

UNITED KINGDOM TOY DOG SOCIETY

27th March 2010

My thanks to the committee for giving me the opportunity to judge at this, one of my favourite shows. Being the only Toy Group Ch Show it always has a special atmosphere of camaraderie for our Toy breeders. Thanks also to my two experienced, lady stewards who were most helpful and helped to keep the judging going at a good pace. Thanks to the exhibitors for giving me a pleasing entry of 60 dogs with only 7 absentees, the entry was a quality one and to use a cliché there were some very good ones who stood down the line, on another day placings can and will change as some dogs who I have admired from the ringside and have much to offer to the breed were either not looking at their best or not giving of their best. The loud tanyoy played a part in one or two of the entry taking exception and giving up, I know this is so frustrating for their owners, it can be said that all the entry have to deal with the noise, but it is true that it does affect some dogs whilst others are oblivious

In previous critiques I have begun by saying that I look for a square body with a large round head, now to comply with the KC revised breed standard we have to look for a “fairly large head in comparison to body” but quite a number of today’s Griffons disappoint in head size and width of muzzle this is obviously more noticeable in the smooths but on examination it can be detected in the roughs. On the table many of the heads had beautiful expressions with all the features in the correct proportions yet the head lacked size therefore on the move and looking from a distance they do not look balanced. It could be seen as well as felt the dogs who had regular exercise by the muscle tone and tightness of feet or lack of. A term often used in critiques is “this dog was on his toes” referring to the fitness and attitude, but to me it also means that a dog is structurally sound in feet and pasterns, this strength is usually bred into the dog but can often be ruined or improved by correct play exercise from a very early age, for instance, if young puppies are only allowed to play on carpeted or grass areas they do not have to tighten their feet so can become soft resulting in an open foot and weak pasterns in an adult and this in turn can cause them to drop in front. If they have access to concrete, flagged areas and when a little older shale or chippings they have to tighten their feet using their muscles, tendons and strengthening pasterns, hopefully resulting in the required small, thick, cat like feet. Mouths in the majority of exhibits were good and all males were entire.

There is sometimes a fine line between a dog being well bodied and one that is carrying fat, there were odd ones today shown in soft condition and carrying a little too much weight and this can affect their movement, not causing unsoundness, more giving a slight rolling action. I have watched many of the previously docked breeds and found that even within a class they are not uniform in tail carriage and Griffons are no exception the set on and the carriage being separate issues, obviously the set on is most important but I feel we must be lenient for a while regarding carriage. The main criteria’s being soundness, correct breed type and true Griffon character, then of course (without itemising) to conform to the breed standard as near as possible in all areas. This is what every judge is looking for yet judges have their own areas of importance and as no dog is perfect it is a matter of compromise rather than fault judging.

Judges are now given briefing on taking into consideration Fit for Function Fit for Life, it states “No matter how outstanding an exhibit appears in relation to the breed standard in other ways, care must always be taken to consider it in more general terms so as to avoid rewarding exhibits that give rise to concern due, for example, to any signs of” followed by a list of conditions. In my opinion my winners today will fulfil the K.C. requirement of Fit For Function Fit For Life. Because of the recent changes in our breed standard relating to features in the head and head size, I find I cannot use many of the terms I have been used to using over the past 30 years in my critiques and feel limited in my description of heads.

A welcome gesture was that the President Ferelith Somerfield came to the ringside to give her personal thanks for officiating at this show, much appreciated.

Dogs.

Veteran 1 1 Ogden's black and tan rough **Ch Beauview Out Of The Closet** this 8 year old moved confidently round the ring at a good pace he is one of the better balanced dogs of the old type I like, being strong in body and bone with the super size head and features good neck, held his topline with tail on top coat still harsh, of good colour and in neat trim. A true cobby male being wide and deep in chest with well sprung ribs. **Best Veteran.**

Minor.P.D 1 1 Price's red rough Marquant The Bad Boy NAF, just a baby of 6 months but what a lovely one, well covered frame for such a youngster, firm, level topline, short in back and good set on, in super coat of good colour, lovely expression coming from nice dark eyes, well placed nose, good turn-up and neat ears all in a fair size head which will develop with age, confident if over enthusiastic on the move so he found it hard to walk in a straight line but I did see enough of his movement to approve, this is a good sign for things to come.

