

*Thanks for two very interesting days. Sorry for the lateness of this critique.*

*Generally speaking I was only moderately impressed with the average quality in the classes, my main objections being that in many classes there were few, if any, that stood out for type and quality – but rather a lot of middle-of-the-road Wolfhounds.*

*On the other side, the main winners were excellent for type, quality and movement – the whole package - and the final few in the BOB-competition were as good as they get. It was indeed exciting to get my hands on and study up close those finalists, definitely something to remember for a long time to come.*

*Interestingly – at least for me- the top award were shared between two close families with BOB and BOS being mother and son and a granddaughter/daughter Best Puppy. Winners Bitch and First Award of Merit were littermates. These all excelled in breed type, combination of substance with elegance, outline and movement.*

*I have to excuse my handwriting which makes my notes at best difficult to read, even for me. Some comments unfortunately have had to be left out due to this.*

#### ***Puppy Dogs 6-9:***

##### **1. Coleraine's Gabon**

Well proportioned seven months old wheaten male with a large frame. Attractive head and expression, well placed ears. Long neck which needs to strengthen with maturity. Pleasing return of upper arm. Deep and capacious body, reasonably shapely for his age. Clean mover with good carriage from the side, easy and active. Coat could be harsher and not in optimal coat condition on the day.

##### **2. Tomahawke's Eclipse of Gemini**

Six months old masculine puppy. Well constructed, but at a rather cobby stage and needs to lengthen with age. Masculine, powerful head, moderate neck and front angulation. Deep and capacious body. Excellent coat quality. Sound enough in movement for his age.

##### **3. Carnasserie Flint**

Houndy, typey puppy, in my view the one with the most potential in this class. Head with excellent length and quality. Very pleasing neck and front angulation. Moderately long body with attractive outline. Not in optimal coat condition. At times moved well from the side, needs to stabilize coming and going. Would have won this class with something in hand if he had more self confidence and ring training.

#### ***Puppy Dogs 9-12:***

##### **1. Temair Let Freedom Ring of Eagle**

Attractive, houndy dog of generally very high quality. He has an instantly attractive silhouette and a lot of style, making him stand out from the crowd. Head with very pleasing length and detailing. Long neck, attractive body curves. Good forechest and layback of upper arm. Very attractive topline. Needs to strengthen in his hindquarters both standing and moving and his coat was not at his best on the day, but nevertheless a very promising youngster.

## **2. Dun Myrica Lyre of Eagle**

A good honest dog, not eye-catching as the winner and on the plain side, but well constructed and the one who impressed the most in movement from the side. Excellent coat quality, even if his coat needs some more attention. Not the shape of the winner and could perfect his movement coming and going.

## **3. Castlemaine's Bram of Sidhe**

Young dog with a very attractive body shape, attracting attention. At this stage rather low on legs and therefore not quite in balance. Prefer stronger muzzle and better ears. Strong neck, very good layback of upper arm. Tends to be over-angulated behind, still moved quite well from the side, but not soundly as seen from behind.

### ***12-18 months Dogs***

#### **1. Calyddon Hoel**

Big, majestic, light brindle dog, very well developed for his age. Masculine head which I would prefer longer. Beautiful, crested neck, still rather straight in shoulder. Very deep and well developed in chest. Falls away a bit too much over the croup. Correct harsh coat. Moved with excellent carriage from the side, but needs to stabilize coming and going.

### **Novice Dogs**

#### **1. Ulster's Prince Charming**

Majestic, eye-catching, masculine male, scoring in substance, but also has pleasing quality to go with it. Well shaped head, correct ears, medium dark eyes. Strong neck. Appearing a fraction low on legs and prefer some more spring of pastern. Attractive silhouette, powerful hindquarters. Excellent coat. May perfect his movement coming and going, but has style and keeps his outline in side movement. *Reserve Winners Dog.*

#### **2. Glenamadda Zarek O`Beltane**

Wheaten with dark points dog with his best yet to come. Beautiful head, excellent ears. Long neck. Moderately angulated and developed in front. Very pleasing topline. Would prefer more generous and better angulated hindquarters to finish the picture and which might have given him more drive. Excellent coat quality.

#### **3. Ard Rhi's Consternation of Eagle**

Typey dog, attracts attention standing still, impressed for proportions and outline. Balanced angulation both ends. Very pleasing coat. Both his lower canines were misplaced and he was very reluctant to show his qualities on the move and had to pay the price.

