

## **CRITIQUE – BRITISH CHIHUAHUA CLUB CHAMP SHOW 11 NOVEMBER 2017**

### **Judge for Long Coat Chihuahuas Mr Steve Rooney**

Many thanks to The Officers and Committee of The British Chihuahua Club for inviting me to judge Longcoat Chihuahuas at their annual Championship Show. A great honour indeed to be invited by this very prestigious club. Also a huge thank you to the exhibitors for putting their charges in my hands and accepting the benefit of my opinion.

A special thank you to Mr John Green for agreeing to be my steward on the day, and a very good job he did too. A lovely entry of quality dogs made some decisions very difficult indeed, and my preference today was for the depth of quality within the males. The bitches were a little disappointing in some classes, and mostly sound movement seems to be lacking. Also a big variation in sizes, with some girls being on the smaller size and lacking substance. Many comments have been made about mouths, and we are now expected to feedback any concerns, particularly on this very contentious issue, but in comparison to numbers present, I would not be overly concerned or alarmed as I only found a small percentage with poor mouths. Why this is being classed as a health issue is beyond me and I feel other areas should be focused on eg, Patellas and Tailsets. Temperaments were generally good and 99.9% were easily handled on the table.

MPD. 6 (1Tr). 1st. Chapmans, Bratilda Obiwan at Kitsune. Typey little red dog with a strong head, deep stop, broad in muzzle, good bite. Neatly constructed showing off his firm level top line and correctly carried tail set. Showed very well. 2nd. Berringtons, Ellochi Crazy Nights for Pappersley. Lovely headed dog with large, dark round eyes, good breadth of skull and well set angulated ears. Very appealing doleful expression. A little longer in the back than the winner but gave a good account of himself. Preferred the tidier action of the first but a nice boy nonetheless.

PD. 5 (1) Allcocks, Sandiman Last Tango in Paris Sleepyhollow. Very well put together young dog with a compact and solid shape and body. Firmly made in construction with a well filled body and everything as it should be. Stood freely on the table allowing closer examination and showing off his attributes with nothing to hide. Well shaped head with good skull space between the ears, forming a nicely shaped head. Slightly thicker in the muzzle but not deterring from his appealing expression. Super firm front legs set nicely into the chest, and as straight as you would want. Tail set well enough and this tidies up the whole picture. Very well schooled puppy who moved effortlessly, and was full of confidence and self assurance that won him the class and subsequent Best Puppy in Breed....2nd. Wills. Dorentys Dazzlin Duncan. Attractive gold boy with a good head and expression. Carries himself well on the move showing his shape off to good advantage but just preferred the overall balance of the winner.

JD 6 (0) Olives, Oozora Bonanza Boy. Richly coloured red boy with a lovely head and deep dark eye and commanding expression. Well put together, good size and pleasing shape. Very satisfying to watch on the move with sufficient coat to complete the picture. A good solid all round dog that has understandable appeal to many. Would just prefer a better tail carriage to compliment the overall look but a winner all the same...2nd. Emmersons, Ismirelles Hot Horizon. Such a nice looking gold and white dog with a lovely expressive head, broad skull well positioned ears. Firm jaw line finishing the picture. Nice hands on dog that was slightly longer in the back than the winner and not quite got the 'oomph', needed to bring the best out in him. With a bit more verve the whole picture could change I'm sure, but still a nice looking boy.

YD. 2 (0) 1st. Newberrys, Ismirelle The Mad Hatter at Hermosoangel. Larger type boy with a strong head and masculine in appearance and construction though still retains a level of refinement. Showed well...2nd. Emmersons, Ismirelle Hot Horizon.

ND. 1st. Allcocks, Sandiman Last Tango in Paris Sleepyhollow.(see prev notes).2nd. Emmersons, Chantico Jack The Lad. Very smart little boy full of spirit and good to handle on the table where I

found him to be well constructed and together. Lovely shaped head on fine shoulders. Moved very well. Certainly has the cute factor.

GD. 6(0) 1st. Murray's, Bratilda Nichols. Diminutive red boy who needs closer examination to appreciate his qualities. Full of character and type, compact and neatly made and moved extremely well around the ring and kept my attention over his competitors. Earned his place at the front of this class. 2nd. Ismirelles The Mad Hatter at Hermosoangel.

PG. 9 (2) 1st. De Boorders, Cwtchi Little Rascal by Sayenchi. Very smart and attractive dog. Ideal for size and shape and has everything he needed to compete in this competitive class, but was run close by the second boy as very similar in type. Well bodied and solidly built. Lovely head and expression. Carried his tail particularly well which for me always enhances a dogs profile. Moved very well. Nicely matured and certainly the finished picture. A definite contender for higher awards against some stiff competition..2nd. Fathers and Farrugia's, Okajems Thinking Out Loud with Cholas. Very similar type to the winner but slightly longer cast. Really loved this boys head and facial features. Beautiful soft expression, large round dark eyes, moderate muzzle and the required stop. Constructed well enough to assist his good movement but his head impressed me the most.

