

VETERAN OF THE YEAR 2021

I would like to thank the BCC of GB for inviting me to judge the Grand Veteran Of The Year competition 2021; I so enjoyed this appointment as the four classes were full of quality. Border collies improve as they mature and this was certainly the case today.

Class 1 Veteran Dog

The first class there were 6 dogs present and the difficulty was awarding one winner as there were certainly three worthy winners who fulfilled the standard and moved with great animation and stealth which I was looking for.

First place and eventual overall winner Wiltshire's Sh Ch Caleykiz I'm a Firestarter

Almost ten year old black and white dog. Not a big dog but completely balanced and everything in proportion; alert and attentive to handler when standing showing good use of ears. Freestanding naturally he could not stand wrong and did not need placing. Superb angulation both fore and aft, firm top line, sloping croup and excellent tail set.

And then he moved! And really showed himself. Free flowing gait with minimum lift, effortlessly covering the ground he could have lapped every dog in the ring, but was handled sensitively and with great respect for other exhibits.

Class 2 Veteran Bitch

4 bitches present all giving good accounts of themselves, one sadly hampered by her handler having to rush from kitchen to ring.

The winner of this class was Walters' Sh Ch Goytre Daddy's Saucie Girl JW, 8 yrs old black and white bitch.

I think this lovely bitch looks better now than when I judged her several years ago. She has matured into a balanced bitch with a lovely expression and body hugging coat. She has always been very sound coming and going and has a lovely ground covering gait, a great pleasure to judge.

Class 3 Vintage Veteran Dog

3 dogs present in this class.

Winner and eventual Reserve Veteran Of The Year Shahmatova's Nashdom Unpredictable

This dog won this place on his superb reach and drive on his final go round the ring, which was truly impressive. A moderate dog in structure, nothing overdone; firm top line and good tailset and carriage.

Class 4 Vintage Veteran Bitch

3 superb bitches came into the ring and stormed round like two year olds; such an applaudable spectacle.

Winner Fisher's Arniston Perfect Harmony

Unbelievably 12 year old black and white bitch. Such a pretty feminine bitch with exactly the construction to produce the breath taking movement she exhibits. I hope she is shown for many more years.

Judith Gregory, judge