



Darlington Championship Show 2011

Merlin does magical hat trick!

DARLINGTON STARTED off with dull weather and in the morning, the occasional shower. Most exhibitors and judges were not deterred with this oh-so-typical British weather and judging for most breeds took place outside. Every now and then there was a run on the trade stands, not so much to do shopping as to shelter from the showers!

Darlington has a very full programme and runs very smoothly, so that each day finishes on time, not only the groups but also a puppy and veteran group as well as the Kennel Club Breeder competition - a lot to get through! The judging team was made up of some well known British judges as well as four foreign judges; Herr Walter Berghauer from Germany took on several terrier breeds, from Sweden Mr J Staav, who took on the Schnauzers, Mrs M Shibolet came all the way from Israel and Mr C Jouanchicot from France who started his judging appointment with the Deerhound.

Darlington this year saw a new secretary, David Guy, taking over the reins from Freda Marshall, and seemingly enjoying the job.

The Hound group started off the group judging and Miss J Startup was escorted into the ring by David. Commentary in the main ring was provided by Frank Kane. This is a large group with some beautiful hounds in it, and they were thoroughly put through their paces, very soon it was time for the shortlist, which consisted of Basset Griffon Vendéen Petit, Ch Soletrader Peekaboo, bred and owned by Sarah Robertson. Jilly has now got 10CCs, a BIS Paignton and the Hound show this year and 3 RBIS. The Beagle Ch Eardley Duncan Disorderly JW owners messer Jones and Jepson, 4 CC's all with BOB, and is the second homebred Champion for his owners. His daughter Lowyck Tamara won Best Puppy and the Reserve CC for her owners Mr & Mrs Lomax, who later went on to win the Hound Puppy Group. Further shortlisted was the Finnish Spitz Ch & Ir Ch Kunniakas Look No Further For Whittimere, owned by Greaves and Croxford, 8 CC's 2 Group 1, 1 group 2 and 1 group 4. He is current top dog in the breed, the Saluki Ch Caryna Meilishia Sh.CM owned by Mrs Garratt, Miss Oakey, and Mrs Smith, bred by Mrs Garratt she has got 4 CC's 3 with BOB and a group 4 in Blackpool, Smooth haired Dachshund Diana De Fermincan (Imp), owned by Mrs Macnaughton who imported her from Spain, the Norwegian Elkhound Ch Ir Ch Kestos I Spy At Graythor JW Sh.CM, owners Mr & Mrs Middleton, he is the current breed record holder with 56 CC's and was bred by Mrs Stokes, a group winner at Crufts and also winner of the contest of Champions 2009, what a list!

Furthermore, there was the Pharaoh Hound, handled by Liz Dunhill for owner Mrs Stark. He has got five CCs and won his first CC here at Darlington a year ago. At the moment he is top Pharaoh Hound and Euro winner, and is only just two years old. Final dog in the short-cut, Chris Amoo's Irish Wolfhound Ch Sepleur Berthiav, five CCs, has previously been shortlisted in the group.

On last 'up and down' and the placeboards were out. First in the Hound group and to go through to the final seven the Irish Wolfhound, runner up the Saluki, 3rd place was for the Petit Bassett Griffon Vendéen and group 4 the Finnish Spitz. The puppy group was judged by Brenda Banbury and she found her winner in the Beagle Lowyck Tamara, owned by Mr & Mrs Lomax. Just the veteran Hound group to go and this was judged by Graham Hill, who pointed at the Greyhound Boughton Banchieri, owners Mrs Holder, Miss Boggia and Miss Penfold, as his winner for this group.

Moving swiftly on as we had two more groups to get through, next in

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the main ring the Terrier Group and it was the turn of Geoff Corish to sort them out, no stranger to terriers, Geoff swiftly came to his shortlist and first to be pulled out was the Australian terrier, bred by Sue McCourt and owned by Paul Eardley Ch Silhill Red Rock At Sherex, He was Top terrier in 2007 and has been in Sweden for a while where he has had several group placings, he is also the first ever Australian Terrier to go BIS at a Championship show, he only came for a day out today! Second to be shortlisted was the Border terrier Mr & Mrs Gilpin's Otterbobs Riggindale JW, 2 CC's and 3 Res. CC's, he is owner bred. His owner works with him and he loves it. The Bedlington Terrier Ch Fralex Culibre Sapphire, owner Mr Hurley, 5 CC's and Best Puppy in Group 2 years ago in Birmingham, the Irish Terrier Ch & Am Ch Fleet St Fenway Fan, as always handled and prepared to perfection by John Averis for owners Anthony Barker and Victor Malzoni Jr, 6 CC's, BIS at Welks this year, Res. BIS at Paignton and Res. BIS at Windsor, the Wire Fox Terrier Brocolitia Strike, owner Mrs Maughan, owner bred and handled this dog won his first CC at Leeds. Also pulled out the West Highland White terrier, Ch Faymar Fine Romance, owned by Val Smith. Iona is Val's first Champion and home bred too and today won her 4th CC and first BOB, she has furthermore won 2 Res.CC's and 3 BPIB, her first CC was won whilst still a puppy. Val is a good example of who will keep trying will reach their goal.

