

Potomac Valley Irish Wolfhound Club Specialty Show
March 29 & 30, 2009

Thank you the committee of Potomac Valley Irish Wolfhound Club for inviting me to judge your show. Special thanks to my wonderful ring steward, Mr Peter van Brunt, who kept me in order both days. Thank you also to the exhibitors, many of whom had travelled long distances to have their hounds judged.

In all classes I seemed to find hounds who to me typified the IW standard and had the correct movement that is required in a galloping sighthound. I do put a lot of emphasis on correct movement. We must always remember an IW is a member of the sighthound family and therefore an IW must move with drive and long strides covering the ground easily and actively and be presented in a condition that could hunt all day. Type was very good overall. You have some wonderful heads, something always to cherish in the breed. One cause of concern was that in many hounds I found small worn teeth and narrow bottom jaws. Please watch this and try when breeding to use dog with not alone complete dentition but with good size teeth and broad bottom jaws. Legs, yes, I did have a few hounds short on the leg, and they were penalized for it. If you are new to the breed or just need a jolt to remind you what are the breed requirements, please just look at the photos of my four main winners and there you will find hounds that are true IWs. Thank you once again.

Marion A Finney
May 2009

Puppy 6 to 9 Months Dogs (3, 0 absent)

1 J Simon & Genovese's Stoneybrook Sonny Skye.

Wheaten dog with good size and bone . He has a nice head, ears can hang a bit flat, strong neck going into good shoulder and has a well filled front and basically good over all in front angulation, and had good reach when moving . But unfortunately this is not matched behind, and it shows when moving because his hqs have not the required drive and propulsion to match his front. So the whole picture can look rather unbalanced, but he is sound moving and young and time may build up the hqs somewhat. He is very upstanding in the ring, and has good ribbing but both standing and moving, he can show a rather straight topline, He has a nice strong body and good bone and nice overall ratio of body to leg length for a young dog.

2 Camel & Neff's Glenamadda Zarek O'Beltane.

Nice type of young dog, again wheaten, but less mature than 1. He was here to enjoy himself rather than show off his virtues on the move. He has a pleasing head and excellent ears, feet a bit flat and rather straight pasterns, his body overall lacks curves, and even when his hard working handler did get him to move his tail just flew up in the air., and he lost a balanced outline.

3 LeVan & J Simon's Lismore Stoneybrook Nick

The baby of the class, just over 6 months and a very big day out for him, he stood to be gone over well but he really didn't get his act together at all on the move. He has a pleasing head, but generally needs more angulation everywhere.

Puppy 6 to 12 Months Dogs (6, 2)

1 Brown, Shultz & Abrams' Hound Hill Taggerty

A truly beautiful upstanding dark brindle young dog, boasting excellent breed type. Impressive head and ear, dark eye and correct mouth. Strong neck going into fairly angulated front, pasterns a touch straight. Good bone and great strong, long sighthound legs, nice body and well angulated hqs if a touch flat in croup. On the move he holds his shape, covering the ground with effortless long strides, a lovely boy with I am sure a bright future in the ring.

2 Malloy's Eirian Saoirbhreathach Dalbai

Very sound moving dog if at times not too enthusiastic. His length of leg is a bit short compared to his body length and he can stand a bit slack at times. He has a lovely head good eye, with correct under jaw and well filled head. Strong neck/body and ok overall angulation.

3 Abrams & Hound Hill Tallberg O'Tailstorm

Rangy big dog, not boasting the best jacket to-day. Pleasing head and ear, but lacks overall angulation, and has a lot of maturing to do.

4 Harper's Eirian Coinneach Beamard Sullivan

Another raw young man, his head has too deep a stop which gives a rather untypical hard expression. He too needs more angulation overall.

