

THE LANCASHIRE HEELER CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW 15TH OCTOBER, 2017

It was as always a pleasure to spend a day with the Heelers, they have got that something very special about them that makes you smile and puts you in a good mood instantly!

The Show was held at Grimsargh Village Hall, near Preston; it wasn't an overwhelming entry numerically compared to Club Shows in the past, 40 dogs making 45 entries. Secretary Mrs Audrey Bancroft had everything organised in apple pie order and there was a happy and friendly atmosphere throughout. The kitchen provided lovely home made refreshments and I had an excellent lunch. The main problem today was poor fronts (have I said that before?), but today I also encountered some with large, wide set ears. There were a few with lighter eyes, than I like, a Heeler's expression is unique and light eyes spoil that. Temperaments were friendly and accommodating and I got a few smiles.

BEST IN SHOW was Ch LEYESIDE MISTER BEN;
RBIS, BOS and also BEST PUPPY, FOXTHYME SPECIAL MEMORY;
BEST VETERAN, Ch TROUTOP ROLO.

MPD (1) : 1. BPD, Simpson's Simonsville Zippy, 7 months b/t, smart & happy little chap, alert keen expression, good coat and body, moved OK behind but front not his best feature.

PD (2): 1. Simpson's Simonsville Young at Heart, 7 month L/t, same birthday as the MPD but different breeding. Bigger puppy but today lacking a bit of confidence. Bit long in foreface, quite well proportioned, good bone, needs more body to fill his frame. Not a bad mover once he relaxed a little & remembered to concentrate. No Juniors so onto

PGD (2): 1. Dawes's Welshmoor Bobbysox, 20 months, good type & proportions but failed badly in front and front movement. Attractive head, bright intelligent expression, excellent coat and topline, well muscled quarters, showed with style; 2. Jacques & Jacques-Harris's Foxthyme Mr Tobias, 18 months, size bigger than 1st, soft ears slightly spoil expression, moved and showed quite well, very good coat and condition, masculine head, well boned, sympathetically handled. Sired by CC dog.

LD (5, 2): 1. RCC Munro's Jorgei Cognac, 3 years L/t, good all round Heeler in excellent form, quality head, eyes could be more almond shaped and slightly smaller, strong body, good bone and topline, carried himself proudly on the move, showy & confident. Like several today sired by Ch Foxthyme Bradley, who is clearly a first class stud; 2. Webster's Welshmoor Bobby Dazzler, litter brother to PGD winner, quality youngster, lovely personality, very gay tail standing and moving, pleasing head, dark eyes, good neck, topline, coat & condition, moved OK, very fit; 3. Gorley and Holligan's Appelfire's Buffalo Bill for Willosyam.

OD (7); Really good class where I was spoilt for choice. Great pleasure to see Heelers of this calibre. 1. CC & BIS Smith's Ch Leyeside Mister Ben, 3 ½ years sound and well put together, typical head, dark eyes, intelligent expression, good body, topline and quarters, reliable positive showman, excellent bone and feet, free mover. Litter brother to my Heeler "pin up girl" who captured my heart at Darlington Ch Show when she was just a puppy! Mister Ben beat his dad into 2nd place here! 2. Lord's Ch Foxthyme Bradley, now 5, lovely type and overall proportions, but I still can't forgive those eyes! Good neck & shoulders, another who carried himself with style & confidence, fit & well muscled, excellent topline & tail carriage, easy mover; 3. Beach's Ch Foxthyme Back to Black, JW ShCM, I liked this 3 ½ year old for his attitude and showmanship, masculine head, calm & steady, excellent bone, coat, just right for condition. Just not as good in front as 1 & 2. Same way bred as Bradley, later litter. He was followed by two further Champions. R & VHC, so this was quite a class!

VD (4, 1); 1. BV, Gordon's Ch Troutop Rolo, 9 years liver/t not in his best jacket today but a very fit looking veteran for his age, easy mover, better front than most, clean neckline, good body & depth, well muscled quarters, steady showman. He too has done his bit for the breed, siring Bradley, Back To Black and Ch Foxthyme Eleanor with Troutop, today bitch RCC winner - all three out of Foxthyme Te Anau, so she deserves some credit as well! 2. Brancroft's Ch Doddsline Duffy ShCM, 12 ½ years still has a good shape for his age, a full set of teeth, showy and focused, good coat, well cared for; 3. Jones's Foxthyme Maori.