Puppy D 3. 2 1 Thompson's red rough **Beauview Can't buy Me Love.** 10 month nice sized dog developing well, with a beautifully prepared coat of good colour and texture, head though not small still has time to develop in size but looks to have width of skull all the features are there good dark eye and strong turn-up, good nose placement and using his tidy ears well giving him a true young male expression, enough bone for his age good neck and shoulder and well angulated hindquarters, kept a firm outline with tail carried on top at all times moved out well and soundly on strong legs. Very promising, will watch with interest. my **Best Puppy** and pleased to see he was **4th in puppy Group.**

Jun.D 1 1 Finlay's red rough **Gilderoak Mastercard** just out of puppy and a very reliable showman, with a firm body for his age, coat yet to clear but of harsh texture and neat in preparation I liked his expression coming from correct features, nice length of neck giving him a good head carriage, forechest developing well, enough bone really strode out going around the ring holding his topline with tail well carried and held on stand. A pleasing young male who showed really well, very smart, should mature nicely

PG. D 5. 1 Thompson's red rough **Tremaloy's Son of A Gun.** great coat of good colour and harsh texture, which was well presented as were all from this kennel, lovely size and outline with well carried tail, round dark eye and pigment one of the few with a dark furnishings, good width between neat ears, well placed nose, strong underjaw giving him a lovely expression, body developing well, good head and still time to develop even further enough bone, good front and rear angulation with nice tight feet moved soundly with width behind from nicely muscled thighs, pushed hard **for res. C.C.** I'm sure his day will come.

2 Conway's black rough **Stormjac Dutchcan Can Coup** neat little dog smaller than 1 in super coat of strong black colour and harsh texture well presented, good neck, strong topline with good set on and well carried on the move, enough width of chest and bone, expressive head with correct features small well carried ears and pleasing expression, at present a little less cobby than 1 but he has time, well angulated rear, moved round soundly.

3 Rundle's black/tan smooth. **Salora High Fidelity.** Carrying a little too much weight today, rich tan markings, happy showman. with good round bone and strong ribcage, very male.

Limit D 9 2 A good class differing in size and at different stages of maturity and here I must comment that each of the 7 dogs present were very typy and pleased me in different areas and will I'm sure change places

1 Marshall's red rough **Menwinnion Percussionist** Sh CM. A solid masculine dog, another of the old type which means he has the correct dimensions, depth of body with well sprung ribs, wide deep chest and a good sized head with width of skull to fit the body, correct size round dark eye, large nose pad with open nostrils, his strong underjaw gave him a true male expression. I liked his neck, shoulder and strong topline which he held. Moving out soundly with a good stride on strong legs and feet showing a well muscled second thigh which I would think comes from regular exercise, with all of these strong points he does not appear in any way coarse, shown in good harsh coat and hard condition, well deserved **Reserve C.C.**

2 Spittle & Rhodon **Captain Scarlet** red smooth made in a smaller mould than 1 and not yet the substance or head size as he is younger and being a smooth still has more development time, yet he has a well covered body with round bone and neat feet. His coat is of a deep clear red overall and as it should be very tight fitting as the standard states unlike some of the smooths Nice head features with well carried neat ears and good turnup, Super showman, he stood four square on tight feet and strong pasterns showing a neat profile at all times and at one with his handler,.

3 Burke's red rough Marquant Valentino what a lovely specimen, head and expression to die for, classic, beautiful presentation why did he stand 3rd just too big for me

Open D 5 Difficult one as three lovely dogs all pleasing in different departments. Breed type in abundance all presented well and in excellent condition

1 Price's red rough **Ch Marquant My Romeo** Eyecatching dog of nice size and not exaggerated in any way, coat is a dark, even red from tip to roots and harsh to the touch, his head is so "Griffon", and has all the requirements desired being the correct round shape with width of muzzle, good space between neat, well carried ears, round dark eye of good size, ideal nose placement with correct layback and strong wide underjaw giving that true snooty Griffon expression. Straight front with correct lay of shoulder Well arched neck leading to a tabletop back, short loin area with tail emerging at right-angles as per standard, a good tail carriage on the move, he relaxes it when standing, he charged soundly round the ring covering the ground well, on strong legs, neat feet and tight pasterns. Overall picture is of a compact, well ribbed dog with the right amount of bone for size and super breed type all this along with that extra attitude made him my **Dog CC and BOB**

