

West of England Border Collie Club Ch Show

V1

Sunday 19th November 2023

It was an honour to be invited to judge the top awards for this excellent breed club. A great venue, welcoming committee and so efficiently run, it was a lovely day.

BIS & BVIS went to the female CC winner Ch. Fayken I Am Love. Aptly named for me as I've loved this ultra-feminine girl since first seeing her ringside as a youngster. Some time later I awarded her a worthy CC and now at 7 years she holds the breed record, how great is that! Excellent outline and so beautifully balanced all through. Good head proportions and excels in reach of neck. Deep, functional chest for her size. Excellent angles. Sound out and back and covers the ground from profile with an effortless gait, minimal lift of foot and low carried tail. Congratulations!

RBIS was the female Res CC winner, Nashdom Strawberry Fields. Taller, rangier built female. Lovely head piece with well set ears, used well to enhance her expression. Medium reach of neck leading to moderate front angles, corresponding with rear giving great balance on the move with an excellent topline. An equally easy, free mover showing enough reach and driving well from the rear. Beautifully presented.

BPIS was the 8 month old male pup, Borderpride Yes I Am Fayken. Shows promise and appeals for outline and basic breed type. Very forward for his tender age in both body and coat. Excellent head, balanced and masculine. Uses his ears well. Medium neck. Already has a good depth of chest. Strong, quality bone (not overdone here) Good rear angles. Just needs to tighten coming towards which should come with maturity. Great character and in immaculate condition. A moderate stride from profile and made a worthy winner.

Best AOC In Show, Sh Ch Arroddare Royal Flush. A worthy title holder of good colour and functional type. Loved her size, has substance to frame but retains a feminine outlook. Appealing head, balanced and keen expression. Sound conformation which was reflected in her excellent movement. Beautifully handled and presented.

Best Working In Show, Alpana A Statement Of Style. An attractive tri female, in fact, my favourite colour in the breed. Very workmanlike in outlook, pleasing enough in head for strength and proportions. Oval eye shape and well set-on ears. Just enough chest. Nicely bodied and good height to length ratio. Moderately angled front and rear. Easy mover with minimal lift of foot. Excellent hard condition and in pleasing coat. Really could visualise her doing a day's herding with very little effort.

Progeny

1st Sh Ch Arroddare It's Now Or Never. A super 10 year old veteran that certainly stamped his mark on his progeny. A great advert for this clever kennel. They were a very even team of Borders and appeal for type, size, overall conformation and movement. To see them all move out and back together then to do a circuit of the ring from profile was a joy to behold.

2nd Goytre Smoking Gun. Another excellent stud dog with an equally impressive number of quality progeny present. Perhaps not quite the uniformity of overall type as 1st, but they all fit the breed standard very well, totally functional and were sound movers in all directions. This team also impressed on the 'go around'. Lovely.

JHA (12 -16 years)

1st Bobbie Lee. Bobbie really is a super Border Collie handler. This breed is quite sensitive in temperament, highly intelligent and tune-in with their handler very quickly, but are not always the easiest. I have watched Bobbie over the past few years from ringside handle a number of dogs of various ages and experience and she always shows a clear bond, has empathy and brings out the very best with whatever charge she has. Perfectly stacked, mostly free stood to show off their virtues and moved at just the right pace. If she carries on in this vein, she will continue to make an excellent handler and the Border Collie showing community are lucky to have her.

Adult Handling

1st Ann-Marie Taylor. An excellent handler that showed her exhibit to it's best advantage at all times. Displayed efficient pattern work, paying attention not to obstructing the Judges' view of her exhibit at anytime. Moved her charge at just the right speed, on a loose lead to enable the dog to lower it's carriage and move out freely. Well done.

2nd Shiobhan Lea. Another very good handler. Equally attentive to the position of the Judge and stacks her charge very well. Another that moved her exhibit at the correct speed. Just preferred the overall finished style of 1st but was told after judging that this exhibitor was fairly new to the hobby so did well to place this highly in a very good class. A good handler of the future.

3rd Dominika Jaskolska.

Darren Clarke (Judge)