

IWANE.

This was a return judging assignment for me to the East Coast of America, which I always enjoy visiting, meeting old & new friends, but most all judging & seeing how our wonderful breed is progressing on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean.

What I am looking for when judging an Irish wolfhound is a hound with a very balanced outline & shape, from a beautiful head with correct ear, eye & mouth to a strong neck fitting into a well-made front & shoulders with a good return of elbow, a strong body not over deep in chest with good well carried back ribs, a strong broad loin going into a broad croup, nicely angulated, strong hindquarters with well let down hocks and good padded feet. All this coming together correctly, we should see a very functional, typical Irish Wolfhound. This hound could go out to do a day's hunting without returning home in a shattered state, maybe carrying an injury or two - as I fear many of the hounds I judged at IWANE would .

On this judging assignment I did find some very typical beautiful hounds, which were a pleasure for me to judge & many of these outstanding hounds could easily hold their place in any ringside either side of the Atlantic.

At IWANE I did find a variety of types, probably more than I noticed when I judged in the US before. Some hounds were carrying too much weight, and certainly not fit for function. I do wonder how can an owner keep a hound bred for hunting many pounds overweight. Dog are dogs & enjoy their food and normally never say no to large portions or an extra helping, but it is the owner's responsibility to monitor their dog's weight for their health sake, so please try to be more watchful of your dog's weight with less food and more exercise.

I did find a few hounds slightly too light and could do with a pound or two extra over their back, but these hound were also very light in bone & general substance. We must not let this trend creep into our breed. Always remember Irish Wolfhounds were originally bred to bring down Wolves, and a few hounds at IWANE would find this a bit difficult.

Unfortunately in this entry, movement varied a lot. I did judge some lovely free moving, muscled, athletic hounds, covering the ground with easy & grace. Others not so much. In some classes I had to be forgiving a bit in movement, remembering some hounds do move much better in a large out door grass ring rather than the indoor venue that IWANE was held in. One entry in the BOB competition did slip on the carpet & was withdrawn. I do hope she has fully recovered.

I am well aware mouth & mouth faults are not included in your Irish wolfhound standard. But neither does your Wolfhound Standard say that a hound must have 2 eyes, 4 legs and a tail! So I feel that correct mouths should be regarded as part of soundness, and certainly from many mouths I judged today I would have major concerns. The mouth faults varied from narrow under jaws and the lower canines going into the upper gum, in some cases making a deep groove, to other hounds being noticeably undershot. Also teeth size is important. If the teeth are small, they wear down much quicker than big teeth. They also seem to collect tartar. Clean big teeth are essential to a dog's good health. Please owners/breeders take this seriously for the sake of our great breed.

I would ask breeds to consider what I have said. I am not stating all this just for criticism's sake but hopefully a guideline breeders might consider when they are planning future litters. We must always remember we are only custodians of our wonderful breed entrusted with handing on healthy sound & typical hounds to the next generation of owners/breeders.

I wish you all well. We all love the breed, so must try and do our best for its future.

I do apologise but my new dictaphone didn't always work & I have missed out critiques on some hounds.

Marion A Finney

Gulliaugh Irish Wolfhounds

IRISH WOLFHOUND ASSOCIATION OF NEW ENGLAND

JULY 29-30, 2018

Puppy, 6-9 months, Dog

- 1 STARKEEPER ABBEY'S AFLRED. 7 months old very pleasing brindle puppy, built on lovely sighthound lines. Pleasing head if a little deep in stop & full in eye, perfect mouth. Good neck going into nicely laid shoulder, but a little lacking in return of elbow & bend of pastern. Nice top & under line. Broad strong back & loin loin. Good width over hindquarters, well-muscled first & second thigh but would like a better bend of stifle. Lovely long tail, needs some ring training. Despite this he can cover the ground with nice flowing movement.

Puppy, 9-12 months, Dogs.

Four young males ranging from 9 months to just under 12 months. This age is not always the best time to assess Irish Wolfhounds as they are still growing & shape can change a lot in a week. They all showed nice temperaments & seemed not upset by possibly being shown for the first time indoors.

