

Irish Wolfhound Association of New England Specialty

July 28-29, 2019

Judge comments by Tracey Luty

It was an honor to be asked to judge the Irish Wolfhound Association of New England's 85th specialty show. Thank you to my stewards Barbara McWhirter and Marc Campbell for their hospitality and ring management.

I was impressed with the overall quality of the dogs of every class. How wonderful for me to have so many quality dogs to choose from. However, I know from the other side, it is frustrating to know you have a quality dog but don't receive a placement. Please know that I saw quality in all your hounds but could only award to a few.

With a heat index of over 100 degrees, the conditions were oppressive for both dogs and handlers. Many of hounds may have placed differently in milder conditions. However, I was impressed with the fortitude of dogs and handlers alike to be able to perform as well as they did. I was also impressed overall with the condition of the entry. Nearly every hound was well muscled and lean. I commend your entrants for that.

Best of Breed - CH Ballyhara Ki

A black coated stallion of a hound who never quit even in this heat. He was well muscled over all with a particularly strong loin. He has good angulation of front and rear hindquarters. He has a strong head and jaw moving into a nice top line. He has a powerful gait that did not falter during any of his movement. My only complaint it that I would like to see his hocks be perpendicular to the ground.

Best of Winners - Starkeeper Calorien a Diamond Breeder

Both Winners were gorgeous dogs. However, this wheaten bitch combines depth of chest, lovely curves and strength and power in her gate. Her head is beautiful with rosed ears and powerful jaw.

Best of Opposite Sex - CH Gladstone's Kiss Me Kate

Another lovely bitch that combines grace and power. She has a feminine head and neck but is not lacking in power. Her well angulated rear quarters show a powerful second thigh. Her gait is graceful and never missed a step.

Select Dog CH Gladstone's Thunder Road

This veteran was in great condition and competitive both in his class and for Best of Breed. He had a strong neck and fore and hind quarters with an arched loin. Graceful and easy gait.

Select Bitch - Ard Rhi's Summer Skipper

Another entry with a graceful and easy gait. This bitch was lovely with a huntress' build. I would look for her to be my companion in the field. Lacking a bit in neck length but what she has is well muscled.

Award of Merit - GCH Carrickaneena Anna Liffey, CGC

The winner of Veteran Bitch – lovely bitch that combines curves and strength. Her layback of shoulder and strong second thigh will keep this girl going for years to come.

Award of Merit - CH Carrickaneena Dearthair, JC

This powerful dog had an easy gait, strong head, jaw and topline had him in contention for best of breed.

Award of Merit - CH Howling Hall Witness for the Prosecution

A youngster with nice hind and rear angulation and strong topline. Would like to see him cover a bit more ground.

Winners Dog - Mythic's Mactier Axe

Strong muscular stallion, strong neck, good top line, good rear angulation. Powerful gait. Great size and commanding appearance

Reserve Winners Dog - Inishkeens Following the Ghosts

This yearling has a beautiful topline that held together during his gaiting, lovely head, good layback of shoulder. He just kept going and going even in the heat.

Winners Bitch - Starkeeper Calorien a Diamond Breeder

This bitch combines power with beauty. She has a beautiful gait, pretty head with rosed ears, good angled front and rear quarters. Very strong loin. Deep chest

Reserve Winners Bitch - O'Lugh's Yuengling

A beautiful yearling. Good angulation, good head, strong neck. All around lovely especially for her young age.

Best Puppy - Starkeeper Carolien Beryl

I could not keep my eyes off this puppy. Everything about her was perfect on this day. Head, outline, gait. She has a strong loin and nice tuck up. She never placed a foot wrong and this won her Best Puppy.

Class Dogs

6-9 month

1st R Noble Lucien of Eagle at Elkhorn

Nice young boy. Good head, lovely top line, easy gait

2nd Starkeeper Brady of Fitzwick

Another nice curvy boy. Good rise of loin and layback of shoulder. A bit heavy for his age, slightly cow hocked

3rd Hops N Hounds Guinness

Lovely head, a bit short of leg, gait is awkward today.

9-12 month

1st Maghitha's Bragi

Typey head with rosed ears, long muzzle, nice front and rear angulation.

12-15 month - For a yearling class, I was impressed that all the entrants had strong musculature.

1st Inishkeens Following the Ghosts - See Reserve Winners Dog

2nd Ballyhara Mane

Very muscular, good topline, straighter in shoulder than first, ears long

3rd Ballyhara Michaleen

Good top line, nice rear angulation, front straight, ears flat

4th R Noble's Beyond the Horizon

Nice outline. Good head, length of neck and nice tuck. Today he was pounding with his left front leg and threw off his gait.

15-18 month

1st Lismore Broadway Smash at O'Lugh

Nice top and under line, good shoulder layback, better gait of the two. Would like a longer muzzle on this boy.

2nd Custail Moscato of Spicemate's

Nice head, and topline. Shoulder a bit straight. Paddling front gait, crossover rear gait. May just need to grow into his gait.

Novice

1st Legacy's Starkeeper Silverado Spirit

Overall nice, good front and rear angulation. Nice topline. Strong head and neck. Lacking in second thigh. He is a bit overweight today.

Bred By Exhibitor

1st Taliesin's Blaze's Buachaill of Wideview, JC

Nice Solid boy. Good overall. Lacking in bone and length of leg.

