

British Utility Breeds Association Championship Show

7th December 2013

French Bulldogs

I received a very large entry to judge, and I would like to thank all exhibitors who took the trouble and time to enter under me. My stewards, Shirley Huckenhull and Joe Smith, did a wonderful job under tiring circumstances and I am most grateful to them for their efficiency and assistance. This is the fifth time that I have awarded CCs in this breed and I last judged in 2009. This was definitely the hardest judging task I have undertaken.

The quality of the dogs varied, especially in the lower classes, and there was a range of different types. Limit bitch was certainly the best class of the day, and several quality dogs went cardless. Over all, I found far more quality in depth amongst the bitch classes; there were several bitches I would happily have given the CC to.

Overall balance has always been difficult to achieve in the French Bulldog, and unfortunately this has not really changed over the years. Heads in general were good, ear carriage remains a problem for some. I found mouth faults in otherwise very good dogs, which was a surprise. Some dogs that were a joy to examine on the table disappointed on the move.

The colour fawn is not well described in the breed standard, but I was surprised to see so many different shades of fawn, from red through to coats displaying patches of almost dappled colour - and one which had blue undertones - which looks alien to the breed. Pigmentation was often almost non-existent in some of these dogs.

Presentation on the whole was very good, however I was disappointed to find some dogs being displayed in a dirty condition, and my hands were ingrained with dirt by the end of the day. In some cases, nails needed attention, and I cannot help feeling this may have affected their movement.

On a positive note, there were no unsound dogs in the entry, and no dogs (as far as I could discern) displayed health problems. There were no signs of respiratory problems and very few even panted on the move. Temperaments throughout were an absolute joy, and all in all, there are still many fine specimens of the breed.

MPD (12,6a) 1 Croarkin's Mr Nemo of Kingfriend, typey brindle, very promising head, good eye and sweet expression, ears correct for shape and placement, lovely in outline with gentle roach and good rib and cut up, good in rear, movement very sound, altogether a very attractive puppy with potential, moved very well for one so young, would prefer tighter feet, a very well balanced boy, BPD; 2 McMunn's Goodbull Bob Marley, another good brindle, liked his head, lovely eyes, mouth good, ears correct but sometimes a little reluctant to use them, outline good and shows promise, moves soundly but more hesitant and unsure of himself, not quite the outline of 1, fine for type and balance, preferred rear of 1; 3 Scott's Amuelle Monsieur Alphonse.

PD (9,1) O'Neill's Poetscorner My Morris For Axelbrooke, pale fawn with black mask with good pigmentation, attractive head but still needs to mature and I would prefer a slightly wider underjaw, ears correct, dark eye, good nose placement and stop, open nostrils, liked his front, neck slightly arched, shoulders correct, shapely body with good spring of rib, good outline with low set tail, moved with confidence, on his toes and interested in the proceedings today which tipped the scale in his favour; 2 Stewart's Pringham Mystro, another black masked fawn, more substantial than 1, very masculine head with everything correct and lovely mouth, straight wide front well off for bone, moves well, shown in beautiful condition, fine coat, today preferred outline of 1; 3 Jennings' Cossy De La Phroiag.

JD (7,2) 1 Gura-Mallon Celticlibrid Cheer Leader, well balanced attractive brindle, liked him for size make and shape, good head with most appealing and expressive black round eyes, head very good in profile with layback, ears set and used well, top line with gently roach, short cobby body with cut up, moved well; 2 Escret's Risethor Sweeney Todd, brindle, makes a very attractive picture, another good head, eyes not quite as dark as 1 and just a tad more prominent, good nose placement with decent stop and open nostrils, excellent ears for shape and carriage, wide straight front with good bone, tight feet, very shapely, just slightly longer coupled than 1, an excellent mover and a good showman, well presented; 3 Smith's Rischale William.

YD (7,2) 1 Morgan / Ling Norcairn Dark N Debonair At Tytorro, handsome mid-brindle, so well balanced, good for size, head square and broad which is lovely in profile, short nose, deep stop, good layback, very good mouth with decent underjaw, ears placed and used well but would prefer them to be less pointed at the tip, a short body with cut up and sound quarters, very close for higher honours today, he moved so well and true, excellent handling to bring out the best in him; 2 Krall's Jafrak Friendly Persuasion, quality fawn, large square head, well furnished face, dark eye, excellent mouth, wide underjaw, cheeks well filled, wide straight front, very well off for bone, well conditioned body with gentle roach, not as well angulated in rear as 1, preferred balance of 1, moved well, lovely fine smooth clear coat; 3 Bootle's Tommyville Twill Will.

