

Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of Great Britain
31st May 2025
Open Show Critique
Tomlinsons Canine Centre
Markfield LE67 9RJ

Judge: Mrs N Webster (Kazembe)

I would like to thank the committee of the Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of Great Britain, for inviting me to judge at this lovely, well organised and well executed show, and to thank them for all the work involved in what was a lovely day. I loved the beautiful inscribed diamond, a keepsake I will truly treasure! I was very happy with the quality of the entry and I was so pleased to find among my winners striking, typey hounds to the point where I had to be incredibly fussy in some decisions, a nice problem to have! Movement was generally good, but I would like to see more drive in some cases, however I'm convinced the ground affected one or two exhibits as recent rainfall after harsh dry spells seemed to have made it rather uneven in places which made it a little difficult for handlers to navigate and this may well have affected the gait of some exhibits.

The puppies especially showed incredible promise for the future of the breed and I find this reassuring. I was looking for movement that was easy, fluid and not extravagant, extension that came from the hock, and core strength to carry a dog or bitch on the move all day with the proportions to facilitate both endurance, power, and that nimble flexibility so desired in a versatile and **balanced** breed like ours.

Femininity in bitches is good, but this is a breed for which the standard specifies, "*heavy* in bone." This doesn't mean coarse, or overly large, as moderation and balance is key to maintaining versatility, but the trend towards narrow, hollow fronts and fine boned frames with heads lacking in under jaw I found a little worrying, it's not a good direction to see the breed take. Fortunately this was not the majority. One or two scored in width and bone but were sadly short in body, giving a square appearance, and this too is incorrect for a breed which must have a rectangular shape for a more forward centre of balance. Not to be overlooked are tails, which form part of the vertebral column and as such carry nerve fibres which are vital to health and my training in physiotherapy has impressed upon me the importance of this structure and network, so these for me, must be well set, and well formed.

Finding a balance between power and elegance isn't always easy, but I was pleased with my winners today who displayed good shoulder and pelvis width, coupled with core strength and the correct height from ground to withers and length from front to back, so that they tracked up well on the move, and cornered the triangle with ease. These dogs could do the job they were bred for!

A huge thank you to my very sportsmanlike exhibitors who took my decisions with good grace and gave me a quality entry of which any judge could be proud. Looking down the challenge line-up for both sexes gave me great joy, I could see a strong type and this is what any judge wants to see from their choices.

Critique

Class 1 – Minor Puppy Dog

(2,2)

1st Doughty's Rubiltra Farshirovannaya

Scored in his standard size for age. Of adequate front, very together for his tender 6 and a half months. Moderate in all aspects, this young mid-wheaten male was well made, from his head proportions and stop to his well matched fore and rear angles, having a clean throat into good neck length, and adequate depth to chest which hopefully will drop and broaden with maturity, right through to his acceptable length. Well presented and moved out soundly when settled.

2nd Champion's Diamondridge Dragon King

Close decision between 1st and 2nd. The larger of the two pups, he stood well up to size for his age, but with good length to balance him. Currently going through a gangly phase, it is expected that it may take a while to develop the needed coordination during these times, and as a result he did pace a little, but this is often the way with the larger hound puppies and during the times he moved with correct diagonal gait, he showed a glimpse of excellent paces which will no doubt come to the fore as he develops. Scored in his strong under jaw, muzzle length, fabulous ribbing and super front which was well filled for his age, as well as an excellent width of second thigh to balance him, it's certainly all there for the future!

Class 2 – Puppy Dog

(5, 1)

1st - Hurn's Kwanza El Faiyum at Matikiridge (Imp NLD)

What a puppy! This boy is seriously one to watch for the future. Up to size but within standard, stunning head with one of the best width muzzles and under jaws of the day, perfectly proportioned broad head with super planes and well set ears, flowing into his long, strong neck, and what a front assembly! Shoulder beautifully angled back and a super return of upper arm into tight elbows and standing with well laid bone onto perfect spring of pastern and wonderfully tight, well arched feet. Ribbing and chest width for his age is just right, almost there at the elbow and has room to finish in depth and breadth without being overdone, held his level top-line so well on the move whilst powering off from his strong and very low set hocks, really extending through underneath and tracking up so well due to impressive length through the body, he excelled in drive using his matching well angled hindquarters which again, I can see have potential for strong muscle development as he matures and strengths into his hocks. Nice angle to croup and a very pleasing set of tail carried level on the move, I couldn't see anything not to like about him. If he keeps his size (I couldn't see much left in the way of knuckle) this dog will be the one to beat as he matures. Compelled to award him Best Puppy Dog and Best Puppy in Show against stiff opposition.

