

THE SOUTHERN AFGHAN CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW ON SUNDAY 2ND DEC 2018

Being a single Breed Specialist spanning more than 5 decades , who cares passionately about the breed and dedicated in every respect , I always try to leave behind my personal preferences or those I would like to have owned when I judge . I do so simply as my sole desire and basis is to find and place dogs in my opinion in every class that are the best " on the day" as well as relying on the "book of words" that one uses as a guide.

I do so clinically but of course it is difficult when making comparisons standing there in full view to then without realising " sometimes" just wander back into my preferences. The essential difficulty then and only then is to decide which is your idea of priority in exhibits with differing faults or those which are the lesser, then It comes down reaching not only a compromise but primarily those that perform .

I have stated Type is always my foremost point from the outset followed by balance , then strength or power and finally movement or gait. The latter is almost a non starter in an indoor hard surface ring as opposed to being outside. Sadly I found no exhibits that possessed "Spring " that very essential performance factor which "may" have been seen outside but not today on the concrete floor.

My critiques I stress are not a place nor time for saying publically my opinion what is wrong with the breed nor intended as a place for criticism publicly of any exhibit. It is solely an individual explanation of my decision on the day .

MINOR PUPPY BITCH (3)1 Absent

1) Dove and Edwards Celestian Ta Daaa for Ryajikron Naf Taf (IMP)

When faced with a class of only two puppies and one is simply so full of herself and the other really difficult to cooperate there is only one choice. The result was the only winner in the end at her first show . A shaded mask gold . Very fine for me in head . Stood four square in stack , straight forelegs, but naturally so very raw . Nicely balanced overall outline in side view, somewhat sleek and for me would prefer more weight but at the moment suits her build , only time will tell .Able to gait with reach with a strong leading leg which I admired for one so young. Deep brisket, good tuck up, well angled croup, well bent stifle complete with curved tail not quite fully raised in action . Moves well at the rear . A true show girl but needs time . I am sure she will impress many judges who follow as she moved with great confidence with style and verve . B P Bitch.

2) Wilsons Zandahar Xotic Pineapple of Tahir

Completely different exhibit to first due to being visually of a stronger and robust build . At the moment uncooperative with handler and so difficult to really assess on first glance from afar , very hesitant to gait fully round the ring. However well coated black / brindle with a profuse huge coat with good presentation .Well bodied with substance and very good outline when able to be seen stacked at the end of the class. Straight forelegs again with large feet. Difficult to really appreciate the head balance or overall expression . I noticed good length from hip to hock and the essential ring tail . Both front and rear complement each other .

PUPPY BITCH (-)

VETERAN 7-10 YEARS (5)

1) House and Hinchliffe CH Jodak Passion in Black

Black with beautiful head proudly carried at correct tangent .Very feminine .For me with a correct expression when considering eyes, brows, eye shape and chiselling Well coated with very long leathers. Balanced overall in length and height. . I admired seeing those extended feet when stacked . They are the very best ones I saw today .Sound in front and rear , well bodied. Extremely animated . Very impressive on the move with wide open side gait. Positively a "style of high order " complete with drive and fluency , with power from the rear as demanded but mainly due I feel is

enhanced by the ability of the Owner handler . Curved tail . I loved her upper back line on the move and that all important correct angle to croup. Completely at ease in unison with her handler.

2)Dares CH Sitana Nishana at Lakarnadream (JW)

Now at first glance from afar presents a beautiful overall outline that cannot be missed dripping in coat. Shaded gold of 3 hues with shaded mask .. Confident at all time when I went over her .Well made head good under jaw with long foreface , lover her roman nose and expression . The eyes and that " Oh so far away look at me" when I approached made me somewhat oblivious to her .Standing statuesque very firm in stack with ultra long leathers, complete with good stop. Long neck that blends into a attractive sweep from back , to loin and croup. For me at the present time carrying too much weight and as a result too much substance when examined. However the very best of presentation today complete with deep saddle , ring tail . One cannot fail to really admire her and being drawn visually to her overall outline when view in the stack .