Good day out

The Skye Terrier Ch Salena Black Shadow with his owner Mrs Breeze also got the nod to go to the middle of the ring he has got 12 CC's to date and several group placings. The last dog to be pulled out was the Kerry Blue Saredon Rainbow Warrior, owned by Ron Ramsey of the Torum Kerry Blues and was bred by Judy Averis. Geoff had one last look and pointed at the Skye terrier to go forward to Sunday's final, number two was the Australian Terrier not bad for a day out!

Group 3 was for the Irish Terrier and group 4 the Bedlington Terrier. The puppies were pre judged in another ring so very soon we saw the terrier group puppy winner Liz Dunhill's Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Fantasia Blonde Neville, time for the Veteran Terriers and the winner chosen by Graham Hill was again a Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Lilwauke Leroy Brown For Avarad, owned by Mrs & Mr Bristow. Last group of the day and judged by Ken Sinclair the Utility Group. This show is well organised and between groups there was no 'hanging about waiting' The groups, puppy groups and veterans followed each other smoothly into the big ring. Ken put all Utility breed winners through their paces and ended up with a short list of 8 wonderful dogs, the



● Group 1 and Best in Show the Irish Water Spaniel Sh Ch Am Ch Whistlestop's Elements Of Magic, pictured here with judge Pasty Hollings and committee member Mason Thorne presenting the trophy

Akita Redwitch All That and More, owner Mr Wilson and handled by her breeder David Killilea, she won her second CC on the day and has got 5 res.CCs, Bulldog new Champion Hillplace Florence Of Bullfleet, for owner Mr & Mrs Dangerfield 13 months old and only their second showdog! Further selected was the Toy Poodle Lee Cox and Tom Isherwood's Ch Vanitonia You'll See, 6 CC's and owner bred and handled, Keeshond Am Ch Kemonts Skyline's Game Boy (Imp), 5CC's owners Mrs Miles & Dr and Mrs Cullen.

The Lhasa Apso Ch Zentarr Elizabeth, owned by Mrs Anderson was also brought forward for further consideration, she has so far won 23 CC's several group placings one of which was a group2 at Crufts, we also saw the Shar Pei go forward Am Ch Jokuba's Above The Law (imp Usa), came to the UK in 2011 and was made up today owned by Ball, Bowen-Wilkerson, Bradley, & Marshall, the Dalmatian Ch Offordale Sapphire, owner Mrs Alexander, 15 month old bitch won 5 CC's so far, her dam travelled to Norway to be mated to Multi Ch Bell-A-Mir's Elegant Envoy, she won a group 1 at Blackpool. The shortlisted once more were moved before Ken reached his decision, Group 1 the Toy Poodle (stunning!) Group 2 was for the Dalmatian, Group 3 the Akita and group 4 was for the Bulldog. Swiftly moving on to Brenda Banbury and the Utility Puppy Group. Her winner was the white Standard Poodle Pitfour Piperwhyte, owned by Mr & Mrs Elrick. Graham Hill followed with the veterans and his winner was the shar pie Ch / Am Ch Asia's Red Marsh Whip It Good (Imp), owners Ball, Bradley, Marshall and Myers. With 3 finalists now known for Sunday's finale everybody packed up and went home, looking forward to what the next day would bring. Shortly after the showground was deserted and the Bannerdown boys were doing the job of rearranging the showground ready for the next day, the heavens opened once more and the heavy rain that was forecasted for earlier in the afternoon came

down! Luckily this did not last till the next day and a bit of a watery sunshine greeted us on arrival on day 2.

