

Irish Wolfhound Club of Northern Ireland
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I would first like to thank the club membership for inviting me to judge your Specialty show. My traveling companions Morgan (daughter), Tamara Dunn and Mike Adams had the most wonderful time meeting new friends and visiting with old. Ireland is a most hospitable country and one where we all felt at home and look forward to returning for a longer visit in the near future.

The day started out cold, windy and damp...perfect Irish weather and great for the hounds. Thank you to my ring stewards Margaret Martin and Rachel Shaw-Rainey for helping me navigate the paperwork as this was my first time judging under the KC rules. The exhibitors were extremely gracious and accommodating towards us all. The hospitality committee provided plenty of hot drinks and provisions to keep us warm and dry. Tony Rainey provided pictures of all of the exhibits and transportation to the show for which I was grateful. And of course, Tim, Marion, and Ian Finney's gracious meal and conversation on the last day of our trip was outstanding and much appreciated. This experience came full circle for me when I was told my dear friend and mentor Bill Deemer was the first person to judge on these grounds and it appeared that I would be the last as the show venue may change next year.

Now for my overall impression of the hounds before moving into the individual critiques. The breed is obviously in safe hands with the breeders in your country. Bites were not an issue, however there were a few undershot without losing contact of incisors. Ears were generally rosed with thin leathers. Eyes were dark with a couple of exceptions. Most had crisp, harsh coats (not always the case in the states) and feet were good. Bone and substance was not an issue and they all, with the exception of one or two had the lovely sighthound shape we strive to keep. Shoulder assemblies are a problem everywhere so I wasn't surprised to find this one area to be weak. Good **layback** of scapula and a long forearm set **well under** seems to be troublesome but we need to strive to correct this. If I may bring up one other thing, excessive grooming with blades. Our hounds are to be hand stripped and tidied, not coiffed and scissored. When you use blades on the coat it blunts the ends of the hair and the coat loses its natural crisp texture and begins to feel soft, becoming more water absorbent thus not able to shed water as its original purpose intended. Please don't use shears and thin down their necks to the skin, it makes them look weak, it does not give the appearance of a long neck. Again, I thank everyone for welcoming us and hope to visit with you again soon.

Puppy Dog

1st-#9 Isnalera Gimme Shelter at Gulliah- Stallion like curvy dark brindle boy, good ground covering reach and drive on the move, clean moving away, a tad wide in the front coming toward you. Super harsh coat. Would have liked a little better return of

upper arm. Correct planes of the skull, nice dark properly shaped eye, good bite (front lower incisors set forward a tad) but had good width of under jaw. Long strong neck blending into a well laid scapula. Good fore chest with proper width for his age. Well ribbed back. Curvy strong rear with good length and strength of second thigh. Proper tail set and angled croup. Great feet. I found him to be of outstanding quality and later awarded him **Best Puppy In Show**.

Junior Dog

1st-#38 Caredig Augustus- Another curvy young stallion, lighter brindle boy with good ground covering reach and drive. Single tracked coming and going, a tad close in the rear. Good bone and substance throughout. Correct planes of the skull, proper scissors bite, would have liked a little tighter rose to his ear, long strong neck, good underline and topline, nice long upper arm, well ribbed back with correct length of loin, proper tail set, strong muscular rear with breadth across the croup, excellent bend of stifle.

Limit Dog

1st-#42 Latino Roan Inish- Masculine, powerful stallion of a hound. Well balanced, moved strongly with powerful reach and drive. Feet stayed close to the ground on the move with little wasted effort. Moved cleanly coming and going, toeing in just a bit coming towards you, extremely powerful rear. To be a bit critical I would have liked to have seen just a tad more length of leg underneath. Strong arched neck that attached firmly into a well laid scapula and strong fore chest having good depth and breadth. Strong topline and correct underline, very strong arched loin, lovely breadth across the rear quarters with a strong muscular second thigh. Carried his tail correctly on the move. Good bone and substance throughout. Beautiful headpiece with correct planes of the skull, properly set eye and ear. Nice feet. This dog's movement, balance and overall strength won him the **Dog CC** on the day.