LD. 6(0) 1st. Humphreys, Amarantos Tobin. Wolf sable and white Parti colour boy that when initially entering the ring, and on the first lap, let everyone know he had arrived, but thankfully settled down to the job in hand to earn his place at the top of this class. A dog whose qualities cannot be overlooked, particularly his rather lovely head, dark liquid eyes and such a confident air about him. Could be generously defined as personality plus, and has a self assurance when standing, and a great knack of pulling himself into a lovely profile picture perfect position that draws your eye. Eventually got into his stride and stopped "showing off", resulting in him winning this class confidently. A dog with lots of potential !..2nd. Hills, Lynpix The Mexican with Becanna. Sable and white mature boy carrying a good coat on a well bodied frame. Beautifully sculptured head which is really his selling point and lifts his quality above others in this class. Went around the ring with style and just needs the nudge to pose a little more steadily and there would be no stopping him. A lovely dog that is at last reaching his potential, and with A bit more self assurity and a following wind he could do very well. Two very nice dogs.

OD. 8(0) 1st. Heap and Palmers, Penapettit Platinum. Darkish cream boy that ticked all the boxes for me today. Such a charming head that filled my eye with his knowing and alert expression. Very well proportioned in shape and body with good length of neck, tidy level top line and well carried tail. Moves confidently, well into his stride and carries himself elegantly and with grace. No coarseness or exaggeration at any level, and painted a winning picture for me today winning his 3rd and crowning CC, BOB, and delighted to see him awarded BIS under breed specialist Sue Lee...2nd. Raptakis, Gr/USA/Dk/Fin Ch. Mystic Legion Drago. Dark sable boy carrying a super head with an understated confident expression which certainly takes your eye. Very well shaped skull and sculptured muzzle which for me stands out as his best feature. He is very well put together and not overdone in any area making him nicely compact and an ideal size. Enough body and coat to present a very handsome picture and all this together creates a lovely silhouette while moving around the ring. Close contest between these two and both worthy for top honours. Delighted to award him the RCC and RBOB and he also appealed to the BIS judge who awarded him RBIS. Champion title just around the corner I am sure.

VD. 4 (1) 1st. Swales, Selaws Dean Climber. 10 yr old young man , well coated boy who seemed to be happy to be out and about amongst his peers. Really loved his head and expression. Good broad skull opening up his very appealing expression. Good construction and well formed body. Knew what he was here for and did the job very well. A lovely example of the breed..2nd. Clarke's, Karkasam Dante at Oxsirius. Very sprightly 8 yr old boy not unlike the winner but in a slighter form and slightly less coat. Refined in head and slightly turned up muzzle, rarely seen these days. Good length of neck. Fairly motors around the ring that belies his age. Nice boy

MPB. 11 (0) 1st. Mintons, Sunny Lion Vafelka Donami (imp Ukr). Pale gold girl, very pretty and feminine and charming in her appearance and demeanour. Correctly shaped skull with good breadth of dome and adequate length of muzzle creating a very acceptable expression. Fine in body but not substance and carries a good level top line and correctly carried tail. Very pleasing on the move, and still in the learning stage of her career, and getting to know what it's all about, but gaining confidence all the time. A good future ahead I'm sure. Challenged well for BP but just preferred the more together performance of the dog..2nd. Ison's, Lynpix Skye's the limit. Extremely pretty girl with the most feminine and delicious of heads. Super for type and size. Good body and construction and carries the much required correct tail. Another girl still learning the ropes, but will be a real contender when she pulls herself together, and realises how lovely she is. Very close decision between these two. Loved them both.

PB. 12 (4) 1st. McMullans, Doobyave Truly Scrumptious, and that she surely is ! Very much a girly girl and feminine in all respects. Not the biggest of girls but so well put together and particularly impressed me on the move where her soundness excelled. Sweet head and a real charmer which certainly worked on me.. 2nd. Raptakis, Mystic Legion Melina. Very smart red girl of larger size than the winner. Has all the qualities needed in a show girl where she gave a really good performance . Slightly longer cast than the winner, and moved very neatly and precisely. Would prefer stronger head properties but a dog that needs to be judged to be really appreciated. A promising future ahead.

