

My sincerest thank you to the Officers and Committee of the Hovawart Club of Great Britain for offering me the opportunity to judge their special award classes at their Open Show. I had 3 classes with excellent quality and type. Virtually all exhibits were sound and exhibiting a lovely personality too.

Novice Dog or Bitch (3,1)

1. Stewart's HERE I AM COVA KROLEWSKA KRAINIA Blonde Bitch at 10 months old. Liked her size and balance immediately. Head in proportion to body, a balanced head with a correct length to her muzzle. Needs time to broaden across the skull. Tight flews, correct dentition. Correct in ear set and length. Strong in neck, no formation of dewlap. A hands width to brisket in her deep ribs which I liked the shape of. Tight behind the elbows. Well set shoulder and good return of upper arm, ample substance for her age. Carried a strong topline with a croup and tailset as desired. Well muscled rear quarters for a youngster and it showed in her movement which was powerful and straight with a driving action. Correctly shaped feet, round and tight. Tail carriage high and reaching to just past her hock.

2. Gibson's MICONA ZULU 2 year old Black and Gold Bitch, a longer caste than 1 but not to her detriment. Head is in proportion and preferred the more finished skull here, moderate stop and would like a fraction more in muzzle length. Correct in ear set and length. Strong neck of good length. Correct in shoulder, well muscled and an adequate return of upper arm. Would like a bit more foreleg length but I'm being picky. Deep through the ribs which are of good shape and well sprung. Preferred the substance on 1. Strong in topline and loin. Well muscled rear with correct tail set. Moved out straight and with an action showing reach and drive. Shown in a good coat.

Post Graduate Dog or Bitch (3,1)

1. Shone's ZWARTBOS MOONDANCE A high quality class was headed by this Black Bitch at over 3 years old. Really liked her size and balance. Head with balanced foreface, moderate stop, correct width across the skull, tight flews and excellent dentition. Strong neck with clean throat, correct lay of shoulder and good return of upper arm. Enough bone here and excellent in her tight elbows. Deep enough in rib with plenty of brisket, Ribs are long and to a strong loin with adequate tuck up. Really liked her topline, croup and tail set. Tail carried high on the move and past the hock in length. Well muscled in rear quarters and correct in stifle and hock for me. Well arched correct feet. In this class it was always going to be fine margins and I found her excellent on the move. Straight and true with a powerful driving action.

2. Robinson's ZWARTBOS MOONSHINE WHISKEY Blonde Dog, litter brother to 1 which I was very surprised to see, but sharing similar qualities. Similar head to 1, masculine, but not coarse. Excellent width across skull and a lovely ear set, shape and length. Tight flews and correct dentition. Excellent length to neck, no dewlap evident. Another with excellent shoulders and return of upper arm. Ample substance. Deep and strong in rib with excellent brisket. Tight behind the elbows Strong loin compliments a very good topline. Croup and tail set as desired. Another with excellent conditioning to rear quarters. Really like his stifle and hocks like 1. Moved out powerfully and with a driving action. Just preferred 1 on the move.

3. Stewart's MICONA ECHO litter brother to second in Novice Class, well balanced throughout and pushed hard to be placed higher. Lots of qualities to like in this well conditioned lad who was presented in a lovely coat and moved straight and purposefully.

Open Dog or Bitch (3,1)

1. Mooney's MICONA SIERRA another litter mate to exhibits in the previous two classes. At just over 2 years old, she headed a very strong class with several pushing for the top two places. I really liked

this Black and Gold bitch, she is balanced in profile and standing straight over good ground. Feminine head with good proportions to length and width. Excellent in muzzle. High set ears of correct shape and length. Correct length of neck which is strong and clean throated. Well laid back shoulder with good return of upper arm, correct amount of substance. One of the best toplines in the class and this compliments her excellent ribs and elbows. Good width to brisket. Strong in loin, correct shape and length to croup. I liked her tail carriage and length. Well defined muscle tone to upper and lower thighs, excellent in stifle and hock. Lovely feet and pasterns. Presented in a well conditioned coat. Once again, movement was key to determining the placings for me and her movement complimented her conformation. It was straight and true with a sound driving action and excellent footfall.

2. Harrison's FIBI SREBRNE POLE AT LOWENHEART another Black and Gold Bitch at over 5 years old. A balanced profile stood and with a balanced foreface. Moderate stop and a good muzzle. Clean throat on a strong neck, slightly preferred 1 for neck length. She has an excellent body, full of substance and strength. I really liked her depth and length of rib, wide brisket and tight elbows. Best topline in the class. Strong in loin. Correct in croup and tail, carriage and length. Just the right amount of stifle for me and excellent in hock and feet. Another with a well conditioned rear quarters. Movement was straight, true and displayed a driving action. I just preferred 1 on the move today for her excellent profile action.

3. Heffernan's CH. MICONA TANGO Another one from this Miconal litter, such good type throughout. A bitch full of qualities and balance. Pleasing head and body, well conditioned. Just missed out on the day.

Bill Molton