

Midland Afghan Open Show - Sunday 15th March 2009

I was very privileged to be asked to judge this show. I thank my stewards who kept things running smoothly.

A couple of points that need to be watched.....I found a number of incorrect mouths and also was disappointed to find that shoulders and upper arms seem to be disappearing, and showed whilst on the move. This is an important part of the breed and shouldn't be lost. We also seem to be gaining untypical heads. Losing eastern expression. On the plus side, all dogs were well muscled and well presented. I was pleased with my winners.

MPD

1 Earnshaw's Kabella Blue Moon Rising over Moonshadow

A very striking Blue dog. Had a lovely head and eye shape. Good length of foreface, with a nice expression. Good length of neck, well laid shoulders and long upper arm, nice chest, short loin and a good length from hip to hocks. Covered the ground when he moved. A happy puppy.

2 Collett's Darwazi's Starspangled at Mhasud

Another nice blue and very close to 1 in all departments. Just like the head of 1. Slightly stronger in head. Good shoulder assembly, slightly shorter in loin than 1 and good length from hip to hock. Covered the ground well. I am sure these two will change places many times.

PD

1. Winter's Ashahni Azzam with Tokando

Black tan boy with monkey whiskers, so lovely to see.... he is a lovely balanced puppy with a lovely head and expression, dark eye, good length of neck into well laid back shoulders and a good return of upper arm. Short coupled and a level top line. Good length from hip to hock. Moved well once settled.
Best puppy dog.

2 Blood's Krishan Hugo -A-Go-Go

Gold of good size. Nice shaped head, would have liked a better eye shape. Good layback of shoulders and return of upper arm. Nice deep chest and good spring of rib. Strong loin and good rear angles. Moved well for age.

JD

1 Wilson's Cubanba Regulus

Gold . A lovely shaped boy with natural coat pattern. Overall impression was his shape, so balanced. He has a nice head and eye, long neck, good shoulders angles, level top line and good length from hip to hock. Finished off with a ring tail held in correct position. Moved effortlessly around the ring to win this strong class.

2 Vowles' Azmari Black Diamond

Black tan. Standing he looked lovely and wasn't disappointed going over him. He has a lovely balanced head, correct eye shape, and long neck. Good shoulders and a good return of upper arm. Level top line, deep chest and good rear angles, ringed tail. Just didn't move as well as 1.

Yearling

1 Vowles' Azmari Black Diamond

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2 Middleton's **Altside Back to Black** (3rd in Junior)

All black dog with a refined head with a correct eye shape. Long neck, shoulders not his fortune, but a nice length of upperarm. Longer in loin than I like, but good rear angles. Nice ringed tail Very stylish movement,

Maiden Dog

1 Earnshaw's **Kabella Blue Moon Rising over Moonshadow**

2 Smith's **Ashahnia Aniq at Julam**

Black tan. A balanced puppy, a lot to like about him, nice head and shoulders, good top line and rear quarters, was a little erratic on moving.

Novice Dog

1 Wilson's **Cubanba Regulus**

2 Bettany's **Cubanba Ri Na Realta**

Brindle brother to 1, but different. Is at the raw stage, but he had 1 of the loveliest heads and expressions, long neck and good lay back of shoulder and a good return of upper arm. Very level top line and rear angles. Needs to grow into himself, moved with drive when he didn't play about.

Under Grad

1 Bettany's **Cubanba Ri Na Realta**

2 Keates' **Saxonmill Raeus**

Black/Brindle. Heavier all together than 1, but has a nice head and eye shape, good layback of shoulder and upper arm deep chest, nice rib cage and short loin, fair length of hip to hock, lost his top line on the move.

Grad

1 Drage's **Sarakhan Sirocco JW**

B/M/Gold, a classic hound, typical head and expression, dark eye, long neck, lovely shoulders and a good long upper arm. Deep chest, level top line, saddle and hip bones. 1 of the few with a correct fallaway with a ring tail, moved with drive and covered the ground.

2 Collett's **Mhasab Unforgettable JW**

Gold, a young balanced dog with a lovely head and expression and the longest of necks and a good layback of shoulder, level top line, good depth of chest, good length from hip to hock. Lost out on his upper arm.

Post grad

1 Green's **Sashkhan Final Dividend**

Black & cream. A dog of correct size when standing, looks a picture and not disappointed when going over him. Lovely classic dog full of breed characteristics, lovely balanced head with plenty of foreface and dark eye, no coarseness at all. Long neck, excellent shoulders and correct upper arm, good depth of chest, good spring of rib strong loin, correct fallaway finished with a ring tail. Moved effortlessly around the ring with style, had no hesitation in awarding him RES Best Dog

2 Sanderson's **Gezanco Done and Dusted at Nabilah JW**

Gold. Taller than 1, looked balanced standing and nice to go over. Just preferred conformation of 1

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Limit Dog

1. Busby's **Wilbus Midas JW**

This was a strong class. Have seen this boy play around, but today he showed what he can do. Tall golden boy with all the typical characteristics of the Afghan. All male head, but balanced with plenty of foreface. A good eye and expression, long neck which flows into his well laid back shoulders and correct upper arm. Level top line, deep chest, powerful rear quarters, which he used when moving.

2. Bastow's **Cloudside WarLord at Karanikar JW**

Black and brindle. Another classic hound who I have seen mature into a lovely dog, with all the desired breed characteristics. Nice head and eye shape, Good front assembly and rear quarters. Moved well.

Open

1. Earnshaw's **Shadowfax Ciao Sabbioso JW ShCM**

Cream. A dog you cannot overlook. A typical classic hound standing and on the move, he never put a foot wrong. Every part of him just fits from his head to his rear quarters. He just glides over the mats. Well deserved Best Dog and res BIS.

2 Keates' **Jodak the Court Jester ShCM**

So unlucky to meet winner in such good form. Another well made dog. Again a lot to like about him. Just didn't move as well as 1.

Sue Oakley (Judge)