

Thank you for asking me to judge IWANE 2021. This specialty has always held a special place in my heart as Carol and I have been long time attendees. To be asked to adjudicate, especially a breed specialty, is a great honor. My task was facilitated by my competent stewards: Marc Campbell, Barbara McQuirk, and Clary Healy who kept me moving, and to Evelyn Jimenez who announced the upcoming classes and Janet Milner who organized the exhibitors in catalog order. Great job everyone ! The weather was favorable for the show, although the humidity would come and go. For the most part the dogs did not mind the warm day and humidity and I tried to be mindful of comfort for both the exhibits and exhibitors. The Club's judges' gift, a painting of one of our Best in Show wirehaired dachshunds, "Darth", was greatly appreciated surprise and very touching. The Irish Wolfhound coffee table book, *For the love of Wolfhounds*, is a great remembrance of the assignment. One final note, post Covid, it was a shame that the Canadian breeders/exhibitors were unable to attend the your Specialty this year.

Coming from sighthounds, I was looking for that classic Wolfhound: a dog of commanding size, standing well over ground, a rough-coated greyhound like dog. Spring of rib to permit good lung space and heart play, strong running gear, and a well-developed loin are essential. The standard asks for a dog that is longer than tall and the length needs to from the ribs, not the loin, in order to give the Wolfhound the proper topline and underline. While moving I was looking for an easy, smooth moving dog with great reach and drive. Overall, I was looking for balance front and rear with an unmistakable Wolfhound silhouette.

Best of Breed:

Ch. R. Noble Carnasserie Nasar (#68)

A well put together dog with great presence who exuded type. He was in great condition and floated around the ring with great strides and drive. His head was pleasing with fine ears for a dog his size. He looked like he could do the job for which he was bred. A stallion of a dog for sure.

Best of Winners and Winners Dog:

R. Noble Nash (#13)

This male walked in the ring and was breathtaking. He exemplified everything I was looking for in a Wolfhound. As I surveyed the class I thought to myself “don’t let me down dog because you are a standout.” A good topline, correct tuck-up, beautiful head and eye, and plenty of bone. His movement was impeccable on the down and back and his side movement typified a Wolfhound: smooth with powerful drive from a well rounded, well muscled rear.

Winners Bitch:

New Girl In Town at R. Noble (#44)

A feminine version of Winners Dog and Best of Winners. An easy mover, good shoulder, sound coming and going, beautiful head, strong topline and a strong rear with good width and a well-developed loin.

Classes Placements:

Puppy Dogs - 6-9 months:

Lindenhall Carnasserie Capriccio (#5)

A well put together youngster who at six-months appears promising. He was a class of one, a good, easy mover who should

develop into a handsome dog. Sired by the breed winner I read when writing this critique.

Dogs – 15 to 18 months:

1) Carrickaneena Liam (#6)

A pretty headed dog, nice small ear. He is a bit short in body, does not stand over as much ground as Winners dog. He moved well and perhaps I was not sure if he could have moved better had the handler been able to move him out better but she was having difficulty and he was full of himself. Nice bone and substance, sound.

2) Shancarrick's Cashel Coyne (#8)

A dog of good bone and substance. Not happy with the topline that slopped off to the croup a bit too much for my placing him first. A bit more rear that could have contributed to this. Overall, a nice moving dog, and perhaps with maturity his topline and rear will tighten.

Novice Dogs:

1) Solas Black Prince O'Glenamadda (#9)

A big dog whose outline did not please me. Straight in the front with a short neck going into a topline that was weak and had a rear that was very straight.

Bred By Exhibitor Dogs:

1) R. Noble Nasch (#13)

This was my Winners and Best of Winners Dog. Comments above.

2) Gladstone's Can't Wait to be King (#11)

A big dog, with a big gait, but not put together as well as the class winner. His topline could perhaps be better and he had less angles front and rear than the class winner. Overall, a pleasing exhibit.

3) Ballyhara Mane (#14)

Sadly not shown to his best advantage. Good topline, a bit more close coupled than the first and second placements.

4) O'Lugh's Gucci of Arie (#12)

This dog was straighter in front than the others in his class. Chest was a bit shallow compared to the others and top line was flatter.

American Bred Dogs:

1) Coleraine Cathbhadh Incubator Jones (#15)

Good bone and substance, a bit shorter backed than I like with more rear angulations than front angles, throwing a balanced appearance off.

2) Sanachie's Hunter Bad Moon Rising over Vermont (#17)

This dog had a good shoulder but not the rear to go with it. He also was lacking a tuck-up and it gave the impression of being short on leg.

3) Solas Glenamassa Into The Woods (#16)

Nice size to this dog, but a bit shallow chested with age it might drop further. He was the youngest in this class and his youth was evident when competing with older dogs.

Open Dogs:

1) Really Irish Hattrick (#21)

Found this dog's front not as well angulated as his rear angles and it throws his topline making him appear high in the rear when stacked. He moved well, not exceptionally well.

2) Pinhurst O'Lugh Bowie (#22)

Balanced front and rear, but with a short neck it gives this dog a "stuffy" appearance and not the "rather long, well arched" neck your standard asks for. Top line appears weak.

3) Starkeeper Brady of Fitswick (#18)

The standard refers to "great size, including height at the shoulder and proportionate length of body" but this dog appears more square than having a proportionate length to his back. I also found him to have a short neck, but it was in proportion to his body. A flat ear ruined his nice head.

4) Lonnykyle Pining for the Fjorde (#20)

By contrast with the 3rd place dog, this exhibit was too long in body making him appear to be short on leg and the length was in the loin, not the ribs, giving a weaker topline line than the others in this class.

