

Report on Male Boxers - Northern Boxer Club

14th April 2019

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My heartfelt thanks to the committee and office bearers of The Northern Boxer Club for extending me the honour of inviting me to judge males at your championship show on Sunday 14th April 2019. My sincere gratitude to my ring stewards for making my job very easy and organising the classes in such a way as to ensure no time was wasted waiting for the next class to file in. No show can exist without the exhibitors, and I really am so grateful to everyone that entered under me and accepted my judgments with such good sportsmanship. It is always a pleasure judging in the UK and I had been looking forward to this appointment for a very long time. The standard of male Boxers in the UK is excellent for the most part and there was so much depth of quality in many of the classes. My 1st two males placed in each class really excited me and there was very little to separate quite a few of the class winners from the 2nd and even 3rd or 4th placed dogs. In the Limit class I really was spoilt for choice and found it most difficult to select only 5 dogs!

Temperaments for the most part were excellent, something I have found and mentioned on each of my UK judging appointments. There are many comments being made in other parts of the world about less-than-ideal Boxer temperaments in the breed ring, but the UK has a winning formula, and there wasn't a single nervous dog or dog creeping around the ring that I noticed or was aware of.

While there were a good number of dogs that were square and short-coupled, attention must be paid to ensure that UK Boxers are not moving away from the requirement of a square dog to one that is longer than it is tall. This is noticed in toplines that dip over the loin, waists that are starting to become too pronounced and 'wasp-like' and dogs covering too much ground on the stack, although this last observation is also linked to dogs with too much rear angulation.

As I have mentioned previously (and sadly too often) proper forequarter angulation is being lost and is lacking on an alarmingly large percentage of Boxers the world over. The UK has unfortunately not been spared this loss in correct structure and more exhibits than I would have liked are either too upright in shoulder blade, too upright in upper arm, too short in upper arm or a combination of any or all the above. This translates into too abrupt an angle or transition from neck to withers, often with wrinkles over the withers, dogs not standing with their front feet under them, and when coupled with too much angle in the rear, or more often too long a length in lower thigh, movement is badly affected. I don't want to quote the Boxer Standard in this report, but I need to reiterate what the UK Kennel Club Boxer Standard says with regards proper Boxer movement - *Strong, powerful with noble bearing, reaching well forward, and with driving action of hindquarters. In profile, stride free and ground covering.* When angulation is not balanced this results in dogs not opening or fully extending hock joints, lack of drive, too much action in the front legs, crabbing, high action of the hocks etc. None of which make for the efficient, balanced mover the Standard requires.

Finally, bites. I was hoping to see improvement in the construction of bites this time around, but it saddens me to realise that bites do not seem to be getting any better. I know the Boxer is more

than a bite, and I realise that there are breeders and judges who feel the bite is really not that important seeing as Boxers no longer fulfil their original purpose. However, where do you draw the line when you start to ignore the requirements of the Boxer Standard, or any breed standard for that matter? As I have mentioned in previous reports from previous Boxer judging assignments in other parts of the world, we need to take care that a problem that rears its head in a breed is addressed and plans made to breed away from that fault, especially when it is a structural fault. If we do not, we will not only lose the dogs that are correct in this aspect and who are therefore no longer available to correct the problem, but our eyes, and the eyes of the up-and-coming new breeders and judges, will get so used to the 'new normal' that the new structure of whatever fault we are talking about, will become the perceived correct representation of that aspect of the breed.

Minor puppy Dog

1st #51, Mr & Mrs J & A Crooks' Flyingfox Red Hot for Uftonponds. Almost 8.5 month R/W male of very good size, well-proportioned and square. Excellent balance between substance and elegance, well-muscled through his back, with strong bone and lovely tight cat feet. Lovely dark, expressive eyes, very good lip placement and correct stop. I would like a slightly cleaner skull and a cleaner underline to his neck. Very good rear with good angle through stifle and hock joint, short rear pasterns and broad breech musculature. Arched neck flows well onto a firm topline with excellent tailset. Well-handled and presented in lovely condition.

