

I would like to thank the Officers and Committee of the East Anglian Whippet Club for the invitation to award Challenge Certificates for the first time. I'd also like to sincerely thank the exhibitors for bringing their bitches for me to judge.

When I walked into the ring and surveyed my final line up, I was very pleased with my class winners and felt that I had found the make and type that I had been aiming for at the start of the day. A lot is talked about size and whilst it isn't the be all and end all, I believe a Whippet bitch should be unmistakably feminine and distinguishable from the males without looking underneath her. A good neck into shoulder and return of upper arm were very high on my list of priorities and I was looking for a curvaceous outline with a proper tuck up. I wanted quality and not coarseness; good coats, fine ears and correct feet / pasterns. Soundness on the up and back was an absolute must and unfortunately some exhibits that I thought I would place highly on initial inspection, were then slightly disappointing on the move. I appreciate the weather was adverse at times throughout the day which will have had an effect on this. The icing on the cake was beautiful, free flowing profile movement that appeared to be effortless. I had some beautiful bitches to judge and my final decisions were difficult ones.

MPB (9,0abs)

This was a promising class of babies.

1. Hills' SHIMMEREE BLACK SATIN. This gorgeous black girl of only just 6 months made a super start to my day. She is extremely smooth under the hand and completely unexaggerated. Good layback of shoulder and a super outline, particularly for her age, with rise over her loin and corresponding 'S' shaped underline. This overall balanced picture gave her the class. Moved very settled for such a baby, sound coming and going and driving from her rear well in profile. Attractive head, with very alert (and cheeky!) expression. One I genuinely would have taken home. BPB and BPIS.
2. Johnston's DANLUKE LEADING LADY. R/fawn, again of just 6 months and she too was moving extremely well for such a youngster. Extended very well in profile. Similar comments to 1. apply as she also was smooth over her shoulders and had a very attractive head. Slightly more bone than my winner but both these puppies look like they will be of excellent size and are unmistakably feminine.
3. Lain & Alexander's LOLANI LIGHT UP THE ROOM.

PB (17,5abs)

1. Glasspool & Manners' IPANEMA MOCKINGJAY OVER MANERPOOL. Red fawn of 10.5 months. Presents an overall very 'whippetty' shape and outline. Super head, expression and fine rose-shaped ears. Correct feet with a good spring of pastern, preferring them to that of 2. Presented in good muscular condition. Moved well up and back, would like to see her move out slightly more in profile.
2. Green & Place's COLLOONEY QUEEN OF DRAGONS WITH BROCHINBELLE. F/W parti of 10 months. Built from a slightly bigger mould than 1, mature and very together for her age. She has a beautiful coat and skin. Long, elegant neck and well let down hocks. Very impressive profile mover.
3. Spencer's CHELRIDGE LADY GUINEVERE.

JB (12,6abs)

A torrential down pour effected this class and subsequently unsettled the bitches. These three could easily change places on another occasion.

1. Julian's BLONDESSA BE HAPPY. 13 month r/fawn who was really lovely