

CRUFTS 2013

LANCASHIRE HEELERS

What a joy to judge this charming British breed! It is one of those where exhibits just seem to get better and better with age. Both my top winners were veterans and Veteran Dog was a cracking good class. There is still a bewildering variation in type in the lower classes, but there were enough compact exhibits with level topline and high set tails for me to end up with a really exciting line-up in both sexes. I was delighted too that for the first time when judging the breed, all the exhibits appeared sound and not one of them hopped. Congratulations to the breeders who test judiciously, it is beginning to deliver great results.

VD (8, 2a) What a wonderful class to open with! 1, Cartledge & Lord's CH FOXTHYME OLIVER CROMWELL ShCM., beautiful l/t who incorporated everything I was looking for, balanced head, alert ears, eyes toning with coat, strong neck set into well laid shoulders, level topline, high set scimitar tail, well turned stifles, correct h/l ratio, moving true going away and coming on, brisk profile gait. CC & BOB. 2, Bancroft's CH DODDSLIN BUSCUITS BY CHEINBAN ShCM., another very pleasing boy, balanced head, alert expression, dark eyes and well placed ears, good shoulder placement, enough forechest, strong level topline, high set scimitar tail, moved very well. 3, Norman's CH NORMANVILLE LONE STAR, shapely lad of excellent type & quality, pleasing head & expression, topline rising rather too much over the loins, great going away and in profile but not so good in front.

SpPD (1) 1, Grant-Parkes' PARABAR PEMBERTON, pleasing head though I would prefer clearer markings, lovely dark eyes and alert ears, nicely placed shoulder & good depth of brisket, but his topline rises sharply to a high croup which gives him a stilted rear action. I do hope he balances up as he matures as there is much to like about him.

SpJD (6) 1, McMullen's WELSHMOOR HELLRAISER, neat compact lad, most pleasing balanced head, alert & expressive, well placed ears, compact balanced body, beautifully placed and carried tail, moved with precision. 2, Breadman's HECKASLIKE JINGLE BELL ROCK, similar in type to Hellraiser but not as good in head, ears are placed well but he is pinched in foreface, balanced body, tail well set and carried, moved ok.. 3, Middleton & Roberts' WELSHMOOR BAT OUT OF HELL AT TALGUSKY, Smaller but typy boy, nice head and expression, outline spoiled by poor tail carriage.

PGD (3) 1, Sheldon's BELLSMOND SPIRITS SHADOW OVER TRIPHAZARD, very nice indeed! Super balanced head, expressive and keen, strong neck set into well angulated front, good forechest, strong straight topline, scimitar tail set and carried well, moved truly coming and going, fluent in profile, one for the future. 2, Whalley's TRAQDEAN KIITOS ZIGGIE, another pleasing lad, longer cast than Spirit's Shadow and not as convincing on the move, well laid shoulder, straight topline, well set tail, toed-out standing and coming on. 3, Grant-Parkes' BELLSMOND MOTH, shapely lad with a pleasing head, good shoulder, short bowed ribcage making him too long in loin, handled well to get the most out of him on the move

LD (11, 1) 1, Forbes' ROSEPIP BEAU DERRICK, very pleasing l/t, classy head, alert ears, eyes toning with coat, moulded muzzle, well constructed body, correct h/l ratio, level topline, scimitar tail set high and carried well, precise true action, quality dog. 2, Walton's TELPOOLWYN YUSHUA, super little boy, good head and exemplary body shape, well laid shoulder, strong level topline, moved well in profile but rather too close at the rear, I really liked him though. 3, Green's DODDSLINE MR SAM, another pleasing lad, attractive typy head and good body, moved well enough.

OD (10, 1) 1, Gordon's CH TROUTOP ROLO, one of my favourite Heelers but not putting enough into his showing today, super l/t lad, exemplary shape and quality, balanced head, keen expression, alert well placed ears, strong level topline, excellent tailset and carriage, positive action, true coming and going, brisk in profile with great reach and drive.RCC. 2, Landqvist's NORD CH MONGREL'S KIRKHAM NORD W 10/DK W 11/NORD W 12/SE W 12 (ATC AP01140SWE) smart b/t boy brimful of quality, balanced head, strong neck set into super shoulders, strong level topline and quarters, scimitar tail carried well, I loved his commitment and showmanship but preferred Rolo's profile gait. Simpson's CH SIMONSVILLE HURLEY ShCM, nice head though I would prefer tighter ears, short on the front legs & too deep in brisket which spoils his balance, positive action, true coming and going.

