**IWANE 2022 Specialty**

*Judge’s Critique*

By Jamie Souza Bartlett

Thank you very much for inviting me to judge your 2022 specialty. Thank you to the stewards for taking excellent care of me and to the entire show committee for your hospitality. The whole weekend was a pleasure!

The depth of quality (especially in class bitches) was immense. I saw a lot of beautiful, shapely hounds with strong easy and active side-gait. Things to watch: straight upper arms, short legs, large (and sometimes flat) ears and bites. There were several dogs that lacked underjaw and I saw a lot of poor bites including where the teeth were completely worn down, small and/or missing. I am not a tooth fairy, but I think having a punishing underjaw with big strong teeth is part of being a large hunting hound. It’s just something to keep an eye on.

On the day, here’s how I saw it:

***6 to 9 Puppy Dog***

1. **Monty Lismore of Aerie** A VERY handsome young man who is all kinds of rangy right now but in all the best places. Beautifully pigmented with a perfectly proportioned head. Dark eyes with a lovely melting expression. Long and strong neck flowing into his back. Excellent length for a young man that has recently shot up on leg (of which he has plenty). Good strength of thigh and second thigh and nicely built through is croup. Strong back but a touch flat at this rangy stage. A beautiful easy and active side gait despite his bursa. I look forward to watching this boy grow up. When he fully develops and his body and topline grow in, he will be a force to be reckoned with.

***9 to 12 Puppy Dog***

1. **Antrim Starkeeper Vimy Ridge** A nice wheaten boy that is looking his age right now. Excellent pigment and good ears. He is a little straight in his front and rear angles on the day and standing a little rump high. Excellent coat. Nice underline. He needs time to grow into his angles so he can hold the ground better on the move.

***12 to 15 Puppy Dog***

1. **O’Lugh Blackwater Barkeep** A very handsome young man that was exceptionally nice on his legs on the go around. Excellent overall balance of length of leg to body. He rises a bit too soon which is evident when he is moving but he still has a lot of elegance and athleticism. Excellent pigment, well set under. Good thigh.
2. **Shanecarrick’s Awesome Tullaghan** A big light brindle boy with excellent bone and substance and balanced with his length of leg to body. He was coming at me a little funny on his front today, but I think he was having a good time!
3. **Renwyck’s Red Cicada** A thicker more workman like construction on this young man, and he was starting to slope off a bit today. Good bone and substance. Nice ears and pigment.

***15 to 18 Puppy Dog***

1. **Ard Rhi’s Liopracan Maghee** I really liked this young dog as well. He just needs more time to grow body so he can hold the ground better when he is moving. While light on his feet, I think he will extend more when he matures. He had great length of leg to body. Beautiful strong neck and great breadth and depth to his chest. Excellent ears. Great strength of thigh. He is a bit square in his angles at this age.

***Novice Dog***

1. **Lonnkyle Pacific Yeti** A pretty dog with really nice type points. Beautiful head expression. Excellent coat. Was in lovely condition. Pretty underline. Could use a bit more leg underneath him and I would give him a touch more bone. Coming at me a little wide on the day and while very light on his feet, he could have moved more purposefully.

***Bred by Exhibitor Dogs***

1. **O’Lugh’s Gucci of Aerie** A seductive hound that has many things to like about him. Great bone and substance. Long strong neck. Deep chest. Good coat. Strong thigh and second thigh. Very powerful mover on the side. I worry that his curves might be a little too much, as I kept finding him sinking to the ground. This also threw his proportions off a bit. He was a little wild coming and going on the day.
2. **Ballyhara Mane** Very pretty type on this boy. Excellent pigment, pleasing expression. I wish he a better ear to cap off his pretty face. He could use more leg under him and is lacking depth and draw up of belly. It was clear that he could move purposefully when given the opportunity.