### **Amateur Owner Handler Dogs**

#### **1. Connemara's Pagan Justice**

Majestic, powerful, masculine dog with a lot of presence, carrying himself well. Prefer more quality and chiseling in his head. Moderate neck, but he uses what he has got. Deep, capacious body, covering enough ground. Attractive arch of loin. Stands well on his legs and

uses them well on the move. Excellent coat quality. In excellent sync with his handler, he moved with strength and pride as a Wolfhound should.

**2. Carnasserie Drayton**

Elegant male with an attractive, houndy outline. Balanced angulation both ends, excellent topline. Attractive coat. Needs to drop and develop in body. Very light and effortless on his feet and moved with pleasing carriage. Not quite stable behind. One of his lower canines are misplaced and goes at least almost into his gum. I would advice breeders to take note of this as it is a serious anomaly in the breed, not the least on this day I found quite a few.

**3. Rosslare's Jumpin' Jack Flash**

Light brindle male, very elegant. Head rather too refined, eyes could be darker and ears are flat. Attractive neck. Moderate, but balanced angulation both ends. Prefer some more substance and bone as well as a more shapely body.

**Bred By Exhibitor Dogs**

**1. Taliesin's Willows Glympse**

A very impressive hound, he combines substance and power with being an athlete and a sighthound. Stands so very well over his legs and feet. Excellent outline. Masculine, well chiseled head, again combining strength with elegance. Strong neck. Balanced angulation both ends. Moved with plenty of energy, suppleness and pride. Excellent coat. I was delighted to judge this strong class, easily the best class of the day – and still have a winner that stood out. *Winners Dog and Best of Winners.*

**2. Carnasserie Chord**

Another very handsome male, combining substance with grace. Well chiseled head, eyes could be darker. Long and strong neck. Moderate, but balanced angulation both ends. Attractive outline. Would have preferred him to put some more weight on his frontlegs, tending to pull backwards. Moved well enough from the side. Excellent coat.

**3. FC Carrickaneena Meirgire SC**

Very sighthound-like male with plenty of curves. Not quite the substance of the two above him, but an attractive dog. Noble head. Balanced angulation. Very light on his feet in movement. Not in the best coat on the day. Ringed tail.

**American Bred Dogs**

**1. R Noble For Pet's Sake of Eagle**

Not a big dog, but more than masculine enough, and still has elegance. Easily the one that scored in movement in this class, especially from the side, and basically won the class on that. Strong head, powerful neck and front. Just shapely enough. Correct coat quality.

**2. Carnasserie Mercer Nardac RN**

Upstanding, elegant dog, looks rather unfinished and immature overall. Needs to drop and to gain more angulation both ends. Long, elegant head, eyes just dark enough, Moderate neck. Obviously immature also in his movement. Good coat.

**3. Kindred Cormac O'Beltane**

Standing still a dog who scores in balance and silhouette. Attractive head, but I would prefer better rose ears. Shapely topline. Well angulated behind. Sadly lacked suppleness and the all-important athletic element in movement and lost out on this. Not in coat condition.

### **Open Dogs**

**1. Wolfhavens Fools Brick O'Gold**

Masculine dark brindle dog, very attractive and combines substance with elegance. Very attractive, masculine head, long and strong neck, moderately angulated in front. Prefer some more shape to his topline. Moved very freely and light on his feet from the side, acceptable from behind, needs to firm up in front movement. Pleasing coat.

**2. Pitlochry's Keystone**

Wheaten dog with black, well shaped and chiseled head, excellent expression and ears. Moderately angulated both ends. Attractive body proportions and shape. Moved moderately well from all angles, but lacked that something in movement that would set him apart. A good honest dog.

**3. Carrickaneena An Firic Aris**

Very handsome dog, standing still he would have won the class, excelled in type and outline, well angulated both ends. He was very impressive to go over, but unfortunately proved to be a less than average mover. I really liked this dog, but couldn't do more for him – perhaps on another day if he can get his act together on the move.

### **Veteran Dog**

**1. Ch.Gulliagh Aslan**

Six year old grey dog in excellent condition. One of the best movers of the day in all the dog classes. Attractive, expressive head, small ears. Powerful neck. Moderate, but balanced angulation. I would prefer him to be more generous in his body proportions, covering some more ground, but he won rather comfortably on his movement.

**2. Ch.Blair's Incantation**

Veteran with an attractive profile. Acceptable head, strong neck, balanced angulation both ends, Excellent topline. His coat is a lot better than it looks from a distance. Moved quite well for his age.

**3. Ch. Greymist Eyesoftexas Gabriel**

Longcast, very attractive and typey dog with a handsome silhouette. Quite good head and expression. Moderate neck, rather straight in shoulder. Attractive topline for his age, well angulated behind. Did not give his best in movement.