12 to 18 Months Dogs (8, 3)

1 Prokopenko & Gagne's Starkeeper Glenamadda O'Lyre

A very nice free moving young wheaten dog, who covers the ground very well, with sometimes his handler having trouble keeping up with him. He has nice type, a bit light in bone, pleasing head, good neck going into very well laid shoulder, he has a good body and nice strong hqs. His tail can curl a bit, he has probably the maximum ratio of body to leg length {but then better long than short}. He is only 18 months or so, but I hope he continues to build up more body or he could finish up a rather light dog.

2 Wortman's Redtops Cullen

A red wheaten dog with good length of leg, head ok, but eyes a bit light. He has a rather long narrow body, and certainly I would like to see more spring of rib. He has strong broad hqs if a bit steep in croup, and has nice free side view movement.

3 Gallier's Guinness Stout Of Mountain Mist.

Overall this grey dog is rather plain throughout, and certainly lacks overall angulation. He has a strong body, and good length of leg, and moves soundly.

4 Guttilla's Ar Rhi's Arlo Guthrie

Rangy dog with straight pasterns and narrow front. He has some nice breed type, but a lot more maturing to do.

Novice Dogs (2, 0)

1 Smith & Giordano's Tailiesin's Willow's Glympse

Really nice well muscled wheaten dog presented in correct hard condition, his side view movement covering the ground with long effortless strides is super. Coming and going he moves very well in front, but going away he seemed to lack some drive. His head is to die for, complimented with dark eyes and pigmentation. He has a lovely body, with good width/depth through out. Very much a balanced sighthound, shown to perfection.

2 Camel & Neff's Kindred Cormac O'Beltane

A dog that seemed he would rather be at home than at to-day's show. He just lacked enthusiasm in the ring. He plodded around soundly keeping his shape ok. He has a strong broad body. Very pleasing head and good bite

Amateur-Owner-Handler Dogs (2, 1)

1 English's Mise Eire An Fear Sarsfield SC

This is a very nice dog presented in wonderful hard condition and he really can stride around the ring with powerful effortless long stride. I think any wolf would be afraid of him. He has a lovely strong balanced body with enough depth of chest, good bone and topline. Nice pleasing head, with good wide under jaw. He has reasonable overall angulation, maybe a touch more behind would complete a very imposing picture.

Bred by Exhibitor Dogs (10, 0)

1 Flanagan's Carrickaneena Meirgire Best Bred by Exhibitor

Upstanding grey dog, very much a sighthound, lovely type, wonderful balanced head, with kind expression, good bite. Strong neck, maybe a bit of grooming here would highlight even more his strong neck. He has good feet and a super jacket. Well angulated and filled front, and nice return of upper arm. Deep curvaceous body, with good ribbing. He has good bone and feet, his croup is slightly steep and gives the picture when he is standing that his hqs are tucked under him. Expertly handled and presented in hard muscular condition and looks like he could do a day's hunting.

2 Carter, Gagne & Prokopenko's Glenamadda Starkeeper Armagh

A really balanced well angulated dog with super broad hqs, and strong powerful hocks and he is a real joy to see moving from the side view, and really covers the ground with a lot of ease. But coming towards he is rather wide in front, and inclined to toe in, and he can fly his tail, which doesn't help in keeping his outline. Nice typical head and overall a

very nice dog, but he is compact and a wee bit on the small side, and really doesn't shout at you, I am a stallion dog.

3 Littlewood's Rosslare's Jackamo

This light grey dog was one of the best movers of the show, covered the ground so well with effortless long strides. He has a beautiful typical head, good ears but his teeth are very worn and he does have a rather narrow bottom jaw. He is a very impressive hound with a good strong body, but he needs a bit more angulation both ends to complete the picture.

4 Neu's Brenniams Dublin Dreamer

Very nice honest looking, typical grey bridle dog, good curvaceous body correct ribbing, and generally gives the impression of balance and symmetry, moves soundly, but maybe his handler can get more sparkle out of him.