The second day at Darlington brought us the Working and Pastoral group. A new initiative at Darlington was the introduction for new people to dog showing. Mrs Christine Chapman expertly lead interested people round the show ground explaining the workings and systems of the dog showing sport. People also were given a brochure explaining what they were about to go and see. On day two as was the case on day one, there was a parade of vulnerable breeds in the main ring, Frank Kane provided the public with excellent commentary, describing each breed explaining their typical points. 3.30 and the time was there, we were going to find out which Working and Pastoral winners were to join the already known finalists on Sunday. The Working group was first to be judged and Richard Kinsey took them on.

Nod

The dogs that made the shortlist were the Great Dane Ch Murrayhayle Manfred owned and bred by Mrs Searle he has got 11 CC's, Group 1 in Boston, Group 2 in Driffild 201, he comes from a litter of 3 Champions, as did his sire, the Newfoundland Ch Hanningfield Touch Of Magic JW Sh.CM, owned by Mrs Sheridan and no stranger to the group, he has to date 21 CC's and numerous group placings + a RBIS at Richmond 2009, we also saw the Russian Black Terrier Robroyd I Lyka, Mr & Mrs Huxley given the nod to come forward. This breed has no CC's yet, but this bitch has won 28 BOB's a Group 3 and a Group 4, the Rottweiler Ch Fantasia Smirnoff Ice, owned and handled by Michaela Dunhill-Hall, 5 CC's, 3 with BOB only 19 months old, the Leonberger Stormchaser Soraya At Tanyvska, owner Mrs King-Cherne, 2 CC's and 1 RCC, the Alaskan Malamute Ch Croat Ch Monikoona Casablanca owned and bred by Miss Nawrocka, multi Champion and

Brooks. Veteran group was won by Ch Swanpool Gina Lollobrigida, the Newfoundland, owned by Sarson & Watts, judged by Graham Hill. Breeders group was for Colman's Dogue de Bordeaux.

Swiftly moving on to the Pastoral Group and this was judged by Fere-lith Somerfield, an experienced judge at this level and as such came swiftly to her shortlist of 9 dogs, to be brought into the centre of the ring for further consideration. We saw the Pyrenean Mountain Dog Ch Shiresoak Wizards Legend JW, owned by Miss Bayliss 5 CC's, BOB at Crufts and Group 3 at Leeds 2010, this dog has a direct line going back to Miss Bayliss first Pyrenean Mountain Dog 34 years ago. The Shetland Sheepdog, Ch Edglonian Singin The Blues, a wonderful little dog thoroughly enjoying himself with his owner Miss Pearson, he has got 14 CC's 2 Group 1, 2 Group2 and his owner calls him 'her hero'! The Corgi Cardigan Ch Blondie's Read My Lips For Bymil (Imp), owned by Miss Taylor, not just BOB but also Best Veteran in breed, imported from Denmark and 4 CC's.

Also brought forward the well known Bearded Collie from Australia, Aust Ch & Sh Ch Danari De Beers (Imp) Sh.CM, owned by Mr & Mrs Clarke and Mr & Mrs Wheatley, 23 CC's, 20 BOB, Best in Show at East of England and numerous group placings, the Finnish Lapphund Elbereth Mikko Sh.CM, owned by Mrs Murray and bred by Toni Jackson who last week made up the very first Finnish Lapphund, this dog was BIS at the Finnish Lapphund club under Rainer Vuorinen earlier this year, Mrs Murray did the double today. The Corgi Pembroke Ch Highworth Northern Lights Over Pendrell JW, owners Mr & Mrs Barlow, 6 CC's, 3 BOB owner bred and sire of the Best Puppy in breed today, the Hungarian Puli Cordante Black Masquerade, homebred from their first litter and won a reserve CC at the club show, interesting thing to know is that although this dog is black, the sire was white, owners Mr & Mrs Fulton, further more pulled out the Old English Sheepdog Ch Longdorham Follow The Dream JW Sh.CM, 4 CC's 10 RCC's became a Dutch Champion at the recent Rotterdam and Leeuwarden shows, BPIS at Birmingham National in 2009. This dog is out of the breeder/owner's first litter after a break from breeding for 25 years, his daughter won the RCC, his owners Mrs Duffin-Penney and Mr Penney, last one to be pulled out was the Polish Lowland Sheep Dog Skajjak Prediction, owners Mr & Mrs Naylor, to date has got 2 CC's, 2 RCC's.

● continued on OD2 p8



● Group 1 and reserve Best in Show the Irish Wolfhound Ch Sepleur Berthiav owned by Chris and Julie Amoo with Chris handling. The judge Miss Startup and committee member Gillian Marley presenting the trophy are also seen here in the picture