American Bred

1st Shanachie's Hunter Bad Moon Rising Over Vermont

Smooth gait. Deep chest and layback of shoulder. Good length of leg. Nice head and small rosed ears. Front feet east/west.

2nd Coleraine's Cathbhadh Incubator Jones

Nice topline, and underline. Good length of neck. Nice rear angulation. Gait good but handler was not able to keep his head up. Could have been the effect of heat.

3rd Berrybriar Caraglen Leise Ar Carrowmoragh

Great layback of shoulder, and good rear angulation. A bit short in the loin.

Open

1st Mythic's Mactier Axe – See Winners Dog

2nd Starkeeper Caloren Ambr Declan

Big wheaten boy. Nice front, lovely topline. A bit short in back. Would like to see more second thigh. Was not gaiting as nicely as 1st today.

3rd Cnoccarne Olog Carrowmoragh

Nice head, good layback of shoulder. A bit long in loin, no rise on the loin. Easier gait than 4th

4th C'Lute Eagle of Elkhorn

Lovely head. Nice front and rear quarters angulation on stack but it did not hold on the move.

Class Bitches

6-9 month

1st Starkeeper Carolien Beryl (Best Puppy)

Loved everything about this puppy. Head, outline, gait. She has a strong loin and nice tuck up. She never placed a foot wrong and won her Best Puppy. Unfortunately, her energy did not hold on day 2 of the show during Winners Bitch competition. I will like to see this girl as she matures.

2nd R Noble Lilith of Eagle

Another beautiful puppy outline and movement. Slightly straight front.

3rd O'Lugh Sloane Ranger

Nice angulation front and rear. Did not hold together in movement but could have been due to inexperience.

4th Carrickaneena Meabh at Pdraigs Cu

Overall lacking in merit

9-12 month

1st Antrim Starkeeper Portrush

Beautiful topline, head, neck. Slightly straight front. Today had a stamping front gait.

12-15 month

1st O'Lugh's Yuengling - see Reserve Winners Bitch

2nd Ballyhara Mare

Nice angulation and topline. Flat ears. Rear gait was weak today.

3rd Bellarosa's Roison Durn Meid Nua

Nice head, nice angulation, not much reach and drive

15-18 month

1st Sionna from Starstone

Overall nice. Long neck, nice ears, muscled loin, easy active gait.

2nd Lismore Ard Rhi's Little Night Music

Nice top line but not as nice as 1st. good tuck, head beautiful, smooth easy gait

3rd Glenn Eyrie Sylverwolf Santana Onyx

Lovely hard coat! Nice head, rear angulation. Her front is a bit straight.

4th Inishkeens Light of Ancient Shine

Nice topline and smooth gait. She is a bit slab sided

Novice

1st Starkeeper Aoibheann Ailis

Lovely topline, great ears, easy smooth active gait.

2nd Carrickaneena Cumann na Mban

Good forechest and rear. Lovely head, soft topline, movement powerful

3rd Taliesin's Be'Rin

This girl was a handful for her handler. She has good fore and rear angulation. Short in loin and sloping croup.

4th Starkeeper Silverthorne Allison

Pretty head, smaller frame, nice movement. Needs to mature.

Bred By Exhibitor

1st Taliesin's Druid Dunn Eostar, JC

Overall powerful bitch. Powerful gait. Hard coat. Nice ears, head. Strong loin

2nd Carrickaneena Countess Markievicz

Powerful strong loin. Good front, rear angulation. Good second thigh. A bit long in the loin.

3rd Ard Rhi's Summer Solace

Good foreqtrs, pretty rosed ears, a bit straight in rear

4th Ballyhara Kellyanne

Powerful drive, long in loin, good angulation front and rear

American Bred

1st Carrickaneena Bronntanas

Strong topline and powerful loin. Nice drive. Pretty head and neck. Layback of shoulder and good rear angulation.

2nd Taliesin's Brice

Pretty head and ears, nice front. Good second thigh. Soft coat, a bit overweight.

3rd Aisling Ros Bui Cait

Nice head and ears. Long neck. Powerful gait. Straighter front.

4th Leeridge's Keltic Strom of Pine Hill

Nice smooth gait. Light boned.

Open

1st Starkeeper Calorien a Diamond – See Winners Bitch and Best of Winners

This bitch combines power with beauty. She has a beautiful gait, pretty head with rosed ears, good angled front and rear quarters. Very strong loin. Deep chest.

2nd Mythic's Apple

Lovely forechest, long in loin but strong. Good angulation front and rear.

3rd Glenamadda Grainne Ni Mhaille

Pretty mover. Lovely topline. Good second thigh, rose ears

4th Starkeeper Granuaille's Galleon

Movement is this bitch's forte. She is also well angulated front and rear. Ears a bit flat.

Veteran Dogs

1 CH Gladstone's Thunder Road (BOS)

Long strong neck, smooth easy gait, good ear set, strong loin

- 2 Inishkeens Heart of Olden Glory
Nice outline and strong neck. Did not move in the heat today.

Veteran Bitches

- 1 GCH Carrickaneena Anna Liffey, CGC (AOM 1)
Powerful curvy bitch easiest mover of the three
- 2 GCH Gladstone's Irish Mist
Lovely angulation, narrow head, soft topline
- 3 Bellarosa Cadimhe of Mise Eire
Happy go lucky. Nice muscled loin.