2nd #61, Mr & Mrs V & J Feaver & Cormack's Sugarwood Truluvkis. Almost 7.5 month very attractive medium sized B/W male. Well arched neck, very good height at the withers, and a lovely firm topline flowing neatly to a correct tailset. Very good front, with a well-filled forechest and neat elbows. Excellent balance between substance and elegance, lovely bone and super feet. Rear is muscular, with a good shelf behind the tail and correctly angled through the stifle and strong hock joint with short rear pasterns. Lovely dark, correctly placed eyes, with a soft expression. Skull is clean, but head still needs to develop and at this stage I would like more turn-up of nose. Another one presented in lovely condition and very well-handled.

3rd #12, Beardsell, Van-Beck & Fielding's Newlaithe Suited N'booted with Lefergo

Puppy Dog

1st #79, Mr & Mrs S & G Huckerby & Dowell's Lottalove for Norwilbeck Bellchime. Just short of 12 months old R/W male of good size, square in outline and well presented in excellent hard muscular condition. Nicely arched neck that could be a touch cleaner, flowing into well-defined withers and a strong straight muscular back with very good tailset. Lovely head profile, and viewed from the front, a well-padded muzzle, beautiful dark eye, correct lip placement and a clean chiselled skull. Very good fore and hindquarter angulation that is well balanced and this showed in his very good movement.

2nd #90, Mr & Miss J & E Jones & Charles' Charlons Perseus. Almost 10 month old tall very striking B/W male with excellent bone and gorgeous tight feet. Well-arched neck, that could be a touch cleaner. Very well angulated forequarter, with very good fill of forechest and well placed elbows. Strongly muscled straight topline and good tailset. Well-angulated rear, with firm breech musculature, strong hock joints and short rear pasterns. Very typey head, with lovely dark eyes,

well-padded muzzle, excellent lip placement and well-placed ears. It was very hard separating these two puppies and in the end I felt that the puppy placed 1st had a slightly squarer outline.

3rd #46, Miss L Clayforth's Tyslee Heatwave

Junior Dog

1st #73, Challenge Certificate and Best in Show (in agreement with the Referee, Mrs Judy Alton) Mr M Griffith's Lanfrese Argento. 1 year old B/W male, right out of the top drawer. Each time I have judged in the UK, a dog has come into the ring that takes my breath away, and this time I found him in the Junior class. As this exquisite dog entered the ring, my heart skipped a beat. His wonderful presence drew my eyes to him and I just loved what I saw. From a beautiful, cleanly sculptured head, lovely strong, square muzzle, excellent bite and perfect lip placement, to dark well-placed eyes, his head needs nothing more. Lovely arched clean neck, flowing over well-defined withers, topline is perfectly straight, strongly muscled and ending in correct tailset. Well laid-back shoulder blade, good length and return of upper arm and a well-filled forechest gave me the front I was looking for. Ribs extending well back, short-coupled with an exceptional rear, well-muscled, correctly angled and in perfect balance to forequarter, he is perfectly square. Movement is efficient, rhythmical and balanced. I had no hesitation in giving him the CC and BIS in agreement with referee Mrs Judy Alton. He is one I could have packed up there and then and taken home.

2nd #84, Mr C Humphries' Chribanna Baccarini. Just over 1 year old R/W masculine male with very good muscular development, good balance between substance and elegance and super bone. Very well balanced in forequarter and hindquarter angulation, with excellent angles both ends. Good shelf behind the tail, powerfully developed breach musculature, broad upper and lower thigh and lovely short rear pasterns with strong hock joints. Beautiful arched neck, well defined withers, broad muscular back and excellent tailset. Good head proportions with a lovely clean skull, correct ear placement and well-shaped dark eyes, he could perhaps have slightly more padding under the eye. Very good lip placement and a very good bite. Another good mover, handled very well.

3rd #132, Mr & Mrs Y & W Miller's CH Walkon Masterclass

Yearling Dog

1st #157, Mrs & Miss D & S Payne & Flintoff's Boxania Spice Guy at Birleyvale. 1 year 9 months old B/W male with stallion-like attitude. Another one combining substance with elegance, short-coupled and square in outline. Lovely arched neck of very good length, super topline and very good tailset. Well-angulated forequarter, with good bone, lovely feet and well-placed elbows. Masculine head of good proportions, with a strong muzzle, good lip placement, lovely dark pigmentation and dark eyes with beautiful expression. Presented in excellent condition, and handled to perfection, moved around the ring with purpose.

