

## Championship Show 2004

Dogs : Mrs Margaret MacDonald-Cross

It was with much pleasure I accepted the invitation to judge Boxers with CCs for the first time and thank the committee of The Northern Boxer Club for giving me this opportunity. Having owned my first Boxer as long ago as 1956, I have of course seen many changes in the breed - not all for the better! I have been concerned for some years that so many, including top winners, have become longer in back, due to extra length in loin, creating a definite weakness in back, often accompanied by high hocks and over angulated quarters (not to be confused with an excellent turn of stifle!). With clever handling these dogs can look quite spectacular stacked but go to pieces on the move. I was taught that the Boxer is a square dog, not an oblong! I am not a fault judge and believe very much that the general appearance of whichever breed I am judging should be correct. This I attempted to do in my line-ups. However it is difficult to ignore faults such as so many heads with heavy rolls of flesh on the foreheads, quite untypical, and I found myself gazing into countless pairs of eyes often imbedded in flesh, small, deep-set and just not looking at me like a Boxer! On the credit side, I found mouths rather better than I expected, temperament superb and presentation excellent.

With my efficient stewards keeping everything flowing, I thoroughly enjoyed the day with my favourite breed, and I was very pleased indeed with the final line up for the Challenge which contained sound honest Boxers and will follow their progress with interest

### **MINOR PUPPY DOG (14,2) - the puppy classes were fairly mixed**

1<sup>st</sup> - Schofield's **KOPPERNOX MICKEY FINN**. 7 months Brindle/White, lovely headed youngster with good eye and expression, reachy neck and straight front with good legs and feet. Stands square when posed with good back-line, held well on the move. Moved steadily for one so young. Well handled and presented.

2<sup>nd</sup> - Baxter's **REVLUC REEL BUDDY**. Good headed red also 7 months though a little slack in eye, well placed ears, black mask. Good neck, super front correct sloping back-line. Shown in shining red coat. Not so settled as 1, but good typey youngster. Presents the desired square outline.

3<sup>rd</sup> - Hine & Otley's **OVER THE LIMIT AT BLAZON**.

### **PUPPY DOG (7,1)**

1<sup>st</sup> - McGuigan's **MR MALARKY AT STALEYWAY**. 10 months dark brindle. Good clean head with correct skull to muzzle ratio. Dark eye with good Boxery expression, excellent mouth and lip placement. Nice neck, good square body shape, good strong quarters moving with power and well handled and presented.

2<sup>nd</sup> - Miller's **WALKON COMMANDER BOND**. Another 10 months dark brindle, which was shown in beautiful condition. Dark well shaped eye, good expression but not so clean in skull as 1. Good bite, crested neck, good front with excellent legs and feet. Well handled to get the very best out of him, and moved with enthusiasm but slightly longer cast than 1.

3<sup>rd</sup> - Harvey's **EDMUNDSBURY LOVE ME DO AT GLASWYND**.

### **JUNIOR DOG (11,2)**

1<sup>st</sup> - Bolton's **AMBOLTON BLACK EYED BOY**. This exciting red and white really caught my eye as he came into the ring. 17 months, shown in gleaming tight jacket with beautifully balanced head, good eye and expression, clean skull, well-set ears, crested neck, good front, strong sloping back-line, deep chest, good rib, strong bone with good legs and feet, muscled quarters with correct angulation. Beautifully handled, he moves really soundly and is a delight to go over. Definitely one for the future, and I kept him in my short list for the ticket.

2<sup>nd</sup> - Bell & Beardrow's **BELVERN PREMENITION JW**. Just two days out of Puppy. This classy dark brindle also presents the correct outline. He is lighter built all through than 1, and gave away quite a bit in age and maturity. Good head, dark eye, clean neck, deep chest and well-muscled back. He has good quarters and tail set. Well-boned legs with good tight feet. He is very well handled and presented and is definitely another with a bright future.

