

## GENERAL COMMENTS

Firstly I would like to sincerely thank the President, Pauline Worthington, and the Collie Club of New South Wales for inviting me to adjudicate at their Specialty Show on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, June 2014. Judging your own breed at Specialty level is a tremendous honour and this appointment is certainly one that I will forever hold close to my heart. In particular, I would like to extend a warm thank-you to Vicki and Melissa Poole for their very kind hospitality. The Club is certainly lucky to have two such genuine, hard working Members on their Committee. If they ever decide to leave NSW, they would definitely be welcomed north of the border!

At the outset, it is worth mentioning that I felt the weather unfortunately played quite a significant role in my adjudication of the Smooth Collies. During the judging of Smooth males, the rain was falling quite heavily and by the time the bitches were being exhibited, it was pouring. Understandably, many of the exhibits simply did not want to be there and this severely impacted upon their movement – with most dogs and bitches showing very limited reach and drive. My winning Junior Dog (Dog CC, BOB and JIS), however, coped well in the conditions and is certainly an outstanding representative of our breed and a youngster to look out for in future years.

As a general comment, I was pleased with the quality of the Collies Roughs exhibited under me on the day. As I said at the post-Show gathering, this was a pleasant surprise, as I did not expect to find such quality, especially in a number of the younger classes.

Overall, bitches were considerably stronger than the males and this was true for most age groups. I was pleased to be able to find a consistent type throughout many of the female classes and my Bitch CC line up, I feel, represented this well. To my mind, it was a very strong Challenge line up – full of quality – and this was apparent from the Minor Puppy Class, right through to the Veteran Bitch.

Now that I have given my overall appraisal, I will attempt to address some of the strengths and weaknesses that I found throughout the judging.

Finding the correct Collie head is really quite a complex issue in our breed today – I think more so than in years gone by. In my experience, aspiring ‘all-rounder’ Judges find the assessment of Collie heads not an easy task and there is, largely, good reason for this. Nowadays, the two more distinct, extreme head styles – stemming from the American lines on the one hand and the English lines on the other – make for such enormous variations in both head and expression. There is then, of course, a further third head style that fits somewhere in between the two extremes and is, to my mind, the most typical of the three. All three head styles were represented in relatively strong numbers at this Specialty Show.

On the one hand, the heavier American heads have a wonderful side profile view with outstanding head planes and equidistant muzzle to skull ratios. The skulls are typically flat with no recession towards the back-skull. However, when viewed frontally, they often lack the sweetness of expression that is an essential aspect of our breed. I feel this comes from eye placement that is too wide apart and eyes that are also too small. Furthermore, the heads are often “brick-like” (rectangular in shape), rather than tapering slightly to give the necessary blunt wedge, so desirable in our breed.

Alternatively, the modern day English Collie heads, are also losing the blunt wedge shape, but for a different reason. Instead, they are tending to stray towards a more triangular shape, with broad back-skulls, narrower muzzles and a lack of underjaw. The stops in these exhibits have become much more accentuated and have moved from the ‘slight, but perceptible’ description given in our Breed Standard to something that is more ‘pronounced’ and ‘well defined’. When viewed from a side profile, these more accentuated stops give an untypical ‘dish-like’ appearance – which cannot produce the required ‘sweet expression’, unique to the breed.

For the reasons outlined above, neither head styles are typical of what the classical Collie head should represent.

The third head style, which I felt is represented well in my CC winning exhibits, is fundamentally less extreme in all areas. The head shape is that of a blunt wedge – neither rectangular nor triangular. The stop is slight but perceptible. The eye size, set and shape is moderate, obliquely set and almond. They are also not too deeply set. Correct eyes, are essential in order to obtain the desired, sweet expression. In particular, my CC winning Rough Dog and Bitch and also BOB/JIS winning Smooth each have what I would call the classical Collie head. Obviously, as can be read in my individual critiques, these were not the only exhibits with this fundamentally important characteristic.

Conformation was generally of a high standard with many exhibits being well constructed and displaying overall soundness. On the whole, necks were of good length, which is necessary in order to give a Collie their elegance and help them maintain their status as a “dog of great beauty”. As with most breeds in the conformation ring today, the main problem with construction arises from short, steep upper arms. This fault was unfortunately prevalent in the majority of the exhibits I judged. A number of exhibits were also noticeably narrow in chest. Shoulders were typically well laid back and stifles, well turned.

