

The English Setter Association held an open show at Wilbarston Village Hall where the Best in Show was Beechanger Wagtail JW ShCM.

Thank you to the committee for the opportunity to judge at this show and to my stewards for their diligence and kind attention. We were blessed with a sunny day and the heat early on, coming after quite a long cool spell, affected some of the dogs, although the bitches had the benefit of some high cloud after lunch. I was looking for elegance, both stacked and on the move, matched with the vigour of a working breed and sometimes this was a difficult balance to find.

DOGS

Minor Puppy Dog – 3 entries, 2 absent

- Hartle's Hartsett Snowstorm** - 6m old upstanding tri. Nicely made with classic head and expression. Excellent front angulation matched with long thighs and well let down hocks. Lots of growing up still to do, but moved with confidence **BPD**.

Puppy Dog – 1 entry, absent

Veteran Dog – 3 entries

- Rush's Tattersett Live the Dream** - Well built 7 yr old blue belton. Lovely head and mild expression. Strong forequarters with elbows well let down and pleasing layback of shoulder if a little straight in forearms. Overall nicely balanced with strong rear quarters and excellent coat. Moved true but would have liked more drive.
- Hammond's Hartsett Paper Skye for Oaktrish** - 8½ yr old light orange belton, finer build than 1 and more upright. Still lots to like, shoulders well laid back and good level topline. Moved freely.
- Duchesne & Verboven's Int Sh Ch Chivas of Margareth's Wood**

Junior Dog – 3 entries

- Field's Mariglen Sea the Stars for Fenston** - 13m brightly marked tri, still slightly raw, but with super coat and feathering. Well bodied with good width between shoulders and spring of rib, strong back and plenty of bone. Not co-operating with his handler so movement a little uneven, but sound. Typical head and expression.
- Snoeck's Upperwood Snow Patrol** - 17m orange with masculine head, more compact than 1, strongly built with good bone and muscle including second thighs but would have preferred more width between the shoulders. Best mover of the class, shown in great coat and condition with excellent tail set.
- Hutchinson's Mariglen Dancing Brave**

Maiden Dog – 2 entries, 1 absent

- Hutchinson's Mariglen Dancing Brave** - Compact tri dog, 13m. Litter brother to my Junior winner. Same overall stamp but not the same balance or substance. Moved more steadily than in the previous class, but each time without the head carriage the standard calls for.

Novice Dog – 2 entries

- Mariglen Sea the Stars for Fenston**
- Hutchinson's Walshaw Midnight Moonlight** - Smaller built but nicely made blue dog with a sweet expression. Less showy than 1 and without the furnishings. Moved soundly.

Graduate Dog – 5 entries

- Rush's Tattersett Future Gamble** - Lots to like about this orange boy. Beautifully balanced when stacked, with a lean head, muscular neck into powerful shoulders, and deep brisket matched by long thighs and hocks well let down. Short coupled with a level topline, all finished off with a superb coat. Lovely free movement but oh so proud of his tail. Gave him the benefit of doubt in the class but it really told in the challenge, totally spoiling his outline and balance on the move.
- Stephenson's Wistaston Starting School at Steeplow** - Orange dog similar to 1 in many respects but built on shorter lines. Good angulation front and aft, excellent coat and feathering and moved well. Preferred the finer head of 1.
- Jones' Kerrimere Catch a Dream for Redbornstoke**

Post Graduate Dog – 6 entries, 2 absent

- Withey & Mitchell's Sunsprake Raging Storm over Scratchwood** - Very close decision between 1 and 2. Just preferred the outline of this orange. Absolutely classic, with pleasing head and great earset, good reach of neck, tight front and long lines overall. Totally balanced standing and maintained this on the move with a level topline. Moved true but if I had to look for anything extra it would just be a bit more enthusiasm. Another dog in excellent coat and condition. **RBD**.
- Goutorbes' Upperwood Groove Monkey** - Another cracking orange, several months younger than my winner. Super head with well defined occiput, arched neck, good layback of shoulder and angulation generally. Excellent bend of stifle and well bodied up with plenty of bone. Best mover in the class although he didn't use his tail to his best advantage which was a pity.
- Bridgewater Davies & Jeffery's Bruce Diamond Harry Rocks Bridgella**

Limit Dog – 3 entries, 2 absent

1. **Beechanger Wagtail JW SHCM** - This orange dog has really come into his own this year. I have judged him before but don't believe I have seen him look better. Powerfully built and masculine, yet nothing overdone. Typical head and expression, lean neck flowing into strong forequarters, elbows tight to the body. Level back and well angulated rear, good width and length of thighs and nice low hocks. Lashings of coat to finish the picture. Moved well in the heat. **BD** and at the end of day just had that little extra presence to take **BIS**.

Open Dog – 4 entries, 1 absent

1. **Stephenson's Wansleydale Huckleberry at Steeplow** - A difficult decision between 2 quite different dogs. I have judged this 5 year old dark tri before and always loved his movement, powerfully driven yet steady and wonderfully balanced with just the right tail action. Stacked he maintained this balance, showing a classic outline with a strong head, if a little too deep in the muzzle. Would also have preferred more front angulation but overall I liked his confirmation; as always in plenty of coat.

2. **Goutorbes' Sh Ch Richecca Colour Me Blue for Upperwood** - 6 year old dark blue, leaner and longer cast than 1. Another excellent mover in good hard condition and a wonderful coat. Great reach of neck and angulation, depth of rib and bend of stifle. Just looked for a bit more balance and elegance.