PGD (14,6) A difficult class to judge. 1 Cassidy's Frustyle Trend In Style For Chinaskys, very attractive hooded pied with clear fine coat, well marked, nice size, good head, beautiful soft expression, well-arched neck, excellent front, shapely body but slightly longer in loin for absolute balance, would benefit from better rear angulation, won this class on movement and showmanship, he makes the most of himself and has a wonderful temperament; 2 Mavro-Michaelis' Shoebridge Gaillac, a light brindle, very good head, good bat ears and slightly undershot mouth with sound teeth, wide straight front, shorter in body than 1 with deep wide brisket and good cut up, well up to size, moved OK but would benefit from shorter nails; 3 Conway / Chapman's Norcairn Gorgeous George.

LD (13,1) 1 Cund / Harrop's Chelmbull Moon Pilot, dark brindle, this dog took my eye, he appeals in head with everything in the right place, well-padded cheeks and beautiful round black eyes giving the desired heart-melting expression, very good mouth and underjaw, good ears which he uses well, liked him for size and shape, good in outline, excellent front with enough bone for his size, shown in hard muscular condition, up on his toes all the time and moved so well, a very well-balanced dog. RCC. 2 Longdon's Alsuma Shady Squire, larger and more substantial than 1, classic square head, well furnished face, good mouth, ears set and shaped correctly and used well, short cobby body, front wide and straight, very well off for bone, moved well but not enthusiastically; 3 Brook / Cairn's Kidwelly Eight At Corursus.

OD (7,5) 1 Drummond's Ch Renuar New War Bonnet Glenlee (Imp LVA), Outstanding brindle, quality all through, classic head but could do with more fill, everything in the right place, excellent mouth and good underjaw, strong well-arched neck, good angulation front and rear, strong cobby body, excellent bone, strong pasterns and tight feet, wide perfectly straight front, correct gently-roached topline, good cut up, keeps his outline on the move, moved with ease in all directions, free and flowing, shown in hard muscular condition, won this class on balance and free movement, a great showman, sound as a bell. CC & BOB. Pleased he was shortlisted in the group. 2 Gura-Mallon's Ir Ch Jafrak Perfect Silence At Celticibrid, quality brindle, a well-balanced dog, preferred his head to 1, strong boned, short cobby, muscular and well-rounded body, classic front, good outline, well-rounded rear, nothing to dislike about this dog, full of quality but does not make the most of himself, moves well but lacks enthusiasm, would love to see more sparkle, won over 3 on a slightly stronger head and width of underjaw; 3 Friend's Multi Ch Kingfriend Mr Wow.

MPB (15,2) 1 Clubley's Frabulls Maggie Thatcher, a very pretty clear fawn with black mask and very good pigmentation, quality head, very sweet expression, good mouth, great ears used well all the time, coat could be finer and less woolly – but it is winter! Very short coupled, good straight front, well rounded rear with angulation just right, tight feet, an excellent showgirl and moved so well, may be slightly high on the leg for absolute balance which cost her in the challenge with PB, liked her very much today; 2 Gura-Mallen's Portmain Sally Cinnamon Celticibrid, lovely dark brindle, head not as mature or well filled yet as 1 but has the most beautiful black round eyes giving the desired soft melting expression, very good ears for shape set and size, body immature but promising, very appealing puppy in beautiful condition, probably better balanced in body than 1 for length to height ratio, moved so well, lovely shiny fine soft coat, great feet and black nails; 3 Scott's Amuelle Madame Monique.

PB (15,1) Real battle between 1 & 2; both had so much to like, and both of high quality, totally different in type. 1 Bradley / Gill's Squeezabulls Colour Blind At Jehane, a quite lovely mid-brindle, everything in place, so well

balanced, very smart square and well-cushioned head and still feminine, correct ears, perfect in front, short cobby body, good spring of rib and tuck up, lovely arched neck, well-set tail, moved very well in all directions and never stopped showing herself off, would like slightly more angulation in rear, had to nit-pick but she won over 2 on the day on a slightly better body balance, won BPB on better balance and won BP over the dog on freer movement, pleased she was short-listed in the puppy group; 2 Harding's Pringham Privilege, lovely clear black-masked fawn, slightly more substance than 1, a puppy of obvious quality and one that you have to look at twice, very good head which is slightly larger and more furnished than 1, very good eyes and expression, good mouth, ears correctly set shaped and used well, movement free-flowing and very good, good outline, better rear angulation than 1 but slightly longer coupled, very well-off for bone, these two will no doubt change places many times in the future; 3 Gura-Mallon's Portmain Sally Cinnamon Celticibrid.

