

## Blackpool & District Canine Society 2016

One could say of this ancient breed that it has weathered the storm of time well. It is never an easy task to rear a giant breed straight & sound. The breed of course has health problems that judges have to assess when judging, & report back to the KC. I am sure in the archives of the Old English Mastiff Club must be information in that after WW2 the breed almost became extinct in the UK. Due only to generous lovers of the breed on both sides of the Atlantic, did the breed survive here. I remember a bitch in particular shown under the name of Ch OEMC Countess, campaigned by Mrs Edna Harrild of Moonsfield Great Dane fame. Her daughter Pauline, who was very young at the time, has promised to look in her old files to see if any interesting information surfaces.

About 40 years ago when I was researching the early history of the Great Dane I visited Lyme Hall, where the Lyme Mastiff, was bred by the Legh family for 600 years(1346-1946). The old kennels were still there. These dogs were highly prized & deemed fit for presentation to the Royal Courts of Europe. Lyme Hall now owned by the National Trust, I urge present day Mastiff fanciers to pay a visit & see the wonderful paintings of these dogs.

Soundness about all is the point to aim at. Correct feeding, & careful exercise of the right type is paramount. I would say to newcomers, talk to successful breeders of the other giant breeds who usually are prepared to give friendly tips on correct rearing. I gave close attention to well placed eyes, & excessive wrinkling. The correct coat is part of the character of the breed, & I found some with short sleek coats more in keeping with the Great Dane. Taking the breed collectively, as entered under me today, I would say the breed is in good heart.

PD (5) 1 Whiteley's Mulaloo Magic Touch, this lovely 6 months extrovert made my day. He surely is going to be an important dog in the breed. I see AI sired. Beautifully reared, & so sound on the move & the best of manners. I am sure he knows he is extra special. Wowed the ringside later when he competed for BPIS. BP & RCC;

2 Coulman-Hole's Faynad Humpty Dumpty, coming in nicely her. Good type & eye. Not so forward as winner; 3 Coulman-Hole's Faynad Fifty Shades.

JD (3,2a) 1 Matheson's Kumormai The Trickster, good strong sound bone. Good dark eye, excellent pattern.

PGD (2,1) 1 McKevitt's Glaciers Edison The Inventor at Tyketarn, much to recommend. Excellent body, well balanced, good tailset & carriage, strong, active mover. Correct coat.

LD (2) 1 Manfredi's Templar's Archangel for Prixcan, grand build & type. Good eye; 2 Zadeh's Faynad Frankincense.

OD (2) 1 Clarke's Gator Debra Damo, brindle, with correct coat, good eyes, free active mover. Good representative of the breed. **CC**;

2 Whelan's Ch Fragilis Firework, grand type, shade over wrinkled in head I felt, but still personifies the breed well.

PB (3) 1 Baxter's Penhallian Away Like A Lilty, well balanced, good texture coat. Pleasing head & eye, can finish well;

2 Herring & Dodd's Faynad Annie For Ya Nanny by Heffalump, needs time to settle, & coat to come better. Eyes could be tighter.

JB (2) 1 Knight's Kumormai Scarlet Witch, excellent coat. Pleasing head & eye. Shade high behind, but not given to any exaggeration. I felt well worthy of her win today.

CC & BOB; 2 Bowdery's Sherwood's Aspen For Adventure at Morganlefay, neat brindle, smaller build, but has much to offer the breed, with her good eyes & quality type.

LB (3) 1 Harding's Sando's Sophistication at Mulaloo, excellent legs & feet, good body, dark clean eye. firm mover. A little fine in coat, but there is much to recommend this one;

2 Zadeh's Faynad Black Rose Brindle, brindle, of good build & type. Eyes could be tighter; 3 Bowdery's Morganlefay's Tina's Choice.

OB (2) 1 Andrews' Jasmine Jewel Du Ranc De Bannes at Cyberus, my notes say real Mastiff, so it was a fine decision for the ticket today, so well balanced, moving firmly with drive. Dark eye.

RCC; 2 Pass' Ch Quicksilver Of Seven Oaks for Lygonhall, not in good coat today. Grand type, could have been firmer on the move.

JEAN LANNING