GCD (3) 1, W HELLRAISER. 2, T KIITOS ZIGGIE. 3, Fairbairn-Carter's SIMONSVILLE CASPER, shapely lad, good shoulder and topline, somewhat too soft in jacket, moved okay.

VB (4, 2) 1, Lord's CH FOXTHYME ELIZA, beautiful bitch full of type and quality, balanced head with charming feminine expression, strong neck set in a well laid shoulder, super front and forechest, strong level topline, well set scimitar tail, moved well in profile, slightly out at elbow coming on. 2, Gordon's TROUTOP GLORIA, neat attractive bitch, pleasing head, reluctant to show off her virtues, moved nicely.

SpPB (1) 1, Rennie & Fairbairn-Carter's MILLIREN MORNING MIST, most attractive girl, pretty head, dark eyes and alert well placed ears, well angulated balanced body, tail well set & carried, good front action, but wide and rather bow legged at the rear. BP

SpJB (5) 1, Flanagan's TRAPSYKE GYTHA, simply charming bitch, balanced feminine head, lovely front, level topline, constantly wagging scimitar tail giving evidence of her temperament, precise fluent action. 2, Jones' WELSHMOOR HELL HATH NO FURY, similar in type, pleasing head, shapely body, well set tail, not as good in front as Gytha. 3, Bartlett's SWANNDALE SCRUMPY, feminine, balanced in head and body, coat rather too soft, tail kinked.

PGB (10,2) 1, Cutler's LITTLEHIVE DAISYCHAIN AROUND LANKEELA, delightful feminine girl of great quality, lovely head & expression, balanced body, great shoulder, strong level topline, moved true coming and going, brisk side gait. 2, Playle's FOXTHYME OTIRA, similar to Daisychain, pretty head, great angulation but not quite so good in topline and moved rather wide in front. 3, Everill's SWANNDALE DREAM GIRL AT AVICE, pleasing balanced head, alert tipped ears, slightly longer cast in body, moved nicely.

LB (8,1) 1, Playle's FOXTHYME PARIS, I was amazed to find a 7 yo bitch of this quality still in Limit, beautiful balanced feminine head, alert ears, moulded muzzle, dark eyes, charming attentive expression, strong neck set into excellent shoulders, level topline, scimitar tail carried well, true coming and going, great reach and drive in profile, liked her a lot, CC.2, Spooner's AUDAXUS MA

CHERE RHEA, compact bitch, very pretty head, shapely body, level topline, her tail carriage could be better, as also could her front action, but a pleasing girl for all that. 3, Simpson's BELLINDA BELL BY SIMONSVILLE, pleasing head and expression, very nice tail carriage and action, rather too long for perfection but still a lot to like about her .

OB (8,1) 1, Jones' CH DODDSLIN DAFFODIL AT WELSHMOOR, what a cracking little girl, a quality bitch & so very pretty, excellent balance, neck set into well laid shoulders, strong level topline, well placed scimitar tail, true coming, going and in profile. In the challenge Paris just edged it on the fluency of her action, but it was so close! RCC. 2, Landqvist & Siversson's MONGREL'S YARDLEY YORK DK W 11/NO W 11/ NO JW 11/NORD JW 11/NORD W 11 (ATC AP0139SWE) another quality bitch, lovely head & expression, slightly too long in loin giving an untypical tuck up, moved very nicely. 3, Whiteman & Forbes' ROSEPIP NETERET ESET, I have done this bitch well in the past, not disgraced in this strong class, simply scrumptious head, lovely neck and forehead, excellent overall balance, not moving as positively as I remember.

GCB (3,1) 1, Gordon's TROUTOP LOTTIE, very nice indeed, pretty head, keen but feminine expression, beautifully balanced body, level topline and well set tail, tan could be darker to advantage, moved with style. 2, A MA CHERE RHEA.

Roy Baker