It was a privilege and a pleasure to be invited to judge the Potomac Valley Specialty Show 2002. It was a real pleasure to go over so many lovely typical and rangy hounds and happily very few of the short-legged or the heavily built square variety so untypical of a sight-hound. There was plenty of quality and promise in the puppy classes and in the 12 - 18 months old bitch class.

It is rather unfair to judge young males too harshly. They go through so many awkward stages as they grow. Some lines do not mature until they are up to four years old. The lines being shown seem to mature well, there were plenty of good hounds, both males and females, in the Best of Breed Competition. In some of the classes there was often little to choose between the winners. The hounds in the two veteran classes were lovely, very typical. I omit critical comments on the movement in the veteran classes in deference to their age.

Now that the gene pool for type is well established in your lines, this allows you to work on improving movement which was, in general, disappointing. There were plenty of hounds with a good stride but most of the hounds were unsound coming and going. Many well constructed hounds exhibited poor movement coming and going and this made me wonder if the cause was environmental (feeding or exercise) rather than genetic. It is a wise policy to note the breeders whose hounds have sound movement and take their advice on feeding and exercising.

The other problem to work on is lack of angulation in the forequarters. Straight fronts tend to be a general problem in the breed and it may take time and patience to establish good fronts.

I would like to thank each and every one of the officers and committee who made me feel so welcome and to thank the exhibitors for their good sportsmanship. My thanks too to Peter Van Brunt, the Chief Steward, who kept the show running so efficiently. My congratulations to your Club on the good atmosphere so apparent and on running such a relaxed and friendly show.

Elizabeth C Murphy

Potomac Valley Specialty Show 2002

Puppy 9 - 12 months Dogs
1. Calorien Glenamadda Ard Rhi*
   Lovely typical puppy with good conformation. Good head. Moved well. Needs more ring confidence.

2. Armaitiu Mohr Presly of Eagle
   Nice youngster, still very immature. Movement should improve with maturity.

12 - 18 months Dogs
1. Brandywhine Dogherty of Eagle
   Lovely typical hound. Nicely made. Movement coming and going should strengthen with maturity.

2. Kellamore Quinn
   A nice youngster. Still very immature, promising. Would like a harsher coat.

3. Blair’s Airgead Rua
   Nice typical hound, nice rangy build. Good coat. Would like more angulation in the forequarters.

4. Karontara Starkeeper Grendel
   Nice typical hound. Mature build. Good coat. Movement coming and going should strengthen with maturity. Would like better ear carriage.

Novice Dogs
1. Hound Hill Phoenix of Eagle
   Lovely typical wheaten hound. Nice topline. Would like more angulation in forequarters. Nice stride, movement coming and going needs to strengthen.

2. Taliesin’s Logan
   Lovely typical hound. Out of coat at present. Would like more angulation in the forequarters and pasterns.
3. Ansa Tiarnan Alainn
Lovely typical hound but needs more ring confidence. Movement coming and going needs to strengthen up.

4. Calyddon Babal
Another hound of lovely type. Movement coming and going needs to strengthen. Would like more angulation of the forequarters.

Bred-by-Exhibitor Dogs
1. Sidhe Dragonsbane
Lovely typical hound. Good head and coat. Good stride, moved well in front.

2. Taliesin’s Lorcan
Nice typical hound, good coat. Movement not as sound as 1st.

3. Hound Hill Porter of Eagle
Nice typical hound. Movement coming and going needs to strengthen up.

4. St Leger Capone
Nice hound, still very immature. Moved well.

American-Bred Dogs
1. Blair’s California Sunshine
Typical hound. Good coat. Would like a little more angulation in forequarters and hindquarters. Strides out well for his build. Movement coming and going needs to strengthen up.

2. Armaitiu Niall of Eagle
Nice typical hound, well made. Would like better ear carriage and stronger hind movement.

3. Kellcastle Status Symbol

Open Dogs
1. Kindred Brahni
Typical hound with good conformation. Good stride, moved a little close behind.

2. Aurum von der Sillerquelle
Nice typical hound. Good topline and rear. Would like a little more shoulder angulation and better ear carriage.

3. Merefield Anikem O’Beltane
Nice hound. Good coat. Would like a little more angulation in front and rear and a little more length of stride.

Winners dog:
Sidhe Dragonsbane
Reserve:
Taliesin’s Lorcan

Bitches

Puppy, 6 - 9 months Bitches
1. O’Lugh Darcy of Blackwater
Lovely typical youngster. Good conformation and moved very well for her age.