JB (14,3) Strong class with good ones unplaced. 1 Jopling's Bumbledor Cassiopeia, clear hooded pied, very feminine with a beautiful head, square and broad, wide muzzle and well-developed cheeks, dark round eyes giving the desired expression, probably the best bitch head of the day, well-developed body with everything in proportion, she can and does use her ears well but they could be set a touch higher for perfection though good for shape and size, lovely conformation, straight wide front, excellent quarters, everything just about right, moved with ease in all directions, once fully-mature could worry the very best, very well-balanced bitch who was considered for higher honours; 2 Krall's Jafrack Doramarr, another good fawn with a lovely head which is very well furnished yet still feminine, preferred her ears to 1, she has a well-arched neck and a good outline, front is wide and straight, body well-proportioned with decent roach and cut up, would prefer slightly more angulation in rear, another good mover and confident showgirl; 3 Chambers and Drummond's Glenlee Eternal Flame Luvum.

YB (13,2) 1 Kendrick / Jones' Tommyville Tully At Acirema, attractive clear fawn with black mask and good pigmentation, very feminine all through, lovely dark eyes, good mouth and ears used to advantage, enough bone, front good, outline good, well-balanced and moves well, feet spoiled by long nails, not overdone in any way, won over 2 on maturity of head and ear carriage, a good showgirl, very alert and inquisitive; 2 Henderson's Bumbledor Pyxis, clear hooded pied, litter-sister to 1 in JB, good head but not as mature as 1, ears could be higher set but correct for shape and size and she can use them to advantage when she chooses, excellent overall conformation and really comes into her best on the move, her front is correct, she has sound pasterns and tight feet, good top line, lovely well-rounded rear and correct angulation, well-balanced but not as outgoing show-wise as 1; 3 Marvo-Michaelis' Shoebridge Lunel.

PGB (20,4) 1 Gardener / Bradley's Allonzobar Dotty Dolali, good honest brindle with pretty head and beautiful eyes, ears just right, very good front,

well-arched neck, good shoulders, well-angulated rear and a decent roach, would benefit from more length and width of rib to enhance her body shape, she has excellent free-flowing movement, lovely coat in good condition, a very attentive showgirl who won over 2 on movement and showmanship; 2 Quinn's Bexbull Imperial Snowstorm At Nirojo, attractive hooded pied better in body shape than 1, good head, well-furnished, nothing to dislike, can use her ears well, well-proportioned body, moves well enough but is reluctant at times and handler could encourage her more to sparkle; 3 Butterfield's Gizyjo Almost An Angel At Chequerpei.

LB (14,1) Excellent class with quality all through, sadly good ones not placed. 1 Conway / Wright's Oro Jumaroro Action Alet Anashell Jw (Imp CZE), stunning brindle, took my eye immediately, so good to go over and did not disappoint in any way, everything in the correct place from head to tail, so well proportioned, short compact body with just enough roach, excellent wide and straight front with good width of chest, decent cut up and well-rounded rear, shown in first-class condition, a picture of soundness and health, she has the most exquisite feminine expression, moves so well and has ring presence, very well handled and a pleasure to award her the CC; 2 Brown's Sake De Elka Gyvybes At Kuredeux Jw Sh Cm, another lovely exhibit, brindle, well proportioned, battled for this place with 3, very well balanced, lovely head, ears and expression, excellent mouth and wide jaw, good in body but would prefer slightly better cut up (was later informed that she had recently had a litter), she makes a very attractive picture, very confident exhibit and another who enjoys the limelight and this probably influenced her placing over 3, movement quite exceptional today, 3 Pearce's Tillcarr Flirt In A Skirt.

OB (11,2) 1 Corish's Ch Boule And Onuba Zinderella At Sealaw, well-balanced brindle with obvious quality, very typey and well-proportioned, lovely for size and shape and another that enjoys the ring and is able to show off her virtues to the full, short and cobby in body with ribs well-sprung, good cut up and keeps her outline on the move, lovely in head, correct ears used well, beautiful dark eye and soft expression, very good mouth, temperament typical of the breed with a hint of naughtiness, moved soundly round the ring, won over 2 on size and compactness, RCC; 2 Rawsthorne's Risethor Poppiholla, really attractive brindle, so good to go over, in good muscular condition, smooth fine coat, looks a picture of health, she's a size up from 1 but still very feminine and is just a tad longer in body, liked her head, ears and eyes, very good mouth, well-arched neck into a very shapely body, free and flowing movement; 3 Green's Alonzobar Tinie Tempha.

Rob McDonald