American-Bred Dogs (8, 0)

1 Myer's Kellykerry Penn Of Sidhe

A really nice dark dog with a wonderful head and ears, strong powerful neck going into excellent shoulders, good upper arm. Curvaceous strong body good loin and topline. Broad hips with good tail set, strong muscular hqs, and muscular second thigh. To watch him float around the ring pushing off from his strong well angled low hocks is a great joy and coming and going there is very little to be critical of. But he has one fault, he is unbalanced his body belongs to a dog about 1 to 2 inches taller. Or just he needs longer legs.

2 Gagne's Starkeeper McEnroe Of Limerick

Coming into the ring this red wheaten really impressed me, his side movement is very good and he holds his nice, balanced shape. Coming at you he can move a bit wide, and going away he is inclined to throw out his right hock. He has a beautiful head and eye and excellent pigmentation, but his mouth is now a pincer bite and he has a rather narrow bottom jaw and very worn small teeth. He has a strong shapely body, with nice balance of leg to body ratio.

3 Sula's Blackwater Texas Bonfire

A dog of overall balanced medium angulation, nice type and good curvaceous body with ribbing carried well back. Good head, but he can carry his ears flat. He moves out and covers the ground very well, with good long powerful strides, but his coat is a bit soft.

4 Milne & Smith's FC Taliesin's Wizard of Wideview

Lightly built dog with hard muscles through out, built to do the job, but doesn't have the nice breed type as the other winners in the class.

Open Dogs (11, 0)

1 Dormady & Osborne's Wolfhaven Aint No Fool To O'Lugh Best of Winners, BOB

This outstanding big dark grey brindle dog, just over 2 years old, really stole the show for me. As soon as he entered the ring he took command of it. His strong powerful long legs just propelled him around the ring with long effortless strides. On examination I found a hound with a beautiful head and good ears, mouth and eyes, His strong neck lead into, excellent fore and aft angulation. His front has all the required angles and a excellent return of upper arm. Long strong body with excellent top and bottom lines. Broad loin and good ribbing, He has a well set croup and powerful strong hqs. His hocks are low and so powerful and muscled and good tight feet. He has a wonderful balanced head with dark eye and good rose ears. A true Irish Wolfhound that could hold his own and beat the best either side of the Atlantic.

2 Ryan & Curtin's Erinwood Baritone

Another strong dark hound, with lots of leg and overall balanced angulation, good coat and bone. Well laid shoulders, and upper arm returns nicely into strong curvaceous body, standing and moving he hold his topline. His hqs are adequately angulated, but would like more angle at the hock. He moves out very well with good extension.

3 Hartenstein & Simon's Rockhart Memory Of Kerry

This dog is quite different from the other boys in the class, but still he is a rather impressive hound, built on very strong lines, and certainly looks and feels a real workmanlike hound. His head is Ok, he has the most super powerful angulated, front His shoulders can hardly be felt , they merge completely into his strong curvaceous body, most certainly with lots of heart room. From the side view or coming towards you, his front movement is spot on, but unfortunately his front is not matched by with his hqs, they are rather lightly built and could do with more second thigh and more angulation at the hocks. He was out of coat.

4 Smith's Taliesin's Waleron

Light grey hound, who is really active and can cover the ground on the move. He is a nice type, but rather lightly built, and needs more overall angulation, and he has a flat croup.

Puppy 6 to 9 Months Bitches (7, 0)

1 Prokopenko & Gagne's Starkeeper Glenamadda USA Flag Best Puppy

On my tape I described this young lady as a cracker, with a charming temperament. I was so taken with this red-brindle girl. She is really lovely, so well put together, with a broad loin, super strong well angulated hqs, maybe a touch more angle at the hock is required for perfection. Good bone and everything just fits in the right place. Her head is wonderful with dark eyes and perfect mouth. And she most certainly can move around the ring, taking her handler with her with long effortless strides. Its hard to believe she is only 8 months old. What a future she must have.

2 Simon & Sumner's Stoneybrook Duchess of Dukesarum

Another beautiful 8 months old girl, built slightly lighter, wonderful wheaten colour with perfect dark eyes/ears and pigmentation. Sweet head, enough angulation both ends, excellent angle at the hock. Maybe a touch long in loin, but she is so young, moves out like a dream and floats around the ring.

