NATIONAL AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD ASSOCIATION, 1 SEPTEMBER 2019

The NASA committee are to be commended for the decision a few years ago to have their breed club championship show held within the confines of an all-breed championship show, albeit on a different day from their normal Pastoral day. The committee obviously worked very hard to decorate and create a festive scene. The location of the ring allowed other members of the showing fancy to drop in and watch for a while, which must hopefully, create more interest in the breed. My two stewards, Messrs. S. Jepson and T. Jones did sterling work, keeping the flow of judging with nary a bump in the proceedings. Since I have not been here in the UK show scene following my retirement and move back to the USA two years ago, I can honestly say that the overwhelming majority of dogs/bitches entered under me today were not known to me at all. There was an entry of 98 dogs for the 28 breed classes, along with the Junior Handling classes, making and total entry of 55 dogs and 72 bitches (not counting the JH classes nor special awards classes).

My overall observation of the entry was very positive. For one thing, size seems to have stabilized, with far fewer tall/heavy built dogs. The breed is described as ‘moderate’ in so many areas, and this was evident in the majority of the entry. Eye shape has improved, with majority having oval shape and tight lids. Ear set on and carriage has improved enormously! There were far more examples of the desired ear carriage, which I must say I was so pleased to see! The propensity of exhibitors in years gone by to ‘over groom’ their dogs was much less evident. Foot shape has improved as well with more examples of oval feet as opposed to cat-like shape evident. Toplines have also improved. The only concerns I have are the lack of underjaw, but it has improved in the past 5 years; a few exhibits also had colour/white extending into areas not supported by the standard. A number of bitches also had coats with a definite, not slight wave in them. All in all, I was very happy with the overall quality of the dogs.

**Minor Puppy Dog** (7,4): 1, **West &Brazier’s Dizzy Marble as Hot as Fire (ATC UKR),** 7 month R/M pup with pleasing outline, balanced skull to muzzle, VG bone, won over #2 being a tad less long in loin, but still has the slightly longer than tall required for the breed. Movement spot on, was BPD, then BPIS.; 2, Bridges’ Talard Secretly Need to Know with Liskarn, 7-month-old Black/tri, with slightly finer head and expression compared to #2, so suspect he will take a bit longer to develop. VG forehand, well bodied up, on the move is very positive in the rear; 3, Gibson’s Stockyard Mity Black Link.

**Puppy Dog** (4,1): Dizzy Marble As Hot as Fire; 2, Stockyard Mity Black Link, was 3rd in previous class, preferred the eye shape over #2. Excellent front and vg on the move.; 3 Everall’s Franmar Storm Trooper.,

**Junior Dog (**4): My notes say “The eyes have it”, often the final decision in placement in this class.1, Clarke’s Trijem Snow Storm,16 month old male with masculine head and expression, VG eye shape, level topline standing and on the move, oval feet and VG gait;2,Lee’s Villanyda Wizards Apprentice of Amenbury (imp) 15 month old dog moderate throughout, correct eye shape well filled in under eyes,good topline and moved out well; 3,Busby’s Razkiah The Mad Hatter.

**Yearling Dog** (4): 1,Hawkins’ Glamour Aussies Addicted to You (imp), 17 month old male with decidedly masculine head and expression, VG forehand, VG topline, I wouldn’t like him any heavier in body, VG front and rear gait.; 2, Trijem Snow Storm; 3, Cowley’s Sparkaway Talk of the Devil.

**Novice Dog** (1): 1, Franmar Storm Trooper, 3rd in PD class, VG rear movement and good front, but tends to lose topline. Attractive expression but eyes could be less bold.

**Post Graduate Dog** (4): 1, **Wright’s Frattak Corsairey Casch At Razkiah (imp Rus)** little did I know that I would eventually award this 2 yr old male the **dog CC**, but his correct moderate balance throughout for me was a great decider. No, he isn’t perfect, no dog is, and to be picky, would like a tad more underjaw, but pleasing overall head and expression. His conformation, however, is so right and balanced that no aspect stands out. Balanced fore and aft angles, level topline held on the move and standing; slightly longer than tall with strong loin, VG feet.; 2, Davies’ Ninja Iskander Warrior Du Reverse Shanizolo (imp), this 2 yr old has overall good head and expression, but would like a bit less stop. Eye shape needs to be a bit more oval but is well filled in under the eyes. He has overall good body, but the excess angulation of rear affects topline ; 3, Lee’s Amberslade Morse Code for Amenbury.