***American Bred Dogs***

1. **Coleraine’s Zenith of Taliesin** A good functional well-made boy. Beautiful headpiece with perfect rose ears. Excellent coat. Very nicely made front with good length and return of upper arm. That coupled with his shoulder layback gives him a long and powerful neck. Nice curves in all of the right places. A touch close going away but true coming at you and an easy and active side gait.
2. **Sanachie’s Hunter Bad Moon Rising Over Vermont** A big bodied dog that was light on his feet despite his mass. Excellent ears. Pleasing expression. Good length of leg to body. Held his shape on the move.
3. **Shancarrick’s Cashel Coyne** A pretty boy with good shape and moved freely. He could use more leg and was sloping off in the back on the day.
4. **Solas Black Prince O’Glenamadda** A nicely balanced boy with good length of leg to body. Nice coat, good pigment and ears. Straighter upper arm kept him from reaching out as well as he should even though light on his feet.

***Open Dogs***

1. **Really Irish Hattrick** A very houndy male. Wonderful pigment, ears and head. Good coat. Long strong neck. He is a little straighter in his upper arm but has good layback of shoulder keeping his front lines smooth. I would put a bit more leg under him and give him more bone, but he his overall front and rear angles are balanced. Light on his feet, but fighting his leash a bit on the go.
2. **Starkeeper Brady Of Fitzwick** An exuberant fellow with nice length of leg. A little straighter in front but a nice thigh and second thigh with good rear angles. A bit joyful with his tail and came at me with a lot of wrist rotation – both of which I think were exacerbated by his lust for life!
3. **Lonnkyle Pining for the Fjords** A pretty type dog with a better front assembly than the dog that placed ahead of him. Nice head and expression but could have a better ear. Needs more leg and little tubular in body – lacking tuck up. Rising early which gave him a bit of a break in his back.

**Winners Dog: Coleraine’s Zenith of Taliesin**

**Reserve Winners Dog: Monty Lismore of Aerie**

***6 to 9 Puppy Bitch***

1. **Muse Lismore of Aerie** A lovely bitch with a lot of leg underneath her. Smooth lines. Good long strong neck. A very easy active mover. Athletic. I would give her a little deeper chest. Pretty head and expression.
2. **O’Lugh’s Truly** A pretty young girl – clearly the baby of the class as she was the only one that had yet to go to leg. Very nice front assembly. Good strong mover. She does not rise in the right place and was running a little downhill on the day but her strength and shapeliness earned her this placement.
3. **Valerie Calorien Starkeeper of Aerie** A very nice balanced bitch with a lot of leg underneath her. She was the cleanest coming and going of these girls but she has a large bursa that was affecting her fluidity of movement. She was also showing weakness in her topline. It will be interesting to see what she looks like after this awkward growth stage.
4. **Myrna Loy Lismore of Aerie** A pretty girl that had clearly just shot up on leg. Standing a little straighter than the girls that placed ahead of her and a bit pinched in front on the day. Still has a pretty face and overall good balance.

***9 to 12 Puppy Bitch***

1. **Quezee of Aerie** A lovely brindle girl that is very well made in the front. Balanced rear angles to match. Pretty face with a beautiful strong neck. Excellent coat. Nice long well carried tail. Good strong back. I would put a smidge more leg under her.
2. **Antrim’s Starkeeper Remembrance of Barkshollow** A tall red wheaten bitch with a beautiful head and expression, excellent pigment and good ears. Wonderful wheaten coat. Good underline. Nice feet. I loved her length of leg. Standing a little straighter through her back and angles on the day but I wager she will mature beautifully.

***15 to 18 Puppy Bitch***

1. **O’Lugh’s Black Label** A lovely black girl with all the curves. Beautiful head and expression and good ears. Excellent bone and substance. Very well made front with a gorgeous strong neck. Beautiful tuck up. Could use more leg. Powerful mover. She has a lot of rear angulation that I hope she will be able to support as she matures but she earned the class on the day.
2. **Zendays Della Bassa Pavese** Another high quality bitch – more moderate than the one that placed before her. I preferred her length of leg. Balanced angles front and rear. Nice rise over her loin. Held her shape on the move. Will benefit from maturity to help her hold the ground. Lovely girl.
3. **O’Lugh Sugar Magnolia** Big bodied wheaten bitch. Nice ears. Good rise over the loin that flows into a strong rear. A bit straighter in her upper arm and not as well laid back in the shoulder at this stage.
4. **Aibhlinn of Keally Hall** Good ears, pigment and coat. Standing a little more square than the bitches that paced ahead of her and lacking in underline. Coming at me a little wide on the day. Maturity should help settle her into her lines.

