

The Association of Bloodhound Breeders - Open Show. 14/4/2024

I would like to thank The Officers & Committee for inviting me to judge this wonderful breed which I admire enormously. Thanks also to my novice steward who did a grand job on her this her first time officiating.

Sadly only 9 dogs entered with 3 absentees on the day, which made my decision-making quite easy. It is so sad that breeds like this have such low numbers being shown these days as they are such a delightful friendly breed but without the space and facilities, they are not the dog for everyone. I thought those present today were good representatives and temperaments were outstanding. When judging scent hounds we have to take into consideration they were bred for centuries to scent and not penalise them in the ring when that is what they want to do. It was good to judge them in a large outside space and given time they all got to spend time getting into their correct pace. It was also good to see new owners present on the day who hopefully will join in with activities in the future.

Limit D (1) : 1 & R.B.D. Priestley's Marksbury Railway Of Quikotic, a junior dog who I am sure will make top grade with maturity in no way heavy with masculine head & framework that just needs to fill out this athletic free moving hound appealed for his ribbing depth, firm loin, well let down hocks & has pleasing feet, tail well set, tapering & carried correctly on the move, his coat was short & glossy. Has correct skull with well set ears which are thin & soft to touch and has correct folds, eyes are of medium size with oval shaped lids, moved well & not disgraced with res spot today.

Open D (3-1abs) : 1 Pennington's Ch. Moorlander Guy Laroche, I was not at all surprised to find this male has his well worthy title, lots to like in this athletic super free moving 4 year old. His temperament was a joy & he was working well with his handler. Correct head shape & dimensions, excellent jaw & dentition, low set ears with desired folds, has good eye & expression. Long neck leading into good shoulder placement & has well set elbows, excellent rounded bone. Strong feet & he stands himself well, good depth of chest & firm in loin with slight arch, such an athletic dog so can understand why he slightly lacks a little weight but apart from that could not fault this worthy winner ; 2 Mckenzie's Moorlander Dior, I see from catalogue is litter brother to 1, he is both masculine in head & more developed in body but could not match him in free movement today, ever so slightly more compact all through than 1, in lovely muscular condition with correct coat, well set tail correctly carried, another who has the correct rounded bone.

Novice B (1) : 1 Watson's Marksbury Nightingale difficult to assess her movement as she did not wish to participate today, feminine in stature & has a good covering of body, rounded bone, has depth of chest which is well let down and well sprung, firm loin, well set tail correctly set but rather tucked on the move today, in good coat of correct texture, needs more confidence, has good feet, prefer the jaw of her kennel mate but has a better front which was my decision for R.B.B.

P. Grad B (2-1abs) : 1 Watson & Lewis's Kenynten Cinnamon Whisky, feminine in size & shape with good head & neck, tending to stand wide today & throwing her front out, well shaped rib & firm strong loin, clean in top & under line, has well shaped feet, moving better in rear than front, correct coat & in muscular condition.

Open B (1) : 1, B.B. & R.B.I.S. Mckenzie's Moorlander Givenchy 4 yr old b who is from same litter as my two male winners, stands over a lot of ground and certainly covers the ground when she gets into her stride, loose skin but not excessive, well-shaped skull & strong jaw with good dentition, well set long leathers with desirable folding, long neck into clean front, rounded bone, body has substance & ribbing has depth with elbows well held, good top line, correct tapering tail carried correctly when moving, in good coat of correct texture.

Mark Ord (Judge)