**Limit Dog** (2): 1, Bothwell’s Ewbell Pure Dead Brilliant at Norcis Sh. CM 2 yr old with correct ears, well done! He has overall masculine head with balanced length between skull and muzzle and has enough underjaw. VG bone and feet, level topline he held on move and standing, has good tuck up but not overdone, this dog can only go on to higher wins with a bit more time; 2, Virgo’s Aoirista Supernova (lkc)Sh. CM, almost 3 ½ yr. dog is a shade more bold in eye shape than class winner. He has slightly shorter muzzle to skull. Conformation wise, consider his front angles to be open, but is balanced in rear. He has a level topline but I found him not as coordinated on the move as class winner.

**Open Dog** (8,1): A difficult class with a lot of VG dogs, so in the end it was side gait and topline. 1, Such’s Soloyal Valentino Sh. CM , quite typical head and expression, enough underjaw. VG overall conformation, best topline in the class which he held on the move; 2, Timperon’s Triforce the Shadow, 2 yr old which is a shade more moderate overall, well used ears, moved well, would like a bit more underjaw;3, Knott’s Lyveden Texas Ranger.

**Veteran Dog** (5): A very good class.1, **Boerland’s Multi Ch. Carolina Calais Tah Daaah,** almost 9 yrs has an abundance of coat that might lead one to presume he is short in leg, but in going under that coat, he is not. Masculine head and expression, moderate stop, moved out very well. **RCC**; 2,Longhurst’s Ch. Allmark Spirit of St. Louis Sh. CM, almost 9 yrs as well, VG to go over conformation wise, has a broad masculine skull and expression. Not the strength of topline as the class winner. VG movement esp. in the rear; 3, Bayliss & Margeson’s Gr. Ch. Rosemere Fat Cat at Bayshore(ATC USA).

**Spec. Open Dog (R/M)** (2): 1, Fraytal Corsairey Cash at Razkiah (imp. Rus); 2, Challenger & Hooker’s Lyveden Pacon Paladin, Masculine head and expression, good ears, lovely oval eyes, coat correct for breed, but although in profile standing was totally correct, on the move was not together at all.

**Spec. Open Dog(B/M)** (4): 1, Fort’s Ch. Jotars Follow the Rumours from Shulune Jw Sh.CM, almost 5 yrs with masculine typical head and expression, needs a bit more underjaw, VG neck, VG coat, oval feet, best movement in the class. 2, Morley’s Ch. Trijem Beach Hoppin Dude JW, 5 yr old, presenting a very nice outline and overall balanced throughout. Masculine head but for me is a shade deep in stop. He has enough underjaw, VG front and feet, moves well, would prefer straighter topcoat; 3, Amberslade Morse Code for Amenbury.

**Spec. Open Dog (Black)(**6) : 1, Soloyal Valentino Sh. CM, ; 2,McTaggart’s Jack To a King Desterres De Khairyaca (imp) Sh. CM, 3 ½ yr dog having overall enough height/length to balance, moves well, Head still needs time to mature in skull, and fill under the eyes, though he has enough underjaw. VG front and feet; 3, Ewbell Pure Dead Brilliant at Norcis Sh . CM.

**Spec. Open Dog (Red)** (3,1): 1,Gibbons & Spencer’s Multi Ch. Austrian Dream Be Well Sited of Wispafete (imp) JW Sh CM, Ir J Ch. CW 17); 5 yr old with excellent outline, has attractive masculine head and expression with correct eye shape, ears well used, could do with a tad more underjaw. He has correct topline and true movement coming and going; ; 2, Glamour Aussies Addicted to You (imp).

**Spec. Open D. (Working**) (1): 1, Knott’s Lyveden Railrock Rebel, JW, VHC in a previous class. He has VG bone, VG feet, For head and expression, eyes could be more oval , otherwise okay head. Movement is ok but tends to overstretch with sloping topline.

**Minor Puppy Bitch** (3): All three very much at ‘in between’ stages in topline, high bums. Time will no doubt take care of this.1**, Talard Keep Your Pokerface**, best overall balance typical head having a pretty head and expression. Would like lower set rear pasterns. **BPB.;** 2, Talard For Your Eyes Only, I see is littermate to class winner, beautiful eyes, excellent ears, moderate throughout, topline needs more time; 3, Chiabatta Itliano Von Grizzly Style.

**Puppy Bitch**: No Entries.

**Junior Bitch** (10, 2): 1,**Birkcross Georgie Girl at Jazdaze,** hard to believe she is just out of puppy, age 12 months, but is already a star, IMO. All the parts seem to be so well balanced and moderate that no one aspect stands out, in that she is so moderate, all the parts fit seamlessly. Excellent head and expression, so well balanced; wonderful ears well used and set, VG bone, feet, foot perfect gait and holds topline on the move and standing. **Bitch CC and Best of Breed**.; 2,Mistyholly Delta Blue, another 12 month old, with pretty head and expression vg ears, well let down rear pasterns moved well; 3, Thornshaven Maid of Blue for Rosschell (imp).