3<sup>rd</sup> - Huckerby's **NORWILBECK SPECIAL BLEND**.

### **SPECIAL YEARLING (11,1)**

1<sup>st</sup> - Pynegar's **BERWYNFA SHUDA WUDA CUDA**. Red brindle with well shaped head, expressive eye, good neck, deep chest and good rib. He has well boned legs and tight feet, good outline, and is well muscled up. He moved really well and was well handled and presented.

2<sup>nd</sup> - Buckley's **SHAKATAN ACE OF SPADES**. Similar in type to 1, at times not so positive in movement, but is a well-built dog. He has a good clean head and eye, good expression. Nice outline, good legs and feet, strong quarters and again well handled.

3<sup>rd</sup> - Bridgeman & Jackson's **OLLEYVILLE ATOMIC BOMBER**.

### **NOVICE DOG (3,1)**

1<sup>st</sup> - Garland 's **SANBRIS MYSTIC MAGIC**. Just a day out of puppy, this red brindle has a clean head with nice expression. Is a nice type of youngster with good shape and outline. Can move soundly enough when he puts his mind to it, but is a bit erratic at times.

2<sup>nd</sup> - Booth 's **SELTAP DEANO'S BOY**. Flashily marked 17 mths dark brindle who was unplaced in the previous class. Pleasant head and eye, well boned young dog who is at a rather rangy stage in his development and needs to grow into himself. Laid-back temperament.

### **DEBUTANT DOG (7)**

1<sup>st</sup> - Maskell 's **SUNDAWN SON OF A GUN**. Dark brindle dog, just out of Junior. He has such a good clean head with well-set ears and dark expressive eyes. Lovely reachy neck leading into good shoulders, correct front assembly with good bone and feet. He is a shapely dog with correct outline, deep chest, good ribcage, natural slope and good hindquarters - a really good young Boxer with all parts fitting together to make an eye catching whole. When he has done a bit more maturing this is one will do well. Another I kept in for final consideration in the Challenge.

2<sup>nd</sup> - Baxter 's **FAERDORN FAME ACADEMY OF REVLUC**. Golden brindle, a month older than 1, and a flashier dog. Longer cast than 1. but good head, super neck with good front and quarters. Well boned.

3<sup>rd</sup> - Taylor 's **NEWLAITHE LOOK AT ME**

### **GRADUATE DOG (6,1)**

1<sup>st</sup> - McArdle's **CARMONDENE SMOKE SCREEN AT MCARMADALE**. 2 yrs lovely red brindle. Clean, balanced head, good dark eye, good mouth, very good front assembly and tight feet. He has a short back, deep chest, good ribcage and strong well muscled quarters and moved soundly.

2<sup>nd</sup> - Morrison's **LOONEYTUNE MIDNITE MAGIC**. Similar type to 1. Not so clean in skull but good expression, good neck and strong sloping back line. Well muscled up with good tight feet and moves well for his handler.

3<sup>rd</sup> - Thomson's **WALKON PLAYING THE FOOL**.

### **POST GRADUATE DOG (12,1)**

1<sup>st</sup> - Gooch's **BRONZE JUPITER**. At 3 yrs what a gift this red dog is to any judge! He illustrates my opening remarks as this a definitely square Boxer! Masculine without coarseness, he has an excellent head with broad muzzle. Clean skull, dark mask, good bite and correct chin and lip placement. His expressive eyes just look Boxer! He has super boned legs and feet, good front assembly, lovely deep chest, good rib, strong back-line with natural slope, good tail-set and powerful hindquarters with correct turn of stifle and strong driving movement. He has a very calm and laid-back temperament and is unobtrusively handled. I seriously considered him for the ticket but it was the extra ring presence and showmanship that tipped the scales in favour of the Limit winner. I know many judges say that they'd have liked to have two certificates to hand out, but I really mean it on this occasion. So Jupiter had to be content with the Reserve C.C., but I am pretty sure the big cards must be coming this dog's way and soon!