A number of years ago (back when I was a Junior Member of the Collie R&S Club of Queensland) I remember one of the patrons of the Club at the time, the late Terry Segger, describing to me how to Judge the Collie, focusing on the importance of ‘general appearance’. He explained that, before one even assesses bite, movement, structure etc, the exhibit must walk in the ring and instantly catch your eye – the dog must be something truly magnificent, with elegance and beauty resulting from the combination of a correct outline and great presence. I believe (from the exhibits I judged) that Mr Segger would have been generally very happy with this aspect of the breed. When standing, the silhouette made by many of the exhibits was that of a ‘dog of great beauty, standing with impassive dignity’. This was essentially the result of a correct length of neck, a firm top-line and a gentle rise over the loin to a moderately sloping croup.

Out and back movement was generally of a very high standard. Naturally, in some of the exhibits which were a little narrow in front, the front legs tended to cross over a little, but examples of this were infrequent. Similar to many breeds in the ring today, side gait was often impeded by the shorter, steeper upper arms, discussed earlier. This tended to restrict the forward reach on a number of the exhibits and create a “rolling” side gait which, personally, I find highly undesirable. This unwanted characteristic is certainly something which breeders should try to avoid, as it is becoming a frequent concern in many of the Collie exhibits which are currently being shown.

Hopefully, my above comments will be taken constructively and not critically. With the number of promising youngsters exhibited to me on the day, I think the breed in Australia has a very promising future. This of course, is what we as breeders should be striving for and it of the utmost important.

Remember, the Collie is a breed of moderation – no part should be out of proportion to the whole. To quote our old standard, the Collie is “the most beautiful of the canine race” and many of the exhibits I had the pleasure of Judging certainly lived up to this description.

Yours Sincerely,

**Timothy Thomas**

# CRITIQUES from COLLIE SHOW

## ROUGHES

### BABY PUPPY DOG

Very promising group of babies.

1<sup>st</sup> – First place is a 5 month old blue merle male of correct size and substance for his age. Beautiful head – what a lovely way to start the day looking at that expression! Overall very masculine, but still giving the sweetness of expression needed in our breed. Correct planes. Well shaped eyes. Well placed ears and of a good size. Overall very balanced body proportions with correct angulation throughout. Excellent length of neck and lovely firm back. Coming towards, very sound. Could be a little stronger in the rear, although hopefully this will come with age. Side gait shows great reach and drive. Blue merle colour could be a little clearer, again, hopefully an age issue. What a lovely baby and a great future prospect for our breed. **ALSO BABY PUPPY IN SHOW**

2<sup>nd</sup> – Another beautiful baby puppy. 3 month old sable male of good size and substance. Very naughty on the day! Eyes could be a little larger. Nice strength of underjaw. Good expression. Ears quite heavy at this stage. Well angled throughout with correct proportions. Correct length of neck. Coming and going sound. Side profile gait hard to assess as he was misbehaving, but he seems to have adequate reach and drive. Again, it is great to see another such stylish youngster.

3<sup>rd</sup> – 3 month old sable male, I would assume a litter mate to the 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner. Again, eyes could be a little larger. Good strength of head. Pasterns need to tighten up significantly, hopefully this will come with age. Moderate angulation in the front and rear. Could have a little more length of neck. Good length of tail. Coming and going sound with moderate reach and drive.

### PUPPY DOG CLASS

1<sup>st</sup> – 11 month old, sable male whose outline gives a lovely overall silhouette. Sweet expression with correct shape and size of eye. Stop well defined. Could do with a little more underjaw. Neck of good length. Correct lay of shoulder, upper arm a little short and steep. Well angled rear with good length of tail. Coming and going sound. On the side profile, he has a little more drive than reach. A little hesitant on the day in temperament. Overall, a classy youngster.

### JUNIOR DOG CLASS

Quite a mixed class overall.

1<sup>st</sup> – Blue merle male of correct size and substance. Very sweet head. Good strength of underjaw. Well placed ears, used nicely. Flat skull with a moderate stop. Correct bite. I really do find this head very appealing – exactly what I am looking for. Neck of good length. Pasterns a little weak at this stage. Front and rear are moderately to well angled. Good length of body. Coming and going sound with adequate reach and drive. Good length of tail. Merle colour needs to clear a little. Overall, another lovely young dog.

