

Midland Afghan Hound Club

Newark Showground, Notts. – May 29 2011

The Midland AHC held its championship show at Newark Showground in Nottinghamshire on May 29. It was a very well organized, festive occasion, and I appreciated both the hospitality and the many extra touches, especially the 3-generation pedigree of every dog entered in the catalog. This must involve a lot of work but is something I wish more clubs would do, as it really allows spectators (and the judge, afterwards) to get an idea of the dogs' background.

Although the entry was large for these days (I had 91 dogs entered and very few absentees), the quality could not compare to previous occasions when I had the opportunity to judge Afghan Hounds in England. From what I saw it appears that few of the many imports used at stud over the years have really been of any great help, and there appears to be little left of the beautiful, dignified yet quietly fierce type I remember from the early days. (And I do mean early: I got my first Afghan Hound in 1959; she was born in Sweden but sired by a Carloway dog out of a bitch whose parents were from Acklam and Chaman, respectively. If you don't recognize those names you need to brush up on British breed history.)

The puppy classes were poorly supported, raising serious concerns for the future, and the large Open Dog class full of top contenders that I had hoped for did not materialize. Perhaps it was assumed that the current top winner would walk away with the ticket, but I have never seen him, and he was absent on the day anyway.

In the end I agreed with my co-judge that the bitch CC winner Multi Ch. Al-Nacira Bint Roula von Haussman should be BIS. Reserve BIS was the dog CC winner Afterglow Jumping Rainbows at Sofico. Best Puppy was Krishan Hatty and Me, and Best Veteran was Ch. Saxonmill Star Style.

MPD (5, 0) 1 Broadhead's Tulak The Sentinel at Tazieff, b/m gold, sound, good temperament, well put together with good angulation & big feet, but carriage could be prouder; 2 Lloyd's Krishan The Emperor, brindle, beautiful outline, good angulation, a little straight in front and needs to develop a lot in body; 3 Gray's Krishan The Gladiator.

PD (3, 0) 1 Harrison's Sarakhan Sultan Al Kabira, b/m gold, very showy & happy, masculine, good body, a little steep in croup, nice angles and sidegait; 2. T The Sentinel at T; 3. Morrison's Tulak Under Siege.

VD (9, 1) 1 Hitch & Pond-Baker's Spring-Heeled Jack of Zendushkas, black, lovely head set on a long neck, short back, good body, well angulated, big feet, beautiful coat and moved well for his age; 2 O'Neill's Ch Amudarya Shekinah at Testine, b/m red, very impressive, well shaped head but could have more chiselling, short back & compact body, big feet, well angulated, a bit steep in croup but good mover; 3 Fisher's Ch Chicago du Mont Chacra-Raju at Ifmaraf.

JD (6, 1) 1 Gill & Marshall's Miamarna Masquerade, black&tan very short back & well angled, good carriage, OK head, moved well, beautifully presented, promising; 2. Van Nierop's Ishara Star of the Survival, blue, very attractive, not as good in shoulder as above, a little longer cast, well balanced, also promising & very well

presented; 3 Hartigan, Traversari & Greenwood's Altside Louis Vuitton.

YD (10, 1) 1 Edwards & Ohmke's Valkor The Truth Be Told, brindle, impressive youngster, could be a little more elegant in head with tighter lips, excellent body and angulation, very good mover; 2 Bartram & Manssell's Altside Quincy Jones at Chardara, blue, very stylish & elegant, a little more refined in head, good drive when moving but not quite the substance or carriage of above; 3 Shaw & Holmes' Valkor Cut To The Chase.

MD (1, 0) 1 Morrison's Tulak Under Siege, sorry no notes.

ND (6, 2) 1 S Sultan Al Kabira; 2 T The Sentinel at T; 3. Livesey & Holden's Valkor Make My Day.

UGD (5, 1) 1 V Cut To The Chase, lighter brindle, litter brother to 1 in Yearling, also an excellent mover, well put together, could be a little more elegant; 2 Kidd's Karandikar Sea of Stars, black, especially beautiful head, well angulated, moved OK but could have prouder carriage; 3 Griffith's Krishan Tribesman.

GD (8, 1) 1 O'Neill's Saxonmill Midnight Mayhem at Testine, very elegant black&tan, good carriage, lovely head & good topline, sufficient angulation, moves OK but could have a little more drive; 2 Metcalfe's Pahlevi Abraxas, black&silver, excellent expression, could have more a little more underjaw, not as long in neck as above, very good mover; 3. Kemp's Andizhan Banjalucah to Suzaph.

PGD (15, 0) One of the best classes of the day. 1 Woodward's Turlodales Topsy Talby, black&tan, tall upstanding & masculine, beautiful head & expression, long neck, very well put together throughout, good body & angulation with pronounced hipbones, moved with style & drive; 2 Smith's Ashahni Aniq at Julam,

black&tan, similar to above in many ways, also excellent quality, just not as upstanding, good head although not quite the chiselling of above, well put together throughout & extremely good sidegait; 3 Winters' Ashahni Azzam with Tokando.

MLD (14, 1) 1 Heritage's Afterglow Jefferson at Jazzmeena, b/m red, very attractive type, well balanced & correctly put together, good mover, beautiful head & expression, just looked a little less masculine when compared with his litter brother, who won the CC; 2 Griffin's Ashahni Ajmal at Lazakhan, black, beautiful head, a little longer cast, not as upstanding, well angulated, beautiful coat, excellent mover, litter brother to 2 & 3 in Post Grad; 3 Wilkinson's Jahadi Exus.

LD (12, 1) 1 Chadwick & Millward's Afterglow Jumping Rainbows at Sofico, b/m red of commanding appearance, great style and excellent carriage, OK head and good expression, wonderful long neck, excellent front & big feet, short but not quite level back, excellent body & long, well angulated hindquarters, tail could be tighter but moved with great drive and dignity, well handled & presented a beautiful picture, CC & Res. BIS; 2 Rodgers & Freer's Cloudside Warboy at Montravia, brindle, very well put together with excellent front & rear, sufficient body, moved well, could just be a little more masculine, one of the few who could have done with some more coat; 3. Dugdale, Cooper & Lynn's Afterglow Jermanicus.

OD (8, 3) 1 Fr & Ir Ch Agha Djari's World Is Not Enough, brindle, very masculine with wonderful arrogant expression, could have more underjaw, excellent body, well put together all through, good mover but could just be a little higher on leg, Res CC; 2 Bollard O'Callaghan's Ir Ch Ashahni Amir, black, lovely type, very

elegant & beautiful outline, needs more body but moved well; 3 De
Haviland's Alouann Leather 'N' Lace with Purplequeen.

BO BENGTON