***Novice Bitches***

1. **Lonnkyle Calorien Prophecy at Starkeeper** A very houndy brindle girl with lovely shape. Beautiful head, pigment and ears. Excellent legs coming and going. Beautiful tail. Tended to flatten out a bit on the move but has powerful athletic side gait. She is a bit straight in her upper arm but has good shoulder layback that helps keep her front lines smooth. Pretty girl.
2. **Jello Shot O’Lugh with Aerie** Another nice girl that is good on her legs coming and going. Nice head and ears, eyes could be darker. Very shapely but was standing underneath herself on the day making her look rump high. When she moved she would lengthen out and held a pretty shape. Strong mover.
3. **Edge of Aerie** A pretty brindle girl, also good on her legs coming and going. Her standing shape was very pretty but she needs more leg under her and was a little straight in upper arm which kept her from placing higher. Nice neck and thigh.
4. **Ballyhara Afric** This girl was really feeling her oats today! She was also good coming and going but could get a little erratic on the side. Houndy and curvy but could use more depth of chest and better ear.

***Bred By Exhibitor Bitches*** Outstanding class of bitches – as it should be.

1. **Carnasserie Kincsem** In another very strong class, this bitch was a great big YES for me. Every curve on this bitch is correct, smooth and balanced. She has plenty of leg underneath her. She holds the same shape whether standing or on the move. Excellent legs coming and going and big strong mover with no wasted motion. Pleasing head with excellent pigmentation. I would give her a slightly smaller ear but she holds them back. Very high quality bitch.
2. **O’Lugh’s Blackwater Tanguray** Another very curvy bitch that exudes strength. Well made front with strength and angulation in the rear to match. I would put more leg under her and she had a little play in her front coming at my on the day. Big powerful and purposeful side gait.
3. **Ginn Fizz O’Lugh of Aerie** A beautiful curvy girl. Lovely head and expression. Excellent ears. Well made front. Deep chest. Good thigh and second thigh. She was not moving as purposefully as the bitches that placed ahead of her, but still high quality.
4. **Starkeeper Lorna Lovely** A shapely wheaten girl. Great pigment and ears. Curvy, carrying a lot of topline. Nice thigh. I little straight in upper arm. Easy active mover but not quite holding the ground the way the bitches ahead of her were.

***American Bred Bitches***

1. **O’Lugh’s CC and Ginger at Massapeag** A nice balanced brindle bitch. Pretty face and ears. A little shorter in her upper arm. Nice length of leg to length and balance in her from and rear angles. Nice topline. Good coming and going. Light on her feet.
2. **Ballyhara Aideen** A very houndy girl with a lot of shape and she could hold it on the move when she relaxed. She was very erratic on the day and wasn’t happy to be there. This caused her to sink into herself, so I could not get a consistent gauge. I could still see her qualities peaking through. Good angles – front and rear. Nice coat. Could use a better ear.
3. **Solas Grainne’s Mairead of Glenanadda** A pretty girl who just wasn’t moving as well as the girls that placed ahead of her today. Nice head and expression. Good length of leg to body. Balanced in her curves. Good coat. A little pinched in the front coming at me.

***Open Bitches*** I made a cut in this class, but I would like the exhibitors to know that there were bitches that did not make the cut, that I would happily award a major to in any given entry. VERY high-quality class.