2nd – as 1st in Minor Puppy Dog.

3rd – Catharell's Kinabula's Making Magick for Faahac

A lot to like about this puppy, super size, well within the standard with room to grow on comfortably, super clean neck into a pleasing front assembly, good parallel forelegs onto nicely angled pasterns and tight feet. Moderate ribbing, again with room to spring as he matures, super tail set and good hind angles, Liked his overall shape, not much in it between 2nd and 3rd, just preferred the slightly more substantial 2nd place in this class, and 1st in the next, but I feel there is more to come from this boy.

Class 3 – Junior Dog

1st – Tanner and Baldwin's Barfordridge Igor

Another lovely standard sized boy with good substance all through. Nice width through the front and between the shoulders, scored in his excellent top-line which was maintained well in movement. I note that he is not quite 18 months yet and as such still has time to drop more through the stifle which would give a little bit more angle to his slightly straight croup, but this didn't detract from his overall balance and good bone which really was his forte. Elbows were nicely aligned in, both stacked and on the move and this contributed to his even width in fore movement, giving the right amount of convergence coming towards, and on going away I could see again that his good width through the pelvis and strength of thigh prevented any close movement behind.

2nd – As 3rd in Puppy Dog

3rd – Abbaszadeh and Hanson's Dukuza Mr Day Dream and Ilizulu

Very tall, lighter wheaten male of just over 12 months, at this stage in his development a little taller than long, which gave him a squarer outline, but he scored in spring of rib which was excellent. Masculine head with superb length and depth of muzzle. Good lay back of shoulder and very strongly made throughout, just a little heavy on the forehand in movement today but as he matures and develops in core and his hindquarters catch up this will likely lift his fore and contribute to balance. He has more than enough bone to go around for muscle to be laid, could take extra time to mature as one of the larger framed hounds. Well handled.

Class 4 – Yearling Dog

(5, 1)

1st Clark-Maclean, Clark-Maclean and Crossan's Callumn's Jammy Dodger

Strongly made standard height male of almost 2 years, deep red wheaten coat, well off for bone and very

well muscled. Scored in his frame width and strength throughout, and good length to height ratio. On the move he looked super in profile, for perfection I'd prefer slightly less convergence on the forehead, but going away his rear action was strong and true. Long, deep muzzle with a broad skull and super stop, he excelled in under jaw and his head was unmistakably masculine. Well matched fore and rear angles added to his overall balance.

2nd - Priorpark William Wallace For Clanbruachan

Super top line on this young boy, just pipped to the post by the smaller, more mature hound, but I loved his overall outline and length from point of shoulder to buttock. More muscle will come with time and maturity, but he could certainly do his job, moving out well with accuracy and purpose. Good bone and substance, tight feet, and at one with his handler who got the very best out of him.

3rd – Hicks' Nuthouse Mastermind

Elegant boy with good depth to brisket and lovely length in profile, what super low hocks he has! Handsome yet refined head, eyes in keeping with his brown nose and coat colour, which was a rich liver-gold. Super tight feet and correct pastern angle, up to nice return of upper arm and lay of shoulder at the front, matching his lovely first and second thigh angles behind. Fabulous turn of stifle, just preferred the slightly longer reach behind and substantial width of 2nd.

Class 5 Novice Dog – No Entries

Class 6 Post Graduate Dog

(2, 2)

1st – Thomas Bassett's Fiadmas Stiggens at Skyleridge

This two year old super standard red wheaten boy has the most wonderfully constructed front, one of the best returns of upper arm of the day and his headpiece is just lovely, from his super broad skull and chiselled fore face to his compelling expression, there's just so much to like. His length from front to back is spot on in relation to his height which is nicely within standard, his ribbing is perfectly sprung and carried well back to a strong loin, his movement is super, no airs and graces, just a strong, accurate and easy reach that tracked up nicely. Pushed so hard for reserve best dog, in the end it was just the tiniest bit more bend in the stifle that I wanted but this is splitting hairs because his front is outstanding. Much more to come from this lovely boy. Considerately handled and at one with his owner.