### **Puppy 6-9 months Bitches**

**1. O'Lugh's Tequila Sunrise**

Brindle bitch, won comfortably on her type and overall appearance. Attractive, feminine head, good ears. Especially lovely outline for such a young puppy. Deep, capacious and curvy

body – all in one piece and very handsome. Moved with an equally impressive balance, although sometimes a bit out of step in front. She turned out to be a daughter of the BOS-winner and a granddaughter of the BOB-winner, so breeding will out! *Best Puppy*

**2. Glenamadda Starkeeper Bellamie**

Lighter brindle bitch of similar type, but not as powerful, but another with an attractive silhouette and an excellent topline. Expression not her fortune. Moved well from the side, rather untidy from behind.

**3. Gladstone's Maeve**

Rangy, elegant bitch of very attractive type, but has grown a lot up on her legs and now needs to settle. Prefer some more strength to her head and the ears are large in comparison. Her body covers plenty of ground on the stack, not quite as much in movement, but she has attractive curves in the right places and may be one for the future.

**Puppy 9-12 Months Bitches**

**1. Starkeeper Kellamore Karlotta**

Elegant, feminine bitch with a very attractive, smooth, curvy profile. Very attractive, well chiseled quality head, long neck, balanced angulation both ends. Impressive mover from the side, narrow behind. Acceptable coat.

**2. Dun Myrica Lyra of Eagle**

Powerful, very sound bitch, very dynamic in movement. Strong bone. Low-set ears which did not contribute to her expression. Strong neck. Needs to gain some more shape in her body, but is more shapely moving than standing. Excellent coat. Moves very soundly from all angles, but could do with a bit more pride and carriage.

**3. Starkeeper Glenamadda Kayte**

Upstanding, light brindle bitch, another who has grown up on her legs and needs to settle. Excellent expression. Very attractive body shape. Moved quite well from all angles.

**12-18 Months Bitches**

**1. O'Lugh's Jigger of Aerie**

Handsome brindle bitch with a beautiful silhouette, combines power and elegance. Quality head, excellent ears. Strong neck, well developed in front with excellent forechest for age, well angulated behind. Attractive, smooth, curvy outline. Excellent coat. I would prefer more enthusiasm in movement, but she moved soundly and well balanced.

**2. July of Aerie**

Dark grey bitch, well constructed, if not as spectacular as the winner. Slightly low on legs, but covers good ground on the stack. Feminine, attractive head. Well angulated both ends. Excellent coat quality. Moved very well from the side.

**3. Sylverwolf Ginger Snap**

Upstanding, elegant, big bitch. Attractive head, long neck, needs to develop in forechest and rather straight in upper arm. Attractive body silhouette. She makes a very positive impression in side movement, but needs to settle in front.

## Novice Bitches

### 1. Hound Hill Topanga of Aerie

Big bitch, still feminine. Quality, feminine head, acceptable expression. Long neck. Moderately angulated in front, would prefer some more layback of upper arm. Curvy body, bordering on too much. Moved especially well, very parallel coming and going, which was rarely the case during these two days, very active and well balanced from the side.

### 2. Wolfhaven's Hope Floats

Another attractive bitch, typical wolfhound, if not as elegant as the winner. Acceptable head, prefer darker eyes and better folded ears. Beautiful crest in a moderately long neck, very good forechest. Attractive topline, tail a bit high set. Excellent coat. Moved soundly and efficiently.

### 3. Starkeeper California Ierne

Typical bitch, if a bit low on legs and too wide between the elbows. Attractive head, good neck. Balanced angulation both ends. Excellent coat quality. Moved very well from the side, rather wide in front. Completed a trio of very pleasing bitches.

## Amateur Owner Handler Bitches

### 1. Carrickaneena Fioriomha JC

Well proportioned bitch with an attractive, curvy silhouette. Feminine head, acceptable ears. Excellent topline. Carrying too much coat over the shoulders and upper thigh, but pleasing coat structure on body. Stands firmly on her legs and feet and moved quite well from the side.

### 2. Kellamore Starkeeper Kora

Very youthful looking bitch, very dark in colour and rather short coated. Pleasing type, but a bit too light all over and needs to gain some more shape with maturity. Attractive, feminine head. Good neck. Moderately angulated both ends. Moved with a pleasing balance.

### 3. Redtops O'Murchadha Amhra

Very elegant, feminine bitch. A bit Deerhound-like in her idea, especially in head, she covers good ground standing. Moderate, but balanced angulation. Acceptable coat. Unstable in hind movement and lifts her frontlegs too much.

## Bred By Exhibitor Bitches

A very big class.

