

BASSET HOUND CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW AUGUST 2107 CRITIQUE ON BITCHES

The Basset Hound Club held its 22 class Championship Show at the Kennel Club Building, Stoneleigh, with a splendid entry of 30 dogs and 57 bitches. Exhibitors came from far afield as this was an opportunity to show at three Championship Shows over one week-end, first the Houndshow on Saturday, followed by the Midland Basset Hound Club, also on Saturday, both shows held at the Stafford Showground, and then the Basset Hound Club at Stoneleigh on Sunday. Ireland, Denmark, Holland, Switzerland and Germany were all represented, as well as Bassets as far away as Aberdeenshire and other parts of the UK. I enjoyed judging the bitches very much indeed. Open Bitch was the best class of this breed that I have ever judged – 14 present of excellent quality.

I was disappointed to find quite a few with light eyes, some with loose lower eyelids showing pink. When I was a kennel maid many moons ago my least favourite job was to cut the Dreymin Bassets' nails! A large portion of my entry today could have done with a manicure; that should be part of getting a dog ready for a show. A few level bites did not please me either. The ramp worked perfectly for me. I wonder how many Basset people remember Mrs Audrey Minto judging the breed at Crufts and being allowed to use a ramp? She had a hip replacement and asked for and was able to use a ramp to go over the hounds.

Mr Pocock, the dog judge, and I were in full agreement that Ch Sedonia's Royal Intruder should be Best in Show, a handsome all male, 4 years old and in peak condition, very sound with that bit of swagger in movement and showmanship. Lovely bone and substance, well padded feet, good eyes, clean neck, firm fit body, excellent topline, kind calm temperament. RBIS was the bitch, Ch Roamanbay Russia With Love to Armardio, JW, who had worked very hard to win the superb OB class. Great outline and proportions, well constructed with good head and expression, she too had good bone, legs and feet, expertly handled by James Rogerson. Best Puppy went to a bitch, Redcorners Flutterby Feel Free, 10 months, free mover and very together for one so young, well balanced and holding her topline on the move, full of promise. Ch Malrich Sir Ruff Diamond was best Veteran, at nearly 8 he is not even looking half his age. Very fit, positive showman, excellent outline, coat and condition. I see he is also the sire of today's CC and RCC bitches, MPB and NB winners so clearly not just a pretty face!

MPB 1) Ellrich's Burnvale White Diamond with Malrich, 8 months, well proportioned feminine puppy with good head planes, clean and well presented, good topline, sound mover, happy showgirl, good coat and condition, well handled. Promising. 2)Newman's Sedonia's Christal Rose, same age as 1st, this l/w was more fond of "hoovering" the ring than showing herself off! Good length of head, excellent bone, good body and quarters, low set hocks, relaxed showgirl. 3)Archer's Roamanbay Red Hot Chili Peppa, 7 months, big girl who needs to grow into herself, lovely coat, body and condition, typical head, has bone and substance. Not putting all in today and needs to move and show with more animation – that sounds a bit harsh as she is only a baby!

PB 1)King's Bassjobasset Perfect Pear at Zawadi, 10 months, not in her best coat today but has plenty to like about her, quality head, good eyes and expression, arched neck, plenty of bone and substance, big body and ribs, carrying plenty of weight but this did not affect her movement as she went with plenty of drive. Short attention span and a bit of a fidget standing. 2) Muller's Gucci From Roofgarden, 10 months black blanketed tri, feminine head, lower eyelids a bit loose, strong body, well boned, super coat and condition, moved OK but not very settled on the stack. 3)Cartwright & Williams' Brompton Miss Velvet at Longmynd, 10 months, completed a good trio of bitch puppies. Good neckline and topline, excellent coat and condition. Not moving as well as 1 & 2 but showed well when she concentrated.

JB 1) Obro-Hansen's Redcorners Flutterby Feel Free, 10 months, good quality bitch in excellent form, focused and showy throughout the class, pleasing head and expression, well proportioned using her neck to advantage, good coat and condition, strong body and hindquarters, very well handled and presented, impressed on the move – out, back and in profile. Should have a bright future. 2) McIntosh's Knockogue Bonbon at Kelansue, 17 months, typy bitch, glossy coat, good length of head, eyes could be a shade darker, good outline, well muscled. No more weight please. 3) Freudenreich's Malrich Puss N Boots, 17 months, looking a bit rangy presently but responded very well to her young handler. Needs to improve in topline and movement. Clean well presented coat, good bone and body.

