

Irish Wolfhound Association of New England

June 8th 2025

Conformation: Roger Tebbutt

My thanks to the committee of IWANE for the invitation to judge your hounds at this well-run and friendly show. On a hot and humid day, I was pleased to be kept in line by my excellent stewards, Marc Campbell, Lindsey Quinn and Clary Healy. I was very glad of their support.

Thank you all for bringing your hounds for me to go over; it was instructive that I was with you just a week after judging a typical entry of hounds at one of the major shows in the UK. I may say that the entry I had at IWANE was more even and of better quality all through than the entry at Bath, but that I came across the same prevalent faults both sides of the ocean. We seem to be in danger of losing the well-laid shoulder and good lay-back of upper arm in our breed. Please remember that this good angulation of the forehand is essential for a heavy hunting hound to be able to reach efficiently and pull through correctly, whether at the trot or the gallop. Together with well-sprung pasterns, it is also an important shock absorber. Just consider the forces bearing down the forelegs of a 200lb hound at the gallop.

Please accept my criticisms of your hounds in the spirit in which I have made them; they are from the heart, and I only want to see the breed survive and stay closer to the standard we all cherish.

I had a lovely day, found many super hounds, and I thank you all again for bringing them!

Puppy Dogs, 6-9 Months

1 O'Lugh's Duff 10/29/24 Breeder Martino & Dormady; Owners Strait & Dormady

Very promising 7-month red brindle with attractive head and flowing topline. At this stage, steep in croup and a little 10 to 2 in front. Good balance of angulation, if a little upright in front. Rings his tail on the move, but very impressive standing. Moved well, but, unsurprisingly, a little loose!

2 Pinehurst O'Lugh Dire Straits 12/2/24 Breeder Katov-Goodell; Owners A&M Dormady

Just six-month old light grey brindle with lovely head, nice flow of topline, and balanced angulation which he needs to settle into. He has a very long tail with a big white tip which would be useful for line painting! He didn't move with the smoothness of the winner, but I'm sure he will settle once he gets used to the showing. Very promising boy.

Puppy Dogs 9-12 Months

1 R Noble Ralfearaigh's American Spirit 7/4/24 Breeders and Owners J & M Roland

Tall and rangy light red brindle with a pleasing head and good ears. He needs to drop into better angulation, and currently lacks strength in front and rear. He should look a lot better when he bulks up. He was the best mover in this class.

2 Cualainn Leo Ard Rhi of Wideview 7/23/24 Breeder J Harvey Owners M & D Milne & L King

Rather overweight lad with a coarser head. Heavier in bone and better angulated than the winner. He has a decent topline but silhouette spoiled because he's carrying too much weight. He was less certain on the move than first.

3 Aisling Alreach Ennis Breeders & Owners: C & G Lang & L Rosebrock

Very pale cream brindle with attractive head. Straight in front with lack of forechest and upright in pastern, and also lacking angulation in rear. This, combined with a rather flat topline, means he lacks power on the move. Such an awkward growth stage!

15-18 Month Dogs

1 Hops-N-Hounds Into The Mystic Beckett 1/19/24 Breeders P Hersch, J & C Schaeffer Owners P & B Hersch & J & C Schaeffer.

Well-made and balanced red brindle with attractive head. Teeth a touch undershot. Balanced angulation, with good bone and strong hindquarters. He is rather too long in loin and could be better made in front; he moved well and evenly but without great reach and drive. I wish he'd kept his head up!

2 Cardnasserie R Noble Yeats 1/30/24 Breeders J Carswell & P Newgard. Owners B Daly and J Roland

Lighter built hound without the smoothness of topline of the winner. His shoulders are a touch more upright, and he has less hind angulation. He moved with style, and, despite my criticisms, my note say he is a quality hound with potential.

Novice Dogs

1 Taliesin's Beul-Aithris of Sceolan FITB 10/5/22 Breeders D & D Smith Owners C Atkinson & D Smith
RESERVE WINNERS DOG

High quality three-year-old grey brindle. So well balanced all through. Good masculine head and sweep of topline. Nicely balanced angulation, and he moved well with good reach and drive. He could be a size bigger, and I wish he would carry his tail down on the move!

Bred-by-Exhibitor Dogs

1 Penchattan Ka Kiai Po Nul O Ka Lani 3/16/23 Breeder & Owner G Kowalski

Tall dark grey brindle of good proportions. Attractive head and sweep of topline through to his well-angulated rear. However, front too columnar; his shoulders need to be better laid and upper arm need better layback. He moves well in profile but his front is wide coming towards me.

Open Dogs

1 Windseeker F Bomb 4/26/23 Breeder A Brockett Owner D Smith WINNERS DOG

Compact but balanced two-year-old with good front, carrying a bit too much weight but with correct construction all through. Strong, handsome head, albeit I would prefer better ear carriage. Well-muscled quarters which gave him powerful, even movement, but I would like him to have longer legs, and to keep his head up on the move. A quality hound.

2 Carrickaneena Brennan On The Moor 2/9/23 Breeder E Flanagan Owners J McCabe, E M Flanagan & E B Flanagan

Tall grey brindle who needs better angulation fore and aft. He has a lovely houndy head with gentle expression. He is well bodied and moved well enough once he got into his stride.

