

The Lancashire Heeler Club Championship Show

Was held at Middlewich in Cheshire on Sunday 1st October 2023, thanks to my Stewards and the Club for all their help in putting on this show, however, I must admit that I was shocked to be growled at by 3 dog exhibits and one bitch, this I have never encountered in judging this breed over the past 40 years.

What can be done to counteract this type of behaviour in these exhibits, firstly you can stop feeding them treats for misbehaving, I fail to understand how exhibitors in any breed don't understand the logic of baiting, baiting is about getting the dog to do what you require and then ONLY rewarding it if it achieves the result you require, you should NEVER reward a dog that is being naughty, aggressive or uncooperative, that is totally counterproductive. Overall, the bitches had more depth of quality than the dogs and it is quite worrying when the younger classes are depleted a first class specimens of the breed Only the odd one here and there to satisfy your eye.

Whilst I do understand in some way that good hearted members of a club are supporting the club and come along to show their dogs, but they need the help, advice and encouragement of others with more experience to give them this advice and help, particularly the Committee of any club should have a dedicated person that welcomes these newcomers to our hobby to help them achieve the ability to compete with the best of us, or are they frightened if they do they may beat them?

Star of the day for me was Matilda McBride a young 9-year-old girl that put many adults to shame for her handling skills where she was calm and collected without any fuss.

Puppy Dog.

1st Swandale Walter Tybalt. Well made dog that was rather unresponsive on the table but the handler did eventually manage to get him settle to a sort, well grown with very good proportions to please, excelled in neck, all male head piece, moved out well once settled.

Junior Dog

1st Poolheywood Barney. Best performer in this class to clinch top spot, quite well balance with a good define head piece, body well put together, good free mover in both directions.

2nd Skipest Winter Blues. Needs more training to achieve better results, quite well balanced head good ears ample neck, good bone. Presented in good clean order.

3rd Utthanshavan Jubilee Cupid.

Yearling Dog.

1st Simonsville Fenwick. Well made dog that was best in class to view, pleading head piece, not as amenable as I would have liked on the table, good body parts moved out well.

2nd Lankeela Kristi and Eeyore, Good sized brown male that had good proportions through but he tended to roach his back on gaiting which spoil and otherwise good outline.

3rd Skipest Winter Blues.

Post Graduate Dog

1st Utthanshavan Wolf Moon Man. A really nice dog that was pleasant to view, all male head with good definition, ample neck good body tail a touch too curled, moved ok.

2nd. Lankeela Kristi and Eeyore

Limit Dog

1st well balanced dog that catches your eye but not the most a meanable of chaps on the table, needs more training, strong skull with good balance throughout, presented in good clean condition.

2nd Swanndale man in Brown. Not a big dog, colour as describe in name good proportions but carrying too much weigh, pleased in head little overdone in front which you could see on the move.

Open Dog

1st Ch Taigwynion Jonny's Boy at Swanndale, Smart young dog with a first class attitude to the job in hand, really good mover with style, good male head piece, good bone and feet, pleasing body parts good tail handle well. CC

2nd Lankeela You Go Boss at Foveaux, brown male of good disposition and a good attitude to the job in hand, please skull with good planes, ample neck with well proportioned bodily parts and good rear quarters not quite the carriage of winner today.

3rd Lyeside Mister Wilds at Daweslean.

Veteran Dog

1st Ch Foxthyme Mr Bradley. My notes read "the Peter Pan of Heeler" this 11 year old dog only looks 5 years old, a credit to breeder/owner for keeping him in such condition, a most beautiful head that you could look at all day long, not a big dog to view but one of sheer quality. Res CC +Best Veteran in show

2nd. Ch Foveaux Storm Revolution. 10 years old and still quite fit for age, not quite as youthful looking as winner, pleasing balance but carrying a touch too much weight today, presented in very good order.

Minor Puppy Bitch

1st Tudorbrook Morgana, very nice youngster that had to be bribed to stand on table with food, I'm sure once settled she was fine and eventually won Best Puppy in show, really feminine to view, very well made and well proportioned throughout. Presented in good order.

2nd Taigwynion Carnelian. Nice bitch but a touch rangy at present and needs to settle once her growing has finished, stylish on the move with lots to like about her.

Junior Bitch

1st Foveaux Queens Gambit, very feminine to view and a good head piece with a lovely expression, good bone and feet, nice ribbing for age, good positive mover in both directions. Best Junior in Show

2nd. Foxthyme Tilly. I liked this bitch but thought she could have moved her a touch faster to gain advantage over the winner, very typical head which left nothing to the imagination, very good breed type and presented in good order.

3rd Utthanshavan Jubilee Joy

Yearling Bitch

1st Foveaux Queens Gambit

2nd Foxthyme Libby, brown bitch of good size but needs more ring training to gain advantage, well balanced throughout with a good deportment, good on the move once settled.

3rd Lankeela CoCo ssh Nell

Post Graduate Bitch

1st Foxthyme Mocha Millittia, Brown bitch with lots to like but needs her nails cutting, put in a good performance, quite well balanced in head kind expression, good ribbing firm rear, moved well once settled.

2nd Lankeela CoCo Ssh Nell, another brown but not quite the presence of winner today, however the more she did the better she became, prepared and presented in good order.

Limit Bitch

1st Foveaux Queens Gambit

2nd Mahogany Dawn of Barleydust. Another very nice bitch but rather reluctant on the table, on the floor she was a different dog, very feminine to view, she had very good balance and was quite feminine, moved out well.

3rd Taigwynion Freya Sadie in Ronleydon.

Open Bitch

1st Vittador Gold Dust for Lyeside. A real quality bitch that is ultra feminine well defined featured head piece with the most attentive ears, bright eyed, lovely body condition

throughout, didn't put a foot wrong and what tipped the scales for me was her tan colour as this breed is becoming devoid of the rich tan it use to have, well deserved CC + Best in Show.
2nd Ch Selestar Salix Lutea with Foveaux. Unlucky to meet winner today in such good form, another really quality bitch of sound construction throughout and well made, very sound particularly in rear movement, prepared and presented in tip top condition. Res CC.

3rd Ch Ribblespride Ladytron.

Veteran Bitch

1st Ch Foxthyme True Colour. She portrays a good typical shape on the move, good skull with a keen eye, firm backline for her age, nicely bodied and in very good condition.

2nd Ch Leyeside Miss Bonnie. Another nice bitch a touch thicker set than winner which didn't help her on the move nevertheless a very good feminine bitch with lots to like about her, presented in fine condition.

3rd Ned Ch/Fin Ch Marmalade's New Joy for Weordune.

Judge Steve Hall