2 Mercer's red rough Ch Fennymore Pinkie Royale heavier framed dog with correct round bone and tight feet, well sprung ribs and good forechest, correct size masculine head to well balanced to body for me the head size I like, correct eye, good sized nose pad and turnup, nice expression, showed steadily went well with tail on top at all times he did all he had to do, plenty of substance without being over the top. I just had the edge on him in animation

3 Thompson's black/tan rough **Beauview Troop The Colour**. This dog presents my ideal silhouette, near perfection, one of the best head sizes in proportion to well balanced body of the day, all his dimensions are ideal, 1 and 2 out-moved him today

Bitches

Vet. B 3 1 Marshall's red rough **Menwinnion Pipes of Pan** the youngest at 7 years and dam of my Reserve Dog with much the same build and virtues but in a feminine form, a case of like breeds like, therefore many of my remarks appl has a good straight front, sweet expression with a round dark eye dark red coat in neat trim and good pigment, she moved well both ends and showed happily.

2 Barney's red rough **Ch Broomleaf Beguine of Cilleine** 11 years old a worthy Champion of her day and a good type, well balanced with nice round bone and good width all through, not showing her age in her movement being still sprightly, coat neatly presented.

3 Marshll's red smooth **Menwinnion Melody**, in my notes it says "Bless" at 13 years old she showed her, new to me , handler how it was done both on the table and moving in a full circle, then looked up at me saying "I'm still here" all three a credit to their owners

Minor P.B. 3 1 Burr & Davies's black rough **Liamford Eye Candy**. 6 months on the day, she was there to enjoy herself and she did, so much so that her movement was hard to assess so had to rely on the table, obviously much to come together but has the makings of a nice one with a good shape, the makings of a beautiful jet black coat, black round eye, loved her ears. pretty expression, looks wide enough behind, bone and body right for age, interesting to watch her grow.

2 Price's red rough **Marquant The Dancing Girl**, and she lived up to her name, 6 months 1day old so as the above very much the baby gorgeous head features, ears to settle, nice neck leading to level back correct set on. body shape, good textured coat for age very good colour, neat outline.

3 Payne's black and tan **Checar Closet Queen** 8 months so she was much further on in body and a larger size, nice bone, good size dark eye in a well size head, happy temperament, longer cast than those above.

Puppy B 4 1 Thompson's red smooth **Beauview Just Can't Hide It**. Just 10 months old litter sister to Puppy Dog winner and well matured or her age, she has such a good spring of rib and width of chest and body, super colour with dark pigment, fair size head with nice eye, large nose pad and strong underjaw giving a good expression, straight front with round bone and enough hind angulation, strong topline and nice tail carriage, moved well showing off her happy character.

2 Harrison's red rough **Fennymore Sealed With A Kiss To Harrizona** 11 months should make a nice size dual purpose bitch. Coat of good texture and presented smartly, enough bone and body, good legs and neat feet, well angulated behind, unfortunately she wasn't having a good day not helped by the tannoy at the wrong moment so on the move it was hard to assess her shape and movement but on the table she handled well, nice eye, nose placement and underjaw, with a pretty expression, sure she will gain confidence.

3 Finlay's red rough Fennymore Kiss Curl, litter sister to above. Good frame but not yet as well covered as above, good neck and head carriage with neat ears and nice features, sweet expression, coat not yet as good as **2** happy showgirl.

Jnr B 3 1 Thompson's **Beauview Posh Nosh**. A lovely young bitch very typy, shown with more coat than most but as I like it and still very neat, tidy and well presented, most Griffons in the past were shown with a good strong coat, today exhibitors and many judges like to see them with very little growth to their coats, remember the Definition of Griffon is "Rough" this girl has plenty of width all through giving her a cobby outline lovely length of neck leading to a pleasing, good

shaped head, well placed ears with dark eye, good size nose well placed and nice turnup, adequate bend of stifle and neat feet, she moved well both ends and showed happily, sure she will mature into a beauty.

