

LARGE MUNSTERLANDER

I thank Secretary Liz Stannard and her hard working Committee for this appointment to judge Large Munsterlanders which sadly, after 40 years of owning the breed, producing 26 Show and Full Champions, both here and abroad, not forgetting two breed record holders, will be my last time awarding Challenge Certificates to Large Munsterlanders. May I say it was a joy to have two experienced and efficient stewards, Leeds are lucky to have them. It is evident from outside the ring that the breed is losing some of the characteristics that help make the Large Munsterlander what it is (or was) as the case may be. Look at the dogs of yesteryear for 'type' it is there in abundance with many kennels showing the characteristics you should be aiming for. But I fear the breed as I grew to love is in danger of becoming a thing of the past. Prove me wrong, please. Our standard calls for a strong, muscular body with ribs well sprung and chest wide with good depth of brisket, there are far too many lacking in these departments. Fine boned and legg are not desirable in the breed, certainly not typical. After all they are Working dogs and as such should be capable of a day's work on land and water, and it is for this reason it is essential for them to move correctly with straight limbs and correctly aligned joints, fortunately there were sufficient dogs with these qualities present here today. Thankfully, there were, on the whole, dogs exhibiting enough breed 'type' to lift my spirits and enable me to award top honours without hesitation, for that I sincerely thank you, the exhibitors. All dogs displayed correct dentition and were presented in good clean condition, and I'm pleased to say there was no evidence of poor temperament. And it was refreshing to hear exhibitors remarking on the great atmosphere around the ring. A final word: you always take the best dog home.

PGD (1) 1 Davis-Green's Jaudas Ink Spot. Good breed type, his head and expression say Munsterlander. A little lightweight for me. Movement ok, just a little untidy coming towards me. LD (3) 1 Disney & Whiting's Wonglepond Will's Faramir. Excellent breed type, strong muscular body, short coupled with good spring of rib, he fits the standard with good head proportions, dark eye and kind expression and an energetic, sound and happy mover. I had no hesitation in awarding him the CC. A lovely example of the breed. Well done. 2 MacGregor & MacGregor's Ekkolander Snowstorm. Again another of good breed type, not the finished article yet, just needs to body up a little more and tidy up his front movement, give him time. 3 Davis-Green's Jaudas Ink Spot.

OD (5, 1) All exhibits in this class had good type heads I'm pleased to say. 1 MacGregor & MacGregor's Sh Ch Jaudas Fame And Glory. Mature dog with excellent breed points. Not overdone in any way, head and eye give the required expression, he was in good condition with excellent coat, movement was sound front and back, well deserved his Res CC. 2 Taylor's Sh Ch Ichbin Jester Of Tattay ShCM. Lots of good breed points on this mature dog, he has a good head and expression, just a pity he was let down by untidy rear movement today. 3 Groome's Brockchime Comet Of Grunjagen.

JB (2, 1) 1 Fleming & Arnold's Asterpoint Galileo. Just enough breed points on show to warrant this placing, needs to develop in body and coat, time is on her side. A happy young lady with ok movement when she settled to the job.

PGB (1) 1 Ross' Celtaur Albany Lake. Just enough breed points to warrant this award. Left her coat at home today. Somewhat erratic on the move both in her front and rear action.

LB (3) 1 Hewitt's Brockchime Frolicsome. My find of the day. Fits the standard with some to spare. Strong but elegant, super head and eye giving the true Munster expression, which is sadly lacking in the breed at this time. She can be a handful on the move for her handler, when she gets it all together she really 'strides and drives' showing her correct movement front and rear. My archetypal Large Munsterlander who so reminded me of our very first bitch all those years ago. Delighted to award her the CC and BOB. Well deserved. 2 Foreman & Foreman's Celtaur Aquarius At Toberworry. So unlucky to meet winner. She is of good breed type of a slighter build all round, in good hard condition and carrying just the right amount of weight and when settled she moved true. 3 Kitchen's Crumpsbrook Rather Regal Von Elkemutt.

OB (2) 1 Butler's Ichbin Jaunty Of Jedella's. Excellent movement on this bitch won her this class. Elegant, full of good breed points. Just a good honest Munster, not overdone in any way, excellent eye and expression and she was shown in good hard condition, giving her the deserved

Res CC. Well done. 2 Darby's Sh Ch Brockchime Besta Both To Incadar. Another bitch full of good breed points with good muscletone, good head and expression, but not moving as she can today. I do think the recent hot weather has played a part in less than perfect movement today. VB (1) 1 Pilkington's Tarkanya Daisys Daydream Of Baycross RL5. Lovely 8 yr old lady, sound as a bell, good breed points, lovely expression, she enjoyed her day out and it showed. BV.

Mrs B. J. Hargreaves