2<sup>nd</sup> – 1 year old, sable male of good substance but slightly shorter in leg than desirable. Head clearly a wedge with flat skull and good strength of underjaw. Uses ears well. Shoulders well laid back, but

upper arm a little steep. Good length of neck. He is a little low on leg, which to my eye offsets his proportions somewhat. Topline could also be a little stronger for his age. Well angled in the rear. Coming and going very sound with a balanced side gait. Showed well.

3<sup>rd</sup> – 14 month old sable male, very out of coat at the moment and quite naughty on the day. Head rather strong and a little wide between the eyes. Quite a prominent stop. Skull is flat and uses ears nicely. Upper arm is a little short and steep. Pasterns strong. Neck of good length. Correct body proportions. Going away sound. Coming towards a little narrow at the moment.

### **INTERMEDIATE DOG CLASS**

This was quite a difficult class to judge with two rather distinct styles of collies being exhibited. Both styles, however, fit the standard in different ways.

1<sup>st</sup> – 2 year old, up to size, tri male with a great deal of elegance in outline on the side profile. Moved very well. Very good side profile head properties – excellent planes. Very good strength of underjaw. Overall, his head is a little heavy for my liking. Eyes a little wide apart and could be a little larger for his strength of head. Lovely length of neck. Heavily boned throughout. Well angled in the front and rear with a good length of body. Sound coming and going with excellent reach and drive. Very balanced on the move. Lovely tri colouring, with deep black and rich tan markings. In terms of movement and structure, I could see this dog doing the job he was bred for. **ALSO RESERVE DOG CC**

2<sup>nd</sup> – Very different style of collie to my 1<sup>st</sup> place winner. 2 year old tri male of moderate size and substance, quite refined for a male. Pretty head. Stop very well defined. Uses ears well. Backskull could be a little flatter. Moderate length of neck. Moderate front and rear angulation. Balanced overall proportions. Good length of body. Sound coming and going with moderate reach and drive.

3<sup>rd</sup> – 2 year old blue merle male of moderate size and substance. Similar in style to the 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner. Length of body tending to be a little square. Sweet expression. Ears well carried. Could have a little more strength of underjaw. Moderate stop. Correct bite. Neck of moderate length. Front and rear moderately angled. Could be a little longer in the ribcage and a little less steep in croup. Sound coming and going. Good length of tail and correct merle colour.

### **AUSTRALIAN BRED DOG CLASS**

Quite a strong class – two tri colours and a sable. I felt some degree of sadness when placing this class – in particular when awarding third place. I wish I could have placed this dog higher, given his magnificent head and expression. Unfortunately, he just did not want to move on the day.

1<sup>st</sup> – 4 year old tri colour male of moderate substance and excellent overall balance and proportions. Masculine head, with sweet expression. Head a little deep through and eyes also a little deep set. Good ear carriage. Good strength of underjaw. Well placed, but prominent stop. Correct length of neck. Angulation is correct throughout in both front and rear. Balanced body proportions. Sound coming and going with ample reach and drive. Ideally, I would have preferred a little more power when moving. Tail is a little short, but carried well. To my mind, this boy is a very stylish collie of correct type. I like him.

2<sup>nd</sup> – 3 year old sable male who is again very balanced. Masculine head with well placed, moderate stop. Ears are a little wide apart. Similarly, eyes also seem a little wide apart. Good length of neck. Shoulder well placed, but upper arm is a little short and steep. Rear is moderately angled. Sound coming and going. Balanced on the side gait. Again, another good example of our breed.

3<sup>rd</sup> – 7 year old tri colour male with an absolutely exquisite head. Unfortunately, he just didn't give me enough, on the day, on the move. When I look into this expression, it makes me melt – and this is exactly what I desire. Correct head properties and placement of stop. Superb eye shape and ear placement. Correct bite. Overall moderate angulation in both his front and rear. Tail a little short. As said previously, he needed to give a lot more on the move, as his lack of enthusiasm made it that his reach and drive were quite restricted.