3) Bastows Karandikar my Serenade

VETERAN BITCH OVER 10 YEARS (3) 2 absent

1) Metcalfes CH Cubana Northern Star (JW)

Standing alone at almost 11 years and one I have admired in times gone by . Who wears a coat of many colours. Really beautiful type that I do admire in more areas than one. Well constructed and moulded head shaded mask, tight lips. The overall head balanced as it should be , complete with stop and forward gaze. Ultra confident when examined .Even at this age is extremely difficult to really criticise. Shown in hard condition with great coat length slight rise to pelvis due to age . Excels in front assembly leading onto and supporting strong but not overrounded body construction. Now for me a better length of loin than most , slightly longer in cast as a female and therefore able to demonstrate good coordination in front and rear gait. It goes against the grain of always requiring a square well coupled exhibit I am aware but absolutely suits her build from every aspect Moves with great confidence , with a style and rhythmic repetitive gait befitting her age , raising her ring tail proudly carried for all to see . No hesitation of awarding her best veteran in this sex as she has stood the test of time without detriment to her present age. but full credit must go to the owner.

JUNIOR BITCH (5) 1 absent

1) Vowles Neytiri De Koulangar with Azmari (Imp Fr)

Gold with shaded black mask full of confidence from the word go . Beautiful head piece with Beard, long leathers. good balance to back scull , pronounced stop, well moulded . Well set back shoulder placement .Instantly carries her head on a long strong arched neck when asked to gait at the correct angle which opens out tipping over the whole front assembly enabled by a strong out stretched leading leg . She then as a result of power carries the head proudly and raises the tail correctly . My hands found a body with good substance and depth with the ribbing carried well back to the tuck up. At first I sensed she was difficult to stack although not a fidget but needs to be firmly set over the front legs and the line drawn down it. She is closely coupled to show the squareness desired in the breed, and has that very natural depression behind the withers. Some exhibits portray it pronounced others show it as slight. Many feel it is a fault which is nonsense but I feel a need to remind them every Afghan has it . The back (so seldom mentioned in the breed) and the loin are firm complete with almost a deep saddle and a ring tail . The croup is steep which in turn tends to set the rear assembly directly under it . She has enough bend in stifle as a result. Any more angulation due to a shallower croup would in my opinion spoil her outline. I could not deny her the 3 classes she won nor my eventual decision to award her the Ticket . Winning also Best of Breed and Best in Show on a referees decision in each case

2) Raper Tulak Just Go with it for Amariz

Another beautiful very elegant gold bitch , so very natural in overall coat texture and appeal to me. Refined but attractive headpiece ,long leathers, with shaded mask , beard set on long neck leading

into a deep saddle . Almost going into a patterned phase. I was drawn into her upper backline and fall away .raised curved tail . She stands so well in stack which was my first impression then I started to second look deeper at her and admired both the front and rear assemblies. Nothing exaggerated , firm as a rock. Well made generally . great sweep from hip to hock . Totally in admiration for her overall balance. Moved with a certain style and the leading leg so very important to indicate reach .

3)Thompsons Cloudside Sunflower

YEARLING BITCH (6) 1 Absent

1) Vowles Neytiri De Koulangar with Azmari (Imp Fr)

2)House and Hinchliffes Cloudside Sun Angel for Jodak

Jet Black, with a touch of brindle with a profuse coat . So well presented with potential for me but I felt needed more time to come into her own . Beautiful head piece. I loved the expression the head is so well balanced and my hands told me so . Now my first impression when glancing around was enough to see her qualities are in the stack . She is my perfect size then So well set up for any judge. Forehand and rear complement each other admirably and then there is that lovely sweep from pelvis down to the rear complete with well bent stifle for all to see. Curved tail . Body condition was firm and sound Moved reasonably well coming and going.

3)Fairburns Cloudside Sunset

MAIDEN BITCH (-)

NOVICE BITCH (1)

1) Turner, Boydell and Huttons Nightwind Youre my Kind of Crazy (Imp)

Black and silver standing 5th position from yearling. Pleasing in general outline well up to size . Fine in head . but balanced skull, complete with long leathers . Long neck that leads gradually into a firm backline .Excels in body . She is almost 4 square from the side view and moves with a strong leading leg and held her backline level on the move. She is probably too short in loin but nothing over exaggerated in front or rear assembly. Carries a raised curved tail well feathered

GRADUATE BITCH (7)

1) Vowles Neytiri De Koulangar with Azmari (Imp Fr)

2) Waggett and Wilkinsons Saxonmill Kiss Bang Bang Clenagh (JW)

I was immediately drawn to one of the so very few that really epitomised "proudness "on the move with drive , grace and aloofness so demanded by our Standard. Tail and head up at all times both at the correct tangent and one could not fail to notice this throughout this class consistently . Black and cream exhibit with cream mask ,long leathers , so oblivious to my" hands on "process. I was taken by her height to length ratio that for me visually from the side told me instantly she was balanced with a sufficient coupling but not ultra short. She blends into the whole class when stacked until she comes alive in complete unison with the handler who used the ring into all available space without cutting corners . I am critical of withers in the breed generally but from the crest down through the neck , back, then loin had the best of contours finished with desired slope to pelvis. then that good sweep to rear assembly added up to fill the eye . Curved tail . Held her backline firm at all times .