YB. Good class. 1) Pearson's Armardio Almost An Angel JW, 22 months, excellent type and size, good head and eyes, kind expression, big body, well rounded ribs, ample bone, moved well, steady showgirl, well handled. 2) Gerber's Hera V Hollandheim, dark tri of 17 months, quality head, dark kind eyes, good bone and substance, clean and well turned out, good topline and quarters, willing showgirl who looked well in profile movement, good drive behind, just a little close in front action but she pressed hard for 1st place and very little in it. 3) Freer's Switherland Smart Alice, 20 months, very nice tri in excellent condition, fit and healthy, good body. Not 100% relaxed to start with but rallied once she got into her stride on the move. Pleasing head, good neckline and topline, expertly handled.

NB 1) Johnston's Burnvale Winter Diamond, 8 months, a bit lazy on the move but she was on her own here, attractive head, mouth not quite perfect, good body and reach of neck, needs to show with a bit more sparkle and move with more animation. Litter sister to MP winner.

PG Always a bit of a mixed class. 1) Surjan's Guapa of Efendi Team, good quality tri of 3, free mover, very relaxed about it all, feminine head, dark eyes, well bodied, strong hindquarters, well proportioned, conditioned and handled. 2) Bergin's Tanneron Total Eclipse, 2 years plus, close second here, not quite as firm in hind movement as winner. Good head and expression, excellent ribcage and topline, good coat and condition, handled to advantage. 3) Willhoeft's Timpetos Nice To See You Kenya, tri of 27 months, big girl, shoulders could be better laid back but made a good account of herself standing and moving, confident showgirl, good bone and body. A little loose in lower eyelids.

LB 1) Green's Braithwell's Dancing Queen, 20 months, classy t/w with excellent outline and overall proportions, most attractive head, kind expression, lovely silhouette, which she held on the move once she got her tail going. Strong body, very good coat, sympathetically handled. 2) Newman & Beale's Woferflow Penelope, nearly 3, typy bitch, just a bit skittish at times but settled down to move properly, good head and expression, well carried ears, clean coat, well conditioned, good outline. 3) Parkes' Bessalin Raspberry Ripple, 2 ½ years, sturdy lass in good form, typical head, excellent bone, strong body, good coat, not moving quite as well as 1 & 2. Another sired by Ruff Diamond.

OB What a superb class – hard work but so enjoyable. 1) CC & RBIS Pearson's Ch Roamanbay Russia With Love to Armardio JW, 3 years, I took my time over these top class bitches – in the end a very good line up of 5, 4 champions and one with 2 CCs. This is a gorgeous bitch, everything in the right place, well constructed, good bone, legs and feet, clean outline, well arched neck, prominent breastbone, quality head, correct head planes, strong body, good topline, well muscled hindquarters, true mover and kept it up right to the end. 2) Res CC Ellrich's Ch Malrich I Gotta Feeling, 4 years, top quality, fit and healthy, sound mover, size smaller than winner, well balanced, feminine head, good expression, strong quarters, well bodied, good coat and condition. Great pleasure to have the opportunity of judging this calibre of bitches, followed by 3) Rodgers' Ch Switherland Smart Cookie, only 20 months and another serious contender, excellent type, very well conditioned, kind eyes, used her neck well, excellent coat. Not quite as firm in body as 1 & 2. These 3 bitches were superbly handled and presented.

BREEDERS 1) Ledward's Drawdell's Lady De Winter, 7 years l/w, good honest bitch, clean outline, pleasing head, good neck and topline, quite a good mover, showed OK. 2) Newman's Ch Woferflow Rock Chick, nearly 7 this black blanketed tri, fit body, supple skin, lovely coat, quite a character, moved OK. Would prefer a little more ground clearance. 3) Johnston's Burnvale Wilone Diamond, 8 months tri, quality puppy but a little overawed by the occasion

today and not quite happy on the ramp, attractive head, good bone and body, moved well enough when she relaxed.

BRACE 1)McIntosh's well matched tricolours. 2)Newman's. 3)Ledward's.

PROGENY 1)Ch Malrich Sir Ruff Diamond with 4 of his offspring ruled supreme here, a very impressive progeny group.

Liz Cartledge
Judge