1. **Starkeeper Aoibheann Ailis** A big beautiful gray bitch that exudes commanding appearance. She has ample leg under her and stands over her ground. She has a lot of style without being overdone. My eye continually went back to her in the lineup. Beautiful head and expression, dark eyes, excellent pigment with lovely ears and ear set. Nice harsh coat. Very light on her feet for her size with ample reach and drive.
2. **Gotcha of Aerie** Another beautiful shapely girl. Pretty face with a long, strong neck. Well assembled front, well drawn up belly and very nicely built through her croup and rear. Strong mover with excellent reach and drive. In the end, I had to nitpick and the bitch that placed ahead of her was displaying a little more strength at the center of her back on the day. Still an extremely high quality bitch.
3. **Carnasserie Lismore Samantha Stephens** Not a huge bitch but she had all of the type points I love to see. Beautiful head with dark pigment. Balance angles fore and aft. Lovely underline. Excellent coat. Really good on her legs coming and going with a strong purposeful side gait.
4. **O’Lugh’s Yuengling** I really loved the houndy femineity of this girl. She caught my eye when she came in and I continually came back to her in a very strong class. I love her overall make and shape and her easy active movement. Beautiful head and expression and an excellent topline standing and moving. Shown in immaculate condition.

**Winners Bitch: Carnasserie Kincsem**

**Reserve Winners Bitch: Starkeeper Aoibheann Ailis**

***Veteran Dogs***

1. **GCH Starkeeper Silverthorne Nettle** A big handsome gentleman with a lovely head and expression. Really nice front assembly. Great length of leg. Beautiful overall shape.
2. **Coleraine’s Cathbhadh Incubator Jones** Another handsome guy with a beautiful head an expression. Got around the ring well. Good coat. A bit shorter cast than the boy that placed ahead of him. Still a nicely conditioned and typey boy.

***Veteran Bitches***

1. **CH Gladstone’s Call Me Kelt** An absolutely beautiful veteran bitch with excellent length of leg to body. Beautiful head and expression. Good bone. Lovely curves fore and aft and she got around the ring beautifully – even with the heat. High quality.

***Best of Breed: GCH Gladstone’s Can’t Wait To Be King***

A big upstanding dog with excellent balance of leg and length. He stands over his ground and is powerfully built. Lovely masculine head with dark soulful eyes capped with tight rose ears. Very nicely made through the front with good length and return of upper-arm and shoulder well laid back. A perfect stand for his long strong neck. Plenty of bone and substance but retaining a houndy shape. Balanced angles in his rear. Nice croup, thigh and second thigh. Can be a little proud with his tail on the go, but I think a lot of that comes from his big personality. Easy and active mover that never let down which earned him today’s top award.

**Best of Winners: Carnasserie Kincsem**

Contended for the two top spots. Just love her.

***Best of Opposite Sex: CH Lismore Marion Kerby***

A beautiful bitch with classic breed type. Lovely head and expression with good pigment and small fine rosed ears. Excellent coat. Smooth angles from front to rear with a beautiful underline and top line. Very nice on her legs coming and going. I would put a touch more leg under her but her overall quality trumped that, and she never let down in the heat with continued exhibition of strong, purposeful side gait.

***Select Dog: CH Pinehurst O’Lugh Bowie***

Not a huge dog but still of quality. Masculine head. Good coat. Balance in his angles and length of leg to body. Easy active mover. He had a straighter and shorter upper arm which kept him from having that longer neck I like to see, but overall quality is evident.

***Select Bitch: CH Gladstone’s Call Me Kelt***

See veteran bitch.

***AOM’s:***

**Coleraine’s Zenith of Taliesin** See Winners Dog.

**GCH Shancarrick’s Darling Dubheasa** Another bitch of beautiful type. Very pretty head and expression. Ample leg underneath her. Very balanced in her curves with nothing overdone. Excellent coat. Did not move in the heat with the strength had by some of the girls that placed ahead of her, but lovely none the less.

***Best Puppy:* Monty Lismore of Aerie**

See Reserve Winners Dog.

***Best Head:* Starkeeper Aoibheann Ailis**

See Reserve Winners Bitch.

***Best Gait: GCH Gladstone’s Can’t Wait To Be King***

See Best of Breed.