JB. 9 (0) 1st. Todd-McCoids, Tinasjoy Georgia with Rubyanlo JW. Dark sable of lovely quality, and again another girl that needs to be judged to be appreciated. Very impressed with her defined head properties. Large round expressive eyes and defined stop. Nicely domed head and good ear set. Well set front, firm topline leading to my much preferred correctly set and carried tail. When she gets herself into gear, this is a really lovely bitch that moves extremely well, soundly and with style. Can be unsettled in her showmanship, but today made that extra effort which swayed my ultimate decision to place her first, and she maintained that performance in the challenge winning her the RCC. Well done to her handler and her PA for a job well done.. 2nd. Smiths, Gabrielbelle Last Dance. Refinely made red sable girl with nothing to hide. Good enough head , reach of neck to nicely firmed level topline leading to another well set and carried tail, which for me makes all the difference in balance and profile. Really excelled on the move earning her qualifying place in this well filled class. YB. 9 (0) 1st. Craggs, Reynoldco Sweet Dreams. Another well filled class with some nice girls present, but not all performing as I would like. Winner was a pale fawn and cream that excels in head features and with a rather special expression. Super construction and very much together on the table. Just enough coat with nothing to hide, and which show off her obvious virtues. A little exuberant when on the move, but still managed to cover the ring with ease, and is a bitch that has lots to like about her, and taking everything into consideration was an easy winner of this class.. 2nd. Newberrys, Hermosoangel Shone for Me. Tri bitch with a fair enough head and good body. Has a particularly nice large dark eye but Went more for her movement to clinch her the second place.

NB. 8 (0) 1st. Jones, Flickan Florina. So well put together gold and white girl, that needs hands on to recognise her super body and frame. Very solid but not course or heavy. Tidy front which showed in her very sound stride..2nd. Mintons. Sunny Lion Vafelka Donami. BP winner that didn't go quite so well in this class and paid the price. I have said this before, and still feel for me, it's never a good idea to chase JW points at the expense of consideration for higher awards.

GB. 7 (5) 1st. Emmersons, Ismirelles Love Heart. A really pretty girl with a beautiful head that really is her forte. Neat and tidy with firm straight front. Compact in size but comes into her own when on the move covering the ground well and showing us what's she's made of..2nd. Willls, Dorentys Ello Vera. Larger type girl but nonetheless still has quality. Shapely head and eye, good reach of neck. Level top line. Another good mover.

PGB. 9(1) 1st. Entwistles, Dorenty Viva Vienna JW. Gorgeous headed girl which I very much admired, with a lovely sweet expression which poses a winning formula for me, and as a bonus is well formed, and showed this off with her very measured and stylish movement. A tad tight in the tail but a real cutie ! Lots of appeal with this girl..2nd. Barbers, Hollyel Kunzite at Ramrowan. Sweet and dainty girl with again a pretty head, refined in all areas. Front movement preferred as a little close behind but showed well and gave a good account of herself.

LB. 13 (0) 1st. Clarke's, Oxsirius Neon Tiger. Quality girl full of type and quality. Not overdone in any way. Very pleasing head. Good overall shape which comes into its own on the move. Close call between first and second heading the largest class of the day. Good class of quality girls..2nd. Buss, Hollyell Ruby Too Shoos of Flutura. Gold sable girl, well coated and mature girl that impressed me on closer inspection. Allround quality bitch, nicely formed and excelled on the move. Very nicely presented and worked as a team with her handler and really earned her 2nd place in this strong class.

OB. 9 (2) 1st. Clarke's, Bratilda Bridget to Oxsirius. 4 year old golden girl whom I have judged and admired before, although not quite the girl then that she was today. She has blossomed into a beautiful lady with an impressive head accentuated by her large dark eyes and firm muzzle. Really lovely expression that reflects the darkness of her eyes that almost glistens in the right light. I have admired her from a distance and noticed she's had a tendency to hunch up at times, which can spoil her profile, and she can also give up the ghost, and become bored easily, but thankfully not today where she pulled out all the stops and put in a sterling performance out-moving her co- stars and reaching the winning post comfortably. BCC...2nd. Smiths, Gabrielbelle Prophet.. Lovely and sweet red girl with a very appealing head and expression. Fine boned and almost delicate in appearance but not in substance. Enough coat to dress her body and show her elegance and really moved swiftly and with purpose. Nice young lady.

VB. 6 (1) Austin's, Ch. Mairichis Blossom. 8 year old queen who carries a worthy title and looking pretty good for her age. Would never believe she was a veteran as no sign of any aging. Good head and slightly longer in muzzle. Retains her good body and substance. Moves like a teenager and showed the others how it's done in this class. Easy winner. BV and BVIS. 2nd. Hughes, Salsero Isabella. 13 year old girl of super quality, and hard to believe her age as she all the attributes of a lovely dog and really held her own in this well filled class of elderly ladies. Lovely to see our veterans having a day out.

Thank you again to all for a lovely day.

Steve Rooney.