3. **Hammond's Hartsett Going for Gold with Oaktrish**

Special Beginners Dog – 1 entry

1. **Mariglen Dancing Brave**

BITCHES

Minor Puppy Bitch – 3 entries, 1 absent

1. **Goutorbes' Upperwood Attitude** - Attitude? I should say! This little cracker oozed ring presence - "just the right amount of pizzazz" according to my notes. 8m old lightly marked blue, still obviously a baby but well grown with lots of everything – coat, bone, rib, angulation. Beautiful head and neck, moved round the ring like she owned it. Really exciting – I could easily have taken her home. **BPB, BPIS**.

2. **Harris & Dennis' Mariglen Gift Wrapped** - Finer built 6m old tri, just losing out at this stage on substance and coat but nevertheless well grown. More upright and shorter coupled than 1, very nicely put together – excellent return on the upper arm and layback of shoulder. Good width of thigh. Moved out steadily.

Puppy Bitch – 4 entries, 3 absent

1. **Upperwood Attitude**

Veteran Bitch – 8 entries, 2 absent

1. **Dennis's Sh Ch Mariglen Flaming Colours** - A mere youngster of 7 this lovely orange bitch ticked so many boxes for me. Elegant both stacked and on the move, marvellous head with everything set right, dark eye and typical setter expression. Fantastic reach of neck, great shoulders, elbows well let down, front and rear angulation mirrored each other and this balance was maintained on the move with a class action and wonderful topline. All finished off with a coat many would envy. **BB, RBIS, BV**.

2. **Vlasblom's Dutch/Lux/VDH/HUNG CH Upperwood Mystic Moonlight** - This dark tri, approaching 10, caught my eye for her head carriage, reach of neck and movement. Not quite the poise of 1 but held her own. Good deep ribs and width of thigh and still in good coat and feather.

3. **Morgan's Mariglen Steals the Heart of Meandi**

Junior Bitch – 7 entries, 3 absent

1. **Goutorbe's Upperwood Snowball for Redhara JW** - At all but 18m this striking orange bitch is already well developed. Expressive face with a lovely dark eye, though I could wish for just a bit more length in the muzzle for balance. Whole front assembly very pleasing, super reach of neck, plenty of body, with good depth of rib, excellent width and length of thigh. Fantastic coat. Longer coupled than 2, with a racy action, perhaps slightly over-reaching at the front.

2. **Deville's Mariglen Nina Valentina** - Finer framed tri built on classic lines, more upright overall than 1 but I did prefer her head. Good slope to her shoulders and a short level back; hocks nice and low. Not the free movement of 1.

3. **Dale's Moorbrook Little Maid at Laurelset**

Maiden Bitch – 4 entries, 3 absent

1. **Little Maid at Laurelset** - 15m orange between coats right now. More settled than in her previous class. Sweet head and expression, pleasantly angulated front and rear. Lost out in previous class on overall balance and substance.

Novice Bitch – 5 entries, 4 absent

1. **Little Maid at Laurelset**

Graduate Bitch - 7 entries, 1 absent

1. **Hartle's Hartsett Cherry Bee JW** - Strong class. 1 & 2 very close, 1 just with that extra maturity and elegance. Beautifully proportioned, lovely lean and expressive head, length of neck just right. Good depth of body, altogether well balanced with shoulders nicely laid back and superb bend of stifle. Lashings of coat. Looked a picture standing but couldn't quite maintain the poise in her movement so missed out against my winners in the challenge.

2. **Dennis's Mariglen Beautiful Dawn** - Lots of promise in this strongly built orange girl – still only 13 months. Matched 1 on many points and probably the best mover in the class. Just not as finished.

3. **Grimsdell's Tattersett Hebe**

Post Graduate Bitch - 4 entries, 2 absent

1. **Lawson's Mariglen Ice Crystal** - Compact blue with pleasing head, neck long and perfectly arched at the crest. Lovely layback of shoulder, good tight front, elbows and hocks well let down. Well off for bone and a super coat to finish. Moved freely, well balanced throughout.

2. **Ravensett Hopes n Dreams for Dreamsett** - Dark orange, longer cast than 1. Not the reach of neck, but good slope of shoulder, level topline and long thighs with hocks well let down. Correct tailset, good coat and feathering.

Limit Bitch - 4 entries, 2 absent

1. **Kelly's Upperwood Co-Co Chanel for Richecca** - A challenge to separate these litter sisters, alike in so many respects. The same classic head and almost identical in construction with great angulation to front and rear quarters, good deep ribs, excellent bend of stifle and width of thighs. Both in fantastic coat and both free and easy movers. 1 just scored extra on reach of neck and head carriage and a tighter front. Also that bit more elegant on the move which may have had to do with their respective weights. Close up in challenge but went for the extra poise of the veteran winner. **RBB**.

2. **Goutorbes' Upperwood Betty Barclay**

Open Bitch – 4 entries, 1 absent

1. **Duschesne & Verboven's Int Sh Ch Silent Rumours Fay** - Dark orange built on long lines. Lovely lean balanced head with good depth of muzzle and kind expression. Elegant neck, good layback of shoulder, perhaps a little straight in the upper arm, deep in body, with level topline and correct tailset. Moved soundly.

2. **Grimsdell's Tattersett Doctor in Love** - Upright blue belton, more compact than 1 and shorter coupled. Head not so well defined as 1 and would have liked slightly more depth of muzzle but liked her overall construction. Shown in wonderful coat and condition.

3. **Vlasblom's Sunflame Coloured Pieces of a Dream**

Special Beginners Bitch – 5 entries, 1 absent

1. **Mariglen Ice Crystal**

2. **Ridsdill's Koolunga Bonnie Lass** Reserve in a strong Graduate class. Well marked blue with good bone and excellent coat. Good bend of stifle but tail end falls away a bit which spoils her profile. Not showing herself off to her best advantage. Moved better in earlier class.