

Tarkabby Labradors



Northumberland & Durham Labrador Retriever Club 11th February 2018

I would like to thank the committee for inviting me to judge at this show. The venue was smashing, and the hospitality was lovely. My stewards were a pleasure – I would like to thank them for their hard work. It was my first visit to the North East, and I thoroughly enjoyed it!

There were some really lovely exhibits. I was so pleased with my dog line up – the type that I have in my mind really shone through. I felt that some heads in the bitch classes were rather overdone for my interpretation of the standard, with drooping eyes – it's a personal dislike. A few exhibits in both dogs and bitches were carrying too much weight for my liking – whilst I understand that the breed should have substance, I also look for balance and I felt that if some were to lose a bit of weight they would have presented a more balanced picture. Wonderful consistent kennel type with my BIS, RBIS & BPIS – well done!

Veteran Dog (0)

Minor Puppy Dog (2)

1. Lesley's Steeleigh Miracles Happen
7 ½ month black with a clean outline. Head has lots of developing to do, as would be expected at this age. Very clean neck into a decent front. Good angles throughout. Well boned with neat feet. Preferred his movement to 2.
2. Cook's Claychalk Costa Latinum Exelby
6 ½ month chocolate. Less scope than my winner. Carries a thick coat. Substantial puppy with a kind head and expression. Not very animated, but still a baby.

Puppy Dog (3, 1abs)

1. Keating's Whistletine Tanqueray
Up to size black with a lovely clean outline – not overdone in any way. Lovely head with a kind expression. Wonderfully clean neck into a decent front. Good topline – tailset OK. Enough bone. Light, neat mover. Presents a striking outline.
2. Cook's Claychalk Costa Latinum Exelby

Junior Dog (3, 1abs)

1. Maclean's Afinmore Absolut
The more I saw this boy, the more I liked him. Totally unexaggerated. Head still to develop, but he has plenty of time – lovely length of muzzle. Clean neck and good topline. Decent front and rear angulation. Very well balanced with a decent amount of daylight under him. Really liked his proportions. Free, effortless movement. Very much the type that I like. Will be interested to see what the future holds for him.
2. Dawson's Kowalski Espartico IV Beskerby (IMP EST)
Shorter coupled, more solid yellow, who presents a pleasing outline. Masculine head, good pigment. Topline strong, with tail straight off. Strong hind quarters. Decent enough angulation, but inclined to stand a little too close to his handler on the day, which threw his head back and did him no favours.

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Yearling Dog (3)

A nice class – little to choose between them - they could swap places on another day.

1. Mullett & Maclean's Shaymiloney Schinus Afinmore
Upstanding black with a really lovely head and eye. Balanced and very clean in outline. Well boned – very neat feet. Good turn of stifle with well let down hocks. In good coat. Won the class on his pleasing outline and head.
2. Cook's Meadowline Makassar Exelby
Black – more compact than the winner – pleasing front angulation with good upper arm. Masculine head. Short coupled. Strong dog – strong quarters. Losing coat on the day. Narrowly beating 3 on hind quarters.
3. Heron's Brigburn Hope (AI)

Beginners Dog (0)

Novice Dog (4, 1abs)

1. Dawson's Kowalski Espartico 1V Beskerby (IMP EST)
2. Cook's Claychalk Costa Latinum Exelby
3. Heron's Brigburn Hope (AI)

Graduate Dog (8, 2abs)

A mixed bag in this class – very different types. Some well put together, who were just overdone for my liking.

1. McCrary's Millroseglen Make My Day with Meadovillabs
Strong, compact yellow who just seemed to catch my eye in this class. Masculine head, but not overdone, with a kind expression. He excelled in his flowing outline. Carrying enough coat. Decent angles throughout. Neat feet. Decent mover.
2. Percival's Wynfaul Tonto
Compact, darker yellow. Totally unexaggerated. Well boned – short coupled. Good front, though inclined to stand very proudly with head up a bit, which just detracts from the lovely flowing outline that I am so fond of. Pleasing expression. Free movement.
3. Hepper's Mardas All Blacks (JW)
4. Dawson's Kowalski Espartico 1V Beskerby (IMP EST)
5. Harman's Trewinnard Celebration at Kareldis

Post Graduate Dog (6, 3abs)

Very little to choose between 1&2

1. Lesley's Steeleigh Blue Print JW
Strong black dog with very good front angulation and strong quarters. In great coat. Well boned with neat feet. Very masculine in head, but with a kind expression. Very good flowing line from head to tail. Well clothed tail coming straight off. Moved true with drive. Wouldn't want him to carry any more weight.
2. Southwell's Driffwold Blue Print JW
Black dog who demands attention – very eye-catching. Very masculine head with a more pronounced stop than the winner. In excellent coat. Strong through the neck. Topline firm when stood square, but he can be inclined to throw his head back a bit, which can affect the topline. Strongly boned. Just preferred head and front movement of winner.
3. Cook's Meadowline Makassar Exelby

