

Western Afghan Hound Club Championship Show held at Stafford on 25/9/2021
Afghan Hound Bitches

My thanks go to the Western Afghan Hound Club for inviting me to judge bitches at this show that was held in conjunction with the Birmingham National, and for doing everything to make my day enjoyable. Thank you to my stewards too for keeping me in order. We were afforded a spacious ring that enabled the dogs to get fully into their stride and although the sun showed its face on a few occasions it was not hot, so it was ideal for the dogs.

It is interesting when two shows are held together, how the content of the entry differs. You can ponder what it is that makes exhibitors choose one show over the other, but I was aware after judging of looking across to see several bitches that I admire and would like to have judged.

I have my usual gripe and that is that it is now a rarity to find correct shoulders. This is not something new of course but the situation is certainly not improving. Why should you feel it a nice surprise when you come across a well laid shoulder of the correct angle? A few bitches were very overweight too, but on a positive note the muscular condition was generally very good, so it seems that exhibitors have been putting the hours in during lockdown to keep their dogs exercised.

I was delighted with my line-up however and it was performance in the end that sorted them out.

Veteran Bitch (7, 2 abs)

1. Adams' **Ch Zandahar Just Tiger Lily** – An 8-year-old dark brindle bitch of obvious quality. An immense coat, so you need to get your hands on her to appreciate her. Pleasing head with a well-shaped dark eye. Strong neck, shoulders well set back with a corresponding upper arm. Level firm topline, good length from hip to her low hocks and a well set on tail. She moved with enthusiasm although a little playful at times. Best Veteran in Show on the BIS Judge's decision.
2. Metcalfe's **Ch Cubanba Northern Star JW** – This shaded gold bitch is 13 ½ years old and what an example of the longevity of our breed she is and a nod to the care and devotion of her owner. She was even a little giddy on the move – that is how much she was enjoying her day, but she still exhibits a length of stride. Aside from all that she is well made throughout with balanced angulation and is of the correct body weight.
3. Cheesman's **Zaram Zaria**

Minor Puppy Bitch (no entries)

Puppy Bitch (3, 1 abs)

1. Sturgess' **Forestbrook Dragon Glass** - This cream puppy refused to be handled and so was difficult to assess. From what I could see she had a very pretty head with an almost black face, with very dark eyes of the correct shape. She is well up for size but appears to be in good body but needs to drop into her frame which should benefit her angulation. Unfortunately, she was not cooperative on the move either but nevertheless I decided to give her the class over.....

2. Stoker's **Kenxtwen Diamond** – A pretty little black and gold bitch with a sweet head but she was so painfully thin that it was quite upsetting to go over her. I cannot understand how this would come about and it needs addressing without delay. Lacking in front angulation but her rear quarters were OK and she has a ring tail.

Junior Bitch (4)

1. Gilbert's **Altside Hot As Hell At Affietar** - This oyster brindle bitch literally sprung into the ring, full of verve and vitality. In super condition and balanced angulation fore and aft so that your hands just flow over her. She has a lovely head and eye and a good underjaw, strong neck and a firm level topline with correct ratio of ribcage to loin. Overall, she presents a very pleasing picture. Not strictly my 'type' but she powered around the ring and refused to be ignored so I could not deny her the award of Reserve CC. Reserve BIS on the BIS Judge's decision.
2. Medley's **Altside She's Hot** – Litter sister to 1. Cream bitch with a beautiful natural saddle. She has a refined head with chiselling although I would like a little more underjaw. She has a good layback of shoulder, firm topline, sweeping quarters, low hocks and a ring tail. Both she and her handler need a little more practice, but she could be one to watch.
3. Hudson's **Shimalma Izarra**

Yearling (1)

1. Callard's **Cloudside Basauri (AI)** – Black & cream bitch presenting a well-balanced picture with an appealing head. Pleasing to go over with level topline, good bone, low hocks and correct tail set. Moved in a settled manner, covering ground.

Novice Bitch (3, 1 abs)

1. Medley's **Altside She's Hot**
2. Hudson's **Shimalma Izarra** - Dark masked cream bitch, moderately angled fore and aft. Feminine head and presenting a nice picture on the stack but more body weight would be beneficial to her.