2nd #40 Misses S & S Carter's Susancar Omar Goodness. 1 year 10 month old, split brindle and white male of good size and very well balanced. Gorgeous head, with wonderful expression, dark eyes, clean skull, well-placed ears of good size, broad well-padded muzzle and excellent bite. Lovely clean arched neck of good length, excellent forequarter angulation with well-filled forechest, strong bone and lovely tight feet. Well-defined withers and excellent topline that slopes gently to a correct tailset and lovely thick tail. Well-muscled, alert and in super condition, he moved easily and efficiently around the ring.

3rd #135, Mr & Mrs G & B Morrison's Bjarkeyjar Dancing On Thin Ice to Xandene.

Novice Dog

1st #171, Mrs & Mrs F & C Pynegar & Loasby's Berwynfa Fifty Shadz Freed. Another gorgeous masculine dog and worthy winner of his class. 1 year old tall, elegant B/W male, another with very good balance between substance and elegance. Square in outline, with a well angulated front, neat elbows, straight forelegs and compact feet. Beautiful head of correct proportions, clean skull, well-shaped and correctly placed dark eyes, gorgeous expression, well-padded muzzle and an excellent bite. Beautifully arched neck, well-defined withers, and an excellent topline sloping smoothly down to a very good tailset. Good width of upper and lower thigh, well angulated rear in very good balance to his forequarter and a very good mover.

2nd #72, Mr M Griffith's Lanfrese Jalisco. 1-year-old medium sized B/W male, well-handled, perfectly square, and presented in hard muscular condition. Attractive masculine head, with well-padded muzzle, good lip placement, excellent bite, and lovely dark expressive eyes. Correctly placed ears, good stop and rise of skull, but I would have liked a slightly cleaner skull. Neck is arched, but I would prefer it to be a bit cleaner in throat, with a little more reach of neck. Well balanced between fore and hindquarter angulation, broad strong muscular back with excellent tailset, super shelf behind the tail, gorgeous feet and strong hock joints. Super movement, with balanced strides, no exaggerations and perfectly straight on the go-away.

3rd #62, Mrs F Godwin's Sultash Cunco.

Debutante Dog

1st #156, Mrs D Payne's Daervlish Ordinary Love at Birleyvale. 2-year-old striking dark B/W male, balanced between substance and elegance. Presented in excellent condition, with well-defined musculature and a lovely glossy coat. Gorgeous masculine head, clean chiselled skull, beautiful well-placed dark eyes, broad muzzle with good chin and a very good bite. Lovely clean arched neck of very good length, well-defined withers, straight well-muscled back, good length and lay of croup and excellent tailset. Would like a little more return of upper arm. Very broad muscular upper thigh, would prefer a shorter lower thigh with less angle through the stifle. Very strong hock joints, lovely short rear pasterns and very good feet. On the move, he would have more drive from the rear and would open his hock joints if he was more balanced in angulation between front and rear.

2nd #174, Miss K Saunby's Kelsant Jumping Jack. 1 year 7 month old compact and square B/W male handled very nicely. Balanced in fore and hind quarter angulation, but I would prefer more angle both ends. Arched neck, that could be a bit cleaner in throat, well-defined withers, strongly muscled topline and good tailset. Good bone and lovely compact feet with short rear pasterns. Masculine head, with dark eyes, well-padded muzzle and clean skull. Bite a bit more undershot than I would like, which also affected lip placement. On the move, his strides are balanced, but a little shorter than ideal, due to him needing more angulation both ends.

Graduate Dog

1st #33, J & T Brown & Hutchings' Winuwuk In The Name Of Lust (AI). 1 year 7 month old medium sized, very attractive B/W male. Beautiful head with correctly-placed expressive dark eyes, chiselled skull and ears of good size. Good proportions between well-padded muzzle and skull, excellent bite with good lip placement and good chin. Clean arched neck, very good forequarter angulation with

well-filled forechest, neat well-placed elbows, strong straight bone and lovely compact feet with well-arched toes. Well-defined withers, good depth of chest, super topline correctly angled croup and very good tailset. I would prefer him to be slightly shorter in loin. Muscular upper thigh with good breech musculature, rear angulation balanced to forequarter. On the move he has even strides of good length and tracks straight and true.