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Limit Dog (4, 1abs)

1. Maclean's Afinmore Azufra
Lovely chocolate dog, who won the class with ease on the day. Extremely well balanced, with really good length of leg meaning that he has sufficient daylight under him. Wonderfully kind expression – excellent length of muzzle. Strong, clean neck, well placed shoulders. Very firm topline with excellent tailset.. Enough turn of stifle, with good quarters. Very well let down hocks, with neat feet all round. Light and effortless on the move. Pushed hard in the challenge – just preferred the upper arm of the eventual winner.
RBD, RBIS
2. Percival's Wynfaul The Wizard JW
Black that I have previously admired from ringside. Masculine head, with a kind expression. Carrying rather too much weight on the day which affected his outline and movement. Carries a heavy coat. Short coupled. Strong quarters.
3. McCrorry's Millroseglan Make My Day with Meadovillabs

Open Dog (2, 1abs)

1. McCrorry's Millroseglan Make My Day with Meadovillabs

Special Open Working Dog (2)

What a pleasure!

1. Maclean's Afinmore Alain JW ShCM
My notes simply say "Stunning!".
Everything flows on this lovely chocolate. Really lovely head and expression. Very alert and attentive, yet so kind. You can see how soft and kind a character he is. In really fit condition. Strong, clean neck – very good shoulder and upper arm angulation. Firm enough topline, with tail coming straight off. Correct rear angulation, well let down hocks, neat feet. Light, powerful mover. Shows beautifully and demands attention in a very polite way. Lovely dog! **BD, BIS**
2. Heron's Brigburn Kit Carson
Black in hard condition. No doubting that he is a worker through and through and a very nice specimen too! Very nice head & expression, with a good width of muzzle. The kindest of expressions. Excels in neck and topline. Not the coat of the winner, but evidence of an undercoat.. A happy dog who moved well – really nice example.

Veteran Bitch (5, 3abs)

2 very nice bitches

1. Dodd's SH CH Brockburrow Breaking Dawn
Lovely black girl who excels in her strong, yet flowing neck and general outline. In fantastic coat, with a wonderful otter tail. Well boned with neat feet. Strong, powerful quarters with well let down hocks. Good angulation throughout. Never stopped showing – a lovely girl.
2. Harman's Lakemeadow Lotus Blossom of Kareldis
Another very nice black bitch with a lovely head and expression. Very good front angulation. Preferred quarters and feet of my winner.

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Minor Puppy Bitch (5, 2abs)

3 very nice pups.

1. Maclean's Northernjoy Lollipop Afinmore

Another really lovely exhibit from this kennel. A real little baby at her very first show who was initially a little overawed by the whole occasion – once she relaxed into the experience she looked beautiful. Not a big one, but she presents a really lovely outline, and looks just how I would expect a minor puppy to. Feminine head with correct length of muzzle. Clean through neck. Decent front – barrel rib cage, short coupled. Enough turn of stifle. Enough bone, with neat feet. Hope she grows on. When she is stood right, she is really lovely! Will look forward to seeing what the future holds for her. **BPB, BPIS**

2. Maclean's Afinmore Acacia

Smart, eye-catching black. Well up to size with plenty of scope. Generally well made, though not the coat or rear end of the winner.

3. Maclean's Afinmore Avoca

Puppy Bitch (3, 1abs, 1withdrawn)

1. Dobson's Lakemeadow Love to Dream

Yellow girl. Stood alone, but a worthy winner. Sweet head with decent muzzle length, but would prefer a slightly tighter eye. Enough bone. Front OK. Good topline and tailset. Strong quarters. A little unsettled on the move.

Junior Bitch (3, 1abs)

Difficult to choose between these two. Both bitches were inclined to stand with their hocks somewhat under them, which affected toplines and overall outline.

1. McCrary's Meadovillabs Shooting Star

Calm black, who won on her front angulation. Neat and compact. Decent tailset. Good quarters – moved out well.

2. Mitchell's Darmilye Delicious

Stronger chocolate bitch with great quarters – didn't make the most of herself. Nice clean neck, but preferred front angulation of the winner.

Yearling Bitch (9, 1abs)

Some lovely bitches.