### 1. Carnasserie Savannah

Light brindle bitch, well proportioned and eye-catching and of excellent overall quality. Elegant and sighthoundlike, yet strong and powerful in a very pleasing combination. Very feminine head, would not like it any more refined than this. Long neck. Attractive body curves. Moderate layback of upper arm. Moved light on her feet, freely and attractively.  
*Reserve Winners Bitch*

### 2. Wolfhavens Foolish Risque

Somewhat less dramatic than the winner standing, but comes into her own in movement. Attractive expression, good ears. Strong neck. Moderately angulated both ends, prefer some

more shape in her topline. She is a very good mover from all direction and looked very handsome moving around.

**3. Ierne's Stella Artois**

Eyecatching, long-cast bitch with plenty of drama about her. Elegant head, good neck, excellent forechest. Deep and capacious body. Stands well over her legs and feet, but tends to be rather straight in topline. Moved OK, but not more. Please cut the nails.

**American Bred Bitches**

**1. Kellykerry Peony of Aerie**

Extremely typey quality bitch, instantly attractive and impressive. Feminine, well chiseled head. Long, beautiful neck. Prefer more spring in pastern and larger feet. Beautiful outline. Moderate, balanced angulation behind. Excellent coat. Moved very much in sync and well balanced, even parallel coming and going which was a bonus. Comes very close to my ideal type of wolfhound and on this day won *Winner Bitch*.

**2. Vesuvius of Aerie**

Very light fawn bitch, powerful and covering plenty of ground. Beautiful head, acceptable ears. Strong neck. Well angulated both ends. Shapely topline, but underline could be firmer, and she was not in optimal condition today. Still moved very well, especially from the side. Excellent coat quality.

**3. Taliesin's Wyver Wilnet**

Strong bitch with a very well developed body. Very athletic. Good head, moderate neck. Deep and capacious body. Prefer more arch over the loin, especially in movement, but she moved soundly and very synchronized.

**Open Bitches**

**1. Aran's Aobh of Ardrhi**

Curvy bitch of very attractive type and overall appearance. Well balanced and well constructed. Attractive head and expression. Excellent neck. Well angulated both ends. Balanced outline with just the right curves. Excellent coat quality. Moved quite well from the side, narrow behind. Needs some more ring training as well as some more help from her handler.

**2. Rockhart Heresy**

Very powerful bitch, sound and no nonsense, but a bit stronger than I prefer. Attractive head, powerful neck, excellent forechest. Very deep brisket, I prefer a better tuck-up. Excellent coat. Well angulated both ends. Moved soundly, if not very light on her feet.

**3. Carrickaneena Slievenamon**

Curvy bitch, rather low on legs and too deep in brisket. Feminine head, attractive crest of neck. Well angulated both ends and moved very well from the side and from the front, but rather untidy as seen from behind. Good coat quality.

**Veteran Bitch**

**1. Ch.Wolfhavn Dont Go Breakn My Heart**

Outstanding bitch in every way, excelled in type and overall appearance, so much a Wolfhound and a sighthound of great quality, but also a gentle giant with a beautiful frame. Handsome, handsome! Feminine head, beautiful neck, balanced angulation both ends, curvy topline. Excellent coat structure. Moved with suppleness and drive and an excellent balance. Even if she tired a bit at the end, I could find nothing to beat her. *BOB*.

**2. Ch.Starkeeper Glenamadda Realtan**

Another bitch with a very attractive frame and outline, but not quite as intense in her quality as the winner. Powerful head, strong neck, moderate, but balanced angulation both ends. Excellent arch of loin. Not in optimal coat condition. Sound mover.

**3. Brimstone Sara**

Instantly attractive, typey bitch with excellent sighthound curves, covers plenty of ground on the stack. Very pleasing substance in body, but could do with some more bone. Beautiful, expressive head. More angulation behind than she needs and does not extend her hindquarters as much as I prefer.

**Ch.Wolfhaven Aint No Fool To Olugh**

Most attractive male, easily the best side mover of all the dogs at the show which could not go unrecognized. He excelled in type and quality, very houndy, makes an outstanding side picture both on the stack and on the move. All dogs have faults, the greats carry them well, which truly goes for this dog. There are things I would like to change about him, especially the fact that he could be more brave. I went back to him when making the decision between him and his close competitor, he then stood like a rock and was rewarded. *BOS*

I have not made notes of the Awards of Merit, but know that they were given to

**Ch.KellyKerry Emmitt of Aerie** – a grand Wolfhound who was very close to the eventual winners, **Ch. Guffaw of Aerie** and **Ch.Dun Myrica Speaker of Eagle**.

*Espen Engh, Norway (judge)*