

Midland Afghan Hound Club 50th Anniversary Championship Show

Sunday 25th May 2014

Dogs

What a great pleasure it was to judge your show. My thanks to your very hard working committee for staging such a wonderful show. Thanks to Peter my very helpful and very efficient ring steward who made my job of judging much easier. I have left the Midlands Afghan Specialty with very warm and fond memories.

To be honest, I was somewhat shocked by my entry. It has been many years since I last judged in the UK and with the continual blending, importing and crossing of lines the current males and I stress MALES as this is all I can truly comment on are LOOKING GOOD for the UK.

Gone are the days of big kennels with large numbers and breeding just within the kennel not venturing out and thus, developing a very strong home bred type. Nowadays we must look beyond our own kennel and try to incorporate the best of what is available. The UK has caught up with other countries in our breed and has finally become universal. Some may say this is wrong but let me tell you, it is the only way to go and will help the survival of our breed. The direction that the current crop of breeders go in the UK will determine the future of the breed in the UK.

The UK like all other countries is at a cross road. Take the wrong direction now and there will be no turning back. Times have changed in our breed. Gone are the days of huge numbers, sadly, Afghans are not drawing new comers to our breed and the current crop of breeders/exhibitors are aging with no new blood to follow. When this group of dedicated people hang up running shoes and leads it will leave a minority number left to struggle on. Never in the history of our breed is the breed more vulnerable than now.

As stated, declining numbers, less litters, an aging people in the breed with no new comers entering the breed, it is heading in one direction. BUT, let's try to be positive and look forward. I never thought I would say and put in writing what is about to follow. My time in the breed spans some 40 years. I have judged numerous specialties all over the world. Had the great fortune to judge some truly outstanding Afghans over the years and watched the breed go through several changes during my time in the breed.

It has been several years, actually, close to 10 years since I judged such a wonderful entry of quality males as I have just judged at the Midlands Show. What totally threw me was the number of excellent movers. So many correct moving Afghans, it is a rare thing these days to find a single dog in a class that moves as an Afghan should. I had several good movers in many classes, it was a little overwhelming to be honest. The gait of our breed is unique. It sets the Afghan apart from most other breeds, it is that elusive trait that makes people stop and take a second look. Not only did I find many good movers I also found most dogs to be more elegant than I expected. The breed is looking very good in the UK and if you guys continue down

the same path I think many breeders from overseas will start to notice that times have clearly changed in the UK.

The one thing that still remains in the UK and this is not the case in most other countries, it is the manner in which the breed is presented. I had several exhibits that if they were presented/handled better my decisions could have changed rather dramatically. So many dogs were shown on the incorrect lead. So many handlers had no idea how to move in harmony with a dog and I wonder if most actually are aware that the Afghan MUST have the tail raised when in action.

My dog CC was every inch an Afghan. He made me take more than a second look as he entered the ring. After I had gone over him and started to move him around the ring I thought to myself he reminded me so much of a young Ch Jacosta Wrenagade In Red. Red as we called him went on to become quite an influential sire. He was also a very outstanding mover and had many of the same features that my young dog CC has.

I was completely overwhelmed to read that Red is behind my dog CC not once but twice on both sides of his parents. Red as a young dog was pretty much the same, full of attitude, style, very athletic, hard backed and loose in front. Both the puppy winners which were brother and sister also go back to Red three times, what a wonderful surprise and very heart warming. Both the puppies clearly had a look of my wonderful Red, who said that Afghans are not universal!!!!.

Thanks to all the exhibitors who showed and took my decisions with grace and ease. Please keep up the good work, your heading in the right direction unlike many other countries at this

MINOR PUPPY DOG (7, 0)

1ST: Gray's Sumakandi Gold Bullion. Black masked gold of beautiful type. Pleasing head with lovely dark eye. Cuts a very nice outline standing which he also holds on the move. Typical puppy for his age, sound but a little loose. He has a very good length to neck, well bodied for his age with good angles front and rear. Excellent foot placement, quite the showman for his age showing good spring in his gait with very good side gait.

2ND: Morris & Meakes' Gezancol Twist Of Fate at Cadmore. Beautiful black n tan of very good type with good balance. Excellent outline both standing and moving. Very good body for his age. Excellent topline, very good rear angles, loved his light springy gait and overall soundness. Pleasing to watch on the move.

3RD: Day, Gilchrist & Hansen's Jhanzi T'sterlin at Khorinyas. Very stylish blue with excellent carriage. Good head and expression, excellent topline, very good hipbones abd well angled rear. Dead sound on the move, loved his lift in gait and very good mover for his age.

PUPPY DOG (7, 2)

1ST: Morris & Meakes' Gezancol Twist Of Fate at Cadmore.

2ND: Kemp's Andizhan Czardin to Suzaph. Tall upstanding blue brindle. He has very good balance and good type. Shows huge potential, not quite together at present but will clearly hit his stride with some age. Very well bodied, good topline and correct bone for his size. He has excellent carriage and very good attitude for a puppy.