- 1 LISMORE BRIGADOON. Elegant young male, very much a sighthound. Pleasing head & good eye but would like a stronger lower jaw, Strong neck going into very good shoulder but presently he needs more upper arm & he is a bit straight in pastern & he could be more up on his feet . He has good bone & has lovely strong muscled hindquarters. He still needs to strengthen up in hocks, he has a wonderful long tail He uses himself well on the move covering the ground with long strides, his side action is particularly good. But both stacked & moving his top line can look flat. Hopefully with age this will improve. I think this dog should be one to watch in the future. Res Winners dog
- 2 LISMORE COSMOTOPPER. Similar type to number one, very much built on elegant but powerful sighthound lines. Lovely balanced head, good eye but would like a better under jaw. Nice neck & shoulder but straight in upper arm & pastern & rather wide in front, moving & stacked.. He is a bit narrow throughout, so needs some bodying up. His top line needs

to settle, he has long curvaceous hindquarters but need to tighten up in his hocks, his side view action was very pleasing. But saying all this is only just over 9 months old & has a lot of maturing to do.

3 LEGACY'S STARKEEPER SILVERADO SPIRIT.

Wheaten Grey dog just reaching his first birthday. Rather plain head & tight lower jaw. Nice quality coat & bone & strong body if a bit short for his body length. Built on rather straight lines throughout & needs to let down in front & rear. His movement was a bit uncoordinated & short paced he needs a few handling classes.

- 4 CARRICKANEENA MOGHILE MEAR. Compact, well boned dog shown in an excellent harsh rich, dark brindle jacket. He has a heavy head & reverse scissor bite. Nice neck but shoulder & upper arm placement too far forward, he has a flat croup & needs more rear angulation and a firmer top line. Movement uncoordinated.

15-18 months, Dog

- 1 BARRASSYS STORMBORN TWISTER. A young 16 months boy of nice size, substance, type & lovely outgoing temperament. He has a pleasing head good eye, nicely folded ears, reverse scissor bite. His front is very forward set & he has straight pasterns. His feet are inclined to turnout. He has strong body but his top line can look soft & he has a rather flat croup. His hindquarters need more angulation & his tail rises on the move throwing his movement out of balance.

Novice Dogs

- 1 ANCUPLA PENNYS ARCADE. Nice type not yet 3 years old but looking a bit older as he was not presented in show coat or condition. But despite the lack of beautification he has a lot of qualities. Lovely head. Nice overall balanced angulation, maybe he needs a touch more length of leg. He moves out well covering the ground with easy long strides.
- 2 COLERAINE'S CATHBHADH INCUBATOR JONES. A very compact dog, a touch too short in body, not helped by the fact he is rather lacking

angulation front & rear. He has nice substance & was presented in nice coat & condition. He has nice bone & feet. But does not have that easy & active movement that is called for in our Standard. He was very well handled.

Bred-by-Exhibitor, Dogs

- 1 CARRICKANEENA DEARTHAIR. A really lovely typical balanced hound, not over big but everything fits so well together from his pleasing head to the tip off his tail. He has good reach of neck, nice depth & width of body, ribs carried well back, good bone & feet. He has correct balanced angulation throughout. And on the move he shows it all off so well with his good reach & drive. Winners Dog
- 2 MYTHIC'S MACTIER AXE. Another very nice typical hound, good substance & nice moderate angulation throughout. Pleasing head, strong neck going into nice top line, good croup & tail set. Movement very correct covering the ground with active, easy strides.
- 3 SHANCARRICK'S DEBONAIR DARRAGH. Very nice long legged hound, not over heavily built but still with enough strength to bring down a wolf. He has pleasing angulation all over, coat & presentation was perfect & it was lovely seeing this hound moving around the ring with easy strides.
- 4 TARTAN TERROR OF FITZWICK. A four year old dog, who seemed to be enjoying his day very much & had a lovely relaxed attitude as I went over him. He is a shade long in back but still has some nice harmonious curves, nice bone & feet. He had escaped his pre-show grooming, so his nice outline was a bit hidden & he decided not to put a huge effort into moving.

American-bred, Dogs

- 1 TALIESIN'S ROIBHILIN AENGUS GUMBY. Very nice type, 5 years old grey/red/brindle he has that old fashioned look about him, very sweet & soft expression. Nice head if a little deep in stop. Strong neck going into a well filled front, a bit over deep in body for length of leg & &he has a

rather steep croup . His hindquarters are lightly built, which was very evident on the move.