2nd-#24 Napoleone Della Bassa Pavese- Loved the scope of this boy and his presence. Houndy, curvy outline. Had good reach and drive but didn't hold his shape on the move, would have liked a little stronger topline. Excellent planes of the skull, perfect scissors bite, good eye, well placed ear, long strong well arched neck, nice long upper arm, good underline, well ribbed back with proper length of loin, good topline (when standing), harsh coat. Well muscled broad rear quarters. Would have liked the hock joint to have been a little lower to the ground. Long, properly set tail carried a little high on the move. Overall good bone and substance.

3rd-#1 Stonestorm Web of Dreams- Movement wasn't as clean coming and going as my first two placements, moved wide. Tail did not flow from the croup and he carried it

high on the move. Would have liked a bit more rose to his ear and a better bite. He had a lovely head, good expression, a long strong neck, good length and return of upper arm, correct underline, harsh coat and good feet. Well muscled throughout.

Open Dog

1st-#42 Ch. Kill Bill Roan Inish- Red Wheaten stallion of a hound. Covered ground with ease and purpose, never put a foot wrong. Held his outline on the move. Strong neck blending into a well laid scapula, excellent underline and topline, good bone and substance throughout. Broad fore chest and broad hindquarters, good bend of stifle with low hock joints. Well ribbed back with good spring of rib. Masculine head, correct planes of the skull, correctly placed rosed ears. To be critical I would have liked a bit more length and return of upper arm and a darker eye. Very harsh coat. This dogs movement and overall quality earned him the **Reserve Dog CC** on the day.

2nd-#36 Ch. Caredig Caradog- Quality dark male. Movement was parallel when moving away, converged coming towards you with a bit of paddling in the pastern area. Balanced reach and drive on the side movement. I felt the rise started a tad bit early on this boy and not at the loin where it should. He had a very good head, properly placed rosed ears, dark eye, long muzzle, proper flex to his front pasterns, good feet, harsh coat, good bone and substance throughout. He had a strong neck with a good arch that blended into a good shoulder assembly.

3rd-#4 Carrickanab Archy at Cuaontroime- Moved with too much lift and bend in his front pasterns yet with balanced reach and drive. I really liked the way this dog's neck fit into his shoulder assembly, good strong broad base. Good fore chest, good underline, harsh coat. Good tail set and carriage.

4th-#17 IR Ch Ferseithean of Skerryhill- Tail set was good. Flat topline on the move, converges when moving away, a little wide in the front coming towards you. Decent reach and drive. He was balanced front and rear. Good underline and good topline, nice harsh coat.

Dog CC #42 Reserve Dog CC #43 Best Puppy Dog #9

Puppy Bitch

1st-#19 Isnalera Sweet Black Angel-Converged in the rear when moving away, moved a little bit wide in the front coming towards you. Great coat texture but could use a little tidying up with some hand stripping, one of the best return of upper arms I'd seen in the exhibits thus far. Good muscling throughout, good reach and drive. Beautiful planes of the skull, dark eye, long muzzle, nice outline. Good bone.

2nd-#27 Caredig Riot-Moved close in the rear and wide in the front. Moved with ground covering reach and drive on the side. Correct head with properly placed ear, dark eye, good bite. Good length and return of upper arm, long strong neck, good underline and topline.

3rd-#26 Cufodhla Boin De-Moved a little close in the rear going away and a little wide in the front coming back. Good bite and ears. Would have liked just a little longer muzzle. Side movement balanced yet not with long strides on the day. A little high in the rear on the day making her appear to have straighter angles. Excellent harsh coat.

Junior Bitch

1st-#18 Druimnacur Erin- Clean as a whistle coming and going. Converged with no wasted effort or paddling of the pasterns. Covered ground easily and effortlessly without any excessive lift or wasted motion. Extremely efficient movement. Held her curvy outline on the move. Good width and breadth of fore chest. To be critical I'd like to have seen a tad bit more length and return of upper arm. Feminine head with long muzzle, dark eye, good bite. Strong, well curved rear. Later awarded her **Best Movement**.

Post Graduate Bitch

1st-#20 Isnalera Gretel-Typical curvy dark bitch. Great ear, dark eye, good bite. Moved cleanly going away, paddled a little coming toward you. Nicely balanced reach and drive on the side movement. Good underline, held her topline on the move. Good width and breadth of fore chest. Good croup with proper tail set.

2nd-#16 Kerry of Skerryhill- Bite was a bit under, moved closely going away, flipped her feet outwards from the pasterns coming towards you. To be critical I'd like to have seen a bit more bone. Nice croup and tail set, harsh coat good length of neck. Good ears and nicely bent stifle.