2<sup>nd</sup> - Vanston's **VANDENROB WHAT A DIAMOND**. - A little taller than 1, this brindle also presents a good square outline, clean head with dark eye and good expression. Good front assembly, deep chest and correct tuck-up. His handler gets the very best out of him getting him really going on the move. Unlucky to meet above.

3<sup>rd</sup> - McGuigan's **STALEYWAY DENIS THE MENACE**.

### **LIMIT DOG (12)**

1<sup>st</sup> - Hambleton's **MARBELTON FAIR TO MIDLIN'** - This glorious dog's name must be the understatement of the year! He excels in balance of head, dark eye, super mouth, chin and lip placement. His reachy neck leads into an ultra square body with deep chest, good rib and correctly sloping back-line. He is well off for bone and substance giving masculinity without coarseness - such a balanced dog. I just loved his handler's method of showing this rich red 2 year old on a loose lead. No stacking and food-baiting here! On the move, he really motors making full use of his excellent hindquarters, which are spot-on for turn of stifle and angulation. I've admired him from the ringside, but have never seen him show his heart out as he did today. He exudes such superb ring presence and this tipped the scales in his favour when it came to the nitty-gritty of the Challenge. I was delighted to give this excellent Boxer his fourth CC and although the Referee gave the bitch the nod for B.I.S., for me this dog was the star of the show!

2<sup>nd</sup> - Butters' **BOHAN LIMITED EDITION AT MINDENWOOD** - another red with well balanced head, clean skull, strong muzzle, good bite, dark eye and good expression. His strong neck leads into correct sloping top-line, deep chest, good rib and he really covers the ground reaching out on the move and uses his quarters to advantage. He is a dog with really nice lines, presenting the desired square outline. Not the showmanship of above but a good honest Boxer.

3<sup>rd</sup> - Pilling 's **NATEEZ DOUBLE DEE**.

### **OPEN DOG (6)**

1<sup>st</sup> - Simpson's **CH. HILTHORN GOLD BLEND**. This quality red dog is now 5 yrs old. Good head properties - correct balance of muzzle to clean skull, with good bite, chin and lip placement. His crested neck leads into short strong, correctly sloping back-line. He has a good front assembly, deep chested and correct hindquarters for angulation and turn of stifle. A medium sized, well-boned dog that exudes breed type and has passed on his good points to his progeny including my CC winner today. He was also retained for the short list for the ticket. He just shows his heart out for his talented handler.

2<sup>nd</sup> - Carnaby's **CH. TARTARIAN GOLD DUST**. 3 year old red son of the class winner, he has a very good head and eye, broad muzzle, good mouth, has a strong neck, is well boned and with tight feet. He has strong muscular back and hindquarters. Not so square as his sire and is quite a handful for his handler being rather wilful on the move.

3<sup>rd</sup> - Bell & Beardow's **AUST.CH. KIRKGATES STAND BY ME AT BELVERN**.

### **VETERAN DOG (5,1)**

1<sup>st</sup> - Johnson's **CH. RAYFOS MOUNTAIN HIGH AT SHONSHOBY**. 8 yr old shown in top condition. This quality red brindle has a masculine head with lovely properties, correct expressive eyes, good bite, chin and lip placement. His lovely neck and body proportions, good bone and sound movement added up to a very fine Boxer, never mind a Veteran, and I did him the honour of including him in my final short list for the ticket.

2<sup>nd</sup> - Winter's **JAYAL BEAU STARR**. Red dog and a year older than 1, with the sophistication of white hairs showing on his face and body, but this dog has very clean lines in his head, neck and body and must have been a smart dog when in his prime. Moving and showing very well and obviously enjoying his day out.

3<sup>rd</sup> - Heesom's **ELVISTAR LONESOME TONIGHT**.

Apologies but no critique available for the bitches