3 Pline & Osborne's Tomahawk's Apache Teardark

Dark grey/red brindle, lovely type and good substance for age of 8 months super rich thick gloss coat, good bone and feet. She is slightly long in loin and subsequently on the move she is inclined to roll and coming at you she can throw her elbows out.. She has lovely bone and feet, excellent strong well angulated hocks.

4 Kneavel & Simon's Stoneybrook Lismore Castlekeeper Condi

This little dark girl was the real joker of the pack to-day. She greeted me by jumping up on me to say hello. It was her day out and she was going to enjoy herself, and give her handler a very hard time. She has a lovely thick coat, nice head with naughty eyes, her body is ok for age, but could do with a few more curves.

Puppy 9 to 12 Months Bitches (13,0)

This was one of the bigger classes of the day, but not filled with as many quality bitches that I would have wished for. Never the less some nice girls had to go cardless. All my placed bitches moved very well, and it was a great pleasure to see them doing their final lap around the ring before I placed them

1 McCarthy & Patterson's Maccaura Spirit of Porka.

This lovely bitch really stood out in this class, she boasts good size, substance and breed type. She is light grey, a true sighthound with long legs. Well made and filled in front, good body nicely broad angulated hqs and finished off with a long tail. She has a good head and dark eye, very nice top and bottom lines, with her underline carried well back . I would like tighter front feet. Moves out very well with long ground covering strides.

2 Brown's Hound Hill Trillium

Another long legged girl, just a shade off the super quality of one, but still a girl who could hold her own in very good company. Good overall angulation, and depth of chest, well filled front, nice body, lovely broad long croup, enough bone and very balanced movement.

3 Brown's Hound Hill Tallulah

Very good free movement with nice balance, maybe needs a touch more bone, but throughout she really has enough of everything for her age and should mature very nicely.

4 Shriver's Eirian's All That Jazz

Sister of number 3, but nicely different. I described on my tape her head was cute, and her ears were flying everywhere. She is nice and with good balance, but she just plods

along and really needs to show she is enjoying herself more to give that desired commanding appearance. Hope she grows on a little bit

12 to 18 Months Bitches (15, 2)

1 Carswell's Carnasserie Savannah

Lovely light grey bitch, very much a sighthound, just oozing good IW type. Excellent head with correctly shaped eye good pigmentation, correct ears, well laid shoulder, and good front angulation, a touch long in loin, curvaceous strong hqs. Side view movement is excellent, covers the ground with ease, in harmony with her handler. Can paddle a bit coming towards you, but she is young and this can improve. A girl with a bright future.

2 Levin & Osborne's Wolfhaven Affair to Remember

Darker grey bitch very curvaceous overall. Appealing head and good eye. Nicely angulated front, good body, nice top and bottom line, lovely long broad croup going into strong broad well muscled hqs, well let down strong hocks. On the move she certainly used her hocks and has what can be described as easy and active movement, with little to fault. A girl who likes to show her handler who the boss is.

3 King's Ard Rhi's Anyka

A nice bitch, not very relaxed when being examined, but on the move she is very impressive and shows excellent true side view movement. Her eyes are a bit round, which slightly spoils her otherwise nice head, standing she is balanced, but a touch flat in topline. And coming towards she can move a bit wide.

4 Patterson & McClure's Riversong Pardon My Heart

Nice bitch needs a bit more overall angulation, plenty of leg, not in the best jacket but still a very pleasing bitch and very much a sighthound. Good true easy movement with lots of drive.

Novice Bitches (6, 2)

1 Smith's Taliesin's Wyver Wilnet

Nice upstanding bitch, magnificent head ear and eye, good bite, very balanced shape with no exaggerations. Nice body, correct depth to length ratio, good bottom line. Standing sometimes she can look a bit like a rocking horse and her topline can be a bit dippy. She has a nice croup and a wonderful tail. Good bone and feet. But it was her good movement that won her this class. It was just a joy to see very true, excellent ground covering action, presented and moved to perfection. Won this class with a bit in hand..