3RD: Bastille's Andizhan Constantine. Another blue brindle of similar type but not as leggy as the dog in front. A very sound mover with good foot placement. Pleasing head, excellent topline, very well bodied. Nice tail a quality puppy.

VETERAN DOG (6, 1)

Lovely class of aged males, all shown in good condition and well presented.

1ST: Wilkinson's Jahadi Exus ShCM. Black and tan of excellent type and with wonderful balance. He is still quite the showman with very good topline and hipbones. Balanced angles front and rear. Loved his spring and energy, nice mover with excellent foot placement.

2ND: Keates' Jodak The Court Jester. Beautiful black and brindle of outstanding type. Good head and expression, wonderful topline and good hipbones. Nice to go over, still quite the showman, dead sound with good spring and excellent foot placement.

3RD: Gorman's Jimellree Night To Remember at Keldehan. Really loved the type of this boy, he let down a little on the move. Wonderful head and expression, very nice to go over, very well bodied wish he had shown better.

JUNIOR DOG (11, 1)

Quality class of youngsters.

1ST: Parker-Holden's Istani Hell Raiser on Affiah. Outstanding black and cream of excellent type. Very good head, excellent length to neck with good flow into shoulders. Very good topline, hipbones and tail set. Excellent to go over. His greatest asset is his very natural easy gait with wonderful spring. A very balanced mover, very easy on the eye, certainly one to watch for the future.

2ND: Brookes & De Haviland's Alouann Mr High N Mighty at Grenowood. Beautiful cream wonderful to go over. Excellent head, excellent topline with very good hipbones. Very good rear, huge front feet and quite the showman. Very good mover, excellent foot placement with easy and clean gait.

3RD: Stainsby's Istani Breaking Every Code. Black masked gold of excellent type. Good head, excellent length to neck. Good hipbones would like to see him just a little shorter in back. Very well angled both ends, excellent foot placement with correct and easy springy gait.

YEARLING DOG (7, 1)

A very interesting class to judge. Quite mixed and varied in type but the class has several quality males.

1ST: Cheesman's Zaram Zeus. Loved this light brindle male. Wonderful to go over. Very beautiful head, excellent length to neck. Very good topline, excellent tail, very good body with good bone for his size. Loved him on the move, very stylish boy, so easy on the eye.

2ND: Prest's Asianskies Claret N Blu. Smaller blue brindle with outstanding movement, could watch him move all day. Very elegant head, very good length to neck, excellent topline, very good hipbones with balanced angles front and rear. His greatest asset is his correct afghan attitude, spring in his gait with excellent foot placement.

3RD: Cheesman's Zaram Zeroun. Beautiful black and brindle/tan. Wonderful type to this boy with excellent balance. Really loved his head, good topline and good hipbones. Nice package both standing and moving. Very stylish boy with ease of gait and correct Afghan movement.

MAIDEN DOG (5, 1)

1ST: Morris & Meakes' Gezancol Twist Of Fate at Cadmore.

2ND: Kemp's Andizhan Czardin to Suzaph.

3RD: Lever's Khorinyas Nephrite. Young brindle of good type. Pleasing head, very good topline. He has balanced angles front and rear, good foot placement, very sound mover.

NOVICE DOG (6, 1)

1ST: McGinney's Altside Gold Illusion. Stylish black masked gold with excellent attitude and carriage. Very good head, excellent topline with good hipbones. Balanced angles front and rear, good size feet, with moderate body. Very sound mover from all directions. Moves with correct spring to gait, covers the ground very well.

2ND: Simpson & Fitzgerald's Khorinyas Nickel at Tajikh. Handsome brindle who has clearly got better each time he has entered the ring. Good head, excellent topline, well bodied. Excellent bone for his size. Very stylish dog with sound and good movement.

3RD: Metcalfe's Calamus Orient Express. Black and cream of very good type. Pleasing head, good length to neck. Would like to see him presented a little better, hard to view topline, croup and tail set. Very nice to go over, rather stylish boy with good ground covering movement.

UNDERGRADUATE DOG (7, 0)

1ST: Winters' Garamond Cloudberry for Tokando. Very elegant youngster of excellent type with good balance. Young in this class. Beautiful head, excellent topline, very good ringed tail. Balanced angles front and rear, correct bone for his size with good feet. Shows a lot of promise to be a really good mover but clearly needs some time to settle and mature.

2ND: Gardner's Maringo Wicked Games with Bichoux. Handsome black and cream with very good construction and well bodied. Excellent head and expression. Very good length to neck, good hipbones, excellent ringed tail. Very stylish boy on the move with good carriage and excellent spring to his gait.

3RD: Heritage's Jazzmeenah Malachi Jack. Shaded masked gold, rather square in outline. Would like to see a little more refinement in head. Excellent hipbones, very

good tail very nice to go over. Large feet with excellent foot placement. Sound mover from all directions.

GRADUATE (9, 2)

1ST: Parson's Syrdarya Hazelnut Hobnob at Shukriya JW. Beautiful type and balance to this black masked gold. Excellent head, very good length to neck, very good topline with good hipbones and nice ringed tail. Nice dog to go over with balanced angles front and rear. Good feet, excellent spring to gait.