**Yearling Bitch** (4,1): 1, Dialynne Sophia Loren of Norcis, attractive strong yet feminine head, excellent ears, VG conformation, oval feet, VG coming and going for gait; 2,Sparkwway Talk of the Town,16 months old attractive head and expression, but would like a tad more underjaw.VG neck, overall good balance and movement; 3, Dialynne Primavera.

**Novice Bitch** (3,2): 1, Trijem Star of the Show, placed 3rd in JB class. Lighter build, level topline balanced angles fore and aft. Will need more time to come to her best.

**Post Graduate Bitch** (9,3): 1, Soloyal Secret Romance, 2 yr old bitch with good overall properties, VG front, oval feet, good easy true action coming and going; 2,Trijem Return of the Magic, 2 yr old bitch with alert expression, eyes could be a bit more oval. Good neck and topline, moves ok; 3, Triforce Morning Mist Over Shepwood.

**Limit Bitch** (10,4): 1, Miss Atomic bomb Elvikam (imp) 3 yr old bitch, Good overall head, but needs more time to develop in skull. VG to go over for conformation, but needs to watch topline, tends to soften at times.VG gait; 2, Love Story of Fender Song for Shepalian, 4 yr olf on the smaller end, but still within the standard, Very pretty expression, ears could be higher set, eyes ok for shape, but needs tad more fill under the eyes, good gait; 3 Mistyhollow Secret Affair.

**Open Bitch** (7, 1): 1, Ir Ch UK Int Ch Mangry’s Need for Speed With Wisafete Ir J Ch. 3 yr old bitch with perfect proportions insofar as height to length, being slightly longer than tall. Oval feet, VG ears and eyes. VG body, matching fore and aft angles, excellent gait, a very close decision for RCC; 2 Silvaacea Annie Mcphee for Skishaya.4 yr old bitch attractive feminine expression, VG ears, Clean neck, level topline, oval feet, VG gait; 3, Saussurea Grand Entrance By Shulune (imp).

**Veteran Bitch** (5,3): 1, Lyvedene Rairock Rhythm 8 ½ yr old young veteran excellent proportions, very balanced and moderate. VG ears, clean neck level topline, correct movement; 2, Ir. Ch. Sangosands Seashell CW 13 Sh. CM, 10 ½ yr old bitch just starting to show age in muzzle, but is alert and lively, VG ears, good front, overall VG type.

**Spec. Open B. R/M** (2,2) All Absent.

**Spec. Open B. B/M** (6,1): 1, Ir. Ch. Trijem Secret Bridge to Liskarn, quite typical head and expression on this 3 ½ yr old bitch. Moves very well, prefer her overall balance, with VG neck, low set rear pasterns; 2,Silvarcea American Smooth for Jochurra, 6 yr old bith with balanced muzzle/skull length, not too much stop, VG ears well used, VG front with moderate bone, VG oval feet, moves well; 3,Moonstyle Mystic Frost.

**Spec.Open B. (Black)** (4): Another strong class. 1, **Austrian Dream Enchanting Magic for Wispafete,** 3 yr with wonderful overall balance, proportions and topline. VG balance of muzzle and skull length, correct eye shape, strong topline, excellent movement in all directions, **RCC**; 2, Ch. Trijem Think Outside of the Box, 6 yr old well balanced and conformation overall, moderate throughout, unfortunately tended to lose topline. Moderate bone, oval feet, excellent head and expression; 3, Miss Atomic Bomb Elvikam (imp).

**Spec. Open B. (Red**) (4): 1, D. Sophia Loren of Norcis; 2, Soloyal Secret Romance; 3,Allmark Rockin Robyn at Ozzypool.

**Spec. Open Working Bitch** (5,2): 1, Ch. Trijem Think Outside of the Box; 2, Moonstyle Mystic Frost,4th in LB, attractive head and expression, lovely ears, VG front, pasterns could be a bit stronger, okay gait; 3, Rannaleroch Chilaca at Applecreek Beg. Ex.

**JUNIOR HANDLING 6-11 years** (2) 1, Franchesca Wilson; 2, Charlotte Wilson. Two very promising handlers who just need to listen more carefully for directions and then ensure they bring the dog back to where the judge was standing. I noticed that #2 was most often able to correct dog’s stance with just lead or body rather than hand stack, well done!

12-16 years(6,1): 1, **Tamsin Blyton**, so well-polished in her movement and showing off dog to best possible effect. She was the only one who did her patterns and always checked to see where the judge was standing. **Overall Best JH.;** 2, Paige Spencer; 3, Lauren Bridges.

**Mary Deats (judge)**