2 DiStefano & Linden's Mythic's Kindred Vala

I believe a new comer to the show ring, but seemed to be enjoying herself with her tail wagging. Reasonable head, eye a bit round, good bite, balanced overall angulation, a bit straight in a straight in pastern, good coat. A sound girl, needs more elegance, not a world beater but a lot to like about her.

3 Gagne & Ritzenhaler's Starkeeper California Ierne

A bitch who is too long for her height, nice head and ear, straight in upper arm, good rib cage, but too long in loin. Nicely angulated hqs, low hock long croup moves true but not correct for a sighthound.,

4 McDonald's Gabor of Eagle

Big girl but with a rather soft coat, good head and eye upright front and strong low hocks. Moves OK.

Amateur-Owner-Handler Bitches (2, 0)

1 Levin & Pline's Tomahawke Koyaanisqatsi Gemini

Nice type and head and eye, slightly straight in upper arm, good top and bottom line, good feet and bone, movement sound but rather methodical

2 Flanagan's Carrickaneena Fioriomha

Big rangey bitch, nice head and ear, who decided to-day she was going to give her handler a hard time. Presented in excellent jacket, but she needs more front angulation and she is too steep in croup, and needs more muscle in her hqs, sound mover but a bit restricted.

Bred by Exhibitor Bitches (12, 1)

1 Marx & Benjamin's Guffaw of Aerle

A wonderful bitch, I would say a girl with a mind of her own. Beautiful typical outline and correct shape, beautifully balanced and correctly proportioned head. Good neck and one of the few with a correct front angulation and a forechest. Good body top and bottom line going into powerful broad hqs, Good first and second thigh, strong firm well let down hocks, and again one of the few with correct muscling that a sighthound should have right down to her hocks. Good feet. Moves with great drive, and just seems to be floating around the ring, and coming and going rarely puts a foot out of place.

2 Atkinson, Yorke, Prokopenko & Gagne's Glenamadda Starkeeper Quaddryl .

Again a super bitch, lightish grey and it was at times splitting hairs between her and number 1. Again presents a lovely balanced outline Good head and well filled forechest and correctly angulated front, maybe a touch short in upper arm. Good bottom line, can look a shade weak in top line, good angulated strong hqs. Fore and aft movement very true, lovely ground covering side view movement, so good at times her handler was trying to keep up with her. Later I had the pleasure of awarding this lovely girl Best Head.

3 Myer's KellyKerry Peggy Sue of Aerie

Coming into the ring I thought this big bitch would be my winner, so again it was picking hairs with her and number 1 and 2. A tremendous imposing girl, nice head but spoiled by a rather light eye. Good outline and overall balance, would prefer a better angulated front,

lovely strong body, good croup and broad well muscled Hqs. Just on the move I felt her hocks were not articulating well.

4 Ritzenhaler's Ierne's Stella Artois

Very nice red brindle bitch, not just the quality in type of the top 3 in this class, very balance and holds her own very well on the move, she covers the ground well. Nice head moves . Unfortunately she has flat feet. And was lacking that wow factor to-day.

American-Bred Bitches (8, 2)

1 Myer's Kellykerry Peony Of Aerie

Lovely dark grey brindle bitch, oozing correct IW type. Each curve just flows into the next. Super front, good length of upper arm and correctly laid shoulder, maybe a touch straight in pastern, good feet. Excellent top and bottom line. Strong broad hqs well muscled 1 st and 2nd tigh, good angle at the hock, strong low muscled hocks, good feet. Coat spot on, lovely long tail A bitch that could be described as everything fitting so well into a good package, but to see her move around the ring and up and down is just breath taking. Only I didn't want to be too hard on her handler I could have watched her move all day. I must say I watched her handler handle many dogs during the day and he must be complemented on his wonderfully sympathetic and yet firm handling of the exhibits in his charge It was a lesson to us all.