1. Powell's Seatallan Yellow Archangel (AI)

Really lovely yellow, who caught my eye more as the class progressed. Lovely flowing outline. Kind and feminine head – not overdone at all. Strong, but clean, neck into a good front. Good barrel ribs. Short coupled. Excellent quarters with well let down hocks. Moved well. Very nice bitch. **BB, BOS**

2. Bramble's Shaymiloney Solsantolina

Scopier, slower maturing black. Very clean in outline – not a particularly heavy coat, but enough. Pleasing head with decent length of muzzle. Good topline with tail straight off. Balanced leg to body proportions. Carrying just the right amount of weight for my liking. Light on the move. Preferred quarters of the winner.

3. Jenkins' Sekada Ric Rac

4. Percival's Wynfaul Vickers

5. Davey's Southridge Bramble

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Beginners Bitch (1, 1 withdrawn, ineligible)

Novice Bitch (6, 1abs)

Not an easy class to judge

1. Percival's Wynfaul Vickers

Well constructed black who was carrying too much weight on the day. Head shape OK, with decent muzzle, but would prefer a neater eye. Terrific quarters on her. Unfortunately her weight affected her outline, which I'm sure could be lovely. Won this class on movement.

2. Dobson's Lakemeadow Love to Dream

3. Hull's Hannah's Honey Pie

4. Lesley's Steeleigh Blue Heaven

5. Hughlock's Exelby Lady Martha at Missalpol

Graduate Bitch (11, 3abs)

1. Powell's Seatallan Yoshino (AI)

Very eyecatching black. The best head in the class – enough stop with a good length of muzzle. Lovely clean neck into a good front. Level topline, tail coming straight off. Well turned stifles. Moved well – light on her feet. Considered for RBB, but was looking a little immature.

2. Hepper's Mardas Black Silk JW

Lost out to the winner on balance. Feminine enough in the head. Decent neck and front, but was inclined to throw her head back into her shoulders on the day, which didn't help her overall outline. Very well boned and in great coat. Little to choose between 2 & 3, just preferred this head.

3. Lesley's Steeleigh Final Legacy

4. Percival's Wynfaul Flame and Fortune JW

5. Bell's Westerulston Nola

Post Graduate Bitch (3, 1abs)

1. Lesley's Steeleigh Made to Match

Excitable black girl who needed time to settle. Feminine bitch, who is another who is inclined to creep towards her handler and throw her head back. Pleasant head. Very good reach of neck and very good upper arm. In excellent coat, as were all from this kennel. Enough bone – not overdone. Moved with drive, once settled. Won class on head and type.

2. Hull's Hannah's Honey Pie

Yellow girl with a really good topline and tailset. Pretty bitch in outline. Head not really my type but still as a feminine and kind expression. Good turn of stifle. Coat has a bit of a wave to it.

Limit Bitch (8, 2abs)

A nice class.

1. Jenkins' Sekada Miss Bianca

Yellow bitch who caught my eye more and more as the class went on. Not a big one, and not flashy and demanding attention, but she still managed to catch mine. Very good angles throughout. Pretty, feminine head – not the darkest of pigment. Carrying just the right amount of weight, meaning that she presented a clean outline. In good coat. Enough bone. Very neat feet. Moved freely and true.

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2. Bell's Brighburn Sonoran at Westerulston
Quite different to the winner, but still a good bitch. Big, strong girl with a lovely neck and an excellent topline. Kind in the head and expression. Not at all flashy, but a really good type – just preferred her front to that of 3, who is also a really nice bitch,
3. Mitchell's Afinmore Ardmore
4. Davey's Southridge Sparkler
5. Gilroy's Claychalk Costa Grand

Open Bitch (2, 1abs)

1. Bramble's SH CH Shaymiloney Stormin Norma
Alone but a very worthy winner. Quality black bitch with lovely angles throughout. Feminine head with an intelligent expression. Clean through the neck. Substantial and well balanced – good spring of ribs. Very good turn of stifle, with well let down hocks. Moved with real drive. **RBB**

Special Open Working Bitch (3)

What a lovely class! Gave me one of the toughest decisions for the day. With nit-picking the winner won on having a slightly better upper arm angle.

1. Powell's Seatallan Waterlily
Lovely black bitch with a lovely flowing outline. Great length and angle of upper arm. Excelled in coat and tail. Movement was light and sound – very nice indeed! Another who was considered for RBB.
2. Maclean's Oakhouse Oshine Afinmore
Super chocolate – a little more scope than the winner. Very feminine and attentive. Great quarters. Moved really well. Unfortunate to have been up against the winner.
3. Ellison's Afinmore Absinthe

Brace Dog/Bitch

1. Jenkins
Very even pair of yellows. Absolute peas in a pod. Very feminine and very evenly matched. Good breed type – not the biggest of bitches, but so alike.
2. Bell
Again, very evenly matched – up to size blacks of a lovely type – much more scope than the winners. Look good together.
3. Harman

Di Beer (judge)