2nd – Dennis' Sonnypride Rum and Raisin

This boy had such a pleasing front assembly, the tightest of elbows, and fabulous substance. Clean through the lip and neck, with a lovely kind eye, strong parallel forelegs and standing on good feet. A little tall on the leg and squarer outline than I would like, but nice fore chest with good depth providing plenty of heart and lung room.

Minor Limit – No Entries

Class 8 Limit Dog

(7, 3)

1st – Dawson, Dawson and Parsons Priorpark Problem Solved

What struck me about this boy was his super balance. Standard but top end height with an arresting expression and bright round eye, he commanded attention. His chest was deep and his angles well matched fore and aft, with ribbing carried well back under a super top line and a crisp clean outline that flowed nicely into good hindquarters, perhaps a touch more muscling here will come with maturity. He presented a picture of even and understated functionality which could not be ignored. In going over him his width from front to rear pelvic girdle was solid and pleasing, with adequate fore chest and good angles. He stood on tight feet and moved well, pushed hard for Best Dog but despite his lovely profile movement I felt that going away he was just a little closer behind than my winner, but this was a small difference that didn't detract from an overall typey and super hound. Happy to award him first place in strong competition and reserve best dog.

2nd – Johnson's Ungowa On the Road Again with Vapfumi

Really close decision between these two. Loved his strength all through and super croup, he had superb length and wonderful fore and rear angles, with lovely fore chest and infill, tightest of elbows and excellent bone, strong without being coarse. A slightly rounder eye would perfect his headpiece but he had a great depth to muzzle and a strong, broad masculine head onto a good length of neck. He flowed nicely throughout standing on tight feet and his shape was easy on the eye, with good movement on the out and back and in profile, pushed hard for 1st place, tough decision!

3rd – Tanner Baldwin's Barfordridge Rudolph

What I loved about this boy was his front assembly and strength throughout, and so well ribbed back, lots to like about him. Excellent size and really lovely length, giving that overall desirable rectangular shape, he was easy to include in the top 3 of a quality limit class. In movement he was just slightly heavier on the forehand than 1 and 2, but he scored in his super length and height. Good top-line, adequate rear angle at the stifle, a little more would be perfect. Very nice boy with nice substance and good pasterns and feet.

Class 9 Open Dog

(9, 2)

1st Shaw's Negasi Radagast JW

This three and a half year old perfectly standard male was a beacon of true hound type today and I couldn't believe what I found in him. Nothing overdone, yet he stood out in the open dog line up and my eye was constantly drawn back to his fluid lines and perfect proportions. In getting hands on him he didn't disappoint, the strength, muscle tone, frame width, length, chest, ribbing, loin, and thigh muscling was so on point it was a joy! His head is well proportioned, not fine, not coarse, but just right, with good depth and width to the muzzle, broad flat skull with ears at the perfect height and super round bright and inquisitive eye, a long, strong neck into good lay of shoulder and return of upper arm with tight elbows sitting perfectly under his scapula. His fore chest is ample, with lovely width and his bone is excellent, not fine, not coarse, but heavy enough and forelegs oval in shape when viewed from the front, down to a spring of pastern that is superb and beautifully arched toes to finish off. Standing back to view him in profile, that length, wow. This is what I was looking for. Ribbed well back to a short, strong loin, connecting his hindquarters to his frame with a superb croup that dropped gently from the pelvis to the perfect tail set, strong in root and tapering beautifully to the hocks, which themselves were wonderfully strong joints set low down with plenty strength in them. They were beautifully turned, as was the stifle and to connect them his wide first and second thighs had the right amount of muscling. Height wise he is right on standard and in movement he covered the ground with no fanfare, just long, easy, ground covering strides, tracking up well and with accurate width both fore and rear. I could have looked at him all day! It just had to be him. Best Dog and Best in Show.

2nd – Hurn's Ch Diamondridge Dark Delight of Matikiridge

I have judged this boy before and still love him, his length to height is his forte, as well as his superb bone and ribbing. Taller than my winner, he sports a true hound head, with excellent proportions and a strong under jaw. Another that stood out in the line up, he gleamed with condition, proportioned so well in length, with ribbing that you just can't help but admire, going well back to a strong loin from a front that is so well constructed, into good rear hindquarters and low hocks. So much to like, just preferred the overall size and slightly stronger hock on the winner but I could have taken both boys home! Moved out well, a worthy winner of his place in a class where I was spoiled for choice.