#### **OPEN DOG CLASS**

1<sup>st</sup> – 7 year old tri male exuding breed type and with excellent body proportions. Head masculine, but giving a beautifully sweet expression. Excellent head properties with parallel planes, a moderate to well defined stop and a good strength of underjaw. Lovely almond shaped eye. Good length of neck. Well angled throughout – in both front and rear. His lengthy ribcage and short loin, are indicative of his balanced and economical movement. Tail a little short, but carried well. Coming and going sound with wonderfully balanced reach and drive. Showed to perfection. Overall, he is an excellent example of the breed. **ALSO CHALLENGE DOG, BEST OF BREED & BEST IN SHOW**

2<sup>nd</sup> – 5 year old tri male, shorter in body than my first place winner and of moderate substance. Again, a pleasant head and expression. Backskull a little broad and receding slightly. Correct bite. Well placed ears. Correct length of neck. Moderately angled in the front and rear. Tail again a little short. Coming and going close, but sound. Balanced on the side gait. Good texture of coat, but black colouring of coat a little rusty in places.

#### **VETERAN DOG CLASS**

1<sup>st</sup> – 10 year old sable boy – what a lovely dog for his age. Shown very well and in good condition. Correct expression. Well placed and shaped eyes. Slightly deep through in skull. Good length of neck. Balanced proportions. Slightly more rear angulation, than front angulation – but this doesn't seem to detract from his movement which is very balanced. Sound coming and going. Tail a little short.

#### **NEUTER DOG CLASS**

1<sup>st</sup> – 9.5 year old tri male. What a lovely dog – so balanced and sound for his age. It is a big shame he couldn't compete today in the CC line-up. Head is that of a blunt wedge. Well placed stop with good strength of underjaw. Eyes a little round and ears a little wide apart. Lovely length of neck. Good angulation in the front and rear. Excellent length of body. Sound coming and going. Very balanced side gait with excellent reach and drive. Correct colour. **ALSO BEST NEUTER IN SHOW**

2<sup>nd</sup> – 8.5 year old sable male, with an abundance of coat and who is a little overweight. He is obviously very well loved by his owners! Unfortunately, he was clearly sore in his forequarters, which inhibited his movement significantly. Head gives a pleasing, expression. Eyes are of a good shape. Ears used well. He is well built throughout, but unfortunately it was impossible to assess him on the move.

## **ROUGHS - BITCHES**

### **BABY PUPPY BITCH CLASS**

1<sup>st</sup> – Blue merle bitch, just turned 3 months of age. Promising youngster, but needs quite a lot of development at this stage. Head is pretty and feminine, although I would hope to see a little more strength throughout, as it develops. Sufficient length of neck. Good angulation in the front and rear. Balanced movement. Sound coming and going. A beautiful blue merle colouring, with even breakup.

### **MINOR PUPPY BITCH CLASS**

1<sup>st</sup> – 8 month old tri colour bitch who really appealed to me. Lovely head and expression and overall balance and body proportions. Head is so pretty and feminine. Correct wedge shape with good strength of underjaw. Lovely almond shaped eye. Good length of neck. Well angled in the front and rear. The only aspect of this bitch which I would change is her high tail placement which results in her tail also being carried quite high while on the move. Sound coming and going with good reach and drive. Overall, a lovely young bitch. **ALSO BEST MINOR PUPPY IN SHOW**

2<sup>nd</sup> – 8.5 month old sable bitch – another very typical youngster who has a promising future. Head quite long with a pleasing expression. Well shaped eye. Excellent head planes. Chest needs some development – I suspect it will broaden with age. Good length of neck. Shoulders well laid back. Upper arm a little steep. Stifles well turned. Overall, well balanced throughout. Tail of good length and well carried. Side gait is well balanced with good reach and drive. Coming towards, she is a little narrow. Again, a very nice puppy. It is great to see the number of quality youngsters.

3<sup>rd</sup> – 7.5 month old sable bitch. Overall, a pleasant head with correct eye shape and well used ears. Good length of neck. Again, chest needs significant development. Moderate angulation front and rear. Sound coming and going, although a little narrow in the front. Balanced side gait.

### **PUPPY BITCH CLASS**

A very strong class with some outstanding youngsters. It is so pleasing to see the quality throughout these young age groups.

