

CRITIQUE – Mrs Francis Boxall

Thank you to the committee for inviting me to judge your championship show this year. It was a pleasure not only for the invitation but to judge such sound dogs in body and mind. The exhibitors were all very sporting whatever the placing, a very relaxed show indeed with a special mention to my steward who kept everything running smoothly. I would especially like to mention the novice sweepstakes which was a class for those are just starting out in the hobby of dog showing. All those entered handled their dogs well, they talked to them and were all cleanly presented. It was a difficult class to judge, the overall winner was of a young age and handling a baby puppy which even for an adult can be challenging. I hope this class has given you a 'taster' of what can become a fun day out and remember we all take the best dog home.

Baby Puppy Dog

1. MacCormick's *Clanset Hot Shot*

Well boned 5 month old puppy with a balanced head, dark eye and good depth of flews. Well shaped body for age with forechest already evident, nice bend of stifle, moved well and happily using his correctly set on tail. Will follow his progress with interest. Best Puppy In Show.

2. Beer & Norton's *Deveron Darkwing Duck*

Not so mature in body as 1 but he has a lovely outgoing temperament. Overall a good shape with excellent topline. Slightly narrow in front at present but this will no doubt change as he gets older and fills out.

Junior Dog

1. Triseter Kennels *Aust Ch Triseter Ebonie Zeus*

Strong headed male with kind expression, deeper in the muzzle than 2. He is well coated which has a good texture. Strong neck leading into good lay of shoulder, level topline and happy true movement which showed when he got into his stride. Of just 15 months of age so still has more maturing to do as one would expect.

2. Finlaison's *Tahtan Scotch On The Rocks*

Smaller built dog than 1 and not so heavy in the head but he has a dark eye and nice expression. Would like to see clearer tan but the overall colour was good. Level back and good bend of stifle. Would like to see more forechest but he has a straight front. Very full of himself, well handled and presented.

Intermediate Dog

1. Drumdaroch Kennels *Aust Ch Drumdaroch Beamers Run (AI)*

Kind head on this male with good depth to muzzle and low set ears, although a shade broad in skull he has a quizzical expression. He is not a big dog and built squarely being more workmanlike in shape with good bone. Strong neck, excellent shoulders leading into level topline. Good spring of rib and length of loin with well set on tail. Not over exaggerated in stifle but he is well muscled as were

all from this kennel. Although moves true he sometimes tended to over reach. Liked him a lot and was awarded Reserve Challenge Dog.

2. Edward & Joseph's *Aust Ch Triseter Ebonie Yukon (AI)*

Longer in foreface than winner of this class and narrow in front and body which needs more weight but 10 months younger so time is very much on his side. He drops away at the croup and therefore does not have such a good tail set which is not helped by his handler standing him so he has a sloping topline. When free stood and on the move this improved. Coat of good texture and length.

Australian Bred Dog

1. Triseter Kennels *Aust Ch Triseter Ebonie Yarra (AI)*

Alone in this class but a worthy winner, liked his head very much with kind expression and low ear set. Good reach of neck and topline. Well sprung ribs, good bone, tight feet. Excellent coat but would like clearer colour and more width in upper thigh. Tends to move wide behind until he gets into his stride and then moves true.

Open Dog

1. Labecki's *Aust Ch Lochtay Monterey Jack*

What a super dog combining a setter's outline with style and elegance. Beautiful headed dog showing balance with dark eye, low set ears of correct length and good bite. Good in neck leading into well placed shoulders, level topline on the move. Good depth of brisket. Well bent stifles, he uses his tail to advantage when he drives from short hocks. Another I would like to see with more width of upper thigh, presented in immaculate coat and overall condition and I was delighted to award him Best Challenge Dog and Best Opposite Sex in Show. I will follow his continued success with great interest.

2. Ferguson & Finlaison's *Aust Ch Warchant Barnaby*

Bigger dog than the winner and not so pleasing in the head. Good in forehand and front, well bodied with a good spring of rib as one would expect from this mature male. Good bend of stifle, slightly longer in hock to heel than the winner. Well coated, moved OK.

3. Gatt's *Aust Ch Spanriever Dream Catcher*

See he is the sire of my best puppy winner, prefer his head to 2 showing more stop and shape to skull, liked his size, a shade narrow in front but lovely tight topline and good overall movement.

Veteran Dog

1. Finlaison's *Aust Ch Tahtan Oliver Twist*

Nearly 10 years of age and brother to the veteran bitch winner. I would like more work in his head and clearer tan but forgave this due to his age. He still has a tight topline and excellent spring of ribs. Shoulders OK, strong in hind quarters but moved a little wide behind. Well set on tail which was shorter than most of the other exhibits. Still in lovely coat and condition. He certainly does not look his age.

Baby Puppy Bitch

1. Beer, Norton & Stewart's *Deveron Dark Skies*

What a real extrovert young lady, lovely shape, good body and shoulders, would like clearer tan. Straight front, nice bend of stifle, moved with style using her well set on tail.