3rd – Henshall's Suhuba Dream Star Sulli

In my notes I have written “understated elegance” which I think sums up this standard, superbly moderate boy who is so easy on the eye. Well handled, he moved with ease and on the stack he shows enough length, connecting his super fore and rear angles. He scores in his excellent front which is set up so well, beautiful width and depth of chest with one of the best fore chests of the day, his ribbing is lovely and his shoulder and upper arm is set so nicely at the right angle for his leg to drop from under the withers. His head excels in fore face which is super, leading into a flat cheek from an extraordinary length of muzzle. I loved his bone, strength of frame and ample hindquarters. Very glad to have had the opportunity to judge and critique this super boy who stood in wonderful company, the tiniest bit more length (and I mean the tiniest) from the dog

in second place was the difference and that was splitting hairs.

Class 10 Special Beginners dog

(2, 1)

1st – as first in Post Graduate

Class 11 Veteran Dog (No Entries)

Class 12 Special Veteran Dog or Bitch

(1, 0)

1st Hicks' Nuthouse Hot Stuff

When speaking of length to height ratio, this girl has it, and she can still move so well at over ten years of age! Her movement was true and active. Typical elegance from this kennel, feminine head yet strong enough, she excels in her proportions and is still so fit, standing on adequate bone with lovely hindquarters down to a good strong hock joint, and tight feet behind, with good spring of pastern and tight feet in front to match. Chest dropped to elbow with ribs carried well back. Feminine and clean through the neck and lip, with excellent focus on her handler, and the treats which she hasn't lost her appetite for! Her expression was one of bright, alert focus. A strong contender for Best Veteran, just preferred the drive and slightly stronger substance of the winner, but very pleased indeed to award her a very well deserved Best Special Veteran in Show.

BEST DOG – NEGASI RADAGAST JW

RESERVE BEST DOG – PRIORPARK PROBLEM SOLVED

BEST PUPPY DOG – KWANZA EL FAIYUM AT MATIKIRIDGE

Class 13 – Minor Puppy Bitch

(1, 0)

1st – Cyprien White and White's Jocerik Ellinor Angan

Lighter in bone, but enough for a puppy of this tender age (just 6 months) she excelled in her front angles and good depth of chest already. Ribbing has time to spring and deepen, but overall she has good shape for a baby. Liked her low hocks and as she drops through the stifle that top-line will be super. Nicely and sympathetically handled. When settled she showed nice paces, with light active movement.

Class 14 Puppy Bitch

(5, 3)

1st – Bates' Gunthwaites Red Hot Rose

What an absolutely super puppy she is. I was so awed by the male puppy that I wondered if I could find a bitch pup to rival him...well, she was it. From the moment she set her paw in the ring I couldn't take my eyes off her. Her movement was wonderful, using her hocks to power off which was not what I expected from one so young. I have underlined "perfect ribbing" in my notes, and this she absolutely has, from her wide and deep chest with room to still broaden and finish without being overdone, to her spring of rib carried well back to a super strong loin finishing off with a good, level top line, having the right amount of slope to the croup, and that head! Feminine but with strength of jaw and fore face, intelligent, inquisitive eye framed by beautifully set ears which she used well, pricked up to assess me with bold alertness as I approached her. Correct height to the standard, and just the right amount of length, with bone and substance aplenty, and she did not disappoint on the move. Watching her go around I thought she would be very tough to beat, and considered her for Res Best Bitch. In the puppy challenge the male pup had the tiniest edge on maturity in movement but it was probably the toughest decision of the day for me. I will watch her career with interest, as she matures she will be the one to beat! Very happy to award her a well deserved Best Puppy Bitch.

2nd – Cyprien's Jocerik Ella Angan

Lighter in bone and substance than 1 but with active and true movement, this bitch flew around the ring with ease and showed good strength and balance from her core, which belied her tender age. Sister to my previous class winner and a similar stamp of bitch, with a pleasing front assembly and room to develop in chest and ribbing, and a slightly higher tail set. Difficult to keep weight on them at this age but a little more would perfect her shape. Super hindquarters, nice width and strength to the hock which I feel was where her good movement came from. Just lost out on maturity today but has promise.