1<sup>st</sup> – 9 month old sable bitch of excellent breed type, with correct proportions, balance and substance. Exquisite head and expression – feminine, but with substance – with lovely almond shaped eye. Excellent blunt wedge – clean throughout. Flat skull. Well placed ears. Correct stop. Balanced body proportions. If anything, she could do with a little more development in her front, but this does not impede her movement at this stage. Bone is strong throughout. Her outline is outstanding, with a lovely length of neck that flows into a strong topline and ends in a slight rise over the loin. Correct length of tail and carried well. Coming and going she is so true. She has excellent reach in the front and drive from behind. A very powerful mover. What a lovely young bitch. **ALSO BITCH CC, RUBOB, RUNNER UP BEST IN SHOW AND PUPPY IN SHOW**

2<sup>nd</sup> – 7 month old sable bitch of very good breed type and overall proportions. Head is very pleasing – not dissimilar in style to the 1<sup>st</sup> place winner. Good strength of underjaw. Lovely almond shaped eye. Good length of neck. Well angled throughout. Good length of body. Sound coming and going. Didn't have quite the same power (reach and drive) on the move as the 1<sup>st</sup> place winner, but overall

another lovely youngster. I am very pleased with the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place winners in this class. Both are outstanding representatives of the breed.

3<sup>rd</sup> – 11 month old blue merle bitch, shorter in body than the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> placed winners. Also a quality young bitch. Sweet expression. Eyes a little deep set and could be a little larger. Well placed ears. Good strength of underjaw. Stop slightly defined. Good length of neck and lay of shoulder. Slightly steep upper arm. Well ribbed back with quite a short loin. Good turn of stifle. Coming and going sound. A little bit high in the rear at the moment, but that is most probably an age issue. Good merle colouring, at this stage.

### **JUNIOR BITCH CLASS**

1<sup>st</sup> – 17 month old sable female, well constructed and has a lovely shape. I am really happy with the quality of my bitches so far. This bitch, again, lives up to my expectations. Pretty head with a sweet expression. Well shaped eye. Moderate stop. Flat skull. Uses ears well. Correct length of neck and lay of shoulder. Upper arm a little short and steep, although this does not impede her movement. Good body proportions. Well angled hindquarters. Very sound coming and going – really is a lovely mover. Overall, another excellent young bitch. **ALSO JUNIOR OF BREED**

### **INTERMEDIATE BITCH CLASS**

3 Tri bitches in this class. Interesting class. First bitch slightly longer in body length than the others. All are of good quality though.

1<sup>st</sup> – 2 year old, feminine, well made tri bitch with good proportions and moderate overall bone and substance. Feminine head and expression. Almond shaped eyes. Moderate stop and well used ears. Very balanced body proportions. Good length of neck. Well angled front and rear. Sound coming and going. Balanced reach and drive – I would have liked her to just give a little more on the move. Tail of ample length and carried well. Correct tri colour. **ALSO INTERMEDIATE IN SHOW**

2<sup>nd</sup> – 1 year, 9 month old tri bitch. Feminine head, with a more defined stop than the first bitch. A little full between the eyes and the stop is placed a little low down. Lovely flat skull and well placed ears. Correct bite. Good length of neck and strength of bone. Slightly shorter in body than the first bitch. Sound coming and going. Moved freely, although she rolls a little in the topline on the side gait. Good tail placement and carriage.

3<sup>rd</sup> – 2 year old tri bitch, very different in head and body proportions than the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> placed winners. Overall, she is a shorter proportioned bitch. Her head is very feminine. Her stop is well defined and ears are held quite far apart. Ideally, they should be carried a little higher. In saying this, her skull is flat. Good length of neck. As said previously, shorter overall in body. Well angled throughout. Quite a steep croup. Sound coming and going. Again, similar to the 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner, her movement tends to roll on the side gait, I am sure not helped by her abundance of coat.

### **AUSTRALIAN BRED BITCH CLASS**

1<sup>st</sup> – 4 year old sable bitch of lovely overall breed type and excellent balance. Head is very feminine. Clean wedge shape with correct stop, flat skull, lovely almond eye and well placed eyes. Correct bite. Excellent length and crest of neck. Well angled in the front. A little narrow in the chest, but does not

detract from her overall class. Good length of body, well ribbed back. Well angled in the rear. Sound coming and going with good reach and drive. A very beautiful collie. Showed to perfection. She pushed very hard for the CC and the RC and the decision was very close. A classy bitch. **ALSO**

### **AUSTRALIAN BRED IN SHOW**

2<sup>nd</sup> – 3 and a half year old bitch, that provides a wonderful outline when standing. Head significantly stronger than that of the first bitch, although it doesn't take away too much from her expression. Flat skull. Almond shaped eye. Good strength of underjaw. Well placed ears. Whilst her upper arm is a little short and steep, this doesn't seem to detract from her on the move. Lovely length of neck and length of body. Correct rear angulation. Sound coming and going with ample reach and drive. Again, the bitches continue to impress!