3) Gilberts Affietar Glen Magillie (JW)

BROOD BITCH (1)

1) Adams Ch Zandahar Just Tiger Lily (JW)

Brindle with all her progeny. I was impressed at first hand to see a well made litter all in respect with wonderful body and hard condition . This is a good advert for the breeder. I find this class a

difficult one to always comment on individually without also emphasising the mother. Now for the mother she is totally 4 square that the book of words desires for any judge. Compact comes to my mind, rock solid in the stance. I am not a lover of over exaggerated rear assemblies they cause too many problems for me on the move. However this lady was constructed then placed and stood correctly in the rear. Instantly fills the eye as both height and length ratio balance out. One cannot fail to notice that upper backline stressing firmness when stacked. I am not a head hunter but here was a head piece that I warmed to.

POST GRADUATE BITCH (10) 4 Absent.

1) Parkers Saxonmill Jean Genie at Khatira (JW)

Black and silver at 2 yrs. From whatever position I stood I saw " Type" stood there for me and all to see in a natural pose. That one point made me stop then stand and look closer before I even laid a hand on her. A delight to examine. Firstly she looked straight through me, not even as I touched her. Her skull is well balanced very feminine with good expression. Well chiselled foreface, adequate under jaw. Head carriage good when moving. In front assembly I felt the front legs were held close to her chest with enough essential hand width between each. Chest depth good. Body firm not over rounded. The rib cage carried back far enough to complement the back position before the tuck up. Then her rear assembly is set at the correct position starting from the angle of the croup, with a well bent stifle. In effect well let down at the rear. Carries a curved tail. Well coated in flanks and both assemblies with the all important saddle to complete the picture

2) Coates Gilari Silken Flame at Bukhara

Gold at 3 yrs with self coloured mask. Good definition to foreface with a softer expression, fully aware of my hands on but did not move. bearded, long leathers. She has the longest of necks I saw today and stands correctly over her front assembly. I loved that extension to the front feet. Her saddle colour is extended down her body which is of attractive appeal. My examination found a good body slightly longer in cast, beneath that coat, pronounced pin bones and sufficient slope at pelvis, complete with a ring tail. I noticed when stacked naturally she moves her whole frame forward and sets herself over the front assembly. Because of her build at the rear she is able to place the rear assembly further back than most. The effect is to show a delightful sweep down to the hock. Showed herself well on the move. Extremely well presented

3) Lockett - Davies Rhazmakh Tyme - N - Tyde (JW)

MID LIMIT BITCH (11) (3 absent)

1) Halls Saxonmill Mirror Mirror.

Black and tan that I fell for immediately. At first, so very composed in stack and of excellent size. Then I was aware she followed me in all directions which made me " slightly hesitant " to approach until she settled. She was a joy to go over. She is I see another from a magical litter of stars. The head shouts quality well balanced, good stop with good expression surmounted with longest of leathers. set on long neck. I was captivated by her overall balance. Her size is for me her virtue. Front and rear complement each other. Ring tail. I sensed the handler had some concern about front placement however I had no concern. She was placed correctly over the line drawn down through the front legs. Well let down at the rear. She is one who is able at times I noticed who can be slightly stretched out in the rear to enhance her outline without detriment to her backline. This was for me more appealing in her case. She moved well at all times I asked and I had no hesitation in making her my winner

2) Hardings Khasbek Licensed to Win at Ashani (Imp Fr)

A 3yr old natural showgirl in almost every respect that shouts " look at me " Gold in colour with shaded masking. stares straight ahead, with long leathers. The first thing I noticed was how composed she was in side view. I liked the whole picture when stacked. The very evident proud ness on display at all times means her carriage of her head and extremely long neck was held naturally

correctly and set over her front assembly . Then at the rear a true natural set without prompting of the rear assembly seemingly automatic. I always feel when you see the slope to the croup as it is here it is sure the angles at the rear will complete the picture with that good bend of stifle for all on view . Almost a red saddle with much lighter coat covering, finished with a curved tail . Good construction to the body and ribbing not over rounded. The expression is very attentive of all surroundings even as I approached. One cannot compare both of these two bitches and the most difficult problem I had all day in any class. Both in Build, shape, stature, and balance yet I had to place them as I felt on the day

3) Fairburn , Roberts and Fillis Moon Maringo Evening In Paris

LIMIT BITCH (10) (1 Absent)