2. Wolf Tone Bonne Louise
Lovely typical hound. Well made. Nice head and good coat. Moved well though hind movement needs to strengthen up a little.

3. Starkeeper Wynde of Eagle
Another lovely puppy. Still immature but very promising.

4. Grealla Aerie of Eagle
Yet another lovely puppy, typical and well made. Movement should improve with maturity.

This was my favourite class so far.

Puppy 9 - 12 months Bitches
1. Onion Aerie of Eagle
Lovely tall rangy typical hound. Good conformation. Moved well for her age.

2. Calorien Starkeeper Annabelle
Nice typical hound. Good head. Tall, moved well. Hind movement should strengthen with maturity.

3. Calorien Ard Angel
Another nice youngster. Typical. Good coat. Ear a little heavy. Movement still a little close behind.

4. Brandywhine Mida of Eagle
Yet another nice typical hound. Good head and ear. Front movement still needs to tighten up.

12 - 18 Months Bitches
1. Claridon Aina of Eagle
Lovely typical hound. Good conformation. Good stride. Movement coming and going should strengthen with maturity.

2. Brandywhine Clothra of
Eagle
Lovely typical hound. Good body and hindquarters. Would like more angulation of upper arm and pastern.

3. Redtops Raenagh
Typical and well made hound. Moved well for her age.

4 Brandywhine Diva of Eagle
Typical and well made hound. Movement coming and going should improve with maturity.

Novice Bitches
1. Karn’s Faolenn of Eagle
Excellent type. Well made. Moved well.

2. Karontara Starkeeper Charleston
Typical and well made hound. Less mature than winner. Movement coming and going should strengthen with maturity.

3. Calyddn Ceridwen
Nice typical and rangy hound. Good stride. Hind action should strengthen with maturity.

4. Blair’s Touch of Gold
Another typical and rangy hound. Well made. A little wide at elbow and straight in pastern. Good stride.

Bred by Exhibitor Bitches
1. Kellyberry Betsy of Eagle

2. Lile Breach of Eagle

3. Starkeeper Cuhaven Karontara
Typical and well made. Good stride. Hind action should strengthen. A little wide at elbow.

4. Redtops Music of the Night

American-Bred Bitches
1. Amair Oelmuhle of Eagle

2. Karn’s Fendi Keepsake of Eagle
Typical. Well made. Good head. Little less angulation than winner.

3. Padraic Brie Strawberry Girl
Typical. Well made. Good head and coat. Would like a little more angulation in forequarters. Movement coming and going not true.

4. Lightfoot Lily

Open Bitches
1 Rathkeale’s Catriona

2. Kellykerry Becca of Eagle

3. Starkeeper Orion Na Wolfhaven
Typical. Good shape. Good head and hindquarters. Would like more angulation in front and more depth of brisket.

4. Lightfoot Lily

Winners Bitch
Amair Oelmuhle of Eagle
Reserve
Karn’s Faolenn of Eagle

Veteran Dogs
1. Ch Karn’s Emann of Eagle
Lovely typical hound. Well made and moved well.

2. Ch Singing Swords Majerle PJ.
Lovely typical hound. Good coat. Well made with good topline.
3. Am/Can Ch Antrim’s Starkeeper Tucker
Another lovely typical and well made hound. Good head.

4. Ger/FIn/Am Ch Xanux von der Oelmuhle
Lovely typical hound. Good head, coat and hindquarters. Would like more angulation in forequarters.

Veteran Bitches
1. Ch Riverlawn Marga of Eagle
Lovely typical and well made hound. Good head and coat. Good hindquarters.

2. Ch Hound Hill Pataire of Eagle
Lovely typical hound. Well made, good hindquarters.

3. Karn’s Ennis of Eagle, NA, NAJ
Lovely typical hound. Nice shape. Good head.

4. Ch Summerhill Enchanged Letter
Typical hound, good conformation and good coat. Would like a smaller ear.

Best of Breed competition
Ch Arannwood Viking
A lovely example of the breed. Typical. Good Conformation. Strongly built without being heavy. Moved Well.

Best of Winners:
Sidhe Dragonsbane

Best Opp Sex:
Ch Riverlawn Marga of Eagle

Best Puppy:
Calorien Glenamadda Ard Rhi*

*Note from PVIWC: this dog was subsequently declared ineligible for placement at our show by the American Kennel Club due to noncompliance with AKC registration requirements.