Class 15 Junior Bitch

(7, 3, 1 Withdrawn)

1st – Ackers' Carlincox Knock Em Off

This nicely made bitch really caught my eye and kept doing so throughout the two classes she entered! Fabulous length and just the right height to give super proportions for a truly versatile and strong endurance hound. Loved her height to length proportions, such lovely clean and flowing lines, good depth of chest dropped to well tucked elbows, strong parallel forearms under a well angled front assembly and excellent pasterns both in length and spring, giving her lift and balance in her movement coming towards. Going away the matching angles in her strong hind quarters powered her around, as she matures and drops into her hock, and tightens in her core her top-line will finish and perfect the picture of strength and balance I can already see coming together. Fabulous ribbing carried well back to a strong loin. One to watch! Didn't look out of place at all in a very strong bitch challenge line-up. Well handled.

2nd – Abbaszadeh and Hanson's Dukuza Miss Sweet Dream and Ilizulu

Light wheaten, tall, strongly made female who moved well, using her good front and rear angles to her advantage. Earned her place on movement. Strong through the hock and up into her core, she kept her top-line on the move and had a long, powerful, ground covering stride. Lovely depth to chest and nicely ribbed back, very heavy in bone and substance, just preferred the length to height proportions of the winner today.

3rd – Hancocks Stasiemelsie Ashwagandha

Pretty, and standard sized bitch who is lighter in bone than 1 and 2. Loved her sweet expression, she had a lovely round eye and good amount of fore face, just preferred the chest and ribbing of 2. Scored in height and overall balance, a little more weight would help her fore chest infill. Kindly and sympathetically handled.

Class 16 Yearling Bitch

(5, 4)

1st – Hicks' Nuthouse Going for Gold JW

This pretty, elegant bitch is of typical stamp for this kennel. Lovely profile proportions, with the desired length and within standard, standing on good feet with a nice lay of shoulder matching rear angles. From point of buttock to toe you could drop a perfect plumb line. A little more bone and width of chest would be my preference but she is very nicely proportioned and I loved her length overall. Moved well.

Class 17 Novice Bitch

1st – as 1st in Junior

2nd – Thompson's Sonnypride Honeycombe

4 Year old, taller bitch with some lovely ground covering strides when settled. Scored in length but her height gives her a slightly squarer look, however she has a pleasing front and lovely low hocks behind that she can really use well when she chooses. Lovely head and expression, would like a slightly tighter top line.

3rd – Hall's Kenzduo Daffodil

Darker red wheaten bitch, a little bit on the leggy side, but nice clean neck and low hocks. Would like a little

more in the way of ribbing and fore chest. Coat in good condition and kindly handled.

Class 18 Post Graduate Bitch

(4, 0)

1st - McIntosh and Mackfall's Chagall Iona With Attitude JW

In my notes I have written LOVE HER in capitals! In super condition, with enough substance throughout, and a top line you could rest a spirit level on, this feminine bitch has both substance and beauty in one package. Nothing overdone, or exaggerated, she has a super head with good under jaw and width to muzzle, lovely length and breadth of skull with nicely set ears that she used well. Clean through her lovely long neck into excellent lay of shoulder and well matched return of upper arm, she's well ribbed and strong through the loin with beautifully muscled hindquarters that had just the right bend to stifle and hock. In gleaming condition she moved accurately around the ring and just demanded to be awarded Reserve Best Bitch,

2nd – Connelly and Mumford's Mutuma Morrigan

Unlucky to meet number 1 in such fine form today, I love this super bitch with incredible length to height proportions and a very nice front with the best of fore chests and deep, capacious ribbing. Made for an incredibly hard decision between the two, in the end I had to be super picky and went with the slightly longer muzzle length of 1, but when she settled on the move, this girl had excellent, ground covering action. Just a little more strength in the core and loin would make her even more outstanding. Some superb bitches in this class.

3rd – Manning's Fiadma's Rumella

This girl had the most beautiful head, and a coat of the most golden wheaten, a colour that I absolutely love. One of the most superb fronts with excellent fore chest and infill, she stood on the perfect amount of bone with great substance all through. Wonderful length and perfectly within the height standard, this girl had it all but just preferred the top line of 1 and 2, other than this I loved everything about her, including her super ground covering action and reach.