3<sup>rd</sup> – 3 year old tri bitch, again very elegant on the side profile. Head a little strong for what I would like in a bitch. However, the head properties are generally correct - clearly a wedge, lovely flat skull and an almond shaped eye. I would like just more sweetness of expression, she is a little wide between the eyes. Good length of neck and body proportions. Moderately to well angled fore and hind quarters. Sound coming and going with balanced side gait.

### **OPEN BITCH CLASS**

7 in this class. Again, some very worthy exhibits and a strong class overall.

1<sup>st</sup> – 4 year old tri colour bitch, of moderate size and exuding collie breed type. Excellent proportions throughout. She is very stylish. Her head showed a feminine, sweet expression. Eyes are a little deep set. Ears well placed. Well placed stop and good strength of underjaw. Correct bite. Very well put together in conformation. Good length of neck. Lovely body proportions with correct front and rear angulation. Strong through the pasterns. Firm topline with correct rise over the loin. Coming and going sound. Balanced, economical movement, with excellent reach and drive. Good tri colour with rich tan markings. A deserved winner. **ALSO RESERVE CHALLENGE BITCH**

2<sup>nd</sup> – 5.5 year old, elegant sable bitch with a stylish side profile and outline. Again, a very good overall make and shape. Head is a little strong, although she is clearly a bitch. Correct almond shaped eye, although again slightly wide between the eyes, which detracts from her sweetness of expression. Flat skull and well placed ears. Correct bite. A little narrow between the chest, but overall this bitch is well angled in the front and rear. Moved sound coming and going with good reach and drive. Quite a powerful mover. Overall, a stylish bitch, that presents a lovely silhouette.

### **OPEN BITCH CLASS 3<sup>rd</sup> PLACE**

3<sup>rd</sup> – Blue merle bitch. Very feminine. Pleasant head. Well placed ears. Stop placed slightly low on muzzle. Flat skull. Good length and crest of neck. Upper arm slightly short and steep. Good length of body, although slightly long in loin. Rear well angled with moderately sloping croup. Going away sound. Coming towards a little narrow. A correct blue merle colour, with even breakup. Showed and presented very well.

### **VETERAN BITCH CLASS**

10 year old, steel-blue bitch of small to medium size and lovely overall breed type. Really a beautiful old girl. Very feminine head with well tipped ears for her age. Good eye shape and flat skull. Good length of neck. Well angled front and rear. Moved true coming and going with good reach and drive.

#### **NEUTER BITCH CLASS**

1<sup>st</sup> – 2 year old tri colour, neuter bitch of light to moderate bone. Head very feminine. Quite a pronounced stop. Could have a little more strength of underjaw. Correct bite. Good length of neck. Front and rear moderately angled giving balanced movement. Going away a little close behind. Correct tail carriage. Showed and presented well.

2<sup>nd</sup> – 6 year old shaded sable bitch. Lovely side profile. Head a little strong, although clearly a bitch. Well placed ears. Flat skull. Neck of good length. Upper arm a little steep. Good length of body. Well angled hindquarters. Going away a little close. Coming towards, sound. Again, this is a lovely bitch on the side profile, she is very elegant.

3<sup>rd</sup> – 8 year old sable bitch of moderate overall bone and good body proportions. Again, could have a little more strength of underjaw. Quite a well defined stop. Eyes are a little round. Well placed ears, used nicely. Could have a little more neck. Well angled in the front and moderately angled in the rear. Again a little narrow going away. Coming towards sound.

#### **SMOOTH – DOGS**

As I have said previously in the general comments section, many of the smooths showed considerable restriction in both reach and drive. My guess is that in many cases, the weather played a considerable role in this - especially during the period that the bitches were being judged, when the rain was falling very heavily. However, I can only critique what I saw in front of me on the day.

