

MASTIFF - BIRMINGHAM NATIONAL 2010

Never an easy breed to judge, and there are no outstanding specimens in the ring to set a standard and for others to aspire to. There were one or two going short both fore and aft, but the main problem I found with movement was lethargy, and a minute ring that prevented dogs from getting into their stride. I was in that hall the day before and the ring was made much larger for a much smaller breed! I was surprised to find some with scissor bites and eyelids turning in did worry me on one or two. I withheld on two dogs, one that appeared to be having a go at me and one that was too nervous to go over. He was not enjoying his day and in my opinion should have been left at home as it is always sad to see dogs so unhappy. On the credit side, both quantity and quality-wise, the bitches impressed me more than the dogs. The first two in Post Graduate, Limit and Open were all close up, and one could have played around with the faults and virtues and come up with a different result. I went with the one that screamed Mastiff at me the most.

PD(3) 1 Zadeh's Faynad Gentleman John Lowe.

A little apprehensive to begin with but when he settled he was enjoying his day. A fabulous mover, totally balanced, just right in development. Well angled both ends, correct bone, scored in feet over others, head needs to develop and eye tighten. If the next 2 years are kind to this dog, he could be a great one. **BP.**

2 Andrews' Cyberus Defiance.

Scored in head over the winner, well developed body, big strong bones, correct angles, at the very floppy stage and run up behind.

3 Knight's Kumormai Echelon.

JD(6, 1)

1 Thornley's Winefreds Boy Arthur.

Won on balance, outline and topline, but could be more outgoing. Not overdone in any way, correct bone, quarters ok, well shaped head but slightly overshot, moved well enough.

2 Baxter's Maharajah Shera By Nobleheart.

A good type, correct head shape, strong neck, well boned, well developed body of correct ratio height to length, slightly straight behind but went well enough when he got going.

3 Bowdery's Sherwood's Okie Dokie At Morganlefay (Imp USA).

PGD(6, 4)

1 Smith's Dobunni Revolution.

I liked this dog for type and balance, correct head shape, eyes rather open, good bone and feet, body development just right, good quarters, went ok.

2 Weston & Johnson's Cyberus Special Envoy Among Ecotyne.

Correct head shape, adequate bone, body well let down and correct proportions, rather straight behind which affected his movement.

LD(6)

1 Baxter's Labaryth Boy Mackenzie For Nobleheart.

Won on type, balance and true movement, correct head shape and expression, strong neck, correctly placed shoulders, well developed body, kept his topline, strong quarters, does not want to carry any more weight.

Res CC.

2 O'Connor's Avadelyon Rola Cola.

I have always liked this dog for type. I just thought that for his age there could be more of him. Classic head, strong neck, correctly angled shoulders and quarters. One of the best movers.

3 Pennie's Fearnought George Formby.

OD(3)

1 Proudfoot's Ch Salforda Sable.

I was much more impressed with this dog after going over him than I have been from the ringside. I liked him for type, correct head and expression, strong neck, correctly angled both ends, strong bone and feet, well developed body in hard condition, moved true and kept his topline but could have driven more. **CC and BOB.**

2 Judge's Cyberus I'm An Outlaw At Plushcourt.

Another I liked for type, correct head and expression, strong neck, good front, correct length of body, just right for bone with more maturity and self pride he could be a different animal.

PB(3, 1)

1 Zadeh's Faynad Baronessa.

Sister to the puppy dog winner and very similar, nicely balanced throughout, on good legs and feet, moved well and kept her topline. What I wrote about her brothers head and eye applies to her.

2 Dickinson's Mullak Lucretia Lilin.

Rather plain in head and lacking in muzzle, well shaped and developed body, nicely rounded quarters and good front.

JB(4, 1)**1 Gittins & Baker's Cwmtyswg Destinys Delight.**

Lovely type, correct head shape, front ok, well boned on good feet, correct development of body, strong quarters, ran up behind, went ok.

2 Baxter's Chevelu Honey Bea By Nobleheart.

I liked her overall type, rather plain in head, good front, well angled quarters, correct development of body, ran up behind and needs to settle on the move.

3 Baker's Cyberus Bewwitch Me.**PGB(4, 1)****1 Hill's Hexnorden Formed From Fragilis.**

One of a group of very good bitches I had. Scored in balance standing and moving, correct head shape and front assembly, strong firm body, nicely rounded quarters, went well enough but rather tucked under behind.

2 Norris' Hexnorden Celebration Day.

Litter sister to winner and very similar, rather plain in head, well developed body and quarters, width of chest, well boned, not as positive as winner on the move.

3 Thompson's Kumormai Manipulation At Thetchra.**LB(6, 1)****1 Knight's Kumormai Atonement.**

I think this bitch oozes type, which won her the CC. Correct head and expression, strong neck, good front, well rounded quarters, on good legs and feet, went well enough, a pity she was shown in soft, poor condition.

2 Fox's Thomaster Runa.

I have always been a great fan of this bitch. I like her for type and overall balance, she is correctly proportioned, has a good front and rear, moved true but lacked enthusiasm which also affected her topline at times. **Res CC.**

3 Hill's Fragilis Fangorn.**OB(5)****1 Clarke's Suncamo Morella.**

Another good type, scored in head, well developed body, good front and well rounded quarters, but a bit straight in stifle, good bone and feet, correct ratio height to length, went well enough.

2 Corkin's Thomaster Ragna Over Fouranfass.

Rather plain in head and lethargic on the move which spoilt an otherwise very good bitch, strong neck, good front, well angled quarters and well developed firm body.

3 Yemm's Secret Charm Avec Dibest.

Nick Waters