Class 19 Minor Limit Bitch

(5, 1)

1st Nolan's Priorpark Pearl of Wisdom for Rumialana

Such a beautiful outline, and she did not disappoint in substance or bone either. For me she had such perfect length, coupled with excellent angles fore and rear and a beautiful, elegant, powerful stride. Her front was just right, both in width and how well it dropped to her elbows, which were beautifully aligned to her side. What a return of upper arm! Ribbing carried well back and perfectly sprung, to a strong loin that balanced her strong core, just enough muscling for her age to keep everything in harmonious balance, along with excellent width to her well angled first and second thigh, she just flows so beautifully and is in perfect condition. Pushed so very hard for reserve best bitch, her drive from behind matched the best. Incredibly tough decision. This girl has a very, very bright future and as she matures I will watch her with interest!

2nd – McIntosh's Benicloujam Lola of Chagall

lovely standard sized and well made dark wheaten bitch, another with a super fore chest and front assembly, super ribbing and lovely proportions with a strong core that showed in her balanced movement. Little bit more compact and finer in the head than 1st but another truly lovely stamp of bitch.

3rd – Walkers Markeliz Tea Time Two

Lighter wheaten three year old bitch, longer on the leg than 1 and 2, nevertheless pleasing in overall outline with super length to neck and body, and the lowest of hocks. When settled she showed excellent reach both fore and aft, with adequate strength in her hock and thigh to engage her hindquarters. Well up to size, just preferred frame width of the other two.

Class 20 Limit Bitch

(1, 0)

1st Manning's Fiadma's Coruba

Although she stood alone in this class she more than deserved a first place and a spot in the line up, having ticked many of the attributes I was looking for. Perfectly sized with lovely length from point of shoulder to point of buttock, she displayed excellent width when I got my hands on her and superb infill of chest. Her ribbing was absolutely lovely, showcasing an enviable underline of ribs well sprung for plenty of heart and lung room, carried well back. Well laid bone with substance, but no coarseness. Strong, nicely angled hindquarters, and at the other end a lovely head with a beautiful expression and good planes to boot. On the move she did well despite having a stand in handler, and overall I really liked her, would just prefer a very slightly tighter top-line and then she'd be hard to beat! Well made girl with lots to like.

Class 21 Open Bitch

(6, 1)

1st Parsons' Priorpark Proof in Pudding JW

What form! From a kennel that works hard to consistently improve and produce quality hounds, I expected to see something good, but I wasn't prepared for this girl. Instantly drawn to her shape in the line-up and on going over her I knew she would be the one to beat. Her strength all through is nothing short of admirable, the well made front just shouts power and on the move she extends her forequarters right from those well made shoulders to reach through with easy stride length and footfall that lands perfectly past her her nose, and exactly the correct width of convergence. Up to height but within standard (just!) she had the best underline of the day, what this girl has in ribbing is exactly what these powerful endurance hounds should have. Strong in bone but not overdone, she stood on tight feet with excellent pasterns, and on the other end, super low, well turned hocks which had width and strength to support her powerful and well muscled thighs, connected by her super pelvis and croup. No closeness going away thanks to this, she floated in profile and was the picture of power and elegance. Longer than she was tall, thanks to her super ribbing and solid loin, she tracked up perfectly. Her head and strong under jaw are of excellent proportions and from it is a neck of good length and in keeping with her powerful frame. Clean, sweeping lines that flow right through, she couldn't be denied Best Bitch and Reserve Best in Show.

2nd Clark-Maclean's Callumn's Cut the Crop

Such a well made girl with the strongest of top lines and in good, hard, muscular condition. Excellent width to her frame with a head of pleasing shape, she had the desired length and height for a perfect centre of balance, which showed in her super movement. Loved her fore and rear assembly, a little more weight on her for infill would be such an asset to her lovely front and long ribbing. Powerful from the core and with lift in her movement, she was brought back in to be considered for Reserve Best Bitch but just preferred the front infill of my winner although it was an incredibly close decision. Beautiful girl who is typical in type for this kennel.

3rd – Jolly's Negasi Elberith for Clanbruachan JW

I have judged this girl before and she has so much to like about her, such great substance and wonderful top-line which is one of the best on the move, she can really power around the ring but today I felt she lacked a little drive, however she still held her own in a strong open bitch class and I love her well made front, strong hindquarters and super low hocks. Litter sister to my best in show and many of the same attributes, including the super ribbing and lovely proportions.