Best of Opposite Sex

2 Marx & Benjamin's Gordon of Aerie

Grey bitch of nice type, good head and pleasing expression. Good neck fitting smoothly into shoulder Wide strong hqs, but lacks angle at hock, she also is a bit narrow in fronts both standing and on the move. Can stand straight behind, moves well with good drive.

3 McDonald's Garlow Neesha Of Eagle

Wheaten bitch, nice dark eye, pleasing expression, Very good lay of shoulder and good forechest, can look a bit weak in top-line. Well angulated broad, strong curvy hqs. Sound mover, but inclined to flatten her top-line on the move. Coat on the soft side.

4 Johnson's Gladstone's Diamond In The Rough

A bitch built on narrow lines right through, could be described as rather elegant, she has good bone and feet and a lot to appreciate about her.

Open Bitches (20, 3)

1 Carswell & Newgard's Glenmadda Starkeeper Venus

Lovely curvy feminine bitch, of excellent type, pleasing head, but can hang her ears flat. Good mouth with teeth of correct size for an IW.. Well angulated front going into excellent top and bottom lines. Strong broad hips and muscled angulated hqs, well let down hocks, good feet. Standing she just oozes correct breed type and on the move, she is a real dream with flawless coming and going and side view movement.

2 Flanagan's Carrickaneena Slievenamon

Another excellent bitch and at times I was picking hairs between them, just this girl was slightly shorter on the leg. Very nice balanced head with good eye and ears. Standing all her curves just flow together, she is well muscled and has nice breadth throughout. Faultless movement in harmony with her excellent handler all the time.

3 Hartenstein & Simon's Rockhart Heresy

A bitch of different type from 1 & 2, yet still fits into the standard, maybe one could describe as more workmanlike. Strong girl, with a very good upper arm but shoulder placement is a bit straight, strong body but a bit tube like. She is too steep over croup, which gives her a restricted hind movement drive Good front extension most certainly if I was a Wolf I would not want to get into battle with her.

4 Carswell, Newgard & McDonald's Carnasserie Grayson Of Eagle

Very feminine elegant girl, with quality upper arm straight, nice body. Standing she can look a bit upright both ends, just needs more let down and curves, strong hqs and good angle at the hock and good feet. Moves cleanly

Veteran 6+ Dogs (5, 0)

1 Sharpe, Pline, Osborne & Andrews's Ch Tomahawks Wolfhaven Windtalker

Very substantial dark grey brindle dog. Standing he is very impressive, but why did his handler have him posting all the time. He was maybe carrying an extra pound or two, but still is a really impressive boy, lovely front, well filled chest and smooth shoulders, deep curvaceous body. Broad strong hqs, good angle at the hock, and he still can show some of the younger boys how to get around the ring .His head I find a bit too heavy, he has a nice dark eye. Good feet and bone.

2 Hoffman & Conner's Ch Blair's Incantation

Just over 7 years old and not to-day in the best of jacket, and maybe a touch light in bone. He has lovely head and eye, reasonably good front with super long upper arm, and uses his front soo well. Nice body but lacks overall muscle, he has a good top and bottom lines, moves OK but narrow in hock and lacks second thigh..

3 Flanagan's Ch Carrickaneena Templebreedy

Friendly happy grey boy lovely head, very much enjoying his outing to-day, but lacking drive when moving.

4 Walker & Flanagan's Ch Carricaneena Paddy Clancy

Light wheaten quite narrow throughout out needs more spring of rib, lovely type and head with good expression, gets around the ring well, with his kind caring handler.

Veteran 6+ Bitches (10, 2)

Firstly I would like to say this was a beautiful class to judge and thank you so much the owners of these outstanding older ladies for bringing them, and congratulations too for having them in such lovely condition.