3 O'Lugh's Gin And Tonic At Massapeag 9/13/23 Breeders A & M Dormady & J Sula Owners K Eberl, A & M Dormady

Very tall and rangy 18 month hound. An attractive upstanding male with rather straight front. Standing looks the part but on the move very loose and swinging his front legs out, misplacing his step at times. He is young yet!

Veteran Dog

1 GCHB CH R Noble Nasch 7/11/18 Breeder/Owners J & K Roland AWARD OF MERIT

Seven year old 'of great size and commanding appearance'. Excellent proportions. A kind head with well carried ears. His shoulders could be a touch better laid, and I would like a slightly better sprung pastern. Lovely through his body with super bone and with a well-constructed back end, which he used to move with freedom, reach and drive.

2 Ch Lonkyle Pining for the Fjords 2/15/19 Breeder L Simmons Owners M & A Muffley

Lighter and narrower than the winner, and a bit shorter on leg. Kind soulful expression on his beautifully proportioned head. He held a good topline and has a nice sweep of hindquarters, and moved well enough but without the strength and power of the winner.

The winner of Open Dog was my Winners Dog today, He and my RWD (winner of Novice) were of similar make and shape. The Open dog won by virtue of being the cleanest, most powerful mover. I like the Novice winner a lot, but he does fly his tail too high!

Puppy Bitches 6-9 Months

1 Pinehurst O'Lugh Joan Jett 11/4/24 Breeder K Catov-Goodel Owners A & M Dormady

7 month cream girl with super construction and lovely pigmentation. Sweet head and expression, although ears are on the large side. I would prefer better lay-back of upper arm, but she has good top- and underlies, and strong sweep of hindquarters. She moved cleanly, with good reach and drive. Very promising prospect.

Puppy Bitches, 9-12 Months

A good, even class here.

1 Cualainn Laouse For Ard Rhi 7/23/24 Breeder J Harvey Owner L King

10-month brindle with attractive head with good planes and well set and rosed ears. Nice to see such good lay-back of upper arms, though shoulders could be smoother. She has lovely well made strong hindquarters, and moved well with precision and reach and drive.

2 O'Murchadha's Gra'Ngabhor 9/6/24 Breeder P Murphy & M Wiewel Owner P Murphy

9-month red brindle with good head and pigmentation, well set ears, pretty well made front, although shoulders could be smoother. She is a well-proportioned hound with plenty of daylight under her and sweeping hindquarters. She moved well with freedom

3 R Noble Carnasserie Star Spangled Girl 7/4/24 Breeders & Owners j & K Roland

A quality hound with many of the same characteristics as the first and second. A lovely head with well set and carried ears, maybe a touch flatter and longer in topline, but with nice balance all through. Not just as clean on the move as the winners.

Novice Bitches

1 J P Wendel Bootleg of Aerie 11/28/23 Breeders A Benjamin S Irick Owners Benjamin & Marx

Super quality cream of beautiful construction. Gentle expression with good pigmentation and dark eye. Well laid shoulders, super front, lovely topline and balance of quarters. This overall balance was reflected in her free and easy movement, with reach and drive.

Bred-by-Exhibitor Bitches

A quality class of three here:

1 Muse Lismore of Aerie 12/27/21 Breeders Owners & S & K Levan Owners D Marx & A Benjamin

Strong well-made bitch with balance. A grey brindle with white whiskers lending such a gentle expression to her lovely head. Beautifully set and carried ears complete that picture. Well-made and angulated front assembly matched her strong hindquarters with well let-down hocks. Curvy, and moved easily with reach and drive.

2 Taliesin's Brice SC 10/7/17 Breeder/Owners D&D Smith

Seven-year-old bitch in lovely condition, to whom many of the comments I made on the winner apply. Just not the curves and angles of the winner, but moves cleanly and with vigour. Gentle but alert expression on her dignified head, and what lovely well-set ears!

3 O'Lugh's Grey Goose 7/3/23 Breeder/Owners A & M Dormady

20 month light cream/grey brindle with pleasing head and good overall proportions. Smooth top- and underline and nicely angulated hindquarters. Moved ok but appears stiff in hocks, which didn't extend and drive as efficiently as they should.

American-Bred Bitches

Another very good class

1 Elite of Aerie 11/13/23 Breeder/Owners D Marx & A Benjamin

Tall and imposing dark grey brindle with real scope. Houndy head with well-set and carried ears, smooth neck, but I would like to have seen better lay-back of upper arm. She had a good underline and well angulated hindquarters. She moved with purpose and freedom, although a touch close behind. Super quality.

2 Lismore Nightwing's Calyddon Barracuda 11/25/22 Breeders S & K Levan Owners Breeders & D & J Pitt

Another nicely balanced rangy hound with a strong houndy head, albeit with larger floppy ears. Not quite the curviness of the winner, and slightly narrower, but nicely made all through. Moved efficiently with style and presence.