Class 23 Special Beginners Bitch

(4, 1)

1st Nolan's Priorpark Pucker Up for Rumialana

Another bitch I have judged before as a youngster, and what a difference the time that has passed has made! I'm pleased to see that she has since filled into her frame and broadened through the chest. She excels in

hind muscle which she used to power off straight and true, cornering well on the triangle and holding her top-line superbly, and has such lovely low hocks which she used so well to accelerate and maintain a solid gait. Wonderful length of body and felt substantial in her frame when going over her, had no hesitation in awarding her 1st place and she was a valuable asset to the challenge line-up.

2nd Thomas Bassett's Bonfirebeau Red Skye

Another bitch that has improved with maturity and dropped through the chest, this super moderate girl is easy on the eye and has a good balance about her. A little more bend in the stifle would perfect her, but otherwise she has lots to like and moved soundly. At one with her handler on whom she was so well focused.

3rd – as 3rd in Novice Bitch

Class 23 Veteran Bitch

(3, 1)

1st Barnes' Diamondridge Dream Catch Me JW

In super company this veteran girl moved so wonderfully well, she made me smile as I watched her handler do her best to keep up! Powerful, long strides that extended well out in front and behind and hocks that came right underneath to lift off and power forward from the hindquarters, she was undeniable. Lovely in frame with super substance and pleasing fore and rear angles, well ribbed back to a strong loin and a head that had both beauty and power in abundance, with her strong under jaw, wide deep muzzle, broad head and enormous round dark eye. Top end of the standard but still within it, she had good length with bone to spare and made a lovely shape despite her age of 7 and a half years. Despite strong competition in this class and the line-up, she was a truly deserving Best Veteran in Show.

2nd Clark-Maclean's Callumn's Special Fool

Unfortunate to meet the winner of this class in such fine form because this is a girl I have admired from a youngster. What a super head! Pretty yet not overly fine, she has the most beautiful expression and a lovely, clean lip with just the right length and depth to her muzzle. She can still power around the ring too, using her strong hindquarters which can often lose tone as they enter veteran but not so here. This girl still has it, and her shape with it's superb top-line and fabulous ribbing is something I still admire. The fraction more in hind and forelimb extension of my winner today was all that was in it, a tough decision and I felt honoured to have been given the opportunity to judge this beautifully balanced girl.

3rd Hicks Nuthouse Queen of Clubs JW

Hard to believe this bitch is in veteran as she seems forever young! Lovely tight feet and super croup with low hocks and pleasing underline due to a deep ribcage that in no way cuts up. This girl is wonderfully long but a wider frame would provide more substantial musculature to lift her top line, which is the only reason she lost out to the two other veteran girls. Aside from this she has such super muscle and width over her quarters and excels in her length of body which contributes to her elegance.

Class 24 Brace

A wonderful class to judge! I thoroughly enjoyed it!

1st Mrs N Jolly

Priorpark William Wallace for Clanbruachan

Negasi Elberith for Clanbruachan

What a brace they were! In the breed class this girl didn't show the drive I had seen her display before but here she most certainly did! Matching pace for pace with her kennel mate, this fine pair looked every inch the perfect brace as they floated around the ring with serious purpose. Complimenting each other beautifully, they took my eye for a worthy first place.

2nd Miss L McIntosh

Chagall Iona with Attitude JW

Benicloujam Lola of Chagall

A very close decision between these two and the brace in 1st. Two stunning girls who matched each other beautifully and moved so well, showcasing a very typey standard from this kennel. Well handled, just felt they moved together a little more carefully than 1 with their handler on this uneven surface.

3rd Mrs T Thomas Bassett
Fiadmas Stiggens at Skyleridge
Bonfirebeau Red Skye

Moved well together, with lovely action particularly the male in this brace, who strode out beautifully! Well handled.

BEST BITCH: Priorpark Proof in Pudding JW
RESERVE BEST BITCH: Chagall Iona with Attitude JW
BEST PUPPY BITCH: Gunthwaites Red Hot Rose
BEST VETERAN BITCH: Diamondridge Dream Catch Me JW

BEST IN SHOW: Negasi Radagast JW
RESERVE BEST IN SHOW: Priorpark Proof in Pudding JW
BEST PUPPY IN SHOW: Kwanza El Faiyum at Matikiridge
BEST VETERAN IN SHOW: Diamondridge Dream Catch Me JW