2. Handley's *Clanset Hot Sensation*

Larger than 1 and slightly looser in front assembly. Pretty head, well coated, good tail set and short in hock to heal. Moved a little close behind but am sure all will come together as she grows into herself.

3. MacCormick's *Clanset Hot Pink*

Litter sister to 2 and a little plainer in head at the moment. Good in shoulders and overall shape with nice bend of stifle. Tan a nice colour, well shaped feet.

Junior Bitch

1. Triseter Kennels *Aust Ch Trister Ebonie Zena*

Liked the head and expression on this young bitch. Good neck and shoulders, well boned and nice size. Short coupled with correct length of loin. Coat coming, moved with good tail action when she settled. Will be interested to see how she matures.

2. Fry's *Aust Ch Charnnah Hot Gossip*

Sweet head but a shade longer in foreface than winner. A little narrow in front and tends to stand 10 to 2 but has good spring of rib and level topline, good in croup. Well bent stifles but a little longer in hock to heal than the winner but has well muscled quarters which gave her steady true movement.

Intermediate Bitch

1. Slabon's *Aust Ch Amityrohan Morrigan*

Head OK on this 28 month old bitch, she has a dark eye. Short in body couplings and good in forehand. Arched neck but would like better lay of shoulders. Well muscled, moved OK.

2. Davies's *Tahtan Lady Of The Night*

Feminine head but would like a darker eye. Not so good in shoulders and longer in body than the winner. Enough bend of stifle, good feet, happy mover.

Australian Bred Bitch

This was a lovely class and decisions were close, thank you for bringing them.

1. Triseter Kennels *Aust Ch Triseter Ebonie Tuija*

At 5 years this bitch, I feel, is coming to her best and has a lovely balanced head with low set ears. Super length of neck into good lay of shoulders, plenty of forechest together with level topline and good croup showing her well set on tail. Ribs well sprung and depth of brisket. Tan of correct colour, well boned with nice tight feet, well muscled hind quarters with a good bend of stifle, moved a shade close behind until she got into her stride and then covered the ground with easy flowing movement. In excellent coat of good texture and very well presented. This bitch is of correct size thus showing overall balance when stacked and

moving. Wishing her owners continued success with her, she was my choice for Best Challenge Bitch and finally Best In Show.

2. Drumdaroch Kennels *Aust Ch Drumdaroch Aces High (AI)*

Pretty headed bitch with arched strong neck. Not so good in shoulders as the winner but has a super topline, well boned and straight tight front. Good spring of rib and coat in excellent condition of good length and clear colour. Similar size to winner and again showing balance when viewed from any angle. Another with good muscled quarters and short from hock to heal, sadly however she was not as fluid and happy on the move but another bitch I will follow with interest.

3. MacCormick's *Aust Ch Clanset Birthday Kiss*

Pleasing in head with good skull shape but a little longer in foreface than 1 and 2. Arched neck leading into good lay of shoulders, tight topline. Shade loose in elbows but well bent stifles and short in hock to heal. Well coated and presented.

Open Bitch

1. Drumdaroch Kennels *Aust Ch Drumdaroch Hollys Dream*

Pretty head but a little narrow in muzzle but has correct skull shape. Clear and correct tan markings, well off for bone, clean outline showing strong neck and correct lay of shoulders, mature in body with depth of brisket and correct length of loin. Well bent stifle and strong muscled hind quarters, moves well and with purpose. Super balanced bitch of correct size this being the deciding factor over the bitch placed 2nd.

2. Beer & Norton's *Aust Gr Ch Rokeena Eliza Bennet FDCh JD*

Top size bitch with a lovely head on long strong neck. Good forehand but shoulders not quite so good as winner. Good in body proportions and excellent sweep of stifle although would like a little more muscle tone. In beautiful full coat which flowed as she moved with proud head carriage and positive hind action using her short hocks to drive round the ring.

3. MacCormick's *Aust Ch Clanset Rhythm Magic*

Slightly plainer in head than the other 2 bitches and overall longer body proportions. Good in front, well bodied with strong wide hind quarters. Moved well and in lovely coat and condition.

Veteran Bitch

1. Drumdaroch Kennels *Aust Gr Ch Tahtan Vanity Fair*

This bitch sent goose bumps down my spine as she entered the ring, rising 10 years she still has the most beautiful of heads, so balanced and feminine although showing signs of grey this did not detract in any way. Good in front assembly with strong neck and excellent shoulders, she still retains her topline with a well set on short tail. Correct size, mature in body with depth and substance. The best of well muscled hind quarters, short in hock to heal and moved so true behind although not quite the drive of the Challenge bitch who has age on her side, however this bitch showed how a mature Gordon should move. In full coat, excellent presentation, just wish I had seen her in her prime. She pushed the eventual winner very hard in the challenge, both bitches of similar

shape, size and quality but I was delighted to give her not only Reserve Challenge Bitch but Runner Up Best Of Breed.

2. Finlaison's *Aust Ch Tahtan Centrefold*

All over a bigger bitch than 1 with a very balanced head as are her body proportions. Good front and topline, excellent spring of rib and length of loin. Well boned, moved correctly. See the owners bred the winner of this class and should be congratulated.