- 2 SPICEMATE'S DIABLO. Sorry I have no notes on this hound

Open, Dogs

- 1 STARKEEPER CALOREN AMBR DECLAN. Substantial wheaten dog, three years old. Very pleasing well balanced head, dark eyes folding dark ears. He has a level bite. Very well made & angulated front, good body with ribbing carried nicely back. He has a strong top line & broad croup & well angulated, muscled hindquarters. He moves out very well in front & side view but to be critical his hocks were not pushing off as I would like to see. Also to complete the picture of a hunting dog he needs an extra inch of leg & be carrying less surplus weight.
- 2 CARRICKANEENA OGILVY MO CHROI. Nice lively two year old dog. Built on lighter lines than other hounds today. He probably could do with more overall angulation in front & is a bit short in ribbing & light in loin, but he certainly could do the job the breed is bred for. He has a pleasing head eye & ear & good quality coat. Nice rear angulation. His movement viewed from all angles is very good covering the ground with ease.
- 3 STARDUST DEPORTEE Big substantial hound with a rather soft coat. Broad heavy head & unfortunately trimmed with a scissors & he has very small, worn teeth. Well laid shoulders but needs more return of upper arm. Broad strong loin but top line inclined to rise towards rear & he has over-steep croup. On the move he really doesn't show himself off to advantage.

Puppy, 6-9 months, Bitch

- 1 STARKEEPER AOIBHEANN AILIS. A charming friendly lively girl. Lovely correct type. Beautiful head with naughty eyes. Over all she has nice balanced angulation a good strong loin & broad croup. Good feet & bone & coat for age. She moved out very nicely with good rear drive. Unfortunately when competing for Winner's Bitch she got a little over excited.

Puppy, 6-12 months, Bitches

- 1 ELKHORNSCAOIMHE OF EAGLE. Nicely balanced light grey bitch 10 months old. Very pleasing head with a nice long foreface & expression, going into strong neck & fitting into a nice front with good return of upper arm. Ribs carried nicely back & reasonable top & bottom line. Well angulated hindquarters & low hocks. Lovely long tail, she moved out reasonably well. Coat needs some attention & tidying up.
- 2 CARRICKANEENA CUMANNA MBAN. [Sorry I don't seem to have any notes on the 2nd in this class]
- 3 CARRICKANEENA HEART OF THE BANSHEE. Very balanced compact red brindle bitch, lovely head good eye & ear, strong neck going into reasonably angulated front, would like a firmer top line. Her rear is nicely angulated with good first & second thighs, but on the move she doesn't use them & her movement was inclined to crab & rather short paced. Unfortunately, on the move her tail curls.

12-15 months, Bitches

- 1 O'LUGH'S BLACKWATER BOMBAY. Super light-wheaten bitch with perfect ratio of length to height with good substance & excellent type, something not over evident today. Gorgeous head with good eye. Strong neck going into a well filled front. Maybe she could do with a slight bit more front angulation but she is still young just over a year old. She has a lovely top & bottom line, standing she can look a little long in loin. She has a broad croup & excellent tail set going into moderately angulated hindquarters. It was a joy to see her move around the ring. Everything just comes together & she looks very impressive with her excellent side gait & front movement. From the rear she can flip out her hocks a bit, but she is a girl I would say with a bright show career ahead of her.
- 2 SHANCARRICK'S DARLING DUBHEASA. A very nice girl with a lovely dark crisp coat, presented in hard muscular condition. Pleasing head with good dark eye & nicely folding ears. Nice strong, long legs, a little flat in feet & straight in pastern. Good front & nice body. Good breadth over the hindquarters with moderate angulation but I would like more width through the hock. She moves out well with nice clean ground covering movement, slightly spoilt by her tail curling up a bit on the move.

- 3 O'LUGH'S ANGELS' SHARE. Tall Wheaten bitch nice type. A bit narrow throughout & needs more overall muscle. Lovely head & dark eye & excellent pigmentation. Good feet. Front needs more angulation & I would like a firmer top line, she has a nice broad croup but could have more angulation in rear, which is not helped by her tail rising on the move. Rather restricted in stride.
- 4 AISLING ROS BUI CAIT. Small, compact balance bitch. Her expression was saying I am not very happy here today. She needs a better filled front & more overall muscle. But although she is not trained much for showing she moves out very nicely. Just wished she stacked & stood as well.

15-18 months, Bitch

- 1 OLIVIA NEWTOWNJOHN ROAN INISH. A tall substantial bitch of nice type & balance she holds herself very impressively standing. She has a pleasing head, good neck. Her front is slightly too forward set. She has a good body, ribbing carried well back & strong broad hindquarters. She really was not doing herself justice moving which was restricted. Maybe she would be better in an outside grass ring.