Puppy Bitches:

1) O'Lugh's Martini (#24)

A nice bitch showing great potential, as was her competition. Basically it was a case of maturity making the difference because it could have gone either way. This exhibit has a bit more rear, and her topline was bit firmer.

2) O'Lugh's CC and Ginger at Massapeag (#23)

A nice moving, well-constructed youngster. Age was not in her favor when in competition with the other puppy in the class. Could use a bit more rear but think it will come with age.

Bitches, 15-18 months:

1) O'Lugh's Blackwater Tanguray (#28)

A pretty headed bitch whose rear was more powerful than her front. Possibly a developmental / age related thing. An easy mover, good coat, pretty head.

2) Ballyharra Alannah (#33)

Again, this female had more rear angles than front angulation, and exhibited more tuck-up than I care for, looking a bit more "whippety" .

3) Shancarrick's Tempperstous Tailite (#27)

The youngster was shorter in stature, shorter necked, and a bit straight front and rear for my taste. She moved adequately.

4) O'Lugh's Blackwater Flute (#30)

A well rounded, more mature looking female but carrying more weight that is not helping either her topline, underline or movement. She possesses nice bone and low hocks.

Bred By Exhibitor Bitches:

1) New Girl in Town at R Noble (#44)

Winners bitch, see my notes above.

2) Crarrickaneena Cumann Na Mban (#42)

Similar make and shape as Winners Bitch, but did not quite have the movement as Winners Bitch, possible due to the handler. Pretty head, good strength to her neck, well developed loin.

3) Gladstone Beloved Gift (#38)

A more upright female, a bit straighter front and rear and not as easy a mover as the Winners bitch.

4) Ginn Fitz O'Lugh Of Aerie (#40)

Not a particularly easy mover. Her front assembly did not please as felt she is a bit slung between her shoulders...blades further apart and disconnect at the elbow.

American Bred Bitches:

1) Ballyhara Ailbe (#49)

A feminine bitch but lacking the proper shape and her movement was not easy to discern as she was fighting and pulling her handler. Topline a bit flat and not too much depth of chest.

2) Leeridge Keltic Storm of Pine Hill (#46)

An exhibit that was not in competitive condition, a weak topline and not well trained.

Open Bitches:

1) O'Lugh's Blackwater Bombay (#53)

She was my reserve winners bitch. Nice make a shape, everything I was looking for but did not feel she moved quite as well as my winners bitch. Nice head, good ear, her front assembly was not quite as good as winners bitch.

2) Calcorien Starkeeper Darley At Aerie (#52)

A female of good substance but wide in front. Her shoulder placement was good, but overall she is very substantial but lacked the "easy movement" in her gait. Her croup dropped off too much.

3) Starkeeper Silverthorne Allison (#50)

A bitch of good size and substance but straighter in front and rear than the two other bitches I placed ahead of her. Her topline was soft due to the length was in her loin, not in her ribs.

4) Ballyhara Aideen (#55)

Nice sized bitch, pleasing substance but lacking in the length of neck seen on the other bitches in her class.

Veteran Dogs:

1) GCH Starkeeper Silverthorne Nettle (#58)

This dog has held up well for a veteran of a giant breed. He moved well, his well angulated rear did not match his front angles and he was lacking length of neck.

2) Berrybriar Caragien, Ieise At Carrowmoragh (#57)

A very heavy bodied dog lacking in a well drawn up belly. Almost mastiff like in body.

3) O'Murchadha's Cugein Curragh (59)

I can only think that his dog was nice as youngster, but the heat and humidity was affecting him and his desire to move. Finer boned than the other two in his class and very thick through the neck. His trunk appeared more slung between his forelegs.

Veteran Bitches:

1) O'Lugh's BBC (#61)

Time has been kind to this lady. She moved well, has kept her shape and was one of my Award of Merit recipients.

2) Irishkeens Caiomhe (#60)

Unfortunately, this exhibits large flat ear ruined her expression. Again, a very thick trunk and lacking in length of neck. She moved well but think she was feeling the heat.

3) Dun Myrica R Noble Nula Of Eagle (#62)

This veteran had a flatter back than I like, spoiling her topline. Her truncated tail did not disturb me, figuring as a veteran she had to have it docked due to an injury at some point earlier in her life. She did not exhibit the effortless gait that the others in her class

had. Heat, humidity and age might have been a contributing factor.

Best of Opposite Sex:

Ch. Dash Shancarrick At Aerie (#73)

A feminine version of my Breed Winner. An easy mover, nice shoulder placement, her belly was “well drawn up”, a pretty head on a strong, powerful neck.

Select Dog:

Ch. Rnoble’s Beyond the Horizon (#67)

A nicely put together dog with a good coat and a pleasing head. Moved well, would have liked a bit more bend in his second thigh.

Select Bitch:

Ch. R Noble Carnasserie Nevada (#75)

A bit longer than I care for but a good mover. Upon reading my catalog I discovered she was litter mate to my Select dog. Nice return of upper arm.

Awards of Merit:

GCH CH Shancarrick’s Debonair Darragh (#65)

A nice dog of commanding size, would have liked a bit better return of the upper arm. Good coat, and a good mover, but not as easy a mover as the Breed winner.

Ch. Shancarrick's Darling Dubheasa (#72)

Ironically, the littermate to the Award of Merit dog. Nic shape and make, again could use a bit more upper arm. I would say the complemented each other with their same assets.

O'Lugh's BBC (#61)

My Veteran's Bitch, see my remarks above. This girl held up well in this competition and was very deserving of recognition.