3 O'Lugh's Blackwater Junipern9/13/23 Breeders A & M Dormady, J Sula. Owners J Sula & A Dormady

A quality wheaten bitch with proud heads carriage, although her shoulders are too upright, she is smoothly finished and fits together all of a piece. She has nicely angulated hindquarters and moved well with some reach and drive.

4 O'Lugh Bimini Breeder/Owners J Sula, A Dormady & M Dormady

Not quite the attractive outline of the first three, somewhat narrower in front and a bit heavy in belly. She has a good head and gentle expression, and balanced front and back construction, and moved with accuracy but without the freedom of the winners.

Open Bitch

1 Fleeer Magnus Cor BCAT 8/28/22 Breeder R Tuckova Owner K Richard

Beautifully proportioned bitch with classic head and smooth curves to topline and down her hindquarters. Well-made and angulated front and balanced angulations which she used very effectively. A touch longer in loin than I would like, but moved very well with drive and fluidity. She later took the Best Head class.

2 O'Lugh Blackwater Aperitif 7/3/23 Breeders A & M Dormady Owners J Sula & A Dormady

This bitch has a lovely head with gentle expression and beautiful rosed ears. She has a lovely rise over loin, good rear angulation, and nice low hocks. She is more upright in shoulder than the winner, so the fit of her neck is not just as smooth. Although straighter in front than the winner, she moved well and with freedom.

3 Taliesin's Baintighearn 10/5/22 Breeders D & D Smith Owners J Cottrell & D Smith

A lovely dark brindle bitch with super front and gorgeous head. She is close coupled in loin, and with balanced angulations. She presents as a compact powerhouse, presented in lovely condition; there is just rather less of her than the winners.

4 Starkeeper Huntersrun Juniper at R Noble 9/8/23 Breeders J Gagner & A Wright Owners J & K Roland & J Carswell

Strong wheaten brindle with good overall dimensions and length of leg. She has a good head and expression, but her shoulders are not as well laid as those of the winners here. She was not just as clean on the move and a bit closer in rear foot placement.

Veteran Bitch

1 Ch Gin Fizz of Aerie 12/23/18 Breeders A Benjamin, D Marx & A Dormady Owners D Marx & A Benjamin BEST OF OPPOSITE SEX

Beautifully proportion six-and-a-half-year-old with curves from head to tail. Gentle expression, with greying whiskers, well set and folded ears, decent layback of upper arm and very good over the croup. She has balanced angulation and moved well with easy reach and drive. My notes say: 'A hound of high quality.'

2 Ch O'Lugh Blackwater Bombay 7/16/17 Breeders M & A Dormady Owners J Sula & A Dormady

A quality pale brindle bitch with a houndy head and beautifully high set ears. She has a nice sweep of topline and balanced angulations. She was narrower in front than the winner, but moved easily and with freedom.

3 Ch Lismore Ard Rhi.s Little Night Music 2/3/18 Breeders S & K Levan Owners L King & G Quinn

Despite this seven-and-a-half-year-old dark gray having a more pronounced stop, she has a lovely dark eye and old fashioned expression. Although narrower in front, she is a balanced, attractive package with nice low hocks. Today, she chose not to move with the enthusiasm of the winners!

4 Mythic's Phinney Branwen CGC Breeders A Linden & R Axelrad Owners S & S Gilson

Lovely grey whiskers on this nearly nine-year-old girl. She is of good balance and proportions, albeit rather narrow in front. She gave way to the winners on the move, lacking their drive.

Winners Bitch

In the end, the scope and symmetry of my Open Bitch winner took Winners Bitch. Close up was the winner of Novice Bitch. She was that much less confident and more compact, but shows such super construction.

Best of Breed

What a delight to see these wonderful hounds filling the ring! Such a privilege to go over them all!

Best of Breed

Ch Lismore Nightwing's Z28 Camaro 11/25/22 Breeder/Owners S & K Levan

My notes read: Imposing, Great Size, Commanding Appearance, Athletic, Curvy. He has a powerful masculine head, great balance of angulations, is deep chested and stands so proudly. He really came together on the move, and drew my eye and admiration time and again. I was not surprised to discover he was sired by my superb veteran dog winner. He later took the Best Gait class.

Best of Opposite Sex (See Veteran Bitch)

Select Dog

Ch Siegfried Von Welzerberg 5/7/23 Breeder S Ottfullinh Owner K Richard

Handsome strong masculine hound with well-made head and alert expression. Good angles all through. He has nice low hocks and plenty of hard muscle, and moved with power and grace.

Select Bitch

Ch O'Lugh@s Cc and Ginger at Massapeng BCAT FITB Breeders A & M Dormady Owners K Eberl & A Dormady

This four-year-old has a lovely head with all the correct planes. She is nicely made with well-matched angulations. She is not the tallest, but is quality all through. She moved cleanly and with freedom.

Award of Merit

GCH CH O'Lugh's Black Label. 4/2/21 Breeders A Dormady & J Sula Owners M Martino & A Dormady

All those lovely heads to pick through!

My winner has a gentle expression and well-set ears, decent lay-back of upper arm and balanced angulations. These, combined with a gentle rise over loin, presented a winning picture, and she moved cleanly and with drive.