MPB (1); Absent. **PB (1);** 1, Best Puppy, & Bitch CC, Lord's Foxthyme Special Memory, she may have been the only bitch puppy present today but what a little cracker! Really nice puppy with very good potential, showed nonstop, good coat, body, topline & balance, smart & brisk mover. It wasn't until the end of judging when filling in her name on the Challenge Certificate that the penny dropped - her dam, Foxthyme For Your Eyes Only, used to belong to my late daughter in law, Jackie Cartledge, who lost her cancer battle 14 months ago. So a few tears were shed but I think Jackie would have been extremely proud and excited that "Lilly" has produced such a lovely puppy.

JB (2); 1. Erwin's Hoscarr Border Breaker, 15 months, attractive head and expression, neat well carried ears, firm body, well muscled quarters, fit and well conditioned, moved well behind; 2. Howdle's Utthanshavan Darlin Dear, yearling, carrying her ears rather wide, glossy coat, well conditioned, lovely thumb prints quite rare today, full of herself, good body, sympathetically handled.

PGB (6, 1); 1. Lord's Foxthyme Mocha Millettia, 3 years Liver/tan, started off a bit unsure of herself but rallied in time and performed reasonably well. Quality head, good bone, legs & feet, well proportioned. Carrying just a tad extra weight today. Deserves to be a Champion but needs just that extra bit of sparkle; 2. Fairbairn's Firkinfoot Hopscotch Holly, 22 months, feminine focused young lady, neat head, dark knowing eyes, good topline, tail carriage a bit gay. Another living the good life, carrying a shade too much weight. 3. Holehouse's Megacascade Sparkle.

LB (5, 1); 1. Fairbairn's Millirenn Morning Mist, 5 years, feminine little bitch of good type and overall proportions, charming character, a bit overweight for me

but so were the others in this class, showy and composed, good topline, moved OK; 2. Lord's Foxthyme True Colour, by the dog CC winner and excellent producer Foxthyme Te Anau, 19 months, attractive head but ears large & set wide, good bone, excellent thumb prints, steady mover & showgirl, well sprung ribs, good coat: 3. Davies's Black Rose In Ronleydon.

OB (2, 1); 1. RCC. Gordon's Ch Foxthyme Eleanor With Troutop, 5 years, litter sister to Bradley, steady, fully mature bitch with good coat, excellent bone & feet, clean outline, fit & well muscled, keen expression, moved well. Worthy Champion. I just preferred the vivacious, fresh look of the puppy.

VB (3); 1. Bancroft's Hotpot Kiddie Cate By Cheinban, will be 13 in December, lovely face, dark eyes, didn't miss a trick! Reminded me so much of my Doddsline Hilda, in head & expression, good outline and proportions, still shows with determination, trotted up and down quite happily; 2. Gordon's Troutop Lottie, 12 years plus, I preferred expression of 1st, good neckline & ribcage, still enjoyed her moment in the ring. Moving a bit close behind; 3. Taylor's Simonsville Yuletide.

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Liver/Tan (4, 1); 1. Jorgei Cognac: 2. Ch Troutop Rolo; 3. Foxthyme Mocha Millettia.

Brace (2); 1. Firkinfoot Hopscotch Holly & Millyrenn Morning Mist, mother and daughter brace, feminine well proportioned little bitches with dark eyes, going well together; 2. Ch Madincrowd Gabriel and Foxthyme Maori, father and son, no mistaking them for anything but a butch pair of lads, one gay tail slightly spoils the uniformity!

Norman Johnston Memorial Puppy Stakes (1); 1. Foxthyme Special Memory.

Edith Dugen Memorial Open Stakes (3); 1. Millirenn Morning Mist; 2. Ch Doddsline Duffy; 3. Foxthyme Mr Tobias.

In Aid of Rescue. (6, 2); 1. Hotpot Kiddie Cate by Cheinban; 2. Firkinfoot Hopscotch Holly; 3. Foxthyme Mr Tobias.

LIZ CARTLEDGE