Limit Bitch

1st-#23 Amarach Caitin at Baronglen- Absolutely beautiful curvy brindle bitch. Converged on the down and back moving just a tad wide in the rear. I had to laugh at my recorded notes as I commented on what a beautiful return of upper arm this bitch has and hope she'll use it and move out on the side movement. Nicely done, good reach and drive. Topline appears weak when the handler tried to stack her but when the bitch self stacks and when moving, it is perfect. Great scissors bite, full dentition and the teeth were all clean. Beautiful planes of the skull, strong feminine head with long muzzle without being coarse, well placed rosed ear, dark eye, long strong arched neck that flowed into the best shoulder assembly of the day. Scapula was well laid back and

long forearm set well under. Well ribbed back with strong long, lovely broad well muscled rear and long muscular second thigh. This bitch's breed type and scope won her the **Reserve Bitch CC** on the day.

2nd-#45 Pitlochry's Wild Wisper- Another high quality bitch. Converged moving away, moved a little wide coming toward you but pasterns stayed still. Side movement was effortless with good reach and drive. Similar in quality to the first place girl, with overall less length. Scissors bite, good placement of ears but the leather could be a little thinner. Well balanced, well muscled. Would have liked a little more length of upper arm.

3rd-#8 Gulliagh Boom Bang-A-Bang- Converged on the down and back, nice reach and drive, bicycles a bit in the front pasterns on the go around. Excellent bone and substance throughout, lovely bend of stifle, good bite, dark eye, harsh coat. I felt she had adequate length of upper arm but could have set under herself a bit better. Strong neck connecting into a well laid scapula. Correct underline and strong topline.

4th-#11 Gulliagh Alfjr- Another lovely bitch. She was missing some of the "S" curves I looked for in my girls on the day. She had good bone and substance throughout. Would have liked a bit more angulation in the shoulder assembly. Moved closely in the rear going away, single tracked cleanly coming towards you. Excellent harsh coat, lovely feminine head with strong neck.

Open Bitch

1st-#37 Brachan Dolig Wen Caredig- A superior quality, more moderate bitch who single tracked coming and going with just a bit of wide movement in the rear. Excellent reach and drive. Good topline and underline on the move. This girl was one of those bitches that stacked better on her own. Her topline would slope when her rear was stacked out too far. Beautifully strong feminine head without being coarse. Good bite, good dark eye, lovely rosed ear, proper planes of the skull. Lovely strong, arched neck blending into a very good shoulder assembly. Good return of upper arm. Well ribbed back, proper spring of rib, excellent strength of loin and croup. Excellent bone and substance throughout. Good tail set into a properly angled croup. Tremendous amount of muscling over the second thigh. She never seemed to tire and was her best on the move. Her overall strength, presence and ability to move without tiring earned this girl the **Bitch CC** on the day.

2nd-#40 Ch. Jacaranda Roan Inish- Would have liked a better rosed ear, leather a little thick. Her movement coming and going was not a single track nor did she move parallel, it was somewhere in between but still converged toward midline. She had balanced reach and drive with ground covering power. Would have liked more length of upper arm, set under a bit more. Tremendous strength and bone throughout without being coarse.

3rd-#15 Gulliagh Macha- Single tracked on the down and back, toeing in just a tad. Moved along easy and effortlessly on the side movement, nothing overdone about this bitch. Lovely feminine head, correct planes of the skull, almost no stop, muzzle a little longer than the back skull, dark eye, lovely soft expression, good pigment, good bite, strong under jaw and properly placed rosed ear with thin ear leather. Later awarded **Best Head.**

4th-#10 Gulliagh Aella- Moved close coming and going. Nicely balanced on the side movement, topline sloped a little bit. Wasn't the happiest to be in the ring on the day.

Veteran Bitch

1st-#2 Tarlog Tiger Lilly from Marlaw- Lovely 8 ½ year old girl still in her prime. Her coat had been recently stripped out but what little had grown back was correct and coarse. She was still very fit for her age, well muscled and moved beautifully. Still covered ground easily and effortlessly and converged on the down and back, just a tad wide in the rear movement. Her topline was steady and strong on the move. Good breadth of fore chest, well ribbed back with a strong loin. Balanced front and rear. Was happy to see a girl of this age doing so well, a testament to her owner and also bears well for our breed.