

My thanks to the Border Collie Club of GB for the invitation to judge the special properties event at their 50th anniversary show, and for the lovely gifts.

Thank you to all who entered this event, which is a little different to the norm, I really enjoyed my day. As this was held in conjunction with the championship show there were a few challenges with dogs needing to be in two rings at the same time. Thanks to my two efficient stewards Pete and Sue for keeping on top of this as we attempted to ensure nobody missed out and the classes kept moving.

The best headed classes were judged solely on the head and skull, eyes, ears and mouth elements of the breed standard. I was spoilt for choice in these classes, with good proportions and ear carriage across the majority of exhibits with the males clearly being masculine and the females feminine. My overall winner was a delightful tri female who ticked all the boxes for me today with regard to head qualities.

For the gaited classes, judged on the gait/movement element of the breed standard, I had asked that all exhibits be present at the start of those two classes. I gave a short briefing at the start of each class to explain that I was looking to see the dogs settle into an economical ground covering gait. I was not looking for the fastest dog. This was to determine those capable of endurance, while retaining shape and balance displaying the unique ground covering movement. To enable the exhibitors to keep going, I mixed the paces up a little, warming up at walk before increasing the pace. Hopefully this allowed the handlers to get their breath back! I think these were the classes I enjoyed judging the most today with all my placements giving a good account of themselves. My overall winner was strong and effortless, covering the ground with ease, displaying good reach and drive and held his shape throughout.

Special open best owner bred and handled dog, judging based on the entire breed standard. Some quality exhibits for me to go over and I was pleased with my final placements. In the run off for best overall, the female was more settled on the move.

The special open progeny classes were also judged on the entire breed standard. I had four lovely family groups to assess and felt my overall winning group showed more uniformity in type and on the move.

Special Open Headed Dog (13)

1st - Janbell look at me (Bell and Sloan)

2nd - AM GCH/CAN GCHG Nahrof semper supra (Lin and Wang, Dr HL and Ms O W)

3rd - Goytre Chance to reflect (Chance, Mr G & Mrs J)

4th - Smart as a whip danger zone at tambuzi JW (Oliver, Dr AJ)

5th - Sh Ch Chikaramour cast a spell of Glenfound (Rettie & Morley, Miss K & Mrs S)

Special Open Best Gaited Dog (7)

1st - Sh Ch Thwaitlake Buzzman (Akester and Wiltshire, Mr, Mrs and Miss) - Best overall.

2nd - Quintopia master of puppets (Mead and Geering, Miss J and Mrs C)

3rd - Sh Ch Tambuzi stryka blow JW (Oliver, Dr AJ)

4th - Shemella moon river (Lewis, Mr IJ & Mrs MJ)

5th - Goytre first edition (Brierley, Mr A & Mrs M)

Special Open Best Owner Bred and Handled Dog (3, 1abs)

1st - Sh Ch Chikaramor cast a spell of Glenfound (Rettie and Morley, Miss K & Mrs S)

2nd - Caleykiz ignite the passion (Wiltshire & Rogers, Miss D & Mr M)

Special Open Sire and Progeny Dog (2)

1st - Eyes of the world ecstasy of gold (De Cree and Schevenels Mrs I & Mr P) - Best overall

2nd - Sh Ch Tambuzi strka blow JW (Oliver Dr AJ)

Special Open Headed Bitch (14, 2abs)

1st - Your still the one at thistleskye (McConnachie, Mr P & Mrs S) - Best overall

2nd - Tambuzi guess who's back (Murfet & Oliver, Mrs H & Dr AJ)

3rd - Molumiki down in upendi (Dodd, Miss K)

4th - Altricia dream to love (Wilkinson, Miss T)

5th - Sh Ch Tambuzi girlz on fire JW (Oliver, Dr AJ)

Special Open Best Gaited Bitch (13, 1abs)

1st - Caleykiz passion for power (Wiltshire Mrs C & Miss D) - Best overall

2nd - Laceway bottom's up (Fawcett Miss H)

3rd - Am GCHB/Can Ch Leboria wishing star (Lin & Wang, Dr HL & Mrs OW)

4th - Kinaway a million dreams (Allison, Ms W)

5th - Bordercot fantastic rhythm (Brady, Mrs R)

Special Owner Bred and Handled Bitch (7, 1abs)

1st - Caleykiz passion for power (Wiltshire Mrs C & Miss D) - best overall

2nd - Molumiki down in upendi (Dodd, Miss K)

3rd - Sh Ch Tambuzi girlz on fire JW (Oliver, Dr AJ)

4th - Am GCHB/Can Ch Leboria wishing star (Lin & Wang, Dr HL & Mrs OW)

5th - Borderpride you got the love (Mann, Mrs LH)

Special Open Dam and Progeny Bitch (5, 3 WD)

1st - Moshanta magic penny for taytinja JW (Hawker, Mrs V)

2nd - Shemella Moonlight Skye (Lewis Mr IJ & Mrs MJ)

Juliet Mockford - Judge