2nd #166, Mrs F Pynegar's Berwynfa Byhook Or Bycrook. 1-year-old tall golden B/W male, presented in excellent condition and very well handled. Well-structured masculine head of correct proportions, good stop, with chiselled skull and ears of good size. Strong well-padded muzzle with good mask pigmentation, excellent bite, and good lip placement. Clean beautifully arched neck with well-defined withers, excellent topline with straight back, good length and lay of croup and good tailset. Good layback of shoulder blade, but I would like more return of upper arm. Good depth of chest, just needing to mature a bit and get spring of rib. Short coupled with muscular loin. Lovely rear, with excellent breech musculature, good width of upper and lower thigh, strong hock joints and short rear pasterns. Movement not quite as efficient as I would like, due to having more angle in his rear than in front, and subsequently he lacked drive from behind and did not open his hocks on extension.

3rd # 104, Miss & Mrs M & S Littlewood & Bowler's Olleyville James Dean at Whirlobox

Post Graduate Dog

1st #109, Ms S Lott's Britesparke Douglas Buglas. 2 year 9 month old very attractive R/W male of excellent balance, well-handled and presented in hard muscular condition. Lovely head with gorgeous expression from dark well-shaped eyes, good stop and rise of skull and well-placed ears of good size. Strong muzzle, well-padded and in good proportion to skull. Excellent bite and perfect lip placement. Super forequarter angulation, with well laidback shoulder blade, correct return of upper arm, neat well-placed elbows and good depth of chest. Well-filled forechest with straight forelegs and tight feet with well cushioned pads. Arched clean neck of correct length, well-defined withers, short strong muscular back and good tailset. Beautiful rear, with good width of upper and lower thigh and balanced in angulation to the forequarter. Movement excellent, with reach and drive and tracking straight and true on the away and back.

2nd #6, Mrs & Mrs C & V Beardsell & Van-Beck's Newlaithe Wheels On Fire. 2 year 9 month old B/W medium sized male, of compact square outline. Gorgeous head and expression, dark expressive well-shaped eyes, clean skull and well-placed ears of good texture. Well-padded muzzle, strong pigmentation, broad well-opened nostrils, good lip placement and excellent bite with strong healthy teeth. Well angulated front with well-filled forechest, straight forelegs with strong bone, and round well-padded feet. Very good depth of chest, neat elbows and good underline. Arched neck of good length, well-defined withers, strong straight back and good high tailset. Lovely rear angulation, in balance to forequarter angulation. Movement well-balanced and efficient with very good reach and drive. Tracked absolutely true on the away and back. Very little to separate these 2 lovely males, and on another day they may very well be placed the other way around.

3rd # 138, Mr & Mrs G & S Mullis' Idleforde Cracker Jack

Limit Dog

1st #125, Mr & Mrs S & M Mcardle's Wildax Lookin Good at McArmadae. Just over 5 year old very beautiful golden B/W male, very well balanced throughout and presented in super condition. Very good forequarter and hindquarter angulation, with a well-laidback shoulder blade, correct return of upper arm, good forechest, broad upper and lower thigh with strong breech musculature, good angle through the stifle, strong hock joints and short rear pasterns. Beautiful head and expression, lovely dark eye, very good padding, well-opened large nostrils, excellent bite and perfect lip placement. Arched neck of good length, short strong muscular back with very good tailset. Excellent movement, with good reach and drive, and very neat on the away and back.

2nd #95, Mrs E Kelly's Casemates Gandalf. 2 year 9 month old well balanced eye-catching B/W male with super ring presence and attitude. Very good head with beautiful expression, lovely big nostrils, well-padded strong muzzle and good bite. Excellent balance between fore and hindquarter angulation, with a well laid-back shoulder blade, good return of upper arm, well-placed elbows, good depth of chest, lovely underline, powerful upper and lower thigh with good breech musculature and short rear pasterns. Very good tailset with a lovely thick tail at the base. Super neck, well arched with good transition over the withers. I would like a slightly firmer, straighter topline over the loin. Movement was well-balanced and efficient with good reach and drive.