1) Waggets Just for You De Koulangar at Glenagh (JW Imp Fr)

4 Yr old Gold female complete with shaded mask and beard set on long neck. Well made body construction with saddle and with substance. A natural showgirl who I saw herself was attentive to her handler looking at her as she moved . She is on the stack visually on first glance a very compact female but when relaxed looks different. However who showed me the more I asked her to move did so with head raised at the correct angle over her front assembly raising a feathered ring tail at all times . She was able to do so using a more powerful drive from the rear and sufficient reach from a leading leg that swayed my decision over the second placing . Again these two are indifferent to each other not only in outline but balance and it came down to who I thought performed better on the day . I now notice she and the Ticket winner are out of the same dam from different litters

2) Hughes Gezanco Saving Grace

Surprisingly 5 yrs old who stood out in my mind and vision from day one. Partly because again my view on balance and outline. She is exquisite in most respects and feminine that's the key factor . She excels from a breed judges point of view to "shout type" in every respect none more so than to me personally and I wish I could have done more for her. She is of a size set in the standard beautifully presented and may be seen to be of a smaller type by some when viewed amongst and with other taller bitches in any class. I will simply add she is correct .It is one of her virtues as the height to length ratios conform . The critical length essentially being taken from the fore chest to the pelvis and not from the tip of the shoulder placement. Shaded mask , long leathers saddled out complete with beard , firm upper backline , pronounced pin bones ,completed at the rear with ring tail. The handler I noted emphasizes her neck length which in effect raises her front to be set more correctly standing over the front assembly . The effect being the back and loin straighten out to the pelvis .From this point all flows gradually down to the correctly angled croup and well bent stifles .One exhibit who would be imbalanced if she were more angulated or any attempt to overstretch her rear .

OPEN BITCH (15) (2 Absent)

Wonderful array as a representation of this noble breed with 9 champions, but I am there in the centre to display my opinion of how they line up . However each wear their rightful title, all with different attributes and my sole aim was to place them very much " on the day". I stress ,in doing so regardless of their title I gave my same consideration to everyone in the whole class

1)CH Pascoe's Popovs Sazerac at Sarakhan (Imp Ned)

My eventual winner was whittled down purely not only of absolute quality but also due to constancy throughout.

Out of the Top drawer emerges a breed specialist dream of femininity. With so many points I was pleased with. Gold with shaded mask at 2 yrs The last thing I look at "in depth "is the head always as I am a judge whose sole desire is to visually absorb the whole exhibit before I even attempt to lay hands on. However headpiece is well made from crest to nasal structure. Eye set , brows and chiselling that make up ones expression was excellent . My upturned hand slid across the skull width

with ease all surmounted with longest of leathers, Her neck length is one of her virtues as it sets the start of a smoothly uninterrupted contour down across the back, loin and croup and the most essential breed point in my opinion " her ring tail ". Her pin bones and angle to pelvis a delight to see. In outline there was nothing I could fail to appreciate as I am somewhat always drawn to "balance" that magical missing word to describe the supposed desired squareness as a guideline interpreted from the book of words. It is of course all dependant on length of loin or how " short " one interprets this single word . Here is a balanced bitch that stands over her ground with front and rear complimenting each other complete with a natural saddle and adorned with enough coat overall . Res CC and awarded Reserve Best in Show on a referees decision

2) Lancashire's Ch Shimalma Mango Sunrise over Drishaun(Jw Sh Cm)

Absolute contrast to the first placing when one first looks visually but equally deserving her place. I was captivated by her whole appearance overall. I suppose she is best described as "What you see is what you get" for some she may not emerge from others but for me she is a sheer delight. Her colour is her virtue by far . Firstly the best presented overall in the sex from top to bottom, dripping in coat which I am the first to say is my least of priorities but essentially to add she has all the major breed points on display . 3 yr old light gold , self mask with the very best of expressions I could see on display. Arrogance yet feminine masking the chiselling was there for all to see . Head balanced to back skull with desired length of foreface tight lipped jaw line. Her arched neck equally a virtue but with a slightly different backline and in outline more static yet of great appeal to me . Complete with a ring tail. It is her " type" I was drawn to having found beneath that coat all the essential points I search for . Body and cast coupling slightly different to winner but this enabled her to display complete separation between front and rear stride from fouling each other. She is not over angled in rear assembly somewhat less exuberant but she was handled sympathetically at a true consistent gait that I stress in the show ring but caught my attention the more I went back to look at her .

3) Ms Hitch and Barleys Ch Zhivas Sunrise Surprise of Zendushkas

Lesley Anne James (Jahadi)