

Irish Wolfhound Club of Northern Ireland
Special Award Classes, IWCNI Championship Show, 22 September 2017
Judge: Tamara Dunn
Judge's Critique

I would like to thank the membership of the Irish Wolfhound Club of Northern Ireland for inviting me to evaluate your lovely hounds entered in the Barry Quinn Memorial Open Show. It was a privilege and I hope my selections honor the memory of the man for whom this show was named and who worked so hard to support your club and our breed.

I also want to thank the exhibitors, the show committee, and our ring stewards Margaret Martin and Rachel Shaw-Rainey for sharing this special day with us. The hounds were lovely, everyone was welcoming, and it was truly a pleasure. I greatly enjoyed my time in your country.

The areas I see needing improvement in the breed seem to be global. We need to work toward better fronts, bites and stronger toplines. There were some light eyes which took away from a soft expression, but it was pleasing to see the number of hounds without extreme angulation of the hindquarters, and all my entries had lovely temperaments. I did notice hounds who had been shaved instead of hand stripped. When the head is shaved it creates a terrier expression, much sharper and harder than what is correct for our breed. Any sort of clipping, other than for sanitary or medical purposes, should be avoided. The handler is doing a disservice to the overall look of their hound, and taking away from what should be typical of the breed.

It seems by nature we always want a little more, but we should take care not to push a "little more" into "too much. "A little more neck, more angulation, or a slightly lower hock can become extreme enough to negatively impact a strong topline, the health of the hound and of the breed. The standard mentions moderate several times, and my belief is moderation gives us a graceful hunting hound with the health and structure to remain sound well into his veteran years. If angulation is extreme, we run the risk of breeding and showing a hound who begins breaking down before his 5th birthday. I was happy to see many hounds with correct and moderate angulation, particularly in the hindquarters.

Thank you again for having me and I hope to see everyone again soon.

Tamara Dunn
Ierne Irish Wolfhounds
Cary, NC

Class A

Special Award Junior Dog/Bitch

6 Entries/ 2 Absent (#14/#44)

This was a tough class as I really enjoyed all four of my junior entries. They were all very nice representatives of the breed.

1. (18) Druimnacur Erin (12 months)
 - a. Notes: Nice bitch, adequate front, a little upright, better than the boys, moderate angulation on the rear, nice movement coming and going, good ears and expression, overall all a nice quality bitch.

2. (38) Caredig Augustus (13 months)
 - a. Notes: Puppy Dog, a little upright in the pasterns, slightly better layback than 3rd placed hound. Good angulation in the hindquarters, easier going around, nice solid topline. Nice, friendly personality and a gentleman for his handler. He will be a strong male as he grows into himself.

3. (9) Isnalera Gimme Shelter at Gulliagh (11 months)
 - a. Notes: Lovely dark male, dark eyes, nice ears, a little wide in the front coming at you, hopefully this will improve as he ages. Somewhat upright in the shoulder, nice angulation in the rear, very naughty for handler making it a little difficult to get a good look at him, or a good view of his movement. Not shy, just a bit of a rogue and very exuberant. I can't wait to see him as he grows up, and I hope he doesn't become too serious

4. (27) Caredig Riot (7 months)
 - a. Notes: #27 Nice young brindle bitch, somewhat upright in the shoulder, good pasterns and feet, slightly lighter eye than other three in class, slightly higher hock, nice moderate hindquarter angulation. I'll be interested in seeing her as she grows.

Class B

Special Post Graduate Award Dog or Bitch

2 Entries/1 Absent (#5)

1. (20) Isnalera Gretel (2 years)
 - a. Notes: Beautiful dark bitch, could use a slightly better front with more lay back of shoulder, good upper arm, good type standing, toes out a little on the front, nice low hock, a little long in the loin. Good angulation in the hindquarters.

Class C

Special Open Award Dog or Bitch

5 Entries/ 1 Absent (#40)

1. (11) Gulliagh Alfjr (4 years)
 - a. Notes: A well balanced bitch with good type and a good front, though I would like a slightly better upper arm, nice head, expression and ears, slightly lighter eye, and a good bite. Good top line. I would like a little more bone and a darker eye. Moved nicely around the ring with a very relaxed gait.

2. (10) Gulliagh Aella (5 years)
 - a. Notes: Nice solid bitch with good bone and a decent front, well balanced. It was hard to assess her movement as she was very unhappy today with having been asked to leave the couch. Good moderate angulation in the rear with a nice low hock. Ears back, but holding them flat. Slightly lighter eye. Nice head and expression. Overall a good quality moderate bitch. I wish I could have seen her really move around the ring.

3. (43) Ch Kill Bill Roan Inish (3 years)
 - a. Notes: Very light eye, good ears, adequate front angulation, yet not reaching out as he should when moving, overall a nice quality dog. A slightly weak topline with a dip, somewhat over angulated in the hindquarters and seemed to be lagging on the move, excellent height and breadth. Lovely head and neck.

4. (4) Carrickanab Archy at Cuaontroime (5 years 10 months)
 - a. Notes: Dark strong male, somewhat upright in the pasterns, would like a better ear, nice dark eyes, good bite, excellent hard coat, good layback of shoulder, slightly short upper arm, not reaching as he should on the go around. Could use more of a tuck up, but he's getting close to six and is aging well, still active and strong. This is so important in our breed.