3rd #30, J & T Brown & Hutchings' Winuwuk Danny Mac

Open Dog

1st #131, Reserve Challenge Certificate & Reserve Best in Show Mr & Mrs Y & W Miller's CH Walkon Big Star JW. 2 year 3 month old very eye-catching beautifully stationed male in his prime, and another one that took my breath away as he entered the ring. A superb correct head, dark eyes with a mischievous expression, a broad deep muzzle with excellent chin. Excellent bite, correctly undershot, with strong white teeth and textbook lip placement. Lovely big nostrils, good stop and cleanly chiselled skull, with correctly sized and placed ears. Excellent forequarter with a well-filled forechest, straight well-muscled forelegs and compact round feet. Arched clean neck flowing over well-defined withers, straight firm well-muscled topline and excellent tailset. Beautiful rear, well-balanced to the forequarter with broad upper and lower thigh, shelf behind the tail, good turn of stifle, strong hocks and short rear pasterns. Moved with powerful drive from the rear and good reach in front. Coming and going with straight strides with no mess or fuss. I was not surprised to learn after the show that he was a champion already, and would have packed him into my case to take home with me if I could have prised him away from his breeders.

2nd #153, Mr & Mr D & S Parker & Martin's CH Olleyville Otherston Lad. Just over 3 years old tall dark B/W male, balanced in all respects. Eye-catching and all-male, with excellent construction and good temperament. Very beautiful masculine head with excellent pigmentation, very strong well-padded muzzle, chiselled skull, and well-placed ears. Dark well-shaped expressive eyes, well-opened nostrils, excellent bite with correct degree of undershot and good lip placement. Very well angulated forequarter, strongly-boned straight forelegs and lovely compact feet. Very good depth of chest and correct spring of rib, with well-muscled loin and super underline. Lovely arched clean neck, good transition over withers to strongly muscled broad back with very good tailset. Gorgeous rear, with broad muscular upper and lower thigh, very good angle through the stifle, short rear

pasterns and strong hock joints. Excellent movement with powerful drive from the rear, matched to good reach in front. Tracks up straight on the go-away.

3rd #54, Mrs S Drinkwater's CH Winuwuk Kiss Tag with Sulez.

Veteran Dog

1st #86, Mr & Mrs K & G Jones' CH Kevanor Federer JW. Very well-balanced medium-sized short-coupled B/W male, approaching 8 years old. Handled very well to get the most out of him, and presented in exceptional condition. Everything fits and flows with this super 'older' boy. As my Junior Dog winner in 2012, it was a pleasure going over him as a veteran, and he still impressed me 7 years later. His lovely head is in good balance to his body, with beautiful expression, dark well-placed and correctly shaped eyes, excellent width of muzzle with broad nostrils, good lip placement and excellent bite. Clean skull with correctly placed ears of good size. His well-angulated front, with good fill of forechest is well matched by his muscular rear, with short rear pasterns and excellent feet front and back. A joy to watch moving around the ring and straight and true on the away and back.

2nd #81, Mr & Mrs A & D Huggins' CH Daervlish All Because Of You JW. 7 ½ year old tall B/W male, also well presented in hard muscular condition. Excellent balance between a well-angulated forequarter, with well-filled forechest, and a powerful well-muscled hindquarter. Well-defined withers, very broad muscular back with firm topline and excellent tailset. Short rear pasterns and compact cat-feet. Lovely masculine head, broad muzzle, well-opened nostrils, with good chin and beautiful expression from dark well-placed eyes. Neck well-arched, but I would have preferred a cleaner throat. Another good mover, with even strides and good reach and drive. This male was my best puppy dog when I judged in 2012 and I was delighted to see the mature dog was everything he promised to be as a 1-year-old youngster.

3rd #187, Mr & Mrs T & J Welch's Newlaithe Trojan for Treju.