Graduate Bitch (3, 1 abs)

1. Bleasdale's **Mava Onychavus (Imp)** – Dark masked gold bitch, with refined head and dark well shaped eyes. Moderately angled throughout she presents a pleasing outline with a beautiful red saddle and low hocks. Her tail could be better, but it is carried correctly and she moved out well.
2. Downes' **S's Super Star De Zorba Specially For You (Imp)** - Pretty gold bitch with a lovely head. Another that would benefit from a little more weight. Moderate angles fore and aft and low hocks and she moved very happily carrying her loosely ringed tail correctly.

Post Graduate Bitch (5)

1. Raper's **Tulak Just Go With It For Amariz** – Red gold bitch of lovely make and shape, very much my cup of tea. Shaded mask with chiselling and a lovely expression. Strong neck and excelling in shoulder and upper arm, with sweeping quarters to match. Level topline, good ribbing and strong loin. In good muscle and standing

square over the ground she presents a very pleasing picture. Put enough in her movement to take this class but she dropped down a little in the challenge.

2. Cullen's **Cloudside Sevillana at Eweyisska** – This black bitch has come on in leaps and bounds since her junior days. She has a feminine head with the correct length of foreface, strong neck and well laid-back shoulders with good length to upper arm. Her rib to loin ratio is correct and she has sweeping quarters and low hocks and she is in good condition. She moved out well with correct carriage of her ring tail. Although different in type to 1, they are both excellent representatives of the breed and it is a shame that they came up against one another in this class.
3. Lancashire & O'Donnell's **Drishaun Don't Gild The Lily**

Mid Limit Bitch (2)

This small class was a headache because these two bitches were so different in make and shape.

1. O'Donnell's **Drishaun Faith Is Like A Lily For Javidan JW** - This compact red brindle bitch is perfectly balanced fore and aft with no exaggerations and strong low hocks. She is very feminine with a refined head and dark well shaped eye, a firm level topline, well set on ring tail and in superb muscular condition. Presentation first class and she moved extremely well with reach and drive and was close up for the RCC.
2. Sanghera's **Tulak Driving Miss Daisy To Sitana** - Cream bitch in excellent coat and natural saddle. Nicely made throughout with balanced angulation, strong bone, low hocks and big feet. She is rangier than the first in this class and covers the ground well on the move.

Limit Bitch (8, 1 abs)

1. James' **Gilari Vermillion Venus JW** – Striking red bitch in perfect bloom and presenting a finished picture. Classic feminine head and a strong neck giving her a proud head carriage. She has a lovely clean houndy outline and stands square over the ground, her feet well down on the ground with sloping pasterns, and her topline held at all times. Her young handler got the best out of her on the move and the more she moved the better she got. A worthy representative of the breed, I was pleased to award her the CC that I understand now makes her into a well-deserved champion. Best of Breed on the BIS Judge's decision.
2. Lancashire & O'Donnell's **Drishaun Consider The Lily JW** – Appealing brindle bitch of quality. In superb muscular condition as is everything from this kennel. Put down to perfection she looks a picture on the stack but was not prepared to put it all in on the move on the day. She has a refined head and lovely eye shape of the correct colour. Lovely to go over with a firm level topline and balanced angulation.
3. Coates' **Gilari Silken Flame At Bukhara**

Open Bitch (4, 2 abs)

1. Link's **Int/Ned Ch Popov's Bora Bora At Orashan JW** – Red bitch of nice type presenting a pleasing picture. Arrogant expression, balanced angulation throughout with a level topline and correctly held ring tail. Well off for bone and in good condition. She moved out freely but being a typical bitch, she decided to occasionally drop her shoulder, as did the 2nd in this class.

2. Appleby's **Ir Ch Affietar Glen Isla** – Red bitch – rangier than the first in this class. Head very fine, moderate angulation with good bone and feet well down on the ground with low hocks. Lovely coat condition with deep red saddle. Correct tail carriage on the move and covering ground but putting the odd skip in as I previously mentioned.

Lesley Busby (Judge)