2ND: Care & Fairburn's Nightwind True Colours. Another beautiful gold with wonderful head and expression. Very good length to neck. Would like to see a firmer topline. Very good hipbones, well bodied. Balanced angles front and rear with good size feet. Very good mover with excellent carriage and good foot placement.

3RD: Parker-Holden's Davashey Move Like Jagger via Affiah. Gold brindle with great attitude. Good head, excellent length to neck. Very good topline, hipbones and tail. Loved his balance both standing and moving. Would like to see him not so set forward in shoulder. Very clean mover with excellent foot placement.

POST GRADUATE DOG (11,0)

1ST: James' Xenos Art Deco at Jahadi. Blue brindle of very good type. Best feature clearly his good attitude and carriage and easy smooth movement. Very good head, excellent topline and very good hipbones. A well bodied dog with balanced angles front and rear. Good size to feet, very easy on the eye.

2ND: Woodward's Abicas Rhinestone Cowboy. Beautiful type to this boy. Very good head, nice to go over with very good body. He has excellent hipbones, very good feet and is perfectly sound from all directions. Would like to see a firmer topline and a little more energy.

3RD: Kenny, Edwards & Appleby's Asianskies Blu Grafitti. Very elegant blue brindle of excellent type. Elegant head, very good topline and croup. Nice to go over, perhaps more rear than front but he used everything he has on the move and was a delight to watch moving around the ring. Loved his spring and attitude.

MID LIMIT DOG (6, 0)

1ST: Appleby, Minchin & Edward's Davashey To Tell The Truth. Outstanding red brindle of excellent type. Caught my eye upon his entrance to the ring. He has great style and attitude combined with a nice overall athletic outline. Very good head, good length to neck, hard back with excellent hipbones and very good tail. Perhaps a little underdone in angulation but I feel he will drop into himself with age.

Loved to watch him go round, he has a great character rather clownish but also has huge presence and style. Good size feet, correct bone for his size. Best feature, his raw natural attitude and wonderful spring to gait. **Dog CC and Best In Show.**

2ND: Bastow's Karandikar Moon Dancer JW. Black and tan of excellent type with very good balance. Another excellent male with many qualities. Moved with very good foot placement, dead sound from all directions, very nice to go over and watch go round the ring.

3RD: Gill & Marshall's Miamarna Masquerade JW. Masculine black and cream. Very nice to go over with good body. Good head, good topline, hipbones and tail. Very good feet with excellent foot placement. Moved with both strength and power.

LIMIT DOG (12, 3)

Another quality class of males, varied in type, size and balance but a pleasure to judge.

1ST: Millward & Mottershaw's Tahkira Like It Like That. Beautiful black, all Afghan, caught my eye upon his entrance to the ring. Very good head and expression. Very good length to neck, good topline, very good hip bones and nice tail. Shown in excellent condition, nice dog to go over, a very nice package. Very good attitude with good carriage. Excellent foot placement, good spring to gait, clean mover from all directions.

2ND: Gorman, Inman & Lacey's Ishara Star Of The Survival ShCM. Outstanding blue male with wonderful balance and such good type. He caught my eye as soon as he entered the ring. Rather hard to fault him, a lovely package standing. Excellent head, very good length to neck, very good hipbones and very good tail. Lovely dog to go over, shown in great condition. Good size feet with excellent foot placement. Sadly, he started to die in the ring and this cost him the class. He moved well, good carriage, good spring to gait he just needed more energy and a little more stamina.

3RD: Bartram & Mansell's Altside Quincy Jones at Chardara. Beautiful dog of excellent type. Very nice to go over with beautiful balance and excellent body. Very well angled from both ends. Very good feet, good bone for his size and perfectly sound. A nice mover, easy on the eye.

OPEN DOG (9, 1)

1ST: Rigato's Int. Multi Ch. Way Up Enuff'z Enuff. Beautiful black and silver of excellent type. Loved his attitude, style and movement. He caught my eye into the ring. Excellent head, very good length to neck, very good hipbones, good size feet. Could be a little firmer in topline and slightly cleaner neck into shoulders. Having said that, the overall package is very good but I would like a better ring to his tail. His balance is wonderful, leggy, elegant but still masculine. Nice to go over and very easy on the eye on the move. **Reserve Dog CC.**

2ND: Edwards & Gilbert's Valkor The Truth Be Told. Masculine brindle with hard and athletic body. A little more dog than I prefer but he was hard to deny. Clean head with very good length to neck. Loved his raw hard back, good hipbones and good tail. Very nice to go over, excellent feet with good foot placement. Loved his attitude, very stylish male with correct spring to gait.

3RD: Milligan-Bott, Bott & Noble's Ch. Guillaume Du Manuel Galopin JW. Beautiful black and cream of excellent type. Very good head and expression. Good length to neck, nice to go over. Rather up and down on the move and at times difficult to watch. Excellent bone for his size, good attitude with good spring to his stride. Good size feet, with good foot placement.

Stephen Wheeler (Judge)

Pictured below: Stephen Wheeler with Ch. Jacosta Wrenagade In Red

