much the desert type of hound & slightly taller than my other class winners, good head proportions & correct pigmentation, balanced in shoulder & upper arm, just a little narrow in front which spoilt her movement coming towards, not carrying a lot of body but this type seldom do, well set firm hocks, sparsely coated but correct in texture & pattern, could benefit in presentation of coat.

Brood Bitch With Progeny (2) : Both a credit and have produced quality off spring just thought 1st was better in producing a uniform shape which was evident in profile size & shape. 1st Adam's Ch Z Just Tiger L ; 2 Gizewska's Ch Saxonmill Zan Zan.

P. Grad (4-1abs) : all very different in shape & type. 1 Parson's Ayoubkhan Honeysuckle To Shukriya JW s/m cream litter sister to grad winner & very similar in type but prefer her height, feminine & lovely flowing lines, fine all through but not as narrow in front as her sister, light free mover who was moved at correct speed, well handled & presented, not heavy in coat but silky textured, desirable head shape with prominent occiput, good eye shape & well pigmented, prominent hip bones & well set tail with light ring, won class on her movement ; 2 Turner, Hutton & Boydell's Nightwind You're My Kind Of Crazy, on first impression on entering the ring was my winner & only wish her handler had moved her at a slower speed as this would benefit her, liked her head and had that look through you gaze we desire, excellent eye shape, strength of jaw & balanced skull & jaw, excellent rib shape & firm strong loin, silky coat but lacking in shine which would also enhance, nice bitch who appealed ; 3 Beavon's Altside Hot Gossip.

Mid Limit B (6-1abs) : 1 Raper's Tulak Just Go With It For Amariz gold/grizzle correct coat pattern with deep saddle, has a lovely head with punishing jaw & correct dentition, well set neck & very good front proportions, in good body condition, loin slightly long but firm & holds good top line, well set tail but would like tighter ring, has excellent length from hip to low set powerful hocks, in hard muscular condition and well presented coat ; 2 Lancashire & O'Donnell's Drishaun Don't Gild The Lilly JW new one to me from this exceptional litter on first seeing her my thoughts were she is even better than the rest which takes some doing, sadly often the best just do not want to show and think the show ring is beneath them s/m pale red who is stunning in profile with lovely flowing lines from head to tail, desirable head & expression, excellent in neck & shoulders, well bodied, strong hocks & lovely ringed correctly set tail. Although moved well fore & aft sadly today was not raising her head or tail on the move & this lost her top spot, it was an off day but on good days the top awards will flow as she is more than worthy; 3 Smart's Gezancol Kissed By An Angel.

Limit (11-3abs) : 1 Hughes & Luty's Gezancol Fallen From Grace, sparsely coated with deep mahogany saddle this sh/golden red was a real pleasure to lay hands on as everything just flowed, feminine in appearance with most pleasing head & punishing jaw, correct eye & ear, strong neck with proud carriage of her head, has balance of shoulder & upper arm correctly set, in perfect body condition, correct bend of stifle & strong hocks, stands herself well & moves with easy free action, pushed hard for top honours & was very similar in construction to C.C. winner & today splitting hairs just lost out as straining against her leash and not as free in her front action so had to settle for Res C.C. she is pure quality and oozing in breed qualities, in excellent hard muscular condition ; 2 Fairburn & Robert's Cloudside Sunset brindle feminine girl who moved out well today & is pleasing in height and has good proportions, good in head & eye, nice big feet, correct front & well ribbed, short strong loin, correct tail set & carriage, at times tending to hunch up on stack but when relaxed looks better, gleaming silky coat & saddle were well presented ; 3 Cullen's Cloudside Sevillana At Eweyisska.

Open (9-3abs) : A quality class & all had gained their titles, all very different with various qualities so it was down to performance on the day and point for point fitting the breed standard requirements. 1 Hall's Ch Saxonmill Magic Mirror all black who is ultra feminine and perfect for height and shape, has matured nicely since I judged her as a youngster and at only over 2 will get

even better with maturity. Lovely dark almond shaped eye, excellent head shape, flowing neck into well laid shoulder & balance of upper arm, liked her depth of chest & correct in width at front, short strong muscular loin, prominent well set hip bones with correct angle of fallaway, power in her rear with desirable angulation & low set firm hocks, has very desirable muscle and in gleaming coat of correct silky texture, natural saddle & love her coat pattern, excellent ringed tail correctly set & carried on the move, handler moves her at the correct pace and her movement has the highly desirable free flowing springy action. Glamorous but a functional hound who could do her working duties as nothing is exaggerated, an owner & breeder who understands her hounds, honoured to award her top spot today and pleasing that my C.C. winner & Res C.C. were very similar to go over, learning the breeding afterwards I can see why & both should be proud breeders ; 2 Lancashire & O'Donnell's Ch Drishaun Consider The Lily JW brindle in gleaming silky coat with correct coat pattern and saddle, balanced in skull & jaw which is strong, prominent occiput, correct neck length & has lovely lay of shoulder, excellent depth of chest & good amount of width in front, excellent spring to her rib & firm muscular loin, prominent hip bones, correct length from hip to hock which are firm & low set, ringed tail well set, took a while to raise in action but it did, gleaming coat & put down to perfection, excellent top line at all times, well worthy of her title is litter sister to 3; 3 O'Donnell's Ch Drishaun Faith Is Like A Lily For Javidan JW.

Mark Ord (Judge)