

## Western Afghan Hound Club Ch. Show 6th Oct. 2013

### Bitches

I was very pleased and honoured to have such an entry of quality bitches. To save repetition below particularly I looked for heads which were not in any way tending towards broad, with a good length of foreface and ideally a keen expression. Fronts were generally better than I've found in the past, almost all having a good length of upper arm but in the winners I looked the essential return which places the front leg well under them and leads to better extension on the move. Sound movement is very important - after all we do own high-performance hunting hounds whilst in the show ring their trotting action is required to be "smooth and springy with a style of high order." It needs to appear effortless, free flowing but totally co-ordinated and ideally displaying some verve - looking as though they are going somewhere as opposed to merely keeping up with their handler. The ring was of good size but not especially large so there was every need for exhibitors to make best use of the space - for instance, running a triangle in straight lines which maximises the distance covered, (though not at maximum speed!) so giving the dog every chance to settle into its stride and the judge the best opportunity to see what's going on. Sadly, more than a few, often with promising exhibits, elected to run an almost elliptical path so their dog was turning left for most of the way out and back, not really allowing it to show what it could do and this had to be reflected in their placings.

**V (4,2)** 1. Small's Cloudside War of Roses, a black in super coat and muscular condition for one approaching eight years old. Very well put together presenting a good outline with a long neck and proud head carriage. Her movement was excellent and she carried on right to the end of the day so becoming Best Veteran. 2. Smart's Ch. Birkhall Sophia, a very well presented b/t who was giving nearly two years to 1. which just showed in outline and movement but nevertheless, a lovely bitch you'd be proud to own.

**MP (6,1)** 1. Moon & Fillis-Moon's Maringo Drop Dead Gorgeous, really liked this b/t who is well put together all finished off with a correct ring tail and moved soundly. 2. Adams' Zandahar Just Tiger Lilly, blue brindle who like 1. is well made with a good front, moved well but in a close decision I just preferred the expression of 1. 3. Allan & Medlam's Sumahari Raven For Sazau.

**P (5)** 1. Fairburn & Roberts' Maringo Evening In Paris, b/s with everything to like about her. right down to the ring tail. She carried herself much better than her eight months might suggest, moving in graceful, long strides. Best BP and Best MP in Show 2. Floyd's Hubshe Fundama, b/s who is beautifully made presently carrying a heavy coat which though well presented could deceive one into thinking her on the heavy side but this is far from the case as she is all there. Close decision and she should do very well in future, just needs to settle a bit moving with her handler. 3. Z. Just Tiger Lilly.

**J (3)** 1. Harding's Ashahni Firefly, b/s whose name seems appropriate to this little cracker. Superb expression, good front, and moved to near perfection with good head and tail carriage, covering the ground effortlessly in long springy strides. 2. Link's Pahlevi Disco Diva at Orashan, b/s who is a little heavier all round than 1. She is well made, presents a good outline and was bright and keen on the move but just needed a bit more spring and lift. 3. Cowley & Maroney-Cowley's Ashahni Quest Of Fire.

**YB (9,1)** 1. Boydell & Fairburn's Nightwind The Beat Goes On At Warrenoak imp. a black masked gold with a deep, rich dark gold saddle. Her expression is truly aristocratic, looking straight through you. She's well made with a good spring of rib and moved very soundly. 2. Busby's Syrdarya Malted Milk at Wilbus JW, a shaded masked cream again with a correct darker saddle, more petite than 1 and not quite with her expression but very typical and nicely made throughout though she did at times somehow manage to stand with a sloping topline. Steady on the move and pressed 1. quite hard. 3. Combes' Gezancol Topsy Turvy.

**N** (6,3) 1. Craft's Altside Donna Karen, a blue brindle with balanced confirmation, possibly carrying a pound or three extra but moved well though with a somewhat gay tail carriage. 2. Humphreys' Hubshe Okuni, a b/s puppy whose head and length of foreface I really liked. Elsewhere she is very well made and should have a bright future but just needs to settle down when moving and show her true qualities. 3. Bryla & Zaleski's Gezancol Dizzy Bit.

**G** (5) 1. Greenfield's Calahorra From The Viennawoods imp, an ultra feminine b/s with a fine head, long foreface, deep saddle, somewhat sparsely coated over her loins but very well assembled in all respects. Covered the ground easily with a light springy action. 2. Combes' G. Topsy Turvy, b/s who was placed in yearling but went much better in this class. She is well made, presenting a classical, attractive outline and was bright and attentive on the move. Should do well as she matures. 3. Dare's Sitana Nishana at Lakarenadream JW.

**PG** (10,2) 1. Fisher's Flowering Peach Goto Ifmaraf JW, a dark blue with an excellent head proudly carried on a long neck. Good angulation, level topline over a short loin leading to prominent pin bones and a correct fallaway. Very elegant and positive on the move. 2. Atkinson's Shimalma Relive The Magic At Kandikhan, a well-presented b/tan with a rather haughty expression over a long foreface. Very well angulated and has everything about her to like but on the day not quite as expansive as 1. on the move. 3. Fairburn, King & Holt's Belamba Goodnight Vienna at Cushida.

**ML** (8) 1. Gilbert's Affietar Amazing Grace JW, shaded masked gold. One I have not seen since she was a junior and hasn't she grown up into something special. A lovely head on a good length of neck, well angulated, good ribs and length of loin, correct fallaway. She has a text-book saddle and coat was well presented. A pleasure to watch on the move with her long effortless gait. RCC. 2. Gill & Marshall's Miamarna Look To Your Dreams, a brindle of quality made absolutely right from her elegant head to the tip of her tail. She moved with some panash certainly outdoing the rest of the class and made for a close decision against one. 3. Bastow's Karandikar My Serenade

**L** (6) This was a strong class with the first two b/s & b/tan bitches both having first rate confirmation, good heads and keen expressions and were only separated on the day by the longer, flowing strides of one. 1. Hitch's Zendushkas Sparkling Rose, 2. Forrester's Hubblebub Morrigan By Punkly, 3. Newton's Shimala Mandrin Magic.

**O** (10,1) 1. Roper & Moore's Azmari Black Onyx At Temenshu, an exquisite, perfectly feminine bitch with evident confidence and attitude, excellent confirmation which is for all to see when she is standing and especially when she moves. She was handled and presented to perfection and I was pleased to award her second CC and see her go on to become BIS. I hope she soon gains the title she deserves. 2. Fielder & Fielder's Ch. Ashahni Azanti at Garamond JW, a really splendid b/s with everything about her reading straight on to the standard, making for a close, difficult decision on minor points of showmanship. 3. Hall's Ch. Saxonmill Midnight Muse JW.

J M Astle  
Judge