2 Rose's red smooth **Rhodon Regal Maid** shown in good hard condition with just enough muscle, medium size another with the correct smooth coat being short and tight of nice colour and texture, her fair sized head should mature further with well shaped dark eye, plenty of width between ears strong turnup and pert expression, good length of neck enough width of chest and straight front, her topline has yet to strengthen moved well both ends very attentive and willing showgirl. 3 Payne's black and tan **Checar Coz I'm A Star**. Larger type than 2 with a well covered frame and round bone, sadly it just wasn't her day as she was so overwhelmed.

Post G B 8 1 Smith & Pattison's red rough **Chartis Vanilla Fudge** good size for dual purpose, quality red coat beautifully presented, a neat bitch showing a good outline and tail carriage especially on the move, relaxed her tail on the stand, I liked her type and size with well rounded ribs and good width of chest dark round eye, neat ears, well placed nose and underjaw lovely expression in a fair sized head on a good length of neck, black pigment, moved soundly both ends on good legs and feet.

2 Rundles red rough **Miss Saigon** another nice bitch of good type and size, super coat and condition, well rounded frame with width, showing good bend of stifle, her head is of good size with neat ears and good features, pleasing expression, she moved steadily.

3 Stanton's red rough **Millbone Cherry Blossom at Mira**, much to like about her, in good coat well presented, beautiful round dark eye and lovely expression, moved well and happily if only she was a size bigger

Limit B 10 1 Price's red rough **Marquant Desire**. Gorgeous girl the type expected from this kennel, so compact in body coming from short loin area, width of chest with well sprung ribs and strong level topline with tail emerging at right angles and carried gently curved, well arched neck topped by a good head size in proportion to body with correct round eye, ideal nose placement and strong turnup giving her a most beautiful expression but today a little lazy with her ears she moved soundly coming and going and showing a neat profile in side action, with a good stride. attentive and has style. my **reserve C.C. winner**

2 Willsmer's red rough **Gaystock Just So**. Larger size than 1 another good dual purpose bitch. The lovely old fashioned type firm strong body nice round bone, plenty of width all through with round ribcage. I liked her head size and width of skull, good shaped eye, open nostrils this with a strong turnup gave her a good expression moved steadily and soundly front and rear, plenty of coat but of correct texture/colour and still presented neat and tidy.

3 Marshall's red **Menwinnion Pianola** same size as 2 and as all from this breeder

Open B 4. 1 1 Pattison's black rough **Chartis Liquorice Black**. Loved this nice sized girl she came into the ring and not for one moment did she stop wagging her well carried tail showing a true Griffon character. Correct harsh texture coat of jet black all through ideal presentation, good one to handle as everything fits without exaggeration her medium sized frame was well covered and appeared square, her chest has the correct depth and width with a good spring of rib, gently arched neck and firm shoulder, her head has good width between small neat well carried ears, super round darkest of eyes, good sized nose well placed with a strong turnup giving a pert, feminine expression, round bone, tight feet and strong pasterns,

sound hindquarter well angulated which she used to advantage when moving at a nice pace, she covered the ground well and on a loose lead, she maintained her level topline on the move and standing, animated and attentive whenever I glanced at her, was pleased **to award her the C.C.**

2 Barney's red rough **Ch Gaystock Just A Thought**. Another beautiful girl who pushed hard for first place, full of breed type, larger head than 1 in proportion to body, she has a lovely expression coming from strong features, correct size eye, large nose with open nostrils, and strong underjaw in a broad skull, good red coat and harsh, well presented, tail bang on top moving and standing, moved steadily and soundly both ends. On the stand I preferred stronger topline of 1 and attitude. Cobby applies. to this one 1

3 Prouve's black rough **Ir & Int Ch. Liamford Miss Damson**, a size smaller than 2 she is a pretty, feminine bitch who was unlucky to meet the two above her, good black coat which was well presented, really lovely expression, moved soundly but not giving her all today.

Judge Maureen Higgins