Novice, Bitches

- 1 SHANCARRICK'S DARING DEVNET. Very shapely balanced young 13 months old bitch. She is not a huge girl but very balanced all over & presented in good muscular condition. She has a charming head, face & eye. She has a strong neck going into nice filled front & good return of upper arm. Nice top & underline, ribs carried back nicely & plenty of heart & lung room. Maybe she is a touch steep in croup but she does have nicely angulated hindquarters which she uses very well moving.
- 2 MITHIC'S PHINNEY BRANWEN. Big rangy girl, nice head ear & eye. Nice temperament & type. Her neck could be a bit longer & her overall front is a bit too set forward. She has good bone & feet. Nice depth of body & underline. Top line is ok but flattens off too much over the croup. She needs more angulation between first and second thigh and a better angle at the hock. Her movement was a bit uneven. Maybe a little more ring training would help.

3 LISMORE JUNE CLEAVER. [Sorry no notes]

Bred-by-Exhibitor, Bitches.

Interesting class of 3 bitches all with their own qualities & quite different in type.

- 1 LISMORE LOVELY WENTWORTH HOWELL. This beautiful bitch is what I call a classic example of the breed from her wonderful correct balanced head with strong foreface, fantastic eye shape & colour to the tip of her long tail. She is very feminine girl with a very well angulated & filled front, with adequate upper arm & pasterns. For me she is a touch long in loin, which unbalances her outline making her look slightly short on the leg. She has a broad strong rump & excellent tail. Very nice balanced well-muscled & correctly angulated rear, lovely strong low hocks. She has good well cushioned feet & good bone. Her movement is spot on. Nice easy strides coming & going & side view, I would really love to see her moving in a big outdoor grass ring. Reserve Winners Bitch.
- 2 STARKEEPER NUALA O'ARD RHI. Tall bitch with a deep body. Strong foreface but her eyes are round which gives her a rather plain expression. She has correct folding ears. Her whole front assembly is a bit straight. She has an adequate top & underline. She has a good wide croup & good tail set but her rear, standing & moving, can look straight. She does have good firm hocks, but maybe with more rear muscles she would have more propulsion in her rear drive. Her coat could be tidied up for the show ring.
- 3 HOWLING HALL WITNESS FOR THE PROSECUTION. A grey bitch of lovely type, nice head eye a little round good ears. Well-made front but needs a little more fill in. Firm body with good good heart & lung room. A bit over long in croup, good long tail which she holds well standing & moving. Well angulated & muscled hindquarters, firm hocks but today, maybe being indoors, she didn't show herself off as well as I am sure she can on the move. Her coat is of perfect quality & groomed to perfection. All I really want to change is to add an inch to her legs.

American-bred, Bitches

- 1 CARRICKANEENA PATIENCE. This is a lovely bitch. Well made and everything fits so well together. From her lovely head strong foreface good eye & ear to get good neck fitting into a nicely angulated front. She

has a firm strong body & is well up on her good legs. Her ribs are carried nicely back, strong broad croup & powerful angulated hindquarters. But when asked to move she was deciding no way & was giving her very patient handler a hard time, but after a few tries she did it & as I suspected her movement is a joy to see, covering the ring in easy long strides. A super girl who needs more training, but I think she will get to the top in the end.

- 2 GLADSTONE'S CALL ME KELLY. [Sorry I have no notes on 2nd & 3rd]
- 3 SPICEMATE'S ERIN O'SAOIRSE.

Open, Bitches

- 1 STARKEEPER GRANUAILLE'S GALLEON. A truly lovely strongly made bitch. So much to appreciate in her. Very balanced, typical head with good broad lower jar, good eye & ear. Maybe she could do with a touch more neck but her neck fits into a well angulated, well filled front & well laid shoulder. Very nice depth to height ratio & well-made body with nice underline but I would like a firmer top line. She has a well-made broad croup & good tail set. Very good first thigh, but would like a bit more depth through the stifle. On the move she really shows off her attributes covering the ring in nice easy, long strides. Winners bitch/ Best of Winners.
- 2 STARKEEPER GRA MO CHROI GEMMA. Sorry no notes for 2ⁿ, 3rd & 4th
- 3 STARKEEPER CALORIEN A DIAMOND.
- 4 O'LUGH'S BBC.