#### **MINOR PUPPY DOG**

1<sup>st</sup> – Sable male of moderate substance and overall square proportions. Head clean with pleasing expression. Ears a little large at this stage, but this could be indicative of the age. Skull receding slightly. Good length of neck. Correct lay of shoulder with slightly steep upper arm. Shorter back than I would prefer, tending to give a squarish overall appearance. Correct rear angulation. Croup tends to drop off a little. Hocks could be shorter. Sound coming and going with good drive from behind, but could do with a little more front extension. **ALSO RESERVE DOG CC**

#### **JUNIOR DOG**

1<sup>st</sup> – 17 month old tri male of exceptional breed type and outstanding body proportions. Head clean with flat skull and well placed stop. Correct bite. Importantly, his head is clearly that of a male, but it still gives the sweetness of expression so desirable in this breed. If anything, eyes are a little round. Overall, a well balanced collie in all angulations. Well placed shoulders with good length and lay back of upper arm. Hind quarters well turned. Lovely elegance on the side profile when standing. Strong through his pasterns. Hocks could be a little shorter. Coming and going very sound and shows great balance on the move. Powerful reach and drive on the side profile. A really promising young male.

**ALSO DOG CC & BEST OF BREED & JUNIOR IN SHOW**

## **INTERMEDIATE DOG**

1<sup>st</sup> – 22 month old sable male of correct overall proportions. Ears a little low set. Good strength of underjaw. Flat skull. Excellent length of neck. Withers quite high placed. Shoulders well laid back with short, steep upper arm. Chest could be a little broader. Well up on pasterns. Good length of body. Croup a little steep. Well angled in the rear. Coming and going sound. Balanced on the side gait with moderate reach and drive.

## **SMOOTH – BITCHES**

### **JUNIOR BITCH**

1<sup>st</sup> – 17 month old feminine blue merle bitch of moderate size and substance. Very pretty head. Correct head planes, stop, ear carriage and strength of underjaw. Eyes possibly a little deep set. Correct bite. Correct length of neck and lay of shoulder. Again, the upper arm is a little steep and short. Good length of body. Correct turn of stifle. Croup well laid. Out and back sound. Side profile movement was very hard to assess. She displayed limited reach and drive.

### **INTERMEDIATE BITCH**

1<sup>st</sup> – 22 month old tri bitch of correct overall shape and proportions. Again, her movement was restricted. Ears a little wide apart. Eyes could be a little more obliquely set. Well placed stop with nice flat skull. Good length of neck with reasonable lay of shoulder. Again, the upper arm is a little short and steep. Correct length of body. Croup slightly steep with tail placed a little high. Coming and going sound. Side gait inhibited, lacking both reach and drive.

### **OPEN BITCH**

1<sup>st</sup> – 6.5 year old tri bitch with good overall proportions. Feminine head. I would prefer slightly darker tan markings. Eyes are also light in colour, which detracts somewhat from her expression. Flat skull. Ears a little low set, although this could again be attributed to the rain. Correct bite. The shape of this bitch is stylish with good body proportions. Front moderately angled. Rear quite heavily angled – almost a little too much for a collie. Correct set and length of croup. Coming and going sound. Side gait shows a little more drive than reach. Showed very well, considering the conditions.

### **ALSO CHALLENGE BITCH & RUBOB**

2<sup>nd</sup> – Another typey tri bitch, who proved to be very hard to assess on the move. Feminine head with flat skull and correct stop. Preferably, muzzle should be a little stronger. Overall body is well angled and balanced. Correct length of body and lay of croup. Hocks could be slightly shorter. Good tail placement. Movement seemed to be sound coming and going. Side gait restricted in both reach and drive. **ALSO RESERVE CHALLENGE BITCH**

3<sup>rd</sup> – 6.5 year old sable bitch of correct overall body proportions. Well balanced head with correct muzzle to skull ratio. Eyes are of good shape and ears placed well. Correct length of neck and lay of shoulder with a slightly short, steep upper arm. Well angulated in the rear with steep croup. Out and back clean, although reach and drive is extremely limited.

### **NEUTER BITCH**

1<sup>st</sup> – 8 year old neuter sable bitch. Pleasant head with good strength of underjaw. Eyes a little round. Good length of neck and lay of shoulder. Upper arm a little steep and chest a little narrow. Pasterns could be stronger. Correct length of body. Well angled stifle. Coming towards she tends to cross over. Going away sound. Restricted side gait - a little more drive than reach.