1 Marx & Benjamin's Ch Giggles Aerie of Eagle

I must confess I didn't have to check my catalogue to see the breeding of this girl. She just shouted at me I'm a Maximilian Fionnmae daughter. I know that look so well as we have her half sister Kerry at nearly 9 years at home. As I type this she is lying her at my feet. Fabulous is the only word that can describe Giggles. Substantial girl, every curve is in the right place and one curve just flows into another, super front, good top and bottom line, curvy strong hqs. Great jacket, with just a few white hairs coming through. Her head is to die for so correct and balanced Her eyes could tell many stories but to-day they were saying I will go around that ring, up the ring but don't you expect me to come back to you. That's another thing I like about Giggles she is an IW with a mind of her own !!!

2 Johnson's Ch Rathkeale Nora Of Gladstone

Taller and more substantial girl of excellent type, nice head and eye, very good ears. Strong body, overall very balanced angulation. Strong broad hips and curvy. Excellent width through the stifles and Hqs, low hock. Moves very true holding her shape all the time and a joy to see floating around the ring.

3 Prokopenko & Gagne's Ch Starkeeper Glenamadda Realtan

Another nice girl well made, curvaceous body and good bone. Her head is a bit plain and she has rather hard eye, and if not watched her ears can hang. Her movement is sound but not driving through.

4 Flanagan's DC Carrickaneena Slan Leat MC.

In the Irish language Slan Leat means Good Bye, but his lovely girl was far from saying Good Bye to us. Old fashioned sort, lovely overall balance. Standing her hqs can look a bit tucked under her, coat on the long side.

Best of Breed Competition (22, 4)

BOB: Dormady & Osborne's Wolfhaven Aint No Fool To O'Lugh

Best of Winners: Dormady & Osborne's Wolfhaven Aint No Fool To O'Lugh

Best of Opposite Sex: Myer's Kellykerry Peony Of Aerie

Award of Merit: Flanagan's Ch Carrickaneena Ardla

A fabulously shapely 6 year old bitch, dark red brindle, outstanding type, just shouted IW presented in perfect condition Curvaceous body and good bone, beautiful head good ears, super neck-fit into angulated front. Great neck with correct nape, excellent top and bottom lines, good ribbing. Lovely shapely hqs with really strong hocks. Her movement

was very true and she covers the ground very well, to be critical and we were splitting hairs at this stage, she can lose her shape slightly. So had to give way to a younger girl. A bitch any owner should be proud to produce and own.

Award of Merit: Kneavel & Bregy's Ch Wildisle Castlekeeper Quest

Upstanding light grey dog of great type, size and substance, very much a stallion hound. Head pleasing but a bit deep in stop. Lovely curvaceous body good loin with correct over all balance and angulation, excellent ribbing. Super hqs with something very important - great breath over hips. Strong well angulated and muscles 1st & 2nd tighs, low hocks. Held his shape very well moving, and moved out to perfection. Just so much to like and admire in him. Handled to perfection, congratulations.

Best Puppy: Prokopenko & Gagne's Starkeeper Glenamadda USA Flag

Best Bred by Exhibitor: Flanagan's Carrickaneena Meirgire

Best Head: Atkinson, Yorke, Prokopenko & Gagne's Glenamadda Starkeeper Quaddryl

Stud Dog (4, 1)

Three lovely and obviously excellent stud dogs, who have passed on their great type to their children, congratulations to all the proud owners.

1 Marx & Benjamin's Ch Pitlochry's Quintus

2 Gagne's Starkeeper McEnroe Of Limerick

3 Fitzgerald, Gagne & Volk's Ch Karontar Starkeeper Dylan

Brood Bitch (5, 3)

Two of my favourite bitches of the day, and most certainly two of the best bitches one could find anywhere either side of the Atlantic. It's no wonder both have produced so well.

1 Flanagan's DC Carrickaneena Slan Leat MC LCX

2 Marx & Benjamin's Ch Giggles Aerie of Eagle

Brace (1)

*1 Prokopenko & Gagne's Starkeeper Glenamadda USA Flag/
Gagne & Ritzenthaler's Starkeeper California Ierne.*

Its hard to describe this brace, just to say certain people, not American, were trying to give me a laugh, thanks for all your trouble preparing these lovely Easter Bunnie girls, and your effort was much appreciated !!!