Veteran, Dog

- 1 INISHKEENS HEART OF OLDEN GLORY. Very imposing 7 year old dog, who is truly athletic built sighthound. Strong, masculine head good neck that could pull down a Deer. Nice deep chest in good proportion to leg length. Ribs carried well back. He has over all adequate angulation front & rear. He moves out very well covering the ground with long strides. Presented in excellent muscular condition.

Veteran, Bitches 3 lovely typical bitches that could exchange places any day.

- 1 WOLFHAVEN N CALORIEN NITRO. Lovely 6 year old bitch presented today in very nice condition & moving out very truly & with good drive & extension. She has a charming head & expression, strong neck going into

a well laid shoulder & return of upper arm. Good body ribbing well carried back, nice broad sloping fall off & well angulated firm hocks.

2 CH CARRICKANEENA GREENORE CGC. Very nice bitch of excellent type 8.5 years old & still moving with strong driving movement. She has a pleasing head well angulated front & well-made body. Presented & groomed very nicely.

3 CH GLENAMADDA STARKEEPER CLODAGH. Another nice girl showing her age a bit on the move. She is nicely made with a balanced outline & lovely overall type.

Best of Breed Competition. It was once again a great thrill for me to judge a BOB Competition & seeing such a nice line up of hounds coming into the ring was a great pleasure for me.

Best of Breed. CH LISMORE GRACIE ALLEN. This stunning grey bitch, presented in perfect coat & condition, just took my eye the first time she moved around the ring. She has average size, but with strength, power & substance. She has a wonderful head & typical Irish wolfhound soft expression. She has beautiful eyes & correct ears. Her headpiece and neck fit so easily into her well angulated front & correctly laid back shoulders. She has a strongly made body with a very good top & bottom line and good ribbing nicely carried back. Super broad hindquarters & croup & well angulated 1st & 2nd thigh, well let down firm hocks. She was moved by her handler on a loose led which really showed off her good ground covering movement viewed from all angles. The more I asked her to move the better she got. She is a beautiful bitch I would be very happy to have in my kennels. Her owners are lucky to have such a treasure.

Best of Opposite. O'LUGH'S SINGLE MALT SCOTCH. Very imposing big stallion, super harsh coat. A bit heavy in head, strong neck going into a very well angulated front & well laid shoulder. Deep curvaceous body, well ribbed back. Good broad croup & strong well angulated hindquarters, low firm hocks, all which he uses so well on the move. Excellent bone & feet. In my notes I said a class act & that is what he is.

Select Dog. CH GLADSTONE'S THUNDER ROAD. I really appreciated this dark grey dog from the minute I saw him. He has the most lovely Irish wolfhound type, beautiful head with correct proportions. His neck fits is super into his well laid front & shoulder. Nice body top & bottom line, good feet & bone.

Unfortunately, his rear does not match his front in muscular condition or strength, which was evident when he was moving. But still a very worthy Select Dog.

Select Bitch. CH WOLFHAVEN N CALORIEN (1 Veteran bitch)

Stud Dog

- 1 O'LUGH'S SINGLE MALT SCOTCH. Stood alone in this class. But you could see he has stamped his quality on his offspring. All with great balance, type & good free, strong movement

Brood Bitch

- 1 CH GLENADDA STARKEEPER CLODAGH. Very nice group, a credit to their dam, all have lovely type, strong & powerful.
- 2 CH MYTHIC'S TEXASPEARL A very nice family of typical hounds, all with good substance & type & all moved out well.

Brace

A difficult class to judge both pairs were very nice & could change places any day.

- 1 STARKEEPER CALORIEN A DIAMOND. A glamorous pair of wheaten, very matching in colour, also in type, substance & proportions.
- 2 CH CARRICKANEENA ANNA LIFFEY CGC. A dark pair, very nice type & proportions & moved out well together.

Best Head

- 1 SHANCARRICK'S DARLING DUBHEASA I had some really nice & correctly balanced heads to choose from. I was looking for a head that really portrays the repository of type for our wonderful breed. I was looking for a strong foreface, well filled in under the eyes. Broad lower jaw, correct, well shaped dark eyes, a slight stop, a good back head, not too heavy or broad, with a nice nape topping the neck. I think I found all these qualities in the winner of this class Shancarrick's Darling Dubheasa.

Best Gait

- 1 CH LISMORE GRACIE ALLEN. I really had so many lovely free moving hounds come into this class, but, no matter how hard I studied all their

movement, I still felt the best mover for me today was my BOB winner who just glided over the ground with power